

The Ages 1961

Chapter 1961

As the true supreme ruler of Skywolf, Sovereign Starvore's long, silvery white hair that stood up slightly made him look like he was carrying a huge white wolf on his back. A silvery sheen was visible on his skin, reflecting the light from the embers around him. His fangs and nails looked sharper than even top-class divine artifacts. Sitting on his throne of bones, he assessed the situation with an air of stability, basking in brilliant white light and warm in the embrace of his beauties. In terms of presence, his was far superior to the sun emperor's.

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One of his hands was stroking a skull on the throne as he looked at the sun emperor's smiling visage, seemingly not intent on striking up a conversation at all. He simply said, "Notify them to attack in twenty breaths. Destroy the divine astralship first. If he doesn't escape, I'll have another skull to add to my throne."

"Understood!"

The time to attack soon arrived. No matter what the sun emperor did or said, nobody on Skywolf's side paid him any heed. Negotiation wasn't an option to begin with.

"If it weren't for the formation he whipped out, this so-called 'sun' would've fallen long ago," Empress Yu said.

"We wouldn't have suffered so many losses, either," Empress Ying said.

"Let's focus on exterminating them before we check on the Void God. How could a monster and a single divine astralship possibly destroy the Void God?" That was the most worrying thing on Sovereign Starvore's mind.

The four divine astralships entered the final phase before their attack. Using nova source, they formed a web that prevented the Divine Sun Palace from leaving. The Starvore had been gathering a gigantic ball of lifeless white flame that looked like another sun in the sky. It seemed even more blinding than the Ninedragon Apotheosis, the forces of which shook the ship itself and seemingly even twisted the fabric of space.

In this astral war, the sun emperor's offer to parley was completely ignored by the ruler of the invading force, who responded with nothing but ruthless extermination. The four divine astralships had all reached their peaks, yet the sun emperor didn't lose his smile for a single moment. Instead, he clapped and said, "Good! Very good! I truly appreciate this grandiose gift you prepared for our first meeting. It truly is far too beautiful. I have a gift in return, so make sure to receive it well."

The sun empress's face was pale as she watched things unfold from inside the ship, yet the sun emperor didn't seem the least bit perturbed. In fact, one would be able to see a hint of insidiousness in that smile of his if they looked hard enough.

"Ladies and gentlemen of Skywolf, no matter what happens next, please remember during the moment of your extermination that it's only come to this because you forced my hand. You deserve what's

coming to you! Even if the heavens come passing judgment for what is about to happen, it'll have nothing to do with me! This is an act of justified self-defense!" He opened both arms wide. "Though the world calls me a tyrant, I'm the one who's giving it my all to save everyone! It's none other than me! Alas, nobody but Wushuang understands my woes! Hahahaha!" he laughed while tearing up at the same time, yet his tears evaporated quickly from the sheer heat of the surrounding environment. Destruction would come in a single instant, yet in that slice of time alone, the sun emperor's laughter turned into a roar!

"Nobody knows that the blood of an imperial-class world flows in our veins! Nobody knows that the land beneath our feet used to be called the Flameyellow Imperial Star! Nobody knows our deep history and pride in the ancient past! Yet a small fry like Skywolf dares come to our doorstep to disturb our sacred lands?!"

His voice would almost certainly be drowned out by the rumbling of Starvore. Nobody but he knew what he was saying, but it didn't matter, for the words were spoken for him and this land alone. "There will never be anything wrong about defending one's own land, no matter the means!" He closed his eyes, his arms still spread as his golden hair fluttered around. The light from the Starvore had entirely enveloped him.

"Let's begin."

At first, nothing happened, but after a particular instant, everyone within the Flameyellow Guard Formation felt the world shudder. Beneath the flaming cloud layer, a rush of nova source surged upward and formed a gigantic storm, sending celestial orderian and specter alike unstably flying around.

"What's going on?!" The rulers of Skywolf felt a hint of doubt. Right at the eve of their foe's destruction, terrifying tremors were coming from the Flameyellow Guard Formation. They reverberated across the space around them, slamming into the four divine astralships in the air. No matter how big they were, the raging seas of the Flameyellow Guard Formation still threatened to flip them over. Given the sheer toughness of the material used to construct the ships, the flames themselves wouldn't do much damage.

It didn't take long before all four ships stabilized themselves, but the killing blow they had been preparing for so long had been interrupted! One of the ships lost control and fired anyway, barely missing the Divine Sun Palace, while the other three managed to get their power under control. But before they could take aim again, the Divine Sun Palace had escaped in the chaos.

"Give chase!" Sovereign Starvore snapped, his gaze even colder than before as his sharp fangs bit into his lip.

Empress Yu immediately worked at the ship's control core, steering the ship in the Divine Sun Palace's direction. The others immediately followed suit. "It's fine, he won't be able to escape. Even if he does, we'll just barge into the formation and attack his main camp. There's nowhere he can flee to," she said.

"Truly, what a brain-dead fellow he is," Empress Ying scornfully said.

"Given the tremors from the astralguard formation, the star itself must be spinning, right?" Grand Emperor Starvore stood and flew outside his ship. The flaming beasts ahead of him seemed to be

weirdly oriented, which made the flaming clouds look like they were spinning. A terrifying flaming storm swept past, temporarily scattering the two billion troops of his Yanyi Army.

"Using the spin of the astralguard formation to escape.... The ruler of the sun truly is talented." He shook his head and returned to his ship. If their predictions were right, even if the Divine Sun Palace escaped into the formation, it wouldn't be able to avoid being locked on to by the Starvore. Empress Ying was tuning their aim once more. This ship required three people to control its various parts, making it quite an impressive work compared to the Divine Sun Palace. Meanwhile, the other three ships had caught up behind them.

"He can run for a time, but not for life. This is nothing but a desperate struggle by a cornered rat," Empress Yu said.

"The monk can run, but not the temple. There's no way he can win. Being weak is truly a sin," Empress Ying said, subtly hinting that they could just conduct a slaughter among the sun's populace to hit the sun emperor where it would really hurt.

"There's no need. I can keep up," Empress Yu said as the Starvore accelerated even more.

Chapter 1962

Despite the dangerous circumstances, the sun emperor actually stood on top of the Divine Sun Palace with his arms wide open. His expression was one of teasing mischief, as if he was hollering for the specters to come and catch him.

"What a clown. Can a cornered rat who can't even see his situation really be the ruler of the sun?"

"As expected, this world is likely as unruly as he is. What a lowly race of people. They aren't significant enough to exist in this universe."

The two women's insults grew harsher and harsher.

"The nature of the world favors the mighty. Only then can the universe strive toward perfection. Our ordained mission is to remove impurities like these that taint the perfect form the universe aspires to become. Lower lifeforms will evolve to worsen the universe, so we should clean them up like the filth they are. It's a natural process of culling. In fact, treating dirty mud like them as living things was the biggest mistake in the first place." Grand Emperor Starvore looked at the world beneath him as he would a pile of mud.

"So are the three of us the universe's janitors?" Empress Yu said, winking, inducing a laugh from her sister in matrimony, but not her husband, and resulted in a misfire that caused the beam of destruction to barely miss the Divine Sun Palace.

"Take this more seriously," he said.

"Alright." The two of them snapped out of their joking mood.

"For some reason, the spinning of the sun gives me a bad feeling," Grand Emperor Starvore said.

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"What the hell's going on?!" Tianming was jolted by the sudden spinning as the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb was still charging up. He hurried out of the ship to inspect what was going on. Though they were within the Sky Palace Formation, the ground shook heavily, sending people and things tumbling all around. It was the first time he had witnessed something like this; everyone seemed to have been flung around like kites in the midst of a storm.

"What in the world?" Looking up, he saw the flaming cloud layer rapidly revolving, as if the world itself was moving. Checking the fusion formation, he could feel that the sun was indeed moving. With the Welkin plane as the frame of reference, the sun's northern pole was deep in celestial orderian territory while the southern pole was inside the Sky Palace Formation. However, the powerful forces that rocked the entire star horizontally inverted the poles, making the north pole point west toward Skywolf Blaze and the south pole point right toward Skywolf Frost. That gigantic movement had been achieved in an incredibly short time. While the elites inside the Sky Palace Formation were fine, it was a natural disaster of unprecedented proportions for most of the other lifeforms on the sun.

"That can't be! The sun emperor and I should each control only half of the solar core! Without me, he shouldn't be able to turn the sun around like that!" Yet the impossible had happened. Tianming had no idea how he had achieved that. The only conclusion he could draw was that the Flameyellow Guard Formation had forcefully turned the sun around using the pillars of flame that dug deep into the sun. Perhaps the Flameyellow Guard Formation had a higher priority, and the sun emperor controlled the entire thing himself.

Even then, what would be the point of that? The Ninedragon Imperial Tomb had only recharged up to seventy percent of its capacity, but the sudden changes might force Tianming to stop there. He piloted the ship back into the sky toward the Flameyellow Guard Formation. As he ascended, his field of vision broadened. Rising to the top from the south pole, he saw Skywolf Frost right above him. It took up the entire sky from the point of view of the Sky Palace Formation!

"This is insane. What's he going to do?" The rotation of the sun had caused the flaming clouds to behave chaotically. Gigantic tidal waves of flames were forming from the force of the rotation, giving the Yanyi Army much trouble. However, the celestial orderians weren't faring that well in the current conditions, either.

Qingyu also asked Tianming the reason for the sun's rotation through Yin Chen, as she had a better view from her vantage point, though Tianming had no answer for her. At least he heard that Lingfeng was still continuing his slaughter at Skywolf Frost to suppress the specters. Thus, Tianming decided to seek out the sun emperor to reinforce him, as well as to ask about his plans.

"He's acting like a complete madman now...." When he finally made a move, he suddenly noticed another staggering change in the Flameyellow Guard Formation.

"What the hell? They're sticking out?" He saw quite a few gigantic gold and red pillars emerge beyond the layer of flaming clouds. "What're the Flameyellow Divine Pillars doing up here?"

The pillars were the ones that held up the Flameyellow Guard Formation and siphoned power from the sun's core to power it, so what would bringing them up to the surface do? Right as Tianming noticed the pillars, they stretched longer and longer. Though they numbered around two hundred, they made the sun look like a burning sea urchin. The sight was a majestic one, to say the least. Tianming felt a kind of

terror at the sight of the pillars, which seemed to radiate the ancient and domineering aura of the countless ancestors that had lived on the sun.

"Aren't they getting too long?" The flaming cloud layer wasn't that high above ground level. Initially, the pillars had only been tall enough to reach the bottom of the astralguard formation, but now their length was about half the diameter of the sun! Every single one of them furiously burned. The spikes could even be seen from the Flameyellow Continent—a hundred on each side, two hundred in total!

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The three stars above and the spikes looked like something out of myth for those of the mortal world. What was even more shocking for Tianming was how the tips of the pillars had all turned into incredibly sharp cones. The sun seemed to have become something like a dangerous pincushion.

All of a sudden, he had a bad omen that threatened to crush all of his internal organs! This was far too terrifying and mind numbing. It appeared that this was the power of an imperial-class world. They weren't prey for invaders, but rather conquerors of the universe! The 'solar lances' that grew out weren't just a means of defense; they could also be used as a ruthless counterattack against the enemy! The sun emperor, who had full control over the Flameyellow Guard Formation, was to thank for all this, for the lances were part of the formation.

"What's he trying to do?" Tianming suddenly felt one of the sharp lances pointed toward him, or rather, the undefended Skywolf Frost behind him. Normally, Skywolf needed to first take over a world and enslave its inhabitants before opening a hole in the fusion formation to transfer the nova source within for their own use. That was a process that could take up to a thousand years or more, which meant that the losing side would die a slow death lasting up to a millennium.

However, Tianming seemed to be able to imagine something completely different. The sun's spikes could possibly pierce all the way into Skywolf Frost and absorb the nova source within. After all, the spikes were structured like straws; it probably wouldn't take that long before every lifeform in Skywolf Frost died off from the lack of nova source!

"It almost seems unreal..." The current situation was beyond his understanding of the world as he knew it. He couldn't quite bring himself to believe that this was something the sun emperor was capable of, but he felt unwell whenever the scene he had imagined surfaced in his mind. The Flameyellow Guard Formation, after all, could override the sun's own astralguard and fusion formations based on how it had forced the sun to turn like that. Naturally, that came with a commensurate consumption of the sun's own nova source. There was no way half of a solar core would be enough to resist such power.

The Flameyellow Continent's sky was blindingly bright, thanks to the sun, and shadows danced across the land from the erratic illumination coming from above. Tianming opened his eyes wide, but he couldn't spot the sun emperor at all. However, he could pinpoint his location through the flaming clouds using the connection between the solar core's halves.

A golden-haired man far up in the sky looked angrily at Skywolf Frost, then his mouth cracked open in a smile. "Skywolf, you call yourselves the pale nightmare, but you're nothing but normal invaders! All of you deserve to die and vomit out all the nova source you've stolen from so many worlds! Nobody in your world deserves to live! All of you will be extinguished in a single moment with nothing left behind!"

His proclamation seemed like it was mirrored by the will of the Flameyellow Guard Formation, which greatly resonated with it. All of the flaming beasts within roared in unison, as if they were cheering at his words. The flaming star was like an awakened lion, all too eager to assert its dominion over other stars in the universe.

The sun emperor's smile stretched wider and wider. His eyes burned with untamed passion. "This is my sun! Skywolf Frost, without your astralguard formation, none of you can hope to survive this! Not even a speck of dust will remain! Hahahaha!"

Chapter 1963

Skywolf Frost had lost its protective sea of frost. Even though the icy fog still existed as a layer above the star, it had lost all of its defensive capabilities, leaving the entire world exposed. Strong, cold winds rampaged across the world, ceaselessly howling.

Across the vast ocean, large piles of undamaged specter corpses could be seen. All of them had their eyes wide open, having died in a most peculiar manner. Many of them were looking up to the sky at a gigantic black vortex. Within it was the three-headed, six-armed figure of darkness with more than a hundred and thirty million baleful souls surrounding him. Even those on the ground level could hear their cries, and nobody was capable of stopping him.

"Didn't our worlds come all this way to hunt? How could something like this be allowed to happen?" Doubts began surfacing as more and more saw the raving shadow.

"It's said that Skywolf Blaze is mounting a full-scale attack while we're taking the brunt of the enemy's main force. We just have to hold on," someone said in self-consolation.

"But what in the world is that monster? A soul-eating creature?!"

Shock, awe, and bewilderment dampened their initial excited mood. What they didn't know was that even the precentennial sovereign from their holy land was looking at that monster. To remain undiscovered, his cohort hadn't come on divine astralships. A group of faceless people with bodies like jade remained hidden within the sea of frost. Though they didn't have eyes, they could still see clearly. It was clear to them that the soul power of that creature was immense, which was why they kept their distance. Despite the lack of facial features, they appeared rather shocked.

"Emperor Qiang...." Many of them turned to the youth in their midst, hoping for an answer.

"If my guess is right, that fellow is consuming dead souls to fuel himself in combat! I didn't think a monster like that could exist in the astralscape..." Qiang muttered.

Lingfeng was rather reputable within the Astraldome, but otherwise he remained within the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb for most of the time. Since Qiang didn't know about that ship, he didn't know that this fiendish creature was actually Lingfeng. After all, it hadn't taken long for Lingfeng to turn to this form after arriving at Skywolf Frost. By the same reasoning, the mysterians also hadn't seen Tianming at all, since he had remained within the ship for the most part. Even when he'd killed Sovereign Sanctquility, he had remained deep within the Flameyellow Guard Formation. The spectators didn't go that far in to avoid the defense mechanisms.

"That divine astralship itself isn't much. It's stronger than the average divine astralship from a heliacal-class world, but it's not too impressive. This soul-eating monster, on the other hand, is a miracle in a way." Qiang turned to another faceless specter and asked, "Have you reported this in the wondersky realm?"

"It's done. The elders are interested in this monster and ordered us to observe it to collect information about who, or what, it is."

Qiang nodded and turned to the sun in the distance. "Honestly, that astralguard formation is rather peculiar. If it weren't for that, I could simply infiltrate it to learn all about that monster." As astralguard formations were sensitive to the presence of aliens, the faceless specters could only observe from a distance. As for Qiang, he was only interested in the monster.

"Perhaps someone in Skywolf Frost would know about it," one subordinate suggested.

"Send a few to investigate. We'll keep watch here," Qiang said.

"Understood!"

"Emperor Qiang, Skywolf Frost is suffering quite a lot of casualties at the hands of this monster. They're our allies—should we give them aid? They even lost the voidheart worms," said another subordinate.

"Our allies? They're the dogs of the Whitejade line and have nothing to do with us, not to mention we won't be getting any credit from this. We can't get held back here. We still have to fetch Li Tianming from Violetglory. That's our main priority." They were lofty gods who wouldn't deign to enter a mortal realm like the Flameyellow Continent. Had they done so, they would have learned that it was Tianming's actual home.

"Wouldn't this monster continue eating more and more souls until it becomes something that can wipe out the universe? There's still a lot of souls for him to harvest."

Crimsonjade Qiang gave it some thought. He wanted to control it, but he knew that he wasn't a match for the monster in its current state. Dying was an actual possibility. "Let's wait for now. He must have a limit. Once he reaches it, we might have a chance." He wasn't the least bit hurried. Looking up from the sea of frost, he saw the burning sun hanging above him.

"Huh?!" All of the faceless specters were stunned at the sight.

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"What in the world is that?!" The heliacal-class world had actually grown sharp spikes that stretched toward Skywolf Frost! They could feel a numbing pressure coming from them.

Qiang quickly reacted, his featureless face contorting. "Run!"

In a panic, their minds went blank. Even people of their caliber felt like they were scrambling to survive. Not even Qiang was aware of how a heliacal-class world could turn into a spiked ball like that. Their heartbeats hastened from the bad omen they felt, and they weren't alone in that feeling. Tianming, Lingfeng, and Qingyu also felt that something was amiss, while the many troops from the Sanctvoid Army were absolutely stupefied, with many nervously swallowing. The world itself seemed to have fallen silent.

"What the hell? A sun urchin? It looks so ugly..." Someone wanted to lighten the mood with a joke, but nobody joined in his awkward laughter. There was only pin-drop silence.

"Gotta evade!" Tianming groaned. He piloted the ship away to avoid being sandwiched by the two stars. Right as he left, the entire sun shook as it absorbed nova source like a divine astralship.

"This can't be...." Ying Huo and the others looked wide-eyed at what was happening. The sun itself seemed to have become the sun emperor—destructive, short-tempered, and furious, but most importantly, unpredictable! The gigantic solar lances rumbled, emanating a terrifying aura as boundless flames swirled around them. The noise of the rumbling blended together with everyone's anxious heartbeats.

Tianming had the best vantage point for the changes happening with the sun. It seemed to start propelling itself, as he had expected, and there was no stopping it. Even sovereigns were nothing but ants compared to the surface of nova source worlds. What he didn't expect was how fast and fierce the acceleration would be. It was like a pike formation charging toward the enemy as fast as it could!

Skywolf Frost had eyed the sun as a hungry predator would its prey, but now it was the one that was panicking! Tianming could no longer hear himself over all the rumbling; all he could do was watch the dreamlike scene before him unfold. The gigantic star crashed into Skywolf Frost like a cannonball! The damage incurred was easily far higher than the moonfall that had almost occurred back then, not to mention the sun had only taken a few moments to accelerate and collide.

Like an angered rhinoceros, the spiked ball of flame slammed deeper into the icy star, their polar opposite energies clashing, the aftereffects of which engulfed the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb. Tianming stabilized the ship before turning back; the impossible had finally happened.

The burning sun left a trail of flame behind it after the crash.

He couldn't find the words to describe what he felt. Even his mind and understanding of the universe seemed to fail him. This was the true nature of the terrifying universe! From the moment the sun had revealed its fangs, this ending was inevitable. The gold and crimson flames pierced through the grayish white frost to deal even more damage.

Like a madman, Tianming charged back through the cloud of clashing elements toward the two stars and noticed that the Flameyellow Divine Pillars near the south pole of the sun had pierced more than halfway into Skywolf Frost. Needless to say, its fusion formation had been penetrated. Frosty nova source began flooding out of the wound, and even the slightest bit of leakage could be disastrous!

Chapter 1964

Tianming was still far too young, at the end of the day. While causing the deaths of tens of millions was something he could handle, seeing the destruction of an entire nova source world was still something that shook him. He had witnessed it from start to finish, yet he wasn't one of the specters.

From their point of view, all they saw was a burning mass above them, getting larger and larger as it got closer, bearing terrifying solar lances that thrust through the land they stood on, as well as the seas, even directly piercing through the fusion formation into the core. The surface of the world completely cracked apart, resulting in unprecedented superquakes that caused the deaths of countless specters,

regardless of age or gender. Most of them didn't even perceive any pain as they left the world of the living in an instant.

The world was instantly engulfed in a storm of fire that burned up plains, cracked mountain ranges, dried up lakes and rivers, and melted snow. Ash formed and rose into the air as terrifying shockwaves spread far and wide. The specters, solarians or newborns alike, were wiped out by the aftershocks.

While humans and specters were intelligent enough to be able to use fusion formations to bind their nova sources, even sovereigns were helpless before a nova source explosion. The forces of the universe simply couldn't be defied, merely sealed off in fusion formations like devils. The irony was that no life could exist without those devilishly destructive forces. Even if anyone had survived the first wave of damage, the endlessly cold nova source would continue pouring out of the perforations on the star's surface. It was even more threatening than magma from volcanoes!

Without the protection of the astralguard and fusion formations, the surviving specters of Skywolf Frost were exposed to the rapidly fluctuating temperatures, thanks to the proximity of both worlds. Above them was endless flame, while frost poured out from the core of their star. Everything they had constructed on the surface, whether it be grade-nine defensive formations, divine ore mines, grand buildings, divine artifacts, or even simple blades of grass or the myriad creatures and insects that lived on the surface, were all annihilated. The endless storm of death engulfed Skywolf Frost in mere moments, spreading to the other side in almost no time.

"They're all dead."

Those words were the cold hard truth. The destiny of ruin that'd been the sun's had been handed back to Skywolf Frost. It had happened too quickly, and the ones that survived the first wave were completely frozen. Hundreds of millions still thought they were dreaming and would wake up soon, Tianming included.

He didn't hate Skywolf Frost in particular. The explosion caused by the nova source that resulted in a mass extinction only cemented in him how cruel the universe could be. Though it was often said that life was insignificant in the eyes of the vast universe, this really hammered it home. Like the dead of Skywolf Frost, he felt the terror of universal forces.

The survivors panted with blank eyes, as if their souls had left their bodies. Their world seemed to have just died. There was a long period of deathly silence, but the smoke eventually settled, revealing a world of death to those that were still watching. It only took moments, not hundreds of thousands of years, for the familiar landscape that they had known for millions of years to be completely transformed into a wasteland devoid of life. Many within the sun itself were flung into the air by the sheer force and fell to their deaths. Yet that wasn't the end of it for the survivors. The nova source of Skywolf Frost was even more destructive when it wasn't regulated.

The collision and its resulting perforation was only the beginning of the affair. After reaping countless lives on the surface of Skywolf Frost, the Flameyellow Divine Pillars turned into straws. Their crimson and gold color changed to a frosty gray as they began siphoning nova source into the sun. Those on the surface of the sun saw the pillars change color and felt the temperature around them fall. Many lakes of magma froze solid, yet it wasn't as a result of an invasion from Skywolf Frost.

Tens of 'straws' kept siphoning away the nova source, and it was a process that didn't take tens of thousands of years, nor did it require any divine astralships for logistics. The pillars themselves served as pipelines that directly funneled the energy into the core of the sun. It was a simple, yet brutish solution. Skywolf Frost was growing even more quiet by the moment while the sun swelled in volume at a rate the eye could see.

The swelling correlated to the increase in size of the fusion formation. A heliacal-class world's fusion formation usually wouldn't be able to endure an expansion of this scale, so the fact that the sun's could was definitely due to the Flameyellow Guard Formation. Even then, an expansion like this would cause cracks on the surface above to be filled up with new land, as well as falling sea levels. The surface of the fusion formation might even be accessible through the new crevices that formed.

As Tianming wasn't on the sun, he didn't see those changes, but he knew well the consequences of forcefully expanding the fusion formation. Fortunately, the process wasn't a violent one, and given how most people on the sun were sky saints and above, few actually suffered from the changes.

He noted that the sun was about double its former size. The change was staggering enough from far away, so the ones who were on its surface doubtless found it even more mysterious to see the ground crack and oceans recede further away. It was surely the most mystical day anyone alive had experienced. Their reactions were mostly disbelief.

While defeating the Sanctvoid Army and driving off Skywolf Frost was worth celebrating, nobody would cheer for the extinction of most life across an entire world. Nobody thought themselves to be saints, but they were still scared of the repercussions of such an occurrence. Most had expected the sun to suffer a similar fate, yet everything had changed.

Tianming had brought an entire army with him as he departed, but those seniors merely watched the sight unfold, dumbfounded. Skywolf Frost had been turned into a dead star in mere moments, its core emptied, only an empty husk of a fusion formation was left behind. Yet no corpses could be seen on the star's pale surface. It was as if all life had vanished in the cosmic aether in the mere span of moments, not the picture of mass death many imagined.

While that was probably a consolation for many, the ones with powerful souls could see billions of souls rising from the dead star, all of them crying out in terror. Perhaps it could even be felt all the way from Violetglory.

Amidst all that, the only one who could still laugh was the sun emperor. Everyone in the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb knew that this was his doing. Nobody loved the sun more than him, and now his beloved sun had transformed. It was no longer gold and red, or pure. Instead, it was a mixture of red and white as frost and fire coexisted. Some portions of the flaming cloud layer flowed with waves of frost. It was both familiar yet foreign. From now on, the sun would no longer just be a burning ball of passion, but also savage cold.

Such changes were also visible from its surface. The Azurecloud Continent, for instance, had grown even hotter, with stronger flaming rain forming. But beside it, a wave of frost had formed, neatly separating the two regions. This day was among the most eventful ones in the history of the sun since it had stopped being the Flameyellow Imperial Star.

The Ninedragon Imperial Tomb was silent for a long time before Tianming breathed out a sigh. "Yin Chen, are Lingfeng and Qingyu alright?"

"They are... fine as... they went... into the... Xenoworld Gate." Without it, perhaps not even they would be able to escape in time.

Tianming changed their course to head back to the new sun. Skywolf Blaze still brightly burned in the distance. How would the specters there be feeling right now? Would they be fearful, or furious? Tianming believed that this alone wouldn't startle them; after all, the mutual enmity between the people of the two worlds had existed for more than thirty million years. It wouldn't be extinguished this easily.

"Where are you going?" Long Wanying asked, seeing Tianming pilot the ship toward the north pole.

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"We're going to the sun emperor."

Chapter 1965

A lifeless white ball of fire came bursting out of the flaming clouds like a gigantic white eye that turned in the direction of Skywolf Frost. Amidst the storm of fire were four divine astralships that followed the ball of white, each of them piloted by a rex of Skywolf Blaze, namely, Bluedepths, Redforge, Darkshroud, and Boundless.

Of the seven great clans of Skywolf, the Starvore clan was the undisputed leader. Yet on that day, only five of the seven clans remained standing after the eradication of Greenvoid and Sanctquility, leaving not much, if anything, behind.

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When the five ships turned toward Skywolf Frost, they seemed to shudder. Countless troops of the Yanyi Army emerged from the flaming clouds, having temporarily evacuated the battlefield. So far, only this army's casualties had remained within the expected range.

The specters that had left the battlefield seemed completely destitute when they saw the state Skywolf Frost was in. A wave of despairing cries ensued as they beheld a nightmare they would never wake from. It was as if their very hearts had been pierced through by the solar lances. Their blood blended together with hate and their eyes turned bloodshot. They had lost all reason and wouldn't know peace until vengeance and slaughter was achieved. Speaking of reason at a time like this was nothing short of shameless.

Before the specters had departed for the invasion, they'd considered it nothing more than a casual hunting trip and set off with a light mood. Even the normal specter civilians had relished in the jovial atmosphere, yet the reality had stunned their entire race. The army that numbered in the hundreds of millions was shocked beyond words. In the dead silence, nothing but mindless hatred festered.

The divine astralships charged toward Skywolf Frost, yet even they would be helpless to extract the sun from one of their home stars. Even if they did, the changes that had been wrought wouldn't be reversible. No nova source was left in Skywolf Frost, save for the leftovers.

The ships descended as five beams of light on the dead star. The ground on which they landed was as pale as bone, seemingly cracked and flaking like a wilting bark. The cold air around them complimented the complete void of any signs of life. Elites flooded out of the ships to see the sights for themselves. There was a pitch-black abyss in front of them, out of which their nova source had flowed.

Then a loud rumbling roared once more as the sun moved again. The pillars that had impaled Skywolf Frost were extracted one after another. Those terrifying weapons looked even more sinister after they had increased in size. Once the sun was separated, Skywolf Frost was nothing more than a pale husk floating in the cosmic aether; its contents had been completely emptied out.

The countless elites of Skywolf Blaze, the three imperials and six rexes included, had watched the entire thing unfold with blank faces. After that, all of them slumped to the ground, kneeling and prostrating to the dead world. Tears endlessly flowed, accompanied by desperate begging and denial. That kind of shock had dealt a heavy mental blow to those that survived, and for a race that thrived on previous victories, it was something they'd never felt before. In their despair, everyone turned to Grand Emperor Starvore.

"There's only one thing we can do to atone for this. We have to make sure that all life on the sun suffers the same fate," he said, his eyes crying tears of blood. He turned to the star of gold, red, and now white, with a furious look of hatred. The flames in his eyes burned like those of Skywolf Blaze.

.....

Everything felt like it was part of a wild dream. Tianming passed through a region of cold frost before arriving at another region of flaming clouds. The sun was quite quiet as well, with nobody speaking much. A cold atmosphere seemed present everywhere.

The gigantic head that was the Divine Sun Palace appeared before Tianming's ship. It seemed like the sun emperor had sought him out on his own accord. The mouth opened up and out walked a golden-haired man with his arms crossed and a smile on his face. He looked very much like a doting father waiting to welcome Tianming back home.

"Tianming, my son, come. Even though we're still in the midst of war, we've made great gains. It's about time we had a celebratory toast as father and son." He tossed one of the two vials of fine wine he held toward Tianming with enough force to make him take a few steps back. Then he opened the bottle and took a swig of the fiery golden liquid. Some of it spilled onto his chest, making him seem even more unrestrained and casual.

"Don't hold back on me, kid! Even though getting drunk isn't ideal while fighting a war, it's but a small indulgence compared to the celebrations to come. After we take care of Skywolf Blaze together, we can celebrate for three days and nights! Doesn't that sound great?" he said with a wide smile and a flushed face, as if he was really drunk.

He loudly burped and tilted his head at Tianming before suddenly chuckling, "Tianming, did you see? Wasn't it just grand? It was too bad I couldn't see it happen from within the flaming cloud layer. That was the glory of the Flameyellow Imperial Star, a legacy and pride of us flameyellow divinities. We should be proud of this. Don't tell me that you're going to play the saint and call me out for killing innocents." He expectantly looked at Tianming for the answer he wanted, but shrugged.

"Well, I'm sure you understand. They were the ones that came to wipe us out, though they intended to do it at a much slower rate. Our descendants would've suffered a life without any hope had they succeeded. Compared to that, what I did was saintly, to say the least! In a mere three breaths, I sent those sinners off to the cycle of reincarnation. There was no need to prolong their suffering at all! Son, war is war. Anyone that takes part celebrates in the victories and suffers the same loss. There's no such thing as an innocent bystander on either side, understood?"

"Are you saying all this to convince me or yourself?" Tianming said, looking at his eyes.

"Are you kidding? I couldn't feel better about this if I tried! I don't need to convince you, let alone myself! Everything I did will be recorded in history, and the people that come after are free to judge me as they please. Naturally, the fact that they'll even exist to judge me in the first place is thanks to the blood sacrifice of the people of Skywolf Frost, so whatever they'll say will be irrelevant in the first place."

The two rulers of the sun stared each other down, seemingly intent on discerning the thoughts of one another. The sun emperor took another swig and smiled again. "Lastly, you, Tianming, were the one who destroyed the Sanctvoid Guard Formation! If it weren't for that, I wouldn't have had a chance to pierce the star! If you consider this a sin, then you are my biggest accomplice! You and I, we're the same, you know.... Do you understand now?" He paused for a loud burp. "That's enough words, son! We'll let the alcohol do the talking! You're still young and growing, though, so don't drink too much. I made the toast, so you do as you please."

Chapter 1966

Tianming had basically remained almost entirely silent throughout that conversation, but he got the answer he wanted. Arguing about what had taken place on Skywolf Frost was pointless—especially against someone like the sun emperor, who'd lived for thousands of years and had no doubt developed a deep and ingrained stubbornness.

The destruction of Skywolf Frost was probably the grandest thing the sun emperor had done in his entire life. His might had reached an absolute new height. The brand-new sun seemed to have fused together with him, giving him the aura of a truly unrivaled sovereign. It was more than enough for his legend to be passed down in the annals of history. The universe itself even seemed to be prostrating toward him.

The sun emperor's will was no different from the sun's will. Within the sun, his word was the truth. Even many among those in the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb were reevaluating him, wondering whether he was a saint or a demon.

That no longer seemed to matter, however. Through the Eye of Judgment, Tianming saw that the burden of sin on the sun emperor far exceeded Lingfeng's. An endless sea of fiendish revenants seemed to surround him. Yet when he fused together with the sun, the huge wave of nova source that became his aura suppressed the sin around him and made him look outright divine and bright. The appearance gave Tianming quite a stark shock.

Does that mean the only thing that matters in the end is the law of the jungle? Can one so easily cover up the burden of sin with nova source? Then what does doling out the heavens' judgment even mean? Does the karma theory of the Primordial God-Emperor account for something like this?

Tianming didn't deny it outright, nor did he particularly fashion himself an ally of justice. However, the matter seemed much deeper than he thought. He would have to properly contemplate the nature of such things, lest he be misled. He had witnessed the destruction of Skywolf Frost with his own eyes, hence why his worldview was coming under so much strain now. The sun emperor had adopted a completely different path of rulership that was unlike his own.

Finishing his wine, the sun emperor said, "It's about time. Skywolf Blaze's attack will come next, and that'll be the real trouble we'll have to deal with. Those animals no doubt have a huge grudge against me and will go mad and vent, so I have to prepare for the next battle! Since you've already earned great merit, there's no need for you to toil so hard. You can go back to rest, though you might have something to gain once either one of our sides tires the other out. Hahahaha...." When he stopped laughing, he waved and looked at Tianming one last time before returning to the Divine Sun Palace, his body entirely covered in blazing flames. Tianming's gaze followed him to the depths of the ship, spotting a red-haired man looking back at him with a distant gaze. Then the entrance of the Divine Sun Palace shut and the gigantic head turned back to the skies.

Watching it leave, Tianming merely bit his lip without saying a word. He returned to the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb and departed for the base of the Myriad Solar Sects. He furrowed his brow as the ship coursed through flaming clouds. The many seniors behind him didn't know what to say; all of them were feeling rather confused at the state of affairs. In the end, they asked Weisheng Moran to talk to him.

"Me?" She seemed a little blank as she looked at his silhouette. Lightly biting her lip, she mustered the courage to come to his side and saw the flaming beasts swim with them outside the ship. "What're you thinking of right now?" A hint of light shone in her deep, dark eyes. "Are you alright?" she added.

"Huh?" Tianming seemed to have zoned out somewhat. He suddenly noticed her by his side and smiled. "I'm fine, of course. It was a great victory, so what problem could I have with it? I even played a part in it, too, like the sun emperor said."

"You don't mean what you're saying," she said, lowering her head.

"Well, the sun emperor's position is far too powerful right now. He's the hero of this story, so it's no surprise for me to be awed. While I have many tricks of my own, at the end of the day, it's still not enough to compete with the likes of him." Tianming's gaze was firm. His own will hadn't been crushed just yet.

"So you agree with everything he said? Are his words indisputable?" Weisheng Moran furrowed her brows, sensing a terrifying intent. The sun emperor's words could in fact awe many. Even the elites of the Myriad Solar Sects were so stunned that they could even forget how the sun emperor had wrought destruction on their homes before the arrival of Skywolf. The people from the Windheed Pavilion had all perished by his hand not long ago, yet they seemed to have been completely forgotten.

Did Tianming really agree with the sun emperor? He reevaluated what was happening for a long time and said, "The sun emperor's the one who's stealing the show. I feel like a mere member of the audience who doesn't have the full picture, so only time can answer my questions. If I have the chance, I wish to travel the wider world of the astralscape once more to see whether the people of other worlds can tell me the true nature of our society. Is it really the law of the jungle, like the sun emperor and Skywolf make it out to be, where the weak are scattered like ash in a storm? Do the mighty have a right

to rule over the weak as they please? Or does all life deserve a chance to find their own peace and prosperity no matter their strength?" He didn't come at it from the point of view of a denizen from Skywolf. The fact that Skywolf Frost had been completely destroyed wouldn't change, either.

"For now, I can't say I agree with the sun emperor. Most people, from the strongest cultivator to newborn babes, will be wrapped up in this war. Yet I have no way to refute him. There's always people who'll be uninvolved and innocent, and theirs is hardly a small number. Will their voices ever be heard? Who'll speak for them?" Weisheng Moran said, then pursed her lips. "I'm neither well studied nor traveled, so don't laugh at me."

"I won't. There's sense in what you said. The number of the weak is always higher than that of the strong, yet their stories, thoughts, and feelings often go unheard. There's people like them on the sun and in Skywolf who can't do anything to change the actions of their rulers. War's nature is always a cruel one, and it can't be avoided forever. If Skywolf and the sun really fight to the death, I'd still hope that Skywolf would be the one to die. I was just wondering whether there was any order that supersedes our concerns and controls everything that's able to give a reasonable explanation for all that happens in the mortal coil. Is there a solution that would prevent tragedies like today's? As living beings ourselves, can't we just adopt an ideal to not trample on other living beings?"

Chapter 1967

The law of the jungle was cruel and unavoidable. Glory and merit always belonged to the elites, while normal folk that died in conflicts weren't even treated with a speck of respect. Was the nature of the universe the same all over the astralscape, or just the area near the sun? Could there be a prosperous world where even the majority of normal lifeforms had basic respect? And if such a world existed, who would be the one to mete out fair judgment and rule?

Tianming honestly couldn't say from his vantage point. He was finding his own truth amidst a sea of doubts while walking on the path of rulership.

"What's laughable is that the sun emperor even said that I was his accomplice, yet I don't even have a single drop of sin on me from the deed. Looks like the Primordial God-Emperor also has double standards, eh?" He hadn't been so filled with doubt for quite a long time.

"Don't overthink it. Instead, figure out how we can deal with Skywolf Blaze's upcoming attacks! If the sun emperor can't hold on and the Flameyellow Guard Formation gets breached, everyone dies and there isn't even a point in those considerations," Ying Huo said while rolling its eyes.

Tianming grabbed the little chicken on his shoulder and recalled how it had swallowed an entire star in a gulp within the dreamscape. Even more lifeforms must have died from that, yet for a being on the level of Ying Huo, that was nothing but a snack. Why would it care about the little ants that crawled around it? The only ones that would mind were the ants.

"The moral of the story is to not be an ant!" Yet, given the choice, no ant would choose to become one.

"Will the Myriad Solar Sects submit to the sun emperor on account of the merits he rendered? You, too, of course," Weisheng Moran asked.

"Submit?" Tianming recalled the scene from before when he had seen the red-haired figure in the Divine Sun Palace, as well as the comrades they'd lost in the Orderian civil wars. Would it be fair to them if they submitted now? Lu Wudi's state was still in question, but there was no way that Tianming would align with the sun emperor on his path.

.....

"Grand Emperor Starvore ordered the reserve troops to head out!" The order quickly saw many specters gathering together, numbering ten billion in total. Coupled with the two billion from the Heptaflare Army, they made for a humongous twelve billion. They were like moths flying around a light, their eyes all glued to the gold and white sun.

Ten billion troops weren't initially required, since they were just reserves for the Heptaflare Army. All of them were eighth-level ascendants and above. While the celestial orderians could also muster those numbers, that number included all that were first-level ascendants or above. Their combined might was in a completely different league. Seeing so many high-level specters would no doubt be daunting for the celestial orderians.

However, that had changed as of late. The celestial orderians had witnessed the death of Skywolf Frost and their ego was heavily boosted. Currently, not even the arrival of a skypiercer-class world would daunt them. They had never experienced a day as glorious as this. Their hearts shone bright like their sun. After a short-lasting period of peace, the second half of the war finally began.

With five divine astralships in the lead, the twelve billion specters appeared in the sky near the sun, looking like a lifeless white sea of flame. Aside from the sight of Skywolf Frost's destruction, nothing else could match how the sky currently looked. On the other side, the sun emperor had his troops rise to the Flameyellow Guard Formation, but it was hard to say how long they would hold against an enemy of this caliber. The destruction of Skywolf Frost had punched a bloody hole through the hearts of the specters and they would be more savage than ever in the upcoming fight.

"The Grand Emperor decreed that their flesh, man or beast alike, is free for us to feast on! Drink their blood and gather their bones as offerings for our fellow comrades of Skywolf Frost!" In true wolf-like fashion, they had turned into beasts. When they descended, it was like a waterfall of lifeless white flame came crashing down on the Flameyellow Guard Formation, spilling blood everywhere.

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Skywolf Frost was nothing but a cold, dead rock. There was a light layer of frost on top of its surface, the last 'embers' of the dying flame. The world of the dead looked like a real hellscape. Even Qiang could tell that the countless vitae that hadn't scattered around them were still screaming in agony as they left the world for good. Their deaths had only lasted mere moments, but the slow ebbing of their souls continued on. They cried for the death of their home and world.

Qiang furrowed his 'brows', or what the faceless equivalent was, tighter and tighter. Not long before, he had been inside the wondersky realm.

"The dead souls in the surroundings almost disrupted my caelum's return from the wondersky realm!" he snapped as he rose. The sight of the icy-cold world still made his heart shudder. When the destruction had taken place, he was running and looking back the entire time, but even then, he hadn't

gotten a view of the full picture. But that alone was enough to cause him to shake. His head was filled with nothing but hot blood. Skywolf Frost was nothing but the hired killers of the Whitejade line, so it wasn't like he despaired for them. Even so, that didn't change the fact that he was utterly shaken.

"Emperor Qiang, what'd the elders say?" a subordinate asked.

"We have a new assignment."

"What is it?"

"The trip to Violetglory is to be delayed for now. We're to monitor this star and report its location to the mysterians at all times until our grand fleet arrives. Skyway Tristar has already given the order to send out five hundred divine astralships. They'll mobilize in five days and set course for this location."

"What? Why?" Five hundred was not a small number.

"Why? We've earned great merit, do you know that?" He couldn't help but break into a bout of laughter.

"Emperor Qiang, please enlighten me and clear my doubts!" Their cold hearts were beginning to warm again at the thought of the great service that had been attributed to their names.

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"My father said that this mere heliacal-class world might be a fallen superworld from ages past. The fact that it has an astralguard formation capable of absorbing the nova source of another world makes it a deific-class world at least! In other words, if we obtain this world and bring it back to the Mysterium Cluster and refill its nova source, it'd become a deific-class world. We'd have a fourth deific-class world in our cluster—Skyway Quadstar!"

The mysterians had anchored their glorious existences on their three deific-class worlds. Should they obtain a fourth, they would be able to greatly expand! The mere thought of faceless specters controlling an entirely new deific-class world was enough to make them jump with wild joy.

"A deific-class world?! Heavens!"

"That's insane!"

"Skyway Quadstar!"

Joyous laughter drowned out everything else as they began making merry in the sea of dead souls, their joy contrasting against the tragedy that had just occurred.

Chapter 1968

"Skyway Quadstar!" Every time they cried out the name of their prospective new world, the faceless specters were filled with joyous vigor.

"Emperor Qiang, should the Mysterium Cluster be illuminated by four deific-class worlds in the future, your name shall be passed down in the history of our civilization! You'll have been the one who discovered Skyway Quadstar! That's a merit beyond measure!"

Even though they didn't have eyes, their gazes still seemed to burn with fervor. They didn't see flames on the burning star, but rather riches. The best part of all was that their mission was exceedingly simple. So far, they hadn't been discovered by anyone yet, so as long as they kept reporting on the location of the star, it would be an easy assignment.

Crimsonjade Qiang whistled and said, "Alright, just make sure to not reveal yourselves so we stay hidden. Stay low and keep it that way."

"Understood!"

Some of them turned toward Skywolf Blaze and saw a wave of troops pouring toward the sun. The astral war had already begun!

"What about Skywolf Blaze? They're still continuing the assault. Should we aid or stop them?"

Qiang said, "The elders have said that we're not to interfere. The Skywolf system has yet to report information about this world to us, so we'll behave as if we don't know about its true nature. If they manage to take the sun, we'll take it from them so that when our main forces arrive, we can bring the star back home."

"What if they fail?"

"Then there's nothing we can do about it. Skywolf is a rather huge power, and if they lose, there's nothing the few of us can do to help. A single sovereign won't be able to do much. That's why we shouldn't join the fray. If we're in danger and lose the location of the star, we'll be in deep trouble." Skyway Quadstar was far too important a prospect for the mysterians. Qiang and the rest didn't dare to risk it.

"Understood. We'll hide ourselves and remain neutral, nor will we let Skywolf Blaze know of our existence, lest they leak it."

Discretion was paramount! As long as Qiang didn't show himself and monitored from the shadows, the fleet of mysterians with at least two thousand divine astralships would have no issue taking the sun. All he had to do was keep the fleet informed of the star's coordinates. It wasn't like it could run, and even if it did, a moving star would be far slower than divine astralships.

"The main force will take a year or two to arrive, so we have to start making preparations! Make sure there's always at least a pair of eyes on our Skyway Quadstar at all times."

"Understood!"

Qiang knew better than to startle the flock. The best option was inaction so that the plan would go on as it is. It wasn't like they had to worry about losing Skywolf. The Voidsky Organization had many more 'hunters' in their service, and Skywolf was only one of them, so losing their stars wouldn't be a big deal. In fact, the mysterians were more overjoyed about Skyway Quadstar than they were disappointed in hearing about the death of Skywolf Frost.

"Let's just hope that Skywolf Blaze puts more effort into the war. If we can just take it over from them once they're done clearing out the native population, the elders would be even happier and we'll all be even more heavily rewarded," Qiang said with hope as he looked at the devastated battlefield. If it

weren't for his reason still holding him back, he wouldn't have waited and would jump in himself to bring them Skyway Quadstar. "We'll let them kill each other and wipe themselves out! That'll make the cleanup easier."

It was also the first time he had witnessed the 'truth' of the universe himself. But as a member of a peak bloodline, he was used to matters like these. "Come, let's go back to the Donut." That was the nickname he used for his divine astralship. It was a crimson ring that boasted an incredible speed, even among divine astralships.

They didn't even want to look into who the soul-eating fiend was, nor check out who was resisting the invasion from the sun in their effort to be careful. All they had to know was where the sun was, and doing anything else was going to raise the risks.

"I've long wanted to leave this ghost-ridden place."

"How depressing."

The specters were still drowning in joy as they left the dead star with Qiang.

"Huh?" Qiang suddenly felt a chill and turned back. "Why're these vitae going in a single direction?" As there were far too many of them, it was all too easy for someone like him with a fourth imperial soul to sense the pattern of the baleful souls. There was an entire sea of them, and within it, a current that swept them in a certain direction!

"What is going on?"

"It seems rather terrifying. For so many people to die in a flash.... This must be the first time something like this has happened. They're clumping together and not scattering?"

"Let's just go. They're probably hovering all around us right now." Qiang still had questions about it despite his subordinates' casual disregard. There seemed to be a vortex of sorts where the souls were heading. All of a sudden, he had a startling realization.

"What is it?" some subordinates asked.

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"It must be that soul-eating monster!" Qiang gasped.

"What?" They blankly looked around before they realized it as well.

"If he became that powerful after consuming around a hundred million souls, what would happen once he consumes all the souls of this world? There's an endless amount of them! If he doesn't have a limit...." Nobody could imagine the kind of monster that would be born. Qiang was the first one to snap into action. "Run! Run now!"

This was the second time they had felt so terrified, with the first being when they'd witnessed the sun destroying all life on Skywolf Frost. Qiang thought he had seen it all, yet little did he know something like this would lay hidden in the far corner of the universe.

"What a terrifying place! Let's not come out anymore after we return to the Donut!" None of them dared to turn back in fear of being turned into a baleful soul. Behind them, more and more agonized screams could be heard. The howls grew louder and louder and sent chills down the specters' spines. Yet Qiang couldn't resist turning back, and what he saw was....

Chapter 1969

The sand being blown by the wind spread out in front of them, ever changing. The windows and door on an upside down building suddenly turned into eyes and a mouth that grinned at Qingyu.

This was the Xenoworld.

"Little Feng...." Qingyu looked up and could see the baleful spirits slowly dissipating with a struggle after entering the Xenoworld, as if they had fallen asleep. Lingfeng's body thus appeared much cleaner now. Even so, the eyes on Lingfeng's three heads remained a dark red.

"Yes." Lingfeng nodded, but he was still staring at the vortex in front of him, his gaze growing more intense. He was staring at the Xenoworld Gate.

"What just happened" Qingyu hadn't recovered from her shock yet, and her heart was still pounding.

"The extinction of life." Lingfeng reached toward the outside world with his finger, causing the endless flood of vitae to be drawn toward it.

The extinction of life! The words gave Qingyu a fright. Her voice shook as she asked, "Does that mean all of the life on Skywolf Frost has perished?" No spectator could remain calm after hearing that. She felt panic as the value of life unbalanced her and didn't even notice as Lingfeng brought her back into the human world through the Xenoworld Gate.

They reappeared in a sea, a sea of vitae and terrae.

A sea of the dead!

All of the dead, whether they were male or female, old or young, were like drowning people. Their limbs were flailing about in the sea of souls, their expressions warped by pain and fear, yet there were no tears. The children had already sunk to the bottom of the sea. They had been trampled by the various dead and only their heads were left, yet they were still sobbing.

Lingfeng could see it the clearest. He stood in the center of the sea of souls, and his three heads were all looking in different directions of this world of the dead.

The dead seemed to take him as a lifeboat. They all clung to him, their eyes wide as they wailed at him, seemingly hoping for him to save them. If he didn't respond, they would get angry and emanate an aura of resentment. That resentment was the reason why they were unable to disperse. As long as they existed, their pain would never end.

The entire world was crying.

"Little Feng, why do there seem to be so many people crying...?" Qingyu tried to make herself as small as possible in his hands as she looked around in fright. Even she could feel the resentment that filled everywhere.

“Pain. Hate. Unwillingness.” Each of Lingfeng’s heads gave a reason. Lingfeng was clearer than anyone else.

“Help me get revenge! Help me get revenge!” Endless curses filled his ears as billions of souls dragged him into the sea. The entire sea began to swirl around him, all of the grudge congregating in his location, as if Lingfeng was their final resting place!

“Destroy! Destroy!”

“Kill!”

“Everyone who got us killed must die!”

“We died unjustly!”

“Not fair, not fair, not fair....”

“Waaaaah! Mom, mom! Where are you?”

Countless voices rang out in Lingfeng’s ears like an explosion as the grudges flowed into his body.

“I hate it! I hate it! Someone, save me....”

“I never harmed anyone before, so why did I have to die? What did I do wrong?”

“Why, why, why? I promised to find her. What about my promise?”

When a person died with grudges and regrets, they weren’t able to leave anything behind. However, the vast majority of these people had never participated in the war, so they felt that they were guiltless.

“Why?”

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“Is my life not a life too?”

“Help us make the person who did this pay with blood. Help us, help us!”

“Please, you can hear us, right?”

Lingfeng could hear them. He could hear every one of them clearly.

“Eat us, and help us get revenge! Eat us!”

“We have no regrets!”

“Please! Free us! Please!”

If it had just been a few people crying and making noise, it would have been nothing. However, these were the spirits of an entire nova source world. Their grudges and hatred formed a wave that crashed into Lingfeng.

“I hate, I hate it all!”

“Hateful!”

“Hate! Hate!”

Lingfeng’s fingers were shaking. He panted as tears leaked out. He couldn’t control it, as these vitae were like poison to him. They had filled his entire heart and body with a world’s worth of grudges.

“Die, please, they have to die!”

These people didn’t know who had caused this, so they could only stare at the burning sun. Only its destruction could calm their grudge.

“It was them! They wanted to eat us first, it was their own choice!” Lingfeng began to mutter to himself. He had just thrown off some baleful spirits, but now he had entered an even deeper sea of them. Billions of faces were now facing him, all crying at him.

“Kill! Destroy everything!”

“Burn down the world with us!”

Resentment had no rhyme or reason. When so much hate gathered together, they didn’t even know who to direct it at, so instead they directed it at all life.

“I hate it, too!”

Lingfeng’s voice was hoarse as he lowered his head and clenched his fist. He stared at the distant sun. “Qingyu, will everything be solved if I kill the sovereign and exterminate the celestial orderians before exterminating Skywolf? At least, defeating the sovereign is a precondition for giving your dad hope, right?” His eyes blazed. “If I had enough power, we could solve all our troubles.” He looked at all the wailing faces, which could offer him ‘enough power’.

“No, Little Feng... we still have many chances. Your mind is the most important thing. Their resentment will swallow you up and you’ll become enslaved.” Qingyu’s heart was aching. Lingfeng wouldn’t have become like this if it wasn’t to save her.

However, he was a willing party; how could the demonic dao not have risks?

“You underestimate me. They can’t affect me. They’ll be the ones enslaved. Furthermore, I’m the only one who can bring them release!” Once you made a decision, justifying it after the fact was easy. “Just this once, Qingyu. We’ll resolve the sovereign and Skywolf, then hand the sun to your brother. Then I’ll bring you to explore the universe and find a happy life out there.... Believe me!” This was his only chance; where else could such a sea of souls be found? Lingfeng didn’t believe the resentment could swallow him up. However, he didn’t realize he had already become filled with hatred!

“Little Feng!” Qingyu shouted. But he didn’t seem to hear her.

He closed his eyes and spread his arms, a smile of grief on his face. “Come!”

The Xenoworld Gate opened and Skywolf Frost shook once again as the endless dead surged toward him and his Xenoworld Gate. They transformed into true baleful spirits that swirled around inside his body. It was as if he had swallowed them up.

Once this poison was tasted, there was no way of stopping it. No matter how Qingyu screamed her heart out, the demonic allure couldn't be stopped.

A new storm appeared on Skywolf Frost.

"Yin Chen! Tell my brother! Quick!" Qingyu's eyes were red.

"Already told."

Yin Chen's reply didn't give her peace, as she knew no one could stop Lingfeng as long as he was willing! The only light in the darkness was that no matter how much resentment he took in, he was still using his hands to protect her, not letting a hint of resentment touch her.

"I won't disappoint you. Once I defeat the sovereign and vanquish Skywolf, everything will end! I don't want you to be unhappy anymore. Even though you've recovered from the old god's blood, Big Brother Tianming and you still have too many constraints because your dad's being controlled. I want to help you solve all this! No one can stop me. No one..." Lingfeng announced with a hoarse voice. There was no room for negotiation.

In the next moment, the sea of souls swallowed up everything as billions of resentful souls entered his body. It was too much. There was simply too much hate.

The Primordial Gate quickly spun, but wasn't able to erase so much resentment. The souls made his Transcendent Truefiend Body swell up. His flesh and blood suddenly exploded and became a black mist. It formed a shadowy figure that continued to grow and grow.

"From the infernal soul race to a Transcendent Truefiend. What'll it be now?" Lingfeng felt as if he had connected to the universe at that moment. With the aid of all the vitae, he had transcended the constraints of a flesh and blood body and become a new lifeform!

"The Primordial Demon!"

A sea of souls was gathering at one point, causing a giant shadowy figure to slowly expand. It was like a pitch-black cloud, within which countless baleful spirits were wailing. The sun and Skywolf Blaze were currently locked in battle, so there was no one to notice the dead star and the new storm that was brewing upon it!

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"Hate! Hate!" The dead had found their new home in Lingfeng and poured all of their resentment into him. The Primordial Demon seemed to become a body they shared and they wanted to ride it to get revenge. When they gathered into one body like that, it would naturally create a terrifying power. Lingfeng acted as the converter for their power; without him, they wouldn't be able to do anything.

"In the mortal realm, love and hatred.... All of that joy and rage vanishes like an illusionary dream in the end. Even so, even if it's an illusory dream, everyone will still take it as real. I also can't let it go." He couldn't let go, nor could he turn back. He saw Qingyu's tears, but they weren't able to stop him. "If you want to hate, then hate all the way! Don't blame me for using your power and destroying you once again! There's at least one thing we agree on—we all want to destroy the sun emperor!"

The storm grew even larger.

“Kill!” The baleful spirits let out a rallying cry as they sped into Lingfeng’s Xenoworld Gate, transforming into a part of the Primordial Demon. Their resentment-filled faces shone within the body of that cloud-like monster as the Primordial Demon continued growing without limit.

However, in the very center of that demonic shadow was a pure land that was safe. It was where Qingyu was. However, her mind was still assaulted by the resentful wails.

Can he really hold on? Qingyu could only choose to trust him and to call him with all her might to help him maintain his mind.

No one could have expected a new marvel would appear on the destroyed Skywolf Frost. It was like a nether sea had covered the entire world as it expanded, the same way as the sea of frost or flaming clouds did for the two remaining worlds. Countless baleful spirits were within, which opened their mouths filled with fangs. They now had weapons!

The black sea was Lingfeng’s new body, the Primordial Demon. He was even more like a super cosmic monster than the Voidheart Worm!

Skywolf Frost had already been stained black. It looked like a demonic eye gazing at the final battle between Skywolf Blaze and the sun. The question of who had subdued who would soon be answered.

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Black waves began churning, each drop of ‘water’ a specter’s spirit. Suddenly, the black sea flowed out of Skywolf Frost, turning into a giant black wolf that ran toward the sun.

.....

Tianming had just left the sun emperor when Lingfeng’s situation changed. He had originally planned on picking Lingfeng up from Skywolf Frost when Yin Chen updated him that it had become a star of baleful spirits.

He hadn’t noticed it due to the death count occupying his mind. However, it wouldn’t have mattered even if he had, as no one could have stopped Lingfeng from doing what he wanted even if he was being influenced by the resentment.

If even Qingyu couldn’t, there was no way Tianming could.

The Ninedragon Imperial Tomb flew out of the Flameyellow Guard Formation once more. When it reached the astralscape, the tomb raised its head and the people inside instantly burst into commotion.

A giant shadow, half the size of a nova source world, was approaching from Skywolf Frost’s direction. Billions of baleful spirits were snarling and wailing within. The resentment that spread everywhere was like a wave that surged toward the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb!

“Little Feng!” Tianming couldn’t believe the massive shadow was Ye Lingfeng! There was no way he wouldn’t be worried after seeing his current state, especially when Qingyu was still with him!

Lingfeng was now a terrifying super spirit and the mental shock it brought made all of the myriad sects’ experts in the tomb turn pale.

“Does he still have his rationality?”

That was the most important question. If he did, there was at least still a hope of recovering his previous state.

Tianming made a snap decision and positioned the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb right in front of the giant shadow.

“Kill! Kill!”

“Destroy him!”

“Break it, break it!”

The billions of souls within the shadow howled in unison. Countless souls fixed their eyes on the tomb, gnashing their fangs at it. So much baleful emotion gathered in one body was indeed frightening. Many people within the tomb were even calling for Tianming to flee.

At that moment, Tianming was tightly gripping the wheel formation, the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb not budging even a single inch. “Little Feng, you can do it!” he said to himself. He believed in the Primordial Demonlord’s legacy and his brother, Lingfeng. Tianming believed he could hold on even if Skywolf Frost’s resentment was this horrifying.

He could see a pair of giant red eyes within the shadow. The eyes’ gaze passed through the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb and locked gazes with Tianming. Even though all of the baleful spirits in its body wanted to destroy the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb, there wasn’t any hint of killing intent with the eyes. Tianming could see the clarity of Lingfeng’s mind.

The shadow detoured around the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb and pounced at the sun. That clarified everything.

Lingfeng had already entered the final battlefield by the time Tianming turned around.

“Tianming, this....” Many people were shocked.

“Follow him... Protect him if possible!” Tianming quickly made his choice and passed down his order.

“Yes!”

No one could predict what result this unexpected killer threat would bring.

.....

That was the moment when Skywolf Blaze’s reserve forces of ten billion specters arrived at the sun’s battlefield. They were filled with fighting spirit after the two billion soldiers of the Yanyi Army had opened a path for them.

“Kill!” a voice that shook the battlefield rang out. The soundwave actually created a depression in the Flameyellow Guard Formation and an endless number of people could be seen in the astralscape above the sun!

The Skywolves' murderous desire had already peaked after carrying the fury of their brethren being wiped out. Only drowning the sun in blood could assuage their hatred.

Wave after wave of soldiers advanced into the sea of fire, then clashed with the Flameyellow beasts. They didn't focus on only one point, but targeted various parts of the sun. On Orderia, there were many places one could look up and see scenes of butchery. Quickly, corpses fell from the sky, turning into meat paste from the impact when they landed.

The entire world was trembling; it was a battle with no retreat. Not even the magnificent celestial orderians had much confidence. The more ordinary lifeforms could only hide themselves as best they could and pray for the sun's survival.

"Kill!"

"Get revenge for our comrades of Skywolf Frost! Kill 'em and eat 'em!"

Specters were powerful due to their bodies. When they were filled with hatred, they would even eat humans, like they were eating people within the Flameyellow Guard Formation. It wasn't a metaphor, they were truly eating people alive!

"Die, die!"

"All life on the sun will suffer even more than Skywolf Frost did!"

Massive flaming wolves appeared above the sun. The totems of the celestial orderians struggled within the flames.

Within the Sky Palace Formation, many of the warriors of the myriad sects had joined the fight near the astralguard formation. Even though their power was minuscule, they refused to watch from the sidelines.

The nova source war quickly reached a fever pitch.

The Starvore astralship took the specters' vanguard. While searching for the Divine Sun Palace, it oppressed all it met and killed its way into the depths of the Flameyellow Guard Formation. If they couldn't find the sun emperor, their plan was to enter the sun and go to the celestial orderians' main camp for a murder spree. Sovereign Sanctquility had done such things before.

"This sun emperor only qualifies to be a street rat. What can he do but hide?" Within the Starvore, Empress Yu was furious as she cursed.

The Starvore breached the Flameyellow Guard Formation and arrived at the astralguard formation.

"Another one? This is the one in the historical records. However, can it block the Starvore?" Empress Ying sneered. She was about to use the astralship's attack.

Just at that moment, Grand Emperor Starvore appeared in the main hall, his expression greatly warped.

"Something's happening outside, quickly go out!"

"What happened?" The empresses were confused. Could the sun still resist at this point?

"Quickly go out!" Grand Emperor Starvore had no time to explain.

Empress Yu directed the Starvore to reenter the Flameyellow Guard Formation.

“Husband, what is it?” the empresses chorused. They didn’t feel all that happy to go back in after their struggle to come out in the first place.

“Not sure, a monster came from Skywolf Frost’s direction. I hear it’s made up of countless baleful spirits.”

“Huh?” The women exchanged a look.

“Baleful spirits of Skywolf Frost? Really? Do dead people have power? Even so, shouldn’t it be on our side?” Empress Yu was confused.

“I thought so at first, too. But everyone that’s dying is from our side!”

“How....” They were shocked.

The Starvore finally exited the Flameyellow Guard Formation and returned to the astralscape, where they saw a massive black shadow that was as large as a world. It had a massive maw that was currently trying to swallow the entire sun!