

## The Ages 1971

### Chapter 1971

“Die! Die!”

“Everyone has to die. If we can’t live, no one can!”

A chorus of ghostly shrieks endlessly poured out from the shadow. Face after face of Skwwolf specters were attached to Lingfeng’s ‘skin’. As there were too many of them, it had led to his body changing shape. The faces had all been compressed into narrow strips. For some, their eyes, ears, mouths, and noses, were all scrunched up together at the same spot.

“Skywolf Blaze, starvorians, fuck all of you!” When Lingfeng’s Primordial Demon arrived at the sun, the vengeful souls of Skywolf Frost saw more or less all of Skywolf Blaze’s specters. In their resentment, every grudge was magnified. They had nothing but hate left!

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The beast-like shadow expanded. Like liquid, it flowed out over the flaming clouds until it became a black sphere that swallowed the sun. Those on the Flameyellow continent could see the gold and white star become black. Now, it looked like the Demonic Sun in the Abyssal Battlefield.

When the sun was swallowed, there were naturally many living skywolves that were swallowed as well. Billions of them hadn’t even had a chance to break into the Flameyellow Guard Formation before they were swallowed by the sea of spirits.

“DIE! DIE!”

Even constellers would feel suffocated as they found themselves surrounded by resentment and spirits. If they plead to the heavens, the heavens wouldn’t answer. If they plead to the earth, the earth wouldn’t answer. All of their shouts were drowned out by the wailing.

“Everyone, everyone! I’m a specter of Skywolf, your brethren! The one that got you killed is down there! Let’s kill our way down together and get revenge for you!”

Any Skywolf Blaze specters that could think fast enough made such statements.

“We’re on the same side!”

“Let’s get revenge together! Let us go! We’ll use the blood of the sun’s life as an offering to Skywolf Frost!”

The Skywolf Blaze specters shouted as loud as they could, but they quickly found the baleful spirits around them only had hatred and jealousy for the living left in their eyes and no rationality.

Many living specters sucked in a cold breath as the dead ones began cackling.

“These bastards from Skywolf Blaze always liked to act superior.”

“They always liked to kick back and relax while sending us to die when it’s wartime.”

“The two stars used to be the same size. Now the difference is increasing and increasing. It’s not fair! It’s not fair!”

“You all have to die!”

Even the slightest grudge would be magnified until it became endless.

“No!”

The living specters’ expressions changed. They hurriedly struggled and tried fighting their way out, but every one of them was surrounded by hundreds of ghosts. Countless miserable cries drifted out from the black sea. The baleful spirits were already dead, they naturally didn’t fear death, nor even dissipation.

They rushed en masse into the seas of consciousness before ripping at and devouring the vitaw, murdering specter after specter. What the Primordial Demon brought was butchery.

Skywolf Blaze’s army of ten billion was trapped between the black sea and Flameyellow Guard Formation. Below was a gold and white hell, above was a black hell!

The Ninedragon Imperial Tomb was between the two as well.

“Little Feng....” Tianming saw a dense rain of specter corpses dropping like rain from the Primordial Demon’s body. They dropped into the flaming clouds and were quickly burnt to ash, neither souls nor bodies were left. He knew that this massacre of the Skywolf army was definitely arranged by Lingfeng’s mind. However, he wasn’t sure if Lingfeng would retain his rationality as he closed in on the Flameyellow Guard Formation. He would likely even start killing the celestial orderians once he got to them! Who could predict the actions of a monster made from the baleful spirits of an entire nova source world?

“The specters that just got swallowed won’t be making it out of this, at least....” Tianming was concerned now about whether Lingfeng could still return to his past self after such a spectacle. “However, this is the best chance to kill Skywolf while Little Feng still has his mind!” He once again had the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb coordinate with Lingfeng.

By now, several hundred million corpses had fallen from the Primordial Demon. After the vitae of the dead were ripped apart, the Primordial Demon pulled them into his Xenoworld Gate and made them his temporary power. The inheritance of the Primordial Demonlord had the property of becoming more powerful the more dead there were. It fully shone during a nova source war like this, providing a boost much greater than the Primordial God-Emperor’s imperial dao.

However, Tianming’s power was eternal while Lingfeng’s was temporary.

The black sea was like an ancient demon god raging, its roars interspersed with the joyous cackling of countless baleful spirits.

The entire world was shocked and shaking in fear of the demonic god. The most frightening thing was that the Primordial Demon was moving toward the Flameyellow Guard Formation after ‘eating’ all those specters.

It looked even scarier than the formation. There were at least five billion specters still trapped between the two hells. Their now baleful spirits brethren would kill anyone they saw, which had already frightened many specters out of their wits.

“What’s going on?”

“Why’re they attacking their own side?”

“They’re already dead, so why’re they still causing trouble?”

“Mad, they’ve gone mad!”

Most specters still hadn’t yet realized that the entire sea was actually one living organism—Lingfeng’s body.

## **Chapter 1972**

In the terrible scene, Tianming, who was within the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb, could only do his best to make an impact. A Ninedragon Apotheosis fired out and a nine-colored sun exploded between the Primordial Demon and Flameyellow Guard Formation.

He had aimed at the area with the highest density. Their attention was focused on the Primordial Demon, so they didn’t notice the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb until it was too late. That was how Tianming smoothly wiped out over a million specters. As reserve troops, their experience was relatively lacking.

Everything happening was a severe blow to Skywolf Blaze, which had expected to steamroll the sun. The Primordial Demon, especially, was something so strange that many still hadn’t wrapped their heads around it yet.

“Madness, this is madness!”

The celestial orderians below were now facing less pressure.

The Starvore astralship that had been chasing the sun emperor finally came out of the Flameyellow Guard Formation. They personally witnessed the Primordial Demon devour the Skywolf specters and even envelop the sun, cutting off their escape route.

“What’s going on?” Inside the astralship, Empress Yu, Empress Ying, and the rest all had looks of disbelief.

“It’s one thing for Skywolf Frost to be useless, but why’re they still making trouble after they die?”

“There really is every strange thing in the astralscape!”

“It should have just been an ordinary hunt. How did it turn out like this?”

After Skywolf Frost perished and the Primordial Demon appeared, many of Skywolf Blaze’s experts’ minds had cracked under the pressure. Strong enemies weren’t frightening, but the unknown was. It was indeed difficult to accept seeing the baleful spirits of Skywolf Frost massacring their own side. People who had originally been carrying the fire of revenge for their brethren in their hearts quickly found it doused by cold water. ‘Depressed’ didn’t even begin to cover it.

Fortunately, as the decision-makers, the triumvirate knew they had to steady their troops' hearts and unify their will. Grand Emperor Starvore's white hair fluttered and the fire in his eyes burned bright as he could sense a fatal threat toward him from this Primordial Demon. "Pass down my order. All are to ignore the backline and kill their way to the sun!"

"Yes!"

It was indeed a difficult situation to be surrounded on both sides.

"Yes, we should kill our way to the sun first!"

"We'll let that thing duke it out with the sun's astralguard formation and see which dies first!"

"I also predict these baleful spirits are just killing whatever they lay their eyes on. We need to avoid the edge. We'll serve the lifeforms of the sun on a platter and see if they kill them or not!"

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The experts quickly came to a consensus.

The skywolves that had been in trouble quickly understood the sovereigns' intentions when they heard the order and quickly recovered from the initial chaos. There was no longer a path of retreat, so they threw their all into fighting the Flameyellow Guard Formation, bringing the pressure to the celestial orderians.

"I want to see if these baleful spirits and astralguard formation attack each other and wear themselves out."

The Skywolf sovereigns refused to believe that the baleful spirits of Skywolf Frost would only target them.

"Since such a monster appeared, don't blame us for borrowing its strength!"

The Skywolf army sped up its entry into the Flameyellow Guard Formation. Quickly, the flaming clouds were filled with ten billion soldiers. Every continent could see battles occurring above their heads!

The pressure the Flameyellow Guard Formation, celestial orderians, and myriad sects were under had reached an extreme. Fortunately, the specters had large numbers, so their communication network was slower. Many sectors didn't know how to handle the Primordial Demon.

To resolve that, the four rexes split up from the Starvores. They took charge of their clan's armies and each of them pressed the attack on a different sector. The battle quickly reached a crescendo.

The Primordial Demon was definitely an unknown variable on the battlefield, but Tianming didn't retreat, either. He stopped as many as he could. When he entered the Flameyellow Guard Formation, he happened to be near a Skywolf Blaze sovereign, Sovereign Bluedepths! That sovereign's astralship was a monster that was half fish, half wolf. It had a streamlined shape and looked like a blade-like fish. It was bright and covered with scales, but had a ferocious wolf head.

The astralship was called the Flying Fish Starwolf. It was incredibly quick and had opened up a path through the beast waves. After securing its battlefield, still carrying fifty million elite troops, it made a beeline for the Sky Palace Formation at the sun's South Pole!

The other three rexes and the Starvores also all had similar plans of breaking through the astralguard formation, then starting a killing spree on the sun's lands to break the natives' will. That'd always been their plan, but the arrival of the Primordial Demon had disrupted it.

There were at least three astralships gunning for the celestial orderians' lands now. That was in accordance with Skywolf Blaze's judgment of the sun's factions. The celestial orderians that had overwhelmingly won in the sun's civil war were their main opponents.

With the four rexes opening the way, the ten billion strong army was indeed fierce. If they ran fast enough, they could ignore the Primordial Demon behind them.

As for the strongest astralship, the Starvore, its target was the Divine Sun Palace. However, there was a chance of them targeting the sun's lands to force the sun emperor to appear.

That was the specters' battle strategy. The Primordial Demon had been unable to stop it and the shadow of extinction covered the sun once more.

The Ninedragon Imperial Tomb was soaring through the Flameyellow Guard Formation. All of the Flameyellow beasts made way for it. "I see it!" Ahead, the Flying Fish Starwolf was being dragged down and smashed by countless Flameyellow beasts. It was like it was trapped in a swamp,

"This is the Myriad Solar Sects's master, Li Tianming the decabane?" Skywolf had their own selfish thoughts. They hadn't reported this operation to the mysterians at the start. And now, after finding out about the decabane genius, the super-strong sovereign, and that terrifying astralguard formation that could pierce through Skywolf Frost, even an idiot could tell this world was special. After suffering such huge losses, they wanted to peel apart the secret and possibly get some benefits before reporting it to the mysterians.

That selfishness was common for those hunters at the fringes of the organization. Merit alone wasn't going to fill their stomachs, after all. And here, the emperor was far away, so it was good to comply in appearance but oppose in secret. Hence, they were very curious about a miracle like Tianming even now. When he had appeared to stop Sovereign Bluedepths, the sovereign wasn't anxious. Instead, he turned his ship to face Tianming.

Blue flames began burning on the Flying Fish's surface.

Sovereign Bluedepths quickly contacted another sovereign. "I found that kid, Boundless! Come here so we can pincer him!"

Sovereign Boundless had been heading to the North Pole, but quickly changed directions upon getting that message.

## **Chapter 1973**

Sovereign Bluedepths didn't want to clash with Tianming before Sovereign Boundless arrived. Hence, he sent the Flying Fish Starwolf in Sovereign Boundless' direction.

The chase was on between the Flying Fish Starwolf and the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb.

All around them was battle as the celestial orderians and specters continued their slaughter. In such a battle, any astralship was like a spark to a fuse. As soon as it entered the sun, it could cause hundreds of millions of casualties. Tianming diverting the attention of two sovereigns was a tremendous help.

A Ninedragon Apotheosis flew out and exploded behind the Flying Fish Starwolf, tearing off the astralship's tail fin. All of the skywolves inside the astralship were thrown around and injured by the impact.

"It's quite strong. The Flying Fish Starwolf isn't a match for it! We're halfway to Starvore." Sovereign Bluedepths frowned. As the most cautious and prudent sovereign of Skywolf Blaze, he grit his teeth and chose not to engage. He urged Sovereign Boundless to hurry up while he made his own astralship flee faster.

However, the Flameyellow beasts took the chance to crash down on the astralship like a wave, swallowing it up like a sea.

"Why's this formation so troublesome!" Sovereign Bluedepths' expression changed.

"Behind us, sovereign!" someone shouted in surprise.

The massive Ninedragon Imperial Tomb flew out of the fiery sea from behind and physically rammed into the Flying Fish Starwolf! A smaller half of the ship directly blew apart from the collision and over two hundred thousand specters died on the spot just like that.

"BOUNDLESS! HURRY!" Sovereign Bluedepths was going nuts. He had known that the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb would be strong when it worked together with the Flameyellow Guard Formation, but he hadn't expected it to be this strong. He had immediately run after being spotted, but he'd still been caught.

"Run away, run away!" Panic filled the astralship.

"Sovereign, let us out. If the astralship's broken, we'll all die just like that!" The experts were all distressed.

"No way. If over fifty million people go out like that, it'll take too long. You'll all die as soon as you appear at the exit!" How was it possible to unload the passengers at this time? If one jumped off of a speeding vehicle, they usually just died faster.

"Hold on!" The damaged astralship was still trying its best to escape. However, Sovereign Bluedepths fell into further despair. Ahead of him was literal darkness, a darkness made of baleful spirits. It was the Primordial Demon!

"They got in?!" Sovereign Bluedepths felt cold sweat. One moment was enough for him to see that the Flameyellow beasts weren't attacking the baleful spirits. That was because the Flameyellow Guard Formation mostly had material attack power. Only special formations would be able to attack the soul. And the baleful spirits weren't even vitae, but the agglomeration of resentment; the Flameyellow beasts couldn't even see them!

Of course, another possibility was that the Flameyellow Guard Formation's controller had let them in.

Regardless, the Flying Fish Starwolf now had a new hunter.

The Primordial Demon's body seeped into the flaming clouds, causing black to mix into the formation, making it look even stranger.

Sovereign Bluedepths could only be stunned at the new development. And the very next moment, baleful spirits began madly surging toward the astralship, a sea of darkness instantly swallowing it up.

"AH!" The tens of millions of experts inside let out tragic cries. In truth, the souls of the baleful spirits weren't actually that strong. All they had was resentment. The one that was actually strong was the Primordial Demon, Lingfeng.

"Die! All of you die!"

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Even Sovereign Bluedepths with his fourth imperial soul was assaulted by over a hundred million baleful spirits lunging at him. They all rushed into his sea of consciousness, giving him a splitting headache, which wouldn't be able to quickly kill him. However, right behind him was Li Tianming, who could quickly kill him.

The Flying Fish Starwolf came to a grinding halt in mid-air. Everyone within was struggling, but the baleful spirits weren't able to kill them, only bring them pain. However, it was a different story when a nine-colored divine light appeared above them. A moment later, an incandescent nine-colored sun struck a bullseye.

The divine light and darkness mingled for a moment before a massive shockwave was unleashed, the world seemingly quaking in its wake.

Tianming witnessed the astralship directly disintegrating. The next moment, the miniature nova source stored inside didn't gradually release its power, but released it in a single instant with an explosion that was dozens of times more powerful than the Ninedragon Apotheosis.

Lifeless white flames dyed the world white for a full ten seconds.

"No—" The specters inside only had time to turn pale before being blown to bits. From a certain perspective, an astralship was a double-edged sword. A nova source was a fundamentally dangerous thing when compressed. If it couldn't be gradually drawn upon and was instead turned into an explosion, anyone would die.

The last time, the Sanctquility Ghostrain had taken multiple hits, so it had had space and time to release its power rather than explode. But this time, over ninety percent of the specters had died to the miniature nova source, not the Ninedragon Apotheosis.

When everything had settled, only a single Skywolf specter that was over a hundred meters tall remained. It was Sovereign Bluedepths. He was rather tough, for his body to survive such destructive might. But his injuries showed that he hadn't gotten off lightly. Tianming was just about to finish him off when the Primordial Demon's darkness engulfed him.

A pair of red eyes appeared in the area, signifying that the majority of Lingfeng's power was focused there.

## Chapter 1974

More and more of the darkness gathered and engulfed Sovereign Bluedepths. Tianming could only hear his miserable screams now. Soon after, the darkness receded, leaving a corpse falling toward the astralguard formation below. The darkness also now had a sovereign-level baleful spirit added to it.

Sovereign Bluedepths had perished; the six rexes were now the three rexes.

Lingfeng's red eyes gave the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb a brief look before moving in another direction. He would pounce for the kill any time he encountered the living.

"It seems he's only killing specters?" People inside the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb were stunned. Honestly, they had been rather nervous during the astralship battle, as the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb's fate would have been the same if it had fallen.

"No, he's killing celestial orderians too. I saw it!" someone added.

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"He's only not killing the myriad sects' beastmasters..."

"So his mind is still clear?" That was undoubtedly a great piece of news.

Skywolf was definitely an enemy, but the celestial orderians weren't friends either. Still, Tianming wouldn't have attacked the celestial orderians when fighting outsiders. However, Lingfeng didn't care—he killed both!

By now, the Primordial Demon had already merged with the flaming clouds

"Go, go find the next prey!" Tianming continued his operation.

Sovereign Boundless had clearly received news of Sovereign Bluedepths's death. He turned tail and fled as Tianming quickly gave chase. En route, he saw many Skywolf specters being swallowed up by the darkness before their vitae were ripped apart and their corpses fell down.

Disaster befell many celestial orderians as well. The sun emperor had most likely noticed it, so he made the celestial orderians in the Flameyellow Guard Formation retreat. Their positioning below made it easier for them to retreat and control the casualties they took.

As for the specters above, they were forced to bear the brunt of Lingfeng's rage.

"The sovereign has the Flameyellow Guard Formation, so he can quickly notify and redeploy his celestial orderians. That's his advantage!" It wasn't a very good time for Lingfeng to kill them.

After the highest celestial orderians died, those below fled downward. Thus, what was left was the ten billion Skywolf Blaze soldiers who were suffering from both the Flameyellow Guard Formation and the Primordial Demon.

There were simply too many specters in the flaming clouds. Tianming casually flew his Ninedragon Imperial Tomb forward and easily racked up kills as the baleful spirits ignored him. Lingfeng was clearly placing much importance on not harming him. That was the understanding between brothers.



“Although Little Feng’s power has so many uncertainties now, it really is the best chance for us to resolve the sun’s danger.” That referred to both Skywolf and the sun emperor, though the emperor was still an ally for now.

“You killed Bluedepths?” the Flameyellow beast wave ahead of the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb suddenly asked. It was clearly the sun emperor speaking.

“What of it?”

“Not bad, not bad at all! Keep working hard. Follow the beasts and I’ll help tie down Sovereign Boundless for you! Work together with your ‘little brother’. The sun really needs talents like you two!” The sun emperor roared with laughter.

Tianming did indeed need accurate intelligence now that he had lost Sovereign Boundless.

“Little brother? Afraid?” Tianming’s eyes narrowed.

“Haha, we’ll resolve the love and hate between us father and son after dealing with these jackals.” The sun emperor was still fearless. However, he wasn’t aware that Lingfeng’s foremost target now was him! Lingfeng was hunting all over for him.

“By the way, I may not have an astralship as strong as the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb, but I exterminated Darkshroud myself. What a bunch of morons, splitting up in my territory to attack. There’s still two rexes left, shall we see who’s faster?” The sun emperor continued cackling with laughter.

Skywolf’s sovereigns had split up to attack because that was the most efficient option for them. After all, the sun emperor couldn’t be in two places at once. However, they hadn’t expected how efficient the sun emperor and Tianming would be. The Ninedragon Imperial Tomb, Flameyellow beasts, and Primordial Demon had quickly killed an astralship and its sovereign! Such a result hadn’t been expected when they split up.

“If Little Feng hadn’t helped, it would’ve been difficult to kill Bluedepths before he joined up with Boundless. After that, they would’ve ganged up on me and it probably would’ve been impossible even with the beast wave helping me! If so, the sun emperor must be rather terrifying to kill a sovereign inside an astralship without Little Feng’s help....”

Grand Emperor Starvore must have been scared silly now. Four rexes had already died, and their astralships had been lost too! The ten billion specters were also getting massacred by the Primordial Demon! Worst of all, he still hadn’t found the sun emperor yet.

The situation looked optimistic for the sun as the Primordial Demon was single-handedly overwhelming the ten billion skywolves. However, at that moment, new trouble popped up.

At the astralguard formation Tianming controlled, Skywolf’s three remaining astralships suddenly appeared, including the Starvore! They attacked and were able to make their way through the formation twenty seconds later. Two headed off toward the celestial orderian territory, including the Starvore.

As for Sovereign Boundless’ astralship, it was rather close to Tianming. However, if he didn’t immediately give chase, catching up would be hard.

"These astralships will be a calamity for the ordinary folk with their destructive power!" Now that they had made it through the two astralguard formations, Tianming would no longer have the advantage of the Flameyellow beast wave.

The sun emperor would also have more problems. He probably wouldn't be able to hide and would have to take on the Starvore, as well as the emperor and two empresses inside, the three strongest sovereigns.

Tianming couldn't be bothered with that side for now. "Chase down Boundless!" The Ninedragon Imperial Tomb left the flaming clouds and began its pursuit. He had also lost Little Feng's help, so he'd lost two of his advantages. Wanting to stop an astralship intent on wreaking havoc would be hard.

However, there was no time.

"I don't know how long Little Feng can tie down the ten billion troops. Now that the celestial orderians are retreating, it'll be bad once the skywolves make their way down and no formation is there to stop them. And the worst case scenario is if the sun emperor dies to the enemies' top sovereigns...."

## **Chapter 1975**

The three divine astralships were part of Skywolf's fierce counterattack. Tianming looked up and saw that corpses of specters were still falling; the Primordial Demon boasted terrifying capabilities. However, Tianming noticed that a large number of specters were rushing toward the second astralguard formation and readying themselves to slaughter the sun's population.

"Looks like the specters are going all out with the last few sovereigns and divine astralships they have." The only ones that could push a force that was eight times the size of the celestial orderians' into a corner would be the sun emperor, Tianming, and Lingfeng. The three of them made for an unlikely, yet devastating combination. The Flameyellow Guard Formation's destruction of Skywolf Frost and the appearance of the Primordial Demon, especially, were among the biggest blows suffered by Skywolf.

With the specters going all out, they seemed even more savage and unrestrained. The Ninedragon Imperial Tomb fired a nine-colored beam of light toward the place where Sovereign Boundless had crossed the astralguard formation.

Tianming wasn't worried about the enemy attacking the Sky Palace Formation, but rather that they would scatter and wipe out those living in small settlements across the territory of the Myriad Solar Sects. Those places were completely helpless against divine astralships, not to mention the sixty million specter elites within them. Should they be allowed to scatter, there would be real trouble. No mercy would be shown in a time of war.

"Feng, hold on a little longer! Hold them back as much as you can!" Tianming didn't care if Lingfeng was able to understand him, but he had Yin Chen relay it nonetheless.

The storm caused the flaming clouds to seep into the ocean of darkness and the sky itself seemed to be blacked out. The entire world had turned dark, yet specter corpses continued raining down. Some, however, managed to avoid that fate and burst through the two astralguard formations. Like hungry wolves that found themselves amidst a herd of sheep, they began their slaughter!

"It is... over there!" Yin Chen reminded Tianming to change direction. The divine astralship of the enemy quickly moved away from its former position. Fortunately, Yin Chen had many bodies in the surrounding area, ensuring that Sovereign Boundless' ship was constantly being monitored.

"Got it."

Meanwhile, on the celestial orderians' side, they were being attacked by the Starvore and the ship of Sovereign Redforge, one of the six rexes. If Tianming was able to get rid of Sovereign Boundless, it would be a gigantic boon to the sun. With the Flameyellow Guard Formation and Primordial Demon sealing off any avenues of escape, the enemy ships were essentially locked in.

"Get a lock on its position."

"Got it."

As long as they were fighting on the sun, Tianming's position would be shrouded while Sovereign Boundless' would constantly be available to him. The Ninedragon Imperial Tomb flew toward the position where Sovereign Boundless's ship was and saw a gigantic crater far below him on the ground. It contained white frost that killed anything it touched. The corpses of the many beastmasters and lifebound beasts were quickly reduced to ash.

"Dammit!" The enemy had already begun their vengeful slaughter. An entire city was gone just like that. If nothing was done to stop the specters, such sights would be commonplace across the territories of the Myriad Solar Sects. The death toll of astral wars went up to the billions, and anyone that wasn't an ascendant would easily perish from a divine astralship attack.

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"It is... not far!"

The enemy didn't know that Tianming already had a lock on them, so their ship wasn't in a hurry to leave. Instead, it cruised along as it continued its bombardment, which exposed its location even more easily.

The ship was shaped like a gigantic metal bird, sporting platinum feathers on its wings. The head, however, was that of a wolf. Like the Greenvoid Abyss, it also had some degree of close combat capability, which was a specialty of specter divine astralships. Its name was the Boundless Flamehawk, fitting for its appearance. The apex predator menacingly soared through the skies, its feathers sharp and firm. The wolf head seemed almost perfect for the purpose of hunting.

Tianming no longer cared about how they looked at this point and charged at it at full speed. The Boundless Flamehawk was about to destroy another city, only for the ones inside to notice the commotion. Sovereign Boundless and the rest turned back and saw the incoming ship!

Tianming had been charging up a Ninedragon Apotheosis while he was still quite a distance away, so by the time his ship entered the enemy's sights, it was sent blasting out. A gigantic nine-colored flaming sun went flying and the sovereign's eyes were immediately blinded as he turned back. Without another word, he quickly used evasive maneuvers. The ball exploded right beside the Boundless Flamehawk, sending it spinning out of control before it smashed into the ground, flattening some mountains with its

tough body. However, the ship itself was fine and it flapped its wings and surged its nova source to rise back up.

"Sovereign, why don't we engage? The Boundless Flamehawk's pretty powerful, isn't it?"

"Engage my ass! Did you forget how Sanctquility and Bluedepths died? Do you want all of us to die?!" the sovereign snapped.

"But we're the hunters of Skywolf! We attack the enemy camps! We can't let them run—"

"There's no choice. We ran into a hard wall. Let the Starvores take care of it! All we have to do is keep this ship occupied. When the others kill the sun emperor and the rest of our troops breach the astralguard formations, it'll be over for the sun. They'll have to pay back multiple times the nova source they stole!"

A sovereign of Skywolf wouldn't lightly turn their back on an enemy. Tianming was someone they couldn't afford to overlook. Sovereign Boundless knew that his abilities weren't too far off from the other six rexes. Even though he wasn't under threat from the flaming beasts or the Primordial Demon, he still didn't dare to engage the youth.

"Go! Go!"

The metallic wolf-hawk freely soared through the sky. As its wings flapped, loud metallic rubbing sounds boomed out as its divine astralship formation increased its acceleration more and more. In terms of agility, this ship definitely exceeded the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb's. It could eventually shake off Tianming with enough twisting course changes. "In the air, you won't be able to match my speed!"

Tianming was rather frustrated. It was clear that the enemy was a seasoned pilot, given the complicated arcs his ship traced across the sky. Many of Tianming's attacks were easily evaded. Without aid from the flaming beasts and the Primordial Demon, it would be nigh impossible to destroy divine astralships with the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb alone.

"While giving chase will limit the damage they cause, it'll cost all of my time. I can't afford that if the sun emperor runs into trouble on his side."

## **Chapter 1976**

The delay wasn't a gamble Tianming could afford, but he didn't falter even if it seemed like he wouldn't be able to catch up. The distance between the Boundless Flamehawk and Ninedragon Imperial Tomb widened more and more, further emphasizing the size and mass of the Orderian ship. It was like a huge black bear chasing down a hawk, unable to touch it in the slightest.

"This is impressive, Sovereign!"

"That brat behind us can only eat the dust!"

"He's still a bit too new at this. There's nothing he can do apart from freaking out."

As the specters intensified their mockery, the sovereign spoke up, "Calm down. This is nothing special, just a normal consequence of me having a hundred lifetimes more experience than he does. There's no competition."

Having shaken off the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb, they turned their attention back to the beautiful landscapes of the sun. "How beautiful! It's far prettier than the plain white of the stars of Skywolf. It'll make for a bountiful hunting ground."

While a few other sovereigns had perished, Sovereign Boundless still felt lighthearted after successfully escaping. His spirits rose again at the sight of the distant sea of flames. "I have to record the beauty of these sights in the form of a poem!" Sovereign Boundless was also known as the sovereign poet in Skywolf Blaze, boasting a reputation of being among the most accomplished people with words. He was one of the finest inheritors of their lupine culture and often earned great praise for his efforts.

"What a good poem!" the specters cheered.

"I haven't even started yet! Keep your flattery to yourself!" A rebuke though it was, it didn't change the fact that he felt happy at their blatant attempts to get on his good side.

"Sovereign, you're truly a master of the fine arts with impeccable talent. Even a single breath from you is nothing short of a masterpiece!"

Praises were heaped on him one after another.

"Hahaha you flattering rascals.... I won't fall for it, you know." He cleared his throat and solemnly added, "True power doesn't need to be shown off. Carrying talent is like carrying a child. In time, it'll show even if you try to hide it."

"Well said!" That didn't seem to stop the torrent of praises that came his way.

"Truly, words for the ages!"

"Alright, enough." The sovereign stroked the back of his bald head, and almost immediately, inspiration struck. "Listen up!"

The recital began.

"Today

"The boundless wolf soars

"The great hawk's wings spread

"Across the bright skies

"I am elated.

"It's over!"

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Thundering applause followed. Everyone knew that the sovereign's talent was an inside joke, but they didn't mind as long as he was happy. Little did they know that the sovereign's last words, 'it's over', didn't refer to the poem, but rather their predicament. He yelled out in panic, but the others were too busy clapping and internally laughing at him. They failed to notice how his expression had changed.

By the time they finally snapped out of it, they looked at what the sovereign saw and immediately paled. A thick black fog had come down through the layer of flaming clouds just ahead of the ship, containing billions of baleful souls that glared menacingly at the divine astralship. The darkness fell on them like a beast that was around a thousand times the size of the Boundless Flamehawk. Its terrifying red eyes were glued to the metallic wolf-bird, much to the dismay of its passengers.

"What in the world is this?!" Sovereign Boundless barked as he busied himself with the controls, turning the ship completely around.

"Great poem!" Some of them were still ignorant of the situation and thought that the sovereign's exclamations were just a series of experimental lines he had tossed into the joke he called poetry.

The mechanical bird had flown too fast trying to escape Tianming. Coupled with the fun and games they were having just moments before, it was a little too late for them to change course once they had finally noticed the Primordial Demon. The wave of darkness came sweeping toward them and seeped into the inside of the ship, swallowing it whole!

"Aaaaagh!"

Countless cries echoed, coming from both living and dead. What had happened to Sovereign Bluedepths was repeating itself in Sovereign Boundless's ship.

"Run!"

Alas, it was already far too late. The Primordial Demon was still growing at a staggering rate. It had only grown more and more powerful, to the point that even the sovereign himself was being overwhelmed by the countless baleful souls. The ship struggled to break out of the black cloud; even with the best efforts of the sovereign, it was far less agile than before.

Soon, Tianming managed to catch up and saw everything. "Feng, that's amazing!"

Lingfeng understood his intentions too well. Tianming had been charging up while he was giving chase. And now, the avian ship was a cornered beast while its passengers' souls were tortured nonstop. Even those that rushed out of the ship were dismayed to see the mass of baleful souls outside, but that wasn't all—there was a nine-colored sun behind them. "It's over!" By now, nobody was bothering to praise the sovereign for his poem.

From the surface of the sun, one could see the nine-colored ball of light explode. Countless invaders were wiped out in those glorious fireworks, their corpses completely vaporized in the process, Sovereign Boundless included. His fourth imperial soul wasn't spared from being sucked into the Xenoworld Gate, either, joining the ranks of the baleful souls within Lingfeng's Primordial Demon form.

While it was still a question whether Lingfeng would survive this experience, the Primordial Demon was far too useful. Without it, Tianming wouldn't have been able to kill even a single sovereign, but now three of Skywolf's sovereigns had fallen, thanks to Tianming and the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb.

To say that it was a devastating blow was to heavily understate it, but the only way they would react to the blow was to fight even harsher. They had been driven into a corner with nothing to lose, after all.

Tianming wouldn't show any mercy to those that invaded the sun. As the fireworks scattered, the darkness rose back above the flaming clouds. He didn't even get a chance to bid Lingfeng goodbye, not that he needed to. Lingfeng was so large that he was basically everywhere on the sun. Even if Tianming went to the next battlefield, Lingfeng was sure to be found there and would fight together with him.

While the baleful souls that filled the skies had mouths that cried out for the destruction of everything on their own accord, Tianming knew they were now a part of Lingfeng. He had helped him during the past two sovereign kills, so he was definitely still conscious to some degree. Tianming had nothing else to say about his impressive sworn brother.

"Now, only one of the six rexes remains." Before they had caught up to Sovereign Boundless, Yin Chen told Tianming how the sun emperor was doing. So far, around a billion specters had made it through the formations, all of them ninth-level ascendants and above. Enemies could be found all across the sun. As most of those from the Myriad Solar Sects were inside the Sky Palace Formation, and most of the normal folk quite widely scattered, the damage the enemy wrought was still rather small. As for the celestial orderians, they had an incredibly organized society, with every settlement having protective measures that would hold up against any threat—barring divine astralships—in the short term.

## **Chapter 1977**

The keys to the conflict still lay in the hands of the sovereigns with their divine astralships. As the only rex remaining, Sovereign Redforge was massacring the celestial orderian ranks without anyone to push him back, reaping massive casualties while the sun emperor was kept busy by the Starvore. Yin Chen didn't have a clear visual on that fight, however. If the Starvore was really going all out, the sun emperor might not even show himself.

"Should we take out Sovereign Redforge for him?" Tianming asked the elites of the Myriad Solar Sects. The ship of the sovereign was called the Redfeather Voiddragon and it was currently only a threat to the celestial orderians, not the Myriad Solar Sects.

"Normally, we'd take this opportunity to let more celestial orderians die. It would stack the odds in our favor, and it wouldn't be too late to deal with Sovereign Redforge once he comes for us," the Northdipper Swordsage said.

The Saintdragon Emperor, however, shook his head.

"What do you think?" Tianming asked. He wanted to make sure the seniors' voices were heard.

"That sovereign is killing normal civilians, not soldiers. Not to mention, the deaths of his people will affect the sun emperor while he's fighting. If he's taken down by Grand Emperor Starvore, we'll be in deep trouble ourselves. So far, Skywolf is still the strongest faction among the three of us. If we split hairs with the celestial orderians at a time like this, it only benefits Skywolf. Now that Skywolf Frost is gone, they won't hesitate to wipe us all out if they emerge victorious. However, the sun emperor won't eliminate all beastmasters. In other words, letting Skywolf win would be more dangerous for us. We should form a united front against Skywolf and settle the debt with the sun emperor after this is all over."

Tianming was also of the same opinion. It was true that the sun emperor hadn't messed with the Myriad Solar Sects since the start of the invasion, and should he lose, the Myriad Solar Sects would also be in

trouble. Even a single sovereign could wreak havoc in the tens of billions when allowed to do as he pleased. It was similar to the Divine Sun Palace attacking the territories of the Myriad Solar Sects. The sun emperor had only attacked elite fighters, and most of them had defensive formations, but Sovereign Redforge went for exposed and weak targets. While some would think that helping the civilians of the celestial orderians was foolish, Tianming gave it some thought and still agreed with the Saintdragon Emperor.

"It isn't the time for petty tricks." There was no good to be gained by allowing Skywolf to do whatever it wanted. It wasn't hard to imagine how history would judge such an action.

The Ninedragon Imperial Tomb set out to stop the atrocity right away. "Now, let's get rid of the last sovereign! I wonder if Feng will work with me this time around."

.....

The weather was a combination of fiery rain and falling corpses. That, coupled with the darkened flaming clouds, made for quite the rare sight. Every single corpse that fell was practically unharmed, but they had all lost their souls. Both the rain and the corpses left large craters on the ground. The celestial orderian homeland was burning red to begin with, but since the sun had consumed Skywolf Frost, many frosty areas had appeared and blended with the flames. The combination generated a lot of fog, which the celestial orderians found foreign and difficult to get used to.

It also made it harder for Yin Chen's surveillance, but it knew that the sun emperor was somewhere within the fog, fighting the Starvore. The true rulers of the sun and Skywolf had assembled at the right place. In the middle of the fog, a gold-haired man was bathing in flames. The sun emperor beheld the gigantic Starvore with a cold smirk and a calm expression, not shaken in the slightest even as the figurative sky fell toward him. His stare was returned with an evaluatory gaze by the three joint rulers of Skywolf.

"Where's your divine astralship?" came the deep voice of Grand Emperor Starvore from within the fog.

"In a clash of sovereigns, using our ships is rather pointless. I worry that people will laugh at us for something as cowardly as staying hidden inside our shells," the sun emperor answered.

"You're just saying that because you're at a disadvantage," Empress Yu mocked.

"Sweetheart, the men are talking, so don't interject. Leave it to the men, alright?" While he couldn't see her within the ship, the sun emperor could hear the mockery in her tone.

"I didn't think that the so-called ruler of the sun would be so low class. Is there no worthy woman in your world that taught you to not be such a prick?" she snapped back.

"There isn't, so that's why you two will be my prize. Once your man dies, you can serve me since you're so worthy. I haven't fucked female sovereigns before. Used goods you may be, but I'll give you extra points for the exotic experience. Not to mention, I heard that specters are especially flexible, so that's something to look forward to." The sun emperor shrugged and kept smiling, but the ones within the Starvore fell silent.



"Words are wasted on a low-class animal of his caliber. The situation is quite dire for us. We should just kill him and collapse their fighting spirit before we contemplate how to deal with that monster up above," Empress Ying said.

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The sun emperor had boldly come before the Starvore without his divine astralship. A human was nothing more than a fly before might like that, though it would be hard to shoot down a fly with large cannons as well. But if the three of them left their ship, they would be giving up on their main advantage.

"The fact that he dares to challenge us means he's confident in his fighting capability," Empress Ying said with her brows furrowed.

"Perhaps he's just putting up a front. Had he come with his divine astralship, he would've been shot down much more easily. However, baiting us to fight him three-on-one is just as foolish," Empress Yu said. They weren't afraid of the sun emperor, but it never hurt to be careful during such a peculiar situation.

"Let's try wiping him out with the Starvore first. If we're lucky, we'll vaporize him in one shot." The two women's eyes met in agreement.

"Let's give it a try then," Grand Emperor Starvore said. There was basically no chance that the sun emperor would be able to anger them with words alone.

"Target locked."

"Fire!"

A blinding white light pierced through the fog, erasing everything within a hundred thousand meters along the way.

## **Chapter 1978**

Lifeless white flames spliced with the golden flames around it.

"Keep going. If you can hit me, I'll call uncle," the golden-haired man said as he appeared from within the fog with a mocking smile.

The three rulers of Skywolf had a chilling look on their faces. They attacked three more times, but the sun emperor appeared every single attack with that same smile that mocked their skills.

"We don't even have to pay attention to him. Let's just wipe out his people and see whether he'll still be able to smile," Empress Ying suggested.

"It's pointless no matter how many small fries we kill. Boundless is already dead, and only Redforge is still executing the massacre. I think Li Tianming will set his sights on him soon enough. If we keep this going until we lose Redforge as well, we'll have truly suffered far too many losses. The monster up above is still slaughtering our army, and every moment we delay will result in the loss of countless lives. The fact that the sun emperor dares to challenge us here means he's confident we won't be able to do

anything to him!" Empress Yu paled with anger. Never had she ever been spoken to like that in her life by her peers, let alone a lowly alien from a backwater world.

"Then we'll just have him killed." Grand Emperor Starvore seemed calm, but he was already at the very brink of his patience with regard to the sun emperor. Empress Yu did indeed make a lot of sense; Skywolf urgently needed to turn this situation around. They couldn't afford to let their own die while their backs were turned on them. No matter how powerful the skywolves were, it still wasn't enough if they were unable to defeat the sun emperor.

"I'll go out. The two of you stay here and ensure that the Starvore is ready to react at all times," he said.

"You alone? The odds aren't in our favor. If the three of us head out at the same time, it might be safer for us," Empress Yu said.

"Are you saying that someone like me isn't a match for a small fry like him?" he said, glaring at her. No matter how calm he was, he wouldn't take an insult from his woman.

"No... I just think that he's too underhanded and sneaky.... I worry that this is a trap," she weakly said.

"How about this—she'll go out with you while I hold the ship. If the two of you can pin him down, one blast from the ship should be enough. Let's end it quickly, okay? We don't have much time left," Empress Ying said. Corpses were still raining down as they spoke.

"Let's do that, then." Grand Emperor Starvore no longer had the patience to discuss it.

"According to reports, he has a coffin that's the core of the first astralguard formation. Once we take down that formation, our army will be able to shake off that monster," Empress Ying said.

"Alright," Empress Yu said with a nod. The man who tied up his long, white hair into a ponytail in front of her left the ship before she did, entering the sea of flames as burning lifeless white fire burst out from his body. His eyes shone with the radiance of more than nine thousand stars.

His lifeless white flames quickly suppressed the golden flames around him and occupied much of the surrounding area. The terrifying might of a sovereign surged out of Grand Emperor Starvore. His innate power as a Skywolf was fully unleashed. The Starvorians had incredibly tough physical bodies.

Following quickly behind him was Empress Yu. She sported a slender, yet shapely figure, and was clasping the arm of her man. The two of them shone like metallic silver, looking like a match made in heaven. She and her sister in marriage were easily the most enchanting sovereign beauties in Skywolf, enchanting even more people than Sovereign Sanctquility had.

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The sun emperor fully relished her visage, aura, figure, and seductiveness. Breaking into a laugh, he said, "I'm really envious of you, my friend. You'd think someone with beauties like that would be too busy playing with them to leave his bed, yet you had the time to come to my home and make a mess. Are they too much to handle? I can deal with one for you."

"You might as well mess with your solar sow with your puny body!" Empress Yu snapped. She had never seen someone as shameless as the sun emperor.

"Puny body? Don't tell me you failed to notice the impressive specimen that I am?" the sun emperor said, feigning a look of shock.

Empress Yu wanted to say more, but Grand Emperor Starvore glared at her, signaling her to shut up. "You know that mere words won't work on shameless people like that. The only way to shut his mouth is to kill him."

"Okay...." Her husband might be a man of few words, but he was no pushover. He let his wives speak for him most of the time, preferring to put his mind to other pursuits.

"Coffin," he whispered to her.

"Understood."

"Let's go." The couple immediately let their powers surge to a peak. Lifeless white flames roiled about, forming two gigantic white loti that took up the span of a hundred thousand meters of the battlefield. At the same time, the Starvore hovered above them, constantly eyeing the sun emperor. They weren't just going to let their ship sit there. Instead, they were going in for the kill.

Sharp, lupine growling was coming from inside the white loti, where two figures were expanding in size. In almost no time, one grew to a height of two hundred meters, while the other was taller than three hundred. The former, Empress Yu, was covered in lifeless white flames and looked like a werewolf with galactic eyes. Its snow-white fur that swayed in the wind was covered in a golden sheen and its four limbs were armed with razor-sharp talons. While that was all part of its body, they looked just like divine artifacts. Even after turning into a ghastly monster, there was still the air of a feral beauty about her. Her lupine figure was still as slender as before, though it was less seductive than her hairless form.

Grand Emperor Starvore was the larger one and sported an even more built figure. His physique was perfectly sculpted for combat, with muscles that looked like sheets of metal. In fact, he looked just like a miniature version of the divine astralship, the Sanctquility Ghosttrain. His glory was on full display in his powered-up form. Lifeless white flame covered every inch of his magnificent silhouette.

Empress Yu was glaring holes into the sun emperor. If it weren't for her more powerful husband being beside her, she really wanted to ask how the small man would be able to ravage her. There was no way the sun emperor's mating implement could possibly rival her husband's in length or girth.

The sun emperor couldn't help but gulp at the sight of the two gigantic monsters. He knew that the silent Grand Emperor Starvore was the one with the most killing intent. He would be the first to strike, but the sun emperor still had something to say. "Hey, I'll let you handle the male beast. I have a date with a foreign beauty, you see."

As for the one he was addressing, it was the red-shrouded figure that loomed beneath them on the ground below.

.....

The last ship of the six rexes, the Redfeather Voiddragon, finally exploded. Sovereign Redforge had learned the lesson taught to him by the deaths of the other five sovereigns and escaped the blast, yet Tianming had still caught up to him.

With the power of faith granted by fifty billion people, Tianming left the ship and easily slew Sovereign Redforge, putting an end to the six rexes. He owed much of his success in killing the final one to Yin Chen and Lingfeng, especially the latter. Without his enthusiastic help, there was no way Tianming would have been able to stop the Redfeather Voiddragon.

Of the six rexes, all of them apart from Sovereign Greenvoid had died with aid from the Primordial Demon and the flaming beasts. Tianming and his ship had just given them the final push. This time, for instance, Tianming had chased them into the sun, from which they were hard pressed to escape, and wiped them out. The Ninedragon Imperial Tomb was far more powerful than the Divine Sun Palace in matters of actual astral war, being inferior only to the Starvore.

After the death of Sovereign Redforge, Lingfeng's main body returned to the flaming clouds to continue slaughtering the specter army. Tianming only had one battlefield left to tend to: the heartland of the celestial orderians at the north pole of the sun. He'd never been there before, but Qingyu had lived there for a time.

"I wonder if the sun emperor is still alive...." He could wait to see who won and fight the last one standing or join the battle before it concluded, but he decided to withhold his decision until he got a better grasp of the situation. "The Starvore is there, so we'll be at a disadvantage. Once the enemy has the edge on us, I might end up shot down." He had the elites leave the ship to fight since there was a good chance the ship would go down with him in battle. Then he set out for the north pole of the sun alone.

#### Chapter 1979 - Battlefield of Wrath

In the skies above, the crimson and gold clouds of fire had turned dark. Amidst the sea of flames were countless twisted baleful souls, as if the entire area had turned into a haven for them. The sky across the sun had been swallowed up by the darkness as if it was within the belly of a beast. No matter where one was in that world, they could hear the howls and cries of the baleful souls, sending chills down their spines and goosebumps across their skin. The world seemed to have been grasped by pure resentment. Even the surface of the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb was plastered with a large number of baleful souls, their twisting, ethereal forms anchoring themselves on the ship as they shrieked in the strong wind and flaming rain.

"Die, die! All shall die!"

Even Tianming felt rather disoriented from all that howling. It must be taking Lingfeng a staggering amount of willpower to use so many baleful souls. Should he be the slightest bit weaker, he might become the very kind of demon that Tianming sought to wipe out.

The undamaged specter corpses continued raining down on the ship, smashing apart in the process and dying it with huge splotches of red. The nine dragon heads at the very front looked incredibly ghastly from all the dripping blood. Some of them were bodies of celestial orderians; Lingfeng hadn't made a special exception for them.

It took Tianming quite a lot of time to finally reach the north pole of the sun, as he had to cross almost the entire hemisphere. All over the place, specters were dying, though that didn't stop the ones that managed to slip through the cracks from dealing huge bloodshed to the sun. Even so, the corpses of the

specters numbered far more than those that were still alive. Lingfeng and the Flameyellow Guard Formation had held back most of the ten billion enemy troops and saved the sun from certain ruin.

The Ninedragon Imperial Tomb eventually emerged from the sea of flames to a dark battlefield ahead, where the sun emperor fought the three starvorians alone. The scene ahead of Tianming was utterly breathtaking, with the strength of the sun emperor on full display. The three enemies he faced were among the most powerful of their heliacal-class world, each of them much stronger than the sovereigns from before, Grand Emperor Starvore in particular.

Flames of gold, red, and white peppered the battlefield. Though they almost seemed evenly matched, there were more tufts of white flame compared to the other two combined. From within the ship, Tianming heard the staggeringly loud sounds of combat. Like a gigantic tornado, the clashes moved all across the battlefield. Tianming couldn't even see the fight well from a distance.

"Godfather!" He seemed to spot Li Wudi's silhouette within the flaming red parts of the battlefield, a sign that he was fighting alongside the sun emperor. Whether he was being controlled or not, it was still rather dangerous for him to be in that fight. Tianming felt his heart clench from the realization. While he wanted to sit and wait, there was no way he could do that now. If Li Wudi died in battle, it would only be a loss of a clone for the sun emperor, but Tianming would lose his family! When he got closer, he could have no doubt that the one he saw was indeed Li Wudi.

Inside the storm, a gigantic, blood-red kunpeng flew with its wings spread wide. Hellish, blood-colored flames burned all around its body as its loud howl reverberated across the area. Tianming spotted the red figure with nine blood-colored totems and recalled that Li Wudi used to have eight Crimson Beastbane rings, but there was an additional dragon-faced bane-ring at the center of his chest. The nine totems that were manifested were all gigantic mythical beasts, including a dragon, phoenix, qilin, and black tortoise to name a few. They took up an impressive amount of space in the sea of flames. Like the flaming beasts of the formation, they seemed to possess bloodlines that ranged back to the day of the flameyellow divinities. [1]

The totem beasts roared as the man bravely fought with a level of power that far exceeded what Tianming believed Li Wudi was capable of. No doubt, the sun emperor had used a special method to grant him that level of power, but that might not be good news as far as Li Wudi was concerned. What was the point of power if he couldn't even control his actions?

"That asshole!" Tianming couldn't help but snap after he properly saw who Li Wudi was facing. The sun emperor, despite his strength and use of the Flameyellow Coffin, had let Li Wudi fight Grand Emperor Starvore! The absolute ruler of Skywolf moved with terrifying speed and force, using abilities and battle arts in tandem. He wielded a huge platinum war blade that slashed at the totems while his fists struck the kunpeng. Every single attack seemed to twist the skies and flaming clouds around them!

The sun emperor, on the other hand, fought Empress Yu while teasing her with all the vulgarities he could think of with a crooked smile on his face. It was so cheesy that one would puke at the sight of it. Tianming didn't even know what to make of this roguish side of the sun emperor. Was that his true personality? Compared to him, Grand Emperor Starvore looked bold, cold, and fierce!

They must have been fighting for quite a while, at least as long as it had taken Tianming to fly there. While it looked like a two-on-two, Empress Ying hadn't been idling within the Starvore and doing

nothing. The ship she piloted was the true hard hitter in the fight. If it wasn't avoided, its blast could eviscerate even the bodies of gods. Tianming didn't dare make an approach with the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb after witnessing the ship's might for himself, lest he be fired on and wiped out. The Ninedragon Imperial Tomb was the core of the Flameyellow Fusion Formation, after all.

Instead, Tianming had the ship hide among the nearby mountains while it continued its approach. If he left the ship, his chances of being detected by the Starvore would be far lower, which was a huge downside to divine astralships. Blasts of nova source required a lot of time to charge up, and hitting individual cultivators with them was even harder.

"Frankly speaking, apart from your godfather, the rest of those here all have to die for us to win, right? We'll defeat Skywolf and the celestial orderians that way," Ying Huo said from the lifebound space.

"Wow, Chicken Bro, you're a genius! I didn't think you'd figure it out!" Lan Huang said, as if waking from a dream.

Tianming looked at the sun emperor's nine totems, the divine solar gods. They had adopted their golden crow forms and were dealing incredible damage. "You're right. If they all die, that'd be the ideal outcome for the Myriad Solar Sects."

It couldn't be denied that the sun emperor had rendered great merit during the invasion, but at the same time, they couldn't forget that the civil war of Orderia would resume once Skywolf was driven away. "The sun emperor only needs to take one last step to unify the sun. Even fools would know that he wouldn't stop. We'll always be a thorn in his eye."

Would he really give up on persecuting them? Tianming didn't think so; that was far too optimistic a view to hold. Yet he couldn't afford to not work with the sun emperor, either, given the sheer pressure Skywolf applied on them all. "They should still be unaware that I'm here, so I can afford to wait a little for some openings."

#### Chapter 1980 - Empyrean Beam

The Primordial Demon's massacre was doing significant damage. Tianming stilled himself and decided to wait a little longer. "So far, it looks like both sides are holding up almost equally against one another," he observed.

The three Skywolf sovereigns seemed like they were finding the situation rather hard to believe. They were shocked by the prowess the sun emperor had shown and trying to figure out a way to deal with him. Grand Emperor Starvore's expression grew visibly sullen as the fight progressed.

All of a sudden, the Starvore fired. The pure white Empyrean Beam came blasting down from the sky at rapid speed like a lance of the gods being thrust down from the heavens above!

"Wait, its target is...." Tianming was taken aback. Empress Ying seemed to have changed her tactics and no longer focused her attacks on the sun emperor, but rather the blood-colored kunpeng. While totems were semi-ethereal and hard to hit, lifebound beasts were completely corporeal! Once Li Wudi lost his lifebound beast, the balance would be shaken and Grand Emperor Starvore would be under much less pressure. Killing Li Wudi was only a matter of time.

Grand Emperor Starvore finally broke his silence and roared, "Die!" Tianming was still quite far from the battle itself, so it would be too late for him to help out.

"Oh? Pulling a sneaky one, are we?" the sun emperor said, as if he had eyes on every corner. He acted like he still had everything under control. In almost an instant, the Flameyellow Coffin by his side suddenly expanded to a thousand meters in length. It looked like a gold and black stone pillar and went flying toward the bottom of the enemy ship!

The ship fired an Emyprean Beam at the coffin, the beam scattering all over the place when it came into contact. Every single drop of scattered power left thousand-meter-wide craters upon hitting the ground. But thanks to the Flameyellow Coffin blocking off the beam, Li Wudi's kungpeng wasn't injured; the coffin had actually managed to mostly mitigate the beam of the Starvore!

The sight of that made the three specter rulers feel stifled. They now understood how crucial that coffin was and their greed intensified even more. Skywolf was the world of hungry wolves, after all, and greed was a core aspect of their kind that drove their policy of kill first, harvest later when they invaded other worlds. They plundered everything they could, and even now they had neglected to report crucial information about the nature of the Flameyellow Imperial Star back to the mysterians. That very same greed drove the three of them to fight even more desperately, completely ridding themselves of any thoughts of retreat.

"Haha, is this all it takes to make you so desperate? Let me dangle even more tasty treats before you then," the sun emperor laughed as the coffin rapidly rose back up after being sent flying into the ground. It let out an explosive gold and crimson glow and rumbled incredibly loudly as it rose into a beam that shot toward the sky with enough force to rival a divine astralship. It seemed to accelerate with no end.

"Wait, that's...." Tianming saw a vortex appear in the Flameyellow Guard Formation above the Starvore, rapidly spinning and sucking the Flameyellow Coffin toward it. The coffin was the core of the Flameyellow Guard Formation to begin with, so that was hardly surprising, but the sheer force with which it accomplished that feat certainly was.

The last time Tianming had fought the sun emperor, the Flameyellow Guard Formation hadn't been active. If it were, Tianming might have truly died from being struck by the coffin. While he might be able to dodge it if he was alone, the Starvore was far too massive and wasn't that agile compared to other ships. Usually, the empresses were the ones that steered the ship, and they were of the more careful and deliberative sort. Not to mention, one of them could steer while the other focused on attacking. but now Empress Ying was doing both those tasks at once and couldn't react nearly as quickly.

The vortex of the formation spun more and more furiously, accelerating the coffin's ascent even faster. Empress Ying couldn't react at all, allowing the pillar of gold light to crash into the bottom of the ship! A deafening boom echoed out from the point of impact as the coffin crashed into the ship like a gigantic sword thrust up from the ground, breaking apart the metallic construction of the hull and pushing the ship around a hundred thousand meters higher. The ascent alone had taken up most of the momentum of the coffin, and a gaping hole was left behind that exposed even the divine astralship formation within. Many sections of the ship were utterly destroyed; it was like an egg that had been pricked through by a needle.

Empress Ying was greatly disoriented from the shock. She had been careless. Perhaps even Grand Emperor Starvore didn't expect a single divine artifact could possibly deal so much damage to the ship. Right after that, the ship expelled the coffin with a blast of energy from within. Empress Ying had to stop attacking to stabilize the ship, lest the Flameyellow Coffin manage to hit it again.

"Haha, isn't this exciting? My upward thrust is pretty potent, wouldn't you say? You're always welcome to try it out, you know," the sun emperor said, winking at Empress Yu as he recovered the coffin.

"You only managed to catch us off guard. That level of damage isn't enough to severely damage the Starvore! It'll still be able to eliminate you!" she snapped back, greedily glaring at the coffin. As she had said, Empress Ying managed to regain control of the ship and started attacking the kumpeng again.

"Let's see how many times you can come to its aid!" Her true goal was to hold the sun emperor back until Grand Emperor Starvore managed to deal with his enemy. After that, they would be able to take on the sun emperor together. Empress Ying began charging up another beam aimed at Li Wudi.

"Is that so.... That wouldn't be fun. Fine, go ahead and kill it. That little bird isn't that useful anyway, unlike mine," the sun emperor said, smiling fearlessly.

The three of them didn't humor him at all. Grand Emperor Starvore's attacks intensified, sending out even more flames into the surrounding area. His platinum-like body burst through the flames, directly wrestling with the totems and sowing destruction wherever its claws went. Li Wudi seemed to be under heavy pressure and danger, having had far too many close calls until now.

Tianming didn't know whether the sun emperor knew he was nearby and accounted for it, hence his confidence, or whether he really believed he could hold all three of them off alone with his clone. Seeing Li Wudi being attacked so furiously by Grand Emperor Starvore and his lifebound beast being targeted by the ship, Tianming knew that a huge change was going to tip the scales of battle soon, yet the sun emperor still seemed unfazed. Tianming had no choice but to step in.

However, he didn't join the fight with Li Wudi, for that might be a trap the sun emperor had set for him. Instead, he turned his attention to the Starvore. "There's already a hole in the ship, and its divine astralship formation is damaged. Its structure must be compromised. If I can sneak in and take down Empress Ying, the other two would no doubt panic!"

It was a bold plan, to say the least, but he was still confident with his inheritance as one of the sky plunderers, as well as the power of the faithful. He had fought the sun emperor before and survived, after all. He snuck through the darker parts of the battlefield, slowly ascending toward the lower side of the Starvore.