

The Ages 1981

Chapter 1981 - Ending the Foe

Skywolf had lost far too much as a result of their greed. Even so, the three rulers still had their sights on the Flameyellow Coffin. While Empress Ying had her attention focused on the battlefield, Tianming entered the ship through the hole at its bottom. The damaged formation wasn't a big deal for his sky plunderer talents to overcome.

"This is their turf, so fighting here will be rather restrictive for me. I should be prepared." Even so, he had chosen to accept this challenge. This ship was five times the size of the Divine Sun Palace, and Empress Ying was holding its core. If he could kill her—or simply take away the core—the Starvore itself would completely shut off just like the Divine Sun Palace had before its spare formation core was remade. That would no doubt prevent many casualties.

"If the core of the Starvore falls into the sun emperor's hands, it'd be just as troubling." Despite knowing the risks, it was still worth taking it for that reason alone.

After entering the ship, he would no longer be able to see how the battle outside was going. However, he knew that if he managed to disable the Starvore's attacks, the sun emperor and Li Wudi would be under much less pressure. Since the invasion had begun, Tianming and Lingfeng had contributed just as much as the sun emperor had to the war effort.

He proceeded along the cold corridors of the ship's interior. Countless invisible cockroaches were sent crawling out to find the core of the ship. No doubt, Empress Ying would be there as well. He could still hear the sounds of battle from the outside. The Starvore was traveling at great speed as it weaved in and out of the battle from time to time, and every time Tianming felt the wave of nova source surging, he knew that it had just attacked.

"Yin Chen, hurry up!" There was no way he would be able to find it alone.

"Fussing stop!" Yin Chen replied.

"You mean stop fussing?"

"Off buzz!" Yin Chen's speech quirks were getting weirder and weirder; it had even started speaking in reverse. Despite that, it didn't hamper its efficiency at all. In fact, the more obsessive it was, the better it worked. "Come here... with me!" It led Tianming along a path upon which more and more bones could be seen. They were skulls surrounded by lifeless white flames, all piled up on one another to form the walls of the ship. The baleful aura inside the ship was significant, to say the least.

"Who's there?!" asked a woman's voice before Tianming approached.

"Hmph." Without another word, he rushed in that direction and appeared in a gigantic hall with walls and pillars all made of skulls. There was even a throne of skulls at the highest point of the hall, upon which a woman of complete pale white sat.

Her hands were placed on two spheroids covered in divine patterns that depicted the Starvore. Those were probably the cores that controlled the ship, each belonging to Empress Yu and Empress Ying respectively.

Empress Ying was dressed in simple snow-white furs, seemingly for comfort since she was in her own 'home'. The two gazes met in the hall of white bone. While she hadn't actually seen Tianming before, she could tell that it was him with a single look. After snapping out of her stupor, she smiled with disbelief and said, "Child, I know who you are. You're the miracle child of this star. I am extremely curious about you, yet I never expected that you'd serve yourself up on a silver platter like this without even securing a means of escape. I heard you have your own divine astralship as well, so you must know that you're walking into my turf. Why make it hard for yourself to escape?"

She didn't bear much killing intent toward Tianming, as miracle children like him often had many hidden powers and legacies, which were quite tempting. This might be the only chance Empress Ying could put any contribution in her own name. Her expression quickly shifted as she put away the two cores. She stood up and flaunted her alluring figure, looking down on the white-haired youth as she descended from her throne. Her gaze was so ravenous that he felt like he was being swallowed.

"What a perfect boy you are, young, bright, and proud. Surely, you must be quite a wild beast." She didn't hold back anything at all, since she wasn't worried about being overheard here. Nothing she did there would be noticed by anyone. While she appeared far more prim and proper than Empress Yu, her hidden nature would show itself under certain conditions. She was like a gaping black hole that wanted to swallow everything about Tianming. The doors were locked and the two of them were the only witnesses to what would happen there. She saw him as nothing more than prey she could sate her desires with.

"Are you not afraid?" she said, her fine feet stepping on the skulls on the ground as she licked her slender fingers, striking a salacious pose that made her appear like a snow-white aquatic snake. The sheen from her lips was so shiny that Tianming was nearly blinded by it.

He didn't think he would become the prey, even though he was the one who had snuck in of his own accord. If he'd had the time, he wouldn't mind bantering a bit, but time wasn't a luxury he had during an astral war. People were dying at every moment, so wasting time was the same as wasting the lives of his comrades!

The Starvore is a weapon of mass destruction for both sides. I didn't dare to bring the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb here because of that. But if I manage to disable the Starvore, my ship will be the king of the skies. Nobody will be capable of threatening it. I have to get those cores! While taking the cores didn't necessarily mean he could use the Starvore, the least he could do was to deny the enemy's use of it.

Empress Ying eyed Tianming more and more, seemingly quite satisfied with her catch. He was the kind of bright youth that was the exact opposite of the cold, mature men of her world, and that was just her type. If it weren't for the rule that sovereigns had to marry each other, she wouldn't have had to suppress her desires. However, she may have wanted his body, but Tianming wanted her life.

"Me? Afraid of you?" Tianming made it sound like he had just heard a joke. He whipped out his Grand-Orient Sword and laid it against his shoulder, his gold and black eyes shining with divine light as he glared at her. Then the ten bane-rings on his arms surged with sword ki. She had regarded him as nothing more than a flesh toy, while he looked at her like fine game to be hunted! "You destroyed my home and people. Why would I fear you? I just need to vanquish you!"

Their states of mind hadn't been aligned from the very start. Those words immediately snapped Empress Ying out of her wild thoughts, much to her dismay. "Very well. Since you're a wild beast, I'll just have to tame you first."

Tianming didn't wait for anything else and struck. Empress Ying was much stronger than the other sovereigns he had fought, so he didn't dare to act carelessly! Empress Yu had shown him what they were capable of, after all. He summoned his lifebound beasts out in the hall of bones; the five of them had idled for quite a long time during the ship battles, so they were excited to face off against a specter sovereign.

Then his pandemonium and cyclic sacrosuns manifested. He felt the power of faith from fifty billion people surge toward him before entering his decapath era godswords. Even the Prime Wonder absorbed quite a bit of Omniscient power, greatly expanding in size as it came crashing down on Empress Ying from above. The five grand beasts all had their eyes locked on the dainty girl, their abilities ready.

"What a monster! You're far too interesting!" Her excitement was hard to quell and her long-buried battlelust was beginning to surface once more. She looked like she couldn't wait to devour the delicious meal before her. "This is going to be fun!"

Lifeless White flame burst out of her body, lighting up all the skulls in the hall. Countless divine patterns flowed around her as flames flooded the battlefield. The pressure she gave Tianming was fitting for an empress of Skywolf! Her dainty figure suddenly enlarged, morphing into a two-hundred-meter-tall monster that seemed even tougher than Empress Yu's werewolf form. Her body, forged over a thousand years, appeared even more robust than Lan Huang's, complete with a set of ghastly claws and fangs. Perhaps this was her true form, rather than the woman from before.

When she tightened her fists, it sounded like metal rubbing against metal. Each strand of her fur was like a metallic needle. The lifeless flame burned in her eyes, making her appear even colder. She was both beauty and beast.

Chapter 1982 - Rabble

Tianming's power while he was on the sun mainly came from his Omniscient Threads, which allowed him to go toe-to-toe with a sovereign like Empress Ying. Had he been far away from the sun, there was no way he would be able to match up even with his lifebound beasts and totems combined.

The terrifying specters were all covered in lifeless white flames that emphasized their savagery, yet, Tianming's expression didn't change in the slightest. He gripped the Grand-Orient Sword with both hands, the hexagonal scales on his black arm glinting brightly as it applied the power of his Fiendsky Arm to the sword. "The power of the people has come to my aid! I'll exterminate these demonic specter pests and bring peace back to the sun!" Ever since he had stepped on the path to rulership, he hadn't been fighting alone. More than twenty billion of the fifty billion threads were connected to divine wills, and the remaining heavenly wills were nothing to scoff at, either. The fighting spirit that flared at the thought of protecting their homes was all gathered on his person, and he had two sacrosuns, lifebound beasts, totems, and divine wonders on top of that.

The power from his Imperial Will congregated around the sword; there probably wasn't a better weapon to channel it. Even in its incomplete form, it was able to take the combined power of the Omniscient Threads. Only a sliver of that power actually came from Tianming. The sword glowed bright gold and black, blending together with the imperial star of the pandemonium sacrosun to form a domain that pushed back against the empress' lifeless white flames. The clashing forces rampaged in the hall of bones.

"Your power looks rather unstable. It doesn't belong to you, does it?" Empress Ying said, her fangs glinting as she spoke. Even her voice sounded harsh after her transformation.

"Whether it belongs to me isn't important so long as I can use it to end you." Tianming's form was completely swallowed up by the light of the imperial star. Boundless power coursed through his body as the seven types of grade-eight divine hazard sword ki within him formed a sword formation around him.

The phoenix spread its wings, the black cat hid in the shadows, the dragon stood at the forefront, the tree took root behind, and countless bugs spread out all over the place. Any specter that fought Tianming alone was bound to be ganged up upon. Tianming was the strongest he had ever been, bearing the shared desire of all that resonated with him to fight the specter invaders to the death. "Die!"

Tianming's lifebound beasts seemed completely transformed by the pandemonium sacrosun, especially the three sovereign beasts. Empress Ying felt boundless flames score the top of her head from time to time, coupled with lightning bolts that rained down on her. In terms of abilities, Meow Meow still reigned supreme. Its bombardment seemed boundless and without end. The Triworld Afterlife Halls, Misty and Soulchasing Hellthunders, and Myriad Thundernet were all infused with the power of the Genesis Bolt, forming a dense web of lightning that filled the entire hall. Ying Huo's flaming abilities blended in with the lightning bolts and weren't as eye catching, but its Blazebane-enhanced Skyscorch Featherblast was truly terrifying, despite being hard to detect in the thunderous maelstrom.

"Mere child's play," Empress Ying said, snorting a laugh. There were more than eight thousand stars in her eyes, as was befitting of a sovereign like her. While Tianming had killed a couple sovereigns before, only Sanctquility and Redforge had died by his own hand. The other two had perished during the destruction of their divine astralship's nova source core, so he'd obtained nothing but their cultivation resources. The fact that Empress Ying had so many stars meant that her abilities were nothing to scoff at.

Even more lifeless white flame came pouring out of her, forming a flaming tornado of crazy proportions as she came charging toward him like lightning. Specters were built for conflict, being more agile than most lifebound beasts—especially in close combat. At times, they were able to overwhelm beastmasters and totemancers despite fighting alone, and the same was the case with Empress Ying. Her starvorian tornado ability easily helped pave a path through Meow Meow's lightning as she put Tianming in her sights.

He immediately knew that she would be hard to deal with. Lan Huang went charging toward her with its Primordial Wheel, the myriad swords growing out of its body smashing the skulls in the hall before it collided with the tornado of lifeless white flame. It looked like a human trying to stop the charge of a

rhinoceros, yet Lan Huang ended up being the one sent flying. The flaming tornado stripped its dragon scales off one after another in a bout of impactful, beautiful violence.

Xian Xian's vines and roots quickly made a cocoon around the tornado while it launched Bloodrain Swords and Demise Greenloti right beside it. At the same time, Yin Chen's bladed-wing butterflies were on full assault alongside metallic scorpions and spiders.

All of that rained down on the empress, yet it took no more than a moment for her to come bursting out of the mess of plant and bug, tearing apart vines and roots and smashing many of Yin Chen's bodies. She was in a completely different league from Sovereigns Starfeather and Greenvoid. Even with the power of the Omniscient Threads, Tianming's lifebound beasts were still unable to stand up against her.

"You'll never be able to escape me, brat. Be a good boy and you'll get a treat. Bad boys get severely punished." Even though her body was huge, compared to Tianming, it didn't hamper her speed and agility at all. Her bestial instincts seemed to enhance her intensity. Given the way she had sent Lan Huang flying, there was no doubt of her sheer power.

She wielded a tombstone-shaped shield and a long spear. Tianming couldn't quite get a good visual of the artifacts, thanks to all of the flames, but he figured that they were likely to be grade-nine divine artifacts. Considering how much mightier Skywolf was than the sun, it wasn't surprising that they had deep pockets. Spear and shield in hand, Empress Ying used battle arts that matched her abilities. The fierce specter embodied a completely different aspect of femininity, unlike the motherly and gentle aspect that Tianming was familiar with.

"Those useless lifebound beasts and sword totems can't possibly compare to specters, who concentrate all our strengths into our bodies. We forge ourselves into the perfect whole, unlike rabble like you." Her words represented a core faith of all specters. It was both their belief and their way of life.

She isn't wrong. Combining powers into one body is incredibly potent, but it'd be a mistake for her to think that my Primordial Chaos Beasts and decapath era godswords are nothing more than a messy rabble. Tianming didn't feel the need to tell her that, however. The attacks he had launched before were merely probing ones, and now he wanted to feel out her attack pattern, a plan of which his lifebound beasts were fully aware.

"Charge!" Tianming led the way and slashed his sword, sending boundless divine light surging toward the empress. The decapath era godswords assembled into a sword formation, centering around the Grand-Orient Sword as they unleashed powers unique to the character of each totem to form a tidal wave of swords. The war cries of fifty billion people could be heard in the swing!

"Eh?" Empress Ying narrowed her eyes, sensing a different quality to the youth when he attacked. It was the power of the people, a congregation of countless wills that made his gaze capable of shaking souls! She felt the wrath of billions of people at once.

Chapter 1983 - Isolated and Surrounded

While Tianming's power was a stark contrast with the baleful aura all around them, there were also similarities. Most of his power came from the so-called 'lower lifeforms' that those at the peak of power tended to ignore. Nobody cared about the deaths of mundane mortals, but they were the most

numerous ones. If someone were able to unite all of their wills and speak on their behalf, they would become a truly mighty presence.

Countless faces seemed to flash across the surfaces of the decapath era godswords and Tianming's Grand-Orient Sword; even Ying Huo's feathers, Lan Huang's scales, Xian Xian's leaves, and Yin Chen's bodies contained the will of the people of the sun that manifested as their faces. Empress Ying came to understand that she wasn't just facing the joint assault of Tianming, his beasts, and his totems, but the entire sun was fighting against her!

"No matter how many casualties Skywolf suffers, that won't change the fact that you were the ones who invaded with the intent of wiping us out and taking our nova source!" As long as that fact stood, Empress Ying wasn't deserving of any sympathy at all. "And now you'll learn from all of us that your plans were never anything but a pipe dream!"

In essence, Tianming shared the same will as the sun emperor. The only difference was the degree of payback they were willing to deal. Tianming felt like he was going to burst with all that power coursing through him. He wasn't able to keep performing probing attacks any longer. The rage of the people caused him to unleash a wrathful power, paving the way for the road to righteous rule.

"Die!"

The Grand-Orient Sword struck, followed by many others, executing eight different moves from the Ninedragon Tribulation. Eight different sword dragons manifested at the same time then fused together into one, the strike part of the decapath era godswords' formation and fueled by boundless Omniscient power. It was a perfect, full-force strike that blended perfectly with the power of his totems!

It was now beyond doubt that the move had been passed down from the days of the Flameyellow Imperial Star, a legacy of antiquity. It was exceedingly compatible with Tianming and the descendants of the Flameyellow Divinities. The people's wills seemed to swing the sword of annihilation together with him. At that point, his lifebound beasts played a crucial role as they held back the empress, preventing her from utilizing her speed advantage. While defeating her was a decent possibility, killing her outright to relinquish her control of the ship would be exponentially more difficult.

The vines and roots that had been snapped before once more weaved through the bones in the hall and wrapped around the empress. Her physical form was far too tough—it was almost as hard as the best divine ores—so the plant appendages weren't able to dig their way into it. But when the Bloodrain Swords fell and the Demise Greenloti exploded, forming green and red mists, it managed to muddy Empress Ying's movements.

At the same time, Yin Chen's tens of millions of bodies turned into silver spiders that spun a boundless net using its Infinite Silverthreads. When its many bodies worked together, they were a force to be reckoned with.

Empress Ying immediately felt disgust toward the plant and insects. The two seven-star divine beasts were the biggest hindrances to her. Not to mention, their elder siblings attacked her as well! Lan Huang, still feeling the humiliation of being sent flying, fell down like a meteor with its body rolled up into a ball. It looked no different from a spiky sea urchin that hurtled toward Empress Ying alongside the prime

wonder. And the nine-layered tower was even heavier than Lan Huang, thanks to Tianming's Omniscient power. The two huge masses posed much more of a threat to the empress than Xian Xian and Yin Chen.

Her expression shifted as she used her starvorian ability to turn her entire body into metal. Her hair stood up like sharp needles, and with a sharp turn, she tore apart Xian Xian's vines and roots. Then she lifted her tombstone shield and slammed it toward the Prime Mountain and Lan Huang! An explosive light came bursting from her body as a firestorm brewed in the surroundings once more.

While she should have been able to overcome Lan Huang with brute force, it didn't help that she was being ganged up upon. All of Tianming's lifebound beasts had attacked at the same time, with Ying Huo and Meow Meow the biggest threats. They were right behind her, and the moment Lan Huang crashed down upon her, the black and white lightning near her left flank formed three thunderous halls.

The tidal wave of lightning came crashing down toward her, and from within it, the Aeternal Infernal Phoenix came slashing out, having turned into a huge sun. The combined energies of flames and lightning were only the icing on the cake. Ying Huo's sword wings flashed as it used the Ninedragon Tribulation with seven fusion strikes, one fewer than Tianming. Ying Huo was able to use both battle arts and abilities, essentially making it not that different from specters in the way they fought.

As she was being assaulted from all sides, there was still Tianming and his totem swords to deal with. Tianming had mostly perfected the art of ganging up on people by now, given that he was usually the one with the most fighting units on his side. In fact, his Fiendsky Arm could also be counted as half a specter.

The nonstop pressure caused Empress Ying to react with a fluster, especially at the eight-strike-fusion attack Tianming had unleashed. The wrath and will of fifty billion people washed her over, causing her to feel like she was about to lose her life. She no longer cared about recruiting him and did a few things in quick succession. First, she ignored Lan Huang and the Prime Mountain, choosing instead to toss her tombstone shield up in the sky and cause it to expand to ten times its size. It had become a metallic island above her head. Then she unleashed her abilities, manifesting thousands of flaming tornadoes in all directions before turning to face Tianming and his totems.

Chapter 1984 - Demise of the Empresses

Tianming seemed to be pushed through the tornadoes by the will of the people. The empress, witnessing that, felt a degree of crumbling shock. The brat was far too unreasonable, even for her! There was no way she could control him, let alone swallow him up!

"This is my turf!" she shrieked as she gripped her spear tight and gave it a powerful thrust, sending out powerful manifestations of tens of thousands of howling wolves whose cries shook Tianming's Soul Tower. The attack had a spiritual component in addition to the divine hazards contained within the spear itself, which gave it a piercing edge. The strike formed a formation of ten thousand other spears!

Empress Ying had singlehandedly dealt with the group assault with her own power and two divine artifacts, neither side of her defense faltering. She couldn't afford to make a single mistake, lest her house of cards all came tumbling down.

"Empress Ying, you may be able to stop me, but you can't stop the fifty billion people behind me that desire your death!" The metallic grating from the clash of the swords and spears resounded across the entire divine astralship, but the empress was still able to hear Tianming's words.

The attacks from all fronts converged at that moment. There was Tianming and his totems, Lan Huang and the prime wonder, Xian Xian and Yin Chen, and Ying Huo and Meow Meow. Among them, Xian Xian and Yin Chen were the weakest, but their task was much simpler. Xian Xian was rather angry at having its roots and vines torn apart so many times, but that didn't stop it from sending an endless stream to come writhing again and replace the torn ones. Empress Ying cursed as they bound her again and again, only for insects to creep into her open mouth and stomach.

"Agh! Disgusting!" She felt like she was going mad, only for a mind-blowing explosion to ring out. She coughed out blood right as Tianming clashed with her when the weight of Lan Huang and the Prime Mountain slammed her shield back down on her head. Given the size the shield had expanded to, it was impossible for it to miss. At the same time, she still had to deal with the attacks from Tianming's totems!

Fortunately, she was agile enough to avoid the prime mountain while she circumvented Tianming's attacks, but Lan Huang's fall clipped her shoulder, drawing blood. Despite the toughness of her body, tens of bloody bone-deep wounds formed.

"Huh?" The wounds had completely taken her aback, yet worse was still to come. She felt a burning heat behind her, from which an explosion that shook the entire Starvore came. Countless lightning bolts zipped toward her back; her abilities had failed to negate Ying Huo and Meow Meow's. By now, no matter how powerful her spear strikes were, there was no way she could face Tianming and his totems with her full attention. The lightning bolts tore through her back, drawing even more blood!

"Take my slash, pretty one!" said a sharp, snarky voice, yet its tone seemed to send chills down her spine. She felt the same kind of sword strike behind her as the one Tianming was unleashing in front of her. The phoenix had turned into a gigantic, dragon-like sword as it shot toward her back. Tianming's sword ki storm completely drowned out her battle art and pushed her spear strikes back. Instead of having a perfect answer for each of the attacks she was receiving on every side, almost all of her responses had failed to do anything! There was nothing but certain death in store for her.

It all happened in a flash and she didn't even have enough time to perceive her suffering and regret. Tianming's attacks were mercilessly quick. At the moment her spirit collapsed, her mind was completely empty. She widened her eyes, looking at the youth in the storm and seeing far too much contained within his eyes. He bore the will of a ruler that carried the wishes of his subjects, something that instilled genuine fear in her, albeit a fear that didn't last long.

"I..." She had wanted to engage in rounds of debauchurous pleasure with the youth, but that was a laughable dream to have. In the youth's eyes, she was nothing but a murderous evil being. Even the admiration she had for him was nothing but a manifestation of her selfish, perverse desires. In her moment of terror, she felt the pain in her back spread to her front. Looking down, she saw a 'chicken wing' poking out of her belly. Her divine artifact physique had been pierced through, not by another more powerful divine artifact, but by a wing!

"It makes no sense!" she spat, laughing at the absurdity despite the pain she felt.

"Yet another idiotic specter that calls us a disorderly rabble yet ended up being badly ganged up upon...." Ying Huo's mockery silenced her completely. She felt nothing but a sense of denial. After that, she watched as the totems and Grand-Orient Sword pierced through her entire body, turning her into a pincushion.

"At least leave my head on.... Being decapitated looks horrible," she said, only to see Tianming holding his sword at her and looking at her neck. The fact that she had survived being pierced through so many times showed how unrelenting specters were.

"There's skulls all over your ship, including even specter and beast skulls. I'd have thought you were a big fan of decapitations," Tianming said. He had no patience for someone like her, not to mention he'd never cared for her looks at all. He kept his actions simple and decisive, decapitating her in an instant and taking everything she had, including the two cores of the ship. When she died, the Starvore suddenly powered down, transforming into a small dim star that fell toward the ground.

"Let's go!"

Tianming and his lifebound beasts quickly left. The sovereigns on the battlefield outside were definitely aware of his presence. Taking the formation cores and powering down the ship was the same as denying the specter sovereigns their sole escape route. They wouldn't have had to leave someone behind to look after the ship had that not been the case, and even then, they had still failed to secure their ship.

Tianming couldn't be sure what consequences slaying the empress would have, since he didn't know how the fight outside was going. Gathering information was of the utmost importance. The battle outside had probably ended already, so did the sun emperor win? Or did Grand Emperor Starvore triumph?

He managed to leave the ship right before it crashed into the ground. Unsurprisingly, the battle had wrought destruction all around. All of a sudden, a gigantic corpse fell from the sky right beside Tianming. It was Empress Yu, completely bloodied, charred, and marked with thousands of holes all over her body. A gigantic blade soon followed, plunging itself into her open mouth and nailing her tongue to her jaw.

The golden-haired man up above shrugged and said, "Nailed it." From his cold expression, it was clear that his earlier crass behavior was nothing more than a playful act.

Chapter 1985 - Doom of Skywolf

Having spent much of his time fighting inside the ship, Tianming didn't know what was going on outside. Even so, the corpse of Empress Yu was right before him. It didn't matter how the sun emperor had killed her, only that he had. While he appeared to have been flirty throughout their interactions like a crass delinquent, he didn't hold back at all when it came to striking the killing blow.

Empress Yu's body had been crushed flat by the Flameyellow Coffin. Before she died, her hardened bones, organs, and muscles had turned to mush, almost like she'd been inside a mortar with the coffin acting as the pestle. Given what Tianming knew about the power of the coffin, he wasn't surprised that the sun emperor managed to kill her, only of the amount of time he took to do it. With the two empresses gone, Grand Emperor Starvore was at a huge disadvantage. He had even failed to take Li Wudi down before his wives were killed.

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"Godfather!" Tianming immediately went looking for Li Wudi on the battlefield. He had just saved him from the ship's assault, after all.

"Over there!" Crimson flame clashed with lifeless white flame not far away from him. Grand Emperor Starvore, standing around three hundred meters tall, was pushing back against Li Wudi and his lifebound beast. When Tianming reached them, the blood-colored kungpeng crashed into the ground with a bone-deep wound on its back. If it weren't for the gigantic beasts having used their totemic calamities, the kungpeng would have been killed.

Tianming saw Li Wudi covered in blood right before he was enveloped by Grand Emperor Starvore's ability. The omnipresent white flames seemed to leave nothing but ash where they burned.

"Die!"

The sharp sound of friction, quickly followed by an explosion, tore at Tianming's eardrums. Blades and flames went flying from collisions with the Flameyellow Coffin, completely destroying an area ten thousand meters near the battlefield. Even the spherical Starvore was sent rolling far away.

Tianming breathed a sigh of relief; the sun emperor had come to deal with his foe and took a blow for Li Wudi, which showed that he wasn't willing to lose his clone—even though he would leave riskier fights to it.

"The death of the six rexes, as well as Skywolf Frost, hasn't changed Skywolf Blaze's momentum at all. Grand Emperor Starvore's rule went unchallenged. But with the two empresses dead, Starvore is the only one remaining. Coupled with the fact that I now have his ship, which is anchored on the sun, it'll be almost impossible for them to get past the Flameyellow Guard Formation and Lingfeng. Grand Emperor Starvore no longer has anywhere to run! Skywolf's doom is upon them!" Tianming knew that the tide of battle had turned at the point the two empresses were killed. The balance had been tipped and the battle was just rolling toward its conclusion. He had even rendered great merit by dealing with the Starvore and Empress Ying himself. Without him, Li Wudi would have caved to the pressure long ago, thereby allowing the sun emperor to be ganged up upon. In a fight between people of roughly equal strength, small details like that were important.

"I refuse to believe that the remaining specters will still fight after Grand Emperor Starvore is killed." He was almost certain that Skywolf's invasion would completely fail if things continued going down this route. He watched as the sun emperor joined Li Wudi's fight, pushing back at their enemy with eighteen totems. The totems resembled ancient divinities of the sun that cast a look of judgment on Grand Emperor Starvore.

Tianming had managed to tip the scales in favor of the sun, so his mission here was complete. "In terms of a fight between individuals, the sun emperor definitely has a huge advantage." The way Tianming saw it, there was only one way the fight would end, so he immediately left and called the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb over. Then, he piloted it toward the Starvore and used Godsins chain form to tie the ship to one of the dragon heads of his own. "This is no doubt the greatest treasure Skywolf possesses. Now that I have its cores, I can take it back to the Sky Palace Formation and figure out what it can do. If I manage to operate it, I'll have hit the jackpot with it..."

Putting that aside, even if he couldn't use it for himself, he couldn't leave the ship in the hands of the sun emperor, who currently lacked a better ship to fulfill his wider ambitions.

"Done deal!" Tianming wasn't in a hurry to leave, even though he clearly could. He badly wanted to see how the battle between the rulers of two worlds would end. The Ninedragon Imperial Tomb ascended and dragged the spherical ship along with it, making it quite a sight as well.

Grand Emperor Starvore turned back and looked at the ships, his face completely revealing his searing wrath. Eight of nine sovereigns of Skywolf had perished alongside one of their two star worlds, all for a moment's greed. Even now, their humongous army was being held back by the baleful souls of Skywolf Frost! Despite his extensive experience, his current situation had him completely stumped. There hadn't seemed to be anything wrong with his decisions from the start. This should have been an easy hunt, but one strange turn after another kept appearing!

First, there was a super powerful sovereign on a heliacal-class world who possessed something as terrifying as the Flameyellow Coffin and a clone that was almost as powerful. Not to mention, the sun emperor had even activated an even stronger astralguard formation than its usual one!

On top of that, there was also a young decabane genius and a soul-devouring monster. The two of them had basically singlehandedly exterminated the entirety of Skywolf Frost. The monster had then used all the baleful souls in tandem with the Flameyellow Guard Formation to keep the ten billion specter troops trapped. What was even more ludicrous was how the decabane youth had infiltrated the Starvore alone and killed one of his empresses, then took the keys of his most prized possession!

Starvore's plan had been perfect, but not a single part of it went the way he thought it would! The normal-seeming heliacal-class world was actually a house of monsters. Grand Emperor Starvore had thought himself to be powerful, yet he was the one that now had no way to escape. Had his empresses survived, they could have helped him kill the sun emperor. That way, he could take down the Flameyellow Guard Formation and finally exterminate the sun for good, looting it clean of its treasures! Yet Tianming's theft of his ship had completely ruined everything. With his sovereigns and troops wiped out by these monsters, the rest of the specter troops were no doubt feeling utter despair as well.

Seeing the Starvore being dragged away was the final nail in the coffin. It was hard to imagine the kind of casualties his army would suffer if he died here. Skywolf Blaze would end up being counter invaded after being completely defanged. They would have come all this way only to lose everything.

The gazes of the two sun emperors made Grand Emperor Starvore's heart rate rise. Never before had he felt so utterly terrified. Though, despite the odds, his fighting spirit only kept rising. With a loud bellow, he transformed into his final form, growing larger than before. The flames around his body burned even brighter and he got on all fours, looking more like an actual demon wolf than a werewolf. An aura of dread emanated from his body as his sharp hair threateningly stood up and his fangs and claws looked even more like blades. He had become a perfect fighting machine capable of quickly eviscerating his foes.

He let out a resounding howl, inciting other specters on the sun to howl in concert with him. While they sounded melancholic, the howling conveyed their dedication to fight to the death. Grand Emperor Starvore's howl was like a mental virus that made them completely forget themselves and choose to die for their cause.

The body of the lupine beast continued expanding, his claws and fangs growing ever longer. He directed all his animosity toward the sun emperor. Tianming had retreated far away, but if the specter could still kill the sun emperor, he could still turn things around. Contrary to his appearance, he had kept a clear mind.

The gold-haired sun emperor squinted and said, "Oh, are you mad? That one over there killed your woman and took your ship. He's the one you should be mad at, no?" The sun emperor pointed in Tianming's direction with a playful smile laced with schadenfreude.

Grand Emperor Starvore didn't answer at all and instead chose to approach the sun emperor step by step. Quite a few elite specters had also come to his aid, surrounding their target. "You're the ruler of this world, not him." To Grand Emperor Starvore, nobody but the most powerful person in this world was fit to be his nemesis. Despite the animosity, he maintained a proper respect for his powerful foe.

Chapter 1986 - A Miracle Not to Be Touched

"Oh, thanks a lot for your high regards. But let's be honest. Skywolf has a lot of powerful people, yet all you know is to attack head-on without regard for any tactics. Do you see where that got you? What a waste. For a race that embodies nothing but greed and plunder, you'll perish from that very greed you possess. After that, you'll be the ones that'll be plundered clean. These are the consequences of your actions, understood?" the sun emperor said, as if everything had gone according to his initial plans.

"It won't be too late for you to utter those words after you defeat me. The only reason I didn't bother fighting dirty with you is that you have far too many dirty tricks up your sleeve. Who would've thought that this is far more than just a heliacal-class world?" By this point, the two of them knew that further conversation was pointless. Victory was the only thing that mattered as the one who perished in this battle would have their world exterminated!

"Let's bet on this fight, then," the sun emperor said with a chuckle.

"Come!" Grand Emperor Starvore heartily roared. Nobody would be interrupting their fight here. The storm that was unleashed grew stronger and stronger. The fight was one against two; white, gold, and crimson flames burned brightly in the sun. The colorful flames symbolized unbridled ferocity. All three of them reflected that in their nature, and their clash was even more explosive as a result. It was a battle to the death from which there would be no return! The surrounding landscape was instantly immolated. Anyone that wasn't a sovereign, yet attempted to interfere with the battle, would be quickly burnt to a crisp.

"My friend from Skywolf, do you still not understand?" The sun emperor hovered in the air with nine three-legged golden crows, brilliantly shining. Opposite him was a red-haired version of him, mounted on his kungpeng and having nine grand beast totems hovering above him, a living incarnation of the flameyellow divinities. The two of them attacked from front and back!

The specter wolf in the middle fought all eighteen totems, as well as the two sovereigns, alone. He also had to be wary of the gigantic kungpeng's abilities. Not only was he unable to take them all on, he had to endure being pummeled by the Flameyellow Coffin, though he directly took it and sent it flying off! All one could see was a sea of flames, occasionally decorated by the silhouettes of a wolf, golden crows, a kungpeng, totems, and shades.

Throughout the entire fight, the sun emperor's grandiose laughter could be heard. "You're fighting on my turf! This is the sun! There's another name for it that you'll never be able to touch! It bears the glorious history of our world, a world that used to be the king of star worlds! Our perfect people descended from the original denizens of this sacred, grand world. Mere animals like you will never be able to corrupt us! Your greed drove you to invade our territory, so you'd better be ready to pay a heavy price! Remember how you failed today. Remember how you lowlives will never be able to touch the sanctity of our world!"

The sun emperor's laughter echoed nonstop. It was as if he had become one with the sun, inheriting the aura and will of the world. While Tianming had the hearts of the people, the sun emperor had the heart of the world siding with him!

"I'll show you what the judgment of an imperial star looks like!"

When the Flameyellow Coffin rose into the air, it endlessly grew in size as crimson-gold flames poured out into its surroundings.

"The glory of Flameyellow, race of countless rulers! Countless ancestors, grant me your divine power to protect our homes and slay these demons!" As the sun emperor's voice rang out, the coffin's lid suddenly opened up. Then a gigantic pillar of light shot up into the clouds toward the Flameyellow Guard Formation before turning into patterns that spread throughout the entire formation in an instant. Right after that, an immense amount of energy was siphoned from the Flameyellow Divine Pillars toward the formation above, gathering near the patterns where the Flameyellow Coffin was before flooding into the coffin itself.

The carvings all over the coffin seemed to come to life! Then, the two figures with gold and crimson hair respectively, appeared at both sides of the coffin like two pallbearers. The light from the coffin completely blurred them out before they seemed to fuse with the coffin.

Grand Emperor Starvore could barely see anything from all that light. "This is indeed his turf...." The unbelievable sight reinforced the sun emperor's prior words. Attempting to fight him here, and even being delusional enough to think that he could kill him, was a severe lapse in judgment.

After the two sun emperors fused with the coffin, it seemed to come to life. It was like a gigantic beast was looking at Grand Emperor Starvore as a predator would gaze at its prey. It radiated boundless divine might. It was as if the whole world was concentrated on the two people near the coffin. Could a divine miracle of such caliber really exist in a heliacal-class world? A heliacal-class world just like Violetglory? Grand Emperor Starvore knew that the sun emperor had many tricks, but surely this was too ridiculous to be one of them. Even a ferocious wolf like him felt cowed before the two people beside the coffin.

"The sun!" he howled, before charging so fast on all fours that he became a beam of lifeless white flame flashing toward the coffin. He didn't want to accept it! He didn't want to imagine the possibilities his fears were true! It wasn't just him; far too many specters wouldn't be able to accept their loss. They had come to hunt, so they wouldn't accept being hunted in return, and by a mere rabbit, no less!

The two sides, one falling from the sky and the other charging skyward, neared each other more and more. When everything seemed to turn silent, the two meteors clashed, sending billowing shockwaves in all directions!

Tianming, despite being far away, could clearly see the crimson-gold meteor crash into the flaming lifeless white meteor, pushing it all the way back into the ground. At the point of impact, dust clouds filled the skies. The earth uncontrollably shook as a web of cracks around a million meters in diameter formed! The entire sun shook furiously from the impact, seemingly having been sealed off by the cloud of dust that covered the entire world. Aftershocks continued rumbling nonstop as rivers and mountains blended together with the wreck and ruin.

Chapter 1987 - Discarding the Useless

There was a lot of smoke in the middle of the ruins. The gold and crimson meteor still looked as impressive as ever as it hovered in the sky. The two people beside the coffin could vaguely be made out looking at a pool of blood in which a specter lay. The beast had been nailed to the ground. His abdomen had been completely pulverized with all four of its limbs crushed. Only the head was left intact, and even then it was starting to crack. Blood began pouring out of it, blinding the eyes that still struggled to look around.

"I... have already... reported the location of the sun... to the mysterians.... Await your death..." Grand Emperor Starvore said with the last of his energy reserves before he breathed his last.

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"Mysterians? I see." The sun emperor's coffin seemed even more appropriate for the situation, now that there was a corpse right in front of him. His back had fused with the coffin, giving his skin a bronze quality; he looked incredibly ancient. Li Wudi, standing behind him, had his arms and chest fused together with the coffin. The picture didn't look funny in the slightest, instead giving off an ancient and solemn impression.

Tianming felt awed at the sight, finally understanding why the sun emperor had still needed Li Wudi. This form that they took on had crushed the ruler of Skywolf just like that. The two sun emperors had become bronze men, while their totems and lifebound beasts had turned into bas reliefs on the Flameyellow Coffin.

"Listen up, skywolves!" the sun emperor yelled, his voice ringing through the entire Flameyellow Guard Formation. As the owner of the formation, he could easily use it to spread his voice. "All of the sovereigns of your world have been exterminated. The corpses of your grand emperor and his two empresses are in my hands, and the Starvore has been taken by our side as well, including its two cores. Skywolf has completely lost this war! Now you have nothing but complete annihilation to look forward to!"

The skywolves wouldn't believe him with those words alone, so he used the formation to broadcast the image of the pitiful forms of their rulers, as well as the sight of the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb dragging the Starvore away.

All nine of their sovereigns had perished, which was nothing short of a fatal blow. Who knew what chaos that news had wreaked among their ranks? Not only that, the remaining troops were already crumbling from the pressure of the Primordial Demon. There were still around two billion of them going on massacres in the sun, and some two billion more corpses had already rained down. That left around six

billion that hadn't broken through the Flameyellow Guard Formation yet. How they would act would go on to determine how the rest of the war would play out.

"Retreat! The sovereigns are already dead. We have to run and wait for the mysterians!"

"We can't run even if we want to. We might as well muster our courage and keep fighting. Even if we don't have any sovereigns left, we can still slaughter as many as we can to avenge them!"

"That's right! All they have is a few peak elite fighters! The rest of them can't match up to us at all!"

"What're you talking about? We already lost the Starvore!"

The invaders' ranks fell into confusion, which was the outcome the sun emperor was counting on. "With those two kids helping out, all that's left is the cleanup. Skywolf is certain to lose... hahahaha!" It was a grand victory, and nothing felt better than that. He was surprised by how well everything had gone with Lingfeng and Tianming's participation. While there were still many specters that had made their way past the astralguard formations, the sun emperor didn't care about the deaths of normal folk at all. The loss of billions of people was within acceptable margins.

"Human lives aren't worth much at all. As long as this world is big enough, it'll only be a few decades before the lost lives are replaced." As such, the sun emperor could take his time to wipe out the remaining specters. That very outcome was also the reason Voidword Shrine was formed; the remnants of the previous war with Skywolf had left enough specters on the sun to form their own faction. To prevent something like that from occurring again, the sun emperor's main goal was to deal with the specters for good.

"Apart from the specter troops that're still fighting, there's only two targets remaining—one within the formation and one outside...." The sun emperor looked at the corpse of Grand Emperor Starvore. While his subjects were no doubt exhilarated at his victory, he wasn't celebrating just yet.

"There's still two final steps to achieve my grand design, and only after finishing them can I start bringing back the imperial star and be named the ruler of the true sun, the Flameyellow Imperial Star, following in the footsteps of my forebears. One day, I'll restore our long-lost glory and achieve my dreams!" He mumbled on like a madman while the bronzified Li Wudi merely expressionlessly looked at him. The sun emperor was being dramatic for no other audience than himself.

What other steps could there be after killing the rulers of Skywolf? They must be even more challenging, for them to come after defeating foes of that caliber.

The sun emperor looked up and couldn't help but laugh, "That's right, Lingfeng, go on like this. As expected of my son-in-law. As you're a specter, my daughter won't be able to birth a flameyellow divinity with you. That's why I'm against your relationship. However, you did solve some of my problems. Work harder and kill off all six billion of them and I might just be moved enough to allow your relationship.

"Those two brats really are like my own hands, pushing me along to become the ruler of a restored world. How interesting.... Thanks to you, Skywolf is running out of steam! Who can possibly compete with your fate-ordained fortune?!"

The two youths had dealt with Sovereign Sanctquility, the voidheart worm, and breached the defensive formation of Skywolf Frost, allowing the sun emperor to wipe out an entire star in the process. Not to mention, Tianming had even killed a few other sovereigns while the fight against Skywolf Blaze intensified, then gone on to commandeer their flagship. Lingfeng, on the other hand, had wiped out more than two billion specters and was keeping around six billion of them held up above the flaming clouds, giving the sun emperor the chance to wipe out the remaining sovereigns of Skywolf. No matter their intentions, they were definitely huge boons to the sun emperor. They were practically top generals that were the cornerstone of his victory over Skywolf.

"I love you two far too much. Without you, even if I won, I'd lose quite a bit of skin. The casualties of the sun might even rise to the tens of billions." While he didn't care about the denizens of the sun, it didn't change the fact that it would be much easier to restore the sun to its former glory if fewer of its denizens died. He was all too overjoyed to accept their help.

Lingfeng was still fighting the specters, while Tianming was leaving in a hurry with Starvore. The sun emperor gave them one final look as his expression turned stern. He saw Tianming's ship through his formation. "Naughty child.... Even though you achieved merit, who said you were allowed to steal my spoils?" His smile turned strict, then savage.

"Lucky stars you may be, but it doesn't change the fact that you two are still dangerous meteors. We're fated to be enemies, thanks to that clone of mine. Even so, I can only hope that the two of you only perish after your value is all used up. As long as Li Tianming still lives, I can never rest easy." His bronze face contorted in a sheer display of malice.

"Fated child of the heavens, decabane genius.... Wasn't I meant to be the fated child of the heavens? The successor of the flameyellow divinities' legacy? Since when did that role fall to someone else?!"

The sun emperor was even more aware of the threat posed by Tianming after this war. The final two steps in his grand plan were the eradication of Tianming and Lingfeng! There was no realm for further negotiation, and Tianming wouldn't expect any differently. He would be far too naive if he thought that fighting against a common enemy would be enough to bring the two warring sides to peace.

He understood the sun emperor far more than that. While it was true that the sun emperor loved this world and the descendants of the flameyellow divinities, he would never allow someone that could exceed him to exist. It would be one thing if it was a talented junior for him to nurture, but Tianming wasn't that. He was already someone who could fight on the sun emperor's level.

"A mountain is too small for two tigers, and a star world is too small for two sun emperors." He turned the killing intent he had for Grand Emperor Starvore south to his next target while the specters that infiltrated the sun were still massacring away. He didn't summon the Divine Sun Palace, instead zooming through the clouds with the coffin and his clone, still fused together, flying toward Tianming at a rapid pace.

The Ninedragon Imperial Tomb was only traveling at three-fifths its normal speed thanks to all the extra mass it was dragging around, so the coffin men were zipping across the skies far faster than the currently overburdened Ninedragon Imperial Tomb could. It was only a matter of time before it caught up.

"He's on my tail," Tianming said, able to see it clearly from the ship. Even though Lingfeng was still busy cleaning up the specter invaders, the sun emperor still chose to cut them off at a time like this. "I don't even need a declaration from him. The fact that he's chasing me down means he intends to kill me. If I die, there'll be nobody left to stop him from uniting the sun under his rule or restoring the Flameyellow Imperial Star's former glory."

Everything was clear from the start. While the sun emperor was something like a god for the denizens of the sun, he was also a devil. Even though the people were still suffering from the invasion, the sun emperor was already intent on wiping out one of their own.

Chapter 1988 - Like the Rising Sun

Tianming was still troubled over how he could deal with the specters that were still inside the formation, and now he had to worry about the sun emperor as well. He hadn't even transported the Starvore halfway toward his destination.

"Now that the Flameyellow Guard Formation is activated, the coffin's power must've risen to a whole new level." Even with fifty billion people supporting him, Tianming still felt the incoming threat. The sun emperor was aiming to complete his transformation by using him as a stepping stone toward greater heights! He couldn't even wait a single moment longer.

"How fierce. Looks like he thinks the specters above us are no longer a threat." Even with the divine astralship formation of the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb, it didn't negate the specter of death that loomed over him. The blazing lion chasing him from behind had already bitten into his neck. The storm of carnage was about to begin—cold, merciless, violent, and raw!

The crazed smile of the sun emperor reflected his true nature. After killing the three specter rulers, his might had grown even more. The flames of the sun seemed to gather in the Flameyellow Coffin. Together with the two people near it, the coffin turned into a shooting star that flew past the countless flaming beasts of the defensive formation. It streaked across the sky so quickly that a strong whooshing could even be heard from the ground.

The sun emperor, the spitting image of a sun rising in the sky, had bared his blade toward Tianming, and how the latter reacted would determine his fate. Who could possibly stop the manifestation of the divine sun's will?

If the Flameyellow Coffin was able to breach the Starvore, there was little doubt that it could do the same to the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb. While Tianming was still trying to accelerate, a gigantic, flaming face appeared on the flaming cloud layer above him. It was the sun emperor's face.

"Tianming, my son, the sun is only so big, you see. You and I are both aberrations in this universe. There's no way for us to coexist. Why don't we settle this once and for all on this day that marks a new era for the sun? No matter who becomes the new ruler of the Flameyellow Imperial Star, my dream of revitalizing this world to its former glory will be fulfilled."

Tianming merely chuckled, "The army of Skywolf has yet to retreat while the denizens of the sun are still dying, yet you still came after me. Aren't you in too much of a hurry? I don't disagree that one of us must die, but now is not the time! Once the external threat is dealt with, we can properly settle things."

The fact that the sun emperor had chosen this time to pick a fight meant that he was confident in his chances. Tianming still had a good chance of growing even stronger with enough time. "I can't wait. If I do, I won't be able to deal with you anymore."

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The flaming face in the clouds fizzled away, but his murderous voice continued to echo. More and more, his killing intent grew. He kept giving chase, and his target had never been the Starvore to begin with.

"You want to wipe out Skywolf and me for good on the same day, huh?" The sun emperor was nothing if not ambitious. From the very beginning, he had only left Tianming alone because he was still useful. Once Skywolf had effectively been defeated, he had no more use for him!

The coffin approached the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb, rapidly closing the distance.

"I have no choice." Tianming chose to give up on the Starvore for now. The only rational decision was to escape, now that the enemy had revealed his true colors. Naturally, he would still be taking the cores of the Starvore with him, leaving the sun emperor with nothing but an empty husk. With that, there was no worry that the sun emperor would use it to attack the Sky Palace Formation.

Right before disaster struck, Tianming calmly retracted the Godsin. When the chains were pulled back, the Starvore lurched forward as it went smashing into the ground, making yet another gigantic crater. For better or worse, the denizens of the sun were already used to such commotion during wartime.

"Tianming, there's far too many elites across the various star clusters in the universe. Skywolf is but a puny observer civilization. The only way for us descendants of the flameyellow divinities to quickly rise back to glory is to unite under a single ruling will. Without you around, the Myriad Solar Sects will quickly fall under my thumb. Not a single one has to die! They're the same people—my people!

"Don't you understand now? If it weren't for you, there would've been no civil war! You are the real cause of all that suffering! Everything you've done was for your own power and hubris. It's time to wake up to the truth. The best contribution you can give this world is your death. You were the main obstacle of progress all along. Once you die, this world will be mine to rule. The people will be united and there'll be no internal strife. That's the key to future prosperity, and you are the rock that has jammed the wheel of progress!"

Tianming still found himself marveling at the kind of justification the sun emperor was able to come up with, as if he really believed all the crap he was spewing.

The Ninedragon Imperial Tomb sped up more and more, freed from the heavy mass it had been dragging along. Tianming shifted the output of its nova source to the maximum, refusing to believe that the sun emperor would be able to keep up. As expected, just as the coffin was about to reach him, the distance began widening again. Not even the energy to the coffin supplied by the Flameyellow Guard Formation was enough to get it to divine astralship speeds.

"Since you've already set that narrative, there isn't much else for me to say. Between us, there's no such thing as morals, good, evil, or reason. The winner shall rule, and the loser shall be forgotten. Try being less shameless. At least that way I'll probably still be able to maintain some modicum of respect for

you," Tianming said. He didn't want to stay and fight, and even if he did, wouldn't be capable of taking the sun emperor on as he was right then.

What he didn't expect, however, was that the Primordial Demon within the Flameyellow Guard Formation suddenly hovered near the top of the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb. The entire region above was filled with inky black baleful souls, constantly blending together and contorting.

"It's him!"

"He's the one that exterminated Skywolf Frost!"

"That's the sun emperor!"

"Everyone, come! Kill him!"

The baleful souls were going wild as the mass of black ink descended from the flaming cloud layer and turned its gleaming, red eyes toward the sun emperor.

Lingfeng had arrived.

Chapter 1989 - Coffin Soul

The Primordial Demon's baleful souls had previously been suppressed by Lingfeng, allowing him to use them against other specters. But when they finally met their true nemesis, the sun emperor, the Primordial Demon underwent a terrifying change. They swarmed around the one that ended their star world, endlessly howling their grievances.

"That's him!"

"I finally found him! He's the one that ended us, ended our home!"

"He must die!"

The angered shrieks of the wraiths all gathered in one region, pushing the sun emperor and Tianming apart. The red eyes that glared from within the sea of baleful souls looked ever more bloodthirsty. There was nothing but pure resentment drawing in all of the baleful souls that hovered around the sun. They were all parts of the Primordial Demon, whose mass grew larger and larger before the sun emperor. As it did, the number of baleful souls within the defensive formation decreased, finally causing the flaming clouds to turn from black to their former flaming glory.

Lingfeng was no longer helping hold back the six billion remaining specters, and if they continued to invade the sun as planned, they would wreak great havoc on the sun. The sun emperor had brought this all upon himself; with him chasing down Tianming restlessly like that, there was no way Lingfeng could just watch.

The great shadow kept growing. Hundreds of billions of baleful souls piled together; almost two-thirds of all life that had lived on Skywolf Frost were already there. The remaining third was still swarming toward the great mass, howling for vengeance to be served, not caring about how cramped they would be in that mass. The sea of baleful souls kept condensing, eventually manifesting as a corporeal existence. While its size was small, it was getting closer and closer to an actual incarnation of a Primordial Demon. Lingfeng still retained his three-headed, six-armed look, but he was now countless

times larger than his previous Transcendent Truefiend form. Either way, he possessed immense combat capability.

The Primordial Demon kept shrinking and compressing, and the more he did, the more the malice around him raged. Powerful howls of wolves drowned out everything else; Tianming felt like he was going deaf. The apocalyptic scenario terrified the denizens of the sun. An actual demon had manifested in their world to the point that they were able to see the baleful souls venting their malice with their own eyes.

"For now, the six billion specters are still holding their ground inside the defensive formation. They'll soon descend, if they choose to attack, and neither the celestial orderians nor the Myriad Solar Sects will be able to hold out against such numbers."

The main force of a star world lay with their army. While sovereigns and divine astralships were also instrumental, those alone wouldn't be able to effectively neutralize threats from a large army.

"Either way, the one that ruined the peace was the sun emperor to begin with," Meow Meow interjected, waking up inside the lifebound space for the briefest moment before falling back to sleep.

"How'd you manage to say something so reasonable while sleep-talking?" Ying Huo and the others were completely stumped. Meow Meow's words did make sense, however, and Tianming wasn't at fault for the current predicament. Not to mention, he couldn't even determine what state Lingfeng was currently in.

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"Feng, can you hear me?!" he yelled from within the ship alongside Qingyu and Yin Chen, but got no reply.

Qingyu was currently situated at the core of the Primordial Demon. "Big Brother, it's useless. He can no longer hear me, but I know the reason he took so much risk this time around is to settle the matter of Skywolf and the sun emperor once and for all. He knew that the specters that remain don't have much fighting spirit left after their sovereigns perished. So he unified his will with that of the baleful souls to exterminate the next greatest threat, the sun emperor! He's also trying to see if there's a way to save father...."

Yin Chen slowly relayed what she said to him.

"Understood." Tianming furrowed his brows. "Feng consumed countless vitae and is incredibly powerful right now. But that level of power won't last, so he's using the opportunity to deal with the sun emperor instead." He still had no answer to the ethics of consuming vitae, but he knew this was an opportunity regardless, not just for him, but for the Myriad Solar Sects and the sun as a whole.

Before Tianming could react, the condensed Primordial Demon headed toward the coffin and its carriers, bearing down on them like the sky. The countless baleful souls' voices seemed to coalesce into one. "I... see it. Your vita... is within this coffin... One soul serves as the core in the coffin for two bodies! The new coffin soul is yours to control...." Lingfeng's soul had grown powerful beyond imagination and could easily see the state Li Wudi was in. Tianming and Qingyu both heard his assessment.

"What does that mean? Is my dad still alive?" She looked at the person at the rear of the coffin, whose crimson hair had also been bronzed. His gaze was a little empty, completely unlike the brilliant gaze of the sun emperor in front.

The sun emperor was rather surprised to hear those words, but quickly smiled. "If you can see all that, you're quite capable indeed. But knowing the truth won't do you any favors. That only means that you'll never be able to kill me! As long as the Flameyellow Coffin exists, I can use both bodies. Even if you manage to exterminate my soul, you'll be killing the other me as well! That's what it really means to be unified in body and soul, do you understand?!"

As Lingfeng had described, the sun emperor wasn't an example of one soul devouring another. Instead, it was assimilation, almost in the vein of how Lingfeng had assimilated the souls of eighty thousand of his own people into his. If he died, the eighty thousand souls of the infernal soul race would die with him.

Chapter 1990 - Impetus of the Sun

Such a soul could be considered a complete whole already. Thus, the sun emperor laughed even harder. "Come, come! I'm your father! You're trying to commit patricide here!" He was utterly fearless.

"Little Feng, is there a way to split apart two fused souls?" Tianming asked with clenched teeth.

"We can try.... The secret must be in the coffin." Lingfeng's voice still showed some clarity. It seemed his mind was still in the driver's seat despite all of the overflowing resentment.

They didn't have much time now, as the Flameyellow Guard Formation could only stop the specters for so long.

"Go, then! I'll cover for you!" Tianming had actually wanted to avoid the fight before, but Lingfeng had given him confidence. Tianming left the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb, followed by his lifebound beasts, totems, and wonders. They all charged at the sun emperor together.

The sun emperor roared with laughter when he saw Tianming throwing himself into the fire. This was exactly the moment he had been waiting for! "I'm the new emperor of the sun, the undefeated and invincible sovereign! I've become the man destined to revive the sun ever since I got the Flameyellow Coffin! Opposing me for the sake of an unimportant and fake familial relationship is ignorant and a waste of talent! No matter how great a talent is, it still means nothing if you die before your time. Perhaps you can still benefit me if you leave behind some fortune.

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"It's said that not even tigers would eat their cubs. However, I'm duty bound to slay my family and sons for the sake of the imperial star's future!" The boldness in his voice would have touched any listeners that didn't know the context.

"Are you kidding? Did you think you'd inherited my godfather's everything and become my father just because you absorbed his vita? I don't see any of him in you! You're just yourself. Who are you trying to touch by saying you have to kill your family and sons? You already showed your true colors by hoping for us to leave some fortune behind! How laughable!"

Perhaps sometimes, not even the sovereign knew what he himself wanted. Whatever justice he spoke of was just a load of bullcrap.

“In the end, all you want is to inherit and develop that Flameyellow Imperial Star from ancient times and make it your exclusive personal item. No one else can have a share of it! Everyone that doesn’t agree with you will just become your stepping stone.

“Qingyu and I are just tools you tried to wield using the familial bond. But you don’t actually have any familial bonds. You don’t love your wife, you don’t love your sons, and you don’t even cherish the lives of your clansmen! The only one you love is yourself. You’re a selfish demon that only cares about his own glory!” Tianming had seen through him. During the civil war earlier, he had realized that the sun emperor didn’t care about the death of the celestial orderian troops. He had assumed the sun emperor was someone who looked at the big picture, but in truth, he just treated them as tools for glory.

The sun emperor didn’t care about the lives of those under him and simply believed they were replaceable as long as the world was large enough. How could someone like that care about the lives on Skywolf Frost?

“Those words aren’t very pleasant, are they?” The sun emperor’s face lost its mirth and anger began showing after he was seen through, while the coffin began to burn even more intensely. “How pointless this all is! Let’s end it. I’m getting annoyed quarreling with children for so long.” The Flameyellow Coffin shone with piercing light, then shot toward Tianming! Just like when it had killed Grand Emperor Starvore, it looked like it had unstoppable momentum. It fell on Tianming like a giant sword descending.

“Big brother Tianming, is it possible to give him some injuries? I don’t think I can enter the coffin like this. We need to stop his impetus of the sun.” The large shadow appeared behind Tianming, like an ancient demon god was supporting him.

“I’ll try, but you’ll have to handle the later part.” Tianming quickly made his choice.

“That move?”

“Yes! Let’s take the risk, winner take all. I leave my godfather’s life in your hands,” Tianming said with clenched teeth.

“I’ll try my best.” The words were for both Tianming and Qingyu.

Tianming was genuinely happy that his brother still had his rationality. He had really believed he had lost him when he saw the Primordial Demon.

Above Tianming, the shadow of death and the sun emperor’s cold smirk arrived.

You may have planned and perfectly calculated everything. However, there are things in this world even more ancient and mighty than the Flameyellow Imperial Star that exceed your calculations! Tianming silently said.

The power of fifty billion people gathered in his cyclic sacrosun as a violent power began rampaging. It transformed into face after face that appeared behind Tianming. Such imperial majesty that followed the hearts of the people was the complete opposite of the sun emperor’s lonely path of a tyrant!

Ten massive decapath era godswords flew out from behind Tianming and became a sword formation that pointed toward the sun emperor and the Flameyellow Coffin with the power of the people gathered on them. Even Tianming himself and his lifebound beasts barely tapped into it, allowing the decapath era godswords to reach a terrifying level. They all emitted different kinds of divine light as their sword ki surged.

Honestly, only a destructive move like that had a chance of blocking the Flameyellow Coffin's attack when it was backed by the Flameyellow Guard Formation.

Grand Emperor Starvore's death had left Tianming afraid of being careless. The next moment, he was engulfed by light. However, it wasn't able to outshine the belief in his eyes.

It was the first time he had used this move for real in the real world. It pursued an extreme through self-destruction.

Tianming was launching his second totemic calamity: Shattered Era, Cosmic Swordsurge!