

## The Ages 221

### Chapter 221 - Fleeting Lifespan

Tianming had never imagined Yuwen Shengcheng would be arrogant to this degree. It was as if he believed the Grand-Orient Sect belonged to his clan, and he audaciously struck with the full intent of killing Tianming.

Many inner disciples gasped at the sudden move, not expecting that Yuwen Shengcheng would attempt to harm someone without so much as a warning.

"Are you courting death?" Tianming's gaze turned frosty. "Since you're still young, I'll forgive your earlier provocation. But now, you really have no one else but yourself to blame!"

Right before the palm strike hit, Tianming raised his left arm and flashed the Bewildering Eye, instantly causing Yuwen Shengcheng to hallucinate. Tianming didn't know what he saw, but the slight moment in which he was disoriented was enough.

He stepped forward, focusing his energy into his left arm and grabbed the palm, then gave it a harsh twist, resulting in an audible snap. Everyone froze. What was going on? A full-powered palm strike from someone at the fifth level of Unity was actually stopped by Tianming's grab!

Yuwen Shengcheng let out a gut-wrenching shriek and his face grew pale. However, that wasn't the end.

"Little rascal, I hope your parents teach you a lesson!" Tianming spat with a teasing smile, then landed a slap directly on Yuwen Shengcheng's face.

The crisp strike sent him spiraling away through the air with his robes flapping, then he landed face first on the ground. By the time he got back up, half his face was swollen, a complete contrast to his handsome face from before. The crowd let out yet another gasp at the completely unbelievable turn of events.

"The junior sect master only just broke through to Unity!" Many others echoed the same thought.

"Is this the true might of a pentabane?"

"It's far too terrifying! He can fight someone four levels above him!"

Their eyes widened with utter confusion as they struggled to find words to describe what they were feeling.

"Didn't someone say that the junior sect master had come to get himself killed because he couldn't endure the three months of humiliation?"

"Who was the one who mocked him?"

"Everyone, he's really a pentabane!"

"I heard the tales about the Li Saint Clan. They used to be the most powerful clan in the whole Grand-Orient Realm, but those were their ancestors."

"I didn't know their clan could still give birth to terrifying monsters like that!"

"It's clear from a glance. Even though Yuwen Shengcheng reached a rather high point in his training, he was completely manhandled. He must've been spoiled by his lenient upbringing."

It only took one exchange to change the other disciples' impressions of Tianming. They were no fools, after all, and could tell that Yuwen Shengcheng was the one who had horribly lost out this time. His misguided provocation and overconfidence in his abilities only tripled down on the humiliation!

As for Su Tao, Su Li, Gongsun Yu, and Feng Chiyu, they turned and looked at Tianming, flabbergasted.

"Isn't this junior sect master too scary? Maybe Shengcheng was just taken off guard because he was unprepared?" Su Li struggled to explain.

"Sis... Brother Shengcheng was the one who launched a surprise attack...."

Yet he lost, despite his surprise attack.

"I think he definitely underestimated his opponent and gave him an opening. In a proper fight, he might not lose that easily."

"That's right! Brother Shengcheng's lifebound beast is rather powerful!"

That was all they could think of to console themselves. But the thought of Tianming possibly having a fourth-order saint beast made them despair once more. Only after a good while did they snap out of it and go to help Shengcheng up.

"Buzz off!" Shengcheng raged. When he stood up, his right arm audibly snapped; it seemed the bones had reconnected. He shot a burning gaze at Tianming, filled with bloodlust.

"Junior Sect Master, I dare you to go to the Second Grand-Orient Battlefield to fight it out! I admit that I underestimated you. From now on, I'll show you my true power! I'll tear you into a million pieces!" he roared with full confidence. It seemed he was under the impression that he was defeated because he lost focus for a moment there, rather than seeing the red eyeball on Tianming's palm.

"What's the Second Grand-Orient Battlefield?" Tianming asked.

"This is the sacred mountain. We can have private duels here under the supervision of the mountain chiefs. As long as both sides agree, they can even have a duel to the death. However, the biggest location for that is the First Grand-Orient Battlefield. It's the largest sacred dueling ground in the sect. That's where the yearly evaluations and the council summit are held," Qingyu said. Having witnessed Yuwen Shengcheng's embarrassing display, she felt much relieved.

"Come, I'll go there with you!" Tianming said. It wasn't in him to look for trouble, but he would never shy away when trouble came looking for him.

"At least you have balls. Li Qingyu, make sure to find a spot to bury your brother!" he mocked. He still oozed confidence.

"I wonder where you get all that spunk from. Take a look in the mirror first," Qingyu commented.

His perfect face now had a palm print on it, and even his teeth were a little shaky. Qingyu bringing that up only caused him to relive the pain.

"Shut up!" He couldn't control himself any longer and charged at the siblings. It was the first time Tianming had seen a fool that reckless.

"So this is the son of Yuwen Taiji? Color me disappointed," Tianming mocked. The kid's cultivation was high for his age, but that was no excuse for such childish behavior. He was definitely spoiled by a comfortable life that lacked any trace of hardship. Since Yuwen Shengcheng wasn't going to wait till they reached the Second Grand-Orient Battlefield, there was no longer a need for Tianming to be polite.

All of a sudden, a loud roar resounded in their ears. "Who dares?!"

Tianming had wanted to strike, but stopped himself in time and retreated a few steps with Qingyu. When he looked around, he was sandwiched between two seniors. They were probably the sacred mountain chiefs.

Yuwen Shengcheng still didn't stop and tried to circle around the chiefs to attack Tianming. The moment he made it past, the female chief grabbed his collar and smashed him straight into the ground. Now, his neck seemed a little crooked.

"Which fu—" His voice vanished when he saw who those two were and read their expressions. Immediately calming down, he knew he'd only be looking for trouble if he tried fighting now.

"For you to dare to fight at the Imperial Ninefold Gates.... Do you think we don't exist? Scram!" the female chief with the beautiful figure said. Her presence and aura immediately made her the center of attention, especially coupled with her swift way of dealing with the rascal. Tianming was rather satisfied when he saw the kid bounce and tumble after the ground smash. Even Qingyu couldn't help but chuckle. Though Tianming was only there to train and made a breakthrough, that pesky fly had kept on annoying him, only to suffer public humiliation.

If this wasn't karmic intervention, nothing was.

"Ye Yuxi!" Yuwen Shengcheng spat when he climbed back up. His eyes were on fire.

"What? You want to kill me too?" Ye Yuxi asked with a smile.

"Shengcheng, be polite and respectful," said the other mountain chief as he picked the kid up.

"Third Uncle...." Hate oozed out of Yuwen Shengcheng when he saw the looks and heard the chatter of the crowd. It was the first time he had ever suffered such humiliation! However, it was indeed his mistake. This wasn't the right place to strike, and the one who punished him was a mountain chief, of all people. Even if he complained to his father and grandfather, he would get nothing but more slaps.

"Calm down!" Yuwen Kaitai said as he gave Shengcheng's head a smack.

"Yes!" He endured it as tears of humiliation flooded his face.

"Sheesh, he's finally regained his senses." Tianming struggled to stifle another laugh. It pleased him to no end to see a spoiled young brat disciplined like that. Though Yuwen Shengcheng heard what Tianming said, he could only shrug and endure it. The beauties behind him still stood obediently nearby, shuddering in anger.

"Li Tianming, come to the Second Grand-Orient Battlefield if you dare accept a death battle! I'll educate you on what it means to be a human!" Yuwen Shengcheng provoked.

"Forget it. I'll wait until you grow some hair down there first," Tianming said.

The mountain chiefs were already there, and he'd already had his fill of humiliating the kid, so he couldn't bother any longer; he had far more important things to do. Now that he'd finally broken through to Unity, he wanted to charge forward with his cultivation as soon as possible, as well as study Qingyu's Pentamoon Skybane's properties.

"How can you be the junior sect master if you don't have guts? How laughable!"

"Look in the mirror. You're the laughable one. I even went easy on you. I was afraid you'd kill yourself out of shame if you lost too badly. That would be troublesome for me indeed."

This time, Ye Yuxi humphed and said, "Yuwen Shengcheng, shut up and leave the Imperial Ninefold Gates." That finally shut the brat up, though it didn't stop him from shaking with rage.

"Yuxi, don't get mad at a child," Yuwen Kaitai said heartily. Patting the kid's shoulder he said, "Go home, first. Su Li, take them back to rest and calm down."

"Yes, Chief Yuwen."

Still unconvinced, Yuwen Shengcheng cursed Tianming nonstop as he left.

"Yuwen Shengcheng is about to break through to the sixth level of Unity at the age of thirteen!"

"The junior sect master is only at the first level of Unity. He might not win if they really fight at the Second Grand-Orient Battlefield."

"The junior sect master isn't a smart guy. He would be a fool to not take the challenge. Yuwen Shengcheng would give him endless hell for it."

"He humiliated Yuwen Shengcheng so hard there's no way he'll be let off that easily."

The crowd was still discussing what just happened.

Yuwen Shengcheng was at the fifth level of Unity at only thirteen; even Qingyu had only managed to reach that level near the age of sixteen. Tianming had to admit that the descendants of the Yuwen Clan were indeed rather talented.

"Come here," Ye Yuxi said after Yuwen Shengcheng had left.

"Big Brother, she's Exalted Master Ye's younger twin sister," Qingyu reminded Tianming.

"Greetings, Chief Ye," Tianming said.

"Let me see your fourth-order saint beasts," she said with an anticipatory gaze.

"By all means." Tianming took out the little chick and black cat and laid them on his palms. Those two innocent-looking little creatures looked at her with googly eyes.

She widened her eyes and said, "You think I'm blind? How could these be fourth-order saint beasts? I wouldn't even believe they're four-star lifebound beasts!"

"That's right, I don't believe it myself," Tianming said.

"Then how do you explain being able to train at the ninth gate?" she impatiently asked. Tianming didn't know that she had stood up in shock when he broke through at the ninth gate. She was so flustered tears had formed! She really thought that Tianming had fourth-order saint beasts and her worldview immediately collapsed when she witnessed what happened. But after seeing the little critters, she seemed to regain some semblance of normalcy.

"I don't know either. I just felt that the other gates weren't exerting any pressure at all," he innocently said.

"Let me see," Yuwen Kaitai said, turning his gaze to the little animals, then back to Tianming. He laughed and said, "Junior Sect Master, you're a rather interesting fellow. As expected of the son of Li Wudi." How much he meant what he said, Tianming didn't know. Either way, he felt a strong sense of danger coming from the bald, scar-faced man.

"Was there a problem with the gates? Yuwen Kaitai, go test them out," Ye Yuxi said.

"I don't dare," he casually said.

"Useless."

"Try it yourself then."

Ye Yuxi didn't dare either.

"Perhaps it has something to do with him being a pentabane. The Imperial Ninefold Gates probably went easy on him," Yuwen Kaitai said.

"Perhaps. There's obviously a problem with the gates. There's no way they won't exert any pressure on these seven-star lifebound beasts of his," Ye Yuxi concluded. She had seen the beasts herself and verified that they weren't fourth-order saint beasts; they weren't even saint beasts at all! The seven stars in their eyes were proof that they were only seven-star lifebound beasts.

They wrote it off as Tianming having high compatibility with the gates. That must be part of the reason why he dared to make his breakthrough in such a high profile manner. Nobody would really think his little chick and black kitten were actually primordial chaos beasts, nor were they even aware that such a classification existed. All they could do was attribute it to his pentabane status.

It also helped that nobody had actually seen a pentabane with their own eyes before.

"Chief, may I leave now?" he asked.

"Go go go," Ye Yuxi said with a wave. She could feel a headache coming.

"Thank you, Chief." Tianming smiled and took Qingyu with him.

"Wait," Ye Yuxi called out.

"Is there another matter, Chief Ye?" Tianming asked.

"Yuwen Shengcheng definitely won't let you off. Be careful."

Tianming was quite surprised she would be concerned for him, and even warned him in Yuwen Kaitai's presence.

"Please rest assured. If he comes running to me, I'll make sure he leaves crawling."

Yu Yuxi couldn't help but scratch her head. She was feeling rather irked by the fearless fellow.

"He was only careless just now. You might not be his match," she warned.

"I see. Thankfully, I didn't accept his challenge."

He had to keep a low profile. The others secretly praised him for making a strategic retreat.

"Go now!" She hurriedly waved for Tianming to leave. The siblings left on the back of Qingyu's Grandwhite Kunpeng.

"A pentabane really is fascinating. To think that the Imperial Ninefold Gates didn't apply any pressure on him..." Yuwen Kaitai said with his arms crossed, looking in the direction of the kunpeng.

"Perhaps it's their ancestral blessing," Ye Yuxi said.

"I'd advise the Ye Clan to distance themselves from the Li Saint Clan," he suddenly said with a face full of smiles.

"What do you mean by that?"

"The Ye Clan just attained prominence. It'd be a shame for you to ruin it for yourselves again."

"Huh." She wouldn't have any of it.

"You really are ballsy. I worry that the Ye Clan will end up spineless like the Li Saint Clan. Hah!" he said, then left the gates.

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Tianming looked at the distant sights from the back of the kunpeng with a gloomy expression. His horizons had been completely blown open in the past few days. Despite being so far off from a prime disciple not too long ago, he could finally see himself catching up after his breakthrough; he felt that his changed body would be enough for him to catch up with breakneck speed. Even if nobody believed he could, he didn't have an ounce of doubt in himself. It was a confidence befitting an unparalleled genius. Even Qingyu noticed the change in his mentality.

"It appears that my biggest enemy is myself."

He had underestimated Lifesbane. When he'd broken through just now, he and Feiling noticed that issue. That was why he couldn't even bring himself to care about Yuwen Shengcheng. Otherwise, he would've gone to the Second Grand-Orient Battlefield and taught the kid a lesson, given his previous temperament. But now, he'd had an epiphany and knew his true foe would be himself.

"Big Brother, my feeling was correct. When you reached the first level of Unity, your body started aging at ten times the speed. In other words, each day of your cultivation is equivalent to ten days of other people's, at the cost of having less than ten years of life remaining.... You're already twenty now. While mortals can live up to a hundred, most of them reach their limits at eighty. At this rate, your body will be thirty after a year, and forty after two years! Yet, the prime time for cultivation is the first forty years of one's life. After the age of fifty, you not only won't improve any more, but you'll even get worse. That's why you only have two years' time to properly cultivate," Feiling said.

Tianming could feel it himself. He felt like he experienced ten times the amount of time others did. His tenfold talent multiplier came at the cost of a lifespan that was ten times shorter than others'. It was a disaster that had exploded the moment he reached Unity.

"I had thought the appearance of the ten bane-rings was a sign of Lifesbane being cured. I didn't think my real Lifesbane just hadn't shown up yet!"

Tianming hadn't really understood Lifesbane back when he was still in Vermillion Bird, leaving him to truly marvel at its wonder now.

## **Chapter 222 - The Path to Eternal Life**

"Lifesbane! I thought I would be able to enjoy its benefits without its drawbacks... but being a decabane...." Now that he really thought about it, it did seem too good to be true. The founding ancestor had suffered for five decades to become a pentabane. The condition had always been an angel and a devil at the same time.

Qingyu had said that, growing up, she felt searing pain during full moons for fifteen whole years. It was only today that she'd managed to break the curse and become a Pentamoon Skybane. Tianming, on the other hand, had manifested his talent before his curse.

"The Li Saint Clan truly has to borrow the powers of the sun, moon, heaven, and earth to change their fate!" One day was ten for him. In three years, he would look like he was fifty, perhaps even older than Wei Tianxiang. Not to mention, his mother had just returned to looking twenty.

"Big Brother... what do we do?" Feiling was starting to panic. If this went on, Tianming would definitely die in six to eight years time from old age. He would reach his peak in three years, and it wasn't just him; Ying Huo and Meow Meow would also be the same. His bright path was immediately cut off before he'd even realized.

"What the hell... I don't want to die," Ying Huo said, looking painfully at the black dots under its wings for the first time. It also began to feel its time running out ten times faster than before.

"I can only live a few more years?" That thought caused the black cat's hair to stand.

"I knew that being a decabane was too good to be true. With Lifesbane, the ancestors managed to defy fate. I have ten times the speed. There was no way I would be able to overturn the world without bearing some sort of cost!" Tianming looked at the five bane-rings on his right arm, noticing that they had begun changing.

One after another, they interlocked and formed five odd words. Those words were savage, dark and mysterious, resembling five gigantic beasts coldly looking back at him. The same was the case with the

bane-rings on his left arm. The more he looked at them, the more sinister they felt. What kind of words were they? Tianming had never seen nor heard of them before. Each stroke of the words was like a curse that seemed to beckon him to pay the price for the benefits he enjoyed, taunting him like judges of fate.

While his talent was still present, his future was a straight path to death, much to his frustration. What in the world was Lifesbane? Now, he couldn't really tell.

"My mother spent twenty years suffering, only to get three bane-rings. The founding ancestor survived for fifty years, becoming a pentabane and reaching the Emyrean Saint Realm. Even Qingyu suffered fifteen years of head-splitting pain to become a Pentamoon Skybane. Then... what about me?" Tianming stood up, shuddering. His body was more or less the same, with the only difference being his rate of aging. It would be a year before he could really feel what being a man in his thirties was like. There was no way he could pretend to be sixteen by then.

"Arrgh! Lifesbane!" He turned his face to the wind and let his white hair flutter. "I can fight my fellow man, the heavens, and the earth.... But against Lifesbane, the enemy is myself! I know now that this is a challenge from fate! This is predetermined! If I lose, my death is certain. If I win, I'll have overcome fate! This is the old tradition of the Li Saint Clan—we defy fate to achieve glory! And now, I have two times the blessings of the founding ancestor, so that means my curse is two times as bad! Whether I perish or defy my fate depends on me, and nobody else."

It had been far too smooth sailing since he'd left Ignispolis, all of which was thanks to him being a decabane. He knew too well the benefits it had conferred, but now it seemed more like a curse than a blessing. It was like a poisonous venom that slowly seeped through his body, edging him toward the edge of certain death.

"I can't die, I can't lose, and I can't cower in fear!" Now it wasn't just about his survival; Ying Huo and Meow Meow's lives were riding on his life as well, not to mention the other eight unhatched primordial chaos beasts.

"There was no way I could enjoy these benefits without paying any price. This must've been destined. This is my real fight!" He gradually sharpened his resolve, without which he wouldn't be able to face off against fate itself.

"We'll see if this disaster in my body is a match for me. The Saint Realm is a point on the path to eternal life. Granny said that once I reach it, I'll have a lifespan of two hundred years. Only by constantly cultivating can I extend my lifespan, and that's assuming I can reach the Saint Realm before my body turns fifty. In other words, if I can't reach that realm within three years, it'll be over for me."

Three years from now, he would only be considered nineteen to the rest. For him to reach the Saint Realm at that age would be nothing short of a miracle! Only the most ridiculously powerful genius in the Grand-Orient Realm would be able to achieve such a feat! It went without saying that he was aware how hard that would be; he was still eighteen cultivation levels away from the Saint Realm.

"I don't have a choice. I'll be doomed if I can't reach the Saint Realm in three years." Beyond the age of fifty, while it was possible for him to retain his cultivation, there was no chance he could improve any longer. The path of cultivation was one without a way back.



His original goal was to reach the Saint Realm in ten years, based on his decabane talent, but now he only had three. Was he afraid? He looked at the five black words on his arm. They seemed more savage than before, as if they were mocking him. He closed his eyes at that moment.

"Just you wait."

It was life or death for him. There was no dawdling or surrender, only a struggle to the death. He wanted nothing else but to maintain his youth. He didn't even want to turn thirty.

"Qingyu became a Pentamoon Skybane when she overcame her Lifesbane. I wonder if anything will change when I overcome mine." Surely he would be more impressive than Qingyu, right?

"Interesting... there's finally a worthy opponent for me."

"And who might that be?" Feiling asked.

"Myself. I used to think that I was a true genius who'd clawed my way back from my fall from grace and stomped my foes. Now, I've had an epiphany. A true genius aims to overcome himself and his cruel, merciless fate. He seeks to dominate none but himself, constantly perfecting his skills. That's the true mark of a genius in the Grand-Orient Realm, and I, Li Tianming, am destined to be such a person!" he swore.

"You're making a lot of sense. I'll be with you all the way," Ying Huo said, eyes blazing.

"Does that mean I'll have even less time to sleep?" Meow Meow backed off and shuddered in fear.

"There's no sleep! You're going to die! You'll get all the sleep you want if that happens, brother!" the little chick chirped, then pecked the back of the black cat's neck.

"Brother Chicken, please stop! It's my bad!"

Tianming chuckled at the sight of them fighting. There was no point mulling over the situation.

"Big Brother, you must give it your best and survive this," Feiling said solemnly.

"But of course. I wouldn't want my beautiful wife to widow herself for life, now would I?"

"I wouldn't wanna send you off prematurely either."

In the end, there was not much else he could think of apart from confronting his fate.

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That night, Li Jingyu received good and bad news. Tianming revealed his enhanced aging as a result of Lifesbane, but said he didn't know how many years he had left.

Jingyu hurriedly tried the eighteen methods to break the curse that the ancestors had devised, but it was all to no avail. She was dumbfounded; after all, nobody actually had any experience in breaking the Lifesbane of a pentabane.

"Don't worry, Granny, I won't die. Don't you trust me?" he asked, smiling.

"I do. You have the strongest fighting spirit and willpower I've ever seen." Though she said that, her eyes were still filled with worry.

"Tianming, the Li Saint Clan has never feared Lifesbane. You must fight and never surrender. You have to endure, no matter what. One day, you'll break the curse and be reborn far stronger than before. You must go to the mausoleum often. Their wills will guide you. Feel the unrelenting spirit of the Li Saint Clan!" she said with a face full of tears.

"I know. There's still some good news, Granny, so don't be too agitated." Tianming pulled Qingyu closer. Perhaps Jingyu would calm down after hearing something pleasant.

Yet the moment she saw the Pentamoon Skybane, she shrieked, then fainted altogether. That night, she woke up and kept repeating, "The ancestors be praised!"

Qingyu had just awakened to her true talent. She would definitely be far more impressive in the days to come.

After Tianming finished stabilizing his cultivation, he decided to head to the Abyssal Battlefield. There was definitely a way into it from within the sect itself.

He now felt that Ying Huo and Meow Meow were too weak with only seven stars. Since Feiling had an impressive talent for finding manna, he would put it to good use. So, they would head into the Abyssal Battlefield on the flipside of the sect. They didn't have much wealth, so he had no choice but to try his luck there to raise his lifebound beasts' levels.

He trusted Feiling wouldn't disappoint him.

### **Chapter 223 - Li Qingyu the Moonlight Lady**

Meanwhile, at the Yuwen household on Fengtian Mountain, fog blanketed a large waterway, obscuring everything in it.

All of a sudden, a giant beast's roar could be heard shaking the surroundings and causing half the lifebound beasts on the mountain to shudder in fear. The terrifying roaring lasted for a few days without stopping.

Up on a cliff in the clouds stood a young man in black. His black hair and robe gently swayed in the air, making him seem like a deity descended from the heavens. There was a slight sheen on his skin and thousands of sparkles coming from his eyes.

He was so handsome his angular features almost seemed sculpted. Though his outer appearance seemed a little normal on first glance, the glow that emanated from his eyes was shockingly charming. His fluttering hair and sharp eyebrows might cause someone who wasn't on their guard to freeze in their tracks. His tall nose and thick, luscious red lips formed an enchanting smile as he looked down into the distance.

He was waiting for someone. At that moment, a bear-like person two meters in height walked up to him from behind.

The youth turned around and nodded, smiling. "Third Uncle."

"How's it going?" the bald man asked, standing nervously at the edge of the cliff and looking down.

"Grandfather and Father are busy, but I believe it's almost done," he said.

"Congratulations! You're the first ever prime disciple to have a fourth-order saint beast before the age of twenty!" the bald man passionately said.

The young man merely laughed. "What about Shengcheng? He said he wanted to see my fourth-order saint beast. Why isn't he here?"

"He got pissed off at the Imperial Ninefold Gates and left for the Abyssal Battlefield with his group of beauties."

"The Abyssal Battlefield is chaotic... who knows what kind of dirty antics he's up to over there with those beauties."

The bald man merely chuckled.

"How did he get angered?" the young man asked.

Yuwen Kaitai recounted the events of that day to him, but got little response from the youth. "Oh? I was expecting more of a reaction from you. That's a pentabane, you know," he said.

"Oh." He merely looked toward the mountains.

"Third Uncle, my enemy is an elysian child. From now on, I won't concern myself too much with those in the Grand-Orient Sect. Let Shengcheng handle trivial matters like this himself. He needs to experience hardship."

The bald man looked into the eyes of the young man. He knew that the kid he had watched grow up was now beyond them. There was nobody else in the sect that piqued his interest.

"Shengcheng is getting older now, so he does need some training and hardship. Big Brother already prepared a manna that can let his lifebound beast evolve into a second-order saint beast. In a few years, the sect will count on him. As for you... your battlefield is now the whole of the Grand-Orient Realm!"

The youth kept silent, letting the strong winds ruffle his robes.

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There was no endless hole into the Abyssal Battlefield in Fatepath Peak. Usually, when Qingyu wanted to go there, she would head to Azure Immortal Mountain. As the battlefield was watched over by the Grand-Orient guardians, the disciples could only enter it through the bottomless hole at Azure Immortal Mountain.

It didn't take long for the three of them to reach the foot of the mountain where the hole was.

"With the Grand-Orient Mountains in the Abyssal Battlefield at the center, there's four domains stretching north, south, east, and west, respectively. They're the Grandpeace Domain, Skyhang Domain, Bladeriver Domain, and the Desolate Domain," Qingyu briefed.

"Where is manna most likely to show up?" Tianming asked.

"Grandpeace, perhaps. There's many wildbeasts and treasures there. But normal disciples wouldn't dare head that way. I've only been there with a dozen other members of the Wuyou Faction."

"Let's go to Grandpeace then."

Apart from manna, Tianming wanted to try his luck and see if he could hunt and kill a few wildbeasts to gain some spiritsource abilities for Ying Huo and Meow Meow. Even though the souls of wildbeasts couldn't unlock their bloodline abilities, he would still try his luck.

Now that Qingyu and he had just broken through, they would be roughly equally powerful with Feiling out of the equation. Currently, the siblings had no other goal than to cultivate and grow even stronger.

They had arrived at Azure Immortal Mountain and saw the bottomless hole. There were a few buildings from the sect nearby that were used as outposts of the sect to react to emergency situations.

"The wildbeasts in the Abyssal Battlefield are far stronger than you can imagine. A few waves of beasts had once broken through the Hall of Hunters' defenses and even came through the bottomless hole to the Flameyellow Continent. They caused quite a lot of damage to our sect, especially during the past hundred years when the beasts numbered even more. There are two ways disciples of the sect can be rewarded. The first is to fulfill missions given by the sect, which requires going on an assignment outside the sect and being rewarded with merit points that can be exchanged for cultivation resources, such as spirit ores, herbs, hazards, bestial weapons, and battle arts.

"The second method is to kill wildbeasts at the Abyssal Battlefield and trade trophies from the beasts' carcasses as proof for merit points. On the sacred mountain is the Orient Hall where they inspect the trophies. You can trade the trophies for spirit gems there. You can spend the spirit gems for cultivation resources at the Grand Hall; they sell things much cheaper than other places there, but only inner disciples of the sect may use it. Outer disciples aren't afforded that luxury."

Tianming got to know much about the Grand-Orient Sect, thanks to her explanation. Basically, disciples of the sect had to serve it for more avenues of progress in their cultivation, whether it be fulfilling direct missions or hunting wildbeasts. It was a win-win for the sect and the disciples.

Had it not been for the fact that he had access to Li Shenxiao's tombstone, he would have to use these methods to obtain cultivation resources. At the very least, he still didn't have a unity-ranked battle art of his own, so he decided he would try earning one. Not to mention, the sect missions and hunts could also help him improve.

Even though he was the junior sect master, he was really poor and had nothing else apart from his two weapons. As for Jingyu's assets, she had spent much of it to nurture Qingyu without leaving much for Tianming. Li Wudi, on the other hand, had nothing but alcohol. Tianming was prepared to sustain his new household through honest work, if he had to.

Right as he and Qingyu were about to step into the hole, a group of people emerged from it. Immediately, Tianming set eyes on Ye Ziyi, who hadn't had anything good to say about him during Ye Shaoqing's lecture two days ago. Apart from her, Li Linghe and some ten other young girls were also there. Tianming even spotted Li Chiling and Li Chenlei.

They were all disciples of Azure Immortal Mountain. Ye Ziyi, as Elder Ye's granddaughter, was the leader of the group. She recalled that she had vowed to make him pay, and now was her chance.

"Don't think you can run," she said as her minions surrounded Tianming and Qingyu.

"Why would you go to such lengths?" Tianming hadn't done much to her, yet she was so hostile toward him.

"What do you mean 'why'? You offended me last time. Now that my uncle isn't here, you're cowering away? Well, if you want to back down, kowtow to me and I'll let you go," she said.

"That's right!" Li Linghe cheered.

"We don't owe each other anything, nor do we have grudges. Why bother going so far?" Tianming really didn't know what those feisty young kids were thinking about.

"It's nothing much. I just want to see if a so-called pentabane like you is really a genius, or if you're just roadside trash." It seemed she still hadn't heard about Tianming breaking through at the ninth gate, something that had even shocked Yuwen Shengcheng.

"Ye Ziyi, don't go overboard. We have never wronged you," Qingyu spat. It was one thing for her to go after Qingyu, but it made no sense for her to demand that Tianming prostrate himself to her.

"Never wronged me? Li Qingyu, I simply want to mess with you. Unhappy? Then do something about it. Let's see if you'll still be my second uncle's disciple. What's with all the hype about the Li Saint Clan's Apex Branch? You guys are laughingstocks, just like the junior sect master."

Tianming sighed at the ridiculousness of the situation. Like Yuwen Shengcheng, Ye Ziyi was at fifth-level Unity. She had suppressed Qingyu back then, thanks to her one level advantage, and Li Chenlei and Li Chiling obediently followed her around. Nothing she did really escalated as Qingyu quietly endured their torment over the years. After all, her grandmother had told her that they had to count on Elder Ye, so risking his support by offending his granddaughter wasn't something she could afford.

Yet that had merely exacerbated the bullying over the course of the years. Tianming could tell that Qingyu held lots of pent-up resentment. Just because she was from the Apex Branch and didn't suck up to Ye Ziyi, she was targeted. Even the most saintly person had a temper.

"Well, do you want to give it a try?" Tianming asked Qingyu.

"I've never defeated her before," she said with her head down. Ye Ziyi had been taught by the elder since childhood, not to mention the tons of resources she easily got. She was also a few months Qingyu's senior.

"It might be different this time." Tianming smirked. After all, the two girls were now at the same level, and Qingyu had even awakened her latent potential. She was no longer the bullied girl she was before. More importantly, Tianming grabbed her hand and transferred Feiling to her. Even with a synchronization rate of only sixty percent, it was enough to greatly boost Qingyu's abilities.

"Qingyu, beat her up! Vent all your resentment that piled up over fifteen years!"

"But, she's Elder Ye's granddaughter," she said with grit teeth. She was really frustrated. This had been troubling her for years; most of the trauma she had suffered was thanks to Ye Ziyi's minions.

"Don't worry. Since she made you cry so many times, you're only returning the favor once. It's not like you have to really hurt her anyway."

Tianming trusted Elder Ye to not be an unreasonable person, or he wouldn't have bothered helping the Li Saint Clan in the first place.

"We always have to overcome our fears. Only then can we go on living. Teach her a lesson and make sure she turns the other way when she sees you in the future."

"Got it, Big Brother!" Qingyu's eyes began burning passionately.

There were some kids who went too far before they matured and took advantage of their seniority or family background to bully others, relishing in the suffering of their victims. This time around, Qingyu wanted to make her cry just this once.

#### **Chapter 224 - Moonlight Mirror, Ten-Mile Moonbreeze**

"You?" Seeing the girl she had bullied all her life shielding Tianming behind her, Ye Ziyi laughed so hard she clutched her stomach. Li Chiling, Li Chenlei and Li Linghe couldn't help but laugh, too.

"Li Qingyu, go home. I'll teach your big brother to respect me today and make sure he bows to me whenever he sees me at Azure Immortal Mountain in the future. A loser like you should just back off," she spat.

But in the next instant, a grade-six bestial weapon appeared in Qingyu's hands—the Fullmoon Blade. It was the first time Tianming had seen that long and thin blade. It was so thin it resembled a cicada's wings, and its length and slender look made it appear slightly curved.

Blades were generally considered to be savage weapons with lots of variation in size. Large blades with long handles could even be used to fell horses. Thick, palm-wide heavy blades with chain links on the back of the blade would cause excessive bleeding. Fine blades, on the other hand, were usually around two fingers wide and had really sharp points. Fullmoon Blade definitely belonged in the last category; it was even thinner than Tianming's Grand Thunderflare Sword.

Apart from that, Qingyu also had mastery over another kind of weapon. Tianming noticed three bright silver throwing knives between the fingers of her left hand, being no longer than ten centimeters and shaped like crescent moons. They were also grade-six bestial weapons, called Crescent Spinblades.

With both weapons in hand, Qingyu approached Ye Ziyi while she continued the mocking. All of a sudden, she sent her Crescent Spinblades flying toward her foe. With her fifth level Unity cultivation and Feiling's Temporal Field and Spiritual Attachment, the blades flew at a shocking speed.

Ye Ziyi's smile suddenly froze, then her embarrassment turned to anger. How could she allow someone she had bullied for more than ten years to take the initiative and attack her? Not to mention, she was furious that all she could do to avoid the blades was roll and tumble on the ground away from it in an uncouth manner.

"Li Qingyu, I'll make sure to strip you naked here today, so you won't be able to show your face in public anymore!" she spat with venom.

Right as the rest were dodging out of the way, Ye Ziyi's lifebound beast, a Purplewing Batdrake, jumped out of her lifebound space. It was a top-tier eight-star lifebound beast, being only a step away from being a saint beast. It sported a draconic head, body, talons, teeth, and horn. It was even closer to a true dragon than the Blizzard Dragon was, and it had two large bat wings.

However, since coming to the Grand-Orient Sect, Tianming had learned that real divine dragons were considered saint beasts. As such, this Purplewing Batdrake wasn't considered a true dragon by the sect's standards; the same would go for a Blizzard Dragon. Incidentally, the Ink Qilin wasn't considered a true qilin saint beast either. At the end of the day, it was just a matter of categorization; it didn't change the fact that the Purplewing Batdrake was still powerful. Ye Ziyi charged toward Qingyu with her Purple Drake Wingsword.

"I didn't think you'd dare to challenge me just because you got yourself an elder brother. If I don't teach you a lesson here, nobody in Azure Immortal Mountain will know who's boss!" Being a fifth-level Unity beastmaster, she manifested the Purplecloud Field with her lifebound beast. Right after its deployment, the field enveloped Qingyu and caused the temperature within to fall.

Qingyu didn't respond at all. Her three Crescent Spinblades had returned to her, and with her Moonlight Field protecting her, she was safe from the effects of Purplecloud Field. When she waved, her Pentamoon Skybane Grandwhite Kunpeng suddenly charged out.

The spectators backed off quite a bit in fear of being hurt from the attacks. It wasn't just a fight between two girls; their lifebound beasts had joined in as well.

Ye Ziyi, with her lifebound beast, executed the Splitsea Ninefold Sword Art, causing nine sword strikes to sweep through the forest. The Purplewing Batdrake struck out with nine claw strikes in tandem with Ye Ziyi and their unity field further amplified the attack by gathering spiritual energy from the surroundings. Each strike was unleashed without mercy.

"Shuo Yue, Moonlight Mirror," Qingyu called out softly. The white roc beside her immediately turned into a large white fish that caused waves to manifest and gather and form a mirror, within which a round moon hung. This spirit-source ability was a fusion of the moon and ice attributes! Qingyu, with her fine blade in hand, executed Brightmoon Slaughter. Even though she was a girl, she'd been mastering methods of slaughter in recent years.

Though the day was still bright, her moonlight shone bright with no equal. Ever since becoming a Pentamoon Skybane, she was completely different. To her, the spirit-source ability of the Purplewing Batdrake was more of a threat than Ye Ziyi's own attack. It had used Purplewing Twister, causing a purple-colored tornado to form that could even uproot trees. It then breathed frost, shooting out a purple beam that froze everything.

"Shou Yue!" At the prompt, the Grandwhite Kunpeng morphed into its avian form and executed its spirit-source ability, Ten-mile Moonbreeze, an ability that utilized both the moon and wind attributes! When the wind swept past, it managed to suppress the purple beam attack.

It was now Qingyu's turn to counterattack.

"Ye Ziyi, those who shun shall in turn be shunned. I thank your seniors for taking care of my clan, but that isn't an excuse for you to bully me. I hope you'll show me some respect from now on." Today, Qingyu had finally overcome some of her traumatic experiences.

She traced Fullmoon Blade in a beautiful arc while masterfully causing all three of her Crescent Spinblades to orbit her, grabbing Ye Ziyi's attention. The spinning blades were far too quick, much quicker than before. There was no way Ye Ziyi was aware that it was thanks to the Temporal Field's effects. Right as she was about to strike, she rammed into a wall, stunned and ignorant of Feiling's Spatial Wall ability.

"Qingyu, go!"

Though Qingyu only had a synchronization rate of sixty percent with Feiling, Spiritual Attachment was still a huge help to her in suppressing her opponent. The odds could help even a normal person dominate a genius on that level.

Tianming was all too aware of how impressive Feiling's abilities were. Without her, he would at most be able to take on someone at fourth-level Unity.

Qingyu now was somewhat familiar with Temporal Field, Spiritual Attachment and Spatial Wall. Had she been well versed with Celestial Wings, she would be even more terrifying in battle.

The Crescent Spinblades, sped up by Temporal Field, flashed past Ye Ziyi and embedded themselves in the abdomen of the Purplewing Batdrake, opening three bloody cuts. Right after that, the Fullmoon Blade came slashing toward her. Each of its eighteen consecutive strikes caused Ye Ziyi to back off haggardly, with the last one removing a lock of her hair and making a cut on her face.

"I could've cut your head off just now," Qingyu said. At that moment, her agile blade was pressed flat against Ye Ziyi's neck, ready to cut through at any moment. By then, Ye Ziyi's sword had been sent flying and plunged into the ground, still vibrating from the force and she was slumped on the ground.

The Purplewing Batdrake was hit by the spinning blades and held down by the Grandwhite Kunpeng, completely unable to do anything but struggle and groan.

Ye Ziyi had unquestionably and unilaterally lost!

It was over before she even managed to land a hit on Qingyu, yet the Apex Branch scion didn't so much as hurt her, much less kill her. Had it been Tianming, he would have given her a slap at least. Girls were gentler, at the end of the day. She had only wanted to vent her frustration and prove herself.

Ye Ziyi wanted to stand back up and try something else, but the blade pressed against her neck prevented her from doing so. Instead, she grit her teeth and shot an ugly glance at Qingyu while all her minions stared blankly on.

Back then, Ye Ziyi had completely dominated her. Something like that was without precedent. Li Chiling, Li Chenlei, and Li Linghe were equally stumped, as Qingyu's abilities were merely on par with Li Chiling back then. The cold young girl wielding her Fullmoon Blade seemed like a completely different person.



They felt their face tingle with fear. Why was Qingyu growing more to be like Tianming? That kind of devotion and ruthlessness wasn't unlike what Tianming had shown them when he dominated them. Ye Ziyi, grimace though she may, couldn't do anything about the current situation.

"You're not my match anymore. From now on, you've lost all qualifications to be my opponent," Qingyu said, reciting what Tianming had taught her. Now that she was a Pentamoon Skybane from the Apex Branch, she should carry herself with courage and confidence.

If she couldn't even overcome someone like Ye Ziyi, there was no way revenge would be within her grasp, not to mention the revival of the Li Saint Clan. When Qingyu withdrew her blade, Ye Ziyi was still stunned, angry, frustrated, and down. She had been completely humiliated from the loss in front of her clique; this was sure to leave a huge taint in her psyche.

"How is this possible? How could I have lost to her? Grandpa has guided me since I was a child.... I got anything I wanted! How could someone like her, from the dirt-poor Li Saint Clan defeat me? She even has to hunt wildbeasts herself for spiritsource abilities!"

Tears flowed from her eyes amidst the chaotic torrent of feelings she was struggling to process. Tianming and Qingyu were headed to the Abyssal Battlefield, and Li Linghe and the rest made way for them. Who would dare obstruct these siblings now?

"Li Qingyu!" Ye Ziyi called out when they were at the entrance of the bottomless hole.

"I heard you're going to marry Li Jincan! Congratulations!" Perhaps that was the only retort she could think of to relieve the frustration of her loss.

### **Chapter 225 The Little Chick's Third Ability!**

Transported through the Bottomless Pit, the siblings arrived at the Abyssal Battlefield. Thunder boomed as countless lightning bolts snaked in the sky above. Dark clouds hung overhead, creating a depressing atmosphere.

The Abyssal Battlefield was the reverse side of the Flameyellow continent, and had violent spiritual energy in the Grand-Orient Mountains on this end. Only wildbeasts that had existed here for many years could absorb the berserk spiritual energy.

Such rich spiritual energy of heaven and earth gave birth to extremely ferocious wildbeasts, as well as spirit ores and herbs with superior heavenly patterns.

The Grand-Orient Sect was located in the south of Grand-Orient Mountains. In fact, it was closer to Vermillion Bird than Heaven's Elysium. Surrounding the towering Grand-Orient Mountains were thousands of miles of barren hills. As such, looking out from the Abyssal Battlefield, the mountains seemed like dark giants overlooking the earth, looming into the sky as far as the eye can see.

Such a world was obviously suited for these wildbeasts.

Tianming and Qingyu walked out of the Hall of Hunters built on Azure Immortal Mountain.

Every Bottomless Pit was built with a Hall of Hunters, with Grand-Orient guardians defending against wildbeasts that might cross the Bottomless Pit into the sect. Several Grand-Orient guardians of the Hall of Hunters were stationed here, while others intensively patrolled the four major domains.

They didn't interfere in disputes between disciples, or in field cultivation. However, in the case of formidable wildbeasts, they would deal with them. Rumor had it that a quarter of the Grand-Orient guardians were stationed in the Abyssal Battlefield. At their cultivation levels, adapting to the spiritual energy of the Abyssal Battlefield posed less of a challenge.

The four major domains were the Bladeriver Domain, Skyhang Domain, Desolate Domain, and Grandpeace Domain—all located in the vicinity of the Grand-Orient Sect. Since the borders were guarded by the Grand-Orient guardians, the four major domains were relatively safe and suitable for cultivation.

But across from those four domains, the world contained horrors and terrifying beast tides that no ordinary disciple could imagine. All disciples in the sect, even the prime disciple, had been warned against crossing the boundaries of the four major domains. Otherwise, their lives would be at stake. The secrets of the Abyssal Battlefield were mysteries incomprehensible to mere mortals.

"Qingyu, can I have your sister-in-law back?" said Tianming as soon as they had left the Hall of Hunters and entered the forests of Grandpeace Domain.

"Ling'er hasn't said anything about being my sister-in-law. You're clearly taking advantage of her," Qingyu retorted.

Feiling left Qingyu's body and returned to Tianming's side. Her spirit converged before him, the extraordinary light orbs a sight to behold. Only Tianming could be permanently attached to her spirit.

"Big Brother, we were just talking about Qingyu's birthday. What should we do about her engagement?" fretted Feiling.

Upon further contemplation, Tianming said, "Don't worry, Qingyu. They can't take you away."

"Do you have a solution?" asked Qingyu.

"Not yet, but I'm determined," he replied. Although his words sounded like mindless bragging, the girls knew Tianming's determination was worth more than a solution.

"Big Brother, my mindset has changed recently. I can't thank you enough. You've made me like you, fearless and unyielding. So I'm not afraid of this engagement. Worse comes to worst, I'll fight, even if it means losing my life," she declared.

"I'm glad you think of it that way." Tianming nodded. "There's only one way to solve everything in this world, and that's power!"

That was Tianming's principle. Instead of racking his brains, he might as well gain so much power that no one can control him, until all living beings had to crawl before him.

"Ling'er, you're up next," said Tianming. What he required now was profound manna. The Li Saint Clan were penniless, and manna from the Grand Hall was exorbitantly expensive. His only option was to try his luck in the Abyssal Battlefield. However, with Feiling by his side, Tianming wasn't taking an unpredictable gamble.

"Sure thing!"

Thus, the three of them formally entered the Grandpeace Domain, wandering among the mountains. Upon hearing their goal, the little chick excitedly sped up.

The other two lifebound beasts, Meow Meow and Shuo Yue, were resting in their lifebound spaces. Shuo Yue's cold, aloof character formed a sharp contrast with Ying Huo.

"Sister Qingyu, what's Yueyue's favorite food? Earthworms? What about fish? What?! She's a fish? But isn't she a kun? Oh, kun are also fish." The noisy little chicken hung on Qingyu's shoulder and rambled on, drawing a wide grin from the girl. For a moment, thoughts about her engagement had completely faded.

They soon came upon a wildbeast!

There were numerous wildbeasts in the Grandpeace Domain, all six-star and below; those above six stars had all been intercepted by the Grand-Orient guardians. Even so, six-star wildbeasts were rare compared to five-star beasts.

During the Abyssal Trials, the wildbeasts living within the Lake Of Islands were four star, and the only five-star wildbeast was still a larva. Right now, mature fifth-star wildbeasts ran amok in the forests of the Grandpeace Domain.

In the Abyssal Battlefield, roars of wildbeasts pierced the air. Then came the sound of their galloping footsteps.

Tianming personally witnessed dozens of five-star Miasma Wolves running across the canyon, tearing an elephant wildbeast to pieces and devouring it.

Aside from manna, Tianming wanted to find suitable beast souls for both Ying Huo and Meow Meow. At the sight of a fire- or lightning-type wildbeast, Tianming would commence battle as long as its strength was within a tolerable range. With the help of Qingyu, whose strength matched his own, slaying five-star wildbeasts was a breeze.

But after slaughtering more than twenty wildbeasts, Tianming realized stumbling upon the Jade-Scale Flaming Eagle had been pure luck. It would be a challenge for the little chick to break its bloodline fetters and awaken its abilities with these beast souls.

As for Meow Meow, with the threat of the Lifesbane, it vowed to mend its ways, buckle down, practice hard, and never sleep again. And after taking that oath, it had been asleep until now.... Sure enough, the lazy were unafraid of death.

The three of them shared life and death, and Tianming knew that time was running out. Therefore, as the beastmaster, the task of survival fell to him. He was searching for manna in hopes of allowing Ying Huo and Meow Meow to break their bloodline fetters so they could live longer.

They trekked along the foot of a volcano. The surface was burning hot, with magma coursing under the cracks. Right then, Tianming noticed a five-star wildbeast within the magma!

The wildbeast rolling in the magma was covered in scarlet spikes—a flame hedgehog.

But this was no ordinary hedgehog; it was called the Magma Inferno Demon, and fed on magma and possessed strong vitality, as well as lethality. With its ability, Infernostorm, countless blazing steel-like needles would be projected from its body, resembling a dense rain of fire.

Thus, Tianming decided to take it down with the aid of Feiling and the little chick. Meanwhile, Qingyu stood guard a short distance away. To seize the beast soul, the beastmaster must engage in solitary battle. Otherwise, the defeated beast would be unwilling, and its soul impossible to conquer.

For the first time, Tianming used the Infernal field, since most of the Magma Inferno Demon's attacks were fire-type. For those immune to fire, their lethality was limited, at best.

After exchanging several blows, Tianming successfully slew the wildbeast and handed it to the little chick. In one gulp, the little chick swallowed the beast soul, then returned to the lifebound space and began refining it.

Tianming and the girls quickly left the area. A battle had just transpired; who knew if the wildbeast had other companions?

"Big Brother, your lifebound beast isn't one-star, is it? Why does it only possess one humongous nexus that's almost eight times as large as an ordinary nexus?" wondered Qingyu.

"Is that strange?" said Tianming.

"Not really. It's probably a variation of the nexus, and occasionally happens to others. When two nexuses are close to each other, they form one large nexus. However, that kind of integration rarely occurs," explained Qingyu.

"Well, as long as it's not out of the ordinary."

"Don't worry about that. On the path of cultivation, there's plenty of things that develop that are out of the ordinary. Integration of the nexus isn't a big deal, as long as you have power."

As the words fell from Qingyu's lips, the little chick in Tianming's lifebound space exclaimed, "Tianming, it worked! The fetters of the bloodline have been broken. I'll gain a new ability soon!" The little chick's desire for power was comparable to Tianming's. Like a freak, it practiced sword techniques using its wings everyday.

"A new ability?" Tianming expressed anticipation. After all, the little chick's Infernal Blaze and Infernal Armor were mighty. Even the Magma Inferno Demon's Infernostorm had failed to penetrate the chick's Infernal Armor.

On the little chick's Infernalsource was a blazing phoenix and fireball! At this moment, as the bloodlines come together, infinite power centered on a tiny point—a new ability was born!

It was an orb made up of innumerable blazing feathers, and despite its similar shape to the Infernal Armor, the brilliance of the blazing feathers showed a contrasting difference.

"Tianming, take a good look." The little chick rushed out of the lifebound space, with a brand-new ability that incited eagerness.

How powerful was the Aeternal Infernal Phoenix's new ability?

The little chick flew into the sky and its tiny body suddenly burst into hot flames. In the blink of an eye, the feathers on its body had all burned up and turned into fur.

Its fur then turned into steel needles, each of them razor-sharp and fiery!

### **Chapter 226 Beauties From The Wuyou Faction**

All of a sudden, all the steel needle fur detached from Ying Huo's body, turning into blazing feathers as they fell toward the ground, creating a fiery downpour! Holes instantly appeared all over a huge rock—a demonstration of its power. These blazing feathers surpassed the Infernostorm.

Tianming looked up, throwing his head back in laughter, "You hairless chick, haha!"

Feiling and Qingyu broke out in laughter as well. Because after exerting its ability, the little chick's feathers had all fallen off, leaving it stripped naked.

How embarrassing!

"Shut up!"

The little chick became angry from embarrassment and the flame on his feathers grew three meters. Just then, the little chick recovered its blazing feathers, instantly turning from a naked chick into a hairy one.

Its ability could be recollected and released, which posed a more formidable threat than the Magma Inferno Demon.

"Take a good look at my glorious feathers!" roared the little chick as it descended to the ground. Losing its feathers had it seething with anger.

"Hahaha...." Tianming couldn't stop laughing. "Shall we call this ability 'One Strike Featherless'?"

"Oh, fuck off! I'm going to call it 'Skyscorch Featherblast'! You have no idea how terrifying this ability will be in the future, you frog in a well!" The little chick gnashed its teeth.

"Oh, how terrifying! Ying Huo, I'll never provoke you again. I'm afraid you'll hit me with One Strike Featherless!"

"Tianming, I can see that you're jealous of my looks, hence the mocking. Don't you know, doing so before the girls only degrades yourself!"

As Qingyu watched their back-and-forth, she laughed like she had never laughed before. This brother of hers was truly unique. It was her first time witnessing such shenanigans between beastmaster and lifebound beast.

"Ling'er, tell me. Who's better looking, Ying Huo or me?" asked Tianming.

"Meow Meow is the best," Feiling answered without the slightest hesitation.

"Very well. Ying Huo, we shall feast on cat balls tonight," declared Tianming.

"You're cruel, but I like it. Shall we add pickled vegetables?" Ying Huo grinned.

In the lifebound space, the little black cat shivered, quickly shielding its balls.

After the brief interlude, they set out once more.

"Big Brother!" About half the day had gone by when Feiling finally discovered something. She had previously discovered royal manna, but it was of little use.

In the Grand-Orient Sect, royal manna was a dime a dozen and worth little, certainly not as precious as it was in Vermillion Bird. Here, there were eight-star lifebound beasts everywhere, and the most basic of them was still better than the profound manna of the draconic water obelisk.

In truth, with Yue Lingji's talent, she could only join the Grand-Orient Sect as an outer disciple. The same was true of Lin Xiaoting.

The Saintbeast War-Soul couldn't conceal how much of a loser he was to have cultivated to Unity at the age of twenty. All it proved was how important it was to surpass oneself and battle in the vast and glorious world. Otherwise, even a loser like Lin Xiaoting would be taken for a genius. Vision was the key factor for a cultivator's growth!

Thus, only profound manna could tempt Tianming.

"What have you found?"

"I'm not sure. It's this way." Feiling was exploring the grounds in her soul state.

"We're in the northern section, so if we continue on, we're likely to wander out of Grandpeace Domain," said Tianming.

"Don't worry. When we get to the border, there'll be a warning from the sect," assured Qingyu.

"Alright then, let's go!"

Although there were three of them, to outsiders, it was a young woman and a man with a little chick on his shoulder. Tianming and Qingyu hastened in the direction Feiling was guiding them toward.

"The feeling is growing stronger. Looks like there's more than one manna," said Feiling.

Grandpeace Domain covered a large area, though many sections were inaccessible. At their speed, it had taken them several hours to reach the distant regions outside Grand-Orient Sect.

The closer they were, the stronger the sensation grew.

"We're almost there!"

Once they reached the other side of the mountain, an abyssal stream appeared before them. Fog curled up within the stream and beasts ran rampant. Legend had it that manna was scattered all over the world by God himself; hence, it was impossible to predict what sort of manna one might suddenly discover.

Some would emerge on land, while others appeared out of thin air, as if tearing through space. The appearance of profound manna might even create phenomena, such as the draconic water obelisk. There were too many mysteries shrouding manna, which even the strong failed to comprehend.

Tianming finally caught sight of it. Within the black fog, a five-colored mist stirred above the ground.

"It's a manna phenomenon—ascension of the five energies!" exclaimed Feiling and

Qingyu. Tianming had never imagined Feiling to be so well-informed that she could recognize manna phenomena.

"The ascension of the five energies is probably a phenomenon caused by the convergence of five profound manna in the same place, repelling and affecting one another. Among the five energies are flame, thunder, wind, earth, and ice water. There may be five profound manna present at the same time! This location is rather isolated, since the border is up ahead. It's amazing how you can sense the presence of manna from such a distance."

The two jumped into the abyssal stream. As Tianming plunged down, he opened the Bewildering Eye on his left hand. Even though darkness pervaded, he could still see clearly.

They sped toward the light. In the depths of a muddy lake were five different manna, laying side by side. From the phenomenon, they were obviously profound manna!

Perhaps due to their recent emergence, no wildbeast or imperial beast had yet arrived. However, now that there was a phenomenon, people would be drawn over.

Tianming smiled. Of the five manna, there were three he didn't need. He currently required the fire and thunder-type manna, while the rest were extra profit.

"These five are high-tier profound manna which can propel your lifebound beasts to the same level as Shuo Yue," explained Qingyu.

Before setting foot in the Grand-Orient Sect, Tianming hadn't been aware that imperial and profound manna were divided into high, mid, and low tiers. Low-tier profound manna could allow a lifebound beast to evolve into a low-tier eight-star lifebound beast, such as Lin Xiaoting's Four-Eyed Divine Lightning Eagle. On the other hand, mid-tier profound manna would evolve a lifebeast to mid-tier eight-star, like Mu Yang's Ink Qilin.

Here, the five manna were all high-tier profound manna, worth several times as much as mid-tier profound manna. Even the draconic water obelisk was merely a low-tier profound manna. The Fire Dragon's Horn and three-pronged electrospike obtained by the little chick and the black cat were low-tier royal manna.

Although they didn't require manna to evolve, such high-tier manna would help them break through their bloodline fetters. Below terrestrial manna, this was the best manna that could evolve a lifebeast into a saint beast.

"I know this. The fire-type manna is called the imperial wing, while the thunder-type is known as the electric fang," said Feiling.

"What kind of evolution will they result in?"

"It varies with the lifebeast, but the former involves the evolution of wings, while the latter involves the evolution of teeth."

Wings? That was perfect for the little chick! And electric fang was suitable for Meow Meow, who preferred hand-to-hand combat!

"Big Brother, we have company. Hurry up," urged Qingyu.

For most of the Grand-Orient Sect disciples, high-tier profound manna were treasures! Although many disciples with low and mid-tier eight-star lifebound beasts had received profound manna, they needed high-tier manna to further evolve their lifebound beasts.

Despite only having a use for two of the five manna, the other three were still valuable. Tianming could exchange them for decent cultivation techniques and battle arts, or even bestial weapons and spirit ores.

Without another word, Tianming pulled out Archfiend from his spatial ring and threw it into the lake, hooking all five profound manna and, with a yank, they came flying toward him.

As the saying goes, riches should never be exposed. Thus, Tianming placed the manna in his spatial ring.

"Give it to me now!" shouted an impatient Ying Huo, his mouth watering!

"Wait till we get back. If we bump into anyone, I'll have to fight alone!" laughed Tianming.

When they had obtained the Fire Dragon's Horn and immediately refined it, Tianming was forced into a bitter battle with Ji Changyan.

There were people approaching!

God knew if the approaching people had discovered how precious these manna were. For most disciples of the Grand-Orient Sect, high-tier profound manna was the best they could obtain before their lifebound beasts evolved into saint beasts.

For example, Yuwen Shengcheng hoped to evolve his high-tier eight-star lifebound beast into a saint beast. However, lifebound beasts that weren't born as saint beasts required a certain capacity for evolution. Thus, the safer option would be to wait for the lifebound beast to mature and evolve on its own, first. After all, terrestrial manna was precious!

Just as Tianming had expected, trouble arrived.

In a moment, a group of people descended from above, landing in front of Tianming.

"Are these all women?" Tianming stared blankly for a moment.

More than a dozen beautiful, well-dressed young women appeared, graceful and charming. None of them looked ordinary; some were adorable and playful, some were enchanting, and others were cold and elegant.

Surrounded by such beauty, Tianming almost wondered if he had entered the emperor's harem. He was immediately reminded of the Wuyou Faction.

Since the faction was led by prime disciple Su Wuyou, its members were all women. But why did he seem to spot someone special among the women in front of him?

**Chapter 227 - Skyscorch Featherblast, Boundless Sword Ki**



Tianming found this group of people to be rather familiar; they were none other than Su Li, Su Tao, Gonsun Yu, and Feng Chiyu, as well as a few others who had been by Yuwen Shengcheng's side. However, Tianming spotted a unique woman in white in the middle of the group.

"Darn it." He finally saw what stood out about the one that seemed like a young woman in man's clothes—it was actually Yuwen Shengcheng himself. Tianming had thought him to be a woman, thanks to him mingling among them. Then again, his pretty looks, fair skin, and the traces of lip makeup on his face would make most think he was a woman unless they scrutinized him closely. He truly blended in well with the rest.

It seemed like he had encountered someone troublesome again. Back at the Imperial Ninefold Gates, Yuwen Shengcheng had been beaten up by Tianming. His face still stung from the fight and he had gone through lots of trouble to get the swelling to stop.

"Hah! To think that you showed up in front of me without me having to look for you!" he said, squeezing himself through the beauties and gawking at Tianming.

"Brother Shengcheng, he definitely took five top-tier manna just now. There's a water-attribute one among them. My little sister Su Tao needs one, I believe," Su Li coquettishly said.

"Brother Shengcheng, we discovered it first, yet they took it away! With so many of us here, we definitely can't let him off!" Su Tao said in an equally cutesy voice.

"That's right. We noticed it first. Who are these two? How dare they take what is ours? Don't they know who we are?" a new member of the Wuyou Faction asked.

They looked at the siblings and blocked their way with ill intentions. Yuwen Shengcheng, standing ahead of the group, said, "That's right. We discovered those manna first. My wonderful sisters, watch how I get the junior sect master to kneel and prostrate himself to me."

He was already snickering at his lucky break. He had never had an opportunity to vent until now.

"This person is the junior sect master?"

"That's right, this is him. These two are from the Li Saint Clan's Apex Branch."

"That line of descent still exists?"

"I knew he was up to no good when I saw his dyed hair. Our Shengcheng's much more handsome, especially his hair color."

"That's right. Even though Shengcheng is still young, he'll be a handsome man in two more years, no doubt. He might even look better than his elder brother."

"I'm sure he'll be the most handsome in the whole sect in a few years. He also has a different vibe from his cold elder brother. Shengcheng's handsome and lovely."

Tianming chuckled. Was the effeminate Shengcheng really the most handsome guy in the whole Grand-Orient Sect? Their beauty standards were definitely off. What was worse was that they meant what they said. They shot starstruck looks at Yuwen Shengcheng in all earnestness, much to Tianming and Qingyu's surprise.

Yuwen Shengcheng seemed pretty proud of his looks, intentionally striking a pose to draw the gazes of the beauties. Then, he squinted and grimaced at Tianming.

"Make your choice. Hand over the manna and get beaten up, or get beaten up first before handing over the manna. If you choose the former, I'll make the beating a little easier on you. You'll be able to start walking again in less than half a year." He sounded so domineering that a few girls behind him blushed and squealed.

"I choose to make you cry and ruin your makeup," Tianming said.

"Very well." Shengcheng waved for the girls behind him to back off. Turning to Qingyu and Tianming, he said, "Come at me at the same time. I'm in a rush."

"Big Brother?" Qingyu didn't feel like ganging up on Yuwen Shengcheng.

"Go play around at the sidelines."

"Okay!" she said, then darted off.

Yuwen Shengcheng's savage grudge could only be settled by fighting. Tianming knew what sort of status he held, but if he didn't fight now, neither he nor Qingyu would be able to leave, so he decided to oblige the effeminate boy. The little chick and Feiling were ready. Out of his lifebound space leapt the black cat, glaring at Yuwen Shengcheng in a rage. It let out a deep roar despite its small form.

"You really don't know what's good for you, do you? You think you can show off just because you broke through to first-level Unity?" His eyes were filled with killing intent, having offed a few people himself despite being only thirteen. He had been cultivating for ten years, since he was only three years old.

This was the first fifth-level Unity opponent Tianming would face off against.

"Careful. Even though he's young, he must be rather powerful." Otherwise, he wouldn't be a candidate for a prime disciple. Lin Xiaoting couldn't even compare to someone who was at fifth-level Unity at the age of thirteen.

Right at that moment, Yuwen Shengcheng's lifebound beast crawled out of his lifebound space. It was a gigantic, ferocious chimera with parts from a lion, tiger, panther, horse, goat, and bull. Its talons and fangs were as sharp as the most terrifying of carnivores. Calling it grotesque would be an understatement. Tianming had never expected the dainty Yuwen Shengcheng's beast to be that fierce and ugly, with its standout feature being its four beastly arms atop its four squat legs.

"Big Brother, this is a Four-armed Taotie. Taoties are top-tier lifebound beasts, and most of them are saint beasts. They are also the signature beast of the Yuwen Clan," Feiling explained.

"How do you know that?"

"I had nothing to do a while back so I read all the books Qingyu gave me," she said. She had indeed worked hard to be of help to Tianming. Since he had no time for such reading, she'd taken the initiative to become his encyclopedia.

"Four-armed Taoties are top-tier eight-star lifebound beasts. They belong to the category of dark-type terrestrial lifebound beasts."

"Dark type?" Tianming hadn't encountered any beast like that before. Now that he looked at it, the Four-armed Taotie did indeed look really sinister, contrasting greatly with the dainty Yuwen Shengcheng.

Meow Meow used its spirit-source ability to transform into a Regal Chaosfiend. Now it looked no less domineering than the taotie, not to mention looking much better. After all, it was a truly fierce beast, as opposed to the taotie, which looked more like an amalgamation of large beasts.

Out of the taotie's mouth leaked a green goo, adding to its ugliness and ferocity. There was no doubt that this lifebound beast would be even harder to fight off after evolving into a saint beast. Yuwen Shengcheng was currently wielding a bloody warblade that gave him a masculine air. The blade was broad and had nine rings secured to the back, and they would chime whenever it was swung.

The taotie bellowed, and Yuwen Shengcheng charged in for the kill. He couldn't wait to completely dominate Tianming.

"I haven't learned a unity-ranked battle art yet, so I can't use the full power of my unity field. My opponent has the advantage there. Since that's the case, I want you two to deal with the Four-armed Taotie." Compared to Tianming, who had Feiling's help, his two beasts were slightly worse off. So he had them deal with the taotie, aiming to disrupt Yuwen Shengcheng's unity field and increase Tianming's odds.

"No problem, meow!" The black cat charged in with its beastly form and unleashed its black lightning bolts all over the place.

"Meow Meow! Wait for your Big Brother Chicken!" Ying Huo said as it scampered over. The joint attack by those two was sure to be terrifying even for the taotie.

The little chick spat out Infernal Blaze to force Yuwen Shengcheng and his lifebound beast apart. Then, it manifested Infernal Armor, causing Tianming to be protected as well. Tianming wielded the Grand Thunderflare Sword in his right hand and charged into the fray.

The skies were covered in darkness where Yuwen Shengcheng was. His lifebound beast was tangled up with Tianming's own beasts, too. Even so, the taotie was rather good at close-quarters combat; the black cat with a few levels disadvantage might not be able to fully take it on. Little did it know, however, that the puny little chick was its true nightmare, while the Regal Chaosfiend was just a lazy fellow.

Tianming could immediately tell that the little chick had served up three spirit-source abilities and the Demise of Man-Earth-Heaven. With Meow Meow holding the gigantic foe back, the little chick managed to fully unleash its attacks.

With his lifebound beast occupied, Yuwen Shengcheng's unity-ranked battle art was greatly weakened, along with his unity field. Tianming, however, used a heavenly-ranked battle art!

"Die!" Yuwen Shengcheng cried when he executed his unity-ranked battle art, Demonic Rabid Slash. His fierce and crude fighting style was emblematic of the Yuwen Clan.

Tianming deployed his own unity field, causing his humongous nexus to begin sucking in a limitless amount of spiritual energy. The area within twenty meters of him burned with flames and was covered in lightning bolts, causing his white hair to flutter in the chaotic energies within the area.

The huge amount of spiritual energy gathered around the Grand Thunderflare Sword. Tianming angled his other palm toward Yuwen Shengcheng, who was charging over as he executed his battle art, intent on cleaving Tianming's head off. Tianming merely smirked.

Bewildering Eye! The illusion-type spirit veins of the third eye on his left palm eerily flashed, causing his foe's eyes to widen. He didn't understand why Tianming had suddenly turned into Qingyu, even less so that she was wielding the Grand Thunderflare Sword and executing a heavenly-ranked battle art.

Demise of Man, Spectral-Dance, Soul-Extinction!

Yuwen Shengcheng groaned as he was forced back by Tianming's overwhelming strikes. His legs softened as the ground shook from Demise of Earth, Earth-Quaker, but Yuwen Shengcheng slashed his blade downward to interrupt the strike. To think that he would be able to react that quickly despite being influenced by Bewildering Eye.

Tianming reacted even quicker and with more savagery. Demise of Earth, Hell-Shaker! As the strike landed, boundless sword ki filled the sky, causing Yuwen Shengcheng to haggardly back away, only to find that he had run into a wall.

The Spatial Wall was shattered as he retreated through it; he would have died from the slash, had he not done so, but charging through the wall left his head bleeding.

"Darknight Corrosion!" he called out to his taotie with a pale face. The Four-armed Taotie roared and sent out a black substance toward Tianming.

Tianming wouldn't give his lifebound beast a chance to help him. He saw the little chick use its new spirit-source ability, Skyscorch Featherblast, to turn the taotie into a bloody pincushion with thousands of fiery steel needles, all burning with Infernal Blaze, embedded within. More importantly, the little chick didn't retract its feathers and continued fighting without its plumage; it had Infernal Armor on, so at least it wasn't buck naked.

With Meow Meow handling the physical fighting, the little chick had too easy a time. The taotie wasn't able to touch it at all! Now it was being burned alive by the steel needles, and the longer the fight went on, the worse the burns would grow.

There was no way for the taotie to help its master when it couldn't even help itself.

However, even if Yuwen Shengcheng had had Darkness Corrosion, he wouldn't be able to block Demise of Heaven, Divine-Fury. That strike conjured the rage of the heavens and condensed it into a thrust, sending Yuwen Shengcheng smash back into a large boulder and forcing him to spit out a mouthful of blood.

Next came Heavenly-Judgement. A loud bang was heard when the Nine-ring Bloodblade was sent flying. That strike came down on Yuwen Shengcheng like a bolt of divine punishment, utterly defeating him. Tianming held back and didn't unleash his final sword strike, lest he kill Yuwen Shengcheng. Instead, he punched him in the mouth with his left arm.

It was gruesome to watch Yuwen Shengcheng's nose cave in as four of his teeth fell out. He almost swallowed them. Tianming's scale-covered fist left bloody hexagonal imprints around Yuwen Shengcheng's mouth and sent him flying toward the group of girls.

Now his nose was flattened and his front teeth were knocked out, and blood was trickling out of his mouth. Tianming was tempted to ask the beauties whether he could still be considered the most beautiful boy in the Grand-Orient Sect.

Meanwhile, the Four-armed Taotie couldn't withstand Meow Meow and Ying Huo's joint attacks. No matter how strong it was, it was outnumbered, not to mention Ying Huo constantly evaded capture by its arms. Skyscorch Featherblast also made sure that the more it moved, the more it would hurt. It had no choice but to try to escape when it was almost burnt to crisp.

There was no question that Tianming won by a landslide. The moment Yuwen Shengcheng landed, the girls looked down and took a few steps back, looking at the former handsome youth, then at one another.

This battle was so swift it ended in a moment completely one sidedly, just like the time at the Imperial Ninefold Gates. Yuwen Shengcheng had thought he merely wasn't in top fighting form. But this battle proved that even if he had been, he would've lost anyway.

### **Chapter 228 - I Will Have Your Innards Shredded**

The surroundings were completely still. The dozen beauties looked blankly at the bloody-mouthed Yuwen Shengcheng crying on the ground in pain, so shocked that they couldn't even react. They even took a few steps back. Yuwen Shengcheng didn't just have his face hurt, but was also covered in muddy water, which greatly contrasted against his image as a handsome youth.

"Brother Shengcheng...."

"How dare you bully him like that?!"

"You only won because you're older! It's over for you...."

"But didn't he only just break through to first-level Unity two days ago?" Su Tao asked the last question and instantly made the rest freeze. Did the first-level Unity junior sect master trash actually manage to defeat the prospective prime disciple, Yuwen Shengcheng, who was at fifth-level Unity? That simply didn't make sense!

"We can't let him leave."

"We have numbers on our side. Let's avenge Brother Shengcheng!"

"We'll have them hand over the manna and stand up for Shengcheng!"

Su Li, Gongsun Yu, and Feng Chiyu were at the fifth level of Unity, while the rest were at the first level. There were close to a dozen of them, and they had the upper hand. Greed and rage had clouded their judgment. Little did they know that Tianming wasn't the least bit afraid of being ganged up on by all of them.

"Big Brother, let me help you." Qingyu didn't seem squeamish either.

"Alright."

While facing off against so many foes would no doubt be troublesome, they seemed to be spoiled descendants of sect elders.

"Go!" Tianming used his biggest trump card, Celestial Wings.

"Big Brother, can we win?" Qingyu asked with some anxiety about the number of enemies they faced.

"There aren't many that are actually capable. I'll leave those below fourth-level Unity to you," he said, before charging straight in. With Ying Huo and Meow Meow by his side, not to mention Feiling's Spatial Wall, he was easily able to split the battlefield into sections.

"Fight!"

In battle, momentum was key, and Tianming was building it up, given that he was fighting against ten foes himself and had just defeated Yuwen Shengcheng. Those girls were forcing themselves into the fight, and some were still hesitant to fully commit after seeing how savage Tianming could be.

The descendants of elders weren't all like them; there were some who were truly frighteningly capable. However, birds of a feather flock together. In other words, most of the descendants here were of the less capable variety.

The tide of battle was completely tipped in Tianming's favor. He took out Archfiend and whipped Su Li up into the air, then gave her a forceful punch to the face. The moment she slammed into the ground, face swollen, the rest panicked.

Su Li bawled and cried as the searing pain burned at her face. She would be disfigured, at least for a while before she healed. The punch she took next in her stomach caused her muscles to spasm from the pain. Despite how arrogant she looked, she was weaker than Ye Ziyi.

That kind of head start made the rest of the battle much easier. The girls ran about like aimless flies, eventually fleeing without even engaging after witnessing Su Li's horrid state.

"So you are the elders' descendants? You're an embarrassment to your seniors," Tianming mocked. They couldn't find any words to dispute it, humiliating as it was. If they were brave enough, they wouldn't have to go to the Abyssal Battlefield in a large group in the first place, and even then they couldn't face off against Tianming.

"Big Brother, a gentleman doesn't beat women up. You're too harsh on them," Feiling said.

"Come on, you can't tell me that didn't feel good."

"Well... I can't deny it did..." she said guiltily.

Those girls were really venomous at the Imperial Ninefold Gates. Giving them a slap on the face would teach them to not spout nonsense about the siblings from now on. Tianming had done just that without the slightest bit of gentlemanly flair.

As Qingyu was getting better and better, the two had no trouble beating up the group of beauties, who now looked like orcs with their swollen faces and muddy clothes. Su Li, Gongsun Yu, and Feng Chiyu were extra bruised on the face where Tianming had personally 'serviced' them.

They lived in a time of gender equality, after all, so not hitting ladies wasn't a virtue, especially when the 'ladies' were conspiring to humiliate and kill him. Only a fool would hold back against them by virtue of their gender. In the end, the girls were left sobbing and crying in a muddy puddle.

Tianming stopped his walloping and asked, "We're going to leave now. Do you still want to try taking the manna from us? Does anyone still want to stop us?"

They didn't reply and fearfully ran away, without caring about how haggard they looked.

"Don't leave!" Yuwen Shengcheng cried as he stood up and glared at Tianming with bloodshot eyes. Yet again, he had been utterly humiliated and was able to do nothing but watch as the girls got beat up.

"Li Tianming!" He proceeded to charge forward, but before he could reach him, Tianming kicked him back down into the muddy puddle. He laid there without being able to get up. There was no way Tianming would kill them all. He was no murderous demon, after all. At least the lesson he gave them should serve as a decent warning.

"Qingyu, let's go," he said to the girl that was looking at him a little agitatedly. It seemed that she truly hated the Yuwen Clan and was happy to have finally managed to vent today.

"They're just a bunch of insignificant brats. Even so, beating them up sure was fun, huh?"

"Thanks, Big Brother," she said, biting her lip.

Tianming didn't really consider Yuwen Shengcheng his foe at all; he had much greater things to worry about. However, he would have to focus on tackling what was in front of him for now.

"Let's go," he said, bringing his two lifebound beasts with him while Qingyu tailed him like an obedient follower.

"Li Tianming, I, Yuwen Shengcheng, swear that I will pay you back tenfold for what you did today! I will make you feel all the pain the world has to offer and have your innards shredded! Just you wait! That day will come soon!" he cried like a madman. He didn't sound particularly convincing, with his enunciation a little off after losing a couple of his front teeth. Tianming couldn't help but chuckle.

He looked at the Lifesbane characters on his right arm that stared right back at him. "Just you wait," he said—not to Yuwen Shengcheng, but to himself.

What they weren't aware of was what Yuwen Shengcheng said in a low voice. "Li Qingyu, you'd better not celebrate too soon. Think you can shrug me off like that? I'll make sure you'll kneel and beg my forgiveness a few days from now."

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Tianming left the Abyssal Battlefield and returned to Orient Hall, the most important place for inner disciples on Grand-Orient Sacred Mountain. There, inner disciples could network with others in the sect and trade in trophies from the wildbeasts they killed for rewards.

Tianming had killed more than twenty wildbeasts and cut off the appropriate trophies as Qingyu had taught him. He managed to trade them for around a thousand spirit gems with blue heavenly patterns.

"Recall that I borrowed a thousand yellow-patterned spirit gems from Uncle Chen? Each blue-patterned spirit gem is worth a hundred times as much as a yellow-patterned one." Tianming felt like he had hit the jackpot. However, Qingyu told him that the amount he had couldn't buy him a particularly good unity-ranked battle art. Tianming's next goal was to head to Grand Hall and purchase one.

"I'll just go to take a look. It's not like I'm getting any more than this anyway," he said like a poor pauper. "I wonder how much I can get by selling the extra three profound manna at Orient Hall."

"That would be a lot. Top-grade profound manna is worth ten times that of mid-grade ones. In fact, there's usually no supply for them," Qingyu said.

"Then I'll sell them off. Let's see if I can buy something good with that." He wanted to become rich overnight.

"Big Brother, I suggest you go check out Grand Hall first before coming back to sell them. You only need to sell one, in any case."

"Alright."

Currently, a mid-tier or above unity-ranked battle art would be more useful to him. But according to Qingyu, even the most common mid-tier ones were worth a thousand blue heavenly-patterned spirit gems at a huge discount from Grand Hall. Outside the sect, they would cost far more.

Grand Hall was located directly opposite Orient Hall, but it was far larger and split into several zones. Qingyu was his guide around the area; she took him to the zone with unity-ranked battle arts.

"Qingyu, is that your boyfriend?" many asked.

"It's my big brother," she said.

"Since when did you have one?"

There were too many people asking about him, so she had to give them some kind of answer.

Since the incident at the Imperial Ninefold Gates, the whole sect would eventually find out about their new junior sect master. By then, she would no longer have to explain who Tianming was. It didn't matter how the rumors spread now, since the truth of the matter would be revealed once word of Tianming breaking through at the gates got out.

"The unity-ranked battle arts are ahead."

As Qingyu continued walking, Tianming suddenly stopped in his tracks when he spotted a really beautiful necklace within a crystal cabinet not far away. The necklace had a crystal gem on which violet heavenly patterns were inscribed, making it look rather enchanting. It had been exquisitely designed to attract the attention of young women, but Qingyu didn't fall for it.

"Big Brother, that is only good for looking. It's not practical at all, and costs too much. I heard it's been there for centuries. Nobody really cares for it."

"I see. I'll give it a look then." He got closer and noticed the crystal necklace looked more beautiful the closer he was to it. There was an elegance to it that didn't make it any bit cheesy despite how attention



grabbing it was. There was a nameplate with the words 'Sky Spirit's Affection' written on it. Tianming chuckled. Did that symbolize the love between Tianming and Feiling?

### **Chapter 229 The Generous Junior Sect Master**

Tianming continued reading the introduction.

This object is carved from a spirit ore with violet heavenly patterns by Zhang Fusheng, the most famous sculptor in the continent. Elegant and gorgeous, the violet heavenly stone contains violet heavenly spiritual energy. If the user is attacked, the necklace will automatically form a Violet Heavenly Shield, blocking attacks of fifth-level Heavenly Will and below. The Violet Heavenly Shield can only be used once. After that, it will fall apart. Value: 520 violet heavenly-patterned spirit gems.

Tianming calculated; five hundred and twenty violet heavenly-patterned spirit gems was equivalent to five thousand two hundred indigo heavenly-patterned spirit gems, which was equal to more than fifty thousand blue heavenly-patterned spirit gems!

Right now, Tianming only had a thousand blue heavenly-patterned spirit gems.

"This item is really expensive and can only be used once. Its value lies in its beauty and the workmanship of its creator, Master Zhang Fusheng. Its real utility is less than a tenth of its value," explained Qingyu.

Resist an attack below fifth-level Heavenly Will?

That was no use as well. Because once its wearer was attacked, the Sky Spirit necklace would be broken and an opponent could attack a second time.

Five hundred and twenty violet heavenly-patterned spirit gems could be used to purchase countless techniques and battle arts, even a heavenly-ranked battle art.

Those who could afford the necklace didn't need its function, and those who needed its function couldn't afford it. That was to say, the necklace was useless aside from being beautiful.

"Do you like it?" asked Tianming.

"I do, but it's too expensive," pouted Feiling.

That's right, even in spirit form she could pout. At first glance, she was deeply attracted to the necklace. Then the name "Sky Spirit's Affection" had her eyes shining with delight, but when she noticed the price, she flinched.

It was exorbitant!

Qingyu was right; a necklace capable of resisting an attack of fifth-level Heavenly Will and below was worth five hundred blue heavenly-patterned spirit gems at most. Since there might be a second attack, this sort of item was generally useless. If you don't kill someone with one attack, just unleash another.

"Qingyu, wait here for me." Tianming suddenly ran out.

Qingyu stood there, staring blankly. What was he planning to do? With unease, she followed Tianming to the Orient Hall and watched as he pulled out the three high-tier profound mana.

"Please tell me how much I can get for these."

"Are you sure you want to sell them?" The staff in the Orient Hall were astonished.

In fact, the manna would be worth more on Spirit Gem Street, but the transaction would take longer.

"Tell me how much I can get for them."

"Since they're all high-tier profound manna, they have a standard price."

Most of the violet heavenly-patterned spirit gems could only be taken out by Heavenly Will elders. But even they would be hesitant to purchase high-tier profound manna for their juniors.

"Five hundred and thirty violet heavenly-patterned spirit gems."

"Deal."

Qingyu was struck dumb. How dashing! She had never seen someone so determined. Without a doubt, Tianming was planning to purchase the Sky Spirit's Love for Feiling.

"Big Brother, don't mess around. It's too expensive," urged Feiling.

"I'm not messing around. Since you like it, I'm buying it for you. Ling'er, just let me know if you see something you like. Whatever you want, I'll give it to you. A real man treats his woman generously," he smiled.

Tianming could see how much Feiling liked the necklace. The girl had left her hometown, traveled thousands of miles, and risked everything—even her own life. What was a necklace compared to her sacrifice?

Feiling was merely mortal. In case of an accident, at least the Sky Spirit's Love would buy her some time. Her life meant everything to him. He had once sworn an oath to the Vermillion Bird King, vowing never to put her in harm's way.

"Ling'er, you're gorgeous, more beautiful than any girl in the Grand-Orient Sect. The Sky Spirit's Love has remained unsold for a hundred years. Perhaps it was waiting for you," Tianming chuckled.

"But Big Brother, you should spend the spirit gems on battle arts..." whispered Feiling.

"Battle arts? Don't you see, Ling'er? With you here, locating manna won't pose a challenge. I call this an investment, got it? As long as you're happy, won't riches come my way?" Tianming grinned.

Feiling was almost moved to tears, but upon hearing the rest of his words, the urge to tear up had vanished.

"Sure enough! And here I was, wondering at the sudden show of generosity. It turns out you're harboring other motives!" she fumed.

Was she really upset? Of course not! Her heart was blossoming with joy. Thus, Tianming had ended up exchanging three profound manna for the most useless necklace in the Grand Hall.

"What a generous man the junior sect master is!"

Among the onlookers, those who recognized him burst out with admiration. As for how many of them secretly ridiculed him for his extravagance, that remained unknown. Right now, Tianming was focused purely on the necklace. As soon as he got hold of it, Feiling couldn't resist exclaiming in delight.

With few spirit gems left, Tianming took a turn about the Grand Hall but found no suitable battle arts. Thus, he hurried down to Spirit Gem Street and spent all his money on wine, filling up his spatial ring. It would be of great use.

"Let's head back!"

Tianming couldn't wait to see how beautiful Feiling looked when she wore the necklace that seemed to have been made for her.

"In the future, we'll call it Ling'er's Love instead!" Tianming declared.

"Mhmm." Unfortunately, Feiling was now in her soul state, so her flushed face, pounding heart, and happiness remained concealed.

Behind the couple, Qingyu stared ahead, wiping sweat from her forehead. Meanwhile, a group of disciples cast their mocking gazes upon Tianming, taking him for a fool.

Looks like this brother of mine will do anything to make her happy. What a romantic man. She smiled helplessly, following his footsteps. In truth, she was just as eager to see how the necklace would look on Feiling.

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Fatepath Peak.

That night, Feiling wore a light violet dress as she stood under the moonlight. The joy and bashfulness plastered on her face had Tianming swooning.

How could any girl be so beautiful? Like the daughter of God who had accidentally fallen to earth, she was an ethereal beauty far removed from the mortal world.

"Ling'er, your beauty is out of this world. Even as a girl, I can't help but wish you were mine," remarked Qingyu.

"Go away, don't butt in on our couple time," said Tianming.

"Alright, Big Brother," Qingyu disappeared in a hurry.

Tianming watched as the Goddess-like Feiling slowly approached him. The necklace was in perfect harmony with her flawless, crystal-clear skin. An uncultured man such as himself failed to find the right words to describe her beauty.

In the moonlight, she twirled before him, her long hair, short dress, and necklace dancing in the air.

"Big Brother, how do I look?"

The playful grin and shallow dimples on her cheeks blended perfectly with the night sky.

"Ling'er."

"Yes?" she asked uneasily. Was such an expensive necklace unattractive on her?

"I have something to say."

"What is it?"

He stood up, eyes burning brightly.

"In my life, you're the only one I'll ever love or marry. If I ever break my promise, I shall be the last of my line and die without descendents."

He didn't care about the future; what mattered right now was the beauty before his eyes.

Till death do us part!

Feiling's lips curled in a brilliant smile. Just as she had expected, the necklace looked beautiful on her. Gently tugging Tianming's shirt, she said, "You're the only man I'll marry." Determination and resolution shone in her starry eyes.

"And what if you don't?" Tianming smiled.

"If I break my promise, I'll turn into a man and be cursed with three thousand beautiful wives and flourishing descendents."

Her time with Tianming had certainly led her astray!

### **Chapter 230 Young Man, What's Your Weapon Of Choice?**

The Li Mausoleum.

The blood mist surged amidst the desolate grounds.

After returning from Abyssal Battlefield, Feiling and Qingyu were taking a breather on Fatepath Peak. Tianming visited the mausoleum with his lifebound beasts once more.

With the Kunpeng Sacred Seal, the Bloodbane Barrier had allowed him entrance into the mountain. Tianming was about to greet the Void Kunpeng, but upon realizing it was sleeping soundly on the mountainside, he quietly walked away.

At the top of the mountain, a sloppy Li Wudi slept before the tomb, his plump belly exposed for all to see and saliva dribbling down his chin.

"Who says he's tortured by the Venomdrake Spike?" Clearly, the man was living a life of leisure.

"Hey, your daughter is about to marry a pig, yet here you are feasting and drinking to your heart's content!" Tianming shouted.

"What? There's a feast?" Li Wudi rolled up into a seating position, his round eyes staring intently at his adopted son.

"Tianming, my son, how filial you are! I've been starving for a few days. Come, roast me a suckling pig."

What could be said about the man? At least he was optimistic?

Tianming pursed his lips. A few days from now, when the metal bloodline's Li Xuanyi came knocking on the door, the sect master, Li Wudi, would be of no help whatsoever.

It seemed the only dependable ones were Li Jingyu and himself. Even Elder Ye Qing wouldn't provide any assistance.

"I brought wine." Tianming's words piqued Li Wudi's interest.

After purchasing the Ling'er's Love, Tianming made a turn around the Grand Hall, but found no suitable battle arts. Thus, he had spent the remaining spirit gems on pure spiritual wine, filling up his spatial ring.

At the sight of the wine, Li Wudi's eyes shone with eagerness.

"Wonderful! Having a son is great! My son, if there's anything you want, anything, just tell me. I'll even pick the sun from the sky for you." Li Wudi bounced excitedly, opening each pot of wine and taking a sniff.

"Forget about it. This wine is meant to honor my ancestors. If you're lucky, I might leave you a tenth of it," said Tianming.

"Ancestors? It doesn't matter. As your father, I'm also considered an ancestor. I'll share the wine with them."

Oh well, if it makes him happy. Tianming didn't know what to do with such a shameless man!

He was here to cultivate. Like Li Wudi before, he illuminated Li Shenxiao's tomb. Eighty-one saintly heavenly patterns gathered once more.

"You reached Unity? Not bad to have achieved that in a few days," came Li Wudi's drunken remarks.

"Yes."

"You're my son indeed. Looks like my guidance helped. I certainly make a good sect master."

There he went again, blowing his own trumpet.

Li Tianming devoted himself to expanding his spirit source and unity field. Gathering the spiritual energy of heaven and earth on Li Shenxiao's tomb was very effective. The eighty-one saintly heavenly patterns spread all over his body, producing radical advancement every second.

Tianming believed that no one in the entire Grand-Orient Sect had ten bane-rings, along with access to the eighty-one saintly heavenly patterns on Li Shenxiao's tomb.

His unity field grew rapidly. To live a little longer so he could sleep a little more, Meow Meow was giving it his all, too.

Li Shenxiao's tomb was miraculous, producing an effect that far surpassed the Imperial Ninefold Gates. All that it lacked was the oppressive force of the gates.

"With the help of the first ancestor, I'll overcome this tribulation! The day I do, the world will witness my ten bane-rings—a destiny that goes against the heavens!" Narrowing his eyes, he felt the surging power of heaven and earth.

"Senior Li."

"You don't have to be so polite. Just call me Father," replied Li Wudi.

"I think I'll go with Godfather...." Tianming felt a headache coming on.

In truth, he respected Li Wudi. Because of fate, Li Wudi had handed over the entire Li ancestors' fortune to him.

"Fine," Li Wudi smiled.

"Qingyu awakened five Pentamoon Skybanes in the Imperial Ninefold Gates!"

Since Li Wudi rarely left the mausoleum, he wasn't aware of the matter. As soon as the words left Tianming's lips, silence filled the grounds so thickly that one would hear a pin dropping to the ground.

Tianming was currently facing Li Shenxiao's tomb, deep in cultivation, so turning around was inconvenient.

"Godfather?"

For a long time, he received no reply. Could Li Wudi have fainted from excitement? After all, for a man poisoned by Yuwen Taiji, Qingyu's transformation should leave him ecstatic.

Tianming suspended his cultivation and turned around. There was Li Wudi, one hand around his hip flask, the other wrapped around his belly as he slept soundly.

He was just talking! How did he fall asleep so quickly? Did he hear what he said about Qingyu's transformation?

Tianming shook his head, too lazy to deal with him. Returning to his cultivation, he put his heart and soul into his struggle against death!

Three years to reach the Saint stage. If he failed, the only thing awaiting him was death. There was no retreat! Right now, he had just taken the first step; that is, reaching Unity.

Li Jingyu had passed him Unity cultivation techniques, which Tianming accepted, but didn't practice. However, her sincerity would be remembered.

"Li Xuanyi, Li Yuchen, Li Jincan!"

Tianming was waiting for the day they came knocking!

There was no need to consider his surroundings when cultivating in the Li Mausoleum. Thus, Tianming unleashed his full power. With Li Shenxiao's tomb as the center, the Infernal Field and Chaos Field grew bigger and bigger.

Dust swept up from the ground and the trees shook. Meanwhile, the drunken Li Wudi dreamed before the tomb. Waking up from slumber, he asked, "Young man, what is your weapon of choice?"

"The sword!"

"That's fine, what else?"

"Chains."

"Do you whip it around?"

"You can say that," Tianming replied.

"Our eighteenth generation ancestor, Li Wushen was a master of the whip. Shall I introduce you to him?"

"What do you mean?" Tianming paused.

Prior to this, Li Wudi used the words 'this bunch of drunks,' but not this ancestor. Obviously, Li Shexiao wasn't the only ancestor who was fond of the bottle. What could there be on the other tombstones?

"Tianming, my son, come with me. I'll take you to worship those old fossils, I mean, ancestors!"

To the other peaks?

Tianming looked forward to visiting the giant peaks behind him. With Li Wudi leading the way, they proceeded to the other tombs.

Although Li Wudi had been crippled for more than ten years, and looked as if he was unstable, the man actually managed to trek through several mountains.

"Second ancestor Li Xinghe, this is Tianming my son. First, kowtow to the heavens and earth, then to your parents. Next, the couple may bow to each other. Here is Li Shendao, the third ancestor, consisting of stir-fried potato, eggplant and green pepper. Oh, my mistake, this is your third ancestor, not a dish! Apologies, I must be hungry."

Tianming laughed at the ridiculous man. Li Wudi was fortunate to be so unrestrained.

Finally, they arrived at the eighteenth ancestor's tomb—Li Wushen.