

The Ages 571

Chapter 571 - The True Sovereign

The autarch continued his onslaught with the sword in hand. He then executed an intermediate empyrean-ranked battle art, Skyseize Sword Art. Seizing the sky, no, the heavens themselves, was an act of indomitable will. The strike was so quick that it allowed him to avoid at least half of the spirit-source abilities that were unleashed. Even the lightning bolts of Chaos Disaster that charred him all over didn't weaken the momentum of his charge at all.

But just as the strike was about to connect, the Prime Tower appeared and blocked it. The autarch's sword strike clashed with the Prime Tower at high speeds, causing it to deviate thanks to the soul servant pushing it away. Then, the tower suddenly grew in size and rammed into Autarch Qian.

Autarch Qian spat out another mouthful of blood. Just as he was backing away, Ying Huo's Pyros Imperius struck his thigh and sent charred flesh flying. It was quickly followed up with ten successive punches from the Soulfiend, slamming the autarch into the ground. The cherry was finally topped when a huge amount of Bloodfiend Disaster was infused into his body.

"Buzz off!" Autarch Qian sent his saint ki exploding outwards, blasting away the Bloodfiend Disaster and breaking off from the barrage of punches. Despite being the lone fighter, he had the power of the saint ki belonging to a second-level empyrean saint, which wasn't something to scoff at.

The moment he broke free, he immediately started searching for Tianming, only to wonder where he was. When he turned back, he saw the white-haired youth swinging the Grand-Orient Sword and unleashing Myriad-Sword Demise as well as Sword Imperealm Formation. The power of that strike far eclipsed that of many first-level empyrean saints!

With a loud twang, Autarch Qian parried it, almost losing his grip on Primeval Styx.

"How does despair taste like, old demon?" Tianming said, his rage soaring through the skies. He then split Grand-Orient Sword into two and pierced one of them into the autarch's lower abdomen.

Tianming had tried to ruin his saint palace, but the autarch's saint ki was too powerful. It was able to push out the sword even after it had pierced into flesh.

With a loud bang, the autarch punched Tianming's black arm and sent him flying, causing him to cough out blood. This only made him look even more fearsome and bloodthirsty. "You should thank the heavens that a vile beast like you was allowed to live for so long!"

Just as the autarch was about to respond, the Primordial Bloodbane Kunpeng dug its claws into him, tearing even more flesh out, revealing the bones that lay underneath. Lan Huang then used Primordial Soundwave, shattering both his eardrums.

"Thank them? The heavens envy us, the Theocrats! They even fear us!" He climbed back up from a pool of blood before cackling madly.

"You're wrong. The ways of heaven focus on the bigger picture. In the eyes of the heavens, your Nineshades Clan is nothing but an infinitesimally small blemish on the world, a mere ant! All you had going for yourself was finding a way to perpetuate your clan by sacrificing the lives of others! You don't

even stand a chance to seize the heavens for yourselves! Those who walk the path of a false ruler will eventually be taken out by a true sovereign. Today, the one who will be meting out the judgment of the heavens is none other than me, Li Tianming!" His eyes blazed with the glory of suns as the Grand-Orient Sword grew immeasurably bright in his hands. "Heh, you, of all people, claim to be the true sovereign? Hahahahaha! That's a joke if I've ever heard one! You're far too naive, too fresh! Even if you wipe my clan out, false heroes and hypocrites like you will never be able to overcome our clan's will to shock the heavens! The Theocrats shall never perish for all eternity!"

"Dream on." Killing intent seeped out of Tianming as he and all three of his lifebound beasts, the soul servant, and the kunpeng went all out. There was no way the autarch would be able to take on so many different attacks, all the while Ying Huo and the Soulfierd sneaked in more and more attacks when he wasn't looking. The complexity of all the different attacks blended together into an unpredictable, chaotic barrage. Each individual one was tough to deal with, let alone all of them together!

"Tianming, my little friend, that's why I said you were too naive! Even if I perish today, you will one day come to be tortured for eternity! You will never be able to rest in peace!" As he spoke and laughed, he took out a thick heavenly pattern tome that seemed to be five stars at least. Five star tomes were priceless, far more valuable than even the Bloodbane Formation. Autarch Qian activated it with his blood and targeted Tianming with it.

"You want to fight me? Even if you're an unmatched genius that can stand against me and cause me to despair, you will die all the same!" The tome had already been activated. It would be fatal if it connected.

"That's the Soulmother Tome!" Feiling said anxiously.

"I see." Tianming nodded without any other reaction. Instead, he continued straight towards the autarch like a moth to the flame.

The Prime Tower manifested above the autarch's head and pressed down on him heavily, causing him to have no choice but to block it with his sword while pointing the tome at Tianming with his other hand.

"So long, Li Tianming."

His expression was one of pure bliss as the book faded into his sea of consciousness, still aimed at Tianming. He could already imagine the sight of Tianming's soul being smothered out, the sight of him dying a horrible death.

Seeing Tianming close his eyes, it seemed as if the tome had worked. But the next moment, his eyes opened once more as Sword Impereal Formation and Myriad-Sword Demise were unleashed. So what if he had the Soulmother Tome? Was it a match for his Soul Tower?

"Is dementia getting to you? Why'd you pick a soul attack heavenly pattern tome to use against me of all people?" His sword strike connected the moment the Prime Tower suppressed Autarch Qian, shaking the heavens and the earth.

The Prime Tower slammed down on the autarch's head while the Grand-Orient Sword pierced through his saint palace. The thick sword then went all the way through his body. When Tianming drew it out, spiritual energy came blasting out incessantly.

"Aaaagh! My power! My precious power!" The autarch's brain had been crushed just now. His eyes were filled with blood as he stretched his hand out and pressed it against his saint palace, but that was an exercise in futility. He audibly fell to a kneeling position before Tianming. If Tianming hadn't stopped the soul servant, Autarch Qian would've been flattened to a meat paste already.

"This is not your power. All this is, is the crystallization of the atrocities you have committed." He stretched his hand out and lifted Autarch Qian up by his hair.

"Hahaha..." The autarch looked at him and continued to laugh. He still tried to raise his sword in an attempt to kill Tianming, but that slash didn't even leave a cut on Tianming's shoulder.

"How does it feel to be a mere mortal? Or, as you so like to put it, a little fish? Huh?" Tianming asked with a smirk. "Old fool, I prepared a fishing rod specifically for you. I will let you have a taste of this. I've been waiting for this chance for far too long!"

He took out a fishing rod from his spatial ring. As it was a bestial weapon, its hook was extremely sharp. Tianming hooked the autarch by his mouth and raised the rod. He lifted him up before tossing him into Azure Oceanic Purgatory.

As the waves roared, the fishing rod shook ferociously. As the autarch slammed into the ground, his saint ki dissipated completely, causing him to age at a rate visible to the naked eye. His hair turned entirely white, and wrinkles began to form all over his body. He even began to hunch and got many liver spots.

"You're afraid of aging and dying, right? Don't worry. I'll make sure you can't die even if you want to."

The fisherman had become the fish, one that was caught. Tianming pulled the rod and lifted him back out. All the autarch could do was widen his eyes and stare at him blankly. After truly losing everything he had and experiencing despair, he gained an experience that used to be foreign to him. He finally knew the extent of despair and desperation.

Tianming carefully pulled him up by his white hair, afraid of accidentally killing the elderly man who was on his last breaths. "Autarch Qian, the Cyclic Mirror has been shattered, and all your descendants have been wiped out. Now, I want to ask you this: What happened to the so-called will of the Theocrats, huh? Did it turn to ash after I gave it a good stomping?"

"From now on till forevermore, your hydras and sydras shall no longer roam this land. Everything you and your clan stood for will be cursed by the future generation. To think you once claimed that you would never be wiped out... I'm sorry, I guess I surpassed your expectations and did just that!"

He gave him three slaps to make sure the autarch didn't drift into unconsciousness.

"Hahaha..." The autarch still laughed.

"What are you laughing for?"

"It's pointless. Xuanyuan Xu will kill all of you all the same."

"Oh? Still holding on to that sliver of hope, I see. Why don't you take a look over there then?"

The autarch struggled to turn behind him with the hook still embedded in his mouth. He looked more pitiful than anyone could be, but this was his just deserts. It was heaven's judgment itself.

The sight that greeted his eyes was one where Xuanyuan Xu knelt before Li MUYANG, his head lowered as he spat out fresh blood. His Infernal Viledragon had already been torn into two pieces and was leaking blood all over the ground.

"Feng, watch this thing here for me. Make sure it doesn't die," Tianming said.

"Alright." Ye Lingfeng stood guard before Autarch Qian while Tianming headed where Li MUYANG was.

"You... You're part of the Infernal Soul Clan?" the autarch asked.

"That's right."

"How are you feeling now?"

"Absolutely magnificent," Ye Lingfeng said with glee.

"Haha, I guess your clan deserved the karma that was coming to it then. We Theocrats have killed so many more of you than you have ours. It's a steal of a deal, really. It's a shame your forebears all died without rhyme or reason." The autarch broke out into another fit of laughter.

"You're mistaken. Firstly, wiping out the Nineshades Clan was the only wish of my forebears, and that has already been fulfilled. Secondly, Brother Tianming will make you pay the price a thousand times over. Just you wait," Ye Lingfeng said.

Even though he didn't personally get to kill the members of the Nineshades Clan, he was the one who kept the Evil Suppression Formation running at full tilt the whole time. Not to mention, he was a huge help in today's decisive battle. Without him, there was no way the Decimo Dao Palace would be able to fight back against the Theocrats. Ye Lingfeng had many contributions under his belt.

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Tianming was now standing in front of Xuanyuan Xu.

"I've already crippled him by destroying his saint palace. You can have him," Li MUYANG said.

"The Cyclic Mirror has been shattered. Will my godfather and the palace lord wake from their coma?" Tianming asked.

"They will. Leave it to me."

"I'll see you later then."

"Alright, I'll head there first," Li MUYANG said before he walked towards Autarch Qian, the target of his grudge and misgivings.

Tianming and Xuanyuan Xu's gazes met.

"If you dare kill me, the others in the Archaion will make sure to exterminate all of you and your clans!" Xuanyuan Xu was so terrified that he stammered as he spoke.

"You sounded really arrogant earlier when you almost killed me and stabbed my godfather," Tianming said with a smirk.

"Young man, let me hear your terms. Keep me alive, and I'll take you to the Archaion. You are sure to prosper there," Xuanyuan Xu said with resignation.

"Do you think I need you to do that?" he asked as he picked up the spear from the ground. "Is this your weapon?"

It should be, given that it had ninety-nine saintly heavenly patterns.

"What are you going to do?" His eyes widened as his body began to shiver from the boundless dread he felt coming from Tianming.

"You see, I repay what I owe others with a hundred times the interest. You stabbed my godfather once, so I will stab you a hundred times. If you can endure it, I'll let you live." Tianming's voice was cold, and he wore a mask devoid of expression as if what he was saying was nothing consequential in the least.

"No... Don't... Do—aaagh!" Before he could finish, his thigh had been punctured through.

"That's only the first stab. Surely you can do better than this? Don't embarrass the Archaion."

"Agh!"

"Aaagh!"

Fifteen minutes later, Tianming said, "Not bad. There's only one left."

The person beneath him, nay, the pincushion, was bleeding profusely from all the holes made by the spear. He didn't even have any energy left to speak. All he could do was let his eyebrows twitch as he sunk in the quagmire of abuse and despair.

With an audible squelch, Tianming stabbed his heart last before turning to leave. Xuanyuan Xu no longer twitched.

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When Tianming returned, Li Muyang and Autarch Qian were facing each other. The former stood while the latter remained kneeling.

"I'm going to collect your and your lifebound beast's souls, so the two of you will live on forever. Your punishment is eternal solitude. You'll have an eternity to ponder the nature of life and the relationship between man, the heavens, and dao," Li Muyang said.

"The scariest thing in the world is solitude. Amazing... You really understand me well. I'm finally starting to quake in my boots..." His tone of voice overshadowed any attempt at irony.

"Relish in it. You've earned it. You alone shall pay for the sins on behalf of your entire clan."

The words sent chills down Tianming's spine. What was endless solitude like? There would be no rest; he would have to be sealed in the void alone, conscious the whole time. While one might be able to take a day of it, what kind of nightmare would an eternity of that be?

"The wheels of karma turn without stopping. The effects that come about as a result of our actions will definitely come. The way of the heavens is so deep that all you know is but a drop in the ocean. Yet, you dared to foolishly ascribe your shallow notions to the way of the heavens. Perhaps in a hundred years, in your lone meditation, you'll understand what it truly is. In a thousand years, you might even understand what divine punishment is. In myriad years, you'll know that you're nothing but an insignificant speck of dust in the eternal life of the boundless cosmos!" Li Muyang's words were so profound that Autarch Qian couldn't even begin to comprehend even the superficial meaning.

"Dongyang Qian, in your own words, you are also a fish to the heavens. If a fish like you dares to eat other fish, what do the heavens prey on?" Li Muyang's words caused the light to fade from the autarch's eyes.

"M-m... Me..." he said with an incessant jitter. This was his greatest fear.

"Jing'er, come here," Li Muyang said, waving to her.

Soon, a woman came floating to the ground. Tianming and Autarch Qian were both shocked to see her.

"Jing'er, you're still alive? Did... did you reincarnate as well?" His eyeballs were bulging so much that they were about to fall out.

"I did. And I was fortunate enough to only cross paths with you in a single lifetime. I truly hate you," she said. She was none other than Wei Jing, but to Autarch Qian, she was still Jiang Lingjing.

What was this whole reincarnation business about? Tianming's mind was a complete mess. He desperately needed Li Muyang to explain everything to him pronto. Why did he show up so late and not earlier?

"Hate... Hate? Hate!" The autarch's tears fell as he prostrated on the ground.

"That's enough of an outburst. You'll have more than enough time to process your feelings later. You should use this time to say your farewells," Li Muyang said.

"Dongyang Qian..." Wei Jing didn't want to see him at all. Her shoulders shook as she said, "Thank you for raising me... But that doesn't change anything. You deserve to die ten thousand times over."

"Uwu..." Autarch Qian let out a heartrending cry as he fell flat on the ground.

Li Muyang slapped his head and took out a white mist that seeped into his eyes. That was it for the autarch. Just like Li Muyang said, he would spend eternity alone. In comparison, Xuanyuan Xu's fate of being stabbed to death was far more desirable. Tianming finally took a deep breath.

"Mom!" His tears began to flow nonstop.

"Tianming." Wei Jing opened her arms wide and embraced him. This was a hug that he would never forget for the rest of his life. Who knew if he would ever have a chance to feel this warmth again, with how tumultuous life was?

"Tianming," Li Muyang said with a solemn look.

"Greet your dad," Wei Jing said.

"Dad," Tianming said confidently. He knew that the two of them would answer all his questions soon.

"Good." Li Muyang nodded with satisfaction before he stretched his hand out and put it on Tianming's shoulder. "My appearance before you now has put much into peril... You only have two hours to bid all of them farewell. After that, you must head to the Canal of the Dead to be able to avoid a deathly tribulation."

Those words caused Tianming to blank out.

Chapter 572 - Ten Lifetimes of Reincarnation

Everyone, including Li Muyang and Wei Jing, returned to the Decimo Dao Palace now that everything had come to an end. On the way, Li Muyang seemed to have used his eyes to remove the Cyclic Stigma on Li Wudi's forehead. Li Wudi was fine when he woke up. When he saw Li Muyang here along with everyone else, he knew that Autarch Qian and Xuanyuan Xu were finished.

"Well done, brother. I knew that you're powerful, but I never expected you to come out and turn the tables around. Just that you were a little late to show up, and I couldn't even watch the show." Li Wudi patted on Li Muyang's thigh.

"You two know each other?" Tianming was confused.

"We met once, and I even asked Brother Wudi for some treasures. Tianming, I'm the one who asked him not to tell you about our whereabouts," Li Muyang replied.

"When you guys went to 'travel' around?" Tianming asked.

"That's right." Li Muyang nodded his head.

Li Wudi turned to look at Bai Mo and roughly understood the situation. When he heard that Li Muyang still had some things to talk to Tianming about, he immediately said, "Tianming, I've already gotten my life back. Leave me alone and reminisce with your family."

With that, Li Muyang, Wei Jing, and Tianming sat on Lan Huang while they traveled back to the Decimo Dao Palace. Then again, there was also Feiling, who was attached to Tianming. They were returning to the Decimo Dao Palace so Li Muyang could remove the Cyclic Stigma on Weisheng Yunxi. On the other hand, it was also to let Tianming bid his farewell to his friends and family in the Theocracy of the Ancients.

On Lan Huang's back, Wei Jing smiled, "Hello, Ling'er."

"Hello, aunty. It has been a long time," Feiling nervously said.

"We roughly know what happened to you. In the future, you have to protect our Tianming," said Wei Jing.

"Protect?" Feiling was dumbfounded.

Wei Jing smiled, but she did not continue speaking as Tianming and Li Muyang were looking at each other.

"So... where do we start?" Tianming asked.

“Let’s start with the Cyclic Reflector. I’m sure you’re curious about that.” Li Muyang smiled. Tianming had undergone the vengeance back in Vermillion Bird, turning tables around in the Grand-Orient Realm and the brutal competition in the Theocracy of the Ancients. He had already grown up.

“The Cyclic Reflector? Isn’t it called the Cyclic Mirror instead?” Tianming asked.

“Take a look at it yourself.” Li Muyang summoned a mirror from both his eyes which fused into one and formed a two-sided mirror. “This is called the Cyclic Reflector. The one possessed by the Nineshades Clan is only the Cyclic Mirror. There is a one-word difference,” said Li Muyang.

“So, how are they related?” Tianming knew that Autarch Qian used the Cyclic Mirror to imprint the Cyclic Stigma on Weisheng Yunxi and Li Wudi. It was something that only the Cyclic Mirror could resolve, but Li Muyang dealt with it using the Cyclic Reflector. Was this related to the Cyclic Reflector merging with the fragments of the Cyclic Mirror?

“The Cyclic Mirror is only part of the Cyclic Reflector. The Cyclic Map from the Divine Tomb tracked the real Cyclic Reflector, not the Cyclic Mirror,” said Li Muyang.

Tianming was dumbfounded for a long time. In the end, the Cyclic Map really worked, but it tracked the Cyclic Reflector, not the Cyclic Mirror. The Nineshades Clan thought that the Cyclic Map was useless, but they had no idea that it could track Li Muyang’s location. It was just that Autarch Qian treated it as a joke since he thought that Li Muyang was dead.

“So, is the Cyclic Reflector related to the Divine Tomb? Or let’s put it this way. Is it related to the Perpetia City?” Tianming looked at Li Muyang.

“It is related. Your Grand-Orient Sword, Prime Tower, Evil Suppression Pillar, and Cyclic Mirror are parts of divine artifacts. The Cyclic Reflector is a divine artifact of such a level,” said Li Muyang.

That also meant the Cyclic Reflector was on a whole new level compared to the Cyclic Mirror, Grand-Orient Sword, Prime Tower, and the Evil Suppression Pillar! The Cyclic Mirror was part of the Cyclic Reflector, which meant that the Grand-Orient Sword should be a powerful artifact that belonged to the Primordial God-Emperor.

“What other identity do you have aside from the Ancient Qilin Clan?” Tianming asked. Otherwise, how would Li Muyang possess the Cyclic Reflector? Furthermore, Li Muyang wasn’t shocked when he heard about Perpetia City.

“Perhaps this might sound bizarre to you, but Heaven’s Sanctum’s Mu Yang is my tenth reincarnation. The Ancient Qilin Clan’s Li Muyang is my ninth reincarnation. That also means I have eight prior reincarnations,” said Li Muyang as he held onto the Cyclic Reflector.

“Tenth reincarnation?!” Tianming heard a buzzing noise in his mind and asked, “Father, that means you’ve undergone nine reincarnations, right? Could it be that you’re a god in the past?” Li Muyang sounded like a conman, and Tianming found it hard to believe him.

“Tianming, that’s where you’re wrong. Not even a god can undergo reincarnation. If a god dies, he dies. Only the Cyclic Reflector can allow me to undergo ten reincarnations. I found the last fragment in my ninth reincarnation, but I failed to obtain it. I lose my memories in every single reincarnation, and I did

everything I could in this lifetime to regain my memories. And finally, I completed the Cyclic Reflector in this lifetime,” said Li MUYANG.

“I don’t exactly understand what you’re saying.” Tianming smiled bitterly.

“That’s normal. Not everyone can understand the secrets behind the Cyclic Reflector,” Li MUYANG replied.

“You’re saying that you relied on this treasure to undergo ten reincarnations? Oh, and what’s with the Grand-Orient Realm’s Abyssal Battlefield? Why am I your son on the tenth reincarnation? You’re my Uncle Yang on the tenth reincarnation and abandoned my mother for twenty years?” The moment Tianming finished speaking, he was glared at by Wei Jing. In the end, his mother was still his mother.

“That’s a long story...” Li MUYANG replied awkwardly.

“Then make it short.”

“Alright, remember what I’m going to say. Use your most solemn attitude and listen to what I say.” Li MUYANG looked at Tianming.

“Go ahead. I’m listening.” Tianming wiped the smile off his face and became serious.

“According to my original plan, I was supposed to awaken my memories when I was in my twenties and then rely on my tenth reincarnation to ‘escape’ from my pursuers. I never expected that when I awakened my memories, I was still not free from my pursuers. So when I was in my most desperate moment, I chose to pass on everything to you and sealed my memories to return to being Mu Yang.

“This is the reason why I neglected you and your mother for twenty years. Tianming, I didn’t have a choice. You must understand that I’ve been running for my life since my first reincarnation, and even now, we still have one of our feet in death’s door.” Li MUYANG’s words were like flames that made Tianming’s scalp go numb.

His mother once told him that she ran into Li MUYANG, who avoided a pursuit in the Abyssal Battlefield. And after a night of tenderness, that was how Tianming came to be. Afterward, Li MUYANG disappeared. So it turned out that he sealed the memories of his tenth reincarnation and became Heaven’s Sanctum’s Mu Yang again.

He only awakened his memories again in the past year, but first, he needed to awaken the memories of his ninth reincarnation before the rest. It must be related to the fact that he awakened his memory in the tenth reincarnation that Wei Jing wasn’t able to recognize him. With Li MUYANG’s strong will, Wei Jing was easy to think of him as someone else.

“When you say pass on everything, are you talking about the Primordial Chaos Beasts?” Tianming asked in a hoarse voice. That was his greatest secret, and he long knew that it came from his true father.

“That’s right.” Li MUYANG nodded his head.

“What are they exactly?” Tianming asked. It was a question that even Ying Huo and the rest wanted to know.

“Legend says that whenever the Heavenly Dao is about to wither, and reincarnation comes to an end, the boundless realms will give birth to ten Primordial Chaos Beasts, and every single one of them will possess colossal bodies. Wherever they go, they will be accompanied by chaos. And after destruction, they will silently disappear, allowing heaven and earth to rebuild itself and order to reconstruct itself,” said Li MUYANG.

“World destruction and reconstruct order?” Tianming blinked his eyes. He had to admit that what Li MUYANG said today was too unbelievable.

“Right, Tianming.” Li MUYANG patted on Tianming’s shoulder and continued, “In my first life, I came from the most mysterious clan in the world. We were once lowly, but we fought with gods, demons, and astral beasts. We lived an ordinary life, but we were also incredible. You must remember that regardless if I’m Li MUYANG or if you’re Tianming, we both come from the Sky Plunderer Clan. We plunder the sky, and we’re a clan that creates miracles.”

“The Sky Plunderer Clan? By plunder, you mean robbing?” Tianming was speechless.

“That’s right. We plunder everything. We plunder souls, fate, and time. We even plunder the stars and primal chaos!” Li MUYANG’s voice sounded like it came from the ninth heaven, which echoed out loudly.

Chapter 573 - Irreconcilable Feud

“What about this hand?” Tianming raised his black arm. He suddenly recalled that he could use it to break through all the heavenly pattern formations that he had encountered so far.

“This is the root of our clan, the source of those miracles!” Li MUYANG grinned. “Tianming, I live an ordinary life in this lifetime, but I’ve created the greatest and noblest miracle in our clan’s history. One day, you will feel proud of me, and you will know how incredible it was for me to shatter the world’s conspiracy with an ordinary physique!”

“What do you mean?”

“I have stolen a terrifying thing from the world at a critical time. I was killed eight times for this reason, and I would die a terrible death every time. But I’ve relied on ten reincarnations to change my fate till today. Until today, you are my greatest accomplishment!” Li MUYANG laughed. He was proud, and Tianming roughly knew what he was saying.

His pursuers plotted against him eight times and killed him. But he escaped on his tenth reincarnation. Just what sort of courage was that? Although Tianming didn’t say it aloud, he was proud to have such a father. He didn’t know many details, but judging from Li MUYANG’s words, he took pride in the bravery shown by his father.

“Tianming, I can only apologize that I dared not approach you. I had already lost when I was detected in my tenth reincarnation. In the end, I could only transfer everything to you. If you could deal with Autarch Qian, I wouldn’t have met you because it involves karmic collision. The pursuers might be nearby, and they can calculate your existence. If that’s the case, then we will lose everything, and you will die!” Li MUYANG’s eyes were emotionless, but Tianming could see the helplessness and concern in his eyes.

Tianming now knew why Li Muyang didn't help earlier despite being close to the Divine Capital, and only made his move when Xuanyuan Xu nearly killed him. He also knew why Li Muyang wanted him to go down a path that involved running for his life.

"It's fine as long as I head to the Canal of the Dead?" Tianming asked.

"It's not that simple. I've already calculated a path of escape for you, and you have to reach the Canal of the Dead within half a month. There's a special forcefield that can hide your karmic threads. The pursuers are too far away, and they can only rely on your karmic threads to deduce your existence. So by going to the Canal of the Dead, your karmic threads will be reset," said Li Muyang.

"What? I don't exactly understand what you're saying. There's a thread of some sort on me?" Tianming looked down and examined himself.

"It's a concept for gods. This involves fate and karma, so how can you possibly see it with your naked eyes?" Li Muyang glared at Tianming.

"Anyhow. I'll just have to follow your instructions. What else after that?" Tianming asked.

"You can't always cut off the karmic threads to block off your connection with me, so you have to become a god! Your soul will undergo a transformation upon becoming a god, and at that time, you will be completely cut off from all mortal affairs, cutting off your connection with my tenth reincarnation. At that time, our family of three will have escaped death for real!" Li Muyang anxiously said.

"Become a god?" Tianming was dumbfounded. There were only ten gods born in the entire history of the Flameyellow continent. Could it be that Li Muyang's experience occurred beyond this continent?

"That's right." Li Muyang nodded.

"So, is there a time limit?" Tianming asked.

"The sooner, the better. I'm not exactly sure about the time. But it'll be more dangerous the longer you take." said Li Muyang.

"Holy shit. The pressure is a little too intense. Let me calm down a bit." Tianming calmed himself and sorted out all the information he got from Li Muyang. "You're saying that I will lose the Primordial Chaos Beasts if I don't do everything according to your instructions or get myself captured? At that time, our family of three will die?"

"Your lifebound beasts will leave you for good, and we won't simply die. They hate us, and our outcome will be a whole lot worse compared to Autarch Qian if we're captured." Li Muyang said in a sorrowful voice.

"Understood. Well, everyone would beat thieves to death..." Tianming stuck his tongue out.

"You brat. Joking even in such a serious atmosphere." Wei Jing rolled her eyes.

"Haha, let's adjust the atmosphere a little." Tianming smiled. "Anyways, we're still alive, and no one can stop our family of three coming together. It's fine as long as we're happy."

Li Muyang and Wei Jing exchanged a glance, and they both smiled.

“Tianming, you’re wrong about that. It should be our family of four,” Wei Jing smiled.

“Ah?! I-I-I...” Feiling was stunned. She immediately lowered her head and blushed. Honestly speaking, she was already treated as part of the family, and Li Muyang didn’t keep his secret from her.

When the atmosphere calmed down, Tianming took a deep breath and nodded, “Father, mother, I know what to do now. I will definitely do my best to get our family of four out of this ordeal alive. I will try my best to become a god. That will be my upcoming goal, and I won’t rest until I become a god! So what if there are pursuers? As for the karmic threads, I guess that you guys won’t be able to make it clearer for me. But that doesn’t matter. I’m not someone who will lead a peaceful life. On the contrary, I want an exciting life! I will do my best to soar, and one day, I will change the fate of our entire family. I’ll kill whoever stands in my way just like the Nineshades Clan; I’ll exterminate their entire lineage!”

“That’s right. I never expected that I would have such a huge origin. Tianming might be ugly, but he’s still family. I’ll fight with whoever dares to touch our mount, even if it’s a god. If I stab his butt with my sword, he’ll bleed no matter what.” Ying Huo made a passionate declaration while lying on Lan Huang’s head.

“BORRRRRING! I just want to sleep.” Li Muyang’s words shocked everyone, but Meow Meow was only in the mood to sleep.

As for Lan Huang, it would just enjoy the thrill of charging through the wind and waves. Seeing that Tianming and his lifebound beasts weren’t intimidated by the pursuers, Li Muyang and Wei Jing were shocked.

“You guys aren’t afraid?” Wei Jing asked.

“Mother, this isn’t a question of whether we’re afraid. I have no choice since someone wants to kill my family and me. I’ve experienced many things during this period and understand this simple logic—we can’t show any fear to our enemies. Otherwise, we might disappoint those we love and those who love us. I not only believe in myself, but I also believe in Ying Huo, Meow Meow, and Lan Huang. They’re all my brothers, and we’re not afraid of death. Perhaps having an outcome a lot worse than Autarch Qian might terrify me, but losing them and losing you is ten thousand times more painful,” said Tianming.

“Doesn’t sound bad. Tianming, your life is different from mine. I have some fixed mindsets due to the Sky Plunderer Clan, but I hope you will develop your own mindset and style. Live a different life from mine,” said Li Muyang.

“Does the Sky Plunderer Clan still exist in the world?”

“There aren’t any more of them.” Li Muyang took a deep breath with tears welling up in his eyes. “Your grandparents and all our clansmen sacrificed themselves to protect me...”

He didn’t want to say it, but in the end, Tianming had asked. When the pain and despair returned to his heart, it made him feel terrible.

“I got it.” Tianming took a deep breath. Total destruction of the clan? That was simply an irreconcilable feud. Tianming now knew that his experience back in the Grand-Orient Realm was nothing in comparison to this.

He would only change his fate for real if he did it together with his parents. Li Muyang said that they were only an ordinary clan, but they relied on their unique talents to accomplish the glorious thing in history. Wasn't that the same as a small fish changing the flow of the river's current?

Tianming couldn't help looking at Li Muyang with reverence. He was proud to have such a father in his life, the Sky Plunderer Clan's remnant who resisted the pursuers, Li Muyang who went against Autarch Qian, and Mu Yang who killed the fifth son of the Lin Clan.

His father had many identities, but he never changed. Li Muyang wasn't like Li Wudi, but he bore too much on his shoulders. He might once be a puny figure, but he was courageous, and Tianming would never forget Mu Yang fought with the Lighting Manor back in the Flameyellow Stadium. On the other hand, Li Wudi was a grassroots chivalrous hero.

Tianming turned to Wei Jing and asked, "Mother, how are you related to Jiang Lingjing, Autarch's Princess Skyfate?"

It now appeared that Autarch Qian was the one who killed Jiang Lingjing and framed Li Muyang for it. In reality, the two were killed by Autarch Qian after Li Muyang failed to seize the Cyclic Mirror.

"She's my ninth reincarnation," Wei Jing replied.

"You also have ten reincarnations?" Tianming was dumbfounded.

"That's right."

"That means you're also from the Sky Plunderer Clan?" Tianming asked.

"No." Wei Jing shook her head.

"Then...?"

"I'm the Cyclic Reflector," replied Wei Jing.

"What the hell?!" Tianming widened his eyes and exclaimed out, "Mother, you're not a human being?"

"Watch how you're talking with your mother!" Wei Jing grabbed onto Tianming's ears, and she said angrily, "How can I give birth to you if I'm not a human being?"

"Then what's going on?"

"I'm the Cyclic Reflector's spirit. I fell in love with him and took him through ten reincarnations. I wasn't a human before, but I am now," said Wei Jing.

"Holy shit, that's touching as fuck. Is this what we call a perfect romance?" Tianming was dumbfounded.

They reincarnated for ten lifetimes, undergoing ten lifetimes of love. The hero tried to change history, while the mirror brought him through ten reincarnations to escape.

"That's touching." Feiling sobbed.

"That's melodramatic," Tianming praised.

"Why don't you try and say that again?" Wei Jing glared.

“Oh, my great mother, please spare me,” Tianming yielded.

Everyone laughed as they looked at Tianming. This was no longer a family of four but a family of seven. If Tianming were to include the seven remaining Primordial Chaos Beasts that were yet to hatch, it would be a family of fourteen. But what would become of their fate? Tianming had no idea about that.

The so-called fate was now crashing onto him like a colossal mountain, but he wanted to continue going forward on his path. He swore to himself that he had to be like a lunatic. For this family and for those he loved, he was willing to bear everything, even at the expense of death.

Chapter 574 - Archaionfiend Eye

They soon arrived at the Decimo Dao Palace. The family walked together as Li MUYANG held onto Tianming and Wei Jing.

“Are we going to say our farewell soon?” Tianming asked. Their reunion was too short, and they were going to be separated right away. So how could he not feel uncomfortable about it in his heart? Today was the first time he officially had a conversation with his father.

“We have to be separated for us to survive. Your mother and I will draw some attention away from you. Remember, the so-called gods in the Flameyellow Continent represent the Ascension stage.”

“I got it.” Tianming nodded his head and tightened his grip on his parents’ hands. He really didn’t want to part with them, and tears actually rolled down his cheeks. That was so unlike him. He didn’t even get intimidated after hearing about the pursuers but actually started tearing up upon seeing that he had to part with his parents.

“I’m sorry about that. That was so unlike me. Let me readjust my mood for a moment.” Tianming turned his head around and wiped the tears off.

“Tianming...” Wei Jing came over and hugged Tianming. This was the son that she had brought up with her own hands for twenty years, so how could she possibly bear to part with him now that he had to undergo such an ordeal? She had just been holding it in.

“Mother, please don’t be like this. A man never cries, and you’re making me seem like a girl. It’s too embarrassing, and I can’t retain my prestige before my little brothers now,” Tianming anxiously said.

“HEY! WHO ARE YOU CALLING YOUR LITTLE BROTHERS!” Ying Huo said with tears streaming down his cheeks as well.

“Why are you crying?” Tianming was surprised.

“WELL DUH! SHE’S MY MOTHER TOO!” Ying Huo replied.

“What the hell?”

Seeing that Wei Jing couldn’t calm herself down, Tianming could only hug her and say, “Mother, I understand you. Your son is so handsome, and you have to suffer running away with such an ugly, old man. It has been tough on you...”

“Hey, what did you just say?!” Li MUYANG glared.

Wei Jing finally burst into laughter.

"It's so easy to make you laugh. No wonder you got conned by him so easily in the Grand-Orient Realm," Tianming said in a contemptuous tone.

"Hurry up and shut that mouth of yours. What do you know? It's love!" Wei Jing replied.

"Tsk Tsk!" Tianming and Ying Huo started laughing with an ambiguous smile on their faces.

"Treat Ling'er well. She has been traveling with you since she was sixteen or seventeen, putting her own life at risk. You're not allowed to be frivolous in love, alright? The Sky Plunderer Clan might plunder everything, but they won't plunder hearts," Wei Jing reminded.

"Father, is what she said right?" Tianming asked.

"Ahem! That's for sure," said Li Muyang.

"Well, I can tell that you're too lonely. Otherwise, you wouldn't have fallen in love with a mirror," replied Tianming.

Li Muyang and Wei Jing immediately started sweating. This was a separation between life and death, but Tianming made the entire matter seem like a joke.

"Tianming, Ling'er's identity can ensure that you have a foundation and protection up to a certain level in the Archaion Divine Realm. But you must use it flexibly. Don't attract the jealousy of others and get schemed, understand? You know what I mean?" Wei Jing said.

"I understand." Tianming nodded.

Jiang Feiling's divine body was called Xuanyuan Yu, the tenth god of Flameyellow Continent and the second god of the Archaion Divine Realm. If Tianming wanted to pass through the Canal of the Dead, he would have to travel to the Archaion Divine Realm. The Canal of the Dead was dangerous, and no one would visit it unless it were necessary.

"Father, mother, how much do you guys know about Perpetia City and people like the Primordial God-Emperor?" Tianming asked.

"I can't tell you anything. You have to explore it yourself, such as finding the other parts of the Grand-Orient Sword and Prime Tower," said Li Muyang.

"Got it." It looked like Perpetia City was on the same level as Li Muyang's first reincarnation. The Cyclic Reflector's last fragment was located in Perpetia City, and it also had the Cyclic Map that could track the Cyclic Reflector. This meant that there was a connection between them.

"What are you going to do with the Cyclic Map?" Tianming asked.

"You can hold onto it. Use the tracking function when you become a god, and I'll be able to detect you. Perhaps we can reunite at that time," said Li Muyang.

"That'll be a long time from now." Tianming suddenly realized that it would be a long time before they could meet again. Perhaps they might even be separated by life and death.

“Tianming.” Li Muyang gritted his teeth. “We father and son will have to stand upright and face this catastrophe together. If we can succeed one day, then we will have no regrets.”

“No regrets,” Tianming repeated. There were still many things that Tianming had to explore on his own, and the pursuers could calculate his existence if those keywords appeared in his mind. This was why Li Muyang had to be absolutely cautious and avoid letting Tianming know the keywords.

“Tianming, do as I say after you go through the Canal of the Dead,” said Li Muyang when the Decimo Dao Palace appeared in their vision.

“Alright. I’m listening.”

“Because of Ling’er, I suggest you visit the Archaion Divine Realm. Only the nine divine realms can nurture you into becoming a god, and it will probably be difficult for you to return here. But there’s nothing you have to worry about with the Nineshades Clan annihilated and Li Wudi around. You will see them again in the future. When you head to the Archaion Divine Realm, there’s something important you have to do immediately,” said Li Muyang with a grave expression.

“What’s that?” Tianming asked.

“The Archaion Sect controls the Archaion Divine Realm, and the Archaion Sect has the Archaionfiend Eye sealed beneath their sect. If you’re able to obtain this eye, you would have your third eye truly formed. This is my gift to you within my arrangements. If you can obtain it, you’ll be able to conceal your existence and increase your odds of living, and it can also grant you the means of an Archaionfiend. This is a demonic item, and there’s no way the Archaion Sect will let it out. So you will have to do your best to obtain it. It’s vital to you because it can increase your odds of becoming a god by fifty percent. So keep in mind to obtain it if possible!”

“The Archaionfiend Eye? Got it. I’ll keep it in mind.” Tianming looked at the third eye on his right hand.

“Our Sky Plunderer Clan requires us to obtain the Archaionfiend Eye to possess the ability to plunder and conceal ourselves. So you can only be considered a genuine member of the Sky Plunderer Clan after you obtain the eye,” said Li Muyang.

“Then can’t you just give it to me?” Tianming asked.

“You wish! You’ll be drawing out the pursuers if I give it to you directly,” said Li Muyang.

So that was the case. Tianming had to do everything by himself for him not to be detected? It sounded as though the world was enormous, and they had to use this method to go after someone. After all, Li Muyang had undergone ten reincarnations, but how could they detect where he reincarnated to?

These were still too mysterious for Tianming to understand, and he could only do as Li Muyang said. With that, Tianming set his first target on the Archaionfiend Eye, and if he failed this step, he would be placed in a passive position on his pursuit to become a god.

“I’ll head in and awaken Weisheng Yunxi. We’ll bid our farewell here,” said Li Muyang.

“Okay.” Tianming had already shed his tears, and everything that needed to be said was already said. Parting was the most helpless pain in the world, and Tianming didn’t want them to feel uncomfortable

anymore. So he simply stood there and smiled. When Wei Jing walked in, she turned around several times to look at Tianming.

“Mother,” Tianming called out.

“What is it?” Wei Jing turned around with tears streaming down her cheeks.

“I want to be the only child in the family, so don’t you two make another one,” said Tianming.

Wei Jing suddenly burst into laughter. “Don’t worry about it. You will be my only son, and I’m already tired of being a mother.”

“What else?”

“Well, I’m looking forward to becoming a grandmother. What do you think?” Wei Jing winked.

“Haha!”

“I’m just kidding. You guys should take it easy. At the very least, don’t bring a kid running around before we’re out of this ordeal,” said Wei Jing.

“Got it.” Tianming nodded.

“I-I-I’m still unwed!” Feiling argued while she fiddled with her skirt.

“What are you thinking about? You’re already mine, and I’ve already determined you as my daughter-in-law. You won’t be able to run. So wait for us to prepare the bridal price and let Tianming marry you!” said Wei Jing.

Tianming was speechless. Was there a mother-in-law in the world who would declare that her son’s girlfriend was already hers? That declaration... was a little too domineering.

“Okay.” Feiling lowered her head and pinched Tianming.

“Goodbye, youngsters.” Wei Jing pursed her lips.

“Goodbye, old granny,” said Tianming.

“Goodbye.”

“Goodbye.”

Tianming stood at the entrance, watching them enter the Decimo Dao Palace. It took less than ten breaths for Li MUYANG to remove the Cyclic Stigma on Weisheng Yunxi. Then, Li MUYANG and Wei Jing disappeared.

Goodbye. Tianming muttered in his heart, repeating it tens of thousands of times. After today, his parents would no longer stay in the Divine Capital, and they would no longer be around him. Like a cub, he had to experience bloodbath if he wanted to grow up in the forest.

“We’re a family, and we will meet again.”

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When everyone found out that Tianming had to leave soon, all his friends and family in the theocracy came to the Decimo Dao Palace. Li Wudi and the rest came back first, and they stayed beside Weisheng Yunxi. When Weisheng Yunxi woke up, they immediately explained what happened during this time as they walked over to Tianming.

Tianming could see many familiar figures coming over. They were Wei Tiancang, Jiang Cheng, Jiang Qingluan, Chief Mentor Mu Wan, Sage Chen, Li Jingyu, Ye Yuxi, Ye Shaoqing, and Bai Zijin. Of course, there were also Li Qingyu, Ye Lingfeng, and Li Wudi.

Weisheng Yunxi already knew that Autarch Qian had died, and the Nineshades Clan was destroyed. She also knew that Tianming, Li Wudi, Ye Lingfeng, and Li Muyang turned the tables around and saved the Decimo Dao Palace from danger.

She was only in a brief coma, and the news she got after waking up was simply too wonderful that Weisheng Yunxi felt utmost joy. But when she heard that Tianming had to leave, her eyes filled with reluctance to part.

Li Muyang told Tianming to head for the Canal of the Dead as soon as possible, but Tianming couldn't bear to leave everyone. It had already been half an hour since he came back, and he couldn't stay for too long.

Tianming had many things to say to everyone, and most importantly, decide who would go on the next journey with him?

Chapter 575 - Fortune Favors the Boastful

Li Wudi asked Tianming about the whole matter, but he didn't dare to say too much. He just gave him a brief explanation about how his father was still being pursued by someone even more powerful than the autarch.

Li Wudi immediately understood their troubles.

"If you're going to die if you can't escape, you might as well flee. I'll remain here anyway, as nobody can match up to me here. As long as I'm here, you'll always be welcome here," Li Wudi said.

"Definitely."

"If you get beat up outside, come back and complain to me."

"What will you be able to do about it?"

"I promise not to laugh at you," he said with a sly smile.

"You're not my real father, after all."

"Your real father slipped away long ago. To think you still dare to bring him up...."

They didn't have much time left. Once they left, it wasn't even certain whether they would ever return alive. With that thought in mind, Tianming wanted to bid everyone farewell.

"Tianming, I've seen all the surprises this life has to offer. I no longer have any lingering regrets. I'll be traveling around in the future. Who knows, I might even run into you," Weisheng Yunxi said.

"I'm envious, Palace Lord. You're finally about to enjoy the retired life," Tianming said. "Nonsense. I should be the one envying you young folk. I hope I'll be able to hear your name ring throughout the Flameyellow Continent one day."

"I'll do my best. But you'd better not lose your hearing before then."

Weisheng Yunxi chuckled at that remark. She pointed at Li Wudi and said, "Tianming, once you manage to build a firm foundation for yourself outside, you should come back to your godfather's Decimo Dao Nation. Perhaps he'll manage to ascend to godhood and claim the surrounding area as the Decimo Divine Realm," she said.

"I'll leave that to him then." He turned to Li Wudi and said, "Congratulations on becoming emperor." Decimo Divine Realm did have a good ring to it.

"Actually, I much prefer being able to roam around freely. I'll leave the management of the nation to Shaoqing," he said with a chuckle.

"Damn you, you piece of crap!" Ye Shaoqing's smiling face instantly grimmed. "Why are you asking me to clean up all your messes? Am I your dad or something?"

"Master, you'd better get used to it. That's how he treats his lovers," Tianming said.

"Excuse me?!" Ye Shaoqing's whole body shivered.

If Tianming were honest, he really didn't feel like leaving them behind. He deserved a good rest and celebration with them after their hard-fought victory, but he didn't have that luxury.

"Grandfather." Tianming gave him a deep hug.

"Go, child. You better think up a few ways to extend my life," Wei Tiancang said.

"Will do."

"Good grandson, Granny wants a hug too," Li Jingyu said.

"Haha, alright."

Feiling was definitely going to leave with him, too. She had gone to fuse the innate and acquired godchild bodies to form a complete divine body.

"Ling'er, is this their plan to take you away or something? It was quite a long time before we were reunited, but you're going to leave right away... you have to be careful..." Jiang Qingluan said.

"Are you badmouthing me again?" Tianming asked.

"Give me."

"What?"

"A bribe for taking my sister, you dolt."

"I had it ready long ago." He tossed her a spatial ring as promised. There were all kinds of treasures within that could easily make her one of the most powerful people in the Decimo Dao Nation.

"Qing'er, I have a few gifts for you too," Feiling said, still teary eyed about their imminent departure.

"Waaaah!"

They broke down in tears.

Bai Zijin pinched his cheeks with a smile and said, "Don't die."

"Alright." Tianming nodded obediently.

"Big Brother, when will we meet again?" Qingyu said. Her lips shook as tears fell.

"When the flowers bloom again in spring."

"You liar."

"Don't worry. Once it's safe, I'll come back and take you traveling. I'm worried that I'll cause trouble for you if I stay."

"I know. I'll be waiting."

"Come, give me a hug."

"Fine."

Tianming stroked her head. He found it rather weird that even though they weren't related by blood, he felt no romantic desire toward her at all. It was like she was his real sister.

Finally, he turned to Ye Lingfeng. "Feng, I'll be embarking on a really dangerous trip. So, I don't want you to come along."

Li Muyang had told him all about the potential dangers. If he was found before he could ascend to godhood, he would die a horrible death. It was already enough that he was taking Feiling along, so he really didn't want Ye Lingfeng to join him on such a perilous journey.

"Brother Tianming, I'll do whatever you say," he said as he clutched his fists and endured.

"Do you want to go to Archaion too?"

"A little, but I respect your decision."

"How about this: I'll check the place out first. If it looks fine, I'll come back and take you with me."

"Alright!" Ye Lingfeng nodded excitedly. It really did seem like he badly wanted to tag along.

Currently, Tianming had no idea about Archaion at all, and Ye Lingfeng was the current wielder of the Evil Suppression Pillar. So he couldn't afford to let Ye Lingfeng go there without checking if it was safe enough.

Based on how even Xuanyuan Xu knew about the Grand-Orient Sword and Prime Tower, Tianming figured he shouldn't use them too readily when he was there, lest he attract any unwanted attention.

"For now, you should let all eighty thousand souls of your race rest well. It's only a short parting. We are brothers and we'll definitely meet again one day."

"Understood."

Tianming hoped Ye Lingfeng would understand his troubles. Thanks to the danger brought by the Primordial Chaos Beasts, he was in a really perilous position. There was no telling whether he would drag the others down with him. While he couldn't get Feiling to leave him, he could at least try to convince Ye Lingfeng. Now that he had dealt with all the loose ends, staying any longer would only be tempting death. He took a few steps back and bowed to everyone.

"Till we meet again, everyone! Farewell!"

He then took Feiling's hand and left without turning back. All of his family and friends remained there for quite some time even after he was gone.

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Li Muyang had shown him a route he could take. First, he would depart from the Divine Capital and travel north along the Northvoid River to the Northern Voidsea. Then he was to travel west along the coastline to reach the Canal of the Dead.

The canal stretched from the sea across the continent, cutting off the whole of the eastern part of the continent, within which the Theocracy was located. He would then cross the Canal of the Dead from the coastline of the Northern Voidsea to reach Archaion, one of the Nine Divine Realms.

The Archaionfiend Eye Li Muyang had tasked him to retrieve was located at the Archaion Sect, which was among the top sects in the entirety of the Flameyellow Continent. It was far greater in scale compared to the Grand-Orient Sect, being in a whole different league. That was the true center of the Flameyellow Continent where gods ascended.

"Traveling by water is much more convenient for us."

The route Li Muyang suggested was the fastest one he could take, thanks to Lan Huang, who was all too happy to splash about in the Northvoid River.

"Swimming is so much fun!" it cried with both of its heads. Its voice was so deafening that it shook Tianming and Feiling's eardrums.

Ying Huo stood atop the tallest peak on Lan Huang's back with its two wings proudly thrust against its waist. This was its attempt at a cool pose. Meow Meow, on the other hand, stretched in its sleep within Feiling's embrace.

"What's up with these three?" Feiling chuckled. The beasts weren't fazed in the slightest by the Aeonian Grandbane, and they seemed just as carefree about the pursuers that had been hunting Li Muyang throughout his ten lifetimes.

"Either they're really brave, or there's something wrong with their heads."

"But they seem so cheerful about it," Feiling said with envy.

Tianming was seated on Lan Huang's brown head. He looked at the black-colored sea in the distance with a sense of agitation. "Walking hand in hand with someone precious through the perils of the mortal coil... such is life."

"I think I'm gonna puke." Feiling feigned vomiting.

"Would you dare? Young one, don't be so arrogant. Now, it's just the two of us. Once I can no longer hold myself back, you'd better be careful.... Hehehe..."

In a flash, Ying Huo swooped over and Meow Meow snapped awake. They almost had their popcorn ready to enjoy the show.

"Do it," Ying Huo encouraged.

These shameless animals! Tianming took out the fourth egg from his lifebound space, and the air around them was filled with a fragrance.

Feiling liked the egg so much that she stopped spoiling Meow Meow. Stroking it, she asked, "Big Brother, what kind is it?"

"I have no idea. There wasn't a place in the Theocracy that matched its hatching conditions, so I plan to give it another try in Archaion. It's the center of the continent, after all, so it could work out there."

"I feel like it's different from the other three. It's probably a girl. I really hope it hatches soon, I'm already overwhelmed by these three troublemakers." As she spoke, the egg rolled around excitedly in her hands.

"Yeah. I'll look into how to make it hatch if I have the chance."

"It if works, you'll be a quadruple beastmaster. I wonder if someone like that exists anywhere else."

"Just because nobody in the Theocracy has four beasts doesn't mean there isn't anyone in all nine of the Divine Realms. We'll see." He looked ahead in anticipation. "But that doesn't matter. Our goal is to explore and conquer the Flameyellow Continent. One day, I'll become a sovereign of the entire continent, far greater than my godfather."

"Is it really fine to boast before you even arrive?" Feiling said with a snicker.

"Don't you know that fortune favors the boastful?"

"Was that how the saying went again?"

Chapter 576 - Unparalleled Brilliant Moons

It was the night at Tianming's former residence. There was a stone table and two chairs in the yard.

"Checkmate! Sister Qingyu, you lost again!" Ye Lingfeng said gleefully.

"Sigh..." Qingyu pouted and said, "How annoying... I feel really restless ever since Big Brother and Ling'er left. That's why I lost."

"That's blatantly false. You started losing every match since you taught me the game," Ye Lingfeng said ruthlessly.

"Nah, it isn't."

"Is too!"

"Say that again?!"

"Is... not?"

"That's better. Watch your words. There's no way I would lose every match."

"Fine. One more round?"

"Nope. I want to admire the moon."

The two of them then turned to the moon.

"I feel so bored," Qingyu said.

"Me too."

"Come up with a topic." "I... I don't know what to talk about," he said with his head lowered.

"What do you want to do next?"

"Train."

"What about your free time?"

"I have no idea..."

"Let's just continue admiring the moon then."

"Alright. What day is today? The moon's really bright today."

"Is it the 15th of the month? Or was it the 16th? Wait... It's already the 21st! Why's the moon still so bright and round?" Qingyu's moon-colored eyes reflected the moonlight.

"It's weird..." Even Ye Lingfeng knew that the 15th was a few days past. There was no way for the moon to be so bright.

"Hmmm, this is weird..." Qingyu's voice suddenly sounded really thin and airy.

"What's wrong, Sis Qingyu?" He turned around and saw the glow coming from her eyes cover her whole body. It looked like she was bathing in moonlight.

"Rather return... Live out life with the nine moons," she mumbled.

"What?"

"Return... Oh, return... to the unparalleled brilliant moons," she said as she turned her head up to look at the moon with a trance-like look.

"What's going on?" Ye Lingfeng asked with a solemn look. The Soulfliend came closer and was just as shocked to see Qingyu in this state. All of a sudden, she began to float towards the moon even though she wasn't a sky saint. It was as if she was levitating upwards in a straight line.

"Where are you going?" Ye Lingeng asked as he followed her into the sky. The speed at which she ascended wasn't too high, so he could keep up. The Soulfliend also tagged along by converting itself into a breeze and wrapping itself around him.

Now, Qingyu was already impossibly high up. They were near the limits of the altitude a sky saint could fly. In another five hundred meters at most, Ye Lingfeng would no longer be able to keep up. Hurriedly, he grabbed her arm. "Let's go back."

Just as he applied force, a fearsome power came from her body and shook him to the point his hand was bleeding. She looked down and stared at him with her pale, white eyes.

"Sister Qingyu..." He felt a chill down his spine. Even though he couldn't keep up any longer, she still continued to rise. It was impossible for a fresh earth saint like her to fly so high. Was she heading towards the moon?

Ye Lingfeng stopped thinking too much about it and used the last of his energy to catch up to her and grabbed her calf. He didn't dare tug it too hard, for he would no longer be able to keep up if he was shaken off again.

Thankfully, she didn't seem to care now that he wasn't tugging at her. All this while, he didn't know what was going on. The only thought on his mind was that he couldn't just let Tianming's little sister float off like that. Just like that, the two of them appeared smaller and smaller before they turned into two black dots in the night sky, melding into the moon. Only then did the full moon return to its former waning form.

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Outside Decimo Sacred Hall stood a blood-haired man. He watched the scene in the sky unfold. "So it's finally here, huh..."

He shook his head helplessly.

"Just like that, my two children have embarked on two different paths. As a father and godfather, all I wish is for them to live on without grudges or regrets. Live your lives to the fullest."

.....

Ten days later, Tianming was speeding along the coastline of the Northern Voidsea, heading west. By the time the Canal of the Dead was within sight, Lan Huang was already out of breath. It rolled its eyes and laid flat on the surface of the ocean as it lazily floated its way over.

"Hey, is swimming still fun?" Tianming asked.

"No! I've swum enough for a lifetime!" Lan Huang groaned.

"Haha, there won't be a next life."

As they would be crossing the Canal of the Dead, Tianming asked them to return to the lifebound space. Now that Feiling had fused the two godchild bodies into one, her body took corporeal form, so he had no choice but to cross it with her.

He had decided to stop relying on her Spiritual Attachment unless absolutely necessary so as to not slow her cultivation down. Otherwise, it would be really troublesome to carry the corporeal innate godchild body the whole time.

She trained using Perpetia Sutra. Had Tianming not needed her to aid him with Spiritual Attachment lately, she would've become an earth saint already. Now, she was something akin to a revived god. All she needed was proper guidance and training to improve at a blinding speed.

If someone like Xuanyuan Xu had her divine soul and divine body, he would no doubt ascend to godhood quickly. Though, even at her slowed rate of growth, it was still terrifyingly fast. Her revival had something to do with the Perpetia City. Much like Li Mu yang's reincarnation, it was something even the gods couldn't mimic.

"Ling'er, my next goal is to not be superseded by you. As long as I can do that, I stand a good chance of ascending to godhood!"

"Is that so? Looks like I'm giving you quite a lot of pressure, Mister Top Genius of the Theocracy in Ten Thousand Years," she said.

"Haha, if you can really eclipse me and dominate the skies, I wouldn't mind mooching off you. I love the feeling of other people's envious gazes."

"Then, I'll spoil you and you alone. Even if everyone sees you as a useless mooch, I'll never leave you."

"Really? Looks like I'll have to marry into your family instead."

"Oh worthless son in law, come greet your lady," she said, getting more into the role.

"Haha, dream on. I'm a real man and won't stoop to that," he said as he pinched her cheeks. It hurt so much that she bit him and pinched him a few times.

As they spoke, they reached the Canal of the Dead. It looked like a pitch-black wall that stretched leftward towards the Flameyellow Continent and right towards the endless seas. It didn't seem to have an end. But on closer inspection, one would see that it was not a wall, but rather a kind of black light. Tianming had thought that it would be filled with spirit hazards, but that didn't seem to be the case.

"The Canal of the Dead is a little like the wall that separates the two worlds," Feiling said.

"I see."

"It's said that the more powerful someone is, the more resistance the canal will offer. However, normal people without a trace of beast ki can easily pass through. The wall was made to stop the elites from crossing," she said.

"It sounds like it's a heavenly pattern barrier that was made to protect the Theocracy."

"Is there anything in the Theocracy that's worth protecting?"

"I don't know."

"All your father said was in crossing the canal, you'll be able to sever the karmic ties. But he didn't say anything else. Perhaps crossing it really is like crossing into another world. That must be why even karmic ties can be severed."

"That makes sense. I didn't think you'd know more about this than me, madame."

"I'm still young you know!"

"Haha, young indeed."

As Tianming was only a fifth-level sky saint, he shouldn't have a hard time crossing the canal. Xuanyuan Xu was able to make it through, after all "It's no wonder few elites of the Nine Divine Realms come to our side. It's not that they don't want to come here and rule over us; they simply aren't able to."

"That's right."

"Alright, let's go!" He took her hand.

"Okay." After she nodded, the two of them stepped into the wall of black light.

Almost instantly, Tianming felt like he was being burned. The power in his saint palace was being drained as if he was fighting someone.

"Why does this feel like Soulburn?" Tianming asked.

"Yeah, it's the same, but a little weaker," Feiling said.

They continued ahead. The range the wall of light covered was known as the canal, within which one wouldn't be able to see the road ahead. There was no way to tell how much distance there would be left. Even Feiling wasn't able to see anything.

However, he could at least feel the warmth of her hand, as well as how anxious she was. He gave her a squeeze and pulled her closer to him as they forged ahead.

"I don't care if you're a god or human. All that matters is you're mine," he said amidst the storm of light.

"You are mine too."

"Then whose are we?" Ying Huo asked.

"My excrement? You do pop out of my lifebound space all the time, so..."

"Why you little--"

Tianming felt completely carefree. No matter how dark it seemed, he never felt a hint of fear, for the one walking behind him needed him. His saint ki continued to drain, but he was able to replenish it quickly with Prime Tower. The canal was a walk in the park for him. Soon, they would arrive in Archaion!

Right at that moment, countless beams of black light gathered in front of Tianming, forming into a face so large that it covered the skies. There were millions of eyes dotting the gigantic face.

Chapter 577: 100 Thousand Years Later, the Reincarnation Returns

It was a most terrifying sight to behold. Tianming felt his heart clench from the shock. The face made him feel like all his organs were pierced through.

"Plunderer, your time of reckoning has come! Even ten reincarnations weren't enough to save you. I have found you! Everything is over for you!" the face roared so loudly that it felt like the world was crumbling.

Feiling was so terrified that her hand shook profusely. He turned back and gave her a hug. Without saying a word, he kissed her. The wet warmth finally snapped her out of her anxiety.

"Plunderer, your time of reckoning has come! Even ten reincarnations weren't enough to save you. I have found you! Everything is over for you!" The same words kept repeating as the eye-filled face contorted. However, the words kept repeating senselessly. It seemed like a pointless threat. They hadn't found Tianming nor Li MUYANG at all. If Tianming lost his cool and revealed everything in the canal, it might get even worse.

"Are you okay now?" His passionate kiss caused her knees to give out. Even amidst the darkness, she could see his gold and black eyes. They seemed ever so resolute.

Their lips having parted, Tianming turned to look at the gigantic black face before continuing onwards, passing through the face entirely, but it simply reappeared in front of him again and again, repeating the same lines.

All of a sudden, he saw a bright light coming from ahead. Elated, Tianming pulled Feiling towards it.

"We finally made it through!" he couldn't help but cheer. They had managed to sever the karmic ties. However, that was only the first out of many steps they would have to take. "Next, the Archaionfiend Eye."

.....

They were greeted with warm sunlight, fluffy clouds, lush flowers and green grass. Tianming took a deep breath after crossing the Canal of the Dead. "So this is the air of a foreign land... Doesn't it smell good?"

"No way it does." Feiling stepped on the soft, black soil and twirled a few times. Her blue skirt rose, revealing her smooth, long legs. Tianming squatted down and admired their beauty.

"What are you doing? Don't you get sick of staring?" she snapped. Recalling how he sealed his lips by kissing her to prevent himself from saying anything unnecessary, she felt a little stimulated. It was a dangerous mix of fear and passion.

"You look so good, I'll never get sick of it."

"Hmph, stupid mooch. All you're good for is your sweet mouth," she said, secretly relishing in the compliment.

"You liked that? Want another taste of these sweet lips?" he said with a smirk.

"I wasn't referring to that!"

"Oh, believe me, I know."

"Idiot. I bet you didn't want Feng to come cause you wanted to tease me."

"Bingo."

With them not knowing where the Archaion Sect was, they weren't in a rush to look for it. Tianming decided he would cultivate as he searched for it. Mainly, he would focus on assimilating into the local

culture first. Otherwise, it would be quite troublesome if he was to be recognized as someone from the Theocracy the moment he opened his mouth.

All he would have to do was to find a town and spend a month there. At least, he would be able to get a rough grasp on the local powers and happenings. What he was most curious about was how powerful the cultivators at the center of the continent were, these so-called descendants of the gods. Were they empyrean saints or samsarans? At the very least, he knew that there were no gods on the Flameyellow Continent.

"I wonder how the Samsara stage is broken down... How many people are at this stage in all of the Nine Divine Realms?"

As he pondered those questions, he headed southwest along the coastline of the Northern Voidsea. While the people of Archaion were powerful, they numbered far fewer than those of the Theocracy. Tianming hadn't seen a single person even after two hours of traveling.

Right at that moment, they heard a shriek not far away. The shriek was so domineering that Tianming could tell it belonged to a phoenix.

When it flapped its wings, the world around them shook. Tianming looked up and saw a green phoenix flying towards them from the north.

It looks so huge even though it's still so far away... Will it block out the whole sun if it's right above us? Tianming thought. He felt like he had underestimated the power level of the Nine Divine Realms based on his singular encounter with Xuanyuan Xu.

He brought Feiling to a shade nearby to avoid being detected by the phoenix, but it stopped when it was right above him and circled in the sky.

"Dang, it really is huge!" It was ten times bigger than Li Wudi's Ancient Infernalblood Kunpeng. Taking a look at its eyes, he snapped, "What... It has about eight hundred stars!"

It was truly a shock to behold. Hundred-star saint beasts were things of myth in the Theocracy, yet the first beast he encountered had about eight hundred. What was going on? Was Xuanyuan Xu simply a small fry in Archaion?

As he mired in the shock and awe, the phoenix seemed to have pinpointed his location. Almost instantly, two figures descended and appeared before them, causing them to feel grave danger. They were a thousand times more dangerous than the autarch or Xuanyuan Xu. It only took one look for Tianming to understand the magnitude of the rift between those in the core of the continent and those in its fringes.

If his guess was right, the two of them were more powerful than empyrean saints based on their aura. They were probably at the Samsara Stage. Tianming didn't even dare to look them directly in the eye. Meeting these elites ruined his plan of slowly getting to assimilate with the locals.

However, he still got a good look at their appearances. The one on the left was a woman wearing a white-and-black dress and a face veil. She stood tall and slender and gave off a cold feeling. It was hard to tell her age based on her gaze, but she should be a senior based on the lock of white hair that mingled with the rest of her black hair.

The one on the right was a youth wearing a gold-white robe. He gave off a similar vibe to the woman that could only be described as cold and lofty. Like her, he was tall and slender and looked really handsome. Though his features were gentle, his gaze was as sharp as a sword. But his most defining feature was without a doubt the third eye that sat between his other two. It was dark gold,, unlike the other two eyes with black irises.

The youth stood behind the woman, so that probably meant she had a higher status than him. Tianming had a feeling she was even more powerful. In the next instant, the woman raised both hands with a passionate expression before prostrating on the ground with her hands outstretched.

Then, with all her might, she yelled, "Fang Qingli of the Sterling House of Fang greets you, Eminent Xuanyuan! Congratulations on your revival after 100 thousand years!"

She sounded so touched that words failed to capture the intensity of her feelings. The one she had prostrated herself to was Feiling, who was startled by her loud voice.

The youth beside her also kneeled and yelled with his booming voice, "Xuanyuan Yuheng of the Archaic House of Xuanyuan greets Your Eminence! Congratulations on your revival and descent upon our realm!"

Tianming and Feiling's ears rang from the sheer volume of their voices. He looked at the two prostrating elites in a daze, but quickly snapped out of it. Feiling had been discovered as Xuanyuan Xi! There was no way they would be able to scout the place out any longer.

Tianming had talked to her about this before. The fact that she wasn't Xuanyuan Xi was not to be discovered by the denizens of Archaion at all costs. If it came to light, the two of them would be in grave danger. While they didn't know how they managed to spot her so quickly, there was nothing they could do now but pretend. Now, it all rested on her mental fortitude and ability to ad-lib.

Tianming shot her a look. She should be able to handle it since she did have some of Xuanyuan Xi's scrambled memories. "Alright. Rise."

Tianming finally relaxed at how she managed to play her part at the crucial juncture.

"Yes!"

The two of them immediately got up, but she didn't dare to look up at her.

"Your Eminence, this is the divine blood you left behind 100 thousand years ago in preparation for Your Eminence's prophesized revival. The blood shall lead the way to Your Eminence. The descendants of our houses held onto this divine blood throughout the generations. Even though everyone claimed that gods can't return from the dead, we believed in Your Eminence's prophecy without wavering and have waited all this time for this! The whole of Flameyellow Continent shall marvel at this miracle!" Fang Qingli exclaimed.

"Okay." Feiling didn't know what else to say and nodded.

"Your Eminence, here is your divine blood." She took out a really tough gem made of some unknown material that didn't have any heavenly patterns on it. Within it was a drop of divine blood that pulsed in Feiling's direction. Now, it was obvious how they found her.

Feiling took the gem. At that instant, Fang Qingli furrowed her brow and asked, "Your Eminence, why is your cultivation only at the Earth Saint stage after your revival?"

Chapter 578: Please Spare Me, Your Eminence

"Is there any issue?" Feiling said, trying to mimic the tone of Xuanyuan Xi.

"I wouldn't dare!" Fang Qingli hurriedly said, bowing her head even lower than before. "I thought Your Eminence would be able to rise up to the heavens right away."

"You're overthinking this. I have to start over. I had ascended within twenty years before, so this time ten should be enough. In the coming days, I want the descendants like you to help me to the best of your ability."

"Understood! All the descendants will do our best!"

So far, she seemed to have no doubt about Feiling's identity at all. Her divine body was still the same, after all. Thankfully, Tianming had prepared her to act haughty back then, just in case situations like this occurred, or the act wouldn't hold up at all.

As she spoke, Feiling retrieved the divine blood and put it in her spatial ring. Who knew that a single drop of Xuanyuan Xi's blood would allow her descendants to track her down.

Xuanyuan Xi's certainty about her revival a hundred thousand years from then no doubt has something to do with Perpetia. Ling'er said that once Xuanyuan Xi ascended to godhood, she could summon Perpetia and enter it at will, Tianming thought. It now seemed that they had no choice but to go to the Archaion Sect. It would be weird for Feiling to refuse protection from the descendants of Xuanyuan Xi after ending up so weak after her revival, after all.

"Take me back to the sect," Feiling said without waiting for Fang Qingli to bring it up.

"Understood." Fang Qingli obediently waved for her green phoenix to land. It had four wings and seemed really elegant and refined in comparison to the unimpressive Ying Huo.

The phoenix lowered its head to Feiling and said, "Your Eminence, please come up."

Feiling, being familiar with noble customs due to having been a princess herself, didn't rush to go up and instead stretched her hand out for Fang Qingli to help her up.

Wow, she's like a whole different person! Tianming thought. She really worked hard to perfect her act.

Fang Qingli was as nervous as she was respectful, and carefully pulled Feiling up. Tianming also jumped to mount the phoenix, but right before he did, it suddenly turned and glared at him, applying a huge pressure on him.

"What kind of vulgar peasant dares not to pay Lord Green Phoenix any respects?" someone cried.

Before Tianming could react in mid air, a figure appeared before him and struck him in the abdomen with a palm. He spat out blood furiously as his organs ruptured. If not for the Purple Tower taking the brunt of the attack, it would be enough to take out three of his saint springs! He had almost been crippled with a single strike.

He had thought everything was going well; why was he attacked all of a sudden? His eyes turned bloodshot—he had never been this injured even after facing off against Dongyang Yun and Autarch Qian. Was it just because he was trying to follow Feiling up onto the phoenix?

Tianming grit his teeth and struggled to get up and look at the one who attacked him. It was the youth who had come with Fang Qingli, Xuanyuan Yuheng. He was about the same age as Tianming, but he seemed a thousand times stronger than even Autarch Qian. Tianming had no way to resist and could only await death. The attack made him ever more aware of what Weisheng Yunxi had told him about the might of the Nine Divine Realms.

"What are you doing?!" Feiling snapped. First, she panicked, but when she saw him get up, she knew he had managed to endure it. However, she angrily turned to Xuanyuan Yuheng and said, "Are you looking to die?"

"Your Eminence!" Xuanyuan Yuheng knelt and said, "This lowly brute doesn't have a shred of respect and actually tried to mount Lord Green Phoenix! I reacted without considering what he was to Your Eminence. Please forgive me!"

"Your punishment is death!" she bellowed.

"Your Eminence?" He was instantly filled with despair.

"Your Eminence, please forgive him!" Fang Qingli begged as she suddenly knelt. "Yuheng is my disciple and a descendant of the Archaic House of Xuanyuan. Ever since his birth, he's been hardworking and talented and managed to reach the Samsara Stage before twenty. He's one of the top geniuses in all of the Nine Divine Realms and an obedient young man loved by all his seniors! He only made that mistake because he was reckless! Not to mention, he hasn't fought someone of such a low rank for far too long, so he couldn't control his power. He only intended to give him a light push without knowing it would almost kill him! Please spare Yuheng's life. I'll definitely punish him dearly after we return to the sect to make him learn the error of his ways!"

"Your Eminence, please spare my life!" Xuanyuan Yuheng pleaded. He never could have imagined that Feiling would have such a big reaction. He saw her as an exalted being. In such a cruel world where status was everything, Tianming would have to worship her, had he no special relation to her.

A light push that almost cost my life? Tianming didn't know whether it was truly light, but he made sure to remember this grudge. He wasn't born in the center of the Flameyellow Continent, so he was willing to accept the disparity of power they had.

It probably wasn't surprising that a genius that stood atop the whole of the Flameyellow Continent could indeed almost rupture his saint springs with a light push. So, Tianming wasn't willing to use Feiling to kill Xuanyuan Yuheng. That would be rather meaningless. Not to mention, she had to maintain her composure to pass herself off as Xuanyuan Xi. They simply couldn't afford conflict before they even reached the Archaic Sect. After all, she was still weak right now, so it was best to put dangerous notions like that aside. As for Xuanyuan Yuheng, Tianming vowed to himself that he would one day give him a light push that would crush his saint palace.

He had almost lost his life from a moment of carelessness, but he was able to pass his intent on to Feiling with but a single glance. After listening to Fang Qingli's begging, Feiling coldly said, "I will forgive

you for your first transgression. But if you dare touch even so much as a single hair of his, you will die with no exception."

"Understood!" both of them said, sweating buckets.

"Your Eminence, might I ask who this youth is?" Fang Qingli said. Someone who could make the eminent angry for their sake was no doubt not a normal person.

The answer to that question was fatally important. If she said his relation to her was too close, her identity would be compromised. But if she framed it too distantly, then Tianming would still be in danger. The Grand-Orient Sword or Prime Tower wouldn't be able to help him up. Thankfully, Tianming had rehearsed it with her beforehand. Xuanyuan Yuheng had attacked him before she'd had a chance to introduce him.

"I ran into some issues after my rebirth. He was the one who helped me and is my benefactor. Not to mention, he has rather decent talent, so I intend to take him as my disciple."

"Decent... talent?" Fang Qingli seemed a little taken aback. Even Xuanyuan Yuheng was surprised to hear that. If Tianming's talent was decent, wasn't his unbelievable?

"Just you wait. How can your foresight possibly compare to mine?" Feiling said.

Fang Qingli and Xuanyuan Yuheng exchanged glances. All they knew was that their goddess valued this man a lot for helping her out.

"Is Your Eminence going to bring him to the Archaion Sect?" she asked.

"Yes. He is to be nurtured, and what happened just now must not repeat itself again," Feiling said.

"Understood!"

The goddess having a benefactor was an odd thing. It was both distant and important enough to not be dismissed easily.

"Introduce yourself," Feiling said.

Tianming had more or less recovered enough to breathe, thanks to the Prime Tower. He wiped off the blood from his mouth and smiled. "Greetings, Senior Fang, Senior Brother Xuanyuan."

"Alright. Get on," Fang Qingli said.

He did as she said, but had a hunch that it would be tough for him to be with Feiling from now on. It looks like both Ling'er and I are in a precarious situation now. I definitely won't be able to touch her like I used to, to say nothing of hugging each other to sleep. Who knows how they'll freak out? Maybe if there's nobody around though.... That sounds a little exciting.

Even though he was unhappy their relationship would be strained, they had to face the issue head on. He had to maintain his distance from her to protect her claim to be Xuanyuan Xi for them to survive. As painful as it would be for the time being, they had no other choice. Perhaps with her status in the sect, I'll be able to get the Archaionfiend Eye even faster. There was no saying how long he would take at his current power level, after all.

Well, it's do or die! He was once more filled with vigor when the phoenix soared into the skies. Feiling looked ahead without even turning back to him, her dress fluttering in the wind. I didn't think that our distance would widen so much with this encounter. But no matter, I'll do my very best to get close to her again!

He turned to look at Xuanyuan Yuheng, who was sitting prim and proper on the phoenix and had closed his eyes to cultivate.

"Li Tianming," he suddenly said.

"What is it?"

"According to the rules of the sect, you have no right to call me 'senior brother' before you become a samsaran."

Chapter 579: Too Ridiculous

A few days later, Tianming looked down and saw a gargantuan sect beneath him. The first thing he noticed were the thousands of spiritual energy springs there. Even the Divine Capital only had ten in total, nine in the Imperial City and one in the dao palace. In other words, the area had lots of intersecting ley lines that clashed and caused these springs to form, filling the skies with spiritual energy clouds.

The whole Archaion Sect was enveloped in a dense spiritual energy fog, with only the tips of the buildings visible from afar. It almost looked like the legendary realm of immortals.

He could even hear the sound of the spiritual energy gushing out from the springs, all of them more intense than the one in the Decimo Dao Palace. At the very center were even more gushing springs that shot up so high that Tianming couldn't help but be impressed.

He had to admit that those who lived in the center of the continent were indeed much more sophisticated than he'd initially thought; he had only seen a small part of the wide world. Based on the number of spiritual energy springs alone, he could see that the Archaion Sect was on a whole different level than where he had come from. It wasn't surprising for someone who grew up here to be so powerful. If there was a place that was ideal for cultivation, this would be it. Only those who cultivated here would be able to stand tall at the top of the Flameyellow Continent.

Tianming now finally had something to look forward to.

At that moment, the green phoenix with more than seven hundred stars began descending, causing lots of turbulence around them. Fang Qingli respectfully stood in front of Feiling to block it for her while Xuanyuan Yuheng kept his eyes closed as he continued cultivating. Though he was right next to Tianming, the gap between their power couldn't be further away. Tianming could feel that he was indeed a genius, based on the strong willpower he had. He had a rough gauge of the standard of the disciples in the Archaion Sect, based on Xuanyuan Yuheng.

After they passed through the spiritual energy clouds, Tianming finally got a clearer picture of the Archaion Sect. It was three times the size of the Divine Capital, with the buildings further apart. After all, there were no cityfolk here, only disciples and their lifebound beasts. The sect was laid out like a circle

formed by two yin-yang 'fish'. It was basically a taiji diagram. One of the two fish was a mountain range while the other was a lake, but the size of the lake was closer to an ocean.

The various buildings of the sect were built on the mountains and above the lake. The ones in the lake were supported by heavenly pattern formations that wouldn't budge even if lifebound beasts collided against them. The moment he arrived, Tianming heard the cries and roars of countless lifebound beasts of all species, and even saw many of them amidst the mountains, the lake, and the skies, which made for a rather majestic sight. It seemed that the disciples of the Archaion Sect, much like the Grand-Orient Sect, preferred to let their lifebound beasts out and about. Only dense cities would have restrictions on allowing lifebound beasts to come out, so Tianming's lifebound beasts would no doubt have a much easier time here.

The green phoenix was still flying, and Tianming quickly scanned the area to get a feel for the levels there. It was a really tightly guarded place. At the very center was where the spiritual energy was most dense, and the population gradually decreased the closer they were to the center. Apart from that, there were two smaller circles in the taiji diagram, which looked like eyes for the yin-yang fish. They were respectively the mountain-among-seas and sea-among-mountains of the sect.

If Tianming's guess was right, Fang Qingli was probably trying to bring them to the mountain-among-seas. As he thought that, the green phoenix arrived at the lake that was half as large as the dao palace.

"Your Eminence, we've arrived at Xuanyuan Lake. Your descendents of the Archaic House of Xuanyuan have prospered here since the time of old," Fang Qingli respectfully introduced as she helped Feiling down. There were two who had ascended to godhood in the history of the Archaion Divine Realm, and both of them were from the Archaic House of Xuanyuan, firmly cementing their position at the top. Feiling kept her cool and didn't speak too much.

"I'll go first to make the announcements. All the top figures of the sect are awaiting Your Eminence's return at Xuanyuan Shrine," Fang Qingli said.

"I see." Feiling nodded and waved for her to lead the way. Xuanyuan Yuheng and Tianming followed behind. Tianming looked and saw a grand, sparkling hall adorned with many carvings of dragons all over. The deep engravings of the name plaque of the building seemed to contain so much of their willpower that it almost hurt Tianming's eyes to stare at it.

"Wait outside the hall," Fang Qingli said, knowing that Tianming wasn't aware of the rules, then entered with Feiling. Xuanyuan Yuheng also followed.

Feiling would have to face the strongest people of the Archaion Sect. Tianming was a little nervous about whether she would be able to take it. Not even he could be sure that he would be able to pull off the act perfectly, but all he could do was listen and wait outside.

The moment they entered the hall, a really loud and resounding greeting could be heard. "All hail Her Eminence! We, the descendants, celebrate Her Eminence's glorious return!"

Everyone within the hall knelt and kowtowed. They were really passionate. If Feiling screwed up, it would be over for them. Now, Tianming knew that the most important thing was to maintain Feiling's identity and not reveal it to anyone. He could even feel Xuanyuan Lake itself shaking from the vibrations. Even Xuanyuan Yuheng and the lifebound beasts around them knelt.

The stakes were much higher than before. He hadn't been aware of how truly important the second ascendant was to the Archaion Sect.

"With Her Eminence's return, the first divine realm shall rise back to prominence and dominate the Flameyellow Continent once more!" It was so loud that Tianming's eardrums almost shattered. Now he was seriously getting worried about Feiling.

He knelt at the entrance and tried to sneak a glance inside, only to see her seated in a black and gold dragon throne. Fang Qingli was kneeling in front of her, awaiting orders. No other person dared to look straight at her. Feiling nervously bit her lip and gripped her fists tight as she looked at all the elites with powerful auras. Each of them seemed like a titan that could easily crush someone like her.

"Rise," she said, trying her best to speak with slow dignity. "Even though I've returned, I'll need to re-cultivate for ten years to be able to ascend once more to godhood. Before that happens, keep everything operating as normal and don't make a big deal of this. I don't have time to show myself. Understood?"

Tianming's eyes brightened when he heard that. She was pretty witty. As expected, Fang Qingli immediately nodded and said, "We understand, Your Eminence. That is a pressing matter and we won't do anything that would interrupt Your Eminence's cultivation. I've already arranged for Soulburn Hall to be cleaned for Your Eminence to cultivate in. Godservant Hall is just right next door with a hundred and fifty servants waiting at Your Eminence's beck and call.

"Very well," Feiling said with a nod.

"Your Eminence, please allow me to introduce the three sect masters."

"Go ahead." Feiling was getting more and more into her role.

The three sect masters were no doubt among the most powerful figures in the entire Archaion Sect, having an even higher status than Fang Qingli. Tianming saw three people with their backs facing him and heads lowered.

"Your Eminence, this is Fang Taiqing, the sect master of the Heaven Branch from the Sterling House of Fang," Fang Qingli said as she pointed to a green-robed man.

"I see."

"This is Xuanyuan Dao, the sect master of the Earth Branch from the Archaic House of Xuanyuan," she said as she pointed to a white-robed man.

"Noted."

"And this is the sect master of the Human Branch, Jian Wuyi from the Draconis House of Jian," she said as she pointed to a blue-robed man.

"Understood."

"As for the other administrators and the three tribulation elders, I won't be introducing them one by one. Whenever Your Eminence needs anything, please summon me. I'll always be waiting at Godservant

Hall to relay Your Eminence's words to the three sect masters. They are the three main pillars of the Archaion Sect and are incredibly trustworthy."

"Very well," Feiling said.

"Does Your Eminence have any other plans for now?"

"No. You may all excuse yourselves. I intend to begin focusing on cultivating."

"Understood!" everyone answered. "We'll excuse ourselves, Your Eminence."

They backed off out of the entrance without turning their backs.

"Sect Master Jian, please stay," Fang Qingli said.

Chapter 580: Reunion with the Unexpected

Within Xuanyuan Shrine stood a man in blue who said, "I, Jian Wuyi, will definitely carry out your will."

"Well said, Sect Master Jian," Fang Qingli said before turning to Feiling. "Your Eminence, this is the sect master of the Human Branch, which is a place suitable for Tianming to train within. Should we arrange for him to cultivate there?"

Feiling frowned slightly, having wanted to keep him by her side, but it would definitely be weird for a goddess like her to keep a sky saint disciple by her side within Soulburn Hall, a place forbidden to most. After this meeting, she knew better than anyone that she couldn't afford to let slip that she wasn't Xuanyuan Xi at all costs, or they would be in huge trouble.

As the memories she had were still rather jumbled, she didn't know too much about the sect yet, so keeping Tianming by her side would be dangerous. While it wasn't out of the question that she would want to reward him for saving her life after her 'rebirth', keeping him around during the most private of situations wasn't something a goddess would do. She felt that if she didn't follow her instincts and keep her desire suppressed, they would be in danger. "Very well. You're called Jian Wuyi, is that right?"

"Yes, Your Eminence," he passionately answered.

"That youth is my benefactor and has helped me since my rebirth. I'll leave him in your care. If anything happens to him, you will be held accountable for it."

"Understood!" Even though Jian Wuyi didn't know who they were talking about yet, he agreed.

"I've given him two treasures. Make sure that nobody else takes them from him. As for the rest, you don't need to pay too much heed to it. Give him some space to grow by himself," Feiling said.

"Understood!" Jian Wuyi nodded once more. Even though she didn't speak much today, half of what she said concerned that mysterious youth. It was obvious that she held him in very high regard.

In fact, Feiling also felt that she had said a little much, though it shouldn't surprise them that someone who had managed to ascend to godhood would have virtuous qualities such as gratitude. Even then, she still felt rather bad about them having a hard time meeting from now on. She wouldn't accept that, so she took a small risk. "Li Tianming has very impressive potential. Tell him that when he becomes the

strongest disciple in the Archaion Sect, I'll personally take him as my disciple. Before that happens, I'll be giving him some guidance once per month."

"Your Eminence is taking a disciple?!" Jian Wuyi turned to Fang Qingli and saw that she was just as surprised, even though it wasn't her first time hearing it. Becoming the disciple of an ascendant was a mere fantasy in the eyes of many.

Then again, Feiling was just using that as an excuse to see Tianming. She had wanted to set it once every ten days, but kept it at one month just in case, as much as it pained her to do so. She didn't care about cultivating in Soulburn Hall and would much rather hug him to sleep. Even though she seemed really calm now, she couldn't help but loathe Fang Qingli. If it weren't for her, she wouldn't have to pretend to be Xuanyuan Xi and sneak around eggshells like that.

Similarly, Tianming was about to cough out blood from that. To think that their relationship would turn into a forbidden love after crossing into this new area. But for now, all they could do was to wait and see how the situation played out. Perhaps in time she would be able to summon Tianming often without raising many eyebrows.

Feiling resisted her urge to see him again and followed Fang Qingli to Soulburn Hall.

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Outside Xuanyuan Shrine, someone suddenly said to Tianming, "I'm really curious where your ultimate talent is hidden."

Tianming turned and saw that it was Xuanyuan Yuheng. "Would you believe it if I said it was hidden here?" he said as he pointed at his private spot.

"Hmph." Xuanyuan Yuheng proceeded to ignore him.

"Are you holding a grudge against me because Her Eminence almost had your life after you almost killed me by giving me a 'light push'?"

"You? I'm sorry to have to say this, but a sky saint like you isn't even worthy of that much. I was eight when I was at your level."

"Eight?" It was no wonder he was so arrogant. What kind of monster was that? Did he start cultivating in his mother's w.o.m.b?

"Li Tianming, work hard. I await the day you become the strongest disciple in the Archaion Sect."

"I think I hear a hint of jealousy there. Not happy that Her Eminence wants me as her disciple?" Tianming said with a smirk.

Xuanyuan Yuheng just ignored him and left.

"Her Eminence does indeed favor me. You can hold that anger in if you want. Next time, it'll be my turn to give you a 'light push'," Tianming said.

Xuanyuan Yuheng's shoulders shook from the hilarity of that statement.

Soon after, a blue-robed man came to Tianming. He had an aquiline nose and stood as straight as a sword. His gaze was just as sharp, as if there were thousands of strands of sword ki contained within. Tianming felt that this man was even more terrifying than Fang Qingli, to the point that his stare could hurt.

"A sky saint?" the man said, taken aback by how promising the eminent had made it sound.

"Li Tianming greets you, Sect Master," Tianming said.

"Very well. You seem to have potential at your age. Shall I take you to the Human Branch, per Her Eminence's instructions?" Even though Jian Wuyi still had his doubts, he decided to not overthink it.

"Yes."

"Then follow me."

Tianming followed behind while trying to remember the way back, just in case he was summoned there.

"Li Tianming, where were you born?"

"I don't know. I don't have parents and was a vagabond during my childhood."

"Then you truly are fortunate. Most disciples of the sect like you don't even get a chance to see me throughout their entire life, let alone Her Eminence."

"I see."

"How did you help Her Eminence anyway?" Jian Wuyi inquired.

"It has something to do with her rebirth, and I'm forbidden from sharing it," Tianming answered.

"Oh, I see."

At that moment, a powerful, bloodthirsty aura instantly stained the skies red. Jian Wuyi furrowed his brow from the discomfiting air.

"Sect Master, what's that?"

"The Archaionfiend Eye at the Heaven Cauldron."

"Heaven Cauldron?" Since the sect was split into Human, Earth, and Heaven Branches, was the Heaven Cauldron in the Heaven Branch?

Jian Wuyi took him on another path toward the Human Branch, which was located in the outermost reaches of the sect's circular territory. That was the place with the most people and least resources.

"Do you wish to go to the Heaven Branch?" Jian Wuyi asked.

"A little."

"Heaven Branch disciples have all reached the Samsara stage, so you're still far from it. Even if you do manage to get in, you'd be overwhelmed by geniuses. Though I don't understand what talent Her Eminence sees in you, I believe there must've been a good reason for it. Take it one step at a time. For now, you belong in the Human Branch, and you'll be in my care."

"Thank you, Sect Master." Hearing that only samsarans were allowed in the Heaven Branch didn't diminish his will at all. Instead, it bolstered it. Back in the Theocracy, his talent was through the roof and he had no competition at all. But now he was pumped for the challenge. He felt like it wouldn't take him that long to climb the ranks.

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After he was brought to the Human Branch, Jian Wuyi handed him a seal. "If you run into any trouble you can't deal with, show this seal."

Tianming thanked him again, though Feiling was the one who had actually made it happen.

"Just familiarize yourself with the sect first. I'll come a bit later and hand you some other things that you'll need." Before he left, he gave Tianming three books: Sect Regulations, Annals of Nature, and Trinity Almanac. The first detailed the hundred sect rules that he had to memorize by heart, as its title suggested. The second was an encyclopedia containing entries on all kinds of treasures, landscapes, and beasts on the Flameyellow Continent. It was Feiling's favorite. The third was the most important to Tianming, and detailed everything about the Archaion Sect, from the rewards and punishments, secret techniques, cultivation stages, and rankings held by disciples of seniors. He would be fully familiar with the sect once he read it all.

Tianming calmed himself down and finished the three books within his assigned residence, fully naturalizing himself. All of his doubts had been cleared.

"It seems like I must become a samsaran to get the Archaionfiend Eye from the Heaven Branch." His path ahead was long and arduous.

Fang Qingli had a good reason not to let him enter the Heaven Branch from the start. He would only be bullied and dominated there. He felt that it would be really risky for him to get Feiling to help him obtain the Archaionfiend Eye at this point in time. After all, it was a fiend that had threatened all life before. She would be mad to hand it to him.

"I'll take it one step at a time, but I'll quicken my pace." He finished the three books and got ready to cultivate. Right as he sat down on a large rock in the courtyard and was about to start, he heard a commotion nearby.

"Lin Xiaoxiao, how dare you steal Senior Brother Fu Bo's treasure? We'll take you to the Judgment Hall now!"