

## The Ages 661

### Chapter 661 - The Eleventh God

"Come here," Feiling said to Tianming. Her silhouette seemed to blend in with the snowy background behind her, making her look even more alluring. Unlike Xuanyuan Muxue, who looked like the blizzard itself, Feiling stood out against the snow as if she had given it a life of its own.

"Yes, Your Eminence." Tianming still couldn't afford to show how moved he was. He walked past Xuanyuan Dao and Fang Qingli to Feiling's back. Now that she was dressed in a top grade tribulation artifact covered in many heavenly pattern formations, the other two no longer had to stick so closely to her to protect her, so Tianming was now the one who stood closest to her.

"How is your cultivation?" she asked when she turned around, her eyes filled with deep longing.

"Your Eminence, my progress has matched your expectations so far, and I might be able to continue meeting your hopes." Tianming could see the words she wanted to say, but couldn't, in her eyes. He wanted to hug her and tell her he missed her and all sorts of other things instead of speaking about serious matters like these.

"Not bad. I can tell that if you continue, you will definitely become the top genius of the Flameyellow Continent, perhaps even the eleventh god to be born!"

Tianming knew why she had to say that: to establish an excuse to give him even more clout so that he would have an even higher position in the Archaion Sect.

"Thank you, Your Eminence. I will definitely follow in Your Eminence's footsteps as your disciple and serve you to the best of my ability," he said.

"Your Eminence, does Tianming really have a chance at ascending to godhood?" Xuanyuan Dao asked.

"Time will tell."

"Your Eminence's prophecies have never been wrong. I wonder if the Archaion Sect will be able to dominate the entire realm with two gods?" Xuanyuan Dao said happily. The other seniors of the Archaic House of Xuanyuan also seemed happy to hear it. They knew that, while they were in a tough spot now, once all of it was over, the Archaion Divine Realm would rise again.

"It's best you don't say things like that. Let Tianming make his own progress. He is still young, and there are still many difficulties on the road ahead of him," Feiling said sternly.

"Understood!" the others chorused.

There were many geniuses throughout history that were said to be potential new gods but only Tianming alone had the sight and interest of a real god.

"Tianming, if you have any needs in your cultivation from now on, tell Xuanyuan Dao. The Archaion Sect will give you its full support."

"Thank you, Your Eminence!" Now, his position in the sect would definitely be unrivaled. Perhaps he could even request to participate in the Fiend Trials, and it was all thanks to his performance in the Deepstar Battle. Now, all he needed was a word from her to get a spot at the Deepstar Pool. She could even do things that Fang Taiqing couldn't.

Compared to when they had first come and had zero idea of what to do, their current situation was much better. Both Tianming and Feiling already had a reasonably good idea of the politics and relationships in the Archaion Sect.

As a result of what Feiling had said, the atmosphere in Soulburn Hall was much more relaxed. She really had grown into her role as the eminent pretty well.

"Is there anything else? Otherwise, go back to cultivate," she said.

"Your Eminence, there is one more matter...."

"Speak."

"Back then, my fourth lifebound beast was injured, but now it has recovered and is able to fight. However, it is a little low in level and I still need one more tribulation manna."

"Your fourth? Oh, the one that was injured when you saved me." She knew what he meant by that. Hearing that the new lifebound beast might soon be born, she stifled her excitement. Turning to Xuanyuan Dao, she said, "Get him one more."

"Understood! What grade do you need, Tianming? Will a fourth-level one do?" Xuanyuan Dao seemed far more generous than before.

"Yes, that will do. Thank you, Your Eminence!"

"What type do you need?"

"It's a little unique. I need a plant type."

"Plant?!" Everyone was surprised to hear that.

"Plant-type lifebound beasts are really rare, and it's only one of his lifebound beasts."

"Plant-type lifebound beasts are also really hard to deal with in their own way."

"It's no wonder that even Her Eminence considers him a top genius."

The other seniors were busy discussing the revelation.

"Since that type is rare, it'll take some time to get a suitable one," Xuanyuan Dao said.

"Thank you, Sect Master. It isn't needed urgently, as it is still recovering."

"All right."

After settling the matter, Tianming was preparing to go back.

Feiling took out a small book and said, "Here is a battle art for you. Study it when you go back."

"Thank you, Your Eminence!" Tianming received it, but it only looked like a normal book. One that was handwritten by her, in fact. He quickly put it away.

"Now go."

"Yes. I will be taking my leave."

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After leaving Xuanyuan Lake, Tianming took out the 'battle art' and looked inside. It was just a normal blank book with a simple paragraph:

I believe you are busy, so you will

Miss the chance to take a rest.

You should definitely read the words at the fore for some tips.

He turned to the earlier pages but didn't see anything else. Only then did he notice that the words that the paragraph referred to were the three first words of each line that read 'I miss you'.

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Before Tianming returned to Number One Pavilion, he ran into Fang Xingying who flew past riding on his grey phoenix. Tianming stopped him from leaving.

"What's the deal?" Fang Xingying asked.

"Nothing much. I see that you're humming. You must be in a rather good mood."

"Fang Xingque is dead, so of course my mood is good. Tianming, I need to apologize to you. I was really rash back then. I didn't know that you were trying to help me," he said gratefully.

"Oh?" Tianming began paying attention.

"I heard he died a horrible death, fitting for someone as evil as he was. He finally got what he deserved."

"Aren't you concerned about the fact that I'm still alive after killing him?"

"Word has spread that you're the disciple that Her Eminence brought back to the sect. Her Eminence really favors you, so your status is even more amazing than an illegitimate son of the Human Branch sect master would have. Even though Fang Xingque was the son of the Heaven Branch sect master, that still can't compare to Her Eminence!"

"You are too excited about this. You should tone it down a bit or you'll let things slip."

"Huh?" Fang Xingying feigned ignorance.

"You don't need to thank me. The one that killed him might not be me. It could even be the Heaven Branch sect master himself," Tianming said with a chuckle, then waved and left.

Once he returned to Number One Pavilion, he noticed that the direwolf was still alive and the Imperial Sword Prison was really stable.

"Something is off."

"What?" Ying Huo asked.

"The Imperial Sword Prison doesn't look like it can go out of control."

"Does that mean someone tried forcefully breaking it and caused it to explode?"

"If that's the case, how could they be sure that I was the one who killed him? Anyone trying to break the seal would know that utmost caution should be taken. How can I be blamed for this?"

"The key is that you don't know the circumstances behind Fang Xingque's death."

"Did someone from the Sterling House of Fang kill him and put the blame on me?"

"It can't be. What would that achieve?"

"I don't know." Tianming kept thinking about it, but couldn't figure out anything about Fang Xingque's death. He didn't even know who was there, or what they had seen or heard. "If Fang Xingque was brought back, then normal people wouldn't be able to touch him. Someone must've been protecting him, right? That puts Fang Xingying out of the picture."

"Why are you suspecting him?"

"He has the motive to do it, but not the opportunity. He did seem a little nervous to see me. It wasn't just gratitude and excitement, so I began suspecting him."

"Makes sense, but you still lack details."

"The question is, the Sterling House of Fang isn't making any noise about his death, so where can I get details from?"

"How would I know?" Ying Huo rolled its eyes.

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Within a floating palace's pavilion on Xuanyuan Lake, Xuanyuan Muxue was playing a guzheng. Her music was really soothing. The breeze that blew past ruffled her hair, highlighting her beautiful figure in the icy landscape. Her youthful appearance was filled with vigor. However, she stopped playing when someone came.

"Brother Yuheng," she said, standing up.

"Muxue." Xuanyuan Yuheng sat down beside her with a sinister look.

"Do you have something on your mind?" she asked.

"Yes."

"Are you uncomfortable about the fact that the whole sect now knows that Li Tianming will one day become the eminent's disciple?"

"You really understand me."

"I do indeed."

"Muxue, you'll be going to the Deepstar Pool with Li Tianming soon, right?" he asked with a passionate look.

"Yes."

"I have a way for you to avenge your brother. You'll be able to safely kill Li Tianming. Listen well, this is a chance that might never come again!"

## **Chapter 662 - Deepstar Pool**

"Big Brother Yuheng—" Xuanyuan Muxue began, but Xuanyuan Yuheng immediately disrupted her.

"Deepstar Pool is an isolated space without any protection. Yi Xingyin will leave after leading you guys inside. At that time, you'll be alone with him, and you can kill him. After that, just claim that he was trying to insult your modesty and you fought back because you were humiliated. Just pay attention to details and create some evidence. By that time, Li Tianming will already be dead, and no one can testify for him. You're a woman and the eminent's descendant. Even if he's the eminent's disciple, no one will sympathize with him!"

"Muxue, your appearance is one of the best in the sect, and it's not surprising that Tianming will lust over you. On the other hand, you were smart enough to not compete with him in the Deepstar Battle, and even helped him. So no one will think you're trying to frame him!" Xuanyuan Yuheng seemed excited as he grabbed Xuanyuan Muxue's shoulders.

"Big Brother Yuheng, i-i-isn't this a little too risky? I might be able to defeat him, but I won't be able to kill him. He has three lifebound beasts, and one of them is extremely fast. As long as one of them escapes, won't the plan be ruined?" Xuanyuan Muxue asked.

"Don't worry about it. I've already made preparations. Since Fang Xingque's eight star heavenly tome didn't work, I'll prepare a nine star one for you. I'll go buy one, as long as you agree to my plan. There won't be any witnesses anyway, so you can just say that you're the one who killed him. Don't worry about it. My purchasing channel is safe," said Xuanyuan Yuheng excitedly.

When Xuanyuan Muxue heard those words, she looked at Xuanyuan Yuheng with her eyes wide. She gradually calmed down and looked away without giving him a reply.

"Muxue, why aren't you talking? I'm offering you an opportunity to take revenge! You should know that this will be the only chance. If you miss this chance, I can only die with resentment," urged Xuanyuan Yuheng.

"Big Brother Yuheng, you sound like you're afraid of him. You're still a lot stronger than him, and there's no need for you to be afraid," said Xuanyuan Muxue, biting her lip.

"I'm afraid of him? What nonsense are you talking about? I'm doing this for you!" Xuanyuan Yuheng argued.

“Don’t try fooling me. You’re afraid of him. You might regret pushing him. Either that or you’re afraid that the eminent might give him all her attention, and your future only lies in succeeding the Godservant Hall. You’ve never taken a rest in the past two decades, but you discovered that you’re just a servant and that’s all you’ll ever be. That’s the reason you’re jealous of Li Tianming becoming the eminent’s disciple. Big Brother Yuheng, you shouldn’t have visited the statue every day,” said Xuanyuan Muxue.

“Shut your mouth!” Xuanyuan Yuheng roared with bloodshot eyes.

“I’m sharing my thoughts with you because I respect you. I fought him during the Deepstar Battle, and I can see his drastic improvements over a short period of time. I’d be a fool if I insist on standing against him, because I might become the next Fang Xingque. Big Brother Yuheng, perhaps you might not be used to the fact that there are other geniuses in the world, like Fang Xingque for example. Fang Xingque’s talent was much higher than yours. There’s many people of our caliber in the world, but there’s only one eminent and one Li Tianming. I can only give you my apology—there’s nothing I can do to help. I have to survive because I have to fight for my clan and calling, not twisted ideals. Big brother, take a step back and everything will be fine,” said Xuanyuan Muxue. She said that while staring into Xuanyuan Yuheng’s eyes.

“Big brother Yuheng, you have to accept reality. We were born with nobility, and we’re so much better than many people out there. So why can’t we be happy with what we have and accept the fact that there’s always someone out there that’s better than us? The discomfort in your heart is because you looked down on him right from the start. It’s your sense of superiority that’s messing with you. Please wake up. You need to have a humble heart to carry down this road. At least you’re stronger than him right now, and you can easily reconcile your relationship with an apology. He’s not an arrogant person, and he might be able to accept your apology. Jian Lingchen helped him a little and he repaid that with a spot in the Deepstar Pool. You can tell how he treats his friends from that alone,” said Xuanyuan Muxue. Xuanyuan Yuheng was already standing three meters away from her, staring at her with a grim smile.

“I hope you listen to what I said,” said Xuanyuan Muxue.

“Haha, you’re cheap,” replied Xuanyuan Yuheng. “You make it sound all good, but Muxue, why don’t you say that before your big brother’s grave?”

“Don’t talk about my brother! Did you ever pay any regard to him? How many times did you insult him for being a piece of garbage? I know what I’m doing, and there’s no need for you to point your finger at me. I’ll give my big brother an explanation in the future, if I’m strong enough, but before that, please don’t try and get me to do your dirty work!” Xuanyuan Muxue snapped with her eyes turning red.

“Great! Great! You’ve grown up, and you know how to be cowardly now. Think carefully when you show how cheap you are before Li Tianming. Recall your surname! We’re the Archaic House of Xuanyuan, not servants of outsiders!” Xuanyuan Yuheng turned around and left.

The eminent wasn’t an outsider in his heart, but Li Tianming always would be. So how could an outsider possibly deserve such a high position? But Tianming’s position was given to him by the eminent, and that’s what troubled him the most. He was filled with reverence for the eminent from the time he looked at the statue at a young age, but he never expected that something like this would happen one day.

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Two days later, the greenscale direwolf was still alive, despite being hit by the Imperial Sword Prison. Tianming couldn't wait until the Imperial Sword Prison lost control, because Yi Xingyin had come.

"Have you rested?" Yi Xingyin asked.

"There's no need for rest," said Tianming.

"It won't be easy cultivating the Ancient Deepstar Godbody in the Deepstar Pool. You need to be prepared for it," said Yi Xingyin.

"It's all prepared, Palace Lord."

"Alright then, clean up. We're leaving," said Yi Xingyin. He threw a white emblem to Tianming and said, "This is your emblem as a Heaven Branch disciple. Starting from today, you'll cultivate in the Heaven Branch. It'll be more convenient for you. Your cultivation might not be in the Samsara stage, but everyone's witnessed your strength."

"Understood." Tianming had nothing holding him back. He called out Lin Xiaoxiao and asked, "You're a disciple of the Earth Branch now, right?"

"That's right."

"Then why are you still serving me here?"

"I'll leave then." Lin Xiaoxiao pouted.

"No need. I'm a Heaven Branch disciple now, and I can take five disciples from the Earth Branch as my maids. You'll be leaving with me. Meanwhile, look for the other four on my behalf," smiled Tianming.

"Look for them yourself."

"So you're agreeing to leave with me?"

"Why will I refuse the opportunity to cultivate in the Heaven Branch?" Lin Xiaoxiao replied.

"Let's go then," said Tianming.

"It looks like you're addicted to your master-maid play. Young man, you really know how to have fun," laughed Yi Xingyin.

"You're misunderstanding."

"Speaking of which, don't you guys need some sort of uniform for this kind of play?" Yi Xingyin asked.

Tianming was left speechless by Yi Xingyin's words.

"Haha! Why are you blushing? This is nothing. I have twelve wives myself," said Yi Xingyin.

His words shocked Tianming once more. When Tianming raised his head to take a closer look at Yi Xingyin's chiseled features, he was fully convinced.

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This wasn't Tianming's first time in the Heaven Branch. But this time, he was moving there, and would probably stay until he was thirty. There weren't many people in the Heaven Branch, only five hundred disciples. That meant that each disciple had plenty of space to themselves, and everyone had a spiritual energy spring in their residence.

Tianming named his residence in the Heaven Branch as the Number One Pavilion again. After he settled down, Yi Xingyin said, "Head to the Deepstar Pool now. Call Xuanyuan Muxue along."

"How the hell should I know where she is?" Tianming asked.

"She's right beside you!"

In just two months, Tianming had changed his residence three times. When he came to the residence next to him, he was too lazy to knock on the door and just called out to Xuanyuan Muxue. It didn't take long for her to come out dressed in a fox fur coat.

"Palace Lord," Xuanyuan Muxue greeted Yi Xingyin.

"Let's go."

The Deepstar Pool was located in the Old Deepstar Path, so they were heading to the Old Deepstar Path's entrance in the Heaven Branch.

"Your fame has been spreading these past two days. You're pretty famous now," said Xuanyuan Muxue.

"What's the matter? You peeing your pants now?" Tianming asked.

"How vulgar!" Xuanyuan Muxue glared back at Tianming.

It didn't take long for them to arrive at the Old Deepstar Path's entrance. Heaven Branch's disciples' time wasn't limited in the Old Deepstar Path, and they were usually in there for ten-odd days.

The Astral Wills there came from predecessors in the Samsara stage, and every single one of them had been at least in the seventh level. That meant the Astral Will left behind by them was extremely helpful to the disciples.

"How fortunate that Heaven Branch disciples can cultivate in the Old Deepstar Path and Heaven Cauldron. Not to mention that each of them even have a spiritual energy spring to themselves. But that also means that only five hundred disciples under the age of thirty can cultivate here until they reach the Samsara stage." Tianming only found out about the drastic difference between the divine realms and the dao palace after coming to the Archaion Divine Realm.

He also had a better view of why people had to fight for resources, and why divine realms had to wage war among themselves. Tianming heard that Taiji Peak Lake, where the Archaion Sect was located, used to belong to the Yinyang Demon Sect before being taken over by the Archaion Sect.

Xuanyuan Lake and Tribulation Peak only received their names after that.

"Aside from Xuanyuan Xi, the nine gods once led their own respective divine realms to sweep the world. That means that descendants of the divine realms had a break in their lineage, and were nearly exterminated. They only managed to survive because there hasn't been another god born over the past



hundred thousand years. People are used to the balance, and the other eight divine realms also don't want to destroy their development of the past hundred thousand years."

### **Chapter 663 - Don't Disrupt My Studies**

The Flameyellow continent's structure had been constantly changing over the past two hundred thousand years. Even the Archaic House of Xuanyuan nearly died out. But they somehow managed to survive and rebuilt their foundation before establishing the Archaion Sect. The Archaion Divine Realm was something they named themselves. The other divine realms usually call their realm the Monorigin Divine Realm.

While Tianming studied the history of the grudges between the divine realms, Yi Xingyin brought them to the end of the Old Deepstar Path. Heaven Branch's disciples thought there was no end to the Old Deepstar Path, but there was an end. It lay at the Deepstar Pool.

The Deepstar Pool was the Old Deepstar Path's core, where stars converged. There was a gorgeous formation there that looked like another Deepstar Formation. Without the Deepstar Formation Permit, no other Heaven Branch's disciples would be allowed entry.

Yi Xingyin left a formation marking on Tianming and Xuanyuan Muxue and explained, "You two can cultivate here for a year. But you can only do so for two hours a day, understood?"

Xuanyuan Muxue nodded her head obediently and Tianming asked, "Why is it only two hours a day?"

The sect wasn't being stingy. It was a considerable amount of time.

"The Ancient Deepstar Godbody's cultivation requires absorbing astralsources. Astralsource is a combination of spirit ores and spirit hazards. The concept is similar to tribulation artifacts. The danger in absorbing it is greater than spirit hazards, and only the best of the best are allowed to cultivate in the Deepstar Pool. But youngsters don't tend to know their limits, which is why we set a time limit. It's to prevent disciples from overestimating themselves and dying," Yi Xingyin said in a grave tone.

"Sounds reasonable. It's the same as stabbing yourself with a sword." Tianming nodded.

"It's good that the two of you can keep it in your hearts. Don't push yourselves, since you've both already received the qualification to cultivate in the Deepstar Pool for a year. Even if it's only two hours a day, it's a decent harvest," said Yi Xingyin.

"Understood."

"The Deepstar Formation will open every day at this time, and again two hours later. At that time, the Deepstar Formation will expel the two of you even if you don't wish to leave," said Yi Xingyin.

"So you're saying that we have to be here at this time every day?" Tianming asked.

"Or you can choose to laze around," replied Yi Xingyin. That meant no one would force them to be here.

A small door opened in the Deepstar Formation, allowing Tianming and Xuanyuan Muxue, who possessed the markings, to enter. Yi Xingyin could also come and go as he wished, since he was the formation's owner.

Tianming was already impatiently waiting. Following Yi Xingyin, he stepped into the Deepstar Formation. When he stepped in, he was blinded by the brilliance, and the first thing he saw was an enormous astral lake. It was the Deepstar Pool.

The Deepstar Pool was filled with colorful astral sources. They looked like stars that fell from the skies, and the difference in their colors represented different elements. Tianming saw purple, red, brown, blue, green, and some golden astral sources around.

"Is it even possible to fuse such enormous astral sources into our bodies?" Tianming looked down at the sizable scarlet astral source beneath him. It was larger than his head, and it was at least fifteen centimeters. There were even some at thirty centimeters.

The scarlet astral source changed shapes like mercury, except it was surrounded with sparks. Just the temperature alone could incinerate any Heaven Branch's disciple alive. When Tianming saw the astral sources, he finally knew why they were limited to two hours a day in the Deepstar Pool.

"That's right. You have to fuse them into your bodies. Otherwise, how can the Ancient Deepstar Godbody be powerful?" Yi Xingyin smiled.

"But aren't they a little too huge?" Tianming smiled bitterly. He couldn't imagine how he could shove these rocks that were larger than the size of his head into his body every day.

"Calm down. This is just the beginning, and it's good enough if you can fuse one every few days. A year from now, you should be able to fuse with one astral source a day," said Yi Xingyin.

"Okay." Tianming and Xuanyuan Muxue nodded. Xuanyuan Muxue understood the Deepstar Pool well, so Yi Xingyin was mainly explaining to Tianming.

"Two years ago, Xuanyuan Yuheng relied on the Fiend Trials to cultivate here for a year, and he absorbed ten years' worth of gold astral sources in the Deepstar Pool. But the two of you won't need the gold astral source," said Yi Xingyin.

"So based on the colors, they're fire, thunder, earth, and water astral sources. What does green represent?" Tianming asked. The green astral source made him feel the most comfortable. It felt like they were filled with vitality.

"There's a total of six elements here, which are thunder, gold, wood, water, fire, and earth," explained Yi Xingyin.

"Wood astral source?" Tianming's eyes lit up. Since the astral sources could be considered spirit hazards, didn't that mean the fourth egg could also absorb it? But for some reason, the egg didn't seem to show any reaction to the wood astral source, so Tianming guessed that there wasn't enough wood astral source here. Not to mention that they weren't pure spirit hazards. So they were probably only used to temper the body.

I bet I can probably absorb and refine all the astralsources here aside from the gold ones to form the Ancient Deepstar Godbody when the fourth egg hatches. Tianming fell into deep thought.

Seeing through his thoughts, Yi Xingyin asked, "Tianming, are you thinking of absorbing astralsources of different elements to strengthen the Ancient Deepstar Godbody?"

"Yeah. Is there a problem with that?" Tianming asked.

"Yeah. Astralsources will clash with each other once they're fused into the body. That means the different elements will clash in your body and limit the total number of astralsources you can absorb. Let me give you an example. If you choose a single element to absorb, you can probably absorb a hundred of them. But if you absorb four different elements, your limit might only be twenty each. Simultaneously, the clash in the different elements will also make your Ancient Deepstar Godbody look like a mess. It'll become unstable, and there's no benefit in doing it. Many people have tried, but none of them had a good outcome. It was a pure waste of opportunity. It's better to stick to one element," explained Yi Xingyin.

"Understood."

"But you can give it a try. You'll be able to feel the distortion and rejection. It'll feel like your body is being ripped apart. It's a different concept from absorbing tribulation sword ki. Tribulation sword ki can be stored in the body, but astralsources will fuse into your bones, muscles, flesh, and blood. It becomes part of you. A mess is always incomparable to a stable body," continued Yi Xingyin.

"Got it. I'll keep that in mind." Tianming nodded.

"This is the Ancient Deepstar Godbody's cultivation method. There isn't much content, and the core lies in your talent and your ability to endure hardships. Don't ruin your body trying to compete with each other," said Yi Xingyin.

"Thank you for the kind reminder." Tianming and Xuanyuan Muxue took the Ancient Deepstar Godbody's cultivation method. "Have a safe trip, Palace Lord."

After Yi Xingyin left, Tianming and Xuanyuan Muxue were left to themselves. At the same time, the Deepstar Pool finally calmed down. It looked like the starry sky, and Tianming and Xuanyuan Muxue both basked in astral lights.

Tianming turned around and saw Xuanyuan Muxue looking at him. He asked, "The hell are you looking at?"

"Why did you kill my elder brother?" Xuanyuan Muxue asked.

"I did it because he tried to kill me. It's that simple. This is the simplest logic in the world," said Tianming. Tianming's stance was different from the faction battles back then, so he could make a different choice now.

"So, would you kill me if I want to kill you right now?"

"It's easy to see if you want to kill me. You don't have any killing intent in your eyes, so stop forcing yourself. On the other hand, I can tell that you're somewhat afraid of me," laughed Tianming.

“You have keen eyes.” Xuanyuan Muxue shook her head.

Tianming couldn't be bothered with Xuanyuan Muxue. He was excited about the Deepstar Pool. He flipped open the Ancient Deepstar Godbody's book and started reading it.

On the other side, Xuanyuan Muxue dazed off when she saw how Tianming seriously read the book. She rejoiced in the fact that she hadn't fallen for Xuanyuan Yuheng's manipulation, because she knew it wouldn't end well.

“Damn it! It's vexing!” Xuanyuan Muxue muttered. “Are people that stupid? Have I not ridiculed my elder brother in the past? Since I looked down on him, why do I want to take revenge for him?” Xuanyuan Muxue sighed.

I wonder how far he'll go with an Ancient Deepstar Godbody. Xuanyuan Muxue pondered as she stepped into the Deepstar Pool. The stars around her shone on her body and made her skin look even brighter. A blue astralsource appeared before her; it looked like a large stick with an aquatic shine flickering on it.

“I heard that fusing astralsources will be painful, and it's normal to scream out in pain. Especially the first one.” Xuanyuan Muxue frowned. The astralsource before her was slightly larger than a three-month-old baby. Wouldn't it be painful to shove something so big into her body?

“Let's give it a try.” It was natural for everything to be difficult in the beginning. Xuanyuan Muxue circulated her death tribulation energy, then placed her hands on the water astralsource and guided it to begin fusing with her body.

“Urghhh...” she yelled out in pain. Her breathing grew heavy, and beads of sweat dripped from her forehead. But she suppressed her voice because Tianming was around.

“Arrrghhhh....” Xuanyuan Muxue's face turned white. The pain of fusing the astralsource into her body was more horrifying than she had imagined. When she lowered her head, only a small portion of the astralsource had turned into liquid and fused into her body like mercury. In the process of fusing with the water astralsource, she couldn't help being jolted.

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As Tianming was earnestly reading the book, he suddenly heard a series of strange moans. When he raised his head, his eyes went straight. “Hey, hey, do you mind doing that elsewhere? Please don't disrupt my studies! Others will misunderstand if they hear you outside! Holy shit, so thick....”

## **Chapter 664 - Fifteen Days**

“Li Tianming!!” Xuanyuan Muxue threw the astralsource away and her face purpled from rage.

“Calm down. I'm just joking with you.”

“Don't cry out in pain later then!”

“At least it's better than your moaning....”

Xuanyuan Muxue charged over at Tianming. While she ran, she yelled, "Don't rejoice so quickly. Compete with me and see who can fuse more astralsources if you have the guts!"

"So, what's the stake?" Tianming smiled.

"How about this, the loser will call the winner 'daddy' for a year. What's wrong, you don't dare?"

"I don't need you to call me daddy. Just introduce yourself as 'this servant' in the future when you see me," replied Xuanyuan Muxue.

"I guess we have a deal then."

"Let's set a timeframe of fifteen days."

"Sure." Xuanyuan Muxue was still boiling with anger, but she was betting on the fact that Tianming's arrogance would make him try to absorb astralsource of different elements over the next fifteen days. She knew that absorbing different astralsources would drive his body into chaos, even if he only absorbed one. It would only make his absorption more difficult in the future.

If she dared to compete with Tianming for a year, there was nothing for her to be afraid of for fifteen days. And in reality, she had guessed it correctly. Tianming thought highly of himself and was confident in his physique.

Even despite the reminder from Yi Xingyin, Tianming still wanted to give it a try. The Ancient Deepstar Godbody was similar to the Tribulation Sword Body. The whole concept around it was simple: endurance and willpower.

Everyone's willpower was somewhat the same, especially descendants of the various clans like Xuanyuan Muxue. When those good-for-nothing rascals put their lives on the line, they were each more monstrous than the other.

The thing that drew them apart were their talents. Many people didn't want to accept this fact, and emphasized the importance of bearing hardship above talent. But fortunately, talent could be increased, along with the ability to endure hardship.

They were things that real masters couldn't lack. Tianming had climbed up from the lowest rung, so he knew the importance of talent and hardships.

His first choice was the fire astralsource. It was like a fire tribulation artifact, which gave Tianming a headache.

"How the hell am I supposed to shove something so big into my stomach? Will I get gallstones? No wonder Xuanyuan Muxue moaned so loudly." Tianming smiled. "No way. I have to hold onto it. Now, let's get started." He was prepared to take the pain with his experience with the tribulation sword ki. But one second later—

"ARRRRRRGHHHHH!" An earth-shattering yell echoed across the pool.

.....

On the other side of the Deepstar Pool, Xuanyuan Muxue burst into laughter when she heard Tianming's screams. "Hahaha! Wait to call yourself 'this servant!'" She laughed whenever she thought about it. But she had no idea that Tianming wore a disdainful smile as he screamed while fusing with the astralsource.

"She must've believed my screams. She'll probably loosen up her nerves. When the fifteen days are up, I'll make you cry!" There was nothing too cunning when it came to tactics. In reality, fusing the astralsource was easier than Tianming had imagined.

"The Primordial Chaos Beasts are too powerful. I remember how Ying Huo ate spirit ores when it was born, so it makes sense that it's easy for me to fuse these astralsources. I should have high limits when it comes to them."

It didn't take long for Tianming to fuse the fire astralsource into his body. Although it was the first, he could sense the transformation in his body. The astralsource dispersed out and merged into his flesh, bones, and internal organs.

"Others might not even be able to fuse one astralsource in one go for their first time." The second astralsource that Tianming chose was a thunder astralsource. It was a purple rock shrouded in lightning. When Tianming held it, he felt his hands going numb.

"If this thunder astralsource was placed in the Divine Capital, it'd probably be a treasure that could even kill Autarch Qian." When Tianming started fusing with the thunder astralsource, he sensed the strong rejection by the fire astralsource in his body. It slowed down his refining speed, along with the sensation of intense pain, like his body was being ripped apart. But Tianming still persevered.

"If I fuse with one element, the speed will certainly be much faster. But if I fuse too much of one element, the rejection will be stronger when I try to fuse another element. Since I can, then I can try starting all of them at the same time. As for wood astralsources, I can leave those aside for now."

This time, it took a long time for Tianming to fuse with the astralsource. When he tried fusing with a water astralsource, it was more challenging, took longer, and was more painful. It only got worse when he attempted to fuse an earth astralsource after that. Tianming's forehead was covered in sweat; this time, he wasn't acting when he screamed out.

But no matter what, it sounded like music to Xuanyuan Muxue's ears. In the blink of an eye, Tianming passed out and was thrown out when he just finished fusing with the fourth astralsource.

"How many astralsources did you manage to fuse?" Tianming asked with a smile.

Xuanyuan Muxue merely replied with a glance, then turned to leave.

.....

Back in the Heaven Branch, the Number One Pavilion. Lin Xiaoxiao was alone after Tianming went out early in the morning.

While she watched Tianming's figure slowly get further away, the Archaionfiend smiled and said, "You tried so hard to enter the Heaven Branch, but he brought you here due to an unexpected turn of events. Consider him unlucky."

“Yeah.”

“Spend more time around the Heaven Cauldron in the next few days.”

“I got it.”

“Put more effort into it. I’ll be able to free ‘them’ once I retrieve my eye. Tianming also won’t suffer any losses. Do you feel better this way?” asked the Archaionfiend.

“If only it’s that simple,” replied Lin Xiaoxiao.

“Don’t worry about it. It’s that simple.”

.....

The Archaion Sect was busy preparing for the Number One Summit. It was a grand event in the Flameyellow continent, and the eight divine realms’ powerhouses would all come. It was a competition between the geniuses of the nine divine realms.

But it had nothing to do with Tianming. He was busy over the next few days with his cultivation divided into four parts. The first was making use of the Old Deepstar Path and spiritual energy spring to increase his cultivation, the second was cultivating the Ancient Deepstar Godbody every day in the Deepstar Pool, the third was spending two hours in the Heaven Cauldron absorbing tribulation sword ki to temper the Tribulation Sword Body, and the fourth was training the Hexapath Samsara Sword in the Hexapath Sword Palace and visiting with Feiling.

As time passed, the Ancient Deepstar Godbody gradually took form, and he gradually made it deeper into the Heaven Cauldron. He could already see the depths. It looked like a Tribulation Pattern Oasis, or a forest. But he still couldn’t get a more precise look at it.

“Almost there....” Tianming could feel his physique strengthening when he cultivated the Ancient Deepstar Godbody. Fifteen days passed in the blink of an eye, and Tianming had maintained the speed of fusing four astralsources a day. This meant that he had fused with a total of sixty astralsources over the last fifteen days, separated into four elements. It was comparable to what others would take three months to absorb.

“If I focused on astralsources of one element, I’d be able to refine ten a day and I’d have already fused with a hundred and fifty. On the other hand, Xuanyuan Yuheng probably only managed to fuse about three hundred in the year he was here.” Tianming knew how fast he was.

“I’ll probably be able to reach the bottom of the Heaven Cauldron after refining about one or two hundred astralsources.” That wouldn’t take too long if he carried on at his current pace. “I should be just in time for the Number One Summit.”

The first thing Tianming did every day was absorb Astral Wills in the Old Deepstar Path, then he absorbed four astralsources four hours later when the Deepstar Pool opened up. He had been repeating that cycle over and over. On the fifteenth day, Tianming directly made his breakthrough to the sixth level of the Empyrean Saint stage in the Old Deepstar Path.

“This should give me a higher authority among the Heaven Branch disciples. I wonder if I’ll be able to partake in the Number One Summit? After all, it’ll be helpful if I can spar with the continent’s geniuses.”

When Tianming finished fusing with the astralsources that day, Xuanyuan Muxue was already waiting outside the Old Deepstar Path. Looking at her, Tianming asked, "What's the matter?"

"Isn't it obvious? How many astralsources did you fuse?" Xuanyuan Muxue asked.

"Sixty," said Tianming.

"Why don't you say sixty thousand instead?" Xuanyuan Muxue had already expected that Tianming would boast.

"I'm serious. How many did you fuse with?"

"Seventeen," said Xuanyuan Muxue with confidence.

"You don't believe it? Why don't we prove it then? Let's wrestle using our physical strength," said Tianming.

"Sure. Why should I be afraid of you? But you have to admit your loss if you lose!" Xuanyuan Muxue said.

"Admit it?" Right at that moment, there were many Heaven Branch disciples in the surroundings. Tianming greeted everyone and explained what was going on, and everyone became excited when they heard him. At least twenty people stood out as witnesses.

"I guarantee that I'll proclaim myself as 'this servant' whenever I meet her if I lose. Muxue, what about you?"

Xuanyuan Muxue already panicked a little when she saw Tianming's confidence. "I'm not playing anymore!"

"Don't go. Muxue, it doesn't hurt to call me daddy."

Everyone laughed.

In the end, Xuanyuan Muxue couldn't take it anymore. She turned around and asked, "You're not trying to bluff, right? I clearly witnessed you trying to fuse with astralsources of different elements."

"Then did you see how fast I was refining them?" Tianming questioned. "Go on. Don't cower."

Tianming crushed Xuanyuan Muxue under the eyes of everyone. A crack even sounded from Xuanyuan Muxue's hand, and her face was pale from the pain.

"Honor your bet," said Tianming.

"Screw your daddy!" Xuanyuan Muxue yelled before she ran off.

Her response made everyone laugh, and even Tianming was amused. He had good relations with others in the Heaven Branch. Honestly speaking, he was just trying to see how powerful his Ancient Deepstar Godbody was.

Everything was just as he had expected. His physique was a lot stronger than Xuanyuan Muxue, who had only fused with seventeen astralsources and had the Frostsnow Draconian Physique.



While Tianming was chatting with other Heaven Branch disciples, he didn't see how Xuanyuan Yuheng turned away with gloomy eyes.

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When Tianming came out of the Old Deepstar Path, he headed straight to the Heaven Cauldron. When he gave it another try, he discovered that he was only slightly away from the Tribulation Pattern Oasis. "It'll probably take another fifteen days."

As he came up, he saw Ouyang Jianwang looking at him with a smile. Ouyang Jianwang started reciting a poem, "Two orioles meet, and you're the dog if you don't treat me to wine."

"A flower among the flowerbed, and you're the bastard who dares to insult me." Tianming refuted, which made Ouyang Jianwang furious.

"As the cloud scorched high in the sky with the wind blowing, who do I fear in terms of fighting?"

"As the river surged and rolled, come and fight then if you're unhappy!"

"Not bad. You made improvements." Ouyang Jianwang clapped.

"I've been practicing for today," said Tianming.

"Not bad." Ouyang Jianwang smiled, then continued, "There's news from the Tribulation Peak. I'll bring you over right now and let you feast your eyes upon the Archaionfiend Eye!"

## **Chapter 665 - Soulshaker Eye**

"I can join the Fiend Trials now?" Tianming said delightedly.

The hatching of the fourth egg was something that was bound to happen, and his goal this entire time had been the Archaionfiend Eye. That was the first step for him to fulfill Li Muyang's instructions to become a true member of the sky plunderer race and evade his pursuers.

"Of course. There is no method that I can't handle," Ouyang Jianwang said.

"Thank you, Brother Ouyang."

"Hahaha, when I told the Archaic House of Xuanyuan that you had a request, they immediately sorted it out before reporting to Her Eminence to get credit."

Tianming laughed at how his fortunes had changed.

"Let's go," Ouyang Jianwang said as he led him down from Heaven Cauldron. "Prepare yourself mentally. The Archaionfiend Eye is really terrifying, and most normal people won't be able to take it."

"Okay. I'm ready."

They landed near the side of a cliff within which a large bronze door was located. Through it was a tunnel that led into the heart of Heaven Sacred Mountain.

"Take this and you'll be able to enter," Ouyang Jianwang said as he handed him a bronze seal on which a miniature heavenly pattern formation was engraved.

"What is this?"

"The key."

"Let me try it out." Tianming placed the key into a recess on the cliff and the bronze door shook and started to open. A sinister aura leaked out of the very small opening and filled the entire area, making the surroundings feel like a sea of corpses and blood. Even the sound of the blowing wind was becoming unpleasant to hear.

"I'll be going in now."

"Go ahead. At the pavilion next to the old path shall the big brother send you off to your next life," Ouyang Jianwang said.

"The great peng flies on days with good wind, only to be dragged down by a stinking little brother," Tianming joked before stepping through the bronze door, which closed tightly shut.

"That brat's poetry is really growing. He might even get better than me!" Ouyang Jianwang said. He turned back and saw a one-armed man standing under a snowy pine tree whose silhouette resembled a sword pierced into the ground.

"My very old friend, come drink with me if you dare."

"Cut the crap. You're just about as old as I am," the one-armed man said.

"Just wait. I'll pierce through his arm one day," Ouyang Jianwang said before he leapt into the skies and landed on Heaven Cauldron.

"Haha..." The man sat down on the snowy ground, closed his eyes, and allowed the sword ki to swirl around his body.

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After entering the mountain, Tianming continued along the dark pathway. The dense demonic aura within made him feel like he was hearing things. Even more terrifying was how the walls seemed to have eyes staring at him. There was a light ahead, and he could almost barely hear someone talking.

"It should be someone from the Trioptic True Dragon Branch training. I recall that Xuanyuan Yuheng trains here most of the time."

Tianming headed toward the light. Soon, he saw a grand palace that was large enough for Lan Huang to move around in. He gave it another look and saw around twenty Xuanyuan disciples looking upward, their third eyes emitting a black and red miasma as beams shot out of them. Obviously, they were looking at the Archaionfiend Eye.

Tianming turned his head up like the rest of them and saw a gigantic, blood-red eye embedded in the ceiling of the palace. It was at least a hundred meters wide and red like a sea of blood. The same black and red miasma lingered around it, making it look even more mysterious.

Tianming felt a little lightheaded after only taking a single look at it. Even with the Soul Tower guarding his soul, he still felt the pull of the eye tugging at his body and mind. Currently, he closed both his eyes. He also noticed that the others here had their eyes closed, except for their third ones as they trained their ocular arts.

The Archaionfiend Eye was so unbelievably big that it sent shivers up and down Tianming's spine. He picked a spot to sit down. He didn't know any of the Xuanyuan disciples there; all of them were nearing their thirties and far more powerful than Xuanyuan Yuheng. Tianming had heard that they would one day join the main force of the Number One Summit to protect the pride and dignity of the Archaion Sect. He spotted a few people who could be on the Heaven Ranking.

Quite a lot of them noticed him coming in, but they didn't really pay attention. It was often said that one's personality could affect their physical appearance. These disciples were cool, calm, steady, steadfast, secure, and hard-working, befitting of a house that called itself archaic.

Tianming sat down alone, but he didn't need to look up. Instead, he used the eye on his left hand to observe the Archaionfiend Eye, for only it could resist its influence. The members of the Trioptic True Dragon Branch used the sinister influence from the Archaionfiend Eye to refine their ocular arts. Some of them even used ocular arts on the Archaionfiend Eye to push back at it to improve.

The Archaionfiend Eye is suppressed by the Heaven Cauldron that's right above it. It won't be able to budge thanks to that force and weight. How can I take it away? It won't even fit through the entrance! My dad didn't teach me how to do it!

Though he'd finally managed to see it for himself, he had no way to do anything about it. He wanted to go out to check it out but he wasn't alone, so he figured he would wait for the others to leave first and calmed down. Then, using the eye on his palm, he tried resisting the Archaionfiend Eye's influence. As expected, while it started fine, it only got worse the longer he focused. His mind felt like it was being scrambled, though the difficulty directly translated to how efficient it would be for him to cultivate his ocular art.

Wait, the third level of Godsoul Canon? he thought as he continued the staring contest. Even though I didn't spend too much time on it, I've more or less mastered the Insightful Eye.

As he expected, the Godsoul Canon's third level technique appeared in his mind. That senior said I'd be able to open my spirit core after mastering Skypolarity Eye. I wonder if the third realm is the Wondersky Realm?

Gradually, the technique cleared up in his mind. It's the Soulshaker Eye! Even though it isn't Skypolarity Eye, it still seems impressive.

The first level gave him Bewildering Eye. Even though it was effective in combat, it was basically a seduction technique so he didn't feel comfortable mastering it. The second gave him the Insightful Eye, which allowed him to see through illusions and was only useful in special situations. His third was Soulshaker Eye, and based on the name alone he knew it would be useful in combat. He couldn't wait to start training it. Perhaps the Archaionfiend Eye would also be useful for it.

He then began scanning his mind for the basics. Basically, it was a technique that could be used to shake souls. He had to first forge new meridians in his eye to allow saint ki to flow through. He could have up to nine meridians; the more meridians, the more powerful the technique.

The process of forging a new meridian would be harder than actually training the technique. Even so, he couldn't say how powerful it truly was until he tried it. Feeling the pressure from the Archaionfiend Eye pressing down upon him, he started forging a soulshaker meridian according to the Godsoul Canon. It was a really complicated process that involved countless revolutions, and the slightest mistake could ruin the eye.

Tianming's Godsoul Canon was quite different from normal battle arts, which didn't require new meridians. The Godsoul Canon revolved around his arm's eye at the core. As he trained, the black and red light from the Archaionfiend Eye lasered in on Tianming's third eye, which absorbed the light like nutrients.

"It's actually working..." He noticed that his eye was powerful enough to resist the Archaionfiend Eye's influence and even absorb it to nourish itself. The forging of the first meridian turned out to be easier than he had imagined. The talent of the sky plunderer race was truly insane.

After two hours, he finally succeeded. Looking at his third eye, he saw a word that resembled the character for 'soul' in his eye. It was actually a really complex meridian.

"I wonder how good it is..."

There was only one way to find out: use the move on his own two eyes. He took a deep breath and activated the Soulshaker Eye.

### **Chapter 666 - Xuanyuan Xiao**

The moment he saw the 'soul' word in his third eye, his eyes hurt and he found himself in a world of darkness. The mountains, trees, sun, moon, and stars had all vanished. Within that dark and lonely world was nothing but a sole red eye. He could see nothing else. That wasn't the Archaionfiend Eye; in fact, it was even larger and had a diameter of more than a thousand meters. It was formed from fresh blood and looked even more sinister and threatening, like a blood sun, and applied huge pressure on his eyes. The pain caused him to close them, but he couldn't see anything when he did.

"So as long as I can use the Soulshaker Eye in combat, darkness will fall and leave nothing but blood in the sky. Opening this eye will cause my opponents to shut theirs. This is far more powerful than Bewildering Eye, as it's a special technique that can grow with the number of meridians that'll allow more saint ki to flow through them. Simply amazing."

Even with a single meridian, the technique was still really effective. He would have to continue exploring how he could further strengthen it.

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As Tianming trained the Soulshaker Eye, two other disciples came. They didn't say anything, nor did they disturb the others. They were Xuanyuan Yuheng and Xuanyuan Muxue, but they hadn't come at the

same time, nor did they sit at the same place. Both of them were shocked to see Tianming there; this place was usually reserved for members of the Trioptic True Dragon Branch.

"He has an eye on his palm. It looks like a decent one," someone told them.

"On his palm? How obscene," Xuanyuan Muxue said, poking her tongue out. She turned to look and could indeed see it.

"It's good enough that it didn't grow on his butt," joked the male senior.

She felt rather annoyed that she would have to train with him. It was one thing to be training together in the Deepstar Pool, but she didn't expect she would run into him at the Fiend Trials as well.

However, Xuanyuan Yuheng was even more annoyed. "He just keeps haunting me...."

It almost felt like a dream that a former sky saint would one day climb to his level and train with him at the same location.

Right after Xuanyuan Yuheng entered, the door at the entrance opened once more. This time, the commotion was so large that almost everyone stopped training to take a look. It was a middle-aged man dressed in a black-white robe, wearing a pleasant smile as he stood at the entrance. He had a third eye between his brows, a mark that he was also of the Trioptic True Dragon Branch. The eye was gold in color down to the iris, signaling his high status in the Archaic House of Xuanyuan.

"Greetings, Spiritstream Lord," the disciples saluted.

Spiritstream Hall was one of the nine great halls in the sect. They were in charge of spirit ores, herbs, and tribulation artifacts, basically the resource distribution across the Archaion Sect. It was a really important position.

The lord of the hall, Xuanyuan Xiao, was famed throughout the entirety of the Archaion Realm. He was probably the third highest ranking member of his house, not to mention he was Xuanyuan Yuheng's father. While his status wasn't as high as Fang Taiqing's, it was nothing to scoff at.

"Li Tianming, I didn't think you'd come here. I've been looking for you all day," he said as he came over.

"Me?" Tianming knew that he was Xuanyuan Yuheng's father, so he didn't expect him to be so friendly. "Spiritstream Lord, do you need me for anything?"

"Not in particular. Her Eminence has awarded you with a grade-four tribulation manna. Since I was passing through, our house king asked me to hand it over to you. Take it," he said as he handed over a sealed box, which Tianming hurriedly accepted.

"I am grateful to Her Eminence, Sect Master Xuanyuan, and you, Spiritstream Lord." He couldn't be happier about getting yet another treasure and secretly praised Feiling as he thought about how lucky he was to mooch off her. She had managed to prepare this before his fourth lifebound beast had even hatched.

The other disciples around them were incredibly envious at the sight of such a valuable treasure. Who knew how much effort they would have to put in to be granted such a thing? Though there was nothing they could do about it.

"He's favored by Her Eminence, after all."

"He's so lucky."

"I can't be more envious."

As they chattered about it, Xuanyuan Xiao came to Tianming and said, "Young man, Her Eminence sees a bright future for you. You might even become someone who expands the reign of our Archaion Divine Realm. Perhaps you'll even be Her Eminence's right-hand man one day."

"Understood! I'll do my best!"

Xuanyuan Xiao nodded with satisfaction, then turned to Xuanyuan Yuheng and glared at him. "Tianming, I know you and my son have had some conflict, so I'll take this chance to get an apology out of him today."

"Dad!" Xuanyuan Yuheng's eyes sank immediately.

"Come here," his father said with the same smile.

Xuanyuan Yuheng knew from that expression that there would be no negotiation, so he grit his teeth and came forward.

"Now, apologize," he said as he patted his son on the shoulder with so much force he almost made him kneel.

Xuanyuan Yuheng took a deep breath and forced a smile. "Brother Tianming, I was at fault when we met and almost injured you gravely. I earnestly apologize for my mistake and hope you won't continue to hold it against me."

All of this had been brought about thanks to Tianming's current status. Feiling's status was so high that a simple tug from her had rocketed him into the skies. But he couldn't say how stable his current position was. The higher status they had, the harder they would fall if the shit hit the fan.

"Do you mean it?" Tianming asked with a smile. All the other top disciples of the Xuanyuan house were watching them.

"Yes," Xuanyuan Yuheng replied with a smile.

"Clasp hands as a gesture then," Xuanyuan Xiao said.

Xuanyuan Yuheng hurriedly stretched his hand out. "As the saying goes, we aren't true friends until we've fought. Your recent progress has truly astonished me and I hold you in great regard. Let's put old grudges behind us. Since we're friends, feel free to ask for my help at any time."

"Alright." Tianming held the hand that wasn't nearly as warm as the smile on his face. But this was something Tianming had to accept, as Xuanyuan Xiao had gone out of his way to make them reconcile with each other. Xuanyuan Yuheng also responded in kind, ditching all semblance of disdain for him. Though that didn't mean Tianming forgot the grudge entirely, especially with how he still felt that Xuanyuan Yuheng had a bone to pick with him.

Since I have to focus on cultivating and getting the Archaionfiend Eye, I don't have time to waste on him. I'll prove myself one day when I finally exceed his level!

When he had first come to the sect, his days had been difficult, but now he was able to force Xuanyuan Yuheng to apologize with his status alone, so he took the win. Xuanyuan Xiao was also happy to see them get along.

"Son, Tianming must have a lot he doesn't understand yet, as it's his first time training here, so you have to look out for him," he said.

"Understood, father."

"Very well. I've disturbed you all enough, so I'll take my leave."

"See you, Spiritstream Lord!"

After he left, Xuanyuan Yuheng asked, "Do you need me to explain anything?"

"No need," Tianming said with an amicable smile.

"Then I'll be on my way."

"Goodbye."

"Likewise."

They each went their own way back to where they previously sat, as if nothing had happened. Xuanyuan Muxue witnessed the whole thing and pouted, then sighed and resumed her own business.

"Muxue, Muxue...."

She didn't think that Tianming would come to her right after she closed her eyes to cultivate. "What is it?" she asked a little nervously. Even though she no longer wanted to mess with him, she didn't want Xuanyuan Yuheng to think she was close to him.

"I have a question. When do disciples here usually leave?"

"Why do you ask?"

"Well I want to have a private rendezvous here with you with the Archaionfiend Eye alone bearing witness."

"Go to hell!"

"Just messing with you. Now, back to my question."

"Forget it. Brother Yuheng will train for at least ten days straight or more without leaving. Ocular arts are his forte," she said.

"Damn, that's a shame." To think he wanted to fly up to the eye and see how he could reclaim it while nobody was around.

"Don't come so close. Leave. You and I will never work out," she angrily said.

"Self-conscious much? That third eye of yours really throws your whole face out of balance. I wouldn't fall for you," Tianming mocked before he left.

.....

It was nighttime and Tianming left, seeing that Xuanyuan Yuheng wasn't going to leave anytime soon. He had to go to the Old Deepstar Path and the Deepstar Pool. Eventually, the people would gradually leave the Fiend Palace, leaving him there alone. Everyone knew that he would stay until nobody else was there.

His lone figure looked incredibly small in that gigantic hall. In time, the black and red miasma within grew more and more dense and seemed to swallow Xuanyuan Yuheng whole. He gripped the flesh on his thighs tight and pierced his fingers, that were now golden claws, into them. Soon, the golden eye between his brows began changing from the miasma, slowly being dyed a sinister red.

### **Chapter 667 - Don't Bring Up Her Eminence Before Me**

Anyone who saw something like that would no doubt be stumped. Usually, the third eye of someone from the Trioptic True Dragon Branch would never change like that. Xuanyuan Yuheng's body suddenly rose into midair, getting closer and closer to the Archaionfiend Eye. As the bloody miasma gathered, his two normal eyes also turned red. The three eyes formed a triangle filled with a bloody aura, making him look incredibly sinister.

"I'm not satisfied... not satisfied!"

His expression was filled with hate. He clenched his teeth and fists so hard that his veins were visible. He was so close to the Archaionfiend Eye that his own third eye looked like a miniature version of it.

At that moment, waves of bloody miasma came out from the Archaionfiend Eye and entered his third eye without pause. Despite the slow rate, the sheer amount of energy that entered his body caused bloody lines to form over it. It was as if there were countless poison snakes swimming about underneath his skin.

All of a sudden, an archaic voice rang out in his mind, "If you aren't satisfied, then go prove yourself. Let everyone know that you are the one who should be looked up to and admired."

"I can't do it. He's the goddess' favored and I'm not..." Xuanyuan Yuheng said.

"That's where you're wrong. What sort of goddesses is that? She's just someone who's only a little bit stronger than the most powerful samsaran. She also has desires and aspirations, and makes mistakes. She can be killed or framed. There are no eternal gods in this world, only those who manage to shake it up for a period of time," said the voice temptingly.

"No..."

"Trust me. Your goddess is no different from a mere mortal. She is just as vulnerable as anyone else. You aren't that different from her and don't have to submit yourself like that. As long as you listen to me, you'll one day be able to conquer her. She will kneel before you and do your bidding." Even though the voice sounded sinister, it was unbelievably enchanting.



"Who are you?" Xuanyuan Yuheng's expression gradually changed. He was getting more and more excited by listening to the voice.

"Me? If you need someone to worship, then I will be your god. If you become my follower, I'll give you everything. I'll let you rule the entire continent and be worshiped by trillions. You'll be able to kill whoever you wish, even that goddess you worship so much. Nobody will be able to neglect you any longer."

Eventually, his third eye was directly contacting the Archaionfiend Eye. The miasma continued flooding inside his eye, making even more bloody snakes appear on his body.

"Kill! Kill! Kill!" Xuanyuan Yuheng yelled as his lips curved into a sinister smile. It was only after some time that his body gradually descended, turning back to normal.

"Leave. Go south and look for a disciple called Lin Xiaoxiao. She will be waiting for you with her lifebound beast."

That was the last thing the voice said.

"Understood." Xuanyuan Yuheng now seemed no different from normal; even his third eye had turned back to gold. However, what lay within him was definitely different from before.

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Lin Xiaoxiao sat on a snow-white boulder in the pine forest. Her Archaionfiend was patrolling the area as she watched a white-robed youth approach her. As he stood in front of the Archaionfiend, his third eye turned red once more. He met the Archaionfiend's left eye and the bloody miasma transferred from his third eye to the Archaionfiend's eye nonstop for fifteen minutes.

"Go back now. We'll meet at the same place the next time," the Archaionfiend said.

"Okay." Xuanyuan Yuheng looked at Lin Xiaoxiao with a chilling gaze, then he disappeared into the snowy landscape.

"What are you doing here?" Lin Xiaoxiao asked.

"I'm taking my eye back step by step," said the Archaionfiend.

"Is it so simple? You only need to tempt one person to do it?"

"It's hard to say. At this rate, it'll take quite a while. My eye is too big."

"When we succeed, we'll be leaving and never returning here."

"Rest assured, we will," the Archaionfiend said with a sly smile.

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Every time Tianming absorbed some astral sources, he would go to the Heaven Cauldron to make an attempt at reaching the bottom. If it didn't work, he would go into the mountain to train the Godsoul Canon and review Astral Wills there. The reason he stayed there for so long was that he wanted to wait for the rest to leave so that he would have a chance to check out the Archaionfiend Eye. What troubled

him, however, was that Xuanyuan Yuheng would always stay after everyone had left as Xuanyuan Muxue had said.

Day after day, he didn't have time to wait out Xuanyuan Yuheng. After all, he still had to go to the Deepstar Pool. Soon, it had been eight days since he'd started training the Soulshaker Eye. His two body refining techniques had already reached a certain degree of mastery. He had even established three meridians for Soulshaker Eye, so he decided he would forge the fourth one within the Fiend Palace tonight.

"Tianming, isn't it about time for you to leave?" Xuanyuan Yuheng asked. Ever since their reconciliation, he was now good friends with him.

"I'm planning to stay here to give you some company," Tianming said.

"Haha, I don't believe it."

"I was just joking. I reached a turning point in my ocular art, so I'm planning to give it more time today."

"I see."

"You've been here for quite a few days. Don't you plan to catch some fresh air outside?"

"There's no need. I like to be here alone."

"I see."

Tianming smiled. Even though he felt busier than ever, his days of progress were really fulfilling. Soon, it was the deep of the night. The bloody miasma still swirled around the place like usual.

"Why don't you go back now?" Xuanyuan Yuheng coldly said.

"I'm at a key juncture. Please don't disturb me." Tianming was still forging the fourth meridian.

"I'm just concerned that you're over exerting yourself. You leaving now will be good for the both of us."

Tianming knew that Xuanyuan Yuheng definitely hadn't acknowledged him for real yet. With someone like that beside him, he wouldn't be able to make any real progress. He stopped and turned to look at Xuanyuan Yuheng. "What's your deal? Is this your house or something?"

"You're right. This is the territory of the Archaic House of Xuanyuan's Trioptic True Dragon Branch. The Archaionfiend Eye is the private property of our house!" Xuanyuan Yuheng was bathed in the bloody miasma. Tianming wasn't sure if he was imagining it, but his third eye looked a little reddish.

"I knew you were still envious of me. What else can you do apart from giving me the cold shoulder? You still have to obey your father. Why do you even have an issue with me anyway? You're a second-level samsaran at your age. You definitely stand in the top five of the whole continent, yet you're so concerned about me." Tianming knew Xuanyuan Yuheng had been faking it the whole time and dropped the act.

"Li Tianming, you do know that Jian Wufeng doesn't have a key and won't be able to enter this place, right? It's only the two of us." Xuanyuan Yuheng sounded louder and more maniacal.

Tianming felt a genuine threat from him, but he found his words rather odd. He had finally achieved his current status and was on the same footing as Xuanyuan Yuheng, but he was initially his victim. Yet he had never seriously planned to take revenge, only to pay back what he received. What right did Xuanyuan Yuheng have to be so hostile toward him?

"Hehe, you don't need to reason why. All you need to know in the afterlife is that I was the one who killed you!" Xuanyuan Yuheng's third eye turned completely red as a bloody aura surged from him. He was like a beast that had lost all reason.

"Are you insane? Even if you can do it, Her Eminence will make sure that you'll eternally pay for this."

"Don't bring Her Eminence up in front of me!" he roared like a rabid dog as he charged toward Tianming. His talent wasn't one bit inferior to Xuanyuan Muxue's. At the age of twenty, he was already at the second death phase of the Samsara stage, two phases above her.

"Who would be stupid enough to fight you?" Tianming smirked. There was no point in fighting him. He immediately summoned the Prime Tower at its largest size and stepped inside before Xuanyuan Yuheng could reach him.

Xuanyuan Yuheng was flabbergasted. He had seen Prime Tower in action, but he never knew it could be entered. No matter how he slammed against it, Tianming remained seated in the middle of the tower, completely unmoved. He ignored what was happening outside and continued absorbing Astral Wills.

"Are you just going to let him do this?" Ying Huo asked.

"The sun will rise and others will come again. Let's see what kind of act he puts up tomorrow."

"He seems a little off."

"That's right. It isn't like him to lose his cool like a wildbeast. What could possibly have affected his mental state?"

## **Chapter 668 - A Gentleman's Revenge**

Outside the Fiend Palace was a snow plain, and the blizzard was intense at night. The Taiji Peak Lake climate was winter throughout the year, and no one knew how thick the snow was on the ground. Amidst the forest, Lin Xiaoxiao and the Archaionfiend stood in the woods.

"Why isn't he out today?" Lin Xiaoxiao covered herself in a long black and white coat and crimson lightning flickered in her eyes.

"Something's wrong," said the Archaionfiend. It was significant in size, and its wings were unfolded to protect Lin Xiaoxiao from the snow.

"What's wrong?" Lin Xiaoxiao asked.

"There's some trouble. He lost control. It's all about the sky plunderer race's Li Tianming. Why the hell did he stay inside!" said the Archaionfiend coldly.

“Tianming is also inside? What do you mean?” Lin Xiaoxiao raised her voice as she looked at the Archaionfiend coldly.

“Why the hell are you getting so emotional? You can’t blame me for this. Xuanyuan Yuheng had a grudge against him long ago, and he’s still showing off inside. Xuanyuan Yuheng was affected by the fiendwill, which amplified his negative emotions,” said the Archaionfiend.

“Xuanyuan Yuheng is one of the strongest disciples in the Heaven Branch. Doesn’t that mean that Tianming is in danger?”

“Don’t worry about it. Judging from Xuanyuan Yuheng’s emotions, he’s currently flustered. He clearly failed to kill Tianming. This Tianming really has tons of ways to protect himself,” said the Archaionfiend coldly.

“He’s fine?” Lin Xiaoxiao finally felt relieved. She rolled her eyes and looked at the Archaionfiend, who said, “You didn’t lie to me when you said Xuanyuan Yuheng lost control, right? There’s only Tianming competing with you over the eye. Are you trying to kill him to exterminate the threat?”

“You’re overthinking it!” said the Archaionfiend.

“Wu You, I’ll head back to the Earth Branch if you don’t give me an explanation right now,” demanded Lin Xiaoxiao.

The Archaionfiend needed to stay in the Heaven Branch if it was to manipulate Xuanyuan Yuheng. So if Lin Xiaoxiao returned to the Earth Branch, it would seem weird if the Archaionfiend stayed behind as her lifebound beast. And if the process was disrupted, Xuanyuan Yuheng would gradually return to normal.

“You dare?!” the Archaionfiend raged.

“If you continue forcing me, yes. In the end, no one will have a good time,” said Lin Xiaoxiao.

“And where’s your bottom line?” sneered the Archaionfiend.

“You hurt others with your eyes.”

“Haha, you’re rather kindhearted,” laughed the Archaionfiend. “Archaionfiends like me can devour ants like them with just a lick.”

“Then why do you look so pathetic if you’re so powerful?” Lin Xiaoxiao sneered.

“You!” The Archaionfiend was deeply offended by those words and glared at Lin Xiaoxiao for a long time. “Can’t you use your brain to think? Do you think it was easy for me to find a medium? If Xuanyuan Yuheng kills Tianming, he’ll lose his life too. Then, wouldn’t my plan go down the drain? Tianming still hasn’t had an opportunity to approach the Archaionfiend Eye, so there’s no need for me to fear him. All I have to do is ensure that Xuanyuan Yuheng doesn’t die or leave. I’ll take my eye back sooner or later!”

“But Xuanyuan Yuheng will have to participate in the Number One Summit. Tianming will have his chance once Xuanyuan Yuheng leaves,” said Lin Xiaoxiao.

“So what? He’s weak, and there’s no way he can be compared to his ancestors. Without the Fiend Shackles, there’s nothing he can do about it,” said the Archaionfiend.

“Fiend Shackles?”

“It has nothing to do with you. You just have to behave,” said the Archaionfiend.

Lin Xiaoxiao pondered about it, and she felt that the Archaionfiend probably wasn’t lying. After all, Xuanyuan Yuheng was important to it.

“But now that he attacked Tianming, will he still be able to stay there tomorrow?”

“Let’s just see how it goes. I have no idea. After all, they’re inside, and there’s no proof whatsoever. It won’t be easy for Tianming to get rid of Xuanyuan Yuheng. If he keeps going with it without any proof, others will only think that Tianming is a petty man,” said the Archaionfiend.

“Yeah.”

“Don’t leave tonight. Let’s wait till tomorrow,” said the Archaionfiend. The sky plunderer race is really annoying. Forget it. I wouldn’t be able to find such a suitable medium without him. If I have to wait for Lin Xiaoxiao, it’ll take at least ten years.

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Tianming spent the entire night cultivating in the Prime Tower. From the Prime Tower, he could observe the situation outside. Xuanyuan Yuheng had been attacking the Prime Tower for half a day, but to no effect.

Tianming was now certain that the Prime Tower was left by an existence that was at least a god. At the very least, there was no way Xuanyuan Yuheng could damage it with tribulation artifacts. In the end, Xuanyuan Yuheng could only give up and resume cultivating under the Archaionfiend Eye.

Just like that, the night passed without them speaking a word to each other.

“You nearly crippled me, and you want to deal with me when I’ve yet to take my revenge? Haha.” It didn’t matter if something happened to Xuanyuan Yuheng’s rationale because Tianming couldn’t take this lying down.

When dawn approached, a Trioptic True Dragon Branch disciple came in. When Tianming heard the commotion, he put away the Prime Tower and appeared in the Fiend Palace.

The one who came in was Xuanyuan Muxue. She was surprised when she saw that the two had spent the night together peacefully. After a brief pondering, she came over to Xuanyuan Yuheng. He was looking at the sky, and the golden eye on his forehead was radiating with golden brilliance.

“Big Brother Yuheng,” Xuanyuan Muxue called out.

“What is it?” Xuanyuan Yuheng replied with a cold tone as he resumed his cultivation.

“Looks like you’ve thought it through. Good. We’re now tied together to face any future difficulties.” Xuanyuan Muxue was relieved. She continued, “Although it doesn’t feel comfortable lowering your head to an outsider, he’s still someone on our side contributing to the eminent. It’s good that you guys can give up your grudges for the bigger picture.”

“Good?” Xuanyuan Yuheng sneered. “Muxue, get lost.”

Xuanyuan Muxue was speechless. She realized that she was too naive.

“Okay, I won’t poke my nose in your business anymore. I’ll only take care of myself in the future.” She stood up and left Xuanyuan Yuheng, then sat back down in another location.

The Fiend Palace became peaceful. Although other disciples were coming in, they still maintained the silence. Everyone had been bitterly cultivating without uttering a single word.

“Why didn’t you go to Xuanyuan Lake to make a report?” Ying Huo asked.

“There’s no evidence. Furthermore, Xuanyuan Yuheng will surely feign innocence and claim that I framed him. So even if Ling’er manages to get Xuanyuan Dao to punish him, people will only think that I’m taking revenge on a personal grudge,” said Tianming.

“Then are we going to let him continue bullying us?” Ying Huo asked.

“No. He won’t be able to continue for long. Ying Huo, we climbed all the way here from the Human Branch, and now we’re only one step away from him. We’ve already come this far, are we really going to subdue him with the help of others? If that’s the case, how can I vent the anger I felt when I came to the Archaion Sect? It’s good that he hasn’t lowered his head under the pressure of his elders. Otherwise, I wouldn’t be able to find an excuse to take revenge,” said Tianming.

“You really do hold grudges, don’t you?”

“I’m willing to do it.” Tianming rolled his eyes. “But ten years is never too late for a gentleman to take his revenge. We have to do it fairly and openly, without any tricks.”

“Haha, as the saying goes, heroes share the same mind. I’ve been unhappy with him since long ago, and I have to beat him up one day,” said Ying Huo.

Tianming nodded his head with a smile. Honestly speaking, Xuanyuan Yuheng had already lost the ability to deal with him.

“We shall see who the last man standing will be!”

The number of people in the Fiend Palace gradually increased. Despite the crowd, Tianming and Xuanyuan Yuheng’s gazes clashed together. Tianming saw a blood mist within Xuanyuan Yuheng’s golden eye, which meant he still wanted his life.

You want my life? Then don’t blame me for sending you on your way!

The Deepstar Pool would be opening soon. Tianming stood and headed out, with Xuanyuan Muxue following behind him. Tianming’s white hair shone brightly, while Xuanyuan Muxue’s black hair draped down like a waterfall.

Xuanyuan Yuheng turned around and looked at their backs with a murderous surge in his heart.

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The Number One Pavilion, Old Deepstar Path, Deepstar Pool, Fiend Palace, and the Hexapath Sword Palace. Tianming had been alternating between those locations for the past few days, living a fruitful

life. He even occasionally returned to the Human Branch with Lin Xiaoxiao to visit his friends from the Swordking Faction.

Half a month later, Tianming made another breakthrough in his cultivation, thanks to the Old Deepstar Path's Astral Wills. His Imperial Will absorbed Astral Wills, while other disciples had to observe and learn. In addition to the heavenly patterns on the Grand-Orient Sword's four gates, Tianming was making rapid progress in his cultivation.

Who could compete with him? Aside from Feiling, who cultivated the Perpetia Sutra, there was probably no one comparable to him. But Tianming knew that his strength wasn't the most terrifying thing about him. The capital coming from his talent wasn't sturdy, and only strength could grant him the right to speak.

That was the reason why Tianming had been making progress in his cultivation silently without anyone noticing.

"Seventh level, the beast saint spring!" This was a transformational level for his lifebound beasts, and Ying Huo, Meow Meow, and Lan Huang benefited from it. Their saint springs expanded. Ying Huo's infernal saint spring in particular was bigger than Tianming's by half, and its internal saint ki was also more refined.

### **Chapter 669 - The Capital to Survive**

Tianming had three saint springs along with the Grand-Orient Vortex, so there was no comparison even if his lifebound beasts had expanded their beast saint springs. But as they continued growing in their cultivation, their physiques would get stronger and stronger. Tianming had to keep fusing with astral sources to train the Ancient Deepstar Godbody to keep up with them. As for others, there was no way their physiques would be comparable to lifebound beasts.

But Ying Huo was an exception. After all, lifebound beasts all grew to huge sizes upon reaching the Samsara stage. On the other hand, Lan Huang was the complete opposite. Using the word colossal to describe Lan Huang was an understatement, and it could now suppress stronger opponents with its body alone.

"There's so many differences between Primordial Chao Beasts, each having their own merits. For example, the difference in size between Ying Huo and Lan Huang is huge. Still, as the Aeternal Infernal Phoenix, Ying Huo might not be weaker than the Primordial Terraqua Dragon. Although I can't tell the differences in their sizes from my dreams, there's a high possibility that as a Primordial Mountains and Seas World, Lan Huang might be a lot larger than the Aeternal Infernal Phoenix in size."

Tianming had initially thought that the fourth lifebound beast would be the smallest one, but it might turn out to be the biggest. After reaching the seventh level of the Empyrean Saint stage, Tianming was only two levels away from the Samsara stage.

"Let's continue working hard and reach the Samsara stage first. I shouldn't place my eyes among geniuses beneath the age of thirty. I have to put it further away to obtain the capital to survive with Ling'er. After all, in this world where everyone's hundreds of years old, those beneath the age of thirty

only make up one-tenth of the continent.” Tianming felt that he could break free from the restriction of reality and make preparations for the future.

“The Number One Summit is just a battle between geniuses beneath the age of thirty. The Archaion Divine realm might be known as Monorigin Divine Realm, but it has nothing to do with strength. It’s just the sequence. The Archaion Divine Realm has experienced a lot over the past two hundred thousand years, and was even destroyed once. But it managed to survive over time and re-establish itself. It doesn’t mean it’s the strongest just because it’s called the Monorigin Divine Realm.

“I heard that the Archaion Divine Realm only lies somewhere in the middle among the divine realms. But the other eight divine realms are coming furiously for this Number One Summit....” Tianming knew that he couldn’t relax. After all, the other divine realms were coming for Feiling and he had no choice but to stand with the Archaion Sect.

If the Archaion Sect falls, will there be another shelter for Feiling and me? I’ll have to pass through the Canal of the Dead to return to the Decimo Dao Nation, and it won’t be easy. That means we have no other choice but to fight. This time, we’ll be fighting for our survival! Tianming had different meanings to all his fights.

Back in Vermillion Bird, he fought for revenge. In the Grand-Orient Realm, he fought for the rise of the Li Saint Clan and to change his destiny. In the Divine Capital, he fought to overthrow the theocracy for all lives and righteousness. His calling only grew as he fought.

But when he came here, he had a small calling. He was just fighting for survival because survival was the foundation of everything. He needed to fight if he wanted to continue holding hands with Feiling; he needed to fight for freedom and dignity.

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Tianming had completed his daily task of fusing four astralsources in the Deepstar Pool, and there was some time left before he could leave the Deepstar Pool. Tianming sat at the edge of the Deepstar Pool. Cultivating without stopping during this period had been exhausting, and he needed some rest.

After this, he would head to the Fiend Palace to establish his eighth soulshaker meridian. Everyone envied his talent, but he just wanted to survive in this place with Ling’er.

“How many astralsources have you fused so far?” Xuanyuan Muxue asked when she came out of the Deepstar Pool.

“Two hundred,” replied Tianming.

“Wow, I’m only at fifty-one, not to mention that you can perfectly fuse the different elements. They say that your Ancient Deepstar Godbody is even stronger than an Ancient Deepstar Godbody formed with over four hundred astralsources of one element,” exclaimed Xuanyuan Muxue.

“Do you have to flatter me? Your mother almost flatters me to the sky every time we go to Xuanyuan Lake,” smiled Tianming.



Xuanyuan Muxue's mother was the Nine Divine Hall's palace lord, Xuanyuan Yu. She had a position in the Archaic House of Xuanyuan, while her husband, Xuanyuan Muxue's father, was a son-in-law married into the household.

"I'm not flattering you, just being honest. My mother has been talking about Her Eminence's eyesight," smiled Xuanyuan Muxue.

Their relationship had improved over time, but there was still a barrier between them called Xuanyuan Yufeng. It wasn't a barrier that could be removed so easily, especially for Xuanyuan Muxue's mother. Whenever Tianming spoke to her, he sensed the depression beneath Xuanyuan Yu's passion.

"Muxue, I'm starting to regret what I did with your elder brother," said Tianming.

"What makes you say that?" Xuanyuan Muxue asked.

"The Archaic House of Xuanyuan has been treating me well. Not to mention Her Eminence, your family members are pretty good as well. But what happened with your brother became a barrier between us. I'm not saying that I made a mistake back then, I just feel that perhaps we could be friends if that hadn't happened," said Tianming.

"Things are beyond your control sometimes, and no one can see the future. You're not at fault for the matter. Let's just take it one step at a time and see how it goes. There are many regrets in life, and I have no idea what I should feel bad for," replied Xuanyuan Muxue.

"Sorry about that," said Tianming.

"Let's not talk about that. Why don't we say something more pleasant?" Xuanyuan Muxue suggested.

"What should we talk about then? Oh, will you be participating in the Number One Summit? I heard that the other eight divine realms' disciples have already entered the divine realm, and they're currently heading over to the Archaion Sect. They'll probably arrive in two days, and the battle will soon begin," said Tianming.

"The threshold for the Number One Summit is the second life phase of the Samsara Stage, and I'll see if I can achieve it before it starts. I'll be free from the death tribulation in a few more days and reach life tribulation. If I succeed, I'll definitely participate. We're at their mercy this time, and they're trying to humiliate us. I'll have no regrets even if I have to die for the Archaic House of Xuanyuan and Her Eminence," said Xuanyuan Muxue.

She pursed her lips together with a bitter smile and continued, "Personal grudges are nothing before the life and death of the entire sect. The Archaion Sect has survived for two hundred thousand years after the first god, and we've experienced many life and death trials. Only those who survive are qualified to be a clan passed on for eternity."

"What are the dangers of the Number One Summit?" Tianming asked.

"You don't know about it?"

"I've been focused on cultivating, and I haven't looked much into it. We're concerned that they might suddenly launch an attack on the Archaion Sect, right?" Tianming asked.

“That’s impossible. The eight divine realms’ masters who are appointed to come for the Number One Summit might be some of the strongest, but there’s still a limit to their strength. Not to mention that they’re bringing their elites along. They won’t dare to attack us without their army, even if the eight of them join forces. After all, this is our home ground,” said Xuanyuan Muxue.

“Then what are we afraid of? Isn’t it just an ordinary fight between disciples?” Tianming asked.

“It’s not the same,” replied Xuanyuan Muxue.

“What do you mean?”

“Among the eight divine realms, the Biritual Demon Sect and Hexapath Sword Sect reacted the most to Her Eminence’s return. But many people have allied with them in secret. The sect is also working hard to express our goodwill to the divine realms we have a good relationship with. I heard that some divine realms even made huge demands. We’ve managed to stabilize a few divine realms, but we’re not sure when they will change sides. My mother said that we have to be prepared to be attacked by the eight divine realms, and we’ll be able to see their attitude during the Number One Summit,” said Xuanyuan Muxue.

“How?” Tianming asked.

“Killing is allowed in the Number One Summit. But the divine realms have been coexisting peacefully the past few summits, and restrained themselves. But this time, those who want to go against our Archaion Sect won’t go easy. They’ll try to intimidate us.

“At that time, all our participating Heaven Branch disciples might be killed. That way, not only can they cut off our talents, but they’re also cutting off the Archaion Sect’s future. It’s to strike fear into us. So much so that the Archaic House of Xuanyuan won’t be able to bear the consequences,” said Xuanyuan Muxue gravely.

“What consequences?” Tianming’s voice turned cold.

“My mother said that they might try using this method to force us to hand over Her Eminence and allow them to kill her....” Xuanyuan Muxue was filled with concern.

“So they’ll kill all our disciples if we don’t hand her over?” Tianming felt rage building up in his chest.

“Yeah.”

“Since that’s the case, then why are we still holding the Number One Summit?” Tianming questioned.

“As I said, it’s only a possibility. The elders are communicating and trying to pull the other divine realms to our side. That’s just the worst possible outcome. Furthermore, the Number One Summit’s rules are fair, and we might not lose. We’ll be a laughingstock if we don’t even dare to host the summit. It’ll show that we’re afraid and give them an excuse to put more pressure on us.

“Furthermore, there’s different opinions in the sect. The upper hierarchy has discussed the Number One Summit numerous times, and I heard that the Heaven Branch’s Sect Master, Fang Taiqing, made the final decision,” said Xuanyuan Muxue.

## **Chapter 670 - Beware of Fire**

“Got it. That means we don’t have an alternative aside from fighting,” said Tianming.

“It doesn’t matter. We have no regrets if we die for the sect and Her Eminence.” Xuanyuan Muxue squeezed out a smile.

“Are you guys trying to hypnotize yourselves?” Tianming asked.

“We aren’t. But the blood flowing in our veins taught us to die with pride, not with our tails between our legs. I might only be seventeen, but I’m not afraid of death.” Xuanyuan Muxue said with her eyes red.

“Not bad. Your words touched even me,” commented Tianming.

“What about you? Are you going to join?” Xuanyuan Muxue asked.

“What else? Am I just going to let them force us to hand Her Eminence over to be killed?” Tianming roared. Tianming looked like a ferocious bloodthirsty beast.

“You lost your composure. It looks like Her Eminence is important to you,” said Xuanyuan Muxue.

“Sorry.” Tianming took a deep breath to calm himself down, but his blood was still boiling. He gnashed his teeth whenever he thought of Feiling dying before him, and he clenched his fists tightly.

DIE! ALL OF YOU DIE! Tianming’s eyelids twitched violently as he bit his lips bloody.

“Don’t be nervous. That’s the worse scenario. No matter what, we still belong to the Archaic House of Xuanyuan. We’ve pledged to protect Her Eminence, so no one can touch her unless they kill us all,” said Xuanyuan Muxue.

“Yeah...”

“Have you fallen in love with Her Eminent?” Xuanyuan Muxue asked.

Her words left Tianming stunned and he replied, “What the hell are you talking about? What nonsense.”

“Yeah, I’m talking nonsense. But you just look like it.”

“Look like what?”

“A man who’s provoked by the threat of separation between lovers.”

“Stop saying rubbish. Her Eminent is a goddess. She cannot be defiled, do you understand?” Tianming said with a serious face.

“Do I need you to tell me that? This is the Deepstar Pool. If I said that outside, my mother would probably whip me to death,” said Xuanyuan Muxue.

“Yeah.” Tianming gulped down a mouthful of saliva and was lost in his thoughts while staring at the Deepstar Pool.

“Muxue.”

“Yeah?”

“If they start killing Heaven Branch’s disciples and kill all of us, will they still be able to threaten us?” Tianming asked.

“No, because that signifies war,” said Xuanyuan Muxue.

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Tianming and Xuanyuan Muxue left the Deepstar Pool together and headed to the Fiend Palace. When they were finished at the Fiend Palace, they left there together as well.

“See you tomorrow,” said Tianming, bidding his farewell to Xuanyuan Muxue.

“See you tomorrow.” Xuanyuan Muxue smiled as she walked into the darkness.

“The Archaic House of Xuanyuan?” Tianming looked at her figure, fusing into the darkness. He had gained a new understanding of their clan today. Simultaneously, the image of Xuanyuan Yufeng wielding his spear reappeared in Tianming’s mind.

I’d rather die fighting than live with my tail between my legs!

Tianming’s eyes flashed brightly in the darkness with an outburst of murderous aura burning in his chest. He called out, “Ying Huo.”

“Yeah?”

“I want to become the strongest.”

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Deep in the tranquil night, Xuanyuan Muxue sat on the oceansoul fatedragon, returning to Xuanyuan Lake. No ordinary disciples were allowed to come close to the Xuanyuan Lake, and it was hard to see anyone around late at night.

“Muxue.” Someone called out to her. When Xuanyuan Muxue raised her head, she saw a man dressed in white standing in the darkness. He was wearing a smile, and the vertical eye on his forehead flickered.

“What is it, big brother Yuheng?” Xuanyuan Muxue asked. This wasn’t a coincidence—Xuanyuan Yuheng had been here waiting for her.

“Nothing. I’d like to talk with you.” Xuanyuan Yuheng flew over and stood on the back of the oceansoul fatedragon, looking down at Xuanyuan Muxue.

“Yeah? Go ahead.”

“I see that you’re pretty close to Li Tianming lately. Everyone’s saying that you guys are a couple. Do you know that?” Xuanyuan Yuheng asked.

“I don’t. They must be overthinking it. We just happen to be on the same path,” said Xuanyuan Muxue.

“I don’t believe it. It’s normal for a young girl like you to fall for a bad boy,” replied Xuanyuan Yuheng.

“Don’t you have anything better to do? There’s many things better to do in life. Big Brother Yuheng, are you really that bored to be interested in rumors?” retorted Xuanyuan Muxue.

"I'm not interested in it. I'm just asking since when have you had such a good relationship with him? Did he tell you what happened?" Xuanyuan Yuheng smiled.

"What is it?"

"On a night a few days ago, I tried killing him in the Fiend Palace. But he escaped," said Xuanyuan Muxue.

His words left Xuanyuan Muxue dumbfounded. She replied, "Big Brother Yuheng, stop joking around with me. If you did that and allowed him to escape, then you'd be in prison right now."

"Do you know why he didn't tell anyone about it?" Xuanyuan Yuheng looked Xuanyuan Muxue in the eyes.

"I don't."

"It's because he's too confident. That means that he thinks I'm spinning a cocoon around myself, and there's nothing I can do about him. It means he's looking down on me, Xuanyuan Yuheng!" Xuanyuan Yuheng smiled, and his tone became heavier.

"Are you serious?"

"Of course I am."

"Why did you do that? Are you insane? Do you have any reason to be jealous of him? Uncle Xiao told you to be respectful. Why are you going insane when he isn't holding it against you?" Xuanyuan Muxue asked.

"Oh, even you're like that? You're denouncing me for an outsider?" Xuanyuan Yuheng chuckled.

"It's not that he isn't holding it for me. He's just waiting for an opportunity to take revenge in the future. So do you think I can let him off?" Xuanyuan Yuheng argued emotionally.

"Then what are you going to do?" Xuanyuan Muxue asked.

"That's simple." Xuanyuan Yuheng suddenly laughed. The next second, the vertical eye on his forehead shot out a golden ray.

"That's the Vajra Extinguishing Eye!" Xuanyuan Muxue's eyes grew wide.

The ocular art didn't attack Xuanyuan Muxue, who was standing close to him. Xuanyuan Yuheng turned around and shot it at the oceansoul fatedragon, catching it by surprise. After all, Xuanyuan Muxue had never thought that Xuanyuan Yuheng would attack her.

The golden beam was faster than lightning, instantly piercing through the oceansoul fatedragon.

"Gworrhrrr...." The light in the oceansoul fatedragon's eyes faded as it died.

"Lan Ling!" Xuanyuan Muxue's face changed. She felt as if her heart was being ripped apart. She never expected that Xuanyuan Yuheng would suddenly attack her, much less kill her lifebound beast.

"Don't let the other one out, or it'll die as well. And be quiet. Don't make a sound," sneered Xuanyuan Yuheng as he appeared behind Xuanyuan Muxue.

“Xuanyuan Yuheng, you’re insane!” Xuanyuan Muxue felt difficulty breathing as tears rolled down her cheeks. She couldn’t believe that Xuanyuan Yuheng had killed one of her lifebound beasts.

When she suddenly turned around, Xuanyuan Yuheng’s punch landed on her abdomen, causing her to throw up a mouthful of blood. She felt the shock in her internal organs, like they had nearly been ripped apart by Xuanyuan Yuheng’s power.

“How weak. I nearly crippled you with a gentle push.” Xuanyuan Yuheng stepped forth and grabbed her neck before giving her two slaps. His smile was eerie, and the vertical eye on his forehead was red. “Muxue, look! You’re dying...”

“Why...” Xuanyuan Muxue struggled. If it weren’t for Xuanyuan Yuheng’s sudden assault, she wouldn’t have been caught by surprise. She never imagined that he would be so despicable.

“Why? Because you’re young, and you’re still ignorant. Adults like us will do whatever we need to achieve our goals,” sneered Xuanyuan Yuheng.

“What kind of goal made you lose your mind like this? Reducing you to such a despicable fellow and losing your bottom line!” Xuanyuan Muxue was suffocating, and her body trembled in pain.

“That’s simple. Since you two have a good relationship, I’ll be using you as bait to lure him out. Then I’ll bring his head to Her Eminence and tell her that I’m more suitable to be her disciple. I’m a much more suitable candidate to conquer the world with her!” Xuanyuan Yuheng laughed.

“Have you lost your mind?! He has Jian Wufeng’s protection, there’s no way you can touch him. Otherwise Her Eminence will kill you!”

Xuanyuan Muxue’s tears rolled down her cheeks as she looked at the oceansoul fatedragon’s corpse.

“Shhh....” Xuanyuan Yuheng pinched her lips. “There’s no need for you to talk. I’ll let you witness it with your own eyes.”

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“Muxue didn’t come today?” This was the first time Tianming saw that Xuanyuan Muxue was missing in the Deepstar Pool. He was uncomfortable without her around. But Tianming didn’t overthink it and continued refining astralsources.

“I can already come in contact with the green tribulation pattern spirit hazards. This is a good day today, so let’s give it a try!” Tianming’s face was flushed when he came out of the Deepstar Pool. When the fourth egg heard that he would give it a try, it jumped around excitedly in the lifebound space.

Taking the egg out, Tianming played around with it in his hand.

“Don’t worry. I’ll aim to let you see the world today. It’s been a long time, hasn’t it?”

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Tianming didn’t go to the Fiend Palace but the Heaven Cauldron instead, where he bumped into Ouyang Jianwang.

“How many tribulation sword ki now?”

“Five hundred.”

“Too little. Continue working hard!” Ouyang Jianwang’s eyebrow twitched.

“Haha.”

“Tianming, you’ll have nothing in the future if you don’t work hard now,” said Ouyang Jianwang.

“Big brother, as the stars shine brightly in the sky, open your eyes wide open and watch,” said Tianming.

“What? Not bad!” Ouyang Jianwang widened his eyes.

“Thanks for letting me win.” Tianming cupped his hands together. He then turned around and stepped into the Heaven Cauldron. But all of a sudden, Ouyang Jianwang patted his shoulder with a playful smile and said, “The weather is dry lately. Beware of fire.”