

The Ages 771

Chapter 771 - Heroic Cat

Since all he was doing was hiding away now, Tianming wanted to hand the ultimate tribulation manna to his beasts. The question was how would he do it, now that they had fused with the Dragonhide? Right as he had that thought, the manna appeared from his body, each corresponding to an element of the five phases: metal, wood, water, fire, and earth. The five bright stars seemed to contain an arcane power that was so complex it was hard to even comprehend.

"What kind of manna are these?" Tianming wondered. Right after he said that, the first fiery star burned brightly, causing some words to appear: Imperial Mars. Following that, words appeared on the other ultimate tribulation manna. The blinding white one was called Fiendish Venus, the brown one was called Thousand-ringed Saturnus, the icy-blue one was Frosty Mercurius and the inky-black one was Evernight Jupiter.

"I wonder if they'll be able to evolve again after assimilating this manna. To what extent will they grow?" He was filled with anticipation. First, he handed Imperial Mars to Ying Huo. The manna's name actually sounded rather like its name, as if it were tailor made for it. [1] It was filled with so much flame and heat that it seemed even hotter than the star Tianming was currently on. He felt an explosive power coming from it.

"This time, I'm definitely evolving into a large bird!" Ying Huo said to muster its spirits before biting down on Imperial Mars and swallowing it. It returned to the lifebound space and began assimilating the manna. Every inch of improvement they could squeeze out while they were in the Kilostar Domain would be critically important for them, so Tianming risked letting them evolve here, of all places.

He took out Frosty Mercurius and Thousand-ringed Saturnus; the former was a water manna while the latter was earth. Both of them were suitable for Lan Huang, but it really only needed one of them.

"I'll keep Frosty Mercurius for Muxue, then. I did promise her, after all. Here, this is for you," Tianming said as he tossed it to Lan Huang. The Thousand-ringed Saturnus did indeed have many starry rings around it, making it heavier and larger than the other manna. Lan Huang had been crying out from the pain since coming out of the lifebound space, so it quickly took the manna and retreated back in.

Then it was Xian Xian's turn. Tianming decided to give it Evernight Jupiter. While it looked black in color, it was actually a wood-type manna, which just so happened to suit the Radix World Tree.

"Thank you, Half-daddy! I'm digging in!" Xian Xian happily took the manna and went back inside. Now, only Meow Meow was left. It was looking at Tianming with dissatisfaction.

"Meow."

"Meow?" Tianming awkwardly parroted.

"Can't you speak like normal?"

"Come on, I didn't have a choice. There wasn't a lightning-type one." The only one left in Tianming's hand was Fiendish Venus. It was a platinum star of metal that was so hard and dense it could probably

be used as material for a weapon. No doubt, it was a metal-type tribulation manna with a hint of fiendish power. However, it wasn't too suitable for Meow Meow.

"I was planning to use this metal manna to exchange for another grade-nine tribulation manna from the sect. I didn't think we'd end up trapped here. If you aren't impatient, I'll definitely trade it for a better manna to give you."

"I'm going to be left out! They're going to have around nine hundred stars, but I'm only at three hundred. I'm weak! I'll be forced to sit back and rest while you fight! How can someone as hardworking as me accept that?" it angrily snapped.

"Huh? Aren't you secretly happy?"

"Nonsense. I'll just have a little bit of trouble resting while my siblings are out fighting!"

"Just a teeny bit?"

"I think so."

"Just go back to sleep, you!" Tianming lost his patience in dealing with that critter. As expected, it really went to take a nap, but it quickly opened its eyes and looked at its evolving siblings.

"Wow, to think that you're having trouble napping. The next thing you'll tell me is that the sun is rising in the west," Tianming said.

"Don't mock me! I have ambitions, too, you know! I... I don't want to sleep anymore! Chicken Bro was right. How can I sleep when we're about to die and enter eternal slumber?!"

"So? What do you want to do?"

"I want to eat that hunk of metal!" Meow Meow said, staring at Fiendish Venus.

"Are you sure? You might get constipated, you know, and end up with three balls on your body instead of two."

"To hell with it. For the sake of my pride, I'll do it just this once!" Though, it didn't really seem confident about it. Assimilating manna of a different type could cause conflicts. It was a really risky move, not to mention ultimate tribulation manna like Fiendish Venus was probably far too potent for a beast with around three hundred stars like Meow Meow.

"Hey, you aren't serious, are you?" Tianming asked solemnly. He knew that while that cat was rather lazy, it couldn't bear shame at all. During their battles, it would always fight like there was no tomorrow to ensure it would be able to get a good night's sleep. Such dire straits are the complete opposite of ideal sleeping conditions.

"Of course I'm serious!" It raised its tail up as its body shriveled up tightly.

"Is there a chance it'll work?"

"Of course. We Primordial Chaos Beasts have the highest of bloodlines. It was only after becoming lifebound beasts that the bloodline chains began binding us. In essence, what other beasts are doing is evolving through the use of manna, fundamentally changing themselves, while all we're doing is using

mana to unlock our bloodline chains, bringing us to what we originally were. Both Chicken Bro's Skypiercing Diablos Feathers and my Myriad Electrode were originally part of our bodies. We're just using an external item to stimulate their manifestation, so after assimilating mana, we're basically only recovering our own abilities. That's why it works so well.

"Our abilities also operate on the same principle. Since Fiendish Venus isn't a good fit for my type, it might not be able to unlock the bloodline chains in my body. Even if it works, the best it can do is let me recover a fraction of the stars I used to have. However, it might hurt to do so, and there's a higher chance of failure. Either way, I won't die from it, so I'd like to give it a try," it explained in a serious tone.

"Then don't cry out too loudly in pain," Tianming said with a warm smile.

"Nonsense. I won't even chirp."

"Huh, to think that Meow Meow's grown into a true man."

"Eww, gross." It gulped at the sight of Fiendish Venus.

"You aren't a chicken, but you're chickening out."

"No I'm not!" Meow Meow glared back before swallowing the mana whole and going back into Tianming's lifebound space.

Tianming was laughing quite hard. He recalled the time its egg had hatched back in the Abyssal Battlefield; it was only a puny cat, then, but now it was almost heroic. While it was still a stubborn slacker, it had never shied away from danger. There was no way it wouldn't grow after Tianming's own rapid growth.

"Us five siblings must survive this! Do they think I'm prey? Nothing's decided yet." He didn't know where his burst of bravery came from. Perhaps his four beasts' optimism was rubbing off on him and filling him with confidence. "They forced me to run into the Kilostar Domain, but that just gave me opportunities I never would've gotten had I not come here at all."

Tianming took a deep breath and recalled the disgust he had felt when Xue Yi stuffed that worm into his mouth. "You think you can pretend to be the wise old senior just because you're over two centuries old?"

He calmed himself down. Standing amidst the flowing lava, he started practicing the Ninesky Beastsoul Formation with his finger as the sword. His current tranquil state allowed him to tap into endless imagination. "Ferocity... savagery... ruthlessness...."

His own beasts were also improving rapidly.

On the third day after arriving on the star of flames, Ying Huo finished evolving and loudly chirped in the lifebound space. When it flew out, it looked like a bright sun that stood out even on the flaming star, letting out flaming starlight. The volcanos around them erupted in response, clouding the skies with thick smoke. More lava began flowing like huge ocean waves.

Tianming couldn't see Ying Huo at all, only the flaming outline of a phoenix. It reminded him of the dream he'd had where he saw it swallowing up suns. Had Imperial Mars really made it so much stronger? He had a feeling that some crazy ability had been unlocked this time around.

"Showed off enough yet?" Tianming asked.

"I have no choice. I want to lay low, but my abilities are too powerful! I'm cursed to be the center of attention!" Ying Huo gleefully said.

"How many stars do you have now?" Tianming asked. It should be quite a lot, considering it was an ultimate tribulation manna. He recalled that Fang Taiqing's phoenix had had around nine hundred and thirty stars, but definitely not more than nine hundred and fifty.

"Young man, open your eyes wide and count." Even though Ying Huo toned down the brightness of the light it emanated, it still seemed much brighter than it did before. While its size hadn't changed much, its feathers were now adorned with raging, flaming stars, making it look like it was wearing armor made of stars. As for how tough it was, they would only be able to find out through combat.

The main focus was still its eyes—they both now looked a little like Imperial Mars. Tianming couldn't tell how many stars there were in such a short time, as there were far too many!

1. The traditional Chinese name used for Mars has the same pinyin as Ying Huo.

Chapter 772 - Kilofold Rings, Imperial Radiance

Fang Taiqing's phoenix's eyeball alone was a few times larger than Ying Huo's entire body, and Ying Huo's eyes were as small as beans by comparison. Tianming had a really hard time counting the stars within them.

"You fool, taking so long to count them is making me nervous," Ying Huo teased.

"You're so nervous you've got a weird accent. So? How many are there?"

"You'll be dumbfounded if I tell you."

"Stop holdin' back and be out with it, won't ya?!"

"Hey, you're the one with the accent!"

"Just say it!" Tianming pulled Ying Huo to him by its neck.

"Alright. There's nine hundred and ninety-nine, and another that's only half-formed! So, that plus a half! Do you know what that means?" Ying Huo said, readjusting its 'hair' after wriggling out of Tianming's grip.

"No, I don't."

"That means the manna was enough for me to break a thousand stars! But as my cultivation isn't high enough right now, the remaining stars were compressed and became that half-star. They might only form when we finally ascend to godhood after I become a divine beast," Ying Huo said.

"Are you sure?"

"I was just making things up."

"To hell with you!" Tianming harshly pressed it down. "I didn't think you'd keep messing around after evolving."

"Don't, forgive me! At least, the star count isn't false! Hey, my hair's getting messed up!"

Tianming was rather happy for it, for the stronger it grew, the stronger he grew, too. He couldn't wait to break out of his current predicament. "Come to think of it, did you gain anything else apart from stars?"

"My body is far tougher, probably tougher than your Ancient Deepstar Godbody, so it's really hard to deal me any damage. Some of my abilities have also seen significant improvements, especially Infernal Armor. There's an extra layer of protection, thanks to the Imperial Star. However, this next one is the most important."

"What is it?" "I awakened a new state called Imperial Radiance. It's a berserk state that greatly boosts my abilities!" it proudly declared.

"Any side effects?"

"Well, I'll feel a little weak after it runs out," Ying Huo said shyly.

Tianming asked it to demonstrate. Ying Huo began brightly glowing and looked like nothing but incorporeal flames. It was so blinding that it hurt to even look at it, not to mention the terrifying aura. It was very clearly a state where its abilities went berserk.

"That's enough," Tianming said.

Ying Huo snapped out of that state and weakly stumbled.

"Just that short a time was enough to make you so tired?"

"I was just messing with you!" Ying Huo energetically jumped around again.

"I knew I should've neutered you long ago, so you wouldn't be such a naughty chicken."

Just then, Lan Huang finished evolving. Tianming pushed Ying Huo away and said, "Shoo."

Lan Huang, having experienced the pain of the burning lava, didn't want to come out. Now, it was even larger than before, so its stars were easier to count on account of its larger eyes. It also had nine hundred and ninety-nine stars plus a half-formed one.

"I bet the others never would've expected how powerful these ultimate tribulation manna are."

Now, Tianming's lifebound beasts no doubt had more stars than anyone else's. Even though their true power still depended on the level of their cultivation, it was nevertheless impressive.

No doubt, Lan Huang's defenses had gotten a boost from its evolution. While its Thousand-ringed Saturnus didn't glow as bright as Ying Huo's Imperial Mars, it was far denser and heavier, causing Lan Huang's mass to grow tenfold without its size changing much. That only meant it would be able to take far more hits than before, just like Ying Huo, but it had the advantage of size.

In contrast to Ying Huo's Imperial Radiance, it had the Kilofold Rings wrapping around it. Just like the manna it had consumed, Lan Huang was now like a ringed star itself. Each of the rings looked like a

round blade wrapped around. Lan Huang could make them spin at will, turning him into a gigantic meat grinder. The rings could even spread apart to be used as shields, affording it even more defense than Mountainsea World.

The third one to finish was Xian Xian. At the moment of success, there was quite a huge commotion in the lifebound space. Initially, Xian Xian had only had a Radiant Daffodil and a Scarlet Lily. But now a third flower was blooming. It was a pitch-black, fiendish flower with petals that looked like deep galaxies dotted by countless stars. The flower looked like the endless night sky. Xian Xian's spiritform was now dressed in a sparkly black dress. Its eyes were dark and tranquil like the night, without any trace of holiness or bloodlust, only the mystique of the eternal night, making it look even cuter than before.

"This is my third flower, the Evernight Rose. Does it look good, Half-pops?" It said as it leapt into his embrace. It had picked up some bad habits from Ying Huo and the rest and even changed the usual 'half-daddy' to 'half-pops', much to Tianming's dismay. From Evernight Jupiter, the Evernight Rose was formed.

"What can it do?"

"It helped me awaken my third ability, Evernight Curse, which allows me to control enemies within a certain area. I can even turn them berserk and cause them to be unable to tell friend from foe!"

"Amazing! You're so powerful now!" Tianming exclaimed. Xian Xian was a plant-type lifebound beast and was far from conventional, compared to Ying Huo and the rest. Now, there were nine hundred ninety-nine and a half stars on its spiritform as well.

"Yeah! Too powerful!"

"Far too powerful!" Ying Huo and Lan Huang chimed in.

The little plant couldn't really take compliments well and her embarrassment turned to anger.

Now that they had shown off their Imperial Radiance, Kilofold Rings, and Evernight Rose, Tianming turned to Meow Meow, who was still evolving.

"My Cat Bro is having some trouble," Ying Huo said.

"He's suffering now, but one day he'll thank his past self for his bravery. The heavens are only giving him these trials to train and forge him," Tianming said.

"Where'd you get that from? You're plagiarizing our mother!" Ying Huo said. "Nonsense, it's an original piece. Since you heard it, you'd better pay up."

"Fuck off! I'll expose your plagiarism one day!"

Tianming paid attention to his lifebound space again. There was only a trace of dark fiendish ki there.

"This fellow's really stubborn. He isn't groaning in pain in the slightest."

"Maybe Fiendish Venus clogged up his urethra or something."

"What does the urethra have to do with crying out loud?"

"Would you dare scream when you're desperately holding your piss in?"

Tianming was wholly convinced by the soundness of the argument. He admitted that he felt a little like a mother watching her children suffer, feeling pain for their sake. Over the next two days, he began wondering if he had made the wrong decision and hurt Meow Meow.

"Forget it. You're overthinking this. Cat Bro has always been a badass. As long as he's serious, there's nothing he can't do," Ying Huo said, patting Tianming on the head like a wise old senior.

"Fuck off, won't you?"

At that moment, a loud, thunderous boom was heard, then the lifebound space fell completely silent. All the lightning bolts and fiendish ki disappeared. The next moment, a little black cat appeared.

Tianming winced in pain when he set his sights on it. Meow Meow's blue eyes were now platinum in color, making them look really piercing. Just like the others, it also had nine hundred ninety-nine and a half stars. It had succeeded! Tianming could finally breathe a sigh of relief.

There were no apparent differences on Meow Meow's body, but Tianming could feel that everything about it had changed, all thanks to those platinum eyes. Meow Meow opened its mouth and revealed a row of sharp, platinum teeth. Its claws were also platinum, and there was even a platinum spike on its tail. They looked so sharp they seemed like they could pry the scales off Lan Huang.

"How many days has it been?" it said loudly.

"Four days, Cat Bro!" Lan Huang said.

"Four days? Four days?!" It clawed at its chest wildly. "I actually wasted four days evolving? That wasn't a great deal at all! No, I'm too tired... I have to make up for lost sleep!"

It immediately collapsed with its four legs in the air and fell asleep with its tongue poking out.

Tianming looked at all of them, feeling a torrent of emotions. They had all succeeded. Now, they could finally engage in symbiotic cultivation once more. "Get that cat over here."

"What? Isn't that a little cruel?" Ying Huo snickered.

"I'm already used to it."

Meow Meow was dragged out of the lifebound space. "What the hell? You can't bully me like this! You'll get divine punishment for this! Li Tianming, I curse your son to have no balls! My feline rights are being violated! Bastards, I'll sue all of you! I'll sue you bankrupt!...what? You'll let me sleep for three days after we cultivate? That's so generous of you! I'll almost feel embarrassed being the only one sleeping during those three days.... All hail Li Tianming!"

Chapter 773 - Venus Fiendbone

In actuality, Meow Meow's evolution had improved its abilities as much as its siblings. The Fiendish Venus hadn't improved its main element of lightning, but it did make its body incredibly tough, especially its claws, teeth, and tail, which were now even stronger than Ying Huo's feathers. In fact, its bones were now Venus Fiendbone. The claws, teeth and spike on its tail were just the exposed Venus

Fiendbone. Its skeleton was just as tough as the Fiendish Venus, possessing a platinum-like quality. It was worthy of being compared to the Kilofold Ring and Imperial Radiance.

That said, it didn't look like much. In fact, the shiny teeth and claws made Meow Meow look even cuter. But the moment it turned into its Regal Chaosfiend form, those parts would be far more exaggerated in size, greatly increasing its combat capabilities in close range. Even without explicitly training in battle arts, it was more well-rounded overall and stronger in terms of brute strength than Ying Huo, not to mention its lightning-fast speed.

Imperial Radiance, Venus Fiendbone, Kilofold Rings and Evernight Curse... Tianming was rather happy for his evolved lifebound beasts, as well as himself. Hidden amidst the lava, they began symbiotic cultivation. Their bloodlines connected and caused the changes to spread through Tianming's body, infusing his bones, muscles, and organs with even more power from the bloodlines of the four Primordial Chaos Beasts, changing him fundamentally once more. It was a transformation most people wouldn't be aware of simply by looking at him, as it didn't affect his cultivation level. However, it did represent a huge increase to his latent talent.

The talent afforded by the Primordial Chaos Beasts raised all aspects of his abilities without an upper limit, seemingly making it much easier for him to ascend to godhood. As the old saying goes, 'give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, teach him how to fish and you feed him for life'. In some ways, the talent from the Primordial Chaos Beasts was analogous to learning fishing, and the benefits reaped from cultivation was his fishing haul.

Tianming felt the changes in his body quite clearly. His new and enhanced body allowed him to sense the entire world far more clearly than before, and his senses of smell and hearing seemed to be completely different. Now, every cell in his body had taken on some quality of the Primordial Chaos Beasts.

"While their evolution should have no effect on our cultivation, the talent arising from the intermingling bloodlines can allow our heavenly will to grow. I believe I can start trying for the third death samsara ring."

If he succeeded, all of them would reach the third-level death phase. His growth rate in the Samsara stage was far faster than anyone would have expected. After all, samsarans got very limited benefits from the Old Deepstar Path. Within the Nine Divine Realms, the three Saint stages were where cultivators grew the fastest, as they could easily find the support and resources for growth. But in the Samsara stage, even the most talented geniuses would have to take things slowly step by step.

Tianming should have exponentially slowed down at that stage too, but the improved bloodline of the Primordial Chaos Beasts brought him tremendous benefit when it came to comprehending the insights of the Samsara stage. His Imperial Will, which had reached a peak, suddenly had so much more room for improvement now that he had a completely different viewpoint.

It didn't take long before his third death samsara ring formed, causing them to reach the third-level death phase. Death tribulation force filled their bodies, converting their lively vigor into a deathly dread, which seemed much more appropriate for his current circumstances.

"We're finally third-level death phase samsarans." Even without Feiling's Spiritual Attachment, he would easily be able to take on Yama as he was now. "Thanks to their evolutions, I can continue to make progress even without the Old Deepstar Path."

To live was to endlessly struggle. Once they finished the breakthrough, Meow Meow went back to sleep. While they rested, Tianming continued cultivating on the fiery star. He was quite curious how many of those from the five divine realms had entered the Kilostar Domain to seek out treasure.

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There were around a hundred people from the Nonahall Ghost Sect that had been sent to the fiery star to scour it for Tianming. When they descended to the star, they were split into ten groups and spread out across ten sectors.

"Remember, our main priority here is to find precious treasures. Seeking out the imperial son of Archaion comes second. Anyone that notices anything is to make an immediate report back!"

"Understood!"

"Look carefully and in every corner. We'll turn the entire star inside out if we have to!"

"Sir, rumor says the Kilostar Domain is the resting place of the gods. Won't we disturb their slumber like this?"

"That's just baseless superstition! It's nonsense!"

"Understood!"

They went to their assigned sectors. All of them were middle-aged, or older. At their age, they were the main powerhouses across the divine realms, with most of them being tribulation elders. The fact that they had the right to enter the Kilostar Domain for the search meant they had a rather high standing in Nonahall. For instance, the group called Blue Ogre consisted of nine people, all of whom were sixth-level samsarans or above.

Blue Ogre was led by two people. The first was a short, frail, middle-aged man with a dark, reddish face. His eyes were sunken and his face was covered in smudges, not to mention every one of his pores seemed to be filled with black gunk, making his face look a little like a strawberry. While strawberries normally looked appealing to the eye, a face that looked like a strawberry was anything but. Even so, people with odd looks like that were all too common in Nonahall.

The Nonahall Ghost Sect had risen from a barbaric tribe, which was where many of their shady and savage practices had come from. In the pursuit of power, sacrificing their looks was the most elementary thing they could do. Some would even risk their life.

The other leader was a shriveled old crone with white hair. She was short and stout, but her mind was sharp and sound and she seemed filled with vigor. Despite her stocky build, she was really agile. While her face was wrinkled, all the other parts of her skin were silky smooth, making for a rather weird contrast.

"Yin Po, did you let your lifebound beast devour infants again? Weren't you chewed out by our leader about that? Why'd you do it again?" asked the strawberry man.

"Chou Qiong, you shouldn't pretend to be a good person yourself. You know that my ghostchild beast must do that or I'll be stuck in the death phase. I'm already three hundred, so I can't be compared to you all. Not to mention, Nonahall is so large and there's people who do all kinds of things. Sure, they might all pretend to be virtuous on the surface, but they actually commit all kinds of atrocities behind the scenes. In my three centuries of life, I've seen all kinds of people. Now that the Kilostar Domain is open and we're about to fight a war, I'll do whatever I please! Life must be lived to the fullest! We can't waste our time in the world and hold back!" Yin Po said, chuckling.

The two of them brought the other seven tribulation elders to the magma. They had been in the same group for a long time, so they got along rather well. They chatted as they continued the search.

"There aren't any spatial tears in the area here, so we can let our lifebound beasts out. We'd better keep our eyes open. They all say all kinds of treasures lie waiting in the Kilostar Domain. If we can't find any, but those from other sects can, we'll be punished! I'm sure you know what our lord is like," Chou Qiong, the strawberry man, said.

"Got it."

"In other words, coming here wasn't necessarily a good thing. We aren't as free as we can be on a normal battlefield, and we even risk getting into trouble."

"Yeah. And there's no way anyone would dare keep the treasures they find here for themselves. The battlefield is different, though—you can just kill and claim spoils."

Yin Po chuckled and said, "There's nothing we can do about it. It's all thanks to this weird sealing formation that forced eighth-level death samсарans and above to be restricted at the seventh-level death phase. I heard that our lord will even be able to fight a ghoulish king on equal footing here. If word of this gets out, it's sure to send waves across the continent. I've lived for three centuries, and not even I've heard about a sealing formation like this. Who knew that the legendary Kilostar Domain was actually a ruined world like this?"

"Yin Po, that's where you're wrong. Even if the ghoulish king's level is suppressed at the seventh-level death phase, the same as our lord, he'll definitely have unique methods that'll easily allow him to beat our lord in a fight. The ghoulish kings have too many other aspects to them that are far above their suppressed level. I'd wager that nobody below the eighth or ninth levels will be able to defeat them," Chou Qiong said.

"I know that too. I was just comparing the levels, nothing else. This is pretty refreshing, after all."

"Come to think of it, I never would've imagined that our levels would be so near to the true elites in the sect like this either."

They continued casually chatting. Some of them had dived into the lava to continue their search.

"Someone's here! That's Li Tianming!" Yin Po suddenly cried from beneath the lava.

Tianming had in fact seen her, as well. He'd thought he would be able to avoid them, but Yin Po's nose was too sensitive and she instantly found him with a few whiffs.

Chapter 774 - Ghostchild Beast

"Yin Po, shut up!" Chou Qiong said.

"Why should I shut up? The lord asked us to report to him immediately after discovery."

"Report my ass! If we're the ones to catch him, the credit will be ours!"

Yin Po's eyes brightened with the realization. Even though she hadn't been present for the Number One Summit, she had a rather good understanding of Tianming. He was a super genius in his twenties who had even managed to kill Yama—a shock to be sure, but there were nine of them against him. All of them were at least at the sixth-level life phase, a level higher than Yama had been. She and Chou Qiong in particular were in the sixth-level death phase and had terrifying death tribulation force.

"An old crone like me has lived for three centuries and never been a genius since joining our sect. However, I've killed countless geniuses myself. Hehehe...." She had seen too many so-called geniuses fall, so Tianming was no different from a naive baby doll in her eyes.

"Go!"

In almost an instant, all nine of them charged toward Tianming from all directions. He looked around, having planned to escape with Meow Meow's speed. However, his pursuers weren't that slow either. If they trailed behind him for a time and caused a commotion, the number of pursuers would only increase and he would definitely die. So, he dropped the notion of running and chose to fight. His opponents were greedy for credit and wouldn't want to notify the others; he could use that to his advantage. Their greed was an opportunity for him to exploit.

"Let's end this quickly!" Tianming immediately entered his strongest state, summoning all four of his beasts. It would be the first fight for them since their evolution!

As they were still within shallow lava, they could charge out at any time. Lan Huang and the rest were also fine with the temperature at this depth. In fact, to Lan Huang, the fluid lava was akin to the sea for him.

Even so, he still relied on Xian Xian to seal off the battlefield. While it was indeed fearful of fire, the shallow lava didn't affect it too much. Its leaves, roots, and flowers managed to unveil themselves without issue. The Evernight Rose in particular glowed with astral light as Xian Xian's roots stretched for kilometers.

Meanwhile, the Kilofold Rings on Lan Huang began rapidly spinning. The rampaging twinhead dragon with nine kui mountains on its back and nine kui seas on his abdomen was prepared to mess this lava bath up.

Nearby, a gigantic beast emerged from the darkness, letting out a terrifying aura. Now, Meow Meow was about a third of Lan Huang's size. Even more troubling was its cold white eyes and razor-sharp claws and teeth, as well as its whip-like tail that kept swishing threateningly behind it. It had gotten all of that thanks to the Venus Fiendbone. Ying Huo merely perched on Tianming's shoulder, looking the most nondescript of all the beasts.

"Kill them all!" Tianming said, then launched into action. He glanced at the enemies and instantly knew that only two of them would be a little troublesome for him to deal with, namely the old crone and the strawberry man.

The man held a fiery-red net in his hand made from sharp, spiked ropes. It seemed to have eight tribulation patterns and was a special net known as a Fire Larva. Beside him were two huge lifebound beasts that looked like flaming crustaceans. Their bodies were a little mushroom-shaped and they had tens of thousands of fine feelers or appendages sprouting beneath their bodies. Even more terrifying were the faces on the mushroom bodies that contorted with an expression of pain and agony as they let out harrowing shrieks. There were more than five hundred and eighty stars in their eyes. They were ghostface flaretoxin crabs.

The two of them were more or less on the level of Hei An and Bai Rao, which was only to be expected. While Hei An and Bai Rao's level was close to theirs, they were valued far more due to their talents.

However, Yin Po's lifebound beasts seemed even more terrifying. The three of them had different-colored skin: green, purple, and blue, respectively. They were really small and floated around the crone like three ugly babies with large mouths. They rolled around in the lava and loudly cried, apparently using some kind of ability. The instant Tianming heard the cries, he felt like his head was about to explode. However, they definitely weren't infants, but lifebound beasts that had lived for more than three centuries. They were ghostchild beasts and were actually akin to ghostly spirits. One of them had more than six hundred stars, while the other two had around five hundred and ninety.

Apart from Chou Qiong and Yin Po, there were another seven people on the chase, all of whom were in the sixth-level life phase. Even with Xian Xian covering the entire battlefield, they still quickly managed to surround Tianming and the rest. Fueled by greed, they attacked, though Yin Po and Chou Qiong made sure to emphasize that they could kill Tianming's lifebound beasts but had to take him alive since they would earn much more credit by taking him captive.

A chaotic melee began.

"Xian Xian!" Tianming needed its help to take on so many people at once.

"They're ugly and smelly!" Xian Xian said as its spiritform came to him. Meanwhile, the Evernight Rose began shaking as it used the Evernight Curse. Despite the name, it wasn't actually a curse; instead, the rose was scattering astral pollen. Almost instantly, the countless sparkles on the black rose scattered all over the place; Xian Xian was able to finely control where and how they moved, allowing them to spread through all corners of the battlefield before sticking on the enemies' skin and sinking inside. They were so small they were barely detectable, so the enemies weren't even aware they were being hit by it. Without even noticing, they slowly lost their reason.

That move was a nightmare for many lifebound beasts, who didn't really have any countermeasures against such attacks. Even so, the pollen was just the figurative seed for what was to come later. Xian Xian continued bombarding the battlefield with Radiant Vines, Bloodrain Swords, and black roots.

Beside it, Lan Huang's Kilofold Rings were spinning so fast that it was now in meat grinder mode. It leaped straight into the sea of lava as the nine kui seas on it began spinning, causing it to move forward

at a staggering speed and collide with three other tough lifebound beasts. In an instant, the spinning rings tore them into pieces and killed them.

Chapter 775 - Unlimited Contribution

"It has more than nine hundred stars!" Tianming's enemies finally realized that his beasts had evolved when they saw Lan Huang in action.

"It's fine. No matter the star count, he's just a weak brat with a low cultivation. Let's gang up on him together!" In an instant, more than half of them had launched an attack toward Tianming.

"Let's go!" Ying Huo spit out some flames at Tianming, covering him in Infernal Armor. Its upgraded form made it look brighter than the sun, and it was much tougher, turning him into a flaming god of war.

Tianming wielded the Grand-Orient Sword in two hands to parry Yin Po's Fiendfang Dragonstaff. The ghostchild beasts' Infant Fiendcry was getting louder and louder, to the point that he felt like his chest was being torn apart, affecting him and his beasts quite severely. Tianming managed to suppress Yin Po's blow before he went straight for the three ghostchild beasts.

Meanwhile, Ying Huo activated Imperial Radiance and turned into a glowing mass of flames, radiating sword ki and immense heat. On this lava star, it was the ultimate ruler. With it there, Chou Qiong's two ghostface flaretoxin crabs weren't able to threaten Tianming at all. Amidst the chaos, Xian Xian's Bloodrain Swords fired toward the three ghostchild beasts. By now, their cries were at their peak and were loud enough to numb anyone who heard them.

"Die!" he cried as he struck.

"Hehe, child, you are far too young and naive," said Yin Po as she came to reinforce her lifebound beasts. That same instant, the three ghostchild beasts suddenly bloated up as a sloshing sound rang out before they turned into green-faced fanged demons, each one taller than forty meters. This was their true form; they were as powerful as ghostly demons in close combat now. At the very least, they were no longer shrieking like before, something Tianming was afraid would draw in more people.

"Meow Meow, I'll leave them up to you!" Tianming retreated and the gigantic feline beast charged in to bite one of the ghostchild beasts. The beast tried to claw back in retaliation, only for its neck to be snapped by Meow Meow's fangs. Meow Meow's tail then shot out at lightning speed and pierced its heart, killing it immediately.

Yin Po's eyes grew bloodshot at the sight. Her partner for three hundred years had died just like that?

"What're you blanking out for?" someone cried out from behind her.

Yin Po saw Tianming charging right up to her with his sword flailing wildly as he executed the Animacorpus Eradication. This strike was far more powerful than it was during the summit, filled with immense sword ki that made him look like an incarnation of all the aggrieved souls.

When she finally snapped out of it, it suddenly dawned on her that a young pup like Tianming was actually far more powerful than she had expected. The information she had been given must have been mistaken!

"Help me!"

Even if she hadn't cried for help, the rest would have surrounded Tianming and attacked him. However, their attacks couldn't pierce his Infernal Armor at all. In fact, some of their tribulation artifacts even shattered from the impact!

"Aaaagh!" Yin Po groaned as she executed a second-origin samsara battle art. Her Fiendfang Dragonstaff split into multiple afterimages as her death tribulation force flooded into it, helping her open a path straight through the lava before it clashed with Tianming's sword, only for it to break apart. The shards of the staff embedded themselves into her body.

"Fuck off!" Tianming swung his sword toward the old crone's head, sending it flying with a horrified look. His death tribulation force stole the life force from the old crone and sent it into his own lifesprings. He wanted to kill as many as he could to enter the next life phase! As he didn't know who Yin Po was, he wasn't aware of her reputation in the Nonahall Divine Realm as a terrifying, child-eating monster. Too many children that women all across the realm had given birth to after nine months of pregnancy had been consumed by her as a delicacy.

"What kind of power is that?!" Tianming wondered when he received some weird Omnisentient Will right before Yin Po's death. "This feels like... good karma?"

It was a rather refreshing feeling. He felt like a lot of people were thanking him for killing Yin Po, even though they hadn't been there to witness it. It was fundamentally different from the Omnisentient Will he had received before, but it somehow felt more important to him. This good karma was a reward he got for dealing out justice on behalf of the heavens!

"Since they're all evil crooks, I'll clean them all up!" He leapt into the fray without delay and began his slaughter. "Die, die, die!"

As long as he had enough good karma, he could convert it into Imperial Will. It didn't matter how much evil his enemy had committed, as long as he killed them. "So I can kill evil crooks for good karma and steal their life tribulation force to enter my next life phase?"

He had found the perfect formula to rise through the Samsara stage, all while doing the world a service! His strength came from the fact that he wasn't a power-hungry demon, but a walker of the righteous path.

The youngest of the sixth-level life phase samsarans were around a hundred, while some were as old as Yin Po at around three centuries old. When they saw her die, it finally dawned on them how terrifying he was. They immediately decided to call for reinforcements, but it was too late.

Xian Xian's Evernight Curse had burrowed deep inside their bodies, causing a good number of them to go on a rampage. It wasn't exactly unexpected behavior, as a good number of them would easily lose their reason when they were sufficiently hurt. The others merely believed this was just one of those cases, but in truth, the Evernight Curse's pollen had sent them into a nightmarish abyss.

"Old Zhao, why'd you hit me?!"

"It's just a mistake! What are you so anxious about? Are you afraid I'll tell others that you killed your elder brother and messed with your sister-in-law?"

"You're courting death!"

"I'm not afraid of you! Come on! I've wanted to kill you for a while now!"

That was the power of the Evernight Curse; it could draw the deepest aspects of their psyche up to the surface, instantly causing the tensions between them to boil over into a violent bloodbath. The ability was working at peak efficiency. Normally, the pollen wouldn't do much if their hearts and minds were in the right place to begin with.

By now, Chou Qiong had noticed that it was the doing of the tree and felt terrified. While the others weren't planning to leave, he still could. Who cared about merit when their lives were under threat?

"Notify the others now!" He immediately turned and left without even caring about his lifebound beast.

"How dare you run?! I activated Imperial Radiance, so you'd better have a taste of my sword! I'm the butcher of the north!" Ying Huo spat. Archaion was located in the north of the Flameyellow Continent, after all. Ying Huo soared through the sky like the sun and used its newly-learned Animacorpus Eradication on Chou Qiong's privates.

"Aaaggh!" he squealed, right before Archfiend pierced through his head and instantly killed him.

"Stop messing around, someone might hear us! Kill them all, quick!" Tianming ordered.

"Yes, Boss!" Ying Huo continued harvesting human heads as it streaked across the sky like a shooting star.

The Evernight Curse had turned the battlefield into a hell of blood, causing the enemies to chaotically fight among themselves.

Meanwhile, Meow Meow had easily crushed the three ghostchild beasts with its body that was toughened by the Venus Fiendbone and was unleashing lightning abilities to help Xian Xian seal off the battlefield.

After Ying Huo killed off the two sixth-level death phase ghostface flaretoxin crabs, it continued its ambushes, quickly raising its kill count to match Tianming's.

Lan Huang, on the other hand, had left lots of minced meat in its wake thanks to its Kilofold Rings. The massacre soon left the nine members of Blue Ogre dead. Tianming couldn't help but be impressed at their renewed fighting prowess. Not one of them was weaker than the rest, and they all had their unique advantages.

However, this was no time for him to marvel at their improvements. He quickly pulled them back into his lifebound space once all the enemies had been killed and left, as someone seemed to be approaching from the distance. Soon, he secretly left the fiery star and watched the others search for him with a cold smirk.

"I guess that means the strongest ones here are at the seventh-level death phase, and even the ghouls are sealed by the formation. In other words, as long as I don't leave this place, I won't die! I just need to be careful and remain undiscovered. In time, I'll reign supreme here! Xue Yi, Li Caiwei, you two had best be in here! Just you wait!"

His eyes were filled with a storm of hate as he turned back and looked at the endless domain. "Since that's the case, I'd better start seeking out the secrets hidden in this place." The conversation he had overheard between Yin Po and the rest sounded really important to him.

"However, I still can't let my guard down. They outnumber me, and there's definitely a lot of seventh-level death phase samsarans here. I can only deal with sixth-level death phase samsarans at most, right now. Not to mention, even if those above the eighth level have their cultivation suppressed, they'll definitely have more methods and techniques they can use to dominate me. It won't be this simple. I have to be more careful."

He took a deep breath and looked into the distance before zipping away, disappearing into the starry skyscape.

"Lord, Blue Ogre has been eliminated!"

"The other four sects had an agreement with us not to kill anyone, even if there's conflict. However, this sight is too cruel. It might be Li Tianming's doing!"

"He can't be far away. Give chase!"

"Report to the ghoulish king that traces of Li Tianming have been detected on Star one eighty one!"

Many people came flying from the fiery star. Seeing that, Tianming hurriedly left. "Take your time and look closely. I won't be waiting." He was far more concerned with what wonders could be hiding within the Kilostar Domain.

Chapter 776 - Treasures of The Wind-Ocean Star

The dense stars within the Kilostar Domain brightly shone. One would remain concealed even when casually roaming the starry sky. Of course, this kind of concealment was nowhere as good as hiding within the stars themselves.

"The trouble is, they spread out and arranged for their people to explore each star. No matter where I hide, they'll eventually find me. I wonder if there's any areas where ordinary people can't enter?"

Along the way, Tianming had come across a lot of people, all of whom were pillars of the five divine realms. Most of them were in their fifties or older. There were few young faces.

"The nine people I killed were most likely lower-ranking disciples."

Even if he was much stronger than he was during the Number One Summit, danger lurked in every corner. He was cautious, hiding in the starry sky and searching for refuge.

Time flew by and a day passed in the blink of an eye.

When he stepped into a certain star field, he felt a sudden movement on his body. Looking down, he noticed that a part of the Dragonhide had appeared and was giving off a faint glow. Then it directed Tianming's right hand, pointing it at a star at the end of the horizon.

It was an enormous blue star with a surface area of more than forty times the size of Taiji Peak Lake. Judging by its color, it was probably an ocean star and its surface was completely covered by cold seas. The presence of rolling clouds suggested strong winds and a storm set off monstrous waves, all of which was visible from Tianming's position.

"The bigger the star, the more suitable it is for us to hide in. But why's the Dragonhide guiding me there?"

How extraordinary!

"Does Great Emperor Xuanyuan have something to do with the Kilostar Domain? I wonder who's behind the sealing formation here."

Since the Dragonhide had given him a target, Tianming immediately headed in that direction. Thus far, it seemed there were people from the five divine realms on every star.

This wind-ocean star was no exception. When Tianming arrived, he discovered how massive it was. It could certainly accommodate tens of millions of cultivators.

The vast sea and terrifying storms covered the entire star. This small world was constantly wracked with storms and the roar of the wind and sea shook Tianming's heart.

Quietly landing on the star, he arrived on the violent seas. The turbulent storm sent waves hundreds of meters tall crashing into his body. It was difficult for Tianming to stabilize his body. The torrents beneath were equally powerful when he ventured underwater. If hundreds were to enter, it would still take them several months to fully explore the star, due to its magnitude.

"If I manage to stay hidden and wait it out here with them, they might not be able to find me even if they search the stars. After all, I'm not going to sit still in one place."

Tianming thought the wind-ocean star was pretty good.

By now, the Dragonhide had stopped moving. Tianming wandered around the star, trying to find the reason he had been led there. He traveled across the shallow seas and faced the storm and ocean currents. After two hours, he heard movement ahead.

"There are people there."

Holding his breath to better conceal himself, Tianming quietly approached to see what they were doing. By the sound of it, there were at least hundreds of people gathered in discussion.

"Why are they gathered here instead of spreading out and searching?"

Beneath the waves, Tianming raised his third eye to look in their direction.

"It looks like there's some kind of formation."

Upon closer inspection, Tianming discovered a vast heavenly pattern formation in the center of the storm and waves. At least two hundred people surrounded the formation and rushed to attack it.

Eyes and ears flushed, they looked almost fanatical, which suggested there was something in the heavenly pattern formation to cause such a reaction. Tianming was curious about what he would find in the Kilostar Domain.

"Perhaps whatever's in this heavenly pattern formation is the reason the Dragonhide led me here."

It was too chaotic over there. If he wanted to see clearly, he would have to get closer.

"Be careful, I don't want to be hunted down," said Ying Huo.

"Don't worry. I won't be interested if it's nothing special."

Right now, his life was of utmost importance.

As he drew nearer, Tianming realized there were more than two hundred people from the five divine realms trying to break the formation. However, they were blocked by countless dragons and couldn't enter. The dragons were formed by heavenly patterns; this was a tribulation pattern formation.

Tribulation pattern formations could only be created by tribulation patternscribes. Like tribulation elders, they were divided into four levels—first-origin, second-origin, third-origin, and fourth-origin. The fact that it could perturb more than two hundred experts meant it was at least a first-origin tribulation pattern formation.

What could it be protecting?

Tianming continued his approach, his gaze passing through the thick fog. Finally, when a certain cloud dissipated, he laid his eyes upon the objects within the formation.

"Holy shit!"

Eyes wide, Tianming stretched out his right hand and rubbed all three of his eyes.

"No way!"

He must be mistaken or having hallucinations. After all, how could this be possible?

There were more than two hundred people desperately trying to charge into the formation, preventing him from getting any closer. Only when the storm had momentarily calmed did he catch a glimpse of the magnificence within this formation.

After confirming it three times, Tianming was finally certain. These people were from three different camps—namely the Hexapath Sword Sect, Quadform Oceanic Sect, and Heptastar Aerial Sect.

Why were they behaving like mad dogs? It was because there were countless tribulation manna inside. Each of these treasured tribulation manna floated all around like trash.

Tianming could hardly count them. He estimated there were at least tens of thousands. Even if they were only first- or second-grade tribulation manna, ten thousand of them was still a staggering number. However, Tianming had actually seen fourth-grade tribulation manna, and judging from his experience, these were at least fifth-grade. They might even be sixth- or seventh-grade!

Ninth-grade tribulation manna was considered the highest. Seventh-grade tribulation manna could give lifebound beasts more than seven hundred stars, which was considered the pinnacle in the divine realm. Many third-origin tribulation elders' lifebound beasts only had about that many stars.

One or two such tribulation manna was nothing, but there were tens of thousands.

"Even the Nonahall Ghost Sect wouldn't have that many in their possession right now. Because the Archaion Sect lacks tribulation manna, the lifebound beasts of the Heaven Branch disciples don't even have four hundred stars. There's hundreds of thousands of tribulation elders in the sect, and most of them are normal first-origin tribulation elders. These tribulation manna will be of great use to them. If every one of them progresses, Tribulation Peak would be at least thirty percent stronger!"

It's no wonder these people were going crazy. This wasn't just any treasure; this was a treasure capable of transforming a sect.

"That's why the Nonahall Ghost Sect wants to hunt for treasure before going to war. This is the kind of thing they're looking for! When these treasures fall into their hands, their fighting powers will soar and they'll crush the four sects!"

The side with this much treasure will have the upper hand. Even if such treasure existed, Tianming had assumed it would be well-hidden. But surprisingly, they floated in the sea, protected only by a tribulation pattern formation.

Despite being the first ones to discover the treasure, the cultivators of the Quadform Oceanic Sect, Hexapath Sword Sect, and Heptastar Aerial Sect didn't dare lust after it. They had sent people to inform the upper ranks of their sects, while the rest scrambled to break the formation.

"With a large enough spatial ring, one person could take ten thousand tribulation manna!"

At this moment, Tianming's eyes were fiery, his heart ablaze as he stared at the tribulation manna floating in the sea. His spatial ring was big enough!

"Xian Xian, I'm sorry!" Tianming said.

"What's wrong?"

"I'm going to toss your ingredients."

He had a pile of frozen meat meant for Xian Xian's snacks in his spatial ring.

"You're a devil! No way, I don't accept this!" Xian Xian wailed loudly in his lifebound space.

"Don't cry. When this is all over, I'll compensate you ten times over. I'll make you barbecue every day," Tianming promised.

"That's more like it!" Grinning widely, Xian Xian turned around and continued playing.

Tianming was stumped for words. Sure enough, women's emotions are like a roller coaster ride! Even a "mother tree" was no different.

"Are you crazy? There's more than two hundred people here, and there must be even more experts coming. When that happens, it'll be impossible to escape," Meow Meow mocked.

"Meow Meow, think about it. The one who's going to have trouble escaping will be you," Tianming said.

"Meow?"

It stared blankly, suddenly recalling that in the event of an escape, Tianming would require its speed.

"No, it's too dangerous. I protest. There's too many of them, and they're all more powerful than the previous ones. I refuse to take this risk," Meow Meow said despondently.

"Your protest is invalid," Tianming replied.

"Are you really going to do this?" Ying Huo asked in surprise.

"You won't gain anything if you aren't willing to take risks. Most importantly, I don't want treasures that can determine the outcome of the war to fall into their hands. I'd rather they be destroyed than given to our enemies. If they aren't, then sooner or later, these treasures will become weapons against the Archaion Divine Realm." Tianming grit his teeth.

Of course he was aware of the dangers, but that was just how life was. There was no way around this, since they had encountered it.

Chapter 777 - Galactic Clashdragon Formation

If Tianming didn't act now, he would have to run.

"Soon, there'll be more experts coming, including those from the Nonahall Ghost Sect. There's no time. Get ready!"

He made a prompt decision to take a monumental risk. Concealed in the sea, he slowly approached the tribulation pattern formation from below. The closer he got, the more clearly he could see.

"There's at least fifteen thousand of them, all fifth- or sixth-grade! It doesn't matter who placed the manna here or who set up the formation. That's not important anymore."

Tianming grit his teeth. Birds die in pursuit of food, and man dies in pursuit of wealth. This time, he would risk it all.

...

There were more than two hundred middle-aged and elderly tribulation elders in the formation, all of whom had seen many treasures. Many of their own lifebound beasts had more than six hundred stars.

But even so, their breathing had grown heavy at the sight of so many fifth- and sixth-grade tribulation manna. The expansion of a divine realm and plundering of resources was dependent upon its power—this would be a great contribution!

Right now, there were a total of three parties present, drilling inward from three directions. Keeping to the principle of fair and friendly competition, they focused on their own efforts and played it clean.

In truth, fighting was bound to occur once they broke into the formation, but they were still pretty friendly for now, all of them concentrating on moving forward.

The tribulation pattern formation was known as the Galactic Clashdragon Formation. When they had first discovered it, it was densely covered with stars and resembled a sea. When the first person charged in, the stars condensed into dragons and slammed right into them.

If their lifebound beasts were released within the range of the formation, they would be immediately forced out. Only the beastmasters could move forward. If they wanted to pass through the formation, they must fight the dragons.

Fighting the dragons involved the beastmaster holding onto their horns while they fought it with their power and physical strength. Those who advanced did so step by step by pushing the star dragon further into the formation.

The obstruction appeared more like a test, which seemed ridiculous. However, the cultivators wrestling the dragons didn't think that at all. They were using all their strength.

Some people were thrown out by the dragons, while others pushed forward. But the point was that the deeper they went, the more stars combined and the stronger the dragons' power grew.

Cheap tricks wouldn't work in this struggle. Because of that, no one had been able to pass through the formation so far. If they didn't abide by the test and forcibly broke in, they would be bombarded by the Galactic Clashdragon Formation and possibly killed.

At present, there were three people who had reached the deepest part, and they happened to come from the three different forces. From the Quadform Oceanic Sect was a blue-haired young man. Bare to the waist, he was covered in muscles and resembled a strong beast. Although he was bulky, he wasn't ugly. Given his height, his proportions were perfect. He looked much younger and more powerful than those around. Hence, he was the closest to the tribulation manna.

At the moment, his muscles were strained and his body surged with tribulation force, much like a dragon. Filled with the vast power of the sea, he grabbed a giant dragon's horns and continued advancing forward. Throbbing veins covered his face and he roared with rage from time to time. His name was Long Yichen, and he was only fifty this year.

Judging from his lifespan, he was equivalent to someone in their twenties from Vermilion Bird. Long Yichen was Long Xiaofan's older brother and the eldest son of the seadragon king. The man's face was contorted, his eyes staring at the tribulation manna as he exploded with amazing power, pushing the dragon forward.

There were two other people whose progress was second only to him. The first was Changsun Tianheng of the Heptastar Aerial Sect, and the other was Feng Wenjing of the Hexapath Sword Sect.

Over a hundred years old, Changsun Tianheng was a middle-aged, scholarly man with shimmering stars in his eyes. He was also letting out roars and forcing a dragon forward, disregarding his image.

Feng Wenjing was only slightly older than Long Yichen. From her appearance, she was actually close to Bai Zijin's age. Dressed in blue, she appeared elegant. However, her hair was disheveled at the moment and her clothes were torn. But she could only grit her teeth, despite her miserable appearance—she was also a disciple of the Hexapath Swordfiend.

In fact, Feng Qingyu had many disciples. Jiang Wuxin was just the only one he had attentively guided. Even so, as Feng Qingyu's disciple, Feng Wenjing had a high status within the sect. They were the Feng clan of the Tai'e House of Jian, the greatest clan of the Hexapath Sword Sect.

Except for those three, the rest were still far away. If they continued persisting, they were the most likely to pass through the formation. Those who entered first would have the best harvest. Long Yichen was already approaching the manna.

"After discovering the manna, I immediately sent people back to report. Support should be coming soon. But if I'm able to take most of the tribulation manna before they arrive, I'll have a more important position in father's heart, and I'll gain more in the future! This is an opportunity for the entire Quadform Oceanic Sect to rise. This tribulation manna is extremely important to us. Fan is gone and the old man has many heirs. If I want to stand out, I must suppress this group of dragons. This is the best opportunity I'll get...."

Long Yichen's entire body was numb. Although he felt useless, he persisted, fueled by his thoughts. His will made him resilient and deranged, like a mad dog. As he roared to bolster himself, he fiercely held on to the dragon in front of him that was growing bigger and bigger.

"I must win! My current performance will determine whether I become a miserable dog or the emperor of the Quadform Divine Realm! Don't forget how mother died! Don't forget the women who harmed her! They've gotten away with their crimes, and are still bossing me around! If I, Long Yichen, ascend to the position of seadragon king one day, I'll be grateful for the man I was today. Keep going!"

He roared, the image of the night of his tenth birthday reverberating in his mind. The woman he loved and respected the most was poisoned to death by others. She stared at him with longing and pain. The heartbreak he felt at that moment was something he would never forget for the rest of his life.

"Manna! Manna!"

He felt like he was getting closer and closer. All of a sudden, he heard exclamations coming from behind him.

Chapter 778 - Fleeing From Danger

"Are they shouting because I'm close to making it through? I must calm down. Mother's spirit in the sky must be looking out for me, for such a good thing to happen to me...." Instead of turning around, Long Yichen surged with fighting spirit. The exclamations grew louder and louder, but the storm was too turbulent for him to hear clearly.

"What?"

Why did he seem to hear a familiar name?

"Li Tianming?"

Of course he knew who that was. But the manna was right in front of him. Perhaps he had misheard.

"Forget it."

He continued charging forward.

At that moment, he suddenly discovered that Changsun Tianheng and Feng Wenjing who were opposite him were looking at him in astonishment.

"Why are they staring at me?" Long Yichen was confused.

The look in their eyes was a little strange. The next moment, the formation shook.

Changsun Tianheng and Feng Wenjing were so shocked they had abandoned their previous efforts and were overpowered by the dragon in front of them. Were his competitors out of the game?

"It'll take them at least half an hour to return to this position. By then, I'll have already cleaned up all the manna. Even the Heavens are on my side!"

Long Yichen was ecstatic. All he could do was suppress the joy in his heart and advance as quickly as possible.

"Almost there!"

Victory was in sight.

Perhaps he was mistaken, but at that very moment, he seemed to see a figure beside him out of the corner of his eye with white hair fluttering in the wind. He regarded it as an illusion.

"Aren't you trying too hard? Your little brother's standing at attention," a voice suddenly rang in his ears.

In that instant, Long Yichen felt as if time stood still. He turned his head in amazement, only to see a white-haired young man standing near him, staring at his crotch with a smirk. With one hand behind him, he grabbed the dragon's horns with his dark arm.

But why was Tianming's dragon only a hundred times smaller than his? Wasn't that the size of his dragon when he had first entered the formation? Throughout his entire progress, Long Yichen's dragon had expanded a hundred times in size!

Between the two of them, one was breaking his back, flushed and panting, while the other held the dragon with one hand, quickly advancing as if taking a walk in the park. The contrast struck Long Yichen like a bolt of lightning. It was Li Tianming, the man cornered by the five divine realms!

"I—!"

As soon as Long Yichen yelled, Tianming slapped him on the forehead.

The huge astral dragon slammed into him, knocking him out of the Galactic Clashdragon Formation. Long Yichen was eliminated; the scene had been witnessed by more than two hundred cultivators of the five divine realms.

"It's Archaion's imperial son!"

"It's him!"

"How was he able to enter so easily?!"

Though shocked and in disbelief, they were filled with killing intent. Killing Tianming would also be a great contribution. The five divine realms wanted him dead, and everyone knew how many treasures he had. Once he was dead, whoever got to his treasures first would end up owning them.

"Quick! Notify the sect master!"

More than a dozen people flew away to look for their superiors at once. As for the rest of them, they could only watch as Tianming nudged his little dragon, passing through the formation.

How could he do that?

It was all due to his dark arm from the sky plunderer race. The Galactic Clashdragon Formation was a heavenly pattern formation. And when it came to formations, Tianming could basically cheat his way into them, assuming he wasn't forcibly breaking them.

His method was very profound. As he used his dark arm to grab hold of the astral dragon, he sensed that it was composed of heavenly patterns and was rather similar to the Hexapath Sword Insight Rock. In fact, he could tear through it with his dark arm. The result of that was a dragon that no longer grew, its structure having been destroyed by Tianming. When it came to plundering, these people were definitely no match for Tianming.

They were dumbfounded, while Tianming felt delighted.

"Hurry up!"

Like a lunatic, he emptied out his spatial ring, tossing all of his items away.

Xian Xian's Radix World Tree appeared in the Galactic Clashdragon Formation. While using its branches and vines to sweep countless tribulation manna over to Tianming, Xian Xian remembered to devour all that meat at the last moment, feasting like a hungry demon.

Ying Huo, Meow Meow, and Lan Huang also lent a hand. Wherever Tianming went, tribulation manna fell into his spatial ring. He was almost numb.

"We're rich!"

Outside the formation, more than two hundred elders stared at the scene in shock, their thoughts subverted.

How long did it take him? He alone had collected more than fifteen thousand tribulation manna!

"This guy's a walking treasure trove, isn't he?"

"What're we waiting for? Quick, surround him! What a fool he is! Does he think he can leave after taking away all the treasure?"

"Reinforcements will be here soon."

"Procuring the spoils is all up to luck now!"

Long Yichen, Changsun Tianheng, Feng Wenjing, and the others didn't despair. After the initial shock and agitation, they immediately regained their senses and quickly organized their people.

"It doesn't matter how he got in! We can't let him leave. Wait for my father to arrive!" Long Yichen shouted sternly, his eyes crimson. His failure had made him a little uncomfortable, but now he saw hope and an opportunity for more merit. In his eyes, Tianming was now a glowing treasure house that could change his destiny.

"He's dead meat!"

Certain disputes had nothing to do with good and evil. Sometimes, two irreconcilable enemies just bumped into each other. Long Yichen had only killed a few people throughout his entire life, and had focused on cultivating hard and growing stronger. But at this moment, he was looking intently at Tianming as if staring at an enemy, his chest almost bursting with murderous intent.

The treasures within the formation were all gone, and Tianming's next step was to escape. He didn't want to stay for even a second longer. It was obvious the people outside were waiting for him.

"What should we do?" asked Meow Meow.

"Just charge at them," said Tianming.

"Are you sure?"

"Not really. But we'll be able to kill at least half of them," Tianming said.

"Then why are you still so reckless?"

"Stop blabbering. Only those who take risks can reap benefits. Hurry up!"

Tianming placed his beasts back in his lifebound space. While reinforcements had yet to arrive, he darted into the formation once more.

At that moment, the Galactic Clashdragon Formation disappeared entirely, probably because all the tribulation manna had been removed. In that instant, Tianming appeared in front of more than two hundred people. He resembled a naked beauty surrounded by more than two hundred macho men! They went crazy at once.

"Kill!"

Every one of them wanted to be the one to kill Tianming. Thus, the scene descended into chaos. As he had expected, this wasn't one man versus two hundred. Because Tianming was now considered a treasure, there was fierce competition between the rest. All at once, countless battles broke out. It seemed that most of the attacks weren't directed at him.

The three sects warily stared at one other. Long Yichen was the closest to Tianming, but as soon as he attacked, he was surrounded by the Heptastar Aerial Sect.

The more chaotic it grew, the more advantageous it was for Tianming.

This was how human nature was. Due to Tianming's sudden appearance, these people didn't have an opportunity to sit down and discuss how they would share his treasures. A little provocation here, a little attack there, coupled with the bombardment from gigantic lifebound beasts, as well as the turbulent storm and waves, and Tianming didn't even know where he was, much less the others.

Having received numerous attacks and taken a sword to the abdomen, Tianming was fortunate to have the Purple Tower to block the attacks for him. However, he had also sustained injuries to his shoulder and was scorched by one of his opponents' lifebound beasts. The fire was so violent that Tianming couldn't hold on any longer.

"Damn, how thrilling!"

Out of nowhere appeared a lifebound beast that slammed Tianming in the chest, sending him flying out of their encirclement. The funny thing was, these people were still fighting amongst themselves.

"Where the hell is he?!"

"Fuck off! Li Tianming is over there!"

"Kill him!"

Tianming couldn't be bothered anymore. If he didn't escape now, he was bound to lose his life. Fortunately, this group of people wasn't too difficult to deal with.

"Meow Meow, do your thing!"

A lightning beast appeared under Tianming, bursting with Myriad Electrodes. Meow Meow charged into the clouds, heading toward the starry sky.

"Get him!"

Now that the walking treasure had escaped, the others stopped indiscriminately attacking. More than two hundred people and four hundred lifebound beasts ascended into the sky, locking on to the Regal Chaosfiend.

In terms of speed, some were fast, while others were slower. However, there were several seventh-level samsarans and certain other cultivators whose expertise was speed that it would be difficult to get rid of. For example, Long Yichen, the excited beast, began chasing after Tianming the moment he had an eye on him. Throughout the chase, those eyes didn't blink at all.

"Are you crazy?" Tianming shouted.

"Don't run, you son of a bitch!" Long Yichen roared.

Changsun Tianheng, Feng Wenjing, and the others were behind him. Although Meow Meow made an all-out effort to flee, these people were still hot on their tail.

"We can't get rid of them. What should we do?" asked Meow Meow.

"Don't worry, this mountain dweller has a plan," said Tianming.

"Mountain dweller? You mean eunuch."

"Fuck off!"

The others followed closely. Despite trying to throw them off for some time, there were still hundreds of people behind them.

"We're too conspicuous."

Tianming frowned. He wasn't sure whether his brilliant scheme would work, but he had no other choice.

Chapter 779 - Lizard Escape

"Well, please start your performance then!" Ying Huo didn't seem like someone who was in trouble at all. Along with Lan Huang and Xian Xian, it watched what was happening outside as if Meow Meow and Tianming's escape didn't concern them at all.

Tianming rode on Meow Meow's back as he turned to look at his two-hundred-odd pursuers. They all had bloodshot eyes, as if they had been injected with some kind of stimulant. They chased him down as best they could, some riding their lifebound beasts and others who flew themselves. They had probably never fought so hard for treasures in all their lives.

"Watch and learn," Tianming said as he took out his spatial ring. His lifebound beasts watched curiously and wondered what his escape plan would be, only to see one item after another being flung out of the spatial ring toward their pursuers.

"What's that?!" They had initially thought it was some kind of heavenly pattern tome and immediately tried to avoid it, but when they came closer, they got a good look at the items.

"These are tribulation manna!"

Many of them were instantly taken aback. Tianming had only thrown out a single batch, but it alone numbered more than a hundred. More importantly, they had been flung straight toward his pursuers. Would they take them, or would they keep up with the chase? Instantly, the dilemma flung them into confusion. Most of them, including Long Yichen, decided to continue chasing Tianming without being affected by the manna, though some of them genuinely hesitated. They believed that since they wouldn't get the credit for capturing Tianming anyway, they might as well pick up some benefits while they were at it. The rest wouldn't really ask them to cough out that paltry number of manna anyway. Since they weren't really given any benefits in entering the Kilostar Domain, they might as well pick some up for themselves.

Almost instantly, Tianming managed to lose quite a few of his pursuers. If only ten of them stopped, each of them would be able to get around ten manna. They looked at each other for the shortest instant before rushing in to grab whatever they could. While Tianming's trick was simple, it exploited their fundamental human nature. They weren't the leaders of the group, so they wouldn't get much credit for catching Tianming anyway, so the manna was far more appealing to them. Not to mention, Tianming wasn't too stingy to use such a method. If he wanted to escape, he would have to be willing to pay a cost and try his best to lose them as quickly as possible. If he took too long, more and more people would arrive, so having a couple of people fighting each other for the manna he threw out would also help obstruct those coming from behind.

"Damn it, are you a failson or something? Is this the trick you're talking about?!" Meow Meow said with disbelief.

"Even lizards know to lose their tail when they escape, you know," Tianming said. If he were stingy, he would lose his life. While a mere hundred manna was a small number compared to what he had, the same couldn't be said for his pursuers. Not everyone wanted to prove themselves to their masters, after all, since the most they would gain was a few tribulation manna, compared to the tons they could get now. When more and more stopped to take the manna, the rest began struggling to continue to chase.

"Don't worry, it's a gift!" Tianming cried when they hesitated, throwing out another hundred.

"Don't stop and join me in the chase!" Long Yichen cried. When he turned back, he almost vomited blood; there were only a dozen of them who were still giving chase. The rest went the opposite direction for the treasure, but it wasn't clear who got what.

"Friends, don't stop your pals from making some extra cash on the side," Tianming said.

Long Yichen grit his teeth and continued the chase, only to be obstructed by Meow Meow's Misty Hellthunder. Now that the pursuers were fewer in number, its Misty Hellthunder exploded with full force, widening the distance between Tianming and them.

"We can't lose him!" Even with fewer and fewer of them keeping up, Long Yichen and a few others soldiered on.

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At the same time, a large group of people came to the wind-ocean star, some among them being Nonahall members. They had a few people stationed there, but they hadn't dared spread their numbers too thin, so they didn't rush over when the manna was discovered. But now, the bulk of them came over with Xue Yi.

"Brother Xue Yi," a man in a blue dragon robe greeted. He was Long Cangyuan, the seadragon king of Quadform Sea Sect.

"Quadform Sect Master." Xue Yi returned the greeting as he looked at his surroundings. As expected, the manna was all gone.

"Brother Xue Yi, please just call me Cangyuan," he said solemnly. "You're aware that Li Tianming was the one who stole the ten thousand tribulation manna away, right? He's already gone, but my son and many others from my sect are giving chase."

"Brother Cangyuan, since you were here, why didn't you give chase? Did you lose your way?" Xue Yi asked.

"I didn't. Instead, my hardworking son has left us a trail to follow. I knew you would be coming here, so I was waiting for this moment."

"I appreciate your concern, Brother Cangyuan."

Long Cangyuan knew that Quadform didn't have as much strength as Hexapath and Birtual, so they were more likely to oblige Nonahall's demands, hence their good relationship. He instead took this chance to form a closer bond with Ghou King Xue Yi. "Brother Xue Yi, please come with me."

"Let's go!" Xue Yi ordered the other Nonahall cultivators.

Hundreds of peak elites followed the trail left by Long Yichen.

"Don't worry, Brother Xue Yi. All it'll take is for my son to catch up. He's definitely at Li Tianming's tail. This time around, we'll get that brat for sure."

"Haha, he managed to humiliate me by overcoming my heartscurge worm last time and escaping."

"But it's precisely because of it that he opened the Kilostar Domain. Things just seem to work out in the most unexpected of ways," Long Cangyuan consoled.

"He's a brave one, alright. To think that he'd show his face and take all the treasure. I wonder where he gets his courage..." Xue Yi said, revealing two bloody fangs.

They traveled quickly with Long Cangyuan leading the way, and ran into some other pursuers from Biritual and Hexapath, but Feng Qingyu and Li Caiwei weren't with them. Soon, Long Cangyuan overtook them. As expected, even though his and the others' levels were suppressed, they were still much more powerful than normal tribulation elders.

"That brat is still young and reckless. One day, he'll face the consequences of his actions. His luck won't last forever," Long Cangyuan said.

Xue Yi seemed to be in deep thought.

"Brother Xue Yi, are you thinking about the formation?"

"That's right."

"I also felt it. His arm seems to be able to break open many formations. For instance, there's the one housing the ultimate tribulation manna. And just a while ago, he easily entered the Galactic Clashdragon Formation. I heard there was barely any resistance for him."

"That kind of talent is too mysterious. If his arm really was the cause, we'd better amputate it first lest he uses it to escape the formations within the Kilostar Domain."

"Are there many formations in here?" Long Cangyuan asked, only to receive a glare in return.
"Apologies, I overstepped my station."

"It's fine. You're one of us too, so it was only a matter of time until you were made aware of it."

Hearing 'one of us' put a smile on Long Cangyuan's face. "My clan shall serve the Nonahall Ghost Sect to our dying breath."

"Brother Cangyuan, you're a person with good foresight and charisma. You're definitely destined for great things."

"It wouldn't be possible without the opportunities you've provided me, Brother Xue Yi."

"Hahaha..."

After some time, Xue Yi asked, "Will we reach them soon?"

"I'm not certain, but at least the next marker isn't far away."

Xue Yi furrowed his brow. "This time, we're definitely not letting that accursed brat get away."

"Are you wary of him, Brother Xue Yi?"

"No, I just find his abilities to be too mysterious. He managed to kill nine of our tribulation elders, two of whom were sixth-level death phase samsarans, which means that he made huge progress within a short period of time. No matter how fast he grows outside, he wouldn't be able to make much of a fuss within a few years. But in the Kilostar Domain, our cultivation levels are suppressed. I worry that if we allow him to continue growing without dealing with him, he'll only grow stronger and cause more trouble for us."

"Isn't his growth rate a little too ridiculous? He can't be the real reincarnation of the goddess, right? Maybe the goddess reincarnated as a male, and the one in Soulburn Hall is a decoy?"

"There's merit to your theory. Some within our sect also suspect that he could be a reincarnation of Great Emperor Xuanyuan. If Xuanyuan Xi is able to reincarnate, who's to say their founding ancestor can't?"

"That sounds a little too far-fetched. If that were the case, our Quadform Seagod or your Nonahall Specter would also have reincarnated. Xuanyuan Xi's an exception because she ascended at the age of twenty and died soon after in mysterious circumstances."

"True." Xue Yi kept his gaze straight ahead. He, of all people, was the most desperate to kill Tianming to ease his feeling of unease. However, he left something unsaid: the fact that Tianming possessed the Human Emperor's Dragonhide coupled with Great Emperor Xuanyuan's ties to the Kilostar Domain was something that Xue Yi was the most worried about. It might ruin their whole plan.

"Brother Xue Yi, don't worry too much about it. There's no way any guidance from a senior will be of help at the Samsara stage. He's still in his prime growth age, since he isn't thirty yet. Once that passes, his growth will slow down, unless he's really Great Emperor Xuanyuan's reincarnation. Nobody can possibly be born with so much talent that they ascend straight away."

Just then, Long Cangyuan found the next marker that was pointing in another direction. "This marker is freshly deployed! They're right ahead!"

"Give chase," Xue Yi said.

"Worry not, Brother Xue Yi. That brat is as good as gone."

Chapter 780 - Black Hole Star, Certain Death for Trespassing

Tianming looked back and saw that his situation was far better than before. There were only three pursuers left, namely Long Yichen, Feng Wenjing, and Changsun Tianheng, all of whom were seventh-level death samsarans. Given Long Yichen and Feng Wenjing's age, the fact that they had been able to rise to the level of second-origin tribulation elders before thirty was a testament to their brilliance. Changsun Tianheng, a second-origin tribulation elder like them, was a hundred and thirty at least, which was the norm for cultivators of their level. That only meant that the two young ones had more room to grow and improve.

He had managed to lose the other pursuers with his speed and tribulation manna distractions, but the three that remained didn't care for the manna at all. If they caught up, Tianming would definitely have no chance of defeating them. They were among the most powerful people who weren't suppressed by the sealing formation. So, all he could do was continue running. But with fewer people tailing him, it was much easier than before. For instance, he easily lost Feng Wenjing and Changsun Tianheng by charging into a lightning-filled star, leaving only Long Yichen in the chase by the time he left the star.

"Are you a dog or something? How are you able to keep tracking me like this?" A mad dog, in fact. Even though Long Yichen's whole body was so tense it had started to turn purple, he was still following closely behind.

"It's over for you."

Tianming only needed to lose this last person to be done with the chase, so he kept charging toward one star after another through all the obstacles that lay in their way. "Damn! I still can't shake him!"

While he didn't dare to stop, he was also worried he would draw attention. "Meow Meow, go harder!"

"I don't need you to tell me that!" Meow Meow zipped forward like a lightning bolt, just a bit faster than Long Yichen.

"We should be able to lose him after a while. I'll have secured all fourteen thousand tribulation manna if I can manage that." Though he had discarded around a thousand of them, it didn't really bother him. He still made off with the lion's share!

As Meow Meow continued looking for stars for them to hide in, it was beginning its final charge. All of a sudden, Tianming spotted an odd star. From the top, it looked like a circling disk of light spinning in mid-air around a vortex. Much of the light around it was being sucked into the vortex. It looked dead silent, and there didn't seem to be any solid ground to stand on. While he normally wouldn't notice it, the Dragonhide reacted when he spotted the celestial body and seemed to guide him toward it. It must have some sort of benefit for him, given that the last time the Dragonhide had reacted like this, it had enabled him to get ten thousand plus tribulation manna.

"Let's go in!" Tianming decided. He was certain that the Dragonhide wouldn't harm him. Perhaps there really was treasure inside, and if it could help him shake off Long Yichen, it would be even better. So, he charged straight into that vortex-like star.

As he got closer to it, the disk of light seemed to grow bigger and bigger. It looked like it was devouring light itself. There were many spatial tears around the area of contorted shapes; even the space around the area was contorted.

All of a sudden, he felt an inexplicable force pulling on him. It wasn't just applied to the surface of his body; instead, it felt like every single particle that made him up was being pulled in, causing him and Meow Meow to accelerate before they were eventually swallowed up by the light. Tianming immediately let Meow Meow back into the lifebound space and donned the Dragonhide, feeling much better almost instantly. The feeling of being twisted and contorted was no more after he put the armor on. At the last moment, he looked up and saw Long Yichen in the distance. He had stopped chasing Tianming and was looking at him with utter fright. It appeared that he feared the star Tianming had entered.

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Half an hour later, Long Cangyuan found his dejected son. "Where is he?!"

Nonahall and Quadform's members had come with him. Xue Yi stood beside Long Cangyuan and furiously looked at Long Yichen.

"Don't tell me he fell inside?!" Long Cangyuan snapped.

"He did," he said with his head lowered.

Long Cangyuan slapped him and said, "I only had you chase him, not force him to kill himself! He's someone Nonahall wants to kill, and think about all that treasure he has!"

"Dad, I was only giving chase. He was the one who took the initiative to dive in. I'm guessing he doesn't know that black hole stars are not to be entered no matter what." With his target as good as dead, not only did he not get rewarded, he even got a slap for it.

"Long Yichen, come here!" Xue Yi yelled.

"Yes, Ghoul King." Long Yichen stood in front of him respectfully.

"Tell me what happened," the ghoul king said, his tone now calm.

"After he stole the tribulation manna, I gave chase until we reached this location. He was probably unaware of the dangers of black hole stars and entered it to try to lose me, only to be swallowed up."

"Is that all?"

"Yes."

Xue Yi squinted as he looked at the black hole star, then waved his hand. "Let's disperse for now. Make sure we have the black hole star surrounded so that not even a fly can get through."

"Understood!" The hundreds of tribulation elders of Nonahall immediately left to carry out the order. With so many of them, the perimeter would be airtight.

"Brother Xue Yi, didn't you say that the starmaps state that we can't enter black hole stars no matter what, and that we'll definitely die if we go in?" Long Cangyuan asked.

"That's right."

"In other words, the imperial son is dead for good, right? If the starmap is to be believed, that is."

"That's correct."

"Then what's the point of sealing off the area?"

"We have to be extra careful. If there's anything he doesn't obey, it's common sense. It can't hurt to be certain."

"I see." Long Cangyuan really thought that Tianming must have a special talent, for him to even be able to make a ghoul king act so carefully.

"It's no big deal if he's dead. It's just a shame that all that treasure he's got on him will all go to waste," Xue Yi said with a sigh.

"That's right."

"Long Yichen, you wouldn't have killed him and took his treasure before tossing him inside, right?" Xue Yi joked.

Long Yichen felt his scalp go numb and hurriedly said, "Ghoul King, I only spoke the truth. Feel free to inspect all my spatial gear."

"Haha, I was only joking around with you. No need to be so anxious."

"Worry not, Brother Xue Yi. If there's a flaw in this son of mine, it's his honesty. He's never lied," Long Cangyuan said.

"Being honest is good. Dishonest children deserve to be rendered to ash," Xue Yi said as he looked at the black hole star.

"Ghoul King, how long are we going to defend this area?" a subordinate of his asked.

"Until we leave the Kilostar Domain."

"So, until we see his body, dead or alive?"

"Well, preferably the former, right?" Xue Yi said with a smile.

Now, he had more important things to deal with. As he left, he opened up his starmap. There were a thousand stars labeled on it, and nine of them were marked with red crosses and the text 'black hole star, certain death for trespassing'.

"Trespassing?" Xue Yi put the starmap away and left with the other key figures.