

The Ages 781

Chapter 781 - Harbinger of Heavenly Justice

"Die!"

All of a sudden, Tianming heard a thunderous war cry. He felt a little dazzled, and didn't know how long he had been floating through the darkness. He seemed to have arrived at some sort of corridor that had no end. Then, the cry grew louder and louder. He opened his tired eyes and saw a blurry scene around the walls beside him; it depicted a shocking battle. Countless faces of people and beasts streaked past him, and there were gigantic, ugly, hairy humanoid creatures with green faces and tusks. Their countless ear-piercing cries were shaking the entire scene.

"Great Emperor Xuanyuan! Great Emperor Xuanyuan!" countless people passionately cried with a look of worship on their faces. Tianming tried looking closer, but the scene was far too blurry. Even so, he could roughly guess that this had happened more than two hundred thousand years ago during the war between humans and demons.

Tianming's body was floating around out of his control. The scenes before him changed rapidly, but the common things he managed to make out were war, pain, and death. At the end, the enslaved humans broke free of their chains and were no longer livestock. They stood up for real under Great Emperor Xuanyuan's banner and became the unquestionable rulers of the continent.

"This must've been an amazing part of our history. As a human, we should all live with pride."

In this odd star, Tianming saw many scenes that were related to Great Emperor Xuanyuan, so it definitely had something to do with him. He also saw the humans of the primordial age fighting in countless wars, until all of a sudden, light appeared ahead of him.

He rushed toward the light and slowly began regaining consciousness. At the very last moment, a golden word appeared in front of him: 'one'.

One. What did it represent? He couldn't figure it out no matter how hard he thought about it. His body felt light without any warning when he regained proper consciousness. He quickly surveyed his surroundings and noticed that he was now back in the starry domain, but not near the black hole star he had entered. Instead, this was familiar ground—he was near the fiery star he had first set foot on.

"I think I somehow emerged from a pathway of sorts." He turned back as he wondered if there were other similar pathways. "How large is this space, anyway?"

He believed he'd teleported. If he wasn't mistaken, the time it would take to travel from where he was to the black hole star was at least two days. How did he emerge so far away from the odd star he had entered? As far as he was aware, there wasn't anything that could enable teleportation except for Feiling's Millennium Fortress. He remained where he was, lost in deep thought.

"Whatever. All that matters is that I'm safe now." Not only that, he had lots of treasure to show for it, too. "I wonder what that 'one' meant? Does it mean the first time? Or the first thing? If it's the former,

does that mean I should go back to the black hole star a second time? If it's the latter, there might be similar stars that'll teleport me to other places."

Tianming had nothing but wild guesses, but he wasn't planning to act rashly. "Either way, doing something like that was too reckless. I'm still not powerful enough to survive as I am now. Now that I've been transferred here, I doubt they'll know where I am. It'd be best to stay around this area instead."

He returned to the flaming star, this time sinking down into the magma much more carefully and stealthily. "There's still around a hundred cultivators from Nonahall here, but they shouldn't be too powerful. I hope they don't disturb me, or else...."

His eyes glowed coldly. Here, he didn't have the benefit of Astral Will, so he could only cultivate using the Grand-Orient Sword and Prime Tower. He wouldn't be able to grow nearly as quickly as he had before.

He wanted to train without being disturbed, though it wasn't easy because the tribulation elders of Nonahall still appeared around the nearby area. Fortunately, they thought they were absolutely safe, so they were more spread out in groups of three. The moment anyone noticed Tianming, he would lash out. Right now, everyone in Kilostar Domain thought he was easy pickings, but they were killed without exception, as Yin Po had been.

Then, Tianming noticed something odd: the eyes he had inherited from the Primordial God-Emperor could see some really unique things. It was something he had only come to discover lately. Nowadays, he saw some form of aura coming from people, a mixture of grievance and death.

For instance, Yin Po appeared to have quite a dense aura. After Tianming had killed her, he felt the force of good karma flooding into him. Just recently, he also ran into an old cultivator from Nonahall who didn't have eyes; he had probably been blind for a long time. He claimed he wanted to dig Tianming's eyes out, only to be killed himself. After that, Tianming felt the good karma nourishing the growth of his Imperial Will again. It felt just as good as Omniscient Will.

"I wonder how many eyes this old man took.... He must be some kind of weirdo."

Tianming felt a little chill in his bones. There were all sorts of people in this world who would use all kinds of methods to strengthen themselves. In this world where the strong dominated the weak, maintaining peace didn't seem to be possible. There would always be those who commit atrocities on those weaker than them.

"The legacy of the Primordial God-Emperor allows me to see and absorb Omniscient Will, as well as observe the weight of sin on others! The more astray one's path is, the heavier the foul stench they exude. Normal people aren't able to see that foul aura, but I can. It'll be easy for me to tell what people are sick in the head."

That made it really convenient for him. "Heaven's design is perfect and flawless. No matter what, there will always be consequences. Sinners won't be able to escape heavenly judgment forever. Perhaps the sovereign's role is to rule. He shall climb to prominence atop a mountain made from the corpses of sinners. Now that I'm on the path to sovereignty, I am no longer a saint, but I'm definitely not an evildoer, either. Sovereigns have standards, principles. Without principles, their reign will be rocky and short. Eventually, they'll be deposed by someone 'righteous', who'll then take their place as sovereign."

Tianming had killed many people himself, so he would never consider himself to be a wholly good person. His path was a bloody and uncertain one. He couldn't be the judge of his own actions, but if he did anything wrong, all sentient life would become his judge! Imperial Will was to be used to benefit all sentient life. Only by doing good deeds would he be able to bring prosperity to all life.

"Since the Primordial God-Emperor made it so that I can see their sins directly, I can judge them without any proof. Since I was given this ability, it's my responsibility to get rid of those pests for the benefit of the greater good. I'll fight when I have to!" He turned his gaze to the whole fiery star. "Let's see which among you are followers of the righteous heavenly path and which are sick crooks."

If they were right and just, he wouldn't kill them unless they tried their best to kill him. He would never take the initiative to engage them. But if they were sinners with a thick aura of foulness, like the child-eating Yin Po, Tianming would judge them in place of those who couldn't. He could see through everything with the eyes of the Primordial God-Emperor.

It went without saying that people like Yin Po made up quite a large number of Nonahall cultivators. In a way, they had been shaped by the spirit of their divine realm. Tianming picked them out one after another, stealthily reducing their number on the flaming star, but they didn't really seem to notice due to their relaxed attitude.

Five days later, Tianming had dealt with his seventeenth enemy, a sixth-level death samsaran. He was a really handsome and polite-seeming fellow, but Tianming saw that he had the strongest foul aura of them all so far, even stronger than Yin Po's. One could only imagine the atrocities he had committed. After Tianming killed him, he felt another rush of good karma nourishing his Imperial Will once more. At the same time, his death tribulation force siphoned away his enemy's life tribulation force, causing life samsara rings to form once again.

"I'm at the fourth-level life phase now!" Tianming once more aged in reverse until he looked youthful again. The lifesteal ability of his death tribulation force came from his Aeonic Grandbane, so it wasn't something under his control. However, nobody would care about a dead man's life tribulation force. Now, all he wanted to do was to fight and kill another crook. In fact, he decided he would take the initiative to fight.

"If there were more than ten people like Yin Po on this fiery star alone, I wonder how many there are in total across the thousands of stars? Is everyone in Nonahall insane?"

In Archaion, there were few people that truly made Tianming feel that bad. The same should also be the case in other divine realms.

"I guess I should hurry up and check out the other stars." Even after killing more than ten enemies, it still seemed as peaceful as before. Tianming secretly left for another star, this time a frozen one.

"Is it time to cook? My slasher of the north is ready!" Ying Huo excitedly said.

"It's not cooking. We're the harbingers of heavenly justice, got it? We get rid of the sinners for the world," Tianming said seriously.

"Stop exaggerating things. Even a harbinger of justice like you will still have to go to hell after killing all the sinners."

Even though Ying Huo didn't mean it, Tianming suddenly turned to look at his hands. After dipping them in blood so often, would he one day stray from his righteous path too?

"Having cold feet?" Ying Huo teased.

"No." He grit his teeth tighter. "It's true that I'm also killing to grow stronger. However, my dad said that as long as our minds are in the right place, we won't do anything we regret! Sinners should die, no questions asked. So what if I'm punished for killing them? At the very least, they won't be able to leave the Kilostar Domain alive to continue wreaking havoc on the world."

"That's just sophistry," Ying Huo said, rolling its eyes.

Chapter 782 - Outbreak of War

Fang Taiqing, Xuanyuan Dao, and Jian Wuyi stood on a large podium within Soulburn Hall, facing Feiling on her throne. She had seemed a little distracted in recent days, and had definitely not had any good rest the whole time. Beside her stood Fang Qingli with her head lowered.

Fang Taiqing was currently giving his report. "Your Eminence, since the Kilostar Domain's opening, Nonahall, Heptastar, and Quadform launched an attack on Pentaphase. The allied army breached the formation at the border of the Pentaphase Divine Realm. The sect is having a hard time fending off their enemies and is in dire straits."

"Go on," Feiling said.

"Our enemies are desperate. Before, at least they would need a good excuse to attack. But now they no longer care about any pretense, and use all sorts of inhumane methods. For instance, they turn the bodies of the fallen into corpse puppets, then use them to trip the traps we've set for them. It's an insult to the dead! These methods have been forbidden across the other eight divine realms, so we believed that it must have died out long ago, only for them to bring it out in this war. Not to mention, Biritual, Hexapath, and the other sects don't seem like they intend to stop Nonahall from doing so."

This war had caused the entire continent to fall into complete insanity. Nonahall would use any method to win, and it didn't seem like their allies cared about it either. Their silence only made them complicit in those actions. No matter what, Pentaphase had no choice but to take what was thrown at them. Nonahall's plan was to deal such a horrifying blow to their divine realm that everyone in it would loathe Sect Master Jiang Yuanjun and force them to topple him from within. Then, they would make an example out of Pentaphase to shock the other divine realms in the alliance. After all, the alliance was only agreed to by Jiang Yuanjun and a few others. Not everyone in the Pentaphase Divine Realm was as willing to fight the terrifying Nonahall Divine Realm. Now they were surrounded by enemies on three fronts.

"Have you discussed a solution yet?" Feiling asked. The situation was growing worse.

"So far, a fifth of Pentaphase's territory has been lost, but their troops have mostly retreated from the conquered territories intentionally. Many normal folk have suffered, as they couldn't be evacuated in time, and they all fell to horrible fates. Currently, the enemy army still hasn't reached the sect itself yet. In our negotiations, we've urgently sent Divine Marshals Fang Shenyu and Jian Qingyuan to lead the

Origin Phoenix and Arcana Sword Legions to Pentaphase as reinforcements. Triflair and Octagram have also sent troops to help out. Hopefully, the enemy's advance can be stopped," Fang Taiqing said.

"Your Eminence, based on the reports, the enemy is intentionally trying to divert our forces to defense so that we won't be able to send more to the Kilostar Domain. Once they deal with what they have to there, they will launch their attack proper. As for Pentaphase, they should be able to hold out with help from reinforcements. If they fall, it could severely impact the alliance we have with the other two sects as well. So, I suggest we send more troops there as reinforcements. Taiji Peak Lake is protected by the Ninefold Formation, after all, so we should be fine without so many stationed here," Jian Wuyi said.

The three of them looked to her to make the decision.

"I believe the call should be up to you." As the matters were rather complicated, she couldn't really bring herself to make a choice, lest it complicated things even further—especially while Tianming was still away.

"Understood, Your Eminence."

"What is happening in the Kilostar Domain now?"

"Your Eminence, the enemies have sealed off the entrance by stationing thousands of people there and deploying quite a few formations," Xuanyuan Dao said. In other words, it would be even harder to barge in and rescue Tianming now.

"I see." She nodded, trying her best to hide her worry.

"Additionally, Dugu Jin seems to have broken in before they strengthened their defenses," Xuanyuan Dao said.

"What'd he go inside for?" Feiling asked.

"I don't know. Probably to look for treasures."

After the report, Fang Taiqing and Jian Wuyi took their leave. Pentaphase had to hold, and their responsibilities weighed heavily on them.

"Can we only passively wait on the Kilostar Domain matter?" Jian Wuyi asked.

"We've already sent a dozen people in and still haven't received any word from them. Now that our enemies have set even more traps, if we make the wrong move, we'll definitely be forced into passively defending down the line," Fang Taiqing said.

"So?"

"We'll just keep an eye out for opportunities to act!"

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Tianming found five targets on this star of ice, all of whom had a heavy foul aura of sin that would bring him lots of good karma. About five of the hundred or so Nonahall cultivators were like Yin Po, which was a rather small ratio. Everyone would do some immoral acts in life. However, not many would rack up so

many of them that the eyes of a sovereign deemed them worthy of judgment, so Tianming still had to patiently seek out the truly rotten ones.

Apart from those five, nobody else noticed any trace of him, so he left them be. He snuck away to another star and continued handing out judgment. So far, his eyes had never wronged him, and everyone he took out brought him good karma.

The one Tianming had just killed was a fat, ugly old man with squinty eyes. Before his death, Tianming asked him about his past. According to him, he had forced himself on thousands of young teenage girls in his two centuries of life before killing them all and taking their pinky fingers as souvenirs. Tianming did indeed find thousands of fingers in his spatial ring, which shook even him. Was this the mortal realm, or was it hell? Perhaps hell was just what a minority of people in the mortal realm experienced. When Tianming asked him why he did it, he said that he had been insulted by women since his childhood due to his looks. He claimed it was childhood trauma that caused him to develop a taste for exacting his revenge on beautiful girls like a self-fulfilling prophecy. There was no way young girls like them could possibly resist a sixth-level death phase samsaran like him.

"I shall be the judge of the powerful and heartless!" Tianming felt a weight settle on his chest. He had a far better understanding of the human condition after coming into direct contact with the worst it had to offer. There was so much suffering in the world that an individual alone could hardly fathom its true extent.

"If I let people like this leave alive, their victim count will shoot up into the tens of thousands. This world really needs a unifying force with a strong will to enforce laws strictly for peace and prosperity to be possible. If killing people like these is ruthless, then I shall live on ruthlessly!"

Growth wasn't only quantified by a rise in power. Instead, one's experiences also played a core part in the formation of their identity. Tianming's path was one of pondering Imperial Will and how he could usher change into the world.

"My ability to gain good karma and see the weight of sin is probably a recent development. Otherwise, I would've gotten lots of good karma from killing Autarch Qian," he said with a resigned smile. He knew that even after dealing out judgment and gaining from it, the pain and suffering that had been dealt couldn't be remedied. Victims got no second chance.

Never before had he felt so powerless.

"I can still grow stronger. If I control the world one day, I'll make sure everyone has a chance to fight their fates. I'll make sure every life is treated just as precious as every other life."

That was his wish. He didn't know whether it was too childish an ideal, but it was one that he was willing to try fulfilling without any regrets, even if he had to bloody his hands by being judge, jury, and executioner.

"Being born into this world was hard enough. I should make it a world worth living for the new lives that are born into this world."

Cultivating and fighting for the greater good by uniting the world under one rule. Wasn't that the ideal? All of a sudden, it occurred to him that Great Emperor Xuanyuan had done it a long time ago. That was the reason he was known as the Progenitor of Humanity, or the Human Emperor.

"I'm not alone on my path to the heavens after all! The Human Emperor trod this path too!"

Tianming would walk his path and carry the blood he spilled on the way. Like a god of death, he went from one star to another. It almost didn't look like he was executing people; he seemed to simply be cultivating. His Imperial Will grew each time he pondered after a kill. Now that he was in the fourth-level life phase, he was far more powerful than before.

Every time he defeated someone, he would ask them about their past before killing them. In actuality, people like them were far and few in between; it just so happened that many of them were gathered in the same place for Tianming to take out. Soon, he felt himself approaching the death phase once more. Though his power quickly grew, it was a little heartrending to hear of the suffering those sinners had inflicted on others. It was so torturous that it filled him with rage and a desire to kill off all sinners like them.

"The Primordial God-Emperor gave me these eyes as a blessing, as well as a burden of responsibility." Now that he could see the depraved that walked among them, there was no more excuse to leave them be. "Let's continue."

Soon, he went to another black hole star that, like the one from before, looked like a vortex surrounded by a disk. Once more, the Dragonhide guided him toward it, so he went in without hesitation. There was another round of confusing visions of the war from two hundred millennia ago, but this time, the war seemed to take place in the Kilostar Domain. When he emerged from the pathway, he saw another golden word: 'two'.

"How many stars like this are there?" he wondered.

Chapter 783 - Sacrificial Offering for the Blood Cauldron

Somewhere in the Kilostar Domain, a man in an azure robe met up with an older male dressed in a bright green one. The former held a starmap in hand as he coldly looked at the other. "Qing Ming, is this fake starmap all I'm getting in exchange for handing you guys Jiang Wuxin? Is this what Nonahall meant by making a sincere alliance?"

"A fake? Impossible!" Ghoul King Qing Ming said firmly.

"I've gone to five marked locations and searched all over the place for treasure. There was nothing there," Feng Qingyu said.

"I already told you that the marks are just potential treasure spots. That doesn't guarantee that they're there," Qing Ming said.

"All five though?"

"It's just a matter of chance."

"Show me your starmap then."

"Feel free." Qing Ming took his map out of his spatial ring and said, "While these are copies of the original, the details are replicated exactly the same. The starmap itself isn't complicated. Check if the markings match up."

"For all I know, you could've made this in advance in case someone asked to check it," Feng Qingyu said after verifying that they were indeed the same.

"Brother Feng, if you're going to accuse me of something I can't possibly disprove, this talk is pointless. I'll leave you to be the judge of our sincerity. Didn't you talk to the other two before? We're looking at the big picture, so we won't be stingy with small things like this. What's the point of antagonizing a peak elite like you over petty treasure?" Qing Ming said respectfully.

"Then, has your side gotten any treasures so far?"

"No. Li Tianming, on the other hand, got more than ten thousand tribulation manna. Laughable, right?"

"What grade were they?"

"Most of them were fifth- to sixth-grade."

"That means the Kilostar Domain does indeed contain treasure."

"We're certain of that as well."

"So all ten thousand of you can't find a single brat even after scouring the whole place?"

"Xue Yi's in charge of that, so I'm not too well informed on it."

"Since that's the case, I'll help out. I have around three thousand people coming in the next few days, so please tell those standing guard outside to let them in."

"Why are you calling so many to come?" Qing Min said with a troubled look.

"I can't be sure whether this starmap is good for anything, so I can't just blindly go from one spot to another. Meanwhile, you have ten thousand people searching the domain for you. Surely it isn't too much to ask to have three thousand people helping in my search?"

After some consideration, Qing Min said, "Alright. However, don't be so sure that the starmap is useless yet. We're still testing it out ourselves to see if there really are treasures at the marked locations. Li Caiwei also has one. While she hasn't said anything yet, she might've gotten something already."

"Let's hope it's real then!" After saying that, Feng Qingyu left.

Qing Ming narrowed his eyes and a glint flashed across them while he stared at his back. "Hexapath Swordfiend, huh? When you're no longer useful to us, you'll be a goner."

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The Specter Mountains within the Nonahall Divine Realm looked like a sleeping giant. Cultivators and their beasts were like ants on the giant's body. The sect itself spanned a huge area, allowing for all kinds of lifebound beasts to roam free across varying landscapes.

After the war began, the entire sect's atmosphere had grown tense and fervent. Near the location of the 'eye' of the giant was an endless pit. It wasn't one that led into the Abyssal Battlefield; instead, a black miasma came roiling out from within, filled with the aggrieved cries of pitiful souls.

This was an area forbidden to most normal people. The pit was about three kilometers deep, and there were a few heavenly pattern formations down the sides. At the very end of it was a dark palace, and at the palace's highest point stood a middle-aged man in purple robes who let out a purple aura. The aura seemed to coalesce into many small snakes that crawled around his body. Even his hair seemed to rise and fall in the darkness like lively snakes.

His large, violet eyes stared straight through the dark miasma at a great, bloody cauldron. He jumped off the palace and descended on the cauldron. Within it was a boiling, bloody soup. It was filled with human blood, and stank like it, too. Even more terrifying were the tens of thousands of skeletons within the soup, all of them human! Their skeletons were still intact, which was a sign that they had only just recently died before being tossed into the boiling blood soup.

Somewhere in the bloody pool, something moved. Upon closer inspection, one would be able to see a plain-looking youth. He lay weakly in the bloody cauldron, looking up and floating amidst the corpses, staring at the countless expressions of despair just centimeters away from him.

"Jiang Wuxin," the purple-robed ghoulish king said, causing him to look up. "These are the prisoners of war we just got from the Pentaphase Divine Realm."

Jiang Wuxin looked at his surroundings and saw around a hundred thousand people. They weren't cultivators, but innocent civilians from the divine realm.

"This is just the first batch. We'll have more and more sacrificial offerings for you. Their blood, flesh, and souls will be your nourishment. The blood of the specter within you will absorb the offerings. Using the Blood Cauldron and Blood Tribute Formation, the offerings will become your power! You'll eventually grow into the strongest weapon of our sect! You'll possess the power of millions! You will be a god in the truest sense of the word!

"You are the chosen one, understood? Young man, you must utilize this opportunity well. It's the only way for you to get your revenge. One day, you'll be able to singlehandedly wipe out the entirety of the Archaion Divine Realm to avenge your loved ones. They are at fault for killing your two beloved wives. Now, you've lost everything. You can't let Yin and Yu lie unavenged! They loved you so much! Now is the time for you to pay them back. Jiang Wuxin, you'll live to kill, and you'll become the nightmare of those hypocrites. Show everyone that looks down on you what hell looks like. One day, the entire world will kneel and cower before you."

Those words dreamily hung around Jiang Wuxin's ear. They were like a poison that invaded his sea of consciousness through his sense of hearing and stained his soul red. His breathing slowly grew heavier and the four irises in his two eyes turned red as the combined grievance and anger of the hundred thousand people concentrated in his body.

Soon, the Blood Cauldron and Blood Tribute Formation began working in tandem. The young man in the pool of blood howled like a beast in pain. As his cries grew louder, the blood began to boil hotter. When the corpses fused with his body, the ghoulish king standing atop the cauldron finally laughed, causing his

hair to shift around him like thousands of little snakes. His ear-piercing laughter intermingled with Jiang Wuxin's cries of agony and rose to the high heavens, reaching the ears of everyone in the Specter Mountains.

Chapter 784 - Xue Yi, Zi Xiao, Little Flea

Meanwhile, within the Kilostar Domain...

"Dad, I'll be taking my leave," said a beautiful girl in a pink dress, bowing to Xue Yi.

"Stay safe," Xue Yi answered his daughter with a smile.

"Don't worry. This is our turf, not to mention Yunge is coming with me," she said nonchalantly.

"You little.... Your child is only two years old! Why are you here instead of looking after my precious grandson?" Xue Yi said, his expression one of longing for his beloved grandson.

"That little fellow misses his grandpa, but you barely spent time with him. You're hardly in a position to criticize me! There's many treasures here, so I want to check it out with Yunge too!" Xia Ziluan said with a wink.

"Yunge, take care of her. I have no time to waste on chastising her," Xue Yi told a tall man with purple hair that stood beside her.

"Understood." He seemed like a reliable bloke.

"Did you leave the matter of Jiang Wuxin to your father?" Xue Yi asked the man.

"Yes," Gu Yunge answered.

"Alright. Your dad will definitely do well."

"Bye, Dad! It's been so long since I gave birth. About time I came out to play!" Xia Ziluan dragged Gu Yunge by the hand and left. The other tribulation elders behind Xue Yi watched them leave with a smile.

"Time really flies. Not long ago, Yunge and Ziluan were only in the top three of the disciple rankings. In only a short decade, they became second-origin tribulation elders."

"You don't say. Those two geniuses are much more impressive than old folks like us."

"Perhaps Ghou King Xue Yi and Ghou King Zi Xiao's successors will be these two. They're just like their fathers, and they make the perfect pair."

The two of them eventually left their seniors' line of sight. "My dad is really overbearing.... I'm already a mother, but he still treats me like a child. I always need an excuse to be able to get out of his control," Xia Ziluan said, mischievously poking her tongue out.

"Father-in-law's just worried for you. You're his only daughter, you know," Gu Yunge said, his arms around her slender waist as they coursed through the starry aether.

They weren't in any rush at all. They had only come here to enjoy the beautiful view. Soon, two hours passed.

"I heard others say the Kilostar Domain was beautiful, but seeing it in person is another thing entirely," Xia Ziluan said with wonder.

Gu Yunge nodded. At that moment, he felt like he saw something. "What's that?"

A meter ahead of him, a spatial tear appeared.

"Avoid it, quick! I think it is a tear in space!" she warned.

They took a few steps back, until they were around ten meters away from the crack. All of a sudden, a youth with white hair appeared in front of them. It was Tianming! He had come out of the pathway through the second black hole star and had just regained consciousness, only to see the couple staring blankly at him. "There's someone here?!" he said, stunned. "Dammit!"

He could only curse his bad luck. How could that pathway just throw him out where there was someone else?

"He's Li Tianming!" the brown-dressed woman cried as her expression turned cold.

"Didn't your dad say he died in that black hole star?" Gu Yunge said, confused. It was a fact that Tianming was still alive, so he turned his body stealthily and readied himself to attack Tianming with Xia Ziluan. It was rather risky for Tianming, as he didn't know if there were any other people nearby. He didn't care how powerful the couple was and immediately fled to the star behind him.

"Don't run!" the two cried in unison as they gave chase.

"What will you do to me if I stop?" Tianming noticed that there was nobody else in the surroundings.

"Are you dumb? Why'd you ask us that? Do you know who we are?" Xia Ziluan said with a cold smile.

"You're from Nonahall, obviously."

"Listen up! My dad is Ghoul King Xue Yi, and my husband's father is Ghoul King Zi Xiao! They're the third and fourth most powerful among the nine ghouls! You think we'll let you go now that we've spotted you? I've long heard you're pretty good at running. I haven't had a chance to fight in a long time, so I'll make sure to have my fun with you."

"Wow, you really come from a privileged background!" Tianming shot her a thumbs up.

"Little flea, surrender to your fate now. Your luck just ran out." Gu Yunge wielded a scimitar with ten tribulation patterns. It was a fine weapon, no doubt. "Luan'er, let's not waste words with him. If we can't take him alive, we can just kill him and get lots of merit for it."

"Alright!"

They immediately summoned their lifebound beasts. Xia Ziluan's was a gigantic red scorpion with a tough carapace. There were around seven hundred stars in its eyes, proof that its master was highly ranked in Nonahall. Usually, only third-origin tribulation elders had seventh-order tribulation beasts. Gu

Yunge's, on the other hand, was a gigantic purple snake with two wings that were so wide they seemed to block out the sun and fangs that poked out of its mouth. It was also a seventh-order tribulation beast.

The two of them were in their forties. While they were about ten years older than Yama, at least they were in the seventh-level life phase. No doubt, they were among the top disciples in Nonahall just a decade ago, and they probably had more than one lifebound beast. After all, if Yama could have four, they definitely had more than one. In fact, their beasts were far from as simple as their looks suggested. Both the bloodweep puppet scorpion and the purplewing imperialfiend snake were broodmother-type lifebound beasts! They let out tens of thousands of little scorpions and snakes that sealed off the battlefield and swarmed toward Tianming.

"The children of two ghoulish kings, huh?" Even though Tianming wanted to run, he stopped when he heard their identities. Not to mention, they weren't willing to give up the chase. There was no way he could forget how he had been humiliated by Xue Yi not long ago. Not to mention, the cold Gu Yunge and his feisty wife, Xia Ziluan, were eager to serve themselves up to him.

"Ghoul King Xue Yi, you dared to treat me like a shark in a tank, huh? I'll show you what I can do then!" He immediately turned around and summoned all four of his lifebound beasts and clashed with the two of them.

"Why are you struggling?" Xia Ziluan immediately made some distance and drew her blood-colored longbow, Bloodfiend Eyes. It was adorned with countless little eyes, making it somewhat resemble Archfiend. She nocked a nine bloodsucker arrow on the bow and fired it. The single arrow split into countless more and rained toward Tianming and his beasts.

Ying Huo and Xian Xian used Skyscorch Featherblast and Bloodrain Swords at the same time, piercing not only the countless little scorpions and snakes, but also the countless arrows. Ear-piercing grating noises sounded out all of a sudden as Lan Huang's rings began spinning. With the Radiant Vine's help, it managed to entangle itself with the gigantic scorpion and began fighting it in a melee.

Then, Ying Huo and Meow Meow attacked, one going after the giant snake and the other after Xia Ziluan, preventing her from sneaking around to snipe them. Tianming always went all out whenever he engaged. With his lifebound beasts paving the way, he charged straight for Gu Yunge. Gu Yunge's blade, Purple Crescent, looked just like its namesake as it came slashing toward Tianming.

"Were you the one who got number one in the Number One Summit around a decade ago?" Tianming asked.

Gu Yunge didn't even humor the question. His scimitar slashes were faster than the eye could see, backed up by an endless swarm of little snakes that lashed out in tandem with the slashes. He used Skyflash Deathmoon, covering the sky with snakes with each swing of his scimitar.

"If you don't tell me now, you'll lose your chance in the future." Tianming went on a rampage with two Grand-Orient Swords in hand. Then, he used the Soulshaker Eye, fully intent on going all out to kill them. He tapped the hilts of both his swords together, manifesting the Dragonhide and fighting at peak form!

He glowed bright like a brilliant dragon. As he was still mastering the Ninesky Beastsoul Formation, he chose to use the Mortal Dao Sword on the stunned Gu Yunge instead. The sword of life took on

countless ethereal forms as it slashed apart the snakes that charged at him, and the sword of death pierced straight toward its target without mercy.

As fast as Gu Yunge was, Tianming was even faster and more ferocious! He had refined his killing skills when he went on his sinner hunt, always going straight for a fatal strike. With a loud screech, the black sword clashed with the purple scimitar, causing sparks to manifest before piercing straight through Gu Yunge's heart.

Tianming quickly withdrew his sword and backed off. His kill was quick; this was the best move he had now. As expected, Gu Yunge could no longer stand. He clutched his chest, his other hand still looking like it was trying to take something out of his spatial ring to save himself. But Tianming didn't give him that chance; he was already long dead.

Tianming quickly turned to Xia Ziluan. "It's your turn now."

Xia Ziluan had just nocked a second nine bloodsucker arrow on her bow, only to see Gu Yunge looking forlornly at her with his hand to his bleeding chest. "My dear.... My dear!" Her eyes shook from the horror as she witnessed the turn of events.

Chapter 785 - The Lifesoul Formation

Xia Ziluan never imagined they wouldn't even have a chance to fight. Her husband and childhood sweetheart who had been with her for more than forty years had been taken from her in an instant. His final look of confusion, pain, and struggle pierced her heart. Her expression ugly, she let out an earthshaking scream, blood and tears pouring from her eyes. After death, Gu Yunge's body floated in the starry sky. The man died with a grievance remaining.

"You're annoying. Who doesn't have relatives? So you're allowed to kill me, but I'm not allowed to kill you?" Tianming asked coldly. He had come to a realization: weakness was a sin. Weaklings didn't deserve dignity or feelings.

Xia Ziluan's shock and grief meant that she had never even stopped to consider that the two of them might die. All she had thought about was killing Tianming. Those who were used to looking down on others and being in control of the situation would think this way.

"You're very lucky you won't have to taste the pain of losing your husband for long, because you'll be joining him soon! Just wait. One day, your father will join you as well!"

Tianming had taken countless lives in the Kilostar Domain, and understood one thing—since he had chosen to kill, he shouldn't hesitate! There were thousands of them after him, all aiming to kill the "fly." Wasting time meant putting his own life at risk.

In fact, Tianming didn't need to do anything. Ying Huo had already transformed into its Imperial Radiance state, its body resembling a blazing sun. With its Infernal Armor for protection, it unleashed Skyscorch Featherblast. Then, taking advantage of Xia Ziluan's inconsolable state, Ying Huo forced her into a miserable retreat. At that moment, Xian Xian's Bloodrain Swords pelted down together with the blazing feathers, their combined attack tearing through Xia Ziluan's flesh.

Because she cultivated a body-refining art, the impact of the attacks didn't immediately kill her, but slowed her down instead. While she was still grieving, Tianming had already joined forces with Meow Meow. Its Venus Fiendbone teeth and claws ripped its opponent's belly. Tianming dealt the final blow, decapitating the purplewing imperialfiend snake. Finally, Meow Meow rained down Misty Hellthunder, electrocuting it into dried leather.

"Are you alright?" Tianming asked.

"I've been poisoned, but it won't hurt me," Meow Meow said indifferently.

"Then don't be lazy. Get up."

Meow Meow had just been about to rest when Tianming lifted it by the back of its neck and tossed it over to assist Xian Xian and Lan Huang in dealing with the bloodweep puppet scorpion.

When the three of them charged toward the enemy, the seventh-order tribulation beast could do nothing to stop them. It employed all of its abilities, such as Bloodburn Fiendriver, which could burn flesh and blood, but they did nothing against Lan Huang's Kilofold Rings. Instead, its enormous pincers were broken.

Lan Huang roared and tore the scorpion in half. Hundreds of thousands of little blood-red poisonous scorpions crawled over Lan Huang and Xian Xian's bodies, biting them. Because Lan Huang had thick skin, its injuries weren't as serious as Xian Xian's. Fortunately, Meow Meow arrived with a lightning attack and the little scorpions were immediately blasted to death. The two broodmother beasts had been killed in battle, along with most of their offspring. In fact, all of this had consumed little time.

With the bloodweep puppet scorpion's miserable death, Xia Ziluan was all alone. Her expression underwent dramatic changes. There was some kind of formation on her body, which was already shining with a white glow, making her skin appear more luminous. It was a pity that her hair was disheveled and her body bloodstained and riddled with wounds.

Although she was a seventh-level samsaran, her strength was no match for Tianming and Ying Huo's joint attacks. Using the nine bloodsucker arrow was equivalent to fighting with nine spears, but they couldn't stop Tianming's Grand-Orient Sword. Ying Huo's sword ki shot toward her as she struggled to hold on. This time it severed Xia Ziluan's arm, which only made things worse.

"Li Tianming, you will die!"

Before her arm had been severed, she managed to pull out a heavenly pattern tome. With her blood spraying all over, she could easily drip blood on it. It was obvious that the heavy tome was a high grade tribulation pattern tome.

Tribulation patternscribes who surpassed nine stars were rare, so the tome was undoubtedly precious. But who would care whether or not it was precious when their life was at stake? Xia Ziluan had been planning to use it a while ago. However, she hadn't had a chance to pull it out as she was diverted by Ying Huo's attacks.

The tribulation pattern burst forth and Tianming backed away in silence. Gu Yunge made the same move earlier, indicating that they had both prepared trump cards that could save their lives. However, Tianming was a step faster than Gu Yunge.

Danger! He narrowed his eyes. At this critical moment, he had to rely on the Dragonhide to resist.

But before that, something incredible happened. As soon as the tribulation pattern tome was activated, it immediately died down, the majestic power dimming in an instant. Upon closer inspection, it turned out that a formation had automatically materialized around the tome. There were heavenly pattern dragons in the formation that completely sealed the tome.

"Looks like your tome has been sealed because it's too powerful and exceeds the restrictions of the Kilostar Domain," Tianming laughed. Even the Heavens were on his side! He hadn't expected that the restrictions of the Kilostar Domain would be so strong they could both restrain eighth-level samсарans, and also seal overly powerful heavenly pattern tomes to uphold its fundamentals.

At that moment, the look in Xia Ziluan's eyes had altered drastically. She was so frightened by a twenty-year-old man that she had turned ashen. Assuming she would flee, Tianming prepared to chase after her. Unexpectedly, she suddenly fell to her knees and said, "Li Tianming, I'm sorry, I was wrong. Please don't kill me. My child is only two years old and can't live without a mother. I'm begging you."

She cried pitifully, tears streaming down her cheeks like raindrops.

"Wait for you to go back, raise him, then come to me for revenge?" Tianming sneered.

"No, I won't—"

"You can stop talking. The formation on your body is alerting someone, isn't it? Trying to buy time until your father arrives?" Tianming smiled coldly.

She had even used her child in order to survive. Did those without children deserve to die then? Since they were blood enemies, they shouldn't expect the other party to be kind. Tianming would never allow such a loss. Right now, he had control over her life; if it were the other way round, the couple would be roaring with laughter had Tianming spoken her words.

"No!" Xia Ziluan regretted it. She was mournful and heartbroken. If only they hadn't chased after Tianming when he tried to escape. Unfortunately, regret was useless.

As she knelt before him in despair, Tianming raised his sword and ended her life. At that moment, the formation on her body burst out with a dazzling light, soaring into the sky and revealing Xia Ziluan's position. This wasn't a sealing formation, but a sign, perhaps the transmission of a signal.

"Retreat!"

With that, Tianming and his lifebound beasts quickly left. There would be people appearing soon.

"They might guess that I'm still alive. We need to be more careful."

In fact, there were numerous treasures in Gu Yunge and Xia Ziluan's spatial rings. However, Tianming was afraid to take them with him since they might be marked. Thus, he left them floating in the starry sky.

"Xue Yi?"

The blazing flame in his chest burned even brighter now than it had when he survived through great danger in front of the entrance to the Kilostar Domain.

...

In the vast starry sky, a group of people were searching a golden star. Despite his status, Xue Yi had personally ventured deep into the star.

"This star is marked on the starmap. There should be treasure here. We've searched all over, how can there be nothing?" Xue Yi stopped in his tracks, frowning as he stood on the golden ground.

"Was the star where we found tribulation manna marked on the star map?" asked Long Cangyuan.

He had been following Xue Yi the entire time, taking him as his guide.

"No." Xue Yi shook his head.

Long Cangyuan appeared dejected. The stars marked on the starmap were all empty, yet there was treasure on those that weren't marked.

"Brother Xue Yi, there's something I'd like to ask, though I'm not sure if I should," Long Cangyuan said.

"Speak."

"What's the origin of this starmap? Is its authenticity guaranteed?" asked Long Cangyuan.

"Let's put aside its origins for the time being. Its authenticity is guaranteed. It might just be a small starmap, but it's been passed down in the Nonahall Ghost Sect for a hundred thousand years. It was handed down by the Nonahall Specter," said Xue Yi.

"That's amazing. Perhaps special methods may be required to unearth the real treasures. This requires more thought," said Long Cangyuan.

"That's right." Xue Yi nodded.

He looked at the gold star in a trance. At that moment, he pulled out a white sphere from his spatial ring, his brow furrowed. The sphere glowed and slightly vibrated.

"A lifesoul stone? Is it your daughter's lifesoul formation? She's in danger!" Long Cangyuan exclaimed.

"Yes." Xue Yi was cold all over as he called a third-origin tribulation elder from the Nonahall Ghost Sect and placed him in charge of affairs here. The lifesoul stone in his hand pointed out a direction for him.

Without another word, he disappeared in a bloody glint.

"That's strange. Who would dare to do anything to your daughter? Is he seeking death?" Long Cangyuan tagged along.

"It may be Dugu Jin!" Xue Yi looked ferocious.

The gleam from the lifesoul stone grew brighter and brighter, which indicated more danger to the lifesoul formation. Xue Yi's heart almost jumped out of his chest.

"Hurry!"

With Tianming's death, Dugu Jin was the only threat left in the Kilostar Domain. Xue Yu had originally assumed such a coincidence would never happen. But now, lost in his panic, he hated his carelessness.

"Hold on, Luan'er!"

Xue Yi's heart was in his mouth. Hundreds of years of cultivation was too long. Some people cared about their children, while some didn't. Xue Yi's fierce name was known far and wide, yet he loved his only daughter very much. That was known to all.

"Hold on—"

The moment he spoke, the lifesoul stone exploded in his hand.

Chapter 786 - The Ghoul King's Grief

At that moment, Xue Yi seethed with rage. Xia Ziluan was dead!

"AHHHH—!"

Filled with killing intent, he let out a heart-piercing roar, almost tearing his throat.

"Dead!"

He roared once more, blood and tears pouring from his eyes. The moment the lifesoul stone had shattered, he caught sight of the ray of light that shot into the sky in the distance. He didn't stop to grieve, but continued dashing across the starry sky at his fastest speed.

With each step he took, his entire body trembled. Long Cangyuan was a little afraid to approach him when he was filled with such a murderous aura.

Dugu Jin is in big trouble, Long Cangyuan thought to himself.

Numerous tribulation elders had entered the Kilostar Domain. Xue Yi wouldn't frown even if a third of them died in battle. But now, his entire body felt as though it was crawling with ants, the pain tearing through his chest.

Soon after, they arrived at the battlefield. In the starry sky floated two corpses, two beasts, and countless tiny snakes and scorpions. Several other people had also been attracted by the light.

"Ghoul King!"

They moved aside at once.

"Luan'er...." Xue Yi hugged the bloody corpse, his eyes dripping blood.

"Don't worry, Father will avenge you. I'll make sure whoever harmed you suffers ten thousand times the payback!" Xue Yi sounded hoarse.

After further inspection and questioning the elders, Long Cangyuan got to the bottom of it.

Xue Yi wrapped up his daughter's body. He rose to his feet and met Long Cangyuan's gaze. The latter suddenly discovered that the man who had been strategizing this whole time had completely changed. From today onward, he would continue descending into ruthlessness.

"Brother Xue Yi, the murderer may not necessarily be Dugu Jin," said Long Cangyuan.

"Who could it be?" Xue Yi asked coldly.

"Look at this." Grabbing a few branches and leaves, Long Cangyuan said, "You must've seen this during the Number One Summit. These branches and leaves belong to Li Tianming's lifebound beast."

Eyes wide, Xue Yi held the branch and fell into deep thought.

"He died in the black hole star, I'm sure of that. How isn't he dead?"

"I don't know. But he must be alive, since his lifebound beast appeared here. Of course, there's also the possibility that Li Tianming has joined Dugu Jin. After all, if I recall correctly, these two children were seventh-level samsarans. There's no way Li Tianming could've killed them both in such a short time," Long Cangyuan said.

"Yes." Seething with rage, Xue Yi held his daughter in his arms.

"I'm sorry for your loss. Don't be too sad, Ghoul King...."

Many elders came up to comfort him. They had originally assumed Xue Yi would grieve for a long time. However, he pulled out the starmap with one hand and studied it for some time.

"Li Tianming isn't dead. There isn't treasure on many of the marked stars on the map, indicating that it isn't accurate," said Xue Yi.

"In that case.... Let our people enter the black hole star. I will personally plant a lifesoul formation on them and see if they die when they enter," said Xue Yi.

"Yes, we must test it out," Long Cangyuan replied.

In fact, Xue Yi had shared a lot with him recently, which suggested that he'd begun trusting him more and more.

"Let someone from my sect go," said Long Cangyuan.

"Alright." Xue Yi glanced at him.

How sincere of him.

...

In a large, dark purple hall in the Specter Mountains within the Nonahall Divine Realm, a man in purple robes was teasing a two-year-old boy with a puppet.

"Come on. Give Grandpa a hug and a kiss! Poor child, your parents are terrible for leaving you behind with your grandparents while they go out and have fun together. Since you're approaching the age of cultivation, Grandpa will help you build a foundation."

The child was playing with a little snake and a silver scorpion.

"Don't be naughty. You're just like your mother when she was young. She even led my son astray."

The purple-robed man wasn't as gloomy as he was at the Blood Cauldron. Instead, he appeared benevolent and joyful as he picked up the suddenly crying baby.

However, the man's expression suddenly changed and he pulled out a lifesoul stone from his spatial ring.

It exploded in that instant. The little baby fell to the ground and cried miserably.

"It's Yunge!"

A purple gleam shot into the sky, then a purple mist billowed out, scaring many out of their wits.

"What happened?"

"God knows!"

...

In front of the black hole star that had been discovered by Long Yichen, he and several hundred tribulation elders were here with Xue Yi.

When they arrived, Long Cangyuan brought a gray-haired old man to Xue Yi.

"Brother Xue Yi, a candidate has been selected. This man is four hundred years old, and still at the sixth-level life phase. He's too afraid of entering the death phase. He's lived enough and doesn't have much time left," said Long Cangyuan.

The old man he had chosen remained silent with his head lowered, his body trembling slightly. Long Cangyuan must have promised him certain benefits for him to willingly take this risk.

"Don't be nervous. Archaion's imperial son is still alive after entering the black hole star. Once you've left, all you have to do is tell us what's inside," said Xue Yi.

"Yes, Ghoul King...." The old man sounded bitter.

Xue Yi drew for a while, planting the lifesoul formation. It wasn't complicated; instead, lifesoul stones were valuable and couldn't be afforded by ordinary folk.

"Go." Xue Yi patted the old man on the shoulder.

"Yes."

When the old man looked at the black hole star, his legs couldn't stop trembling. He had yet to pluck up his courage even after some time had passed.

"Don't worry. If something happens to you, your children and family will be treated well. They don't like you, yet here you are, sacrificing for them. That's the greatness of a parent's love!"

Stepping forward, Long Cangyuan pushed the old man lightly. The latter fell and was swallowed by the black hole star. It was merely an experiment. They were too anxious to go looking for people. After all, it wasn't easy to find such worthless people in the Kilostar Domain.

They all stared at the lifesoul stone in Xue Yi's hand as the old man disappeared from their sight.

Suddenly, there was a loud crack. The lifesoul stone had shattered and turned to dust.

Everyone was stunned. It proved that the old man had died very quickly. Xue Yi's frown deepened. This was contrary to what they had imagined.

"Let's try again!" said Xue Yi.

The moment they heard his words, everyone knew that he had lost control due to his daughter's death. Many took a step back, for fear that Xue Yi would pick them.

Chapter 787 - Bodhi Originally Has No Tree

"Wang Fenghong, come here." Long Cangyuan picked another person.

Hearing his name, an old man widened his eyes and vehemently shook his head.

"Obey!" said Long Cangyuan.

"Sect Master, why me? I've made great contributions to the Quadform Sect. I've worked hard my entire life. Have I ever let the sect down? Have I ever disappointed you?" The old man's eyes were filled with grief and indignation.

"You're old," said Long Cangyuan.

"So I deserve to die just because I'm old?!" The old man laughed bitterly.

"Stop spouting nonsense. Someone hold him down." Long Cangyuan ordered.

The people of Quadform Oceanic Sect hesitated for a moment, then restrained the old man.

"Long Cangyuan, you shameless dog, kneeling and licking without the slightest shred of dignity! You're the Quadform Oceanic Sect's greatest shame! The descendants of the Quadform Seagod are ashamed of you! You're not worthy to be the seadragon king!" the old man angrily cursed.

"Shut up!" Long Cangyuan was humiliated. He had never seen such an ignorant man. More importantly, they were in the presence of outsiders.

However, Xue Yi wasn't bothered by the farce. Once he had used a lifesoul stone on the old man, the people of the Quadform Oceanic Sect tossed Wang Fenghong into the black hole star.

The lifesoul stone shattered, indicating that the old man was dead. They all looked at each other and couldn't help but shrink back, afraid that Long Cangyuan would continue picking test subjects.

The branches of the Radix World Tree in Xue Yi's hand proved that Tianming was still alive. But these people were dead. What did that mean?

"It's the bloody Great Emperor Xuanyuan again! The man has been dead for two hundred thousand years. Why hasn't his soul scattered?"

Xue Yi appeared gloomy and murderous.

.....

With danger lurking in every corner, Tianming was cautious and careful not to expose himself. The stronger he was, the better he grew at hiding himself. He wasn't sure how many days had passed with him killing and hiding, but he certainly knew how many people he had killed!

His Eyes of Judgment quietly swept across each and every star. If he were to run into a wicked man, he would naturally send him to hell.

The power of good karma never disappointed Tianming. Even without the Old Deepstar Path, Tianming's Imperial Will grew at a frightening rate, surpassing the limits of the Samsara stage.

He was reaping gains the entire journey. At least five hundred people had perished at his hands; in fact, his enemies had even taken precautions, believing that he was still alive. But they were all useless. In order to search the stars, they had to spread out or their efforts would be inefficient.

As long as they were scattered, Tianming had a chance. After assassinating more than five hundred people and traveling through hundreds of stars, Tianming finally entered the death phase once more.

"Fourth-level death phase!"

The more he progressed, the clearer his path to becoming a god became.

"Samsarans above the eighth-level life phase are suppressed by the formation. That's to say, there isn't a large disparity in strength between the top experts in the Kilostar Domain and me."

Li Tianming circulated the power of death through his body. When the aura of death was within him, his temperament underwent drastic changes. In contrast to the life phase, Tianming was filled with death energy and resembled an assassin in the shadows.

"Perhaps I won't have to hide from now on." He looked out at the stars in the Kilostar Domain, a cold light flickering in his eyes. After hiding and fleeing for all this time, he felt upset, even though his enemies were hopping mad.

"There may be a huge disparity between these people and me outside the Kilostar Domain, but in here, I have an opportunity. It's up to me whether or not I can do something for the sect and ensure Ling'er's safety. Ling'er, be good and wait for me to bring back good news...."

In the starry sky, Tianming descended into the next star with Archfiend wrapped around his hand. The experts of the five divine realms who were searching for treasure on this star had yet to realize that a more terrifying nightmare had arrived. He continued on the road of slaughter, growing more brutal.

Having steeled his heart, he would no longer show mercy, even if it meant he became the executioner of the Heavenly Dao. He had to kill them here; he wouldn't have another opportunity to gather these nefarious men in the future.

It wasn't easy to obtain good karma.

During this period of time, Tianming had also undertaken another task besides playing the role of a murderous demon in the Kilostar Domain—that is, looking for black hole stars.

He had overheard the name last time. Since he didn't have a starmap, he could only try his luck. Fortunately, the Dragonhide would guide him every time he was close to one. As a result, Tianming had encountered four different black hole stars in the process of his cultivation.

Every time he entered one, the number continued increasing, up until the sixth one.

"It's the sixth one. How many more are there?"

Tianming stared at the vast Kilostar Domain as he came up with his own conjectures.

"It's been so long. I wonder how much treasure the five divine realms have obtained."

.....

Somewhere in the Kilostar Domain, above an erupting volcano on a fire star, hundreds of tribulation elders gathered together. They came from the five divine realms, and each sect had its representatives. Xue Yi, the bloody ghoulish king, and Long Cangyuan stood in the middle of the crowd, their expressions gloomy.

"Ghoul King, we've done a count. More than six hundred people have disappeared without a trace during this period. They're obviously dead. We found some of the bodies."

"There were only a few missing on each star, so everyone assumed they'd ventured into other stars. If we hadn't checked carefully, we wouldn't have noticed."

"By the look of the corpses, they all died at the hands of the Imperial Son, Li Tianming. The strongest victim was at the seventh-level life phase. There were branches and leaves belonging to his lifebound beast around the bodies."

"This young man is very cunning and cruel. He hasn't even been spotted once!"

Only after thoroughly investigating and reporting their finds did they realize that the man they considered a sitting duck had actually caused such pain to the powerhouses of the five divine realms.

"He's only twenty, yet he can kill second-origin tribulation elders that are over two hundred years old. Isn't it unbelievable?"

"Ghoul King, if this continues, more and more people will die. I think we should temporarily stop searching for treasure and kill him first."

"Yes. After all, we have enough time."

The powerhouses continued discussing amongst themselves.

"This kid is only causing so much trouble because we never really considered him a threat. He's certainly incredible if he can get the five divine realms to suspend the search for treasure."

Those on the scene were mostly first-origin tribulation elders. If there was such a killer present, they wouldn't dare to act alone.

There was silence all around.

"I'm just curious. The Kilostar Domain isn't exactly the place for cultivation. How has he progressed? Not even seventh-level life phase samsarans can deal with him." The seadragon king couldn't quite figure it out.

That was because their minds were set on the Flameyellow Continent. They didn't even know what the Primordial God-Emperor was! Right now, the inheritance of the Primordial God-Emperor had become a crucial part of Tianming's talents, almost as important as the Primordial Chaos Beasts and the Aeonic Grandbane.

They all turned to Xue Yi. The question now was, should they stop searching for treasure and focus their attention on capturing Tianming first?

"Alright, let's suspend the search. Notify everyone that finding those two is a priority," said Xue Yi.

Upon hearing that, everyone breathed a sigh of relief. In truth, this was a humiliating decision to make. If the world knew all these powerful elders from the five divine realms had been forced into this situation by a young man, they would certainly laugh.

Xue Yi was filled with killing intent the moment he made the decision. However, someone raised an objection at that point.

"Uncle Xue Yi, Seadragon King, I don't think we should stop the search."

The others did a double take and turned to look at the speaker, finding that a man had descended from the sky. He was a young man dressed in white, his robes fluttering in the wind. He was slender and fair. His eyes, ears, mouth, and nose resembled gemstones, radiant and vibrant.

He was perhaps the most good-looking man in the world. However, he was bald, his head shiny and covered with eight black dots. He was barefoot and had a string of Buddhist beads around his neck. On his arm was a little golden monkey with six ears.

The monkey flung itself onto his shoulders, making a face and sticking out its tongue while laughing at the others.

"Ye Bodhi, did your father send you?" asked Xue Yi. From his tone, it didn't seem as if he was speaking to a junior.

"Yes, I just ended my retreat. I've succeeded," said the young man.

"Congratulations," Xue Yi replied.

"Let's focus on business first." Ye Bodhi had a starmap in his hand. Although it was merely a duplicate, it was enough to show his status in the Nonahall Divine Realm was incomparable among his peers.

"I marked the stars where Li Tianming has killed. They're divided into six regions. The strange thing is that these six regions aren't adjacent to each other. Moreover, I heard that he entered a black hole star,

but somehow disappeared. It's very likely that he's gone elsewhere. Finally, from the order of the murders, he jumped from region to region in a short time when he's in the vicinity of a black hole star. In conclusion, we can speculate that he's able to travel via black hole stars, and may be looking for the three that remain as we speak," Ye Bodhi explained.

"So all we have to do is wait for him at these three black hole stars." Xue Yi smiled. With his big mouth, his smile looked extremely hideous.

"We should hide and wait for him," said Ye Bodhi.

"The others will continue looking for treasure," said Xue Yi.

"Yes."

"I'm a mess due to Luan'er's death. The starmap has been in my hands all along, yet I failed to see the pattern," said Xue Yi.

"If I come across Li Tianming, I'll avenge Yunge and Luan'er," said Ye Bodhi.

They exchanged a meaningful look. Because he had no pupils, Ye Bodhi's eyes appeared apathetic. However, many of those present would never forget how Ye Bodhi crushed all his opponents more than ten years ago. At the time, no one could compete with him and he was the victor of the previous Number One Summit. Gu Yunge and Xia Ziluan had only reached the semifinals.

Chapter 788 - I Devour Hearts

After the decision was made, Xue Yi continued sorting out the details of the plan.

"Li Tianming has been to the other six black hole stars. There's only three left, so we must make sure that we don't waste this chance and pin him down for good. Even if the Kilostar Domain has a kind of sealing formation, we would become the world's laughingstock if we can't even deal with a single brat," Xue Yi said candidly.

He had asked for only tribulation elders at the seventh-level death phase and above to stay back. Tianming had defeated those at the seventh-level life phase, after all, so there was no need to take them into account. Due to the uniqueness of the Kilostar Domain, the people they brought here were mostly around the sixth and seventh levels. Those at the eighth level were mostly fighting in the ongoing war. Xue Yi wouldn't bring over a few hundred more eighth-level death phase tribulation elders just for Tianming alone.

"It's only been a few days, so I doubt he'll have made any breakthroughs yet. All of you here are at the seventh-level death phase and above. Each of you alone should be enough to take him out. All of you shall form groups of thirty and head to the three remaining black hole stars," Xue Yi said. There were at least a thousand seventh-level death phase elders in the domain, but most of them were hall lords of their respective groups still searching for treasures in the sea of stars.

"This should be enough. If we can't take him down with this number of people, we'll have to acknowledge that he's completely dominated us in the Kilostar Domain," Long Cangyuan said. The seventh-level death phase was the highest level that wasn't suppressed within the domain. Even Long

Cangyuan was forced to remain at this level, thanks to that formation; however, he was still stronger than the others at the same level due to the unique techniques he had.

"Which of you have a darkfiend tome?" Xue Yi asked.

"I do."

"I have some too."

Quite a few tribulation elders did.

"Take them all out." Xue Yi collected the tomes. Coupled with his own stash, they had around three hundred of them.

"By using one darkfiend tome, you'll be able to remain in the darkfiend state as long as you don't move. Each tome lasts ten days, so use them to help hide yourselves near the black hole stars."

Darkfiend tomes weren't particularly rare or powerful tomes, being around the five-star grade. However, they were particularly useful for laying an ambush, though they only helped to hide one's presence and blend their looks into space. The slightest movement would cause the effect to wear off. Still, they would no doubt be effective in the hunt for Tianming.

"When he approaches, all thirty of you shall attack him at once. Take him alive, if possible. If not, simply kill him. If he's alive, I want him captured, and if he's dead, I want to see his corpse."

"Understood!"

The little fish they had been underestimating this entire time had caused them so much grief—Xue Yi especially. After what he had suffered, he wanted to kill Tianming no matter what, even if he still had value as a hostage. Now, what he was afraid of were any changes that could happen to the status quo yet again before they caught him.

"Long Cangyuan, you should lay in wait by one of the black hole stars. Bodhi, you go to the other."

"No problem. If that brat dares to go where I am, I won't let a single hair of his slip past me," Long Cangyuan said. The fact that Xue Yi had given him this assignment showed how much trust he placed in him. Though, the thirty second-origin tribulation elders accompanying him were all from Nonahall as well. Even if Tianming had some mystical treasures on him, Long Cangyuan wouldn't dare take them for himself. As for Ye Bodhi, he simply nodded.

"Let's take this seriously. After we squash this fly, we'll be able to dine at ease," Xue Yi said.

The other ninety-odd tribulation elders looked each other in the eye. A month ago, they never would have expected that they would have to spare so much effort to chase down a single brat.

"We wouldn't be so humiliated if it weren't for the sealing formation."

Everyone felt rather frustrated from having to lay in wait for who knows how long near the black hole stars.

"Alright, enough complaining. This is crucial to us, and we must make sure it goes right. It's fine if we cause a bit of commotion. At the very least, it's better than stopping the search for treasures. If we find something valuable, our trip won't end on this embarrassing note."

The second-origin tribulation elders already had pretty high statuses on the Flameyellow Continent. Given the fact that there were only a measly fifty-odd third-origin tribulation elders in the entirety of the continent, those that managed to become second-origin tribulation elders stood above countless people and below few.

"If only we were dealing with Dugu Jin, the third most powerful on the continent.... It wouldn't be as embarrassing as being toyed with by a brat, at least."

"Let it go. If it weren't for that brat, we wouldn't have been able to open the domain at all."

"You have a point."

As they talked, they split themselves into three groups, each headed for a black hole star. There were other ghoulish kings in the domain still searching for treasure; this group should be enough to deal with Tianming for now.

"Yichen, come here," Long Cangyuan said as he was about to leave.

"What is it, Dad?"

"Do you know Ye Bodhi?"

"Of course I do. Did you forget? We even fought once, but I lost. Now, he's much different than before. His cultivation is high enough that the sealing formation had to suppress it," he said with admiration.

"Of course! His father is the first ghoulish king, and his mother is the second! He's been raised to be the very best on the continent! How could he not be someone you look up to?"

"What do you mean to say, Dad?"

"Tag along with him. Treat him how I treat Ghoulish King Xue Yi."

"So you mean try to suppress my thoughts to placate him as best as I can?" Long Yichen asked with a troubled look.

"Are you insulting me?" Long Cangyuan snapped.

"Dad, it was my bad. That was never my intention."

"Nevertheless, you aren't wrong. Put up a front and don't be too honest. Keep your head low and stand in line behind the truly powerful. Do that and you won't have to worry for your future any longer," he said, stroking his son's head.

"I know, Dad."

"Alright. I'll place my hopes in you."

"I won't disappoint you!" His eyes turned red after he heard that. He knew that what his father did would be ridiculed by many, but so what? If licking someone's boots allowed one to rise to the top and survive to have the last laugh, why wouldn't everyone do it?

He bade his father goodbye and went to Ye Bodhi's group. Most of the others were second-origin tribulation elders from Nonahall. Being among the strongest on the continent, they were all really prideful.

"Why have you come?" Ye Bodhi asked.

"I'm here to serve the future hegemon, of course. I'll be at your service in life and in death." Long Yichen wasn't really used to being flattering, so he chose a more direct approach.

Ye Bodhi gave him a long look and smiled. "Fine. I like direct people like you. Let's go."

"Alright."

They left for their destination and hid themselves with their darkfiend tomes, waiting for Tianming to take the bait.

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"Die!" Yet another senior from Nonahall perished by Tianming's hand. It was a middle-aged woman who cultivated a technique that involved devouring male vital essence to nourish her body and maintain her youth. In actuality, she was around four hundred years old. Even the strongest cultivators at that age would have white hair and look really old, but she still had rather luscious curves. Who knew how many people she had sucked dry to be able to achieve that?

"What a heavy stench of sin." Tianming saw that the weight of her sin ranked among the top five of those he killed so far. "Looks like Nonahall thrives on the strong dominating the weak. The strong can do whatever they want to grow stronger. It's the law of the jungle, but it's no doubt hell for those that can't defend themselves."

Back in the theocracy, only the wielder of the Cyclic Mirror could commit this level of evil, but there were thousands of such people in the Nonahall Divine Realm. Using a mirror, he could also see the foul aura that manifested around him after killing so many people. "Now I look like a sinner, too. Whatever, let's continue!"

He continued slaughtering his way from star to star. To ensure people couldn't track him, he tried to randomize his destinations. Even if someone was on his tail, they would be hard pressed to predict where he would go next.

"Now that I'm at the fourth-level death phase, even the seventh-level death phase leaders and their hundred or so minions are no longer my match." Nowadays, he could kill whomever he pleased. "There's no way I'm getting out of this alive without killing."

He smiled ruthlessly. His face only softened when he thought of Feiling. "Wait for me. I'll make sure you're safe."

Five days later, Archfiend had been completely stained red. It could stretch a thousand meters away to pierce through hearts, allowing Tianming to judge them while they were defenseless. Then, the Dragonhide finally acted up again. Tianming followed its pull and noticed a black hole star up ahead.

"I don't think I've been to this one before." He had run into another black hole star, but it was one he'd already visited so he didn't enter it. Since this one was new, he chose to go ahead, only for his expression to abruptly change when he got close.

"What is this?"

He saw lots of foul auras coming from beside the black hole star. The auras were so strong they seemed to coalesce into a sea of corpses. Aggrieved souls cried out to Tianming for his help.

"Please, kill him! Kill him!"

"We died a horrible death!"

"Look! We don't have hearts! This person has been consuming human hearts for more than forty years...."

Tianming saw holes in the souls' chests. They stared at him with a pale look. "The weight of this sin is the heaviest I've seen! It's ten times stronger than the nearest, at least! Who in the world is it?"

He couldn't see anyone there. How could there be nobody there even though the stench was so dense and foul? He took a random tribulation weapon sword and tossed it in that direction. All of a sudden, a jade-white hand stretched out of the void and caught it.

Chapter 789 - Six-eared Monkey

First, a hand appeared, then a whole arm, a torso, and then a whole body. He was a bald man in a white robe with a slender figure and long fingers. His whole body seemed covered in jade-like skin that was without a single blemish. His pearl-like eyes seemed like the purest thing in the universe. It wouldn't be an understatement to say that he was beautiful beyond compare.

Tianming found it really hard to relate someone that looked as 'pure' as him to the sheer weight of the sin he bore. He had so much sin it was ten times the weight of the worst Tianming had so far come across and killed. Yet he looked so young, and even pure, as pure as the holiest of deities. Did he forge his perfect body using a sea of corpses? All Tianming could think of now was that he had stayed in the eternally snowy Taiji Peak Lake for far too long and didn't know how crazy and unreasonable the outside world could be.

Someone so young and powerful could only come from Nonahall. One look and Tianming knew that Gu Yunge, Xia Ziluan, and even Long Yichen couldn't even compare to him. A gold monkey came out of the pale youth's lifebound space and hung around his neck, baring its fangs at Tianming. Right afterward, around thirty tribulation elders of various ages appeared near the black hole star, all crossing their arms and coldly looking at him. As far as they were concerned, they had just given Tianming a death sentence.

Fortunately, Tianming had managed to see the sin of the bald youth in advance and didn't allow himself to be surrounded. Otherwise, it would've ended horrendously. Immediately, the enemies spread out all over the place.

"Impressive. You managed to spot me immediately," Ye Bodhi said with some surprise. With a pinch of his fingers, the tribulation artifact Tianming had thrown to him snapped cleanly in two.

However, there was something that confused them. Why didn't Tianming immediately run if he had detected them? Instead, he had allowed himself to be surrounded. It was as if his advantage of detecting them didn't matter at all. Instead, he stayed there motionlessly and looked at Ye Bodhi as if he was seeing something for the first time in his life.

"Did you eat hearts to grow?" Tianming asked.

Ye Bodhi's eyes widened as he retracted his smile and looked at Tianming for a long time. He didn't answer the question; it was a secret between him and his parents. There were probably fewer than twenty people who knew of it, so how would Tianming know to ask such a question?

"Why would you say that?" Ye Bodhi asked in a calm voice. He was no longer in a rush, for Tianming had already lost the opportunity to escape. Thirty second-origin tribulation elders and their sixty-odd lifebound beasts had spread out and surrounded him completely, ready to attack at Ye Bodhi's order.

"The heavens tell me that someone like you must be punished!"

Those words seemed to stun Ye Bodhi. A moment later, he shook his head with a helpless smile. "Even though I find it rather curious, I'm not too curious about how you managed it. Let it be another curiosity life has thrown my way. Everyone, don't bother taking him alive. We'll take his head to Uncle Xue Yi." He looked Tianming in the eyes and said, "You actually didn't run, even though you knew we were waiting. Looks like your talent is just the heavens' way of making up for your malformed reasoning faculties."

After he said that, the elders began their attack. This wasn't a fight for treasure, so there was no rush. They were all coordinated in their sole goal: killing that annoying fly! It wasn't that Tianming didn't know the danger he was in, but he couldn't help his curiosity after seeing Ye Bodhi.

He was dreaming about killing him, and the thought of the sheer amount of good karma he would receive made him smile unconsciously. Naturally, that didn't mean he wished there were more vile crooks in the world to feed his insatiable appetite for good karma. However, that also didn't mean he would refuse a delicious meal when it was served to him, no matter how much blood and tears had to be shed to prepare the dish.

Even now, he could see the aggrieved souls lamenting their lost hearts and begging Tianming to give them a sweet release. They were struggling and shaking with hate and grievance, lingering by the side of their unmaker. Ye Bodhi probably hadn't done it for fun or pleasure; it was definitely some kind of cultivation technique.

Tianming had never felt more savage and agitated in his whole life. Faced with such dire circumstances, his eyes were affixed on one person alone: Ye Bodhi, though he didn't know his name at this point.

Right before the tribulation elders made their move, Tianming took out the Grand-Orient Sword and summoned his Dragonhide, entering his peak fighting state before charging toward Ye Bodhi. He was

using the same routine he used on Gu Yunge. As long as he was fast enough, the tribulation elders wouldn't be able to reach him in time. Then he used his most powerful and savage move for the judgment strike: Animacorpus Eradication. His power was beyond what everyone else could've imagined.

"Wasn't he only as powerful as a seventh-level life-phase samsaran?!"

Tianming evaded countless strikes in that short moment and appeared right before Ye Bodhi and Long Yichen. As the tribulation elders were afraid of harming those two, they held their attacks back, giving Tianming an even bigger opportunity.

"You're looking down on me, huh?" Ye Bodhi mused.

Usually, finding the perfect opening to break out of encirclement was the textbook tactic to use in a group fight. But not only did Tianming not charge outward, he went straight for the most terrifying person in the group, though it wouldn't make much of a difference. All the others gradually closed in and applied pressure. Right as Tianming's sword was about to swallow Ye Bodhi up, Long Yichen came charging with his deep-blue halberd, sending a dragon flying with the sheer force of his strike to take Tianming's sword strike.

With a loud boom, Long Yichen was sent flying, but Ye Bodhi was completely unscathed. Tianming turned to look at the poor sod; he knew how powerful he was, given that he had spent quite a long time running away from him. However, he noticed a significant improvement in his strength during this clash compared to the previous one.

In actuality, the second-origin tribulation elders were by no means weak. Tianming knew that he wouldn't stand much of a chance killing Ye Bodhi here, nor would he be able to leave with Long Yichen helping out. Though he had missed his best chance to escape when he was shocked by Ye Bodhi's foul aura, running away wasn't something he would have done anyway. There were too many people behind him now, so retreating would only expose him to more danger.

Calmly, he charged straight past Ye Bodhi after the previous clash and toward the black hole star. The tribulation elders behind them could only helplessly follow along.

On Tianming's shoulder, a black cat and a fiery phoenix appeared. They used their abilities to rain down a cacophony of fire and lightning on those behind them.

"Don't run!"

Though they wanted to stop Tianming from leaving, they had once more underestimated his abilities. Despite their numbers, they weren't able to force him to stop at all. When the abilities their lifebound beasts launched exploded, Tianming used the force of the attacks to propel himself toward the black hole star even faster.

"Li Tianming," a calm voice from behind him said.

He didn't turn back, but used his third eye to look back instead. Ye Bodhi was charging toward him, his white robes fluttering as he punched out. Then, a gigantic manifestation of a fist appeared with so much force that space itself seemed to contort and shift. His power was already nearing the limit.

Tianming used the Grand-Orient Sword to shatter the ethereal fist, but the blowback felt like he was rammed in the back by thousands of gigantic beasts. That was the amount of power Ye Bodhi's body possessed. The sheer force knocked Tianming flying off uncontrollably, but fortunately he was still cruising in his desired direction, even faster this time. They never would've expected him to be so brave to even try charging past them to reach the black hole star.

"You won't be able to escape!"

A feral shriek rang throughout the battlefield as the little gold monkey hanging on Ye Bodhi's body turned into a beast of titanic proportions. Tianming saw eight hundred stars in its eyes, even more than Fang Taiqing's beast! Apart from Tianming's ultimate tribulation manna, the one Ye Bodhi had used to evolve his six-eared monkey was no doubt the highest grade manna one could obtain on the Flameyellow Continent.

"You won't be able to run either," Tianming said. The next moment, he could feel the suction from the dark vortex accelerating him even faster. In almost an instant, he was sucked into its depths. His pursuers, Ye Bodhi included, immediately stopped in their tracks at the very edge of the range of the suction force. Tianming had actually managed to escape from under their noses without even breaking a sweat just like that. The ones who had been left behind looked at each other helplessly.

"He ran away," Long Yichen groaned. This was the exact same way he had lost Tianming the last time. "He's stronger than he used to be. That sword of his could kill a seventh-level death samsaran," he added.

"Agreed," Ye Bodhi said. Even with him personally taking action, they weren't able to do anything to stop Tianming.

"What level is he at, anyway? I'm so confused! Is there anyone that can still stop him?" said a frustrated tribulation elder.

"It can't be helped. Setting an ambush near a black hole star always presents the risk of letting him escape through them. The problem is, he actually has a method to detect us before we can see him. Had he approached the black hole without noticing our presence, he wouldn't be able to do anything if he's caught off guard by our instant surprise attack, no matter how strong he is."

"What's the point in saying that now? Damn it all. He even managed to mess with me."

"Ye Bodhi, we failed. Should we have the sect send more eighth-level death samsarans here?"

Everyone turned to him, eager to hear his decision.

Chapter 790 - Four Linked Stars

"There's no need. They won't be able to do anything we can't do ourselves. We're only just a little bit weaker than them. We should let the ghoulish kings or Long Cangyuan act, instead. For now, we need to split into two groups and head to the other two black hole stars. Tell them what happened here. Tianming can only be dealt with by someone at the peak level. We should have Uncle Qing Ming and the others stop searching for treasure for now," Ye Bodhi said.

"What about you?"

"I failed and won't be able to do anything to help, so I'll travel around a bit."

"Alright. We'll do as you say," the elder said.

"Now that our plan has been exposed, will he still head to the other two black hole stars?" Long Yichen asked.

"I can't be sure. Perhaps there's a reason why he must."

Ye Bodhi's voice sounded much lower in pitch than before. While he tried not to let it show, the earlier events had obviously irked him a lot. The remaining second-origin tribulation elders had hurried away to the two remaining stars to report word of the sighting.

"Are you not going too?" Ye Bodhi asked.

"I'll stay by your side," Long Yichen said with his head lowered.

"Suit yourself. I'm only going to take a casual look around." He took out a starmap and began to pace about.

"What's on your mind?" Long Yichen asked after trying to hold the question back for a long time.

"I'm trying to think whether the location of the nine black hole stars mean something." Ye Bodhi's forehead wrinkled in deep thought.

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When Tianming exited the pathway, he saw the word 'seven'. "That's the seventh one. I wonder how many more there are."

He looked around, trying to ascertain his location. As he had been around for quite a bit, he had a rough grasp of where he was in the domain by recognizing the stars he'd seen before. There was one star nearby that had a muddy surface. Tianming had been there just half a day ago.

"That means I haven't been sent too far away. So, those folks are nearby too!" Right as he thought that, he saw a group of people approaching. He hurriedly hid in one of the stars and saw that they were the second-origin tribulation elders from before, but there were only fifteen of them—half as many as before. Thankfully, he had managed to escape, or he wouldn't be able to take on all thirty of them alone. If it weren't for the black hole star, the chase might've lasted much longer.

"They were trying to ambush me just now, so they definitely know that I'm trying to enter the black hole stars. I guess I can't just simply go into the next one I find now."

If entering one posed a huge risk, he wouldn't do it. He wasn't in a rush anyway. Right now, his mind was still on the bald youth he had encountered just now. "The good karma that can come from killing that fellow isn't something I can miss out on. If he won't seek me out, I'll hunt him down!"

He went back into hiding. "There's fifteen of them here. I hope the rest aren't still with the bald fellow."

He turned and looked at the black hole star he was at. "His foul aura stands out too much, like a glowing beacon. I can see him all the way from here!"

Tianming didn't care who he was or what status he had. All he cared about was taking his life!

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Ye Bodhi stopped and wagged his finger at Long Yichen.

"What's the matter?" he asked as he came to him.

"Look here." Ye Bodhi pointed at the star map.

"I wouldn't dare steal a glance at it."

"If I ask you to look, you'll look."

"Okay."

Long Yichen peeked at it and shook his head. "I can't see an issue with it."

"This star is the one where the ten thousand tribulation manna were found. It wasn't marked on the starmap."

"That's right."

"Look at the line I drew," he continued, "Can you see it now?"

"So the line connects four stars on the map, three of which are marked as having treasure. However, the one that wasn't marked to have treasures actually had all that tribulation manna. To think that you were able to detect a pattern like that.... You must be a deductive genius."

"Shut up." Ye Bodhi wasn't in a mood to joke around. He drew another line and said, "Now look at this one."

The star map was rather cramped, depicting a thousand stars in total, so it would normally be rather unexpected for a single straight line to cross four stars, yet it seemed incredibly easy to join stars with a single straight line on the map.

"This line also crosses four stars, three of which are marked," Long Yichen said.

"And?"

"The unmarked one might contain treasure!"

"That's the same conclusion I arrived at. Let's go there."

"Yes!" Long Yichen was truly impressed that Ye Bodhi had managed to detect such an obscure pattern.

Xue Yi was hiding near one of the black hole stars. All of a sudden, fifteen tribulation elders came his way and interrupted his stealth state. "What's the matter?"

He was already feeling rather humiliated by the whole affair. If the outside world found out that someone like him was lying in hiding for a young brat, he would be laughed out of every room. Yet now, these newcomers even wasted his darkfiend tome.

"Ghoul King, Li Tianming appeared where we were!"

"Where's his head?"

"Still on his neck, Ghoul King!"

Xue Yi felt a vein bursting as he listened to their explanation. "And he still managed to escape?!"

"The black hole star was too near, and he was stronger than we expected. He entered it before we could even react."

"Ghoul King, Ye Bodhi said that you're the only one capable of stopping him now."

They all sounded rather pathetic.

"This will be troublesome. Now that we're exposed, there's little chance he'll show up again. Should we continue staying put here?"

They felt the prickling sense of humiliation on their faces. If they continued their treasure hunt, Tianming would be able to continue killing them. But if they didn't, what else could they do to him? Would the five divine realms really be held back by Tianming alone?

While Tianming was easy to deal with, they hadn't really paid him any heed. But now he had matured and become a god of death in the Kilostar Domain. It would be really hard to locate him within this large area, and what was worse was that no matter what decision Xue Yi made, it wouldn't wipe away the mark of shame he suffered from allowing a little fly that killed his daughter and son-in-law to trample all over him. The killing intent radiating from his body caused others to not dare to approach him.

He finally made a decision. "First, we shall stop searching for treasures in the domain, including the other four sects! Second, we will send a thousand eighth-level death phase samsarans from the sect here and focus on killing Li Tianming!"

Such a move was truly paying Tianming too much heed, but it didn't matter. Xue Yi wanted to end this torment once and for all. Better a painful cauterization than letting the wound continue festering. Nobody would remember the humiliation he had suffered today decades from now, anyway.