The Ages 791

Chapter 791 - Shocking Treasure

Ye Bodhi and Long Yichen soon saw a deep blue star that seemed covered in a huge ocean, or rather, an ocean of water-type spirit hazards. There didn't seem to be a single speck of solid land there. The whiterobed Ye Bodhi slowly descended through the star's atmosphere with his hands crossed, followed by the huge and burly Long Yichen, who was staring at the waves with an intense expression.

"This is the one, right?" Long Yichen asked.

"It is."

As they were flying above the ocean's surface, Ye Bodhi suddenly punched the water, causing a huge wave of spirit hazards covered in saintly heavenly patterns to turn into a gigantic tidal wave. He was trying to summon the other Nonahall cultivators with the commotion. Soon, a black-robed old man came.

"Gather everyone on this star here right now," Ye Bodhi ordered.

"Understood."

About an hour later, some hundred-odd people had come.

"Are there people from other sects here on this star?" Ye Bodhi asked. Not only was his status high, he was also powerful in his own right. The tribulation elders didn't dare to antagonize someone of his caliber one bit.

"Some people from Biritual were here, but they left just a few days ago. We've basically searched the entirety of this star, but didn't discover anything," the seventh-level death phase hall lord who had been in charge of the search said. He was a short, stout middle-aged man and he spoke with a deep bow and a flattering look.

"What about the rest of you? Did you notice anything?"

"Nothing so far. We've been searching since the day we entered the Kilostar Domain."

"Are there any noteworthy places?"

"One or two, but we've given them thorough investigations with no results to show for it."

"Take me to them."

"Understood!"

Ye Bodhi spoke curtly and efficiently conveyed his exact intent; he wasn't one to waste words. Of the hundred plus elders from Nonahall Ghost Sect, all of them abided by his whims and none dared risk antagonizing him. As pure and untainted as Ye Bodhi looked, the murderous aura surrounding him simply couldn't be hidden. It wasn't just Tianming's special eyes; normal people could intuitively feel the

pressure he exuded, making even the most experienced of veterans fear new blood like him. What in the world would the child of the two most powerful ghoul kings in the Nonahall Divine Realm be like?

It was said that he had been forged to stand at the very top of the continent since his birth. One day, he would be the pillar that supported the entire divine realm. When his parents retired from their position, he would rise to take their place and rule the world. Nobody could afford to offend someone who was destined for such greatness.

Ye Bodhi was certain that there was a logic to the starmap's markings. He no longer cared about the fact that he had failed to kill Tianming, since it was something Xue Yi had been put in charge of anyway. He was in deep thought as he tried figuring out if there was any other logic to the way the stars were laid out and marked.

"Long Yichen, where was the formation that surrounded the tribulation manna?" Ye Bodhi asked.

"Over here," Long Yichen said as he pointed at a spot.

Something clicked in Long Yichen's head. No wonder Ye Bodhi had allowed him to remain by his side despite the number of boot lickers he had around him already; it was because he had been to the Galactic Crashdragon Formation before, and Ye Bodhi was trying to use it to figure out the starmap's secret.

"Go in this direction," Ye Bodhi said as he decided on heading to the same relative location on this star. "Both of the stars were water stars. The only difference is that one was stormy, while this one is cold."

They traveled for quite some time with the rest following neatly behind.

"This is it," Ye Bodhi said.

"There's nothing here, is there?" All Long Yichen saw was a calm ocean.

"It's to be expected. Otherwise it would've been found long ago," Ye Bodhi said as he dove down.

"How are you going to test it out?"

"The starmap."

"Isn't this a copy of the original?" The copy was no doubt just simple parchment. The best it could be used for was to navigate around with. Did it have any other use?

"Would you believe me if I told you this is the original?" Ye Bodhi smiled.

"I would."

"Haha, I'm just messing with you. There's no way I'd have the original on me."

Long Yichen was simply too straightforward and direct. Someone like him wasn't the type who could play the role of a flattering subordinate, but he would make for a good friend or sworn brother. He was someone who would keep his word no matter what.

While Ye Bodhi went down into the depths, the other tribulation elders waited above, wondering why he allowed someone from Quadform to remain by his side this whole time.

"Long Yichen, my friend, I heard that Li Tianming killed the children of Ghoul Kings Xue Yi and Zi Xiao. Is that true?"

"It is."

"Ridiculous! That's also the reason we don't dare to split up now."

"What is with that fellow? How'd he grow so fast in the Kilostar Domain? He's already at the Samsara stage! Nobody should be able to progress that quickly!"

"I really can't figure out how. Word is that he's the real reincarnation of the goddess, but reincarnated into a guy's body instead. Now, he can have fun with women too."

"Haha, I wonder if the goddess found it interesting looking at her new third leg. I wonder if she gave it a go."

The old fellows held all kinds of vile thoughts in their minds.

Some time later, a sudden explosion could be heard from beneath the waves. With Long Yichen at the center, the seawater was pushed apart all around them, revealing an empty area at the center. Then all of a sudden, Long Yichen was slammed higher up in the air! He looked down in a panic and saw a new formation manifesting. It contained billions of stars and looked like a rotating projection of the cosmic aether. From the center of the vortex came a sudden flash that forced him to close his eyes. He couldn't see what was inside.

"Galactic Vortex Formation!" someone cried. The last formation they spotted was called the Galactic Clashdragon Formation, but this one was even larger. There must be many treasures hidden within! Shocked, Long Yichen looked at the center of the formation.

"There are so many of them.... All tribulation artifacts.... The sheer number...."

He felt his heart skip a few beats from excitement.

Chapter 792 - Skypierce Seashaker

Long Yichen finally saw it clearly. There were countless tribulation artifacts densely packed together in the middle of the vortex, ranging from blades to lances to swords and all other sorts, not to mention armors of all kinds. There were at least a hundred thousand of them, ten times more than the manna on that other star!

Not to mention, these weren't normal tribulation artifacts. Long Yichen noticed that they all had at least eight tribulation patterns, with some even having ten. Weapons of this caliber were rare even among tribulation elders. Long Yichen's own weapon only had eleven tribulation patterns, and the difference of one pattern was quite a lot for tribulation artifacts. It felt a little hard to breathe, seeing so many weapons piled up like trash like this.

"Even though they aren't worth as much as tribulation manna, there are ten times as many. The total worth is around three times that of the tribulation manna."

"If any divine realm gets their hands on this pile, their forces' might will be greatly boosted."

Even though the weapons weren't going to be Long Yichen's with Ye Bodhi there, he couldn't help but feel moved by the mere sight of it. Not to mention, he at least deserved some credit for finding the location of the weapons. Long Cangyuan would definitely think that his son had helped Ye Bodhi find it, which would no doubt elevate Long Yichen's position in Quadform even more.

He really envied Ye Bodhi for having parents among the top five most powerful on the continent and being their only son. Long Yichen had far too many siblings, and the competition was far too harsh. He turned to look at Ye Bodhi and noticed that even someone like him couldn't suppress a slight smile at the sight of so many treasures.

"The rest of you, hand me your spatial rings," he instructed.

The ten plus tribulation elders all handed their rings over to him. After he wore them on all ten fingers, he should have enough space to store all those weapons.

"Listen up. Stand guard outside and kill whoever dares step into the formation!" Ye Bodhi ordered.

"Yes!"

They hurriedly left to secure the perimeter. Someone even started eyeing Long Yichen, in case he intended to fight for the treasures. Naturally, that was the farthest thing from his mind right now. He was just shocked and impressed. After Ye Bodhi entered the formation, he took up a defensive role as well. He saw Ye Bodhi taking the brunt of the pressure from the countless stars in the vortex. It seemed that even with his cultivation, entering the vortex would be really hard. Fortunately, they had time, since nobody was there to interrupt them. Ye Bodhi didn't intend to inform the ghoul kings about this. If he kept everything here for himself, he would be able to dominate the entire Nine Divine Realms for sure. With his parents having his back, he would be unmatched.

Someone like him is definitely worth submitting to, Long Yichen thought with an envious look.

Soon, two hours passed as they anxiously watched Ye Bodhi almost break through the formation to reach the core of the vortex. The hundred thousand weapons would soon be his to claim!

If we continue using the starmap according to the method he discovered, we'll definitely find even more! Long Yichen thought. After seeing Ye Bodhi succeed, he had relaxed a little.

At that moment, he heard a few panicked cries coming from the Nonahall tribulation elders.

"What's going on?"

Then he saw a white-haired black-robed youth bursting through the clouds above like a meteor. "Li Tianming!" Why was he here now? They had been really careful and stealthy the entire time. Didn't Tianming escape using the black hole star? Long Yichen didn't have time to overthink things, as Tianming was already charging toward the vortex.

"Stop him!" he cried. They were in huge trouble. Back then, they had thirty other seventh-level death phase samsarans to surround Tianming, so he had no choice but to run. However, those elders were now on their way to Xue Yi, leaving only Ye Bodhi capable of dealing with Tianming.

"The fact that he dares to show up right now means that he isn't afraid of Ye Bodhi or me." Immediately, Long Yichen decided to intercept Tianming along with the hundred or so tribulation elders, who summoned more than two hundred lifebound beasts in total and charged toward the white-haired youth.

"Kill him!" They hadn't forgotten that Tianming had more than ten thousand tribulation manna in his possession. With Ye Bodhi with them, the tribulation elders fought fearlessly.

"Hehe." Tianming smirked as he attacked with Archfiend, which now had fifteen tribulation patterns. It stretched a thousand meters with a shocking speed and pierced through the chest of the elder at the very front before burrowing through the head of one behind him.

"Found you!"

He had his gaze locked on Ye Bodhi, who was still within the Galactic Vortex Formation. When he had returned to the black hole star just now and noticed that they were gone, he gave chase. Soon, he felt the Dragonhide pull him towards the direction where he saw Ye Bodhi's shocking foul aura and discovered the hundred thousand tribulation artifacts there. When he looked around and saw that the star was sealed off and nobody else was nearby, he immediately acted. With the thirty seventh-level death phase tribulation elders gone, he was no longer afraid!

Ye Bodhi had noticed Tianming's arrival from within the formation, but there was nothing he could do but continue breaching it. He was already so close! At least it seemed that Tianming had to first break through all the other defenders before reaching him.

A chaotic battle soon ensued.

The Radix World Tree burst out of Tianming, causing three big flowers to bloom. Radiant Vines whipped out with the Eight Desolation Fienddragon Art alongside Archfiend. Given Xian Xian's current power, both beastmaster and lifebound beast immediately had their skin split if they were caught by the vines. Then, another barrage of Bloodrain Swords shot out alongside Skyscorch Featherblast, piercing so many foes that they bored a path for Tianming to pass through.

"Stop!" cried a blue-haired youth at the end of the makeshift passageway. Long Yichen magnificently stood there, wielding his Skypierce Seashaker trident. It had eleven tribulation patterns, all of them in the shape of azure sea dragons—three on the trident's prongs, and the other eight on the handle. A loud roar rang out as the sea turbulently raged. Long Yichen's trident shoved the seawater apart as he slashed, only for it to be blocked by Lan Huang's Kilofold Rings.

"Ouch, it hurts!" Lan Huang cried loudly as it used Primordial Soundwave, shaking the nearby elders and causing their ears to bleed. It was enraged at being attacked right after coming out of the lifebound space. Xian Xian had descended onto the ocean and began spreading its roots out. Additionally, the ocean was Lan Huang's home turf. The moment it fell into the ocean, its nine kui seas began rapidly rotating, allowing it to achieve a speed even faster than Meow Meow's.

"Charge ahead!" Tianming yelled as he descended onto Lan Huang's head. Archfiend was a blur in his hands as it lashed out all over the place, scattering blood and flesh. Both of Lan Huang's heads roared, causing lots of waves to form.

"The other three of you, kill as many as you can so they don't leave to call for reinforcements!" Tianming ordered, but Ying Huo, Meow Meow, and Xian Xian had left without needing him to tell them.

Xian Xian wrapped a root around Lan Huang, letting the dragon carry it forward like a moving fortress. Ying Huo, Meow Meow, and Tianming were hanging near its branches, slaying anyone that dared to come close to stop them. Then, its third flower, the Evernight Rose, scattered some dark pollen in a wide area. Soon, those that tried approaching would lose all reason.

Ying Huo's body was really small, so small that even the smallest of the enemies' beasts were a hundred times its size. However, Ying Huo had nine hundred and ninety-nine stars and could form tens of thousands of clones with its Infernal Haze, allowing it to cause the corpses of the enemies to rain down without them even knowing where the fatal attack that killed them had come from.

The same also applied to Meow Meow if it didn't morph into its Regal Chaosfiend form. After gaining the Venus Fiendbone, its tail, claws, and fangs could pierce through any beast's defenses, no matter how tough they were. Even the strongest of tribulation artifacts would shatter from the impact.

Xian Xian's impressive crowd control abilities, in the form of Radiant Vines and Evernight Roses, allowed Ying Huo and Meow Meow to kill even more efficiently. Apart from Long Yichen, there was another seventh-level death phase samsaran hall lord to look out for. His lifebound beast was a gigantic black rhinoceros that was covered in spikes. The beast tried ramming Lan Huang from the front, only to be sent flying from the impact.

Tianming's lifebound beasts were far too powerful after assimilating the ultimate tribulation manna. It shouldn't be a problem for Tianming to fight against a hundred people at once if he had the time. The more he lashed out with Archfiend, the more enemy corpses rained down. He had lived through one encirclement after another, and now had the experience to deal with these kinds of situations. Not to mention, with Ying Huo's Infernal Armor on him, most enemy attacks only felt like tickles to him.

Chapter 793 - Mountainsea Worldshaker Dragons

With Lan Huang charging ahead, the tribulation elders weren't able to stop them at all. Not to mention, Meow Meow and Ying Huo's slaughter streak had forced most of them and their beasts to flee. Almost instantly, the only ones who could stop Tianming now were a hall lord and Long Yichen.

"Get out of the way!" Tianming cried as he swiped Archfiend toward them. The fifteen-tribulation-patterned weapon contained the power of the Archaionfiend Eye, which was nightmarish as far as most people were concerned.

Eight Desolation Hell!

The seventh-level death phase hall lord took the brunt of Tianming's full force blow with his axe, but it didn't do any good at all. The whip cracked and broke his leg immediately, sending him flying off. While these elders were much more experienced, they didn't have as many privileges and hadn't been nurtured with all sorts of precious items, like the likes of Ye Bodhi and Long Yichen, so they were far easier to deal with.

Now, only Long Yichen and his three lifebound beasts stood in his way; he was a triple beastmaster. That mad dog had pursued Tianming without relenting at all, last time, and now he was about to get in his way again. Tianming had never been so annoyed with anyone before.

"If you don't move, you'll die!"

"You're the one who's going to die!" Long Yichen cried. Even though the tribulation elders were afraid, Long Yichen dared to clash with Tianming.

"I only want the head of that vile fiend inside! If you don't make a fool of yourself, I might just spare you," Tianming said. Using his Eyes of Judgment, he could tell that Long Yichen was someone with barely a trace of sin. There didn't seem to be one bit of foul aura on him; he was the purest one in the entire Kilostar Domain.

"If you want to touch him, you'll have to kill me!"

"Is he your dad or something?! Or your master?! Did you come here just so you could wag your tail at him? Why would someone from Quadform protect a sinner from Nonahall with their life?"

"What do you know? The talented and powerful will naturally gain followers! Ye Bodhi is definitely worthy of that!" Long Yichen knew that Ye Bodhi was paying attention to everything that was going on outside. If he did well, he might just get to be Ye Bodhi's friend for real!

"You stubborn fuck!" Tianming couldn't be bothered wasting words with someone like him anymore. No matter how good, anyone that stands in his way of executing divine punishment deserves to die! "Lan Huang!"

Without needing him to say anything further, Lan Huang immediately crashed into Long Yichen's three lifebound beasts. Incidentally, they were rather similar to Lan Huang, being both water and earth types. All three of them had around seven hundred and thirty stars, which put Long Yichen among the top ten on the continent for his age. Each of the mountainsea worldshaker dragons were gigantic dragontortoises with mountains on their backs and seas on their bellies, along with the familiar dragon head, claws, and tail. The only difference between them and Lan Huang was Lan Huang's longer body, upon which nine kui mountains stood in a row like the teeth of a saw blade, while the mountainsea worldshaker dragons seemed more oval in shape, making them look shorter in comparison.

Additionally, while Lan Huang also had a 'tortoise shell', it still maintained the length of a dragon and was just as agile and ferocious. While the other three dragons were higher level at the seventh-level death phase, they looked more like Lan Huang's little brothers, allowing it to take on all three of them at once. The initial clash immediately sent the three dragons flying.

All four of them were fond of combat at close range, and they beat up quite a lot of waves as a result. Even though abilities weren't their forte, the three dragons' Thousandfold Drakeaqua Shield ability caused Lan Huang quite a lot of trouble. They were able to form a thousand shields using seawater, making soft and bouncy buffers to mitigate most of the force of Lan Huang's blows. Fortunately, its Kilofold Rings made up for it as they started spinning like a meat grinder. The three dragons weren't able to push against Lan Huang at all, allowing it a chance to fight back and almost flip the three of them on the backs of their shells.

"Are you alright?" Tianming asked with concern.

"That was fun! One more time!" Lan Huang roared with excitement. It was treating the fight as its playtime, but Tianming knew that nobody was more serious about playing than Lan Huang. The moment its motivation was sparked, it would fight even more feroclously.

Right now, the only one that could stop Tianming was Long Yichen. The other tribulation elders were being slaughtered by Ying Huo, Meow Meow, and Xian Xian. Some died and others fled; they were about to be completely wiped out soon.

"How can a single fly like you from the dying Monorigin Divine Realm change anything? Why don't you just submit to your fate? Run as far as you can! The Nonahall Divine Realm is too powerful! There's no chance you'll survive unless that goddess of yours dies!" Long Yichen advised once more.

"Will the world really be at peace if she dies?!" Tianming asked coldly.

"Of course not." Long Yichen knew that Nonahall had far more plans than that. His father, Long Cangyuan, was banking on getting more benefits in the aftermath.

"If even a naive idiot like you doesn't submit to your fate and tries to climb to the top by becoming someone else's dog, then why should I submit to mine?!" Tianming immediately closed the gap of a hundred meters and went in for a slash. "Long Yichen, it's too early to declare the winner. You're not the one who gets to decide that. If you're lucky enough to survive without being killed by me today, you'd better open your eyes and watch who will be the last ones standing on the continent!"

"I don't need to look! I know it'll be Ye Bodhi! You're just a speck of dust destined to die in the Kilostar Domain! Nobody will remember you a hundred years from now!" Long Yichen brandished his trident as he rode the waves, charging forward with great momentum. Ocean-blue armor appeared on his body, sporting twelve tribulation patterns, even more than his trident!

"Hearing you say that kind of makes me want to spare you," Tianming said as he turned to the white-robed youth within the formation. He didn't know what status he had, but his name definitely stood out.

"Now, begone!" Long Yichen rapidly spun his trident as a dragon roar came from his body. His blue armor was covered in draconian patterns. "Use your Dragonhide!"

As someone from the Quadform Seadragon Clan, he was quite interested in the armor as well.

"I don't need to use it for you!"

Chapter 794 - Saintking Body, Devourer Of Ten Thousand Hearts

There was apathy in Tianming's eyes as he split his Grand-Orient Sword in two. Without hesitation, he charged toward Long Yichen.

With the Skypierce Seashaker in his hands, Long Yichen used his Quad Azuredragon Slash. It instantly created a tide that crashed toward Tianming with unstoppable force. At that moment, he truly looked like a son of the sea.

As for Tianming, he was a lot less fancy when he used the Mortal Dao Sword, yet the sword intent behind the technique was beyond the understanding of mere mortals. It was a technique that combined two different sword arts, and with it, Tianming easily slashed through the torrent.

A shrill, ear-piercing sound exploded as the two weapons met. Tianming's sword looked frail before Long Yichen's trident, but it was capable of blocking the trident's every strike.

On the other hand, Long Yichen wasn't capable of blocking Tianming's black sword. A single hit from the sword was enough to shatter his armor, stunning him on the spot. When he looked at the white-haired youth, he saw an inquisitor from heaven ready to judge his sins.

"No, I can't lose here!"

At least Long Yichen hadn't been injured. He grit his teeth and roared as he felt his blood rush through his veins. He summoned the Kilofold Drakeaqua Shield from his mountainsea worldshaker dragons, which had a similar effect as Tianming's Infernal Shield.

"You can't beat me, Li Tianming!" Long Yichen's body shone brightly and his seventh-level death phase power surged out. Once again he stabbed forward with his trident using the Exalted Imperialdrake Strike. It was a technique that gathered the strength of every single muscle on his body, and he lashed at Tianming like a fearsome dragon in the sea.

"Haven't you learned your lesson?"

Tianming was quick to retaliate. He was way faster than the brutal Long Yichen, and his agility was exactly the key to winning this battle.

Using Animacorpus Eradication, Tianming parried Long Yichen's offense. It was a technique he was getting better and better at. Unlike before, killing intent suddenly surged from Tianming's body, turning him into a grim reaper.

With a clean swing, Tianming snapped the Skypierce Seashaker Trident in half and tore through the Kilofold Drakeaqua Shield. There was simply nothing Long Yichen could do to stop him. But the good news for Long Yichen was that the flexible nature of his shield had removed a good portion of force from that attack. It even deflected Tianming's sword slightly, such that it cut into his arm instead of his torso.

Tianming made use of the opportunity to send the Imperial Sword Prison into Long Yichen's body. Long Yichen managed to retreat just in the nick of time. Even then, the sword-shaped patterns that surged into his body exploded, tearing one of his arms off completely.

Long Yichen shrieked in pain, knowing that he'd had a close shave with death. This time it was his turn to run, and inside his mind he had already submitted to the man who almost killed him.

"Count yourself lucky," Tianming didn't bother finishing him off.

"Regroup!" Upon Tianming's command, his lifebound beasts came back to him. None of the tribulation elders came close to their level, so most of them were dead or injured.

Needless to say, Tianming had shocked them. With over a hundred people surrounding him, he had emerged unharmed. No one dared to stop him, Long Yichen included. In fact, Long Yichen was the one in the most pain. Not only had he lost an arm, but one of his beasts had already been killed by Long Huang.

He could only watch on in despair as the white-haired youth stepped into the center of the vortex. As expected, he was a hundred times faster than Ye Bodhi, and even Long Yichen was starting to worry.

"He'll be dead for sure if he goes inside."

"That's right!"

The remaining tribulation elders blustered from outside. None of them even thought of reporting to the ghoul kings, as they all fervently believed in Ye Bodhi.

Long Yichen was just as much of a believer as the rest. But this time he couldn't help but question the outcome of the upcoming fight. He could only watch on in suspense and pant nervously.

At that moment, Ye Bodhi entered the core of the formation. Without hesitation, he began sweeping the countless tribulation artifacts into his spatial rings. He never looked back, all of his focus on seizing treasures. But if Tianming were to enter the core, a battle would surely ensue.

Tianming didn't treat me as a worthy opponent. He didn't even use his Dragonhide... Long Yichen thought.

Tianming and Ye Bodhi were more than a decade apart. Normally, it would take a hundred years for them to become equals. However, despite Ye Bodhi being in his forties, Tianming, who was twenty, was already approaching his level. At Ye Bodhi's current age, he was barely considered an adult in Nine Divine Realms.

With the help of his black arm, Tianming broke through the vortex formation and dashed toward its core. Just moments after Ye Bodhi had entered, Tianming caught up. Ye Bodhi hadn't even collected a thousand artifacts by that time.

The core was in fact quite spacious, half of it covered by water and the other half sky. A hundred thousand tribulation artifacts were scattered around, some floating on the sea and others at the bottom. Tianming was surrounded by them the moment he entered.

Any artifact here would have been highly sought after back in Nine Divine Realms, not to mention the sheer quantity. Although these artifacts were ownerless, they still held great power from the spirit ores and beast blood that they had been crafted with. They could easily injure, or even kill someone carelessly exploring this place.

On top of the sea of tribulation artifacts, Tianming saw a bald man in a white robe. The man had one foot on a greatsword as he gazed at Tianming from above. There wasn't a single trace of mercy in his eyes.

When Tianming looked at Ye Bodhi, he saw not the body that was pale as snow, but instead the overwhelming sin in his body. He bore the weight of mountains of corpses and seas of blood, and Tianming saw countless souls howling below his skin.

"I'm curious, why do you eat human hearts?" Tianming knew he had to get out of this place as soon as possible, but he needed an answer. How could someone be so evil? What good does it bring him?

"Because it tastes good." Ye Bodhi stopped collecting artifacts and crossed his arms before his chest. He flew toward Tianming.

"Stop wasting time. I demand an answer, and no one will be able to answer me after you're dead,"
Tianming replied in a grim tone. He wasn't someone with a strong sense of justice, but the aura of sin
from Ye Bodhi's body was something he couldn't bear to see. He felt his killing intent surge, as if his own
heart was being eaten, and he felt the pain of those who died because of Ye Bodhi.

"My Saintking Bodhi Body was crafted by eating ten thousand hearts, and its strength is proof of the benefit of eating human hearts." Ye Bodhi said, licking his lips. "I heard the heartscourge worm wasn't able to eat your heart. Really makes me wonder what the heart of the imperial son tastes like."

"Saintking Bodhi Body? What kind of taboo technique is that? Only the likes of Nonahall will use sinister techniques like those." Tianming could tell that the jade white body was something to fear.

The Kilostar Domain didn't restrict a cultivator's physical strength, and in terms of his body, Ye Bodhi was even stronger than Ghoul King Xue Yi. Even Tianming's Ancient Deepstar Godbody that had absorbed four thousand stars was no match. After all, he had only been practicing it for a few months, whereas Ye Bodhi had been at it for four decades.

"What do you mean by sinister? The people have given me their hearts so that I can become a god that blesses them with a new world. They made a worthy sacrifice." Ye Bodhi said with a smile. "Now tell me, who told you that I eat hearts?"

"The heavens told me to do their bidding and take your life."

"Cut that bullshit," Ye Bodhi smirked. "You're quite someone yourself, so don't fool me with those fancy phrases. I would've believed you more if you told me you were envious of my talent. Don't you know heaven punishes those who enjoin kindness?"

"Who told you I'm here to promote virtues to you? I'm here to take the artifacts and end your life." Tianming said emotionlessly.

"Would you feel the joy of saving lives when you kill me?"

"No, but I'll become stronger!"

"Then you're not much better than me."

"You're absolutely right. You eat human hearts, but I'll eat you here!" Tianming saw little point in continuing the conversation and had already lost interest in Ye Bodhi.

In the sea of artifacts, Tianming would fight together with his four lifebound beasts. The core of the vortex was a concealed place, which allowed Xian Xian's Radix World Tree to reach every single corner. Lan Huang was hiding in the sea, its body strong enough to be unharmed by the artifacts inside. And on Tianming's shoulders were a bird and a black cat. He was dual wielding his gold and black swords, and his eyes glowed the same colors.

Tianming was like a starving man who had just found a feast. For once, he knew how Xian Xian felt when she was hungry.

Chapter 795 - The Fiend Eagle And Divine Ape, Rulers Of Heaven And Earth

Ye Bodhi's cultivation was restricted by the Kilostar Domain, but he was in fact in the eighth-level life phase. It was a feat that no one else in his generation could achieve.

"You shall die here!"

Tianming couldn't stop himself. Ye Bodhi was just too juicy a prey, like a fat slab of meat placed before a hungry wolf. Even the likes of Yin Po were nowhere close in comparison. He felt himself burning with desire.

"Aren't you awfully confident? Do you really think you can beat me, even in this domain?" Ye Bodhi sounded a little shocked, but he quickly grew disinterested. Tianming's rudeness had removed his interest in the imperial son, and all he wanted to do was to kill.

"I mastered a technique to dig out one's heart without killing them. When I use that on you, you can appreciate how my Saintking Bodhi Body is formed."

As he spoke, Ye Bodhi lifted up his arms. A majestic silver eagle dashed through the sky and landed on the back of his hand. On the other side, a small six-eared golden monkey jumped onto his shoulder. While the two beasts were small, they had the power to become bigger, just like Meow Meow. Both of them had over eight hundred stars, which placed them higher than Fang Qingli's beast.

At that moment, the two lifebound beasts suddenly grew in size. The little monkey bloated up and became a huge golden ape. While it still had six ears, it looked a lot more threatening with its sharp claws and fangs. It was a brutal war machine packed with power, and its thick skin was an impenetrable defense.

Interestingly, it had received a black rod from Ye Bodhi, which turned into a massive staff in its hand. The ape could wield a tribulation artifact, and Tianming wouldn't be surprised if it could use battle arts.

The six-eared divine ape was one of the most terrifying beasts on the continent. Its six ears gave it extraordinarily sharp hearing, helping it to accurately locate its enemies during battle. It was also extremely clever, and its ability to learn battle arts was no different than a human's. It held a Vajra Skyfall Staff, an artifact with twelve tribulation patterns.

Similarly, the silver eagle had grown in size and now covered half the sky. It was a metallic eagle, every inch of its body as tough as tribulation artifacts. Its wings were covered in neatly arranged silver feathers in the shape of longswords.

The myriad-sword fiend eagle was equally well-known across the lands. Like the ape, it excelled in close quarters combat. Even its internal organs were metallic, and it wouldn't die if its body was cut open.

Ye Bodhi looked sublime and holy when he stood on the palm of his ape. However, that only stood true if Tianming didn't use his Eyes of Judgment.

"Li Tianming, I hereby sentence you to death!"

That signaled the start of the battle in the arena packed with artifacts, while the survivors outside could only watch in awe.

Compared to Ye Bodhi, Tianming had a very obvious advantage, which was his number of lifebound beasts. Ye Bodhi's beasts weren't the only ones to grow larger, as Meow Meow had also transformed

into its Regal Chaosfiend form. Thunder clouded its platinum-colored eyes, and its body was wrapped in its Ninefold Chaos Thunderscape.

With a thundering roar, Meow Meow dashed into the sky. It targeted the myriad-sword fiend eagle that looked like a silver phantom. At the same time, Radiant Vines shot out of the Radix World Tree and closed in on the eagle.

However, it was way too fast and Xian Xian's vines couldn't catch up to it. It used its Silver Blade Storm, shooting feathers out like a rain of blades. Not only did it cut the Radiant Vines, it even managed to pierce Meow Meow's thunderscape and injure its body.

From this exchange alone, Tianming could tell that this would be a tough fight. Even with his cultivation suppressed, Ye Bodhi had mastered dangerous techniques.

On the other side, Lan Huang charged into the six-eared divine ape with the help of Xian Xian, but it ended up at an even greater disadvantage. Lan Huang's Kilofold Rings could easily grind anything it crashed into, and not even the ape could afford to take that hit. However, the ape was too agile for Lan Huang, as its six ears could easily capture any movements.

With its Vajra Skyfall Staff, the ape used its second-origin samsara battle art, Fiendape Club. If it weren't for Xian Xian's help, Lan Huang would be easily hurt.

On top of that, both of Ye Bodhi's lifebound beasts had mastered unique abilities that granted them varying degrees of agility and defense. When Meow Meow pierced the eagle's body using the sharp spikes on its tail, it barely injured the eagle, since its body was completely metallic. Meow Meow's tail nearly got snapped because of that.

As for Xian Xian, many of its branches were snapped and sent flying in the air.

While the Primordial Chaos Beasts were definitely more talented than the ape and eagle, they were still heavily disadvantaged by the difference in their levels. As such, the best they could do was to have Xian Xian stall the enemies and keep them busy. After all, the most important part of this battle was between Ye Bodhi and the Tianming Ying Huo duo.

Inside the arena filled with artifacts, every single move they made sent countless weapons flying toward their opponent, forming part of the attack. Up to now, all of the lifebound beasts, with the exception of Ying Huo, had been pierced by weapons, their blood splattered all over the place.

Some of the artifacts even formed a storm of weapons in midair, emitting jarring sounds as the weapons crashed into each other. That also caused the sparks of flames and other forms of spiritual hazards to fill the arena.

Within this storm of destruction, Tianming and Ye Bodhi battled with deadly moves. They were also surrounded by Infernal Haze, as Ying Huo used its Imperial Radiance like a sun in the sky. Not only did it spit fire at Ye Bodhi, but it was also using the Hexapath Samsara Sword Art.

Ying Huo's attacks were indeed causing Ye Bodhi a lot of problems. Its Infernal Blaze and Skyscorch Featherblast weren't attacks that he could simply block with his body. Even though his two beasts had the upper hand in their respective battles, they weren't in a position to help him anytime soon.

Ye Bodhi couldn't help but laugh. "So you think you can use me to break through? Are you stupid or naive?"

"Shut up. I don't listen to what a dead person has to say."

Tianming activated his Imperealm Sword Formation, so that the sword ki from his Grand-Orient Sword could help Meow Meow and the rest. Even then, he couldn't help but flare up when he heard them getting injured.

"Oh, I see." Ye Bodhi shook his head with a smile, looking a little bemused.

Even though he stood in a sea of sword ki and faced the fury of Tianming, Ye Bodhi was unafraid and didn't move an inch. Suddenly a burst of scarlet light erupted and an armor the color of blood appeared on Ye Bodhi's body. It was none other than Yama's Sanguine Ferocity, which had fifteen tribulation patterns.

"Do you really want to use the armor that was left behind by the person I defeated?" Tianming smirked.

"Then you must be mistaken. It was I who loaned this to Yama, but who could have guessed that he would bring shame to it?"

Ye Bodhi's Sanguine Ferocity was quite effective in blocking many of Ying Huo's moves, and not even Skypiercer Ki could pierce through its protection. Other than the armor, Ye Bodhi held no weapons, though he was wearing two gloves that were as thin as silk. On closer inspection, the gloves had fourteen tribulation patterns. Most third-origin tribulation elders didn't even own treasures of such quality.

On the back of each glove, there was a lotus woven by tribulation patterns. One of the loti was black, while the other was white.

"I'll show you how well my Saintking Bodhi Body can perform in this Kilostar Domain." Ye Bodhi clenched his fist tight and his eyes were hazy. His pale body suddenly shone with a blinding white light and in the blink of an eye, he leaped toward Tianming with a punch.

"This technique is called Salvation, and with this, I'll redeem your soul and let you go to bliss."

Tianming could tell that this was a third-origin samsara battle art from the force of the punch. That meant it was in the highest tier of samsara battle arts.

The first stance was called Saintking's Mercy. Despite its name, it would show no mercy at all, and was in fact a move to kill. The stance wasn't just a single punch, but consisted of an entire set of strikes. Each strike formed an imprint in the shape of a lotus.

Tianming parried using the Hexapath Samsara Sword, but to his dismay, he felt like he was stabbing cotton when his sword met Ye Bodhi's fist. He couldn't deal any damage to the gloves. On the other hand, Ye Bodhi's immense physical strength brought about a violent shockwave with every single punch. Not only did it suppress Tianming's Ancient Deepstar Godbody, it nearly even forced the Grand-Orient Sword out of his hands.

Luckily, Tianming was holding the sword with his black arm, or else his arm would have been torn off already. Even then, the force traveled to every corner of his body, causing him to cough out blood.

"You're pretty strong. I guess you didn't eat those hearts for nothing." Tianming's eyes were bloodshot, and his vision was blurred from the hit he took.

"The masses offered their hearts to me. If I don't achieve greatness, I'm bringing shame to them." Ye Bodhi smiled.

At that moment, Ying Huo dove toward Ye Bodhi's neck with its Animacorpus Eradication. But Ye Bodhi simply threw a blow that sent it flying into the distance, shattering its Infernal Armor as well as the artifacts it crashed into.

"Is this guy a damn monster?" Ying Huo was in shock. Even with its Imperial Radiance form, there was not much it could do.

As for Ye Bodhi, he was more at ease without Ying Huo to disturb him. Once again, he approached Tianming and cracked his knuckles.

Chapter 796 - Ask The Continent Who Shall Rule

"I tire of this. You're merely an annoying brat in the end. Let me send you to the afterlife."

Ye Bodhi unleashed his second strike, Heart's Mirror. This strike was even more miraculous than the first. While it wasn't equal to the Hexapath Samsara Sword Art, the fierceness of his Saintking Bodhi Body was still enough to oppress Tianming once again.

It was simply too difficult for Ying Huo to do any substantial damage in this situation. Ye Bodhi's body also had the Sanguine Ferocity that negated much of Ying Huo's flames.

At this moment, a constant stream of thoughts were running through Tianming's mind. Murder, living things, souls, nightmares, punishment....

Tianming had used numerous sinners to train his Ninesky Beastsoul Formation, but he hadn't yet found success.

It was simply too complicated! He knew all the ins and outs of it by now. However, he couldn't create the humongous formation; it always collapsed before it fully formed.

However, in this crucial moment of being stimulated by killing intent, Tianming had many new ideas. "If I can't form the swords, perhaps it's because the heart is lacking. What is the heart? It's a person's desire. Desire to live, desire to protect, desire to love! And now, my desire is to kill him!"

This kind of desire was even stronger than hunger. It allowed Tianming to forget he was even being suppressed. The setback caused by Ye Bodhi's Saintking Bodhi Body instead allowed Tianming to ignite all of his fury into towering killing intent.

"I will succeed this time around!" If Tianming closed his eyes, he would see nothing. But if he opened them, he would see Ye Bodhi's grin, as well as all the wailing souls around him.

"Kill him! Kill him!"

"Li Tianming, we want you to kill him!"

"Vengeance! Vengeance!"

They may have been dead, but their hatred remained very much alive. These voices weren't just the cries of the dead, but also the desire of the world itself.

"The death penalty for heartless experts!" There was no need to overthink things. The world itself was ordering it, and the victims that had lost their hearts were demanding it.

This wasn't murder, but helping the dead move on.

In this moment, Tianming ascended to a path toward the heavenly dao surrounded by the cries of millions of aggrieved ghosts.

The long-held wishes of these millions were enough to push him up! Tianming knew it wasn't him who wanted to kill Ye Bodhi, but that the world itself didn't approve of his behavior.

Tianming felt a force bring him back to his feet. He had realized something. If there really was some omnipotent existence up there, it wouldn't be an invisible god, but rather the highest laws of the world.

And today, he had become a living incarnation of those laws.

Tianming was like a true god right now, with the support of millions. He wasn't sure whether this might was the Primordial God-Emperor's or the heavenly dao's. All that he knew was that this state was rarely seen. He was a god chosen by heaven itself!

Tianming felt his mind undergo earth-shattering changes, and all of the profundities of the Ninesky Beastsoul Formation immediately became as clear as day.

"Beast of the nine skies, heed my summons! Channel your heavenly might where my sword beckons!"

Tianming's Dragonhide wrapped around his body. Despite the lack of wind, his hair began fluttering, and the various tribulation artifacts lifted into the air. Among them, over ten thousand swords appeared behind Tianming's back.

Emanating an executioner's aura, he used the Grand-Orient Sword to manipulate them; it wasn't his current strength controlling all these swords.

With a swing of the sword, the taotie, qiongqi, skyhound, torch dragon, flying serpent, guiche, taowu, suanni, and zheng—nine fierce beasts in total—manifested.

They were all formed from sword ki. They came, snarling and roaring. Taking up nine separate positions, they formed the core of a formation. Even Long Yichen and the rest outside could see the formation's energy filling up the whole area.

The six-eared divine ape and myriad-sword fiend eagle were quickly suppressed by beastsouls formed of sword ki.

Then, the formation exploded with raw power.

Tianming's first slash unleashed four beastsouls, sending them rushing toward Ye Bodhi. His second attack was a sword of death, containing five beastsouls within.

Ye Bodhi froze. How could some defeated lowlife suddenly erupt with such power?

In this life, he was fated never to understand.

In the entire continent, none would be found who could understand that karma and the heavenly dao truly existed.

"Li Tianming, I'll let you enjoy a certain attack of mine and end this farce!" Perhaps Ye Bodhi believed this attack of Tianming's was fated to be routed by him like all the rest before.

His third fist, Blissful World!

Ye Bodhi struck out with a heavy blow, his entire body emanating a majestic and unshakable aura. Backed by the power of his Saintking Bodhi Body, it was almost like his fist had the ability to create a new world.

"Begone!" Ye Bodhi's voice boomed.

White hair fluttering, Tianming's fiery gaze met his.

"Die!" The formation's power gathered, backing a sword thrust.

The shocking boom created by their collision was like millions of rampaging beasts as the golden Grand-Orient Sword met Ye Bodhi's fist.

Then, the sword ripped apart his glove. It proceeded to dig into his hand, then continued through his arm, entirely disintegrating it.

Ye Bodhi looked at his missing arm in disbelief.

Then Tianming's second strike arrived. It was even fiercer than the one before it, and was aimed at Ye Bodhi's mouth.

Sanguine Ferocity shifted to protect its owner. However, it couldn't stand up to the attack and the top-grade tribulation artifact with over ten thousand years of history shattered apart.

Ye Bodhi was sent flying away, a bloody mess. "Sanguine Ferocity?" Ye Bodhi frowned. How could someone's strength have changed so much?

The current Tianming was truly like a god, and finally made Ye Bodhi feel fear.

However, it was to be his last emotion.

The formation was still running, and this time it gathered the ten thousand swords and launched them at Ye Bodhi.

The first sword to strike Ye Bodhi's heart shattered on impact. However, he had no time to be smug as a second followed, then a third, fourth, fifth....

It wasn't Tianming's doing, but all the ghosts on Ye Bodhi that were attracting the swords. This was their personal vengeance.

Finally, the Saintking Bodhi Body failed and Ye Bodhi cried out miserably. He attempted to use his hand to defend, only for that to be pierced through as well.

Finally, the thousandth sword buried itself in its heart. Ye Bodhi screamed as his body continued to be pierced full of holes.

"Li Tian...." In his final moments, he looked at Tianming, fear finally in his eyes. However, he would never have the chance to finish his last words.

Ye Bodhi had perished.

The tribulation artifact swords ripped Ye Bodhi's body apart, removing him from existence.

At this moment, Tianming felt an endless amount of merit bestowed on him, allowing his heavenly will to grow.

Tianming pointed his sword skyward, and declared, "Kill them all!"

Ying Huo and the rest, who had been stifled all this time, immediately made a comeback with the support of Tianming's formation and Ye Bodhi's beasts were immediately ripped to shreds.

Tianming was aware that his power this time defied common sense and wouldn't happen again in the near future. Regardless, he had still gained the experience of being a god.

With the matter done, Tianming silently began storing all of the tribulation artifacts.

This scene was impossible to forget.

When he exited the vortex, all the surviving elders outside immediately fled in terror.

Only Long Yichen knelt before him, his body quaking.

Tianming used his sword to force Long Yichen's chin up.

"So, who were you saying was the future ruler of the continent?"

Chapter 797 - Deference

Long Yichen's entire body tingled when he felt the cold tip of the sword against his neck, and he audibly gulped. The sword was so chilling that he didn't dare to move one bit. Death had never been so close to him before. He breathed heavily, but didn't dare so much as swallow a larger gulp of saliva than necessary, lest his throat move too much and cause the blade to pierce into him. "You, it's you!" he answered helplessly.

"Didn't you say Ye Bodhi was the one earlier?" Tianming asked, still smiling.

"It was my mistake. I had eyes, but couldn't see. You are far more terrifying than I imagined. I am fully convinced of your abilities." To survive, he no longer cared the slightest bit about his pride. As long as he lived, there was hope, but once it was over, that was it. There was no way he would carelessly toss his life away without having fulfilled his life's aspirations nor avenged his mother. The sensation of dread from a brush so close with death wasn't something anyone would wish to experience.

"Hahahaha...." Tianming put his sword away and said, "No need to flatter me. I was only joking around with you. This continent has existed for aeons, and no single person was able to reign over it in any permanent capacity. Everyone's but an insignificant speck of dust in this world, in the grand scheme of things. If even the gods are slaves to the cycle of reincarnation, who am I to claim to be able to do even better than them?"

Having seen the likes of Ye Bodhi and Autarch Qian and gaining a new outlook with the Eyes of Judgment, he had gained a lot of newfound insights. "It's laughable how so many mundane people think they'll be able to move mountains and flip seas just because they know a trick or two. They delude themselves into thinking they've ascended beyond this world of ours to be its ruler. What they don't know is that everything in this world works according to its own laws and within its own framework. We mustn't forget to respect and honor nature, nor should we ever forget how insignificant we truly are."

Long Yichen couldn't understand what Tianming's words meant at all. The only thing on his mind was whether he would kill him as he lowered his head and waited nervously.

At that moment, Tianming walked past him and gave him a pat on the shoulder. "As you've lived a rather upright life, I will spare you today. Make sure to not stray from the right path."

Hearing that, Long Yichen's tense body finally relaxed. He laid flat on the sea, possibly deliberating how he would continue living on with a different outlook.

After leaving that star, Tianming selected somewhere quiet to study the shiny map in his hand. "If I'm not mistaken, this should be the starmap."

He had taken it from Ye Bodhi after killing him. The hundred thousand tribulation artifacts were far too much, and his own spatial ring wouldn't be able to store them all. Fortunately, Ye Bodhi had a lot of empty rings on him, so Tianming took them all. Now, he had more than ten thousand tribulation manna and a hundred plus thousand tribulation artifacts on him, all of which were near peak grade.

"These treasures will no doubt be able to raise Archaion's might by magnitudes. It'll turn our troops into an elite army. It's a shame I can't give them to them right now." Though, he wasn't in much of a rush. He was getting stronger in the Kilostar Domain anyway. "So long as I remain here, I'll be able to dominate. Whoever comes to me will be killed. However, evil fiends like Ye Bodhi really are far and few between. He must've been trained to cultivate the Saintking Bodhi Body by his parents from childhood."

Tianming could only look at that practice disapprovingly. The irony was that training a technique with such a saintly name actually required such an evil method as the consumption of human hearts. No matter how powerful one became, they would eventually have to bear the weight of their sin.

"There's actually nine black hole stars? I haven't gone to the last two. I wonder what'll happen after I visit them all? Come to think of it, someone on the level of the ghoul kings must be waiting for me at the last two black hole stars."

He continued to study the markings on the map, recognizing some of the stars he had been to. "So those two stars with treasures weren't marked. Ghoul King Xue Yi and the rest also seemed to be blindly searching for treasures. It looks like the markings might be fake... Or is it just Ye Bodhi's copy?"

He had many doubts about the starmap.

"Forget it, let's cultivate." He went to a lightning-covered star and reached its very center. "Not a single one from Nonahall is here. That must mean they've stopped searching for treasure in favor of waiting to ambush me."

He smirked. "Getting desperate, eh? I'll make you feel far worse than that. Ghoul King Xue Yi, please enjoy."

Someone like Ye Bodhi was akin to treasure for Tianming. After killing him, he got a lot of good karma. It was as if he was receiving a gift from the laws of the world and the aggrieved souls. If Ye Bodhi had such a staggering kill count, despite only being around forty years old, who was to say how many millions he would have killed if he lived to be a few centuries old?

After that battle, his Imperial Will had grown considerably. Not to mention, he had managed to gain a lot of life force thanks to the Aeonic Grandbane, allowing him to once more enter the life phase after three days of cultivating. "I'm at the fifth level now!"

Once more, his body transcended the death phase after his life samsara rings formed, returning him to a youthful state once more. Now, even young girls would be jealous of how smooth his skin was. However, that didn't mean he looked feminine. His current aura was cold and sharp when he kept quiet. Only when he smiled would he look like a pure young boy.

"Even though I'm at the fifth-level life phase now, I'm not suppressed by Kilostar Domain's sealing formation. In other words, it's based on level, rather than actual power. The formation isn't able to recognize how powerful anyone really is at any level. By the time I reach the seventh-level death phase, I doubt anyone would be my match if they come here. Though, I doubt there will be so many others who are like Ye Bodhi, or rather, I should hope there aren't. I can't pray for there to be more sinners for me to cull, or that would completely defeat the point."

Tianming felt that killing sinners for good karma was a slippery slope. He had to make sure his heart was always in the right place.

After his breakthrough, he left the lightning star. Now, there were few who could truly stop him within the domain. "You thought I was already a nightmare? Wait until you see what I have in store!"

.....

The currents endlessly flowed on the freezing water star. By now, the vortex where the formation used to be was no more. Long Yichen aimlessly traveled the seas on one of his dragons, not knowing where he should go now. The scene of Tianming killing Ye Bodhi, as well as the conversation they had, played back nonstop in his mind.

"Deference?" He couldn't figure it out no matter how he tried. The legendary Ye Bodhi was a saint in the Nonahall Divine Realm and had a really good reputation. He was their hope for the future. "And he's gone just like that!"

He sighed again and continued sailing about. Suddenly, he saw two flashes up ahead. While they weren't particularly bright, they were unique enough to catch his attention. He approached them and saw two white pearls.

"What in the world are these?" He put the two pearls in one hand and squinted at them, spinning them around as he did. All of a sudden, he smelled a fragrance.

"It's soft... and smells a little sweet?" He couldn't help but give it a lick. Abruptly, his eyes widened. "Bllleaaarggh!"

He coughed hard for a good while, struggling to breathe. "Ye Bodhi!"

He suddenly recalled that these two pearls were actually Ye Bodhi's eyes! While his body had been eradicated by the Ninesky Beastsoul Formation, not even Tianming knew the eyes were left behind.

"By my mother's balls!" Just as he was about to toss them away, he felt a chill down his spine. It was as if the eyeballs had turned by themselves. While they didn't have any irises, he felt them looking at him.

.

Near a black hole star, thousands of people had gathered, no longer in hiding. There were many more coming from all directions. The treasure hunt had stopped for good. Beside Xue Yi stood an old, green-robed man with half his face green in color and the other half looking normal. He was covered in boils and dirt, and pus could be seen oozing out of the boils. He was the ninth ghoul king, Qing Ming. Most of the people that had entered the Kilostar Domain with the ghoul kings were gathering by their sides.

"Has word been sent to Li Caiwei and Feng Qingyu?" Xue Yi asked.

"We informed those of their sect. They should be hearing about it soon. The other four sects have all stopped their search and retreated to the entrance of Kilostar Domain. As for those from our sect, they're gathering near the two remaining black hole stars," Qing Ming said.

"In other words, we can't track down Feng Qingyu and Li Caiwei?" Xue Yi seemed rather dissatisfied.

"They were gone the moment they entered the domain. As far as we're concerned, they can claim to have not received our notice with plausible deniability."

"Those two seem to be overestimating themselves," Xue Yi said with a cold glare.

"It's what we expected. Their realms aren't weaker than Archaion, after all, and they're rather powerful themselves, too."

Chapter 798 - Black and White Skypalaces

"What about Changsun Shenqiong?" Xue Yi asked.

"He was just with me. I informed him of the plan and he's on his way here with the rest from Heptastar," Qing Min said.

"Looks like Quadform and Heptastar are rather obedient," Xue Yi said.

"That's true. However, leaving Long Cangyuan alone at the other black hole star isn't too appropriate. I'll have someone take his place later," Qing Ming said.

"Alright. What about establishing contact with our sect outside?"

"It's been done. A thousand and five hundred eighth-level death-phase tribulation elders will be sent here as reinforcements. As a consequence, we have to temporarily let up the pressure we're applying to Pentaphase. I notified Ying Zi and Fu You, so they should be coming to our aid as well. With all of us working together, the other four sects don't dare to come to the Kilostar Domain at all, so we only need to leave one ghoul king outside."

"Alright, then this will be it. Once we've all gathered, we must give it our all to deal with Li Tianming and Dugu Jin. We can't make any progress if we don't kill them. For now, we can still afford to stop treasure hunting and deal with the pests first."

"It's best we deal with them fast, too. If word of this gets out, not only will we end up the laughingstock of the continent, our allies will also start doubting us."

"I know!" Xue Yi didn't need Qing Ming to point it out; he could feel the rage burning within him.

Right as Qing Ming was about to leave, a dozen tribulation elders haggardly ran over, looking as if they were about to suffer a mental breakdown as they knelt before the two ghoul kings.

"What's going on?" Xue Yi had a bad feeling. His eyelids had been twitching quite often lately, something he considered to be a bad omen. His eyes simply couldn't stop twitching when Xia Ziluan was killed.

"Ghoul Kings... Li... Li Tianming killed... Ye Bodhi..."

"He even made off with a hundred thousand tribulation artifacts, all of which have eight or more tribulation patterns!"

"Those treasures had just shown up. We were the ones who discovered them first, but then Li Tianming came slaughtering our way!"

They sounded so out of breath that their voices shook as they made their reports. Their words shocked everyone present.

"Are you guys sick in the head? That joke's in real bad taste!"

"Fuck off!"

"Ye Bodhi's at the eighth-level life phase. He's probably already stronger than us. Not to mention, he cultivates the Saintking Bodhi Body. The ones who can deal with him here in Kilostar Domain can probably be counted on one hand."

"But can we really be sure?"

The news was so shocking that most people found it hard to believe. In fact, they were angry at the ones making the report, thinking that this was their idea of a sick joke.

"Ghoul King, we witnessed it directly and are willing to stake our lives on it."

"Apart from Ye Bodhi, we also lost more than sixty tribulation elders to Li Tianming."

"Ghoul Kings, please avenge them!"

They broke down into a fit of agonized crying.

"If this turns out to be false, your heads will roll," Qing Ming said with a shaky voice.

"We swear on our lives it is true."

"Many others were there to witness it too. They'll soon come to report the same thing."

"By the way, Long Cangyuan's son is still alive. He was defeated by Li Tianming and had to escape. He should be here with us shortly."

Based on that, there was little chance that what they had said was false. The faces of the thousands there instantly changed.

"Ye Bodhi is the son of those two beings...."

"He was destined to stand at the very top.... Even if he was in the Kilostar Domain, how could he be defeated?"

"This is getting serious!"

While the death of Xia Ziluan was a personal matter of Xue Yi's, the death of Ye Bodhi was something that concerned the entirety of the Nonahall Divine Realm. That was the difference between his and Xia Ziluan's status. Ye Bodhi was truly held in the highest regard in the Nonahall Divine Realm.

Now, they were all panicking at the implication of his death. While they had a lot of life experience, having lived long lives, they had never heard of the Nonahall Ghost Sect being pushed into a corner like this ever before. The deaths of Yama and Hei An back during the Number One Summit weren't that much of a big deal as they were still far too young and couldn't be compared to Ye Bodhi at all. Everyone turned to the ghoul kings for answers; even the ghoul kings looked to each other, feeling a chill down their spines.

"What do we do?" Qing Ming said, his eyes wavering.

"This is getting out of hand. What happened can no longer be changed. We absolutely have to deal with this annoying fly as soon as possible. That way, we'll at least have something to answer with. Otherwise...." Xue Yi was feeling genuine fear. He furrowed his brow as he thought of the white-haired youth, feeling ultimate regret for not killing him the first chance he had. Now, everything was getting out of hand. Tianming had done the impossible and shattered the heavens!

"That's right. Things are completely different from before."

"The exalted two spared no effort on raising and nurturing Ye Bodhi. I wonder what the situation at the sect is right now...."

Xue Yi felt like he was being pulled apart by Tianming himself. He wanted to slap himself in the face really badly.

Breaking the silence, he called for one third-origin elder and said, "You, ask the ghoul kings outside to bring Yi Xingyin here when they enter. It's about time we put him to use."

Qing Ming grit his teeth. "I thought we wouldn't need to use him at all. How could we have known that it would come to this?"

"Even Yi Xingyin isn't necessarily useful to us now, but we'll give it a try anyway. The way I see it, with how ruthless that brat is, he might not care if Yi Xingyin lives or dies at all," Xue Yi said.

At the end of the day, everything that had happened had gone far beyond their wildest imaginations. Xue Yi thought that he had reacted quickly enough to things already, but it couldn't be helped. Tianming, with the help of his Eyes of Judgment, was an unhinged demon, hunting down one sinner after another and fueling his growth to the point that he was able to deal a huge blow to the entire Nonahall Divine Realm.

.....

The Specter Mountains within the Nonahall Divine Realm looked like a sleeping giant. At the location near the giant's heart was another forbidden area belonging to Nonahall Ghost Sect. The area was grey and desolate, with not a single blade of grass growing. It was as silent as a cemetery.

This was actually the place where Ye Bodhi had grown up. There were two buildings in that area, one pure black and hidden in the shadows and the other pure white, but not the saintly kind. Instead, it was the pure white of the bone of a person worked so hard that it had turned pale. These were the legendary Black and White Skypalaces, which all disciples in Nonahall were aware of. However, few had the fortune to see the place for themselves. Only the strongest of the sect were allowed to cultivate there, and not even every ghoul king had the right to enter it. Yet today, a ghoul king dressed in purple came to the palace after making his way through the thick fog. It was Zi Xiao.

"Bodhi's lifesoul stone has shattered," said a woman's voice from within White Skypalace. It sounded old and coarse, like that of a dying crone. The voice stated it as if it was a matter of fact, carrying not a hint of emotion at all.

"That is correct," Zi Xiao said, nodding. "A few days ago, my son Gu Yunge and daughter-in-law Xia Ziluan also perished."

"Is it the doing of that imperial son?" asked a man's voice from the Black Skypalace. Oddly enough, the voice sounded like that of a prepubescent teenage boy. The two voices made for quite an odd pair.

"Yes," Zi Xiao said, nodding.

"Fourth, have Bodhi's eyes been found?" the man asked.

"Yes. They are now on the way back to the sect."

Chapter 799 - Living to Enlighten

"Send them here the moment they arrive," said the woman from the White Skypalace.

The two of them spoke in a really weird tone that sounded like they were emotionlessly reading a script.

"Understood," Zi Xiao said. "As for the matter of vengeance—"

"Let Third handle it. Bring him here if capturing him alive is possible. Otherwise, kill him and bring his corpse back here—and those of his lifebound beasts as well," said the man.

"Understood. I will inform Third to do it as soon as possible. This can't be allowed to drag on any longer. It's already caused enough chaos."

"How is Jiang Wuxin's progress?" asked the woman.

"It's going well. He's still trying to resist and retain his ego, however. Haha.... There's no way Feng Qingyu knows what we're doing here," said Zi Xiao.

"Make sure that you and Third don't mess up. When Third is done with his task, we have to start putting our grand plan into action. We've been waiting two hundred thousand years for this," said the man.

"Be on your way. If Third faces any trouble, send him reinforcements. Forget our reputation and do anything you have to, just get the thing done," said the woman.

"Understood. Also, there is another matter I have come here to discuss."

"Speak."

"A young girl came to our sect. Her lifebound beast claims to be from the cosmic aether and has lived for a million years, only to fall to this state. It says it knows Li Tianming's true identity and can provide our sect with a method to grow stronger."

"What is it called?" asked the man.

"Archaionfiend."

"The true owner of the Archaionfiend Eye that's being suppressed by the Heaven Cauldron?" the man continued.

"That's right."

"Invite it here. Treat it with respect."

"Understood. I will handle it immediately." Zi Xiao immediately turned and left, leaving the Black and White Skypalaces to quiet down once more.

"Now this is getting interesting. Even the legendary Archaionfiend has shown up. It looks like it's about time for our vengeance," said the man before he laughed like a child.

"Aren't you in pain that Bodhi is gone?" asked the woman.

"Pain? I don't understand what that word means. Bodhi lived to enlighten. His eyes are windows. That was his greatest mission in life, and his birth alone was the greatest contribution he made toward the realization of our shared dream. He managed to protect the eyes, and that alone is something he deserves ultimate praise for."

"I see."

"Qingqing."

"Yes?"

"Trust me. It'll all be worth it."

"Okay."

.....

Tens of third-origin tribulation elders, many palace lords, divine marshals, Fang Taiqing, and Jian Wuyi were gathered within Tribulation Hall at Taiji Peak Lake. They were discussing the war taking place on Pentaphase's territory. The situation didn't seem optimistic and the atmosphere of the hall was pretty cold and distressing. At the very end of the discussion, they all fell silent. Their foes were currently putting pressure on them to divert their attention away from the Kilostar Domain, and there was nothing the four sects could do about it.

"Word is that the number of those defending the entrance of the domain has decreased. Are they trying to lure us in?"

"That's certainly a possibility. But charging in based on a conjecture like that might be fatal."

When it came to matters of war, they needed confirmed intelligence rather than empty guesses. Their discussion fell into a stalemate once more.

"Come to think of it, so much time has passed. Perhaps our enemies obtained some kind of ultimate treasure that they can use to completely dominate us on the battlefield."

"Our relationship with the other three sects is far too weak now."

"Had we not sent reinforcements quickly enough, some within Pentaphase might've betrayed us. Even now, the situation is still really volatile."

"The moment our enemies come out with treasure from the Kilostar Domain and apply even more pressure to Pentaphase, not even Sect Master Jiang Yuanjun will be able to stop them. He doesn't have full say in his sect."

"If Pentaphase falls, what about the other two?"

They weren't trying to smear Pentaphase's reputation. They were merely stating simple facts, and that alone showed how helpless their situation was.

"It's all the Kilostar Domain's fault. It represents far too many unknowns. We and our allies are terrified at the prospect of our enemies acquiring treasure there."

This was the point when their loyalty to the sect would be tested. Who would sacrifice the most for the sake of the sect when the option of giving up and fleeing seemed to have virtually no consequences? If they were able to leave the Nine Divine Realms, they would be safe, given their power. They were all wearing sour expressions.

Fang Taiqing sat in the very top seat as he listened to their discussion with his eyes closed. Time seemed to flow really slowly, and everyone felt their hearts anxiously beating.

"Report!" All of a sudden, a middle-aged general in armor barged into the hall. His expression was one of agitation and he couldn't help but laugh loudly, much to the others' confusion.

"Stop embarrassing yourself! Report if you have anything to say!" snapped a third-origin tribulation elder.

"Zhao Liu, take this seriously!"

"Yes, yes!" The general stifled his laughter by clearing his throat. "It isn't a battle report, but rather a message from our informant in the Nonahall Divine Realm."

"Read it," Fang Taiqing said, staring daggers at the general.

The man cleared his throat and began, "News from Kilostar Domain: Imperial Son Li Tianming is experiencing rapid growth within. As the elites from the five sects are suppressed by a sealing formation within the domain, they aren't a huge threat to the imperial son. Lately, he has assassinated more than eight hundred tribulation elders and forced Ghoul King Xue Yi to stop hunting for treasure. They arranged for a thousand and eight hundred eighth-level death samsarans to be sent into the domain as reinforcements as part of an effort to kill the imperial son but have had no results so far.

"Additionally, two treasure spots have been discovered within the domain. The first was a stash of fifteen thousand grade five to six tribulation manna and the other contained more than a hundred thousand tribulation artifacts with eight to ten tribulation patterns. The treasures from both sites have been claimed by the imperial son.

"Most shockingly, the Nonahall Divine Realm fell into chaos yesterday when word spread that Ye Bodhi, the son of the second ghoul king, was killed within the Kilostar Domain by the imperial son, who, to this day remains safe."

The words were met with utter silence. They thought the start of the report sounded ridiculous enough, but they couldn't have expected it to sound much more ridiculous as the report went on. They had seen how powerful Tianming was back then, so they knew that Tianming was far from the level of Ye Bodhi, the winner of the Number One Summit the last time around. They were on completely different levels. Not to mention, Tianming had allegedly managed to claim the only two treasure troves that were discovered. Were Feng Qingyu, Li Caiwei, Xue Yi, and the rest slacking off or something?

Someone laughed and said, "Did the informant betray us to mess with us?"

"It is indeed possible."

"This is too ridiculous. Is Nonahall so dumb that they thought we'd believe something like this?"

"What a load of bullshit. Why didn't they just tell us that Li Tianming killed Ghoul King Xue Yi, Feng Qingyu, and Li Caiwei as well? Surely that wouldn't sound any less believable than what we've heard."

They were so pessimistic they were trying to find some humor in this ridiculous report.

"Hand me the written report," Fang Taiqing said.

"Sect Master, there's twenty-eight of them, all sent from Nonahall and they all corroborate each other. Some informants even state that the imperial son has killed the children of two ghoul kings, Gu Yunge and Xia Ziluan, respectively," said the general as he took out a thick stack of reports.

"Twenty-eight?!"

Their eyes were about to fall out of their sockets.

"That's right."

"Hand them over," Fang Taiqing said, receiving the thick stack of reports. After reading them all, he handed them to Jian Wuyi, who then handed them to the third-origin tribulation elders. Not a hint of laughter could be heard within the hall. Many of them read the reports with their eyes completely bloodshot.

"We got another eighty-one reports from Nonahall!"

"Three hundred and ninety-one reports from Pentaphase just came in!"

"Divine Marshal Fang Shenyu sent a report that the troops of Nonahall are losing ground from the chaos after news of Ye Bodhi's death spread!"

Tribulation Hall was completely filled with loud discussions. The third-origin tribulation elders received the reports and read the same information from all of them. Six hours later, the reports had piled up to a little hill. Everyone described the news in their own way and praised Tianming like he was a god. Despite the exaggerations, the reaction from Nonahall basically confirmed a few facts.

First, Tianming was alive and growing even stronger. Second, he had obtained two treasure troves, enraging Nonahall to no end. Third, he had killed Gu Yunge, Xia Ziluan, and the famous Ye Bodhi. By now, people were no longer laughing at the reports at all.

They could already imagine the rage felt by Xue Yi and how haggard he and the other old elites must have felt. They had already given up all hope that Tianming would be able to leave the Kilostar Domain alive, yet now they were fraught with tears from the sheer adulation and relief they felt.

"Dammit, if there's someone to claim the title of imperial son, Li Tianming is the definitive one!"

"Could he really be the reincarnation of the founding ancestor come to save us?"

"Fuck.... This old man hasn't cried a single tear in the past two centuries. But the imperial son made me.... Hahaha...."

Fang Taiqing stayed silent for a long time. He took some of the reports and turned to leave.

"Are you going to Xuanyuan Lake?" Jian Wuyi asked.

"Yes."

"I'll come along."

"Sure. Let's go."

They flew straight in the direction of Xuanyuan Lake.

Fang Taiging shook his head and smiled. "Don't you think it's marvelous?"

"It truly is. When I first saw him, I just tossed him in the Human Branch. If it weren't for Her Eminence, I wouldn't even have bothered to pay him any heed."

"Haha...."

"However, now that Nonahall has been forced into a corner, Xue Yi will no doubt be applying even more pressure," Jian Wuyi added.

"The imperial son is still in danger, it appears," Fang Taiqing agreed.

Chapter 800 - A Thousand Paper Cranes

Within Soulburn Hall, Fang Qingli announced, "Your Eminence, the Heaven and Human Branch sect masters wish for an audience."

"Okay," said a soft voice from within the bedroom. It sounded a little listless and unspirited. Not long after, a girl in a light blue dress emerged. Even a simple dress like that looked like the most precious piece of treasure when worn by her. No matter how down she looked, it didn't take away from her beauty one bit.

"This way, Your Eminence." Fang Qingli followed Feiling to the hall, where only three people were, the two aforementioned sect masters and Xuanyuan Dao, the Earth Branch sect master.

"Your Eminence, we sorted through the reports from our informants concerning the Kilostar Domain. Please give them a look. We can confirm the veracity of the information," Fang Taiqing said with a calm look as he handed them to Fang Qingli, who then passed them to Feiling.

Before looking through it, she swept her gaze at Fang Taiqing and Jian Wuyi, who seemed rather calm, then to the beaming Xuanyuan Dao. Is this good news? I must hold back and show no emotion if I'm to play my role, she reminded herself. Even though she was no longer worried about her identity being exposed, she still had to keep up the act.

Slowly, she threaded her fine, slender fingers through the thick stack of reports. The contents were clear and without any embellishments, and Fang Taiqing had vouched for their truth. Tianming had killed Ye Bodhi, taken the treasures, and shaken the whole Nonahall Divine Realm.

"Now, news of this has been made public. Soon, the entire Flameyellow Continent will know about it. Worship for our imperial son will soon skyrocket. It should further secure our alliance with the other sects and raise our troops' morale," Fang Taiqing said. He seemed far more relaxed after receiving a fresh dose of hope during a time of despair. Fang Qingli, who didn't know what the news was yet, looked at him oddly.

By now, Feiling had finished reading it. She tried her best to control her shaky fingers and regulate her feelings so that she wouldn't tear up. Big Brother....

Knowing that he was fine was the best news she had heard in a long time. She held her breath, trying her best to not lose control no matter how great the news. She was the goddess. She wouldn't react emotionally like that. Suppressing her turbulent feelings, she calmly looked at the three of them as she handed the reports to Fang Qingli.

After she finished reading them, her face was tense with disbelief. She read through them a few more times, eyes so wide open that her eyeballs seemed like they were about to pop out. "He killed Ye Bodhi...."

Ye Bodhi had made a deep impression on Fang Qingli. Back then, she used to have a disciple who was also a member of the Sterling House of Fang. During the last Number One Summit, that disciple had fought Ye Bodhi in the final round and was defeated in a single move, losing a lifebound beast in the process. Even though the beast was made into a lifebound spirit, the disciple killed himself from despair in the end. Back then, Ye Bodhi was already a nightmarish entity from Nonahall, yet Tianming had killed him ten years later!

Fang Qingli had to admit that her son was right no matter how hard this was to believe. She looked at him and saw the conviction in his eyes.

"Congratulations, Your Eminence! Congratulations to the imperial son as well! The imperial son indeed didn't disappoint Your Eminence's expectations! Not only did he survive and kill a terrifying foe, he even got his hands on treasure that can turn our entire predicament around!" said Xuanyuan Dao. He seemed to be in the best of moods.

"Treasures that can turn the tables?" Feiling turned to the three sect masters and said, "Heed my words."

"Yes!" they said in unison as they knelt on one knee.

"Make sure our informants pay extra care to the developments in the Kilostar Domain. I want the latest updates. Not to mention, gather our elites and make sure they're prepared. Whenever Bi— Tianming has any plans to leave the domain or gets in some kind of trouble, we have to spare no effort to rescue him. The treasures must be claimed at all costs! At the same time, make sure the other three sects have a force ready for Tianming's rescue as well. That way, they'll also get a share of the treasure we get our hands on."

She knew it was a risky move, but it was the only way she could ensure Tianming's safety. She didn't want to miss a chance to protect the one she loved again and helplessly remain in hiding in Soulburn Hall.

"Your Eminence, roughly how many of our elites do you want assigned to this task?" Fang Taiqing asked.

"I don't care, as long as Tianming is safely returned to us. If the tribulation manna and artifacts fall into enemy hands, our chances of winning will be diminished even further. Tianming has already done his part, so we must take this chance to do ours as well."

"Understood! We will discuss the details with the other three sects. They should have received news of that as well. The allure of the tribulation manna and artifacts is huge. I am sure they will also give us their best effort. However, if we take the initiative to attack, we might leave our sects open to surprise attacks that will result in even more losses to our side," Fang Taiqing reminded.

"It's a gamble we have to make." Feiling wanted to save Tianming too badly, so it wasn't a negotiation so much as an order. "Let's get our forces ready and continue to observe the developments in the Kilostar Domain. He might well be able to do more there. Our time to act will eventually come."

"Yes, Your Eminence. I will get to it immediately. Jian Wuyi and I will be leaving for the other sects, so we will be leaving Xuanyuan Dao to take charge of things here."

"No problem," Xuanyuan Dao said. He hadn't left the Pentadragon Seal Formation for some time, after all.

"If we avoid risk and take a step back, we may end up suffering even more losses down the line. We would rather fight to our deaths than surrender. We must let the enemy know of our might rather than fail our realm. There is only one ending for cowards, and this is our only chance to avoid it. We must march forward boldly, but also carefully." Given her age, it was already impressive enough for her to be able to say something like that before the three sect masters. Without Tianming, she didn't have any mental support. But she wouldn't let the slightest bit of hope slip away from her just like that just because she didn't manage to stand her ground.

"Your Eminence's words are wise. We are thankful for them."

The three set masters left Soulburn Hall.

"You should leave as well. I need a rest," Feiling told Fang Qingli.

"Yes, Your Eminence." She left with her head lowered, still holding the reports.

When she was gone, Feiling stepped down from the throne and entered her bedroom. The chilly wind ruffled her hair, revealing her blushing face and crystalline eyes. They were so clear and sharp that one could almost clearly see their depths. When she reached the entrance of her room, she finally couldn't hold it in any longer and broke down in tears, though she kept her smile in spite of them.

"Idiot... I can't keep crying like this or Big Brother will laugh at me when he gets back. If he returns...."

She hurried into her room, took out a wooden chest, and placed it on her desk as she sat down by it. Then she opened it with an audible click. There were a lot of paper cranes within them, all neatly arranged together and made with immaculate detail. She carefully counted each of them.

"There's exactly a thousand of them." Her lips curved into an alluring smile as her eyes faintly shook. "The nanny in the palace used to say that paper cranes carry the power of thoughts and emotions. If I miss someone, I should fold one each day, and by the thousandth, they'll convey my feelings to the person I'm missing. I hope they'll keep Big Brother safe, but I was too hasty and folded too many each day and finished a thousand within two weeks. If my nanny finds out about this, she'll definitely laugh at me. But if I ever get a chance to go back, I'll tell her about it. It really works!"

She looked at the paper cranes, her gaze filled with wonder. They almost seemed alive to her, each one looking like a lively Ying Huo flying around Tianming's side and protecting him from the pursuit of countless elites until he returned to her side, safe and sound.

"You must come back. Even if it means that I can no longer keep up the act as goddess, I must save you." She tightly clenched her hands and tried to infuse the cranes with her hopes and prayers.

"Your Eminence," someone said from the entrance as she was about to pray.

Now, her face was covered in tears. She couldn't see anyone in this state, but she knew it was Fang Qingli even without looking.

"Didn't I ask you to leave?"

"My mistake, Your Eminence. I shall take my leave now."

"Wait." Feiling stood up and continued, "What is the matter?"

"It is nothing serious. Sect Master Fang Taiqing wanted to ask if it was okay if only the other two sects send their elites over, since those from Pentaphase are occupied with defending their territory."

"That is fine," Feiling said. With the front lines at the Pentaphase Divine Realm, any large troop movements would easily be spotted by the enemy.

"Understood. I shall take my leave now." Fang Qingli bowed and respectfully retreated.

When she was gone, Feiling put her paper cranes away. "You must stay safe."