

The Ages 801

Chapter 801 - Dead People Walking

Within the Kilostar Domain, a group of around two thousand people were advancing from the center of the domain. They were the people from the three sects of Nonahall, Quadform, and Heptastar, respectively. Nonahall had fourteen hundred alone, while the other two sects each had around three hundred. They were currently in search of the twenty-odd tribulation elders that were supposed to be on the surrounding stars.

The eighth-level death phase tribulation elders had informed them to stop their treasure hunt and head toward the black hole star. As they were afraid of running into Tianming, they didn't dare travel in small groups and chose to move together. The two thousand odd people truly stood out, and all of them were talking about how Tianming had killed Ye Bodhi and taken the hundred thousand tribulation artifacts. The discussions raged on, with many tribulation elders of rather advanced age huffing angrily at Tianming. Most of them had their heads down and grimaces on their faces. Among the second-origin tribulation elders who were at the eighth-level death phase, two were from Nonahall, one was from Quadform, and another was from Heptastar.

"Currently, the status quo in the Kilostar Domain has completely flipped. If that fellow was able to kill Ye Bodhi, he could easily sneak onto a star and kill whoever he wants," said Xiang Jinxin from Nonahall.

"He's only one person too, so he can escape much more easily," said another Nonahall elder, a middle-aged man called Lou Feiyu.

"Not to mention, those of us above the eighth-level death phase have our cultivations suppressed. I doubt anyone would be able to stop him even if they were stronger," said Long Qunqun, a beautiful middle-aged woman sporting a luscious figure.

"If it was our sect master or the ghoulish kings, we'd still stand a chance. It's a shame that the brat is too adept at running," said Changsun Wusheng from Heptastar.

The four of them were in charge of leading the two thousand plus cultivators to meet up with Xue Yi at the black hole star.

"How could a single brat force us into a corner like that? We have no choice but to travel with no less than a thousand people. Even a few hundred seems too small. How embarrassing. Let's hope the ghoulish kings get rid of him as soon as possible."

"Soon. Don't worry, the Kilostar Domain is our main priority, and we're only dealing with a single annoying fly. I doubt the five ghoulish kings and four sect masters won't be able to deal with him."

"If only our group of two thousand can run into him. Just spitting at him at the same time will be enough to drown him."

The group had at least three thousand or more lifebound beasts, so they were essentially an army of five thousand, and all of them were at least at the sixth-level life phase or higher. Were they outside, they

would no doubt have been considered a top-tier army and invading the other divine realms would be no problem for them. Just like that, they continued on their way, cursing and complaining in the process.

All of a sudden, a huge wave rose on a water star they were passing through. A gigantic, two-headed dragon came barging out and rammed into the two thousand tribulation elders. The dragon looked a little like a tortoise and had nine sword-shaped kui mountains on its back. Its head, claws, and tail were incredibly huge and powerful, and there were a thousand stellar rings around its body that further added to the threat its two pairs of glowing eyes projected. Its appearance completely shocked the two thousand elders.

It was none other than the Primordial Terraqua Dragon, Lan Huang! Riding on one of the gigantic brown dragon heads was a white-haired youth clad in black. In his arms was a sleeping cat that had all four legs facing the sky. Perched on the youth's head was a fiery-red bird with its wings spread wide open as it shouted, "Old fogies, listen up! You are now surrounded by yours truly! If you know what's better for yourself, remove your pants and be ready for inspection!"

Those words sent a silent chill throughout the ranks. Everyone turned their heads to the little phoenix and the youth.

"That's Li Tianming." Everyone recognized him, however they never would have expected that they would run into him like that. In fact, Tianming was even the one who made the approach!

The little phoenix continued, "You worthless goons, did you hear me? I paved this road, I planted these trees, and you have to pass my toll if you want to cross! The price is your balls! What? The women among you have no balls? It's alright, I'll let you pass! This gentlechicken here is kind to the ladies!"

Tianming gave it a slap when it was done.

"Damn it, I misspoke! You're all old crones anyway! You shan't pass either!" Ying Huo hurriedly corrected.

With that, it was clear what Tianming's intentions were.

"Are you trying to stop all two thousand tribulation elders yourself?" Long Qunqun asked with disbelief.

"What? Surprised?" Tianming asked.

"Not really. You indeed are impressive. For a junior like you to be able to force our five divine realms to stop our treasure hunt out of fear is impressive, even if we take into account the sealing formation. However, you should understand that the fact we were able to live this long means we aren't pushovers. With two thousand of us, we'll easily be able to crush you," Lou Feiyu said.

"You aren't even pushovers to me. You're dead people walking." Then, the fifteen-tribulation-patterned Archfiend appeared in his hand. He gave it a large swipe, causing the bloody chain of eyeballs to stretch to two kilometers long. All of a sudden, countless cries rang out. The others turned to look and saw Archfiend pierced through the bodies of a dozen tribulation elders, skewering them all together. As the chain hadn't hit their vitals, they were still alive and suffering from the pain.

"You're courting death!"

In an instant, the two thousand elders exploded with rage. Not even the ghoulish kings would dare challenge all of them at once in Kilostar Domain.

"Come down to the star if you want to kill me! You won't get another chance!" Tianming then rode Lan Huang back onto the oceanic star. The others couldn't stop Tianming from dragging the tribulation elders he had skewered along with him. They descended to the star, still impaled by the chain and screaming in agony.

"Come down, you trash!" Tianming cried, looking at them from the surface of the ocean. His robes flapped from the strong winds as he glared domineeringly at them. The sheer gall of a young man in his twenties showing that kind of attitude to those a few centuries his senior was unprecedented.

"Cowards, you aren't even brave enough to hunt me down after I showed myself? What did you do in your centuries of life? Clean up dog shit?!"

Tianming's mockery and disdainful expression were on point, and it completely inflamed the group. They were all glaring at him with bloodlust. Never before had elders like them been treated like this by someone younger with such impunity.

"Everyone, stop! It might be a trap!" Lou Feiyu yelled.

"What kind of trap can there be? He's alone! Even if Dugu Jin is with him, all of us can kill him without a doubt!"

"Fucking hell, how can there be a brat like him?! Does he think we're easy to mess with? I've never been so angry in all my life. If you don't go, I'll go! If I die, it's just my shit luck!"

"If we don't dare to attack with two thousand people on our side, can we still proudly claim to be from the Nonahall Divine Realm?! Were you guys raised as cowards?!"

There was no excuse for such a big force like them to retreat now, and the individual elders all had their own plans. If a force of their number wouldn't have to fear five or six ghoulish kings, since their cultivations were also suppressed to their level, why should they fear a suicidal brat? The moment any of them attacked, the rest would surely follow suit. The leaders would no longer have any control.

"Seal off that star! We will swarm that brat to kill him if we have to!"

"I've killed more people in my life than he's met in his. How could I run away now?!"

"If you're afraid of death, leave and inform the ghoulish kings about this! Fuck it, I'm going!"

The elders were all filled with resentment following the death of Ye Bodhi and the loss of all those treasures, not to mention Tianming humiliating them by taking some of their comrades down the star to torture. His provocations also hadn't helped; they were all people of reasonably high standing and wouldn't allow themselves to be slighted without consequence.

Chapter 802 - Hot-blooded Youth, One Against Thousands

Lou Feiyu noticed that people were no longer listening to him. After all, his status and backing wasn't significantly higher than the majority's. About sixteen hundred of them had charged toward the oceanic

star, singlemindedly homing in on Tianming. Including their lifebound beasts, there were about four thousand enemy targets charging toward the white-haired youth.

"Damn.... Are you really going to make such a huge gamble?" Ying Huo said, a little stunned at the sight.

"Yes. We have to get rid of as many as possible while we're within the sealing formation. This will greatly change the outcome of future battles." As he spoke, countless branches sprouted from his body. The Radix World Tree took root and began growing all over the oceanic star.

"Killing so many will considerably increase the weight of your sin, though."

"We don't necessarily have to kill them. Just destroy their saint palaces and they'll no longer be able to harm anyone." Tianming was opposed to senseless killing.

"That'll just make this even harder. Are you sure you want to do that?" Meow Meow asked, just awakening.

"Let's at least try. If we can't win, we can still run. It's not like they can catch up to you," Tianming said.

"Eh? Why am I always the one to clean up after your reckless actions?"

"That's the burden of those with power, my brother."

"It's no excuse to get yourself into reckless situations!" Meow Meow continued cursing him in his mind.

In actuality, he would mainly be counting on Xian Xian for this insane battle. Xian Xian dominated in group battles, so Tianming wanted to test the limits of its performance while they were within the sealing barrier. There was little doubt that he alone posed more of a threat than the two thousand. If the eighth-level samsarans wouldn't be able to defeat Ye Bodhi even with his level suppressed, they would be no more a threat to Tianming than normal seventh-level death samsarans.

"Fine. As your brother, I'll indulge your recklessness for once! Those mutts have been chasing us for quite a while. If we deal with them here, it'll be a huge blow to Nonahall. More and more will come, and we'll continue crippling as many as we can!" Ying Huo declared, slapping Tianming's head excitedly with its wings. "You have guts."

"I don't. Without the four of you here with me, I'd never do something like this. I'm just being dragged along into the limelight by you four," Tianming said.

"Not bad. You finally know your lowly place—"

"Haha, now get to work, chicken!"

Before Ying Huo finished, Tianming grabbed it by the neck and flung it away.

"Oh fuck!" it cried when it was tossed into the midst of the enemy lifebound beasts. "Li Tianming, you ain't human!" It hurriedly used Infernal Haze to avoid being vaporized.

With Ying Huo attracting much of the enemies' firepower, Xian Xian managed to dominate the battlefield with her roots.

"Everyone, fight with Xian Xian at the center. Help each other out. Run if you can't defeat them!" Now, Tianming was far more daring than before, having reached the fifth-level life phase. He really wanted to do as much as he could for Archaion and Feiling. "You wanna try to harm my girl?! Then die, you shameless old fools!"

If this worked out, it would be the beginning of something beautiful. He would become the nightmare of the Kilostar Domain! After gaining the ability to see sin with Eyes of Judgment, he no longer dared to kill as he pleased. However, merely crippling them shouldn't be counted as a sin, right? Not to mention, there were at least two hundred heavy sinners among the two thousand. Those were the ones who charged at the very front.

"Die!" Tianming activated the Imperealm Sword Formation with the Grand-Orient Sword still on his back, covering the entire battlefield with stray sword ki. Having a portable formation was a huge asset in a group battle like this. Anyone who stepped into his formation's range would constantly have to be on watch for sword ki strands.

Then, water splashed all over the place as Lan Huang's meat grinder activated. It was just laying in wait for the enemies to come. As for Ying Huo and Meow Meow, they were small, indistinct blurs that were more than capable of taking care of themselves.

However, the one Tianming relied on the most was Xian Xian. The Evernight Rose glowed brightly on the main body of the tree; it had used Evernight Curse at the same moment the Imperealm Sword Formation had been deployed. Tianming was counting on the rose's pollen to drive the two thousand plus enemies wild so that he would stand a chance against all of them at once. Such was the might of Primordial Chaos Beasts!

The fine pollen spread throughout the battlefield, seeping into the tribulation elders' bodies through their skin and orifices. A small amount wouldn't really change their behavior much, but as the battle progressed, they were sure to lose their reason.

"Make sure to protect your little sister!" Tianming said as Infernal Armor started forming around him. Ying Huo was still cursing Tianming, but it hadn't forgotten to manifest the armor around him. It was a softie indeed.

"I don't need you to tell me that! Anyone that dares to touch my sister will be bitten to death by me, Tortoise Supreme!" Lan Huang roared with such volume that it hurt the ears of those around it.

"Since when do you call yourself that?!" Tianming snapped. He continually had to convince others that Lan Huang was a dragon, only for it to call itself a tortoise.

"Chicken Bro said that makes me sound more formidable! Don't you think so too?" Lan Huang earnestly asked.

"No way!" Tianming felt the cringe from how daft Lan Huang could be sometimes.

"Fine!" Lan Huang's nine kui seas rapidly spun, propelling its huge body through the ocean toward a huge group of enemies. Its Kilofold Rings were going at full rumble; not only were they an effective means of offense, they also provided a strong defense that most would find hard to pierce through. Lan Huang left a wake of minced meat and blood, while Ying Huo and Meow Meow tore through the enemy

ranks beside it. With a crackle of lightning and a flash of platinum, Meow Meow tore through the enemy's defenses, allowing astral pollen from the Evernight Rose to more easily seep through, sowing even more chaos.

"Die!" Xian Xian's spiritform cheered with its fists raised, oddly cute despite its genocidal utterances. Its main body began raining down Bloodrain Swords and Radiant Vines all over the battlefield. Coupled with its roots, it could take on far more enemies than the other three beasts combined. Thanks to it, Tianming was able to remain calm and collected. He stood atop of the Radix World Tree and was so small in comparison that the elders had a hard time spotting him. Every time Archfiend lashed out, tens of saint palaces would be pierced through. Tianming welcomed their approach and continued harvesting their saint palaces.

"We must hold on!" The reason Tianming had picked the oceanic star to fight, rather than fighting in space, was so that he would have one less direction to worry about enemies coming from. Here, he was akin to a mobile fortress. Despite the sheer number of enemies, he and his beasts were only engaged with two to three hundred at any given time. Most of them were sixth-level death samsarans, so even the weakest of them weren't to be scoffed at.

The first clash between the two sides actually managed to force Ying Huo and the rest back. While the enemies' abilities weren't that strong, the force of a few hundred of them combined was far from something they could ignore. Even Lan Huang couldn't quite take it with its Kilofold Rings. Tianming knew it was risky, but he was still counting on Xian Xian's Evernight Curse as his trump card.

"Once more!" Lan Huang continued the slaughter with Ying Huo and Meow Meow. Every time they were in danger, countless strands of black and gold sword ki would force their enemies away. At the same time, a bloody chain continued dancing above the sea, taking down enemies at a frightening rate.

Countless glowing shields formed of Radiant Vines protected the Radiant Daffodil and Evernight Rose, while the Scarlet Lily continued firing Bloodrain Swords nonstop, easily overwhelming one opponent after another. While Xian Xian was weaker than the other three when it came to single combat, it made up for it by being able to suppress a huge number of enemies at once. Countless Scarlet Lilies were constantly firing off barrage after barrage of Bloodrain Swords.

"Cut that tree down!"

"Once that tree is gone, this brat will be done for!"

"Burn it! Let that cursed brat die! How dare he be so impudent as to challenge all of us at once?!"

"Does he really think Nonahall is so easy to deal with?!"

The elders were soon able to pick the right target to focus on. The tree was too big to miss, and many of them attempted to switch their focus away from Lan Huang to Xian Xian.

"Anyone who dares to try will be killed!" Tianming dropped everything, putting Archfiend away and splitting the Grand-Orient Sword into two before charging in with the Dragonhide equipped. He unleashed a slash that manifested a dragon of about a hundred meters long, sending it charging into the hundreds of lifebound beasts and their masters that were attacking Xian Xian, slicing many of them in two.

"You want to see who's more savage?!" Tianming wielded his swords in both hands as he engaged in fearless slaughter, filling his foes with terror. He was going on a killing frenzy. He had planned to run if he couldn't take them out, but his fighting spirit had suddenly swelled. He had a feeling that he could well cripple more than a thousand of them!

Chapter 803 - The Eternal Night Of Chaos

Now that the battle had progressed thus far, escaping would only hurt morale. Tianming and his lifebound beasts were spiritually connected, and practiced symbiotic cultivation. Thus, all four of them felt the fire raging in his heart.

"Hold on. We can do this!"

Ying Huo wandered over to Lan Huang's side. Their opponents were in the midst of attacking Lan Huang with their lifebound beasts when Ying Huo snuck up on them. Under the cover of Lan Huang's gigantic body, the tiny chicken became an unstoppable killing machine.

Meanwhile, Meow Meow unleashed Myriad Thundernet, trapping a large number of their opponents. The power of lightning erupted as black lightning tore through their flesh and blood. The pollen from Xian Xian's Evernight Curse was mixed in with the lightning, melting into their wounds and circulating through their bodies.

"Lan Huang, are you alright?"

Tianming was worried for the 'little guy.' Because it liked to charge and break through enemy lines, it attracted a lot of firepower. This time, dozens of lifebound beasts surrounded it, trying to pin it down. Fortunately, its revolving Kilofold Rings cut a bloody path through, covering the sky in blood.

Numerous attacks bombarded the Kilofold Rings, some of them actually passing through and exploding onto Lan Huang's Infinite Stardragon Diagram scales. Blood splattered everywhere.

"This is so much fun! I like it!"

Lan Huang's roars shook the crowd. It threw the beasts off its back and continued attacking. Its thick claws slashed at a vajra tiger, the impact smashing its opponent into mush. Destroying the enemy's saint palace was meticulous work that Lan Huang simply wasn't suited for. Thus, Tianming hadn't demanded that of it. He was relieved upon discovering that Lan Huang's injuries were minor.

In fact, he himself was dealing with worse. For the sake of merit, most of the enemies charged toward him, employing deadly methods. Fortunately, Tianming was nimble. No matter how many of them there were, they would certainly interfere with one another. In this short period of time, he hadn't had to deal with many of them at the same time.

Combining his two swords, Tianming bolted straight into the crowd, violently killing his way through. In fact, the Imperial Sword Prison alone could seal their powers, rendering them weak and incapable. Thus, there was no need for Tianming to aim for their saint palaces. But to be honest, a sword through the saint palace was both faster and more violent.

After drawing the tribulation elders toward himself, the pressure on Xian Xian was reduced and its Radiant Vines were capable of resisting the abilities blasting from above. With the numerous attacks, the vines eventually exploded. In Tianming's lifebound space, Xian Xian's spiritform screamed in pain.

But because Xian Xian had people it wanted to protect, it wasn't afraid. On the contrary, it unleashed its ferocious nature, killing even more fiercely. Rays of the Evernight Rose radiated all around. In fact, each ray was composed of tens of millions of flecks of invincible dark astral pollen, which showered all over its enemies.

Holding on wasn't easy. Tianming was battle-weary; the Dragonhide had depleted his energy. In the end, it disappeared on its own. His body was stained with both his own blood and the blood of his enemies and his lifebound beasts weren't doing much better.

However, their enemies were even more miserable. Amidst the starry sea, countless beastmasters and lifebound beasts lay unmoving. These were either corpses, ones who had their saint palaces destroyed, or were sealed by the Imperial Sword Prison and unable to move. At least a tenth of the sea was dyed red with blood, an indication of how violent the battle had been up to that point.

"Brothers, now that it's come to this, let's persevere for half an hour more!" Tianming shouted.

It felt good fighting side by side with his brothers. As he had once said, beastmaster and beast in a lifetime of symbiosis without regrets. Although he was surrounded by thousands of people, Lan Huang, Ying Huo, and Meow Meow guarded him and he watched out for Xian Xian, while Xian Xian in turn protected all of them.

"With this sort of relationship, this shared destiny, and friends who live and die together, what more can I ask for?" Tianming laughed.

"Stop babbling! Come save me!" Chased by a group of people, Meow Meow was forced to run as fast as it could.

The fact that they could still joke around during such a fierce battle made their opponents so angry they vomited blood.

"I'll stab their old butts!" Ying Huo shot toward them.

"Chicken Bro, what a weird fetish you have! I'm going to vomit!" Meow Meow shivered.

"Cat Bro, are you pregnant? Chicken Bro said that those who are pregnant will vomit!" Although Lan Huang was covered in blood, it could still turn around and laugh.

"Chicken Bro even said that he's fallen in love with you. Do you believe that?" Meow Meow retorted.

"Oh no! I'm about to vomit too!" Just as Lan Huang feigned vomiting, someone sliced at its neck, almost removing one of its scales.

"Be careful, you idiots!" Xian Xian shouted.

They were actually still joking around at this point. Had it not been for Xian Xian's control over the battlefield, the enemy would have broken their defense a long time ago.

But the good news was that people had begun falling into the chaos and frenzy of the Evernight Curse. One of them was inadvertently implicated by someone else who was attacking Tianming. Because of that, he burst into a rage, snuck an attack from behind, and beheaded the man amidst the chaos.

“Changsun Feiyi, are you mad? How dare you kill a disciple of the Nonahall Ghost Sect?” The surrounding folk who caught sight of it were furious.

“What's wrong with that, you bunch of self-righteous old bastards? To hell with your fucking superiority! I think you must be tired of living. The Nonahall Divine Realm will perish sooner or later!” When a person was irritable, mad, and had lost his mind, they were susceptible to speaking their true thoughts.

“This man is crazy. Kill him!” A dozen tribulation elders from the Nonahall Ghost Sect swarmed over, chopping the Heptastar Aerial Sect disciple to pieces.

“Why is the Nonahall Ghost Sect killing our people?” Many Heptastar tribulation elders had only seen the murder of their man.

“He killed one of us first!”

“Bullshit! Why would he do something so stupid?!”

“Are you trying to pick a fight? Isn't the Heptastar Aerial Sect our running dog? Now that you're one, you must learn to kneel and bark. You can't have dignity and enjoy advantages at the same time!”

“Don't go too far. We'll report everything you say to the ghoulish kings and our sect master. You'll be punished for trying to destroy our alliance!”

“Trying to scare us with the ghoulish kings? Brothers, slaughter these dogs! There'll be dog meat to eat today!”

If everyone confessed their true thoughts, how many alliances could actually remain strong? Even if they were still sane and found the situation strange, they were bound to lose control of their emotions when their dignity was trampled on.

The dark astral pollen in their bodies was the source of all these changes. In the beginning, the chaos was limited to a local area.

Most of these people were attacking in a frenzy, causing a greater threat to Tianming and his lifebound beasts. Soon, it became impossible to persist. Step by step, they were inching ever closer to defeat. However, such scenes of brutality appeared more and more. Many of the elders had yet to figure out what was happening before they were attacked by the people around them.

Being reviled as running dogs while they were exerting themselves had set off the fragile emotions of the Quadform powerhouses. They weren't convinced by Long Cangyuan's behavior to begin with. And now, under the influence of the Evernight Curse and such vile insults, they, too, joined the battle.

At that moment, eternal night had truly descended as the entire star sank into mayhem.

The chaos spread like a plague, growing bigger and bigger as the dark astral pollen continuously multiplied in their bodies, driving them mad. The Primordial Chaos Beast's terrifying ability spread like

poison, erupting at critical points. Even Tianming found it hard to believe it'd had such a destructive impact.

"Attack!"

What a joke! Tianming was originally the one under siege. But now, most of his opponents had fallen. The infighting had begun just because of an accidental injury, which sparked insults that set off the rage. All of them were trapped in the rage of the Evernight Rose.

In this bloody battlefield, the black astral flowers shone brightly. Countless stars were born, turning into dark astral pollen that spread in the air. What a bewitching scene it was!

"Here comes our opportunity!"

Pulling out the Archfiend, Tianming followed the crowd.

Under such circumstances, no one could stop him. Afterimages of Archfiend flickered across the sky as it violently pierced through the crowd, blood splattering wherever it passed. One by one, their saint palaces were destroyed. Boundless life and death tribulation energy returned to being the spiritual energy of heaven and earth, so the entire star was enveloped in a majestic aura.

One by one, the pale and weak tribulation elders fell into the sea. Although they were crippled, they still possessed enough physical strength that they wouldn't drown in the water. But the scary thing was, they were still under the influence of the Evernight Curse even though their saint palaces had been destroyed. What a spectacle it was to watch them crawl to their feet and continue fighting with the people around them.

In the starry sky beyond, there were about three hundred people who personally witnessed this incredible scene.

"Are you crazy? Stop!" a pale Lou Feiyu shouted, but to no avail.

"Why are they fighting?" Long Qunqun of the Quadform Oceanic Sect was trembling.

They had watched as Tianming inch closer and closer to defeat and were about to head down when everything suddenly went up in flames.

"It's that tree. That black flower is definitely causing the confusion!"

"How frightening! It's actually able to affect so many of them. What kind of lifebound beast is it...."

"I've never heard of any lifebound beast having such a terrifying effect."

"Wouldn't this tree be able to thwart an entire army once Li Tianming reaches the later levels of the Samsara stage? Isn't that tree more horrifying than a broodmother-type beast?"

Tianming would only be even more terrifying on the battlefield.

"Don't just stand there! Let's save them!"

"Save them?! We must inform the ghoulish kings right away. Why walk right into our deaths?"

“You’re right. If we go down there, we might be killed by those mad bastards before we can even get to Li Tianming!”

“Who are you calling a mad bastard?”

“Stop fighting!”

There was chaos both above and below. Out of the three people, about half of them fled. Of course, that wasn’t what they called it; they were going to “call for reinforcements.”

“Don’t run. Come down for some tea, you old dogs.” Tianming’s unbridled laughter drifted from below.

Chapter 804 - The Starving Xian Xian

Although Lou Feiyu and the others seethed with anger, they grit their teeth and fled. Those above had mostly escaped, and a third of those below remained sober, frightened out of their wits. Under the stimulation of blood, those people behaved like deranged demons, each more terrifying than the other.

Tianming didn't have to attack them; they were fighting each other! Not even the sober ones could escape, especially those from Heptastar and Quadform. They were lower in number and besieged by the Nonahall Ghost Sect. They would have long perished if the Nonahall elders weren't busy killing each other.

One by one, the beastmasters and their lifebound beasts were crushed. About two hundred people guilty of serious crimes were beheaded on the spot.

“Compared to Ye Bodhi, these people are just small fries that won’t contribute a lot of good karma. It looks like progressing with good karma is just a temporary plan. I still need to settle down and keep improving. After all, there aren’t many fish larger than Ye Bodhi in the Flameyellow Continent.”

Sometimes, a person’s strength wasn’t necessarily proportional to the extent of evil he had committed, and the ghouls might not have sinned as much as Ye Bodhi. Therefore, Tianming didn’t think he could go for a lifetime relying on good karma.

Steadily improving himself was the true path of the beastmaster of the ages.

In a violent slaughter that lasted for an hour, there were at least four hundred tribulation elders who were crippled by Tianming himself.

His lifebound beasts had also crippled quite a few. Due to his control, they didn’t kill as many. Most of them were first severely injured by fighting amongst themselves, then had their saint palaces destroyed by Tianming.

At the end of the battle, only five hundred of the two thousand tribulation elders who were originally passing through managed to escape. More than three hundred of them had died in battle, and a thousand were crippled. Right now, they were still beating each other up in the sea.

Even the clearheaded ones were frightened out of their wits at such a tragic sight. Anyone clueless about the situation might assume that they had been attacked by thousands. Even if word of this got out, no one would believe that Tianming had singlehandedly dealt with them.

Those who were sober stared at the bloodstained white-haired man on the Radix World Tree, trembling and at a loss for words. Despite Tianming's young age, all they felt was fear.

"Is he really the reincarnation of the Great Emperor Xuanyuan?"

"His methods are terrifying...."

"We've lost."

"I have a feeling that the Kilostar Domain, which we believed was already ours, will be dominated by this young man."

"How is he a sitting duck?! Clearly, we didn't know any better and rushed headfirst into the dragon's lair!"

One wouldn't be able to understand their despair unless they had experienced this unbelievable battle and the effects of the Evernight Curse. Perhaps more farcical was the fact that there were still others climbing over, still clamoring for a fight despite their shattered saint palaces.

"How dare you mess with my wife!"

"When the hell did that happen? Zhao, my thing hasn't worked in the last twenty years!"

"What? My apologies. I've got the wrong man!"

Such an absurd situation had actually taken place. Although they were still alive, these men were filled with sorrow.

"We're finished."

"It's better to die than to live like this."

"I'm leaving. You can keep playing!"

Several of them actually committed suicide. Tianming couldn't be bothered with what choices they made in the end. All that mattered was, he had won!

"With more than fifteen hundred of you gone, more people of Archaion will survive."

That was the point of this desperate battle.

Tianming's lifebound beasts returned to his lifebound space so they could quickly heal, and he didn't stick around to wait for the arrival of reinforcements. There was no way he could fight tens of thousands of people.

None of them dared to chase after him. They could only watch him leave with pain, sorrow, and fear in their eyes.

Tianming was well aware there were many spies from the four sects inside the Kilostar Domain. The news that he had slain Ye Bodhi and seized a hundred thousand tribulation artifacts would cause a sensation in the continent. They would be even more shocked to learn that he had crippled more than fifteen hundred tribulation elders on his own.

"Just remember, this isn't the end. I want the five divine realms to foam at the mouth at the mention of my name!"

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Tianming recuperated on a star of flame. In Tianming's lifebound space, the light from the Prime Tower was currently healing him and his four lifebound beasts. Among them, Lan Huang was the most badly injured. Fortunately, though, it hadn't suffered any internal injuries thanks to its thick skin. As soon as its condition improved a little, Lan Huang was alive and kicking once more, clamoring to come out to play.

"I feel awful." Exiting his lifebound space, Xian Xian's spiritform lay on Tianming's shoulder.

"What's wrong?" asked Tianming.

"My leaves and vines have been damaged, and the injuries can only be healed by eating meat. Unfortunately, there's no meat. I'm so hungry I'm about to faint." Xian Xian pouted, its breath so weak it seemed to be dying.

"In that case...." Tianming felt a headache coming on.

In order to store the tribulation manna, he had thrown out all the meat. But now, Xian Xian had been injured and couldn't heal.

"Rest for now. I'll think of something."

"Hurry up then, Half-Old-Man. I'm about to faint from hunger." Xian Xian rubbed its eyes pitifully.

"Don't call me that," said Tianming.

"Alright, Little Plum." Xian Xian turned its tears into laughter.

"Who taught you that?" asked Tianming.

"Chicken— I came up with it!" Xian Xian replied.

"Dammit, not you again, you bloody chicken!"

Tianming pulled Ying Huo out of his lifebound space.

"You can actually feed Xian Xian some of these lifebound beasts." Ying Huo said in all seriousness.

"No way," said Tianming.

"Since we've killed them, all that's left is their corpses. They no longer exist. If you don't eat them, they'll rot sooner or later. It's all the same," said Ying Huo.

"You're right. There's no rule against eating lifebound beasts. It's just a rule I came up with. We must have our own principles and necessary restraints," Tianming replied.

"I don't understand." Ying Huo seemed confused.

"We have many uncontrollable aspects. Having certain restrictions in place is good for us," said Tianming.

"I get it. I just feel sorry for Xian Xian," said Ying Huo.

There were too many unknowns regarding the Primordial Chaos Beasts.

No one could know what the future held. Therefore, they had to define their principles from the beginning, and perhaps that way, they would be able to escape when trouble struck.

"It's alright. We can discuss what to do in the future," Tianming said with a smile.

Chapter 805 - I Have A Huge Appetite And I'm Going To Kill You, Ghoulish King

This conversation was very important. After all, everyone had their own ideas and Tianming would try to respect them. At the very least, he would try his best to convince them. His lifebound beasts weren't tools; they were living, breathing brothers and sisters of his. Tianming had been worried ever since he had first glimpsed the dream from the Radix World Tree.

"Don't worry about Xian Xian. I'll find a way," said Tianming.

After recuperating for a while, he got up, spread out the starmap, and looked at the two remaining black hole stars. One was on the far left of the map while the other was on the far right. Tianming was currently in the middle of the two.

"They've stopped searching for treasure so the people, as well as the ghoulish kings, will have gathered around these two black hole stars. I'll head over to one of them and take a look."

After selecting the star on the left, Tianming went on his way. He had a feeling he was close to soaring to the next level with the help of good karma. What he required was a truly wicked person to make his breakthrough. However, he could perhaps accomplish more, given his current strength, such as venturing into the two remaining black hole stars.

.....

Near the black hole star on the right side of the starmap, hundreds of tribulation elders were spread out before Xue Yi as they reported what had happened in despair. Deathly silence followed. How many times had this happened?

The first time, Tianming had seized more than ten thousand tribulation manna. The second time, Xia Ziluan and Gu Yunge were killed. The third time, Ye Bodhi died and a hundred thousand tribulation artifacts were stolen from them. The fourth time, fifteen hundred tribulation elders were crippled.

Out of all four events, that was the most terrifying one. One man against thousands—he was considered a devil in the Kilostar Domain.

"This battle truly showed just how strong this man is."

They had experienced this deathly silence and boiling anger too many times, and were no longer shocked. There was ruthlessness in the eyes of all the tribulation elders present. They grieved over the deaths of their people; who wouldn't be angry? They stared at Xue Yi.

He was the commander for their operation in the Kilostar Domain and should be held responsible for allowing a junior to force them into such a situation. In fact, Xue Yi's order to stop searching for treasure was an acknowledgment of Tianming.

Xue Yi frowned in puzzlement. What he couldn't figure out was how a person's strength could grow in such a short time?

"Even if he's Xuanyuan Xi reborn, there's no way he could soar to such an extent. Such progress is unprecedented in all two hundred thousand years of the Flameyellow Continent's existence. Neither I nor the other two have the answer to this," said Xue Yi.

Although he was in great emotional distress, he had managed to compose himself and now considered Tianming an opponent equal to a sect master. That way, he wouldn't have to swallow the shame of attacking a junior.

In fact, the reason he had been forced into such a situation was something he would never even dream of—that is, the inheritance of the Primordial God-Emperor. For a cultivator to progress by slaying the wicked and gaining good karma was a miracle never before seen in all the history of the Flameyellow Continent.

The disparity in information limited Xue Yi's imagination. Otherwise, he could have sent the wicked out of the Kilostar Domain at the very beginning. If he had done that, Tianming wouldn't have had a chance. Sometimes, once a person missed an opportunity, they could only make up for the loss.

That was Xue Yi's current situation. But he wasn't the only one; the others had yet to figure out the cause as well.

"Where the hell did I go wrong?" Xue Yi laughed.

Before everything was clear, he had actually been played by a junior. But because of Ye Bodhi's death, the entire Nonahall Divine Realm was now cursing and swearing at Xue Yi.

As he was lost in thought, a large group of people arrived. There were more than a thousand second-origin tribulation elders.

In terms of strength, they were close to the top in the Kilostar Domain. When gathered together, they were at least ten times stronger than the two thousand tribulation elders who had faced Tianming earlier. Leading them were the two ghoulish kings, Ying Zi and Fu You.

As soon as Fu You arrived, he took half of the elders and headed straight to the other black hole star. Xue Yi's gaze landed on Ying Zi, who was hidden in the shadows.

She held a black net in her hand that was full of spikes. Inside it was a bloody man. Many of the spikes had penetrated his flesh, bones, and internal organs, to the point that the man seemed to have become one with the net. One could imagine how painful it was. He was a middle-aged man who was originally very handsome, perhaps one of the most good-looking middle-aged men in the continent, with sharp

eyebrows, starry eyes, a tall nose, and a short beard. He seemed gentle and learned. Even though his hair was disheveled and his body was covered in blood, he was still calm and composed.

It was Yi Xingyin. Upon closer inspection, one would see that the net he was trapped in had sixteen tribulation patterns. It actually exceeded the limit that most people were aware of. To many, the most powerful tribulation artifacts had fifteen tribulation patterns.

“Don’t we have another Shadow Prison?” asked Xue Yi.

“Yes. I prepared it for Li Tianming, and I’ll be able to catch him, as long as he shows up,” said Ying Zi.

“It’s alright if you set out with your lifebound beast. After all, there aren’t any traces. He’ll be trapped before he even finds you,” said Xue Yi.

“We have no choice. Now that things have escalated to this point, the army’s morale has been affected. If I’d known this would happen, I would’ve entered sooner,” said Ying Zi.

“It’s my fault for not taking this kid seriously.” By this point, Xue Yi had admitted defeat. “Ying Zi, we’re all counting on you now.”

“Don’t worry. There won’t be a problem with Yi Xingyin in our hands,” said Ying Zi.

“Yes.” Xue Yi drifted toward the man in the black net.

“Hey, Xue Yi! I haven’t seen you in a while, but your lips are just as captivating,” Yi Xingyin laughed.

“I can’t compare to the gorgeous Xingyin,” said Xue Yi.

I’m getting old. I heard that you were so angered by the most handsome man—the one called Li Tianming—you vomited three liters of blood! Isn’t it unbelievable?” Yi Xingyin laughed.

“Do people usually leave a few words before death so they appear fearless and apathetic?” Xue Yi shook his head and smiled.

“No, I’m sincerely mocking you. You’re truly a great big fool.” Yi Xingyin grinned.

“Oh.”

Xue Yi reached into the black net, his long fingernails pricking Yi Xingyin’s chest. A red insect crawled out from his palm and dug its way into Yi Xingyin’s heart.

“You can experience what it means to live in a sea of suffering.” Xue Yi withdrew his hand.

In an instant, Yi Xingyin curled up. His face paled, his body convulsed, and he foamed at the mouth. With both hands around his throat, his face had begun to turn purple.

“Are you trying to commit suicide? My friend, being alive is the worst kind of pain, while death is liberation. Stop daydreaming.” As Xue Yi roared with laughter, the Shadow Prison pulled Yi Xingyin's fingers away from his neck.

Yi Xingyin grit his teeth and stared at Xue Yi, the veins on his neck violently throbbing.

“What are you trying to say?” asked Xue Yi.

“Go... fuck... yourself...”

.....

In another corner of the Kilostar Domain.

After Qing Ming separated from Xue Yi, he sent several groups back to assemble over there. With that done, he traveled to the other star alone. Because Long Cangyuan was the only leader at this black hole star, Qing Ming wanted to monitor the situation. According to their plans, Fu You would soon arrive with reinforcements. That way, they would have equal numbers at both black hole stars.

Qing Ming pulled out the starmap and glanced at it.

"The last black hole stars are separated by the entire Kilostar Domain. They're really far apart, but I can be there in about an hour. Damn it! If my strength wasn't restricted, I could be there in the blink of an eye."

The sealing formation made it hard for Qing Ming; he felt as slow as a tortoise.

“Seventh death phase—that’s where I was two hundred years ago.”

Qing Ming was now over three hundred years old, and the oldest among all ghoulish kings. Despite that, he was also the weakest. Many of the younger generation had surpassed him, such as Xue Yi and Zi Xiao.

He made his way forward as he thought about the starmap. However, he suddenly came to a stop when he sensed someone chasing him, and abruptly turned around.

A white-robed young man, more than three hundred years his junior, stood in front of him with a smile. "Hey, old man. I heard that you possess a terrifying broodmother lifebound beast. Can it give birth to many offspring?"

Qing Ming couldn't help but rub his eyes. There was no mistake, the man before him was Li Tianming, whom he had dreamed of meeting. He was actually preparing a trap to capture him, but instead, the brat had appeared in front of him without any warning at all?

“Don’t look so surprised. I’m asking you a question. Let me see your lifebound beast. My baby girl is hungry. I don’t think lifebound beasts should be eaten, since they have the capability to think, but the offspring of a broodmother beast are all mindless. Anyway, these broodmothers are great at breeding. Eating a few hundred tons of its offspring isn’t a problem, is it?” asked the white-haired man.

“Are you talking to me?” Qing Ming pointed to himself. Half of his face was covered in green lumps like a toad.

“Yes, I’m talking to you, Ghoulish King Qing Ming. You’re no good. You might be over three hundred years old, but the evil you’ve committed is less than one-tenth that of Ye Bodhi. And I’d actually thought you were a big fish. How disappointing,” the young man sneered.

“This is truly an eye-opener, Li Tianming.” Shaking his head, Qing Ming laughed. The encounter seemed incredible to him. He continued, “Tell me, is Dugu Jin nearby?”

“No. Ah, forget it. I’ll stop pretending and come clean.”

“What the hell are you trying to do?”

“I’ve a huge appetite and I’m going to kill you, Ghoul King.”

Chapter 806 - Greenvoid Skydevourer

Qing Ming's small eyes opened far wider than he had previously thought possible. While he seemed calm on the surface, killing intent could be felt seeping from his eyes. He didn't respond to Tianming's words, however, but instead looked at his surroundings. This was a rather remote area, with the closest star some distance away. In other words, Dugu Jin couldn't be hiding nearby.

Even if Dugu Jin were here, I'd still have enough time to leave after I kill this brat. Qing Ming was still unaware of how Tianming had just crippled fifteen hundred tribulation elders. The green liquid flowing within his eyes made it seem like he had completely seen through Tianming. He had always been a cautious person, and never fought battles he wasn't certain he could win. While this situation was weird to him, he decided to fight after thinking it through thrice. There was no way he could live down the humiliation of running from a junior that had challenged him to a suicidal fight, after all. Curse this sealing formation for making me so paranoid even though I'm only dealing with a stupid, naive brat!

When he decided to not run, he plainly told the youth about his intentions. Then, Tianming's four lifebound beasts appeared. There was a fiery phoenix, a black cat surrounded by lightning, a gigantic two-headed dragon, and a towering tree with three grand flowers. They immediately spread apart and surrounded Qing Ming.

I never would've imagined I'd be hunted down by a brat a month ago! Qing Ming was so dumbfounded by the turn of events that he didn't know how to react. Did that brat not know how terrifying the ghouls were in the eyes of the billions of inhabitants of the Nonahall Divine Realm? "Li Tianming, you are but a newborn baby in my eyes. You still haven't learned to walk properly, and your intelligence is akin to a small animal's. Are you sure you're in your right mind?" Though he hadn't intended to speak, he couldn't help but ask. It was taking him too much effort to figure out Tianming's thought process.

"Being old isn't an excuse for being a dipshit. Even though I'm young, slaughtering you is no more difficult for me than slaughtering a chicken for my meal," Tianming said. Though he wasn't usually one for trash talking, he was worried that he would scare Qing Ming away, so he decided to provoke him to ensure he would stay.

"I see.... So you haven't truly faced any consequences for your behavior before."

Tianming could tell that he was getting mad. "You're not wrong. You see, I've been doing so many suicidal things, but I just can't seem to die. Maybe you'll be the one to finally put me to rest."

As he spoke, he drew the Grand-Orient Sword and split it into two, one representing dignity and the other representing rage. He held the black sword in a reverse grip and pointed the gold one toward Qing Ming. "Listen up. I'll be taking your ugly head and hanging it outside Taiji Peak Lake. Your head will be preserved by the icy temperatures for at least half a year. Who knows? Maybe your flesh will still be fresh when the snow finally lets up, so I can use it as pig feed."

"Hehehe..." While he didn't seem like the type to let words like those get to him, his actions revealed his irritation. Angered, he finally made a move—Tianming's goal had been achieved. Now that Qing Ming wouldn't run, he wouldn't have to risk chasing him down; a risky move given how near they were to the black hole star.

"Very well. I'll show you what the adult world is like, child," Qing Ming snapped. What he meant were the cruel methods he employed. "Eat those four little animals."

A gigantic, horrifying beast emerged from his lifebound space. Tianming turned to look and saw that it was a giant bug. It had a rather long, green body with black armor plates. Its head and horns were rather huge, and the armor on its chest looked as tough as mountains, stretching out on both sides like a saddle. Its legs were well developed, especially the ten rear ones that were long and muscular. Its tough exoskeleton seemed to double as a sharp weapon, making it look like a machine created for war. There were traces of rotting flesh still on its saw-like mandibles. It had a pair of translucent, blade-like wings that would allow it to take flight and maneuver in the skies with great agility. However, the most terrifying part was still its mandibles that looked harder than even the best tribulation artifacts. It could no doubt chew through any flesh and turn it into minced meat.

Tianming saw nine hundred and twenty-one stars within its eyes, making it one of the few ninth-order tribulation beasts to exist on the Flameyellow Continent. However, the main focus of the beast was the fact it was at the eleventh-level life phase. If it weren't for the sealing formation of the Kilostar Domain, it would definitely be able to kill Lan Huang in a single bite. It was known as the greenvoid skydevourer.

Rumor was that it consumed a nigh-endless supply of meat every day, which was why those within the divine realm had to keep feeding it wildbeasts they hunted, lest it devours their own lifebound beasts. It was also said to consume almost anything, even spirit herbs and ores. Anywhere it passed, it would raze everything into a desolate waste. As a broodmother-type lifebound beast, it could also give birth to many high-grade children, with its peak number being four hundred million greenvoid bugs, enough to make its arrival look like the beginning of a doomsday scenario.

Tianming squinted at it and said, "Isn't this a locust?"

He had seen a similar locust beast user before called Gongsun Chi during the Prime Struggle, but that locust couldn't be compared to the greenvoid skydevourer in the slightest. The greenvoid skydevourer was something capable of wreaking absolute destruction across the entire Flameyellow Continent.

The moment it showed up, a buzzing drone was heard as countless greenvoid bugs came flying out of its rear. Each was only around two centimeters in length, but they could eat many times their weight. Almost immediately, they blocked out the view of the sky and their numbers didn't seem to be diminishing one bit. The Kilostar Domain's sealing formation had suppressed the level of the greenvoid skydevourer, which affected its ability to birth its brood, so it was a little lackluster compared to its normal peak. With there being no food to sustain its children, it had no choice but to use tribulation force to sustain them after their birth. However, if they managed to devour Tianming's four lifebound beasts, they would be able to keep fighting for quite some time.

Countless little bugs came flying toward Tianming and the rest, sealing off the entire area. They formed a sphere that trapped Tianming and the others within.

"Eat them all up and leave only the head," Qing Ming coldly said. He knew everyone was already aware of the treasures Tianming had stolen, but what if he had something else nobody knew about? Maybe he could claim it for himself if he was lucky.

He took out a huge green scythe from his spatial ring. It had a black handle and nine agonized faces on the blade, as well as fifteen tribulation patterns. It burned with green flames and echoed with the cries of beasts and ghouls, making it particularly sinister. It was named the Greensky Ghostscythe. The ghoulish king stood impressively on the head of his beast with his scythe resting on his shoulders. His green, boil-covered face wore a sinister smile and his left shoulder, like his face, was covered in boils that popped and unleashed a stench into his surroundings as well.

As expected of a ghoulish king. He looks as terrifying as his reputation suggests, but no matter. He's now only the equivalent of a seventh-level death phase samsaran and can't rival me. As for the other aspects, whether it be weapons, battle arts, or lifebound beasts, I'm not one bit inferior! The only edge he has on me is his three centuries of combat experience. That was the reason why Tianming had dared to make his move on Qing Ming. Not to mention, Xian Xian was about to die from hunger.

"Xian Xian, do you see all those bugs? It's an all-you-can-eat buffet!" Now, it was a competition of appetites between the Radix World Tree and the greenvoid skydevourer. The greenvoid bugs rushed toward Xian Xian's petals, leaves, branches, and vines, attempting to consume them. However, Xian Xian's roots were even more savage in her hangry state. They charged straight into the fray, easily piercing countless greenvoid bugs without even needing to aim. While Tianming thought the roots were too thick to be used on the bugs, he didn't think they would be able to split into countless thinner strands numbering in the tens of millions. The hair-thin root strands were far more efficient at piercing through those small bugs.

If there was one thing Xian Xian wasn't afraid of, it was fighting off a huge group of enemies that were individually weak. Broodmother-type lifebound beasts mainly relied on their children to overwhelm the enemy with numbers, but their natural enemy was the Radix World Tree. The countless fine root hairs moved like Xian Xian's own arms. Tianming didn't know it was capable of manipulating so many tendrils at the same time; each of them was able to accurately pierce through countless greenvoid bugs.

"It must be a special inborn talent!"

Chapter 807 - Power of Numbers

That was one of the main things that made plants and animals so different. Tianming could see with his naked eye the greenvoid bugs being sucked into dry husks after Xian Xian's root tendrils pierced them through, devouring everything—including their heads. "A plant that eats pests rather than the other way round.... This is a first," Tianming said.

"That's too badass!" Ying Huo snapped, dumbfounded. It flew around the battlefield, spitting out fire. "Sister, wait a bit! Your Chicken Bro will serve up some roast bugs for you! Tianming, give me the spice rub and butter!"

"Forget making it delicious! These are dire circumstances, so taste isn't a necessity!" Tianming snapped.

Xian Xian was on a mad feasting spree, swallowing whatever it could get its roots into. Even its spiritform seemed to be munching on air within the lifebound space. When the little grey egg touched it, it swung its hand at it, causing it to vanish as if it was pushing away someone that could compete with it for food. However, there were many greenvoid bugs that landed on the tree's petals and branches. They began rapidly consuming the greenery.

"Are they eating themselves up?"

It was a weird sight to behold. Xian Xian consumed the bugs to grow more branches and leaves, which in turn fed the greenvoid bugs. It was a battle for survival between the different species! As the greenvoid bugs ate away at Xian Xian, it only fueled its appetite even more.

"Whoa, Xian Xian's so hungry! Must keep eating!" it groaned in the lifebound space. "How dare you bite Xian Xian?!"

It was completely enraged that the leaves it had just grown were eaten soon after. It used the Evernight Curse, scattering pollen in the air that covered the greenvoid bugs. With the weak souls the bugs had that only served as a control mechanism for the broodmother, they were incredibly easy to drive astray. Almost immediately, the bugs lost control and began eating each other. The moment some of their attention was taken away from Xian Xian, the balance of power was broken. Xian Xian consumed the bugs at a much faster rate than the bugs could consume its body, causing it to grow faster and faster and its combat power to rise more and more.

The greenvoid bugs were slowly being outeaten. With the greenvoid skydevourer unable to churn out as many offspring as it would require to replenish them, thanks to the sealing formation, it felt the pressure mounting.

Qing Ming was shocked at the development. Without question, Xian Xian seemed like it was growing more and more vigorous, which in turn greatly boosted its power. It looked like Qing Ming's terrifying lifebound beast had met its natural enemy. It was almost as bad as meeting a type one was weak against. While outside, the greenvoid bugs' sheer number could easily devour the Radix World Tree in a few moments, in here, it was the one being eaten away.

That was all within Tianming's expectations, and why he had dared to attack the ghoulish king here. Otherwise, there was no way he'd dare challenge someone on the same level as a sect master. Now it seemed like Xian Xian would soon cripple the greenvoid skydevourer, so dealing with the remaining bugs no longer seemed like a problem.

Qing Ming's expression immediately changed as he noticed something amiss. He and his greenvoid skydevourer lashed out at the same time; the broodmother itself was pretty terrifying when it came to close combat. Its powerful legs allowed it to jump at frightening speeds, despite its size.

"Die!"

Now that Xian Xian had taken the upper hand, it was its elder brothers' turn to show off. Tianming and the other three split into two groups. Ying Huo flew around Lan Huang's heads, brightly burning with flames as it used Infernal Haze to manifest countless clones that used terrifying sword arts as they clashed with the greenvoid skydevourer. Lan Huang, on the other hand, relied on its huge body to ram

the eleventh-level life phase tribulation beast, allowing Ying Huo to pinpoint its weak spots and execute the Hexapath Samsara Sword on them.

It was a tough combination for the broodmother to fight against. One of them was basically unkillable, and it couldn't even hit the other one. Ying Huo's small size worked to its advantage, especially when paired with Lan Huang. It could easily run and hide with Lan Huang drawing all the attention.

Meow Meow did the same thing not far away. When it fought beastmasters, it didn't even need to use its Regal Chaosfiend form, as its smaller form was much more agile. While its physical capabilities were a little weaker, its abilities weren't affected at all.

"Come on!" Tianming charged toward the ghou king as Meow Meow's Myriad Thundernet went flying toward their opponent. This was the power of numbers! Meow Meow unleashed a few more abilities in quick succession, bombarding Qing Ming with abandon. At the same time, it rapidly zipped around, striking with its Venus Fiendbone claws and leaving marks on the ghou king regardless of the body-refining technique he had. Even so, there was nothing Qing Ming could do against it. It was too fast and small for him to strike at, not to mention he was also busy dealing with Tianming's rampage.

While their power levels were roughly equal, Tianming's weapons and battle arts were far superior. Tianming felt that the current Qing Ming was more or less on the same level of power as Ye Bodhi, but he had a far more varied moveset. He could easily unleash a dozen abilities, all of which were third-origin samsara battle arts. The mystical nature of all of them combined could almost rival the Hexapath Samsara Sword.

As their weapons clashed, sparks flew. "Did you break through again?! What level are you at now?!" Qing Ming snapped.

"First-level life phase. Convinced?"

"Do you think you have the luxury to joke around? Are you that certain you'll win?!" Even though Qing Ming was fighting one against two, he didn't seem to have the lower hand at all. He had more than enough tricks up his sleeve to deal with the both of them at once, and could even use tens of battle arts in tandem with one another.

He lashed out with a third-origin samsara battle art, the Worldbreak Darksoul Hand. Right after slashing with his scythe, he stretched out his left hand that was covered in green miasma. It looked like a pale, bony palm was about to choke Tianming's life out. He blocked with his left hand, but the ghou king laughed and squeezed, attempting to shatter it, only for his expression to change. He couldn't close his hand at all.

"Your hand!" As he widened his eyes in shock, the Prime Tower came crashing down on his head and Meow Meow followed it up by tearing a pile of bulbous flesh off his back.

"No, it stinks!" Meow Meow shrieked. Its mouth was rotting a little; the flesh of the ghou king was utterly putrid.

"Hehe, you little animal!" Qing Ming's head was bleeding out. He hurriedly retreated out of Tianming's range and turned back to see his greenvoid skydevourer fighting an epic battle with Lan Huang and Ying Huo. Distressingly, his greenvoid bugs were growing less numerous by the second, and Xian Xian would

definitely emerge victorious in the end. Its Radiant Vines were already freed up enough to help Ying Huo and Lan Huang.

"I didn't think this little brat would be able to force me to this point just because of the sealing formation.... His lifebound beasts are also pretty unique. That Xue Yi really underestimated him. Now, he's humiliated himself. As long as I'm within the Kilostar Domain, I have to consider him a fighter on my level!"

With his mindset shifted, he felt much better about himself. The killing intent he felt grew more and more. He was less afraid of Tianming and Meow Meow teaming up on him, but Xian Xian was definitely a concern for him. Now that it had gained the upper hand over the greenvoid bugs, it would soon overcome the delicate power balance and come up ahead. "I must get rid of this scoundrel once and for all!"

He came furiously charging at Tianming. At that moment, Tianming equipped the Dragonhide, greatly boosting all aspects of his capabilities. The scales of the armor even covered the two swords, making them look even bigger than before. One could almost see five heavenly dragons descending toward Tianming.

"You're too fresh and naive. Do you think you can take out a ghoulish king just because my level is suppressed?!" Qing Ming smirked as he tore off his clothes.

"Ack, that's not safe for life!" Tianming was completely horrified. It would be one thing if Li Caiwei was the one to do it, but it was an ugly old man instead.

Then, a huge wave of stench came wafting toward him. Tianming's body tensed up the moment he smelled a whiff. It seemed to be some kind of strong toxin. Even Meow Meow almost started to foam from the mouth when it smelled it.

"Help me! My mouth is rotting! I'm going to puke bile! I demand a change in opponent!" It complained as it enviously looked at Ying Huo and Lan Huang. However, even those two were affected by the stench, allowing the greenvoid skydevourer a chance to regain the upper hand. Ying Huo bled profusely after the huge broodmother locust clamped down on it with its mandibles.

Now, the ghoulish king was half nude, exposing his boil-filled body. It looked horrifying, to say the least.

"What's he going to do?" Tianming watched as the boils began popping rapidly as Qing Ming split into two!

Chapter 808 - Forbidden Art—Greenwater Ghoul Art

Tianming had thought Qing Ming's corpse was splitting in half, but that actually wasn't the case. It seemed like the green bubble from before was merely a layer that covered his body. After molting it off, his body still seemed complete. Tianming saw that he now wore a green battle armor with fifteen tribulation patterns.

However, the main key was still the hunk of green flesh that had split off from his body—it rapidly grew until it was about ten meters tall, the entire length of which was covered in festering green boils. When

they burst apart, the stench in the area intensified tenfold. Tianming's innards were writhing from the scent and pain. Even the Dragonhide and Infernal Armor weren't able to prevent it from permeating his nostrils!

"What in the world is this?!" Tianming asked, his brows furrowed in pain.

"Greenwater Ghoul Art. Have you heard of it?" Qing Ming smirked coldly as he stood beside the gigantic lump of flesh with the Greensky Ghostscythe in hand. Now that the boils were separated from his actual body, he didn't seem ugly at all. In fact, one could tell that he had looked rather handsome in his youth.

"Nope," Tianming said, shaking his head.

"You're pretty young, after all. This is one of the most impressive demonic arts in Nonahall. Naturally, your lot calls these forbidden arts."

Qing Ming stroked the boil-ridden flesh with a look of satisfaction. This was a special art that was separate from cultivation-based arts. For instance, the Godsoul Canon was one such special art, as well as the Purple Blood-Imprint, which Mu Qingqing from way back had used.

"I've spent three centuries killing people and gathering their bile, which I swallowed for my cultivation. I've literally tasted all the bitterness the world has to offer and cultivated this greenwater ghoul within me. It's as strong as I am."

"So it's basically a clone?"

"Looks like you aren't a total idiot after all."

"This world is filled with all sorts of mysteries. It looks like special techniques like these are comparable to battle arts."

"You're wrong. The arcane nature of these techniques are always superior to battle arts! Battle arts are mere tricks, while these hidden arts form the true basis of power!"

"I appreciate the lecture."

"No need. Make sure to study up more in your next life." As he spoke, the green blob formed into a human shape that was more than ten meters tall. It was covered in boils and stank to the high heavens. Then, the greenwater ghoul charged toward Tianming with its fist raised. The terrifying stench caused Tianming's guts to churn. He vomited quite a bit and felt rather weakened.

"Fuck off!" He attacked with tribulation sword ki, immediately cutting the ghoul in two. "Is that it?"

It felt a little too easy. As expected, the split flesh fused together once more and followed up with a punch. Meow Meow used Misty Hellthunder and turned into a vortex of black lightning, then rammed into the ghoul and sent it flying, allowing Tianming to avoid the strike. However, Qing Ming now charged at him.

"Li Tianming, you're just a wee child. What right do you have to act so arrogantly before a ghoul king?!" Qing Ming roared as he slashed down with his scythe. At the same time, the undying greenwater ghoul charged in once more, its stench still overbearing and intoxicating. It burst into countless small meaty warts, each one forming mouths that threatened to bite Tianming. The gruesome sight and smell would

make anyone's bones curl. Thankfully, Meow Meow made it in time and used Myriad Thundernet to wrap around Tianming, as it wasn't able to stop all the little warts. The next instant, Tianming's Animacorpus Eradication cut all the little pieces into smithereens, only for them to reform again.

It's practically unkillable! His head began hurting from all the frustration and the smell, which gave the ghoulish king an opportunity. The scythe lashed out with all sorts of techniques, putting heavy pressure on Tianming. Now, even the Dragonhide's power seemed to wane. Even the weakest ghoulish king is so hard to deal with! Perhaps fire will have more of an effect on him than lightning?

Just as Tianming was about to have Ying Huo come over, the greenwater ghoulish suddenly turned toward Meow Meow, smashing directly against it and swallowing it whole. Then, countless black lightning bolts burst out from within the greenwater ghoulish, but the mound of flesh seemed to be tearing Meow Meow's body apart and invading it at a faster rate.

"Your lifebound beast should be rather nutritious. I'll let it become one with my greenwater ghoulish," Qing Ming mocked, his voice ringing from all directions.

Meow Meow was in serious danger! Even if it turned into a Regal Chaosfiend now, it wouldn't be able to shake off the greenwater ghoulish. The sight of it sent Tianming into a furious rage. Ying Huo and Lan Huang also witnessed the sight.

"Cat Bro!" Xian Xian immediately teared up and asked Tianming, "Can I eat that flesh?"

"Of course! But it smells so bad and looks disgusting...." The greenwater ghoulish really reminded him of nothing but disgust.

"No, it smells good!" Xian Xian said in the purest of voices.

Tianming figured that plants probably had a different sense of taste than animals. "Quick, go then!"

Before he even gave that order, Xian Xian spread out eighty percent of her black roots to surround the greenwater ghoulish, piercing it and trapping it completely.

"Careful, don't eat your Cat Bro!" Tianming reminded it.

"I won't. Cats taste too bad!" Xian Xian proudly proclaimed.

Tianming widened his eyes and his heart rate increased. He had underestimated the power of Qing Ming, but it seemed that Xian Xian was a good match against the greenwater ghoulish. He figured that if lightning didn't work on it, fire probably wouldn't either. However, the moment the roots penetrated its lumpy flesh, Tianming saw it visibly shake, and even heard its shriek of pain. It was now basically a lump of lifeless flesh.

Soon, the greenwater ghoulish began to shrink at a rate visible to the naked eye. Meow Meow quickly burrowed out from what remained of the flesh, covered entirely in green goo.

"Cat Bro, are you alright?" Xian Xian anxiously asked.

"It smells so bad!" Meow Meow shrieked. The fact that it was still able to complain so loudly probably meant that it was still fine. Xian Xian had come to the rescue rather quickly, all the while still holding the locusts back with its other roots.

"What in the world is this?!" Qing Ming began to panic at the sight of the shrinking greenwater ghoul. Immediately, he readied his scythe to slash down at the roots.

"Qing Ming, you old fool!" Tianming and Meow Meow blocked off all of Qing Ming's escape routes. He wanted to make sure he killed Qing Ming while the Dragonhide was still active. There was no way he would let the ghoul king touch Xian Xian.

"I'll make sure you become a ghoul for real today!"

While Qing Ming had shown him how powerful a ghoul king could be, Tianming now had the upper hand, thanks to Xian Xian consuming the greenwater ghoul.

"Go!"

Fueled by anger, Meow Meow used its Ninefold Chaos Thunderscape a few times over, saving up lots of lightning and sending it all straight toward the ghoul king at once! The crackling bolts of lightning spread out and trapped the ghoul king in Misty Hellthunder, then Soulchasing Hellthunder entered his body and sped toward his heart. At the same time, Tianming used the Soulshaker Eye. Within an instant, the surroundings turned dark, leaving only a red eye with a diameter of thousands of kilometers within Qing Ming's field of vision.

"You think you can confuse me with your little tricks?" Qing Ming took the lightning strikes and cut open Misty Hellthunder with his scythe, then swept it toward Tianming. Then, he executed the Ninehells Darkriver Slash. His scythe left a hellish flowing river in its wake, instantly lowering the surrounding temperature. His eyes were completely fixed on Tianming.

"Sorry, but I think my little tricks will take your life!" Tianming combined the two Grand-Orient Swords into a greatsword. Then, lightning crackled beside him, making his hair and clothes flutter as he used the Ninesky Beastsoul Formation. With the power of lightning around him, he advanced like a ball of explosive electricity. Countless lightning bolts gathered around his sword, making it glow magnificently. Then the apparitions of nine great beasts exploded forth from the sword and formed a nonagonal formation fueled by chaos lightning.

Lightning and sword ki blended together and formed an explosive combination. The power of Tianming's strike overpowered the ghoul king, seemingly overcoming the limit set by KiloStar Domain as space itself seemed to bend and tear.

"Impossible!" the ghoul king raged, wearing an expression of disbelief. At that instant, Meow Meow's Soulchasing Hellthunder finally reached his heart. Even though it wasn't able to destroy the organ, it was still enough to numb his entire body, which made him all the weaker, especially since he had just used a forbidden technique.

"Die!"

The might of the sword formation shattered the river formed by the scythe and sent the weapon flying before piercing through the tribulation artifact armor. Then, the sword lopped off the ghoul king's head. As the head went flying, Meow Meow bit onto it.

"No, no!" Qing Ming was still shrieking in fear and clinging to his sorry life. He was someone who feared dying by nature. But now that he no longer had the greenwater ghoul, he wasn't able to weather

Tianming and Meow Meow's combined assault at all. A fifth-level life phase samsaran defeating an eleventh-level life phase ghoulish king was analogous to a newborn infant defeating a strongman! If word of this spread, the Flameyellow Continent would be shaken like never before.

No matter how important Ye Bodhi had been, he couldn't possibly be compared to a ghoulish king. Qing Ming was at least on the level of Xuanyuan Dao and Jian Wuyi, yet he was gone for good. As his consciousness began fading, he witnessed an even more despairing sight: the greenwater ghoulish he'd created had been cleanly eaten up by Xian Xian, and the abdomen of his greenvoid skydevourer exploded. A little bird covered in green blood burst out of it in fiery glory. They had all died at the same time!

"Old ghoulish, I admit you were tens of thousands of times stronger than I am. However, my comrades and I are the ones who'll be sending you to the Yellow Springs!"

Those were the last words Qing Ming heard. How could this happen?! He had even used the Greenwater Ghoulish Art, and his victory should have been guaranteed. Yet he had still lost in the end! Though, to be fair, he had only really lost because the Radix World Tree happened to be a perfect counter for his greenwater ghoulish.

When the dust settled, Tianming took the ghoulish king's belongings. He was no longer afraid that someone would be able to track him down as a result.

"I just killed... a ghoulish king...." Holding the head of the ghoulish king in his hands still felt unreal to him. It was as if he was still dreaming. "This is totally insane.... I wonder if Ling'er and the rest will get wind of this? The Kilostar Domain is crazy!"

If it weren't for this place, there was no way he would have been able to achieve something so miraculous. "If I have a chance to send Xue Yi to the afterlife, too, it'll be even better! It's a shame that Qing Ming's foul aura couldn't compare to Ye Bodhi's. I didn't get much good karma from it."

He turned toward the black hole star in the distance and started making his way to it.

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Near the black hole star, Long Cangyuan was slowly pacing about. He had just been informed of Ye Bodhi's death not too long ago. There were twenty thousand other tribulation elders here, a significant number of them belonging to Quadform.

"I suppose those outside will be coming in soon."

"How'd it end this way? We'll be mocked and ridiculed to no end."

The atmosphere was rather heavy.

"Sect Master Long, there appears to be a battle taking place over there," someone reported.

"Send a few men to scout out the situation."

"Understood!"

Long Cangyuan waited a while, but they didn't come back.

"Someone's approaching!" somebody suddenly yelled.

Long Cangyuan and the thousands of elders looked in that direction and saw nothing but a gigantic bug.

"What's that?"

More and more people went to see what was going on.

"It's Ghoul King Qing Ming's greenvoid skydevourer!"

However, it didn't show any signs of life.

"It's dead!" Panicked cries rang out and the whole group descended into chaos.

"What?!" Long Cangyuan's jaw was shaking from the realization. Who in the Kilostar Domain could possibly kill Qing Ming's lifebound beast? What about Qing Ming himself? As his mind raced, a little black cat with glowing eyes burst out of the corpse of the bug with a head in its mouth. Those who saw it immediately broke into tears.

"Ghoul King Qing Ming!"

They felt their hearts being torn apart. Even Long Cangyuan gasped with his mouth agape. That cat was Tianming's lifebound beast. It tossed the head away as everyone watched, meowing as it shook its head and turned to them in a cutesy manner. "Anyone like roast bug meat? I have a trade offer for you. I'll receive two pieces of dried fish. You'll receive a pound of bug meat. Any takers?"

Chapter 809 - Waiting for You at the Ninth Black Hole

Countless stars seemed to shine through from the cat's platinum eyes. It looked curiously at its audience and raised its foot to step on Qing Ming's head, striking a glamorous pose. But it hurriedly licked its paw, perhaps because some of the ghoul king's blood had gotten on it, a look of full-on disgust on its face.

"Well? Do you accept the trade offer or not?!" Meow Meow snapped with much annoyance.

The tribulation elders' expressions were frozen stiff, many of them on the brink of tears.

"Everyone, don't panic. It's just an illusion."

"That could be!"

"Yeah! Ghoul King Qing Ming is definitely far more powerful than that!"

However, their voices grew weaker and weaker. At their level, they could easily tell what was an illusion and what wasn't. If even they found it hard to believe their own words, there was no way anybody else could.

"You won't? Fine! Your poor sods... you don't have even a single piece of dried fish." Meow Meow took the ghoul king's head in its mouth and turned around, its tail raised to show its balls, then zipped away with the corpse of the greenvoid skydevourer. As the others watched the corpse shrink as it neared the horizon, they went mad with fervor.

"Get it!" Long Cangyuan cried, his face completely contorted. He gave chase himself. Even if we can't kill the cat, we have to take the ghoulish king's remains back! he thought. He knew that Tianming was trying to lead them away from the black hole star, but all of them were grieving the death of Qing Ming.

"There's no need to split our troops between two stars. We'll just go to the next one. It's too dangerous to risk being separated."

The death of the ghoulish king had completely shaken everyone and Long Cangyuan gave chase, with thousands more following behind him.

"Crap, they're really serious about giving chase!" Meow Meow zipped around even faster, swinging the skydevourer's corpse to fly left while it went right, the ghoulish king's head still in its mouth. That way, a group of tribulation elders would go for the corpse instead.

"Don't think you can run!" Long Cangyuan cried. Though, he wasn't really giving it his all during the chase, either. It wasn't his place to get mad from the death of the ghoulish king. In fact, he was a little worried as he wasn't much stronger than Qing Ming to begin with. I shouldn't try too hard to earn any credit under such circumstances. While he would give it a try if Xue Yi was nearby, it wouldn't benefit him to give it his all and risk himself now.

"Catch!" Meow Meow suddenly flung the head of Qing Ming far away. As it was rather small, it was flung rather far away. Quite a lot of people split off to chase the head instead, leaving the main group.

"This cat really is terrifyingly fast within the Kilostar Domain." Long Cangyuan could do naught but sigh. If they were outside, he would easily be able to catch Meow Meow, unlike now. "I wonder where Li Tianming is...."

As he focused on the direction Meow Meow was traveling in, he soon saw a white-haired youth. That instant, Meow Meow took its Regal Chaosfiend form and Tianming rode off on it. While there were many people with them, few could actually keep up with Meow Meow's speed. Not to mention, their group had split a few times. Tianming wasn't trying to engage them; he only wanted to split them apart so he would have an opening to charge to reach the black hole star. While many of them tried to catch up, others had had no choice but to stop.

Near the black hole star, Tianming turned back and met Long Cangyuan's gaze. "A lackey like you will eventually be abandoned!" Tianming mocked.

"Don't get so happy so soon. We'll see who has the last laugh when the Nonahall Divine Realm gives you what you deserve," Long Cangyuan said. Even though he said that, he felt torn when he turned to look at Qing Ming's decapitated head. The old man had lived for three centuries and was already a famous and impressive ghoulish king when Long Cangyuan was still in his youth. "I didn't think he'd die at the hands of a brat in his twenties."

He could only watch as Tianming glared at him and entered the eighth black hole star.

"So he wants to save the world in his early twenties, eh.... Let's see how the Nonahall Ghost Sect reacts to that!"

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After entering the pathway, Tianming noticed that the scenes of war were much clearer than before. He even heard war cries.

"I wonder whose memory this is."

He could feel the passions and hardships of the times. Chaos was all over the place, and there were rivers of blood and mountains of corpses. The brave heroes marched forward to their deaths, fighting their merciless enemies with their heads held high. Their foes were all individually powerful, and each one required hundreds of beastmasters and lifebound beasts to take on.

"The demon race used to dominate the Flameyellow Continent, while humans were just mere ants.... Great Emperor Xuanyuan and the warriors of the time really rendered an immense service to all of us."

He finally reached the end of the pathway and saw the number eight appear. Taking a deep breath, he prepared himself for his reemergence. All of a sudden, the number eight turned into a line of words that read 'I'll be waiting for you at the ninth black hole'.

Tianming was shocked. The words only appeared for a split second before they were nowhere to be seen. Then, the space around him twisted and bent and he found himself back within the Kilostar Domain. He looked around and hurriedly hid himself; he was actually near the exit of the domain! The tribulation elders of Hexapath and Biritual had retreated to somewhere nearby, but nobody from Nonahall could be seen here.

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Near the ninth black hole, everyone waited without making a sound. The atmosphere was tense, and they were all more than displeased. If it weren't for Tianming, they would have been having a good time during their treasure hunt. The mere thought of that filled them with anger and humiliation.

Right then, a pink-eyed woman dressed in white came flying toward them. Her beautiful hair fluttered as it trailed behind her. Her body seemed soft and precious, but her expression was cold and stiff. Despite that, many found the contrast rather irresistible. She wasn't intentionally trying to charm anyone, but her looks and the innate allure from the depths of her soul were impossible to mask. With her looks and aura, she would attract lots of attention even if she wasn't a cultivator. She was none other than Li Caiwei.

She came to Xue Yi and the rest and said, "I heard Li Tianming claimed two treasure troves and even killed Ye Bodhi."

"That's correct," Xue Yi affirmed.

"Isn't that a little hard to believe? I have some idea of how strong he is."

"Don't be so sure. You'll see for yourself soon."

"While I can't be too sure what level he was truly at when he entered, he was about as strong as a sixth-level life phase samsaran. You're telling me that he managed to grow the equivalent of four whole levels within a short month?"

"That's right. And we're talking about growth in the middle phase of the Samsara stage, not the Earth or Sky Saint stages."

"Hehehe...."

"Are you regretting not killing him in the very beginning?" Xue Yi asked.

"What's there to regret? He's a brat at the end of the day. You already brought Yi Xingyin here with you. Not to mention, with Ying Zi here, this matter is as good as settled. Though, I must say, it's pretty humiliating for so many people to be forced to lie in wait here for him, unable to do anything else."

She thought back to the brat that was under her complete control as she dragged him out from the Archaion Sect. How could he manage to dominate the Kilostar Domain within such a short time? It was something she wouldn't believe until she saw it for herself. Right after that, someone came to make a report.

"Ghoul Kings, Sect Master Li, Sect Master Changsun, Sect Master Long Cangyuan, and Ghoul King Fu You have been sighted leading everyone else toward us, leaving the black hole behind."

"What's the meaning of this?" Xue Yi's expression grew colder. The moment he asked that, Long Cangyuan and Fu You already reached them. Now, the three ghoul kings and sect masters were gathered at once place.

"What're you doing?" Xue Yi asked. He had seen the two's odd expressions. The other tribulation elders that were with them seemed dejected and conflicted.

"Did something happen again? Who is it this time?" Ying Zi asked.

Li Caiwei furrowed her brows when she saw the greenvoid skydevourer behind them. She couldn't believe herself and doublechecked to make sure it was a corpse! The greenvoid skydevourer was definitely dead. "Where's Ghoul King Qing Ming?"

Xue Yi and the rest awaited the answer to the question with heavy dread.

"Here," Long Cangyuan said as he handed over Qing Ming's head, shocking everyone into silence.

"What's that?"

"I don't know. It's too far."

Others were beginning to wonder what was happening. Xue Yi stretched his hand out and held the head at eye level. Qing Ming was dead, without a doubt. "Who?" His voice and hands shook as he uttered the word. The name he desperately wanted to hear was Dugu Jin's.

Yet Long Cangyuan said, "We don't know who did it for sure, but Li Tianming was the one that brought the corpse over to us. He used the chaos that ensued to enter the eighth black hole star. Right after that, I brought the rest to join up with you."

"It must be Li Tianming then," Changsun Shenqiong said.

"Li Tianming...."

Xue Yi, Li Caiwei and a few others repeated the name, feeling a blade cut through their heart as they did so.

"Qing Ming...." Xue Yi took a deep breath. He knew the Nonahall Divine Realm was going to become a huge mess when word of this spread.

Chapter 810 - Winging It

When word got back to the Specter Mountains, the Nonahall Divine Realm as a whole seemed rather calm. However, the sect itself was boiling over. This was too big a deal, and nobody could cover it up entirely. Almost instantly, commotions broke out across the countless buildings in the mountain range after a short moment of shocked silence.

"Li Tianming actually killed Ghoul King Qing Ming in the Kilostar Domain..."

Hearing that made many weak-willed people lose their minds instantly. Soon, news spread out from the Specter Mountains like a tidal wave. Within a few short days, it shook the entirety of the Nonahall Divine Realm, followed by the Nine Divine Realms as a whole! The reaction was much larger this time than when people heard of Ye Bodhi's death. No matter what, Ye Bodhi was still part of the younger generation, while Ghoul King Qing Ming was an eleventh-level life phase samsaran, among the most powerful people to exist on the continent, someone in whose hands countless lives were grasped. All kinds of emotions, such as shock, rage, vexation, frustration, and confusion, filled the minds of everyone in the realm.

"The war hasn't even truly started yet, and we haven't even touched the Monorigin Divine Realm. How could Ghoul King Qing Ming already be dead?"

They wanted to give themselves hard slaps on the face to check whether they were dreaming. The chaos even caused Ghoul King Zi Xiao to make quite a number of trips to the Black and White Skypalaces.

"Tell Third that the whole of Nonahall expects them to provide an adequate response to the matter."

It was said that not even those two ghoul kings could just sit by any longer. It should have been a simple matter of entering the Kilostar Domain and pocketing the treasures there, so how could something this devastating result from it? While they didn't really have a proper explanation for what was happening, they now knew that Tianming was a major threat, at least within the Kilostar Domain.

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In the starlit sky, a group of thirty-odd people gathered, hidden deeply in the clouds. Normal tribulation elders wouldn't be able to detect them while passing by, as these were all third-origin tribulation elders.

The ones participating in this stealthy excursion were all the most elite sect members that could be trusted. Among them, more than ten were from the Archaion Sect, led by Jian Wuyi and Fang Taiqing. Palace Lords Xuanyuan Yu and Xuanyuan Xiao were also there. Other than that, Coral Fairy Beigong Linlan from Triflair and Sect Master Lin Yuntian from Octagram were there with their own third-origin tribulation elders. They were currently engaged in a discussion.

"The fact that the imperial son killed that old Qing Ming proves that he is more than capable of defending himself in the domain. We no longer have to worry about him. But the moment he leaves, we must be there to receive him. He'll stand no chance of survival otherwise," Beigong Linlan said.

Their shock after hearing the news a few days ago was hard to understate. Qing Ming was someone on the same level as them, yet he had been killed by a junior. Only after Fang Taiqing and the others had confirmed the news from their many informants did they dare to believe it.

"Word is that the Nonahall Divine Realm can't wait to avenge Qing Ming."

"Haha... for a fellow like him who used to be so feared and infamous to die like this is truly laughable."

"What a joke indeed."

Fang Taiqing said, "It isn't that Qing Ming was weak. The imperial son was simply too ridiculously powerful."

Everyone turned to look at him. With how hard the Sterling House of Fang was working for the sect during this time of crisis, rumors of them betraying the sect had long since been dispelled. Not to mention, Fang Taiqing seemed filled with reverence for Tianming.

"With all the treasures he has on him, we have to secure him no matter what."

At that moment, a third-origin tribulation elder stealthily returned from the direction of the Kilostar Domain.

"How is it?" Fang Taiqing asked.

"Word is that two ghoulish kings brought quite a huge number of people with them into the Kilostar Domain. Now, there's only the seventh ghoulish king and four thousand tribulation elders at the entrance," that person said.

"How powerful are the elders?"

"About seventh or eighth level. There's only ten third-origin tribulation elders."

"So not a lot of people then. We can definitely risk it," Lin Yuntian said.

"It appears that the imperial son is causing enough chaos to draw in the other two ghoulish kings and most of the tribulation elders, leaving the outside rather empty," Fang Taiqing said.

"What if they already guessed that we'd be here waiting for him?" Beigong Linlan asked.

"Among the nine ghoulish kings, the first two never leave the Specter Mountains. Ghoulish King Zi Xiao is also stationed there to defend the mountains. Five others are now in the Kilostar Domain, and the last remaining one is at the Pentaphase Divine Realm. The other four sect masters are also within the Kilostar Domain, so as long as the first and second ghoulish kings don't come, the enemy no longer has any peak elites. If we don't engage in a fight, but focus on extraction and retrieval, we'll have a much better chance. The imperial son can already protect himself rather well, after all," Fang Taiqing explained.

"Those two wouldn't actually come, right?" Jian Wuyi asked.

"Who can say? If they do, we have to retreat. Don't overthink it," Fang Taiqing said.

"Alright."

Even though they had come on Feiling's orders, they knew that if those two showed up, it would mean the end for them and their four sects.

"Let's keep waiting for more news!"

As they neared the Kilostar Domain, the group grew more and more tense. Deep in the night, a woman dressed in green stood behind Fang Taiqing. She was Fang Yuqing, a third-origin tribulation elder of the Fang house. When nobody was looking, this immaculate beauty tugged his hand.

"Stop messing around," Fang Taiqing said, still looking in the direction of the Kilostar Domain.

"You've changed considerably from before. It's completely unlike your previous plans. What are you thinking?" she asked.

Fang Taiqing looked at her and shook his head. "Stop asking."

"Tell me something to reassure me, won't you?"

"The situation is changing rapidly, so we have to adapt."

"But if things continue on this course, will we ever get a chance to go our own way?"

Fang Taiqing looked her in the eye and said, "How the heck would I know? The world is far too chaotic to predict!"

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At the ninth black hole star in the Kilostar Domain, Tianming saw tens of thousands of powerful seniors, all gathered together and leaving not a single gap leading to the star. They were even deploying formations wherever they could. With almost all of them gathered there, Tianming didn't dare to approach at all. He left the place and landed on a nearby fire star.

"When I went through the eighth black hole star, those words said something about waiting for me at the ninth star. I wonder what'll happen after I enter...." The unanswered question nagged at him from the depths of his mind.

"Forget it. Just go, I'll cover for you," Ying Huo said with much bravado while perched on his head.

"Fuck off. There's at least two thousand of those eighty thousand people who've had their levels suppressed by the sealing formation, and a few ghoulish kings and sect masters besides. Do you want me to die or something?"

"Don't you have plot armor? Don't worry, they definitely won't be able to kill you. The most they'll do is annoy you a bit."

"To hell with your plot armor!" It looked like Tianming had to wing it somehow.