

## The Ages 81

### Chapter 81 - Blazing Dragon Chainblade

“Do you want me to help you with your revenge?” Mu Yang asked.

Li Tianming shook his head. “Nope.”

“Why?”

“It will be meaningless unless I kill him with my own hands. Besides, he’s your disciple, and I don’t want you to dirty your hands,” Li Tianming replied.

“You want to kill him? Do you know how big the gap is between the two of you?” Mu Yang asked.

“I don’t need to know, since I will eventually catch up.” Li Tianming smiled with unreadable confidence.

“Are you sure? At your current level?” Mu Yang didn’t want to look down on him, but the truth was undeniable.

“Of course.”

“Then I will sit back and watch. To be honest, I’d say you are dreaming.”

Li Tianming laughed. “That’s perfectly normal. I’d be more worried if you believe that I can do it.”

“Confident, eh? But let me give you one word of advice.”

“I’m listening,” Li Tianming said.

“Don’t be impulsive, wait for your chance. If your mother has to prepare your funeral, your enemy’s going to get off scot-free.”

“I will keep that in mind.” Li Tianming nodded. But he felt that Mu Yang had no idea how strong his burning hatred was. Rage, impulse... these words were insufficient to describe it — and when the time came, it would be with a frightening calm that he faced his foe.

“Care for a drink?” Mu Yang produced two jugs of liquor and placed it on the table in the yard.

“Why not?”

“Interesting, I haven’t met anyone who could surpass me in drinking.” Mu Yang smiled.

“Then today I will prove to you that you have never met anyone who could drink.”

“Young man, cockiness has a price.”

“We’ll see who’s going to pay.”

“Haha...”

With the blood of the Primordial Chaos Beasts and the Aeternal Infernal Body, Li Tianming could handle the strongest alcohol. And so, the two drank to their hearts content within Rainforest Pavilion.

“Not bad, not bad!” Mu Yang exclaimed.

“Nothing to brag about.”

Mu Yang suddenly realised that Li Tianming wasn't that impetuous, hot-headed young man he'd imagined. He was, in fact, composed and thoughtful, and it was hard for outsiders to read what he was thinking.

“Back at the Hall of Ancestry, I saw Wei Guohao destroy your weapon.” They had been drinking for quite a while and even Mu Yang was getting slightly dizzy.

“Yes, that guy clearly didn't want to give me any chance.” Li Tianming's face was slightly flushed too.

“I do have a weapon that may suit you, take it.” As he spoke, Mu Yang took out a bestial weapon and tossed it at Li Tianming.

“I never congratulated Jing'er for her marriage and her child, so just keep this as a gift.”

“You don't have to find a reason to give me a present. I generally just accept all gifts.” Li Tianming smiled as he picked up that weapon.

“A grade five weapon?” Li Tianming saw the blue heavenly patterns on the weapon and asked. A mysterious power, furious and powerful, seemed to be oozing out of the patterns.

“That's right.” Mu Yang nodded. Back at the ranking test, Lin Xiaoxiao and Chen Yao both had grade four weapons, which were superior to Li Tianming's Thunderfire Chain. And when he faced off against Wei Guohao, the weapon just shattered on the spot. All these pointed at the fact that the Thunderfire Chain was no longer enough to support Li Tianming's current level.

He would have been much stronger with a grade four weapon. As for grade five ones, those were the strongest weapons that people his age could possibly wield. Many beastmasters only owned such weapons after reaching Unity.

Even the Goldfault Sword that Wei Tiancang gifted Wei Lingxuan for her eighteenth birthday was a grade five weapon — it went without saying just how precious this gift from Mu Yang was.

“What's it called?” Asked Li Tianming.

“Blazing Dragon Chainblade.”

It was a crimson chain even thicker and longer than the Thunderfire Chain. The Thunderfire Chain was made from metal rings that were linked onto each other, while this Blazing Dragon Chainblade had round scale-like pieces joined together instead. The scales had razor sharp edges, and it was not hard to imagine the damage it could cause when it tangled its foes.

The tip of the chainblade, a sharp blade resembling the tip of a spear, also had a unique design. With it, the Blazing Dragon Chainblade would pierce through its enemies with tremendous ease.

“The Blazing Dragon Chainblade is effectively made up of two different grade five bestial weapons, namely the chain part and the Blazing Dragon Fang part.” Mu Yang pointed at the tip of the chainblade. The addition of the fang had no doubt enhanced the flexibility of this weapon, and gave Li Tianming more versatility in attacking.

“The raw material used for this weapon was crimson quartz. It was forged with blazing dragonfire, and finally infused with the blood of a Blazing Dragon. The quality of this weapon is better than most other grade five weapons, and all the spirit ores and hazards used in its production had blue heavenly patterns.”

As Mu Yang introduced this weapon, Li Tianming waved it a few times. This weapon clearly suited him, and it was far better than the Thunderfire Chain to boot. With the spirit hazard, the blazing dragonfire burning on the chains, Li Tianming even felt like he was controlling a real fanged dragon.

“Finally, here is our Disciple’s Order for the sanctum, freshly made.” Mu Yang tossed a white medallion at him.

Li Tianming caught it and felt its weight. He knew that this was a proof of identity for a disciple of the sanctum, and the order itself was made out of high-grade spirit ores. It was impossible for an outsider to replicate the item. On its front, the word ‘Heaven’s Sanctum’ was stylishly written on it, while on the back the name Li Tianming was engraved into the stone, proving that this order was his and his only.

Li Tianming had read about such orders before, and he knew that other than his name, there was supposed to be one more name as well. That would be the name of his supernal mentor, but currently he did not have one.

“You may not have a supernal mentor, but that shouldn’t stop you from cultivating in Flameyellow Pagoda. This order would also allow you to collect battle arts, martial arts, weapons, spirit ores, spirit herbs, spirit hazards as per normal,” Mu Yang explained.

“From now on, just leave your mother to me. If you focus on cultivating, you may reach the average standard for youths in the Wei Manor. If your performance is impressive, maybe my master will even reconsider his words and give you a chance to talk to him.” Mu Yang rose to his feet. He had everything arranged for Li Tianming.

“Average standard?” Li Tianming remembered every word Mu Yang said. He knew Mu Yang was talking about his talent. He may have put up an excellent show back during the ranking test, but that wouldn’t hide the fact that he was already twenty. And in the Wei Manor, the average standards of a twenty year old should at least be able to beat Wei Lingxuan who was just eighteen.

Li Tianming was only at first level Spiritsource, and the difference was obvious. Luckily, the difference in strength wasn’t that big. If he could compare with those youngsters raised in the manor, Wei Tiancang would definitely not look down on him like he did today.

Mu Yang was right in that Wei Tiancang wasn’t the friendly old grandpa that he had imagined. He wasn’t going to listen to Li Tianming, unless Li Tianming showed him what he was capable of. That was Li Tianming’s only way to save his mother!

Mother was still in the Wei Manor, and Li Tianming needed the power to protect her from all the demeaning words his ‘relatives’ were throwing at them. Mu Yang had pointed out the path for him, which was to cultivate and get stronger. While he couldn’t help with his mother’s situation, he had made it to the sanctum — it was time to make good use of the resources here to give himself a good boost!

Furthermore, Mu Qingqing, Chen Yao and Xing Que were all inside the sanctum! If he could improve fast enough, then he would soon catch up with those of his age, and become strong enough to enact revenge. When the rest of the disciples were grovelling at his feet, could the Potentate still disregard him the way he did today? Li Tianming could feel his passion burning.

“Vice-Potentate, just one last time. Lin Xiaoting is your disciple, so are you sure you are not going to stop me?” Li Tianming stood up as well, and he too was slightly dizzy from drinking so much.

“I told you, I believe in truth and justice. If you can prove your innocence, then I will not take sides,” Mu Yang replied calmly. Then again, he wouldn’t side with Lin Xiaoting in the first place when Li Tianming was Wei Jing’s son.....

“One last question.” Li Tianming stared into his eyes and asked, “Back in the Hall of Ancestry, you mentioned that you will take me as your disciple if I defeat Wei Guohao. Does that still count?”

“Of course, I’m not one to take back my words. But let me be honest with you. I don’t think you can match Wei Guohao within the next five years, and there’s no way for you to reach Lin Xiaoting’s in the next ten. They just have too far a head start, and do you really think you can catch up with them?”

“Definitely,” Li Tianming replied without hesitation.

“We shall see.”

“Suits me,” Li Tianming said.

“I shall take my leave.”

“I will send you off.”

“There’s no need for that.”

Mu Yang was not one to dilly-dally, and right after finishing his last cup of drink he disappeared from the pavilion.

“Bro, I have something to say.” The little chick popped up with a perverted look on its face.

“What?”

“I reckon this guy must have really loved our mother back then, and even if she didn’t choose him, he still didn’t give up. Look at him now, single for the past twenty years like a monk. He must really be heartbroken.” Ying Huo grinned as it gossiped.

“You are pretty creative aren’t you?” Li Tianming smiled. It was all stories of the past that younger generations like them did not have to bother with. He only had one question: Why did Wei Jing choose that Li Yanfeng over the handsome Sage Chen or the talented Mu Yang? Surely their lives would have been drastically different if one of the other two had been chosen.

“Hmm how do you reckon he does that? Does the esteemed Vice-Potentate do it with his own hands or does he visit brothels?” The little chick let its imaginations run wild. If Mu Yang was still here, he might just have strangled the little chick.

“Ying Huo, do you know how we can make a chicken tastier?”

“Huh??”

“We neuter it!”

“Tsk, just tell me if you are jealous of my manhood.” The little chick’s audacity sure knew no boundaries.

Jokes aside, Li Tianming’s cultivation journey in the sanctum had officially begun! Flameyellow Pagoda was the most famous place of cultivation in the nation, renowned for its incredible effects. Li Tianming had always wanted to take a look there, and see what opportunities await him.

But before that, he would make a trip to Princess Qing’s place first. His true intention was, of course, to find Jiang Feiling.

### **Chapter 82 - Hearts In Harmony**

Even if Wei Tiancang no longer restricted his movements, Li Tianming didn’t intend to stay in Wei Manor. Right now, walking around the Wei Manor would only bring him unwanted attention. With Mu Yang taking care of Wei Jing, he had nothing to worry about.

After saying farewell to his mother, Li Tianming settled down in the residence that Mu Yang had gotten him.

“The vice-potentate must have spent a lot of effort to convince that old man to not lock me up.” Li Tianming knew how determined Wei Tiancang sounded back then.

He took out the crumpled slip of paper that Jiang Feiling had given him. After comparing it with the map that Mu Yang gave him, he set off to find Jiang Feiling, Ying Huo at his side.

“Princess Qing’s supernal mentor is called Qin Shi. I heard that she is the strongest female supernal mentor right now.” Li Tianming recalled seeing her at the Hall of Ancestry. Although she was uninterested in him, since she only accepted female disciples, Li Tianming still had a decent impression of her — she hadn’t insulted him, unlike a certain Liu Xueyao.

Inside the sanctum, each supernal mentor had their own allocated area, and their disciples would live inside that area within their own courtyards. As for Li Tianming, who had no supernal mentor, he stayed alone at a corner of the sanctum with no neighbors.

Li Tianming’s destination was the Nebulous Pavilion, Supernal Mentor Qin Shi’s territory. He arrived early in the morning, without seeing anyone along the way. Following the instructions on the slip, Li Tianming found himself near the western side of the Nebulous Pavilion. He was looking for a courtyard by the name of ‘Qingluan Residence’, the residence of Princess Qing and Jiang Feiling.

Word had it that ever since Jiang Qingluan entered Heaven’s Sanctum, Jiang Feiling was always by her side. Even though she wasn’t a disciple of the sanctum, the authorities had given her special permission to do what she wanted inside the sanctum. She had no lifebound beasts anyway, so she couldn’t learn anything in the sanctum.

“Big brother, I knew you’d be here.” Just as Li Tianming was about to knock on the doors, the door creaked open and a girl in white chiffon pajamas popped out. She stretched and rolled her eyes, clearly having just woken up. Even without any makeup and with her hair still a mess, the girl was a feast to the eyes, especially when she stretched and displayed her fine contours.

What a pleasant way to start the day, Li Tianming thought.

“Who’s there?” Another girl walked up behind Jiang Feiling. Compared to Jiang Feiling she was shorter, but she had curves that seemed unfitting of her age.

“AHH!” Jiang Qingluan probably didn’t expect Ling’er to open the doors straight away. Before she could even react, Li Tianming had appeared, her skimpily dressed body in full view. For a brief moment, Jiang Qingluan stood there stunned, before letting out a piercing shriek as she ran back into her bedroom.

“Big brother, just give us a moment.” Jiang Feiling smiled and closed the doors.

“Ohhhhhh, no looky looky!” The little chick had covered its eyes with its wings, but that didn’t change the fact that those huge gaps inside its wings pretty much revealed everything.

That was surely one way of starting a morning, looking at two beauties with completely different flairs. Li Tianming coughed slightly, and readjusted his posture to look as gentlemanly as possible.

“Li Tianming, I don’t think you will be needing your eyes anymore.” The next time the door opened, it was Jiang Qingluan who appeared before him. She had already dressed properly, and she stared at Li Tianming as if she wished to rip a hole in his face.

“What, do you have a need for them? What are you gonna do, eat them as snacks?” Li Tianming laughed.

“Scram, we don’t welcome contemptible people like you here,” Jiang Qingluan snapped.

“Qing’er don’t block the way, let big brother come in.” It was at this moment that Jiang Feiling appeared too, and Li Tianming felt as if the whole world had been brightened up by her. She had changed into a pale blue skirt, leaving her delicate, slender legs exposed. With an enchanting smile on her face, Li Tianming could barely take his eyes off her.

At Jiang Feiling’s words, Li Tianming gently pushed aside Jiang Qingluan’s arms, which were blocking the gate, and invited himself into the Qingluan Residence. Within the small hut inside the courtyard, Jiang Qingluan already had tea prepared.

“Big brother, have some tea.” She sat down by the table and passed Li Tianming a cup. The tea gave off a faint fragrance, just like that fairy-like girl that was seated in front of him.

“Thank you, Ling’er.” Li Tianming took a seat too. Every time he met her, he couldn’t help but wonder how such a perfect girl could exist in this world.

“Li Tianming, I heard some new stories about you, and pretty funny ones too.” Jiang Qingluan leaned against one of the pillars, and said with an eyebrow raised.

“Go ahead, we can have a good laugh,” Li Tianming said.

“The great prime disciple, abandoned by all the supernal mentors. The whole institute is laughing about you now,” Jiang Qingluan said.

“Haha, very funny,” Li Tianming mocked.

“Do you not have any shame?” Jiang Qingluan sounded slightly annoyed.

“Of course I do. What about you? Why are you always trying to disrupt my time with Ling’er? Or do you have ideas for me, and wish to fight with Ling’er over me?” Li Tianming curled his lips.

“Are you retarded? I have never seen such a shameless person, and if I don’t keep an eye out for you, who knows what hideous things you may do,” Jiang Qingluan yelled back.

Jiang Feiling poured herself and Jiang Qingluan a cup of tea each with a smile. Perhaps the sight of these two fighting the moment they saw each other was amusing to her.

“How can you accuse a gentleman like me?”

“If you were a gentleman, even that chicken would be one,” Jiang Qingluan said with contempt.

“What do you mean, of course I am a gentlechicken.” The little chick puffed its chest up. Against their shamelessness, Jiang Qingluan could only stomp her feet in frustration.

“Qing’er, don’t be annoyed. Have a seat and then we can talk.” Jiang Feiling finally managed to calm her down.

“Even if I don’t have a supernal mentor, I have already gotten the Disciple’s Order and my cultivation here can proceed normally.”

“Wow, that’s impressive.”

“Impressive? Without a supernal mentor, he can’t do anything in the sanctum without getting pushed around,” Jiang Qingluan interrupted.

“Then what? Can Qing’er protect big brother?” Jiang Feiling asked.

“Yeah I will consider it if he kneels before me and slams his head on the floor.” Jiang Qingluan smirked.

“You might look like my granny, but you sure as hell ain’t one,” Li Tianming replied.

Jiang Qingluan realised that this man was entirely incompatible with him when it came to personality. That didn’t mean she found him a bad guy though. Jiang Feiling had told her quite a lot about Li Tianming’s stories regarding the Saintbeast War-Soul and the scandal.

“Hoho, then you just wait to get wrecked by all the disciples here. Pretty daring of you to provoke the only person in the institute who could possibly cover you,” Jiang Qingluan threatened.

“No biggie. I still have your jade pendant with me, don’t I? It should come in handy,” Li Tianming said.

“Now that you mentioned it, return the pendant to me. Now. Immediately.” Jiang Qingluan rose to her feet.

“Return it to you? Sure, come and grab it yourself.” Li Tianming whisked out the pendant and slotted it into the inner pocket of his pants.

“GRRR!” Jiang Qingluan almost felt like crying. It was her precious pendant that he put there...

“I will strangle you!” And so the chaos continued in the Qingluan Residence.

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They continued to fool around for a while, until Jiang Qingluan had had enough of the man. Not that there were any hard feelings.

"I want to bring Ling'er with me to cultivate at Flameyellow Pagoda," said Li Tianming.

"Fine. Just get out of my sight already." Jiang Qingluan whimpered. Just being in the same room as Li Tianming was like torture to her.

"Don't be angry, Qing'er, I will bring you back some delicious snacks when I get back." Jiang Feiling winked at her.

"I don't want it, I'm on a diet!"

Li Tianming appraised her from head to toe. "You do need one indeed."

"GET OUT!"

And so, Li Tianming was kicked out of the doors together with Jiang Feiling. But then, this had all worked according to Li Tianming's plans. How else could he have taken Jiang Feiling away from Princess Qing?

"Big brother, Qing'er is actually a really kind girl. She's really sympathetic about your encounters too," Jiang Feiling said.

"Of course I know that, which is why I dare to joke around with her. If not, with her identity as a princess, I'd have died a thousand times already." Li Tianming smiled.

While he and Jiang Qingluan differed greatly in terms of personality, he had always treated her as a kind person, and a good friend. While there wasn't much he could do for her now, Li Tianming would be there for her if she ever needed him one day,

They left the Nebulous Pavilion to face an exquisite garden. It was a delightful day, but it wasn't even close to the beauty of the girl's smile. That being said, Li Tianming's looks weren't any worse, and they did look like a really fitting couple.

"Ling'er, I have a feeling that you can help me with my cultivation, especially when you are attached to me," Li Tianming explained.

"That's possible," Jiang Feiling replied.

"How did you know?"

"My instincts. Perhaps it's a bonus effect of complete Spiritual Attachment "

"Can you do that with Princess Qing?"

Jiang Feiling shook her head.

Li Tianming lowered his head to look at her. He had no idea why he had this sense of familiarity every time he looked at her face, as if she was tugging on some innermost feeling in the depths of his heart. They stood side by side, so naturally to the point that it seemed that they had kept each other company for countless years.



Was this destined by fate? But no one would ever favor Li Tianming. Princess Ling was a princess, while he, Li Tianming, was a notorious joke. A genius wasn't needed to know that there could be no future between them.

But Li Tianming couldn't care about what others thought. He just wanted to know more about her, to understand her. For a start, he wanted to find out today how much would complete Spiritual Attachment affect his cultivation. The last time they did that, both of them had the gut-feeling that it would aid Li Tianming.

"Let's try the Celestial Wings once more."

"Sure."

It was Jiang Feiling's third ability. Li Tianming watched as she turned into light particles that slowly morphed into wings on his back.

Li Tianming flapped the light wings and took to the air. The wings were strong, sending Li Tianming flying forward at an incredible speed each time it flailed up and down. Li Tianming felt like he was a bird, and even the little chick would not be able to catch them if it were flying alongside them.

"Big brother, I can hear your heartbeat again." He could hear her voice ringing in his head.

"I can hear yours too."

At that moment, their hearts were in harmony.

### **Chapter 83 - Exceptional Mediocrity!**

Li Tianming finally experienced what it meant to be one.

While Jiang Feiling was a pure-hearted person, flawless and perfect, Li Tianming was the opposite. His heart was like a black rock, filled with injuries and scars that belied his age.

Only with her nearby could Li Tianming feel peace, a peace he'd been denied for a long time.

'Big brother, what am I feeling now?'

"Evil thoughts towards me."

"Big brother, you are aware that if I dispel the Celestial Wings, you'll fall, right?" Jiang Feiling was definitely blushing, even if it wasn't visible.

"Should I do a mid-air triple axel before pulling off a perfect landing?"

She giggled. "You're more likely to turn into a pancake."

"I didn't know Ling'er was so cruel."

"Don't be fooled by my harmless appearance! I have many cruel methods."

"I'll stop, I'll stop! After all, it'll be bad if you kill your husband."

"..."

The next moment, Li Tianming's wings vanished and he tumbled from the sky, crashing into the plaza below. Of course, Jiang Feiling wouldn't actually let him get hurt. When she deactivated the wings, he was already quite close to the ground.

Li Tianming crawled to his feet and saw the girl by his side rejoicing in his misfortune. Her eyes were daring Li Tianming to tease her again.

"So, still dare to talk nonsense?"

"I don't dare anymore. Please have mercy, my queen."

It seemed Ling'er wasn't some gentle flower that he could easily pick up anytime. However, it was undeniable that Li Tianming liked her a lot. He was even sure his feelings would grow as they interacted more.

Her presence also made him realise how base Mu Qingqing, who he once wanted to protect for life, was.

However, there were going to be many obstacles in his way if he wanted to get together with her. This world wasn't one where mutual love was all that mattered.

For example, now. He had fallen from the sky and landed in the most bustling place in Heaven's Sanctum, therefore drawing many a gaze. Among these gazes, many naturally believed Li Tianming didn't have the qualifications to accompany Jiang Feiling.

While Jiang Feiling lacked a lifebound beast, her unique abilities gave her a reputation in Ignispolis. Many young geniuses were interested in making acquaintances with her, and most of these geniuses were concentrated in Heaven's Sanctum!

The place Li Tianming was currently standing at, incidentally, was the most famous place in Heaven's Sanctum: the Flameyellow Pagoda!

It stood before him, giving off the impression of a tall mountain. Its floors alternated between golden and black, continuing on and on until it extended to the clouds.

Even when he was in Flameyellow Scions Institute, Li Tianming could see this famous pagoda. Rumour had it that only the most heaven-defying of geniuses could cultivate inside.

And today, he was at its feet.

There was an ancient saying, 'Conquer the Flameyellow Pagoda, conquer the world', an indication of the pagoda's status in Vermilion Bird. The pagoda held the best cultivation manuals of Flameyellow Scions Institute, the the holy land of cultivation here.

"Is this big brother's first time here?" Jiang Feiling stood by his side.

"Yes. In the future, can Ling'er accompany me here often?" Li Tianming asked.

"Of course. However, Qing'er will get jealous. I'll have to placate her afterwards."

"Jealous? Just like that and she likes me already? That was fast."

“Hmph, she’s jealous of you, okay?”

“Hmm.” Li Tianming looked at her and shook his head.

“What are you thinking? Qing’er and I don’t have that kind of relationship. We’re just close sisters.”

“Hmmmmmmm.” The little chick chuckled, its grin turning wretched as well.

“I’ll throttle you to death!” Jiang Feiling hadn’t expected she would become another Princess Qing around Li Tianming.

“Wait, men and women shouldn’t casually touch each other!”

As they messed around outside the pagoda, they began to look like a couple engaging in public displays of affection. Many disciples from Heaven’s Sanctum had ugly expressions when they saw that.

“Who is that guy beside Princess Ling?”

“I don’t recognise him.”

“Anyone recognise him?”

“I do. He’s Li Tianming. Haven’t you heard?”

“He’s that prime disciple? The unique talent that all the supernal mentors rejected?”

“Yes. The one who attempted to drug Lin Xiaoting’s girlfriend.”

“I did hear that some big clown joined the Sanctum these two days. So, it turned out to be him. He looks talented, but on the inside...”

The Heaven’s Sanctum disciples all gathered and jeered at Li Tianming, their arms crossed. However, as Li Tianming and Jiang Feiling’s ‘intimate’ horsing around continued, their frowns deepened.

“Why is Princess Ling with him? Is she unaware of his infamy?”

“She’s so pure, she must have been tricked by him!”

“It seems Li Tianming still hasn’t learnt his lesson. Who wants to teach him again?”

“Teaching him a lesson is one thing. The most important thing is to save Princess Ling from his evil clutches.”

“I heard he’s already twenty, but he’s still around third level Spiritsource. Anyone here can teach him a lesson!”

“It’s best not to use barbaric methods when it comes to beautiful women. Use logic! We should let Princess Ling know how nasty he is.”

“Who’s going up? If no one else is, I’ll do it.”

Honestly speaking, many people wanted to seize the chance to get nearer to Princess Ling. Everyone here was a future pillar of Vermilion Bird, all heroes of their age. They already possessed resounding reputations before joining Heaven’s Sanctum.

"I'll do it." A young man walked out, silencing everyone immediately. That was because he was from the Wei Manor and the eldest of Hall of Phoenix Hall Overseer Wei Zikun, Wei Qingyi.

More importantly, beside him was the beloved youngest daughter of the Flameyellow Scions Institute Chancellor, Wei Lingxuan.

The two had been cultivating in the Flameyellow Pagoda and had just left. Wei Qingyi was unhappy when he came out to see Li Tianming and Jiang Feiling laughing together.

Wei Lingxuan frowned. "I don't understand why grandfather let him out to embarrass us. Even if you prohibited him from revealing his identity, he might just reveal it to show off and embarrass us all."

"His mother's matter, even more so."

"Why is he with Princess Ling?" Wei Lingxuan asked.

"Didn't you hear? He must have tricked her. Princess Ling is so pure; naturally, she can't see past the mask of nefarious scum like him." Wei Qingyi burned with righteous anger.

"Despicable. Just thinking of how he has our Wei clan's blood flowing through him makes me want to hurl."

"Sis Xuan, give me a moment. I'll go over now. Hmph, we'll see if Li Tianming dares strut around in broad daylight after this."

"I'll go with you. Princess Ling is the sister of my sixth apprentice-sister. I'm more familiar with her, so she should listen to me," Wei Lingxuan said.

"Right, if I help Princess Ling, do you think Princess Qing will give me a chance?" Wei Qingyi asked.

"Maybe. Still, I think it's more practical to go for Princess Ling. She's not an actual princess, and she's very pretty. Although she has no lifebound beast, she can still help you. Why aim for my lofty sixth apprentice-sister?" Wei Lingxuan reminded him.

"You're right. Princess Ling is pretty. If I can give her a good impression this time, there may be a chance. Our Wei Manor isn't any inferior to the Vermilion Bird royal clan after all..."

The longer Wei Qingyi looked at Princess Ling, the more chaotic his mind was. She was simply too breathtaking.

Even Wei Lingxuan admitted it. For her, that was the only person she would admit defeat to. She refused to acknowledge others, like Princess Qing and Mu Qingqing.

"Sis Xuan, I'll change my targets. Come with me. Princess Ling will trust you more."

"Alright. If this succeeds, don't forget to thank me."

"Definitely."

"The supposed number one beauty of Vermilion Bird, what good fortune for you."

After chuckling, Wei Qingyi cleared his throat, before striding towards Li Tianming and Jiang Feiling, the bearings of a gentleman infused with every step he took.

Li Tianming had been ignoring all the chatter around him, what with his mind all on cultivating and Jiang Feiling. However, he couldn't ignore it when two people appeared to block his way just as he was pulling Jiang Feiling into the Flameyellow Pagoda. Moments later, he realised that the pair was Wei Lingxuan and Wei Qingyi. In terms of blood ties, they were very close — they were cousins, second only to siblings.

Li Tianming had thought it was only happenstance that they were blocking him, so he stepped to the side.

Wei Qingyi mirrored his action, blocking him.

"Is there something you need?" Li Tianming asked, confused.

"Yes. I'm here to tear off that fake mask of yours and show Princess Ling how filthy you are inside," Wei Qingyi said righteously.

Li Tianming blinked. "Are you... a nincompoop?"

### **Chapter 84 - Excuse Me!**

Wei Qingyi had never imagined Li Tianming would use a ridiculing gaze to look at him, and then even insult him. His face began to burn. Being insulted in front of Princess Ling, especially by Li Tianming, didn't go well with him. At all.

"Li Tianming, you really do have guts. Today, I'll..." Wei Qingyi couldn't control his temper, but Wei Lingxuan cut him off before he could finish.

"Don't say anything," Wei Lingxuan ordered Wei Qingyi, before turning to Jiang Feiling. "Princess Ling, I don't know how you met this Li Tianming. However, you definitely don't know his real self. Don't be tricked by his honeyed tongue."

"This person is actually a shameless scumbag. Just ask anyone, they'll tell you what he's done," Wei Lingxuan continued on, her face seemingly full of concern for Jiang Feiling.

"Furthermore, he entered the Sanctum as a prime disciple a few days ago and caused another round of laughter," Wei Qingyi added.

"How exactly did I embarrass myself?" Li Tianming asked. He had known this pair of cousins were arrogant and bored, but he hadn't expected them to be this bored. Was there no entertainment in Heaven's Sanctum?

"You actually want to bring it up? Three years ago you tried to drug someone and got your lifebound beast executed. Haven't you had enough yet? If I were you, I would have killed myself in embarrassment long ago. I wouldn't be here trying to trick the pure and simple Princess Ling." Wei Qingyi got more and more agitated as he spoke, puffing himself up with righteous indignation.

"Well said!"

"Princess Ling, don't listen to his sweet talk!"

Many Heaven's Sanctum disciples, none of them any lesser in status than Wei Qingyi, all chimed in with their words.

"Li Tianming, get lost! If you get near Princess Ling again, none of us Heaven's Sanctum disciples will let you off." Wei Lingxuan raised her head high, speaking arrogantly. Her words sparked much agreement from her fellow disciples.

Jiang Feiling also seemed to get slightly angry after hearing all this. However, her only response was to hug Li Tianming's arm and gently lean onto his shoulder, before saying, "I don't need you all to tell me anything. I can judge myself who's a good person and who's a bad person. Please don't block our way."

Wei Lingxuan and the rest hadn't expected Jiang Feiling to be so dead-set on sticking with Li Tianming, and so close at that.

"Princess Ling, aren't you aware of his ugly side?" Wei Qingyi said anxiously.

"Big brother isn't the least bit ugly. The ugly ones are you all, who insist on mocking, insulting and making things difficult for others," Jiang Feiling said resolutely.

"..." Her words stunned everyone, as no one had predicted this result. Wei Qingyi in particular felt like he had been struck by lightning!

"No matter how you all smear me, Ling'er will still stand on my side. What, not happy? I may not have morals or talent, but Ling'er will still like me. Can't deal with it? Bite me," Li Tianming replied, a small smile tugging at the corner of his mouth.

"Ling'er, let's stay away from such gossip mongers. I'm so pure-hearted, yet they keep slandering me! How vile!" Li Tianming smiled, patting Jiang Feiling on the shoulder, before attempting to pass Wei Qingyi and enter the Flameyellow Pagoda.

Many dark expressions littered the area. They had thought Jiang Feiling would ditch Li Tianming after they exposed him, turning him into an even bigger laughingstock.

They could only watch on as they experienced what the expression 'a flower stuck in a pile of cow dung' felt like. And it was nothing short of infuriating.

Li Tianming must have used some underhanded means to make Princess Ling ignore her reputation for him. Wei Qingyi, however, didn't blame Jiang Feiling. His heart dripped with blood at the sight of the pure and lovable princess gradually falling into that man's demonic clutches.

"Excuse me, coming through!" Holding hands, Li Tianming and Jiang Feiling passed through them,

"Stop!" Wei Qingyi completely fell for Li Tianming's taunting gaze. As he snapped, he abruptly struck out with his fist. "Princess Ling, today, I'll show you exactly how despicable this fellow is!"

Li Tianming was on Wei Qingyi's right. The moment he attacked, Li Tianming's left arm came up to block. While Wei Qingyi's attack was backed by fifth level Spiritsource beast ki, Li Tianming's left arm was both sturdy and he had his violent Aeternal Infernal Beast Ki. There was no problem blocking this blow.

However, the sole imperfection was that the enormous force still sent him flying towards Jiang Feiling. But before Li Tianming could crash into her, he twisted masterfully in mid-air, grabbing her waist. The two spun through the air before landing neatly on the ground.

The scene seemed greatly reminiscent of a pair of immortal lovebirds...

Especially striking was the glimpse of Jiang Feiling's snow-white legs under her blue skirt when she spun in the air.

For Li Tianming, he was lost the moment their eyes met. Nothing else seemed to exist in that moment in time except for the faintly blushing young lady in his arm. She was so breathtaking that Li Tianming could fully understand why people were jealous. After bashfully looking at him, she buried her head in his chest.

If not for his one-year relationship with Mu Qingqing, what Li Tianming was experiencing now would be his first love. However, it was much better than what he had shared with Mu Qingqing.

"Take your filthy hands off her!" Unfortunately, the picturesque scene was ruined by Wei Qingyi.

His fury stoked by his failure to defeat Li Tianming in one punch, he charged in again. "I challenge you, Li Tianming! Fight me one on one if you're a man. If you're a coward, get lost and don't try to trick Princess Ling anymore!"

Wei Qingyi's assault had garnered much support, all the onlookers eager to see Li Tianming make a fool of himself.

"Wei Qingyi is fifth level Spiritsource, more than enough to crush Li Tianming under his heel."

"He's already twenty. It's just sheer luck he could become the prime disciple by defeating a fifteen year old!"

"He's probably still feeling good about himself. However, he doesn't know he's the bottom of the barrel in Heaven's Sanctum."

"Junior apprentice-brother Wei, I recommend you cripple him and end his line as well. Let's see if he still dares do this in the future."

Now that someone had stepped out, they all threw their support behind him.

Li Tianming had no choice but to put Jiang Feiling down unwillingly.

"Big brother, I dislike him. He's so arrogant and keeps claiming he's doing this for justice, when it's really just his selfish desires." Jiang Feiling frowned.

"Then what should I do?" Li Tianming said.

"Beat him!" She tugged on Li Tianming's sleeve, throwing an adorable tantrum.

Li Tianming immediately felt his blood boil. Even if he had to face an army alone, nothing would stop him!

## **Chapter 85 - Thirty-Six Heavenly Spirits Strikes**

Differences in level or talent meant nothing to Li Tianming when compared to Ling'er's request. Li Tianming burned with a fighting spirit as his eyes instantly locked onto Wei Qingyi. "I accept your challenge, so you better get ready for a bad time."

Of course, that only elicited more jeers from the crowd.

"Big brother, I'll help you." Jiang Feiling stood firmly beside Li Tianming, and she too, was looking fiercely at Wei Qingyi.

With Jiang Feiling helping, Li Tianming was confident about winning. That being said, he too wanted to see what they could pull off when they fought as one. Jiang Feiling had ten different abilities sealed in her ten fingernails, and Spiritual Attachment was just one of them.

"Bold, aren't you?" Wei Qingyi had expected Li Tianming to run in shame, and if he did, he would have been unable to show off in front of Princess Ling. But since Li Tianming had accepted his challenge... he could barely hide his laughter. With that, their fight was now a legal duel and he wouldn't have to be responsible for whatever happened next.

"Your chance's here. I'll help you deal with Princess Ling, she's just fooled by that hooligan. You just make sure you make that guy beg for mercy at your feet."

"Sis Xuan, just watch. I'll defeat him in three moves!" Wei Qingyi declared, raising cheers and applause from the crowd.

Without another word, Wei Qingyi jumped off the stairs and dashed towards Li Tianming. He was holding his grade four bestial weapon, a golden spear. The spear wasn't straight like most spears, twisting and curving like a wyvern instead. That didn't undermine the weapon's power at all, however — it was still one of the best grade four weapons available.

Its name was the Golden Wyvern Spear!

Given Wei Qingyi's family background, he could probably get hold of a grade five weapon. But bestial weapons required mastery from their users, and without enough skill the weapon wouldn't perform to its fullest potential.

For now, the Golden Wyvern Spear suited Wei Qingyi more than any other weapon, given that he had been using it for three years. It could even be stronger than some grade five weapons that other people held.

Wei Qingyi did not plan to summon his lifebound beast. Usually, for challenges like this, the disciples would not involve their beasts. Many a time, one-on-one fights between sanctum disciples would be much more straightforward. That being said, a fight together with their lifebound beasts would be a more all-rounded display of their true potential.

"Die!" Sparks flew out of Wei Qingyi's eyes as he charged towards Li Tianming like a snake. The Golden Wyvern Spear was like his fang, aiming for Li Tianming's body with a golden flash.

It was his signature Thirty-Six Heavenly Spirits Strikes, an intermediate source-ranked battle art. The move involved a continuous assault of jabs against opponents, suppressing them with powerful strikes that could easily poke holes in their bodies.



Li Tianming drew the Blazing Dragon Chainblade from his sleeves. Against the young master of Wei Manor and the son of Wei Zikun, he would not hold back. Normally speaking, he wouldn't stand a chance against Wei Qingyi, even with a grade five weapon. But now that he had Jiang Feiling by his side, things were a lot different. He was used to battling alongside lifebound beasts, but this was the first time he fought together with Jiang Feiling. It was a very novel feeling. For example, even with Wei Qingyi charging towards them, Jiang Feiling was still relaxed. Her fingers snapped a moment later, and Li Tianming felt an indescribable storm form around them, which widened instantly to envelop both combatants.

"What's going on?" Li Tianming didn't think it was just an illusion. Wei Qingyi's speed had fallen drastically, making each jab unnaturally slow.

"Big brother, this is the power of the Temporal Field," Jiang Feiling explained.

After a moment, Li Tianming recalled that she had mentioned this ability to him before. This ability seemed even more incredible compared to her Spiritual Attachment and Celestial Wings. It was capable of controlling the flow of time, even though the region was quite limited and the extent of change wasn't all that much. Nonetheless, it was something that constrained only his opponents, and that tiny difference was capable of changing the flow of battle.

Wei Qingyi was frowning. Li Tianming had already dodged three consecutive strikes, and it was as if the golden spear he held could not touch Li Tianming. His speed had slowed, and he couldn't understand why.

He had no time to figure out the reason, because Jiang Feiling had already turned into sparkles a moment later, attaching herself onto Li Tianming. Immediately, a crystalline glow had enveloped Li Tianming's body, as if he was a god that had just descended from the heavens!

The attachment this time was even more perfect than the previous time. Strength flowed through his body, and both his physical power and his beast ki surged out endlessly. This was what having unlimited might surely felt like! It felt so good, Li Tianming involuntarily let out a soft moan as the power coursed through his body.

The little chick chortled. "Pfffft, did you know what that sounded like? That sounded like Ling'er just molested you."

"Oh, shut up." Li Tianming flushed, annoyed that he had accidentally made such a mistake. He could even hear Jiang Feiling laughing inside his body at Ying Huo's joke.

"Oh Ling'er, you might want to check Li Tianming's body and his size. If it's not good enough, you can still ditch him."

If Li Tianming had a choice, the first thing he would do would be to slaughter that damned chicken. Because of it, both him and Ling'er couldn't even focus on Wei Qingyi, what with their hearts pumping nervously and all that.

Although truth be told, she too felt weird whenever she attached to Li Tianming, only to flow through every corner of his body. That was only possible with a perfect attachment, meaning that Li Tianming

was the only one who had received this kind of treatment. For other people she attached to, she would only focus on areas such as their arms or legs.

But this wasn't the time for the two to be embarrassed, as Wei Qingyi had charged up again, with yet another explosive set of his Thirty-Six Heavenly Spirits Strikes.

Shoosh!

Each jab was swift and violent, accompanied by a golden flash. The Temporal Field field only served to slow his movement speed and attack speed slightly, which meant that he wasn't any less dangerous.

That said, Li Tianming had already identified Wei Qingyi as a good way to vent out his frustration and embarrassment. He was getting too conscious about the girl attached to his body, and he desperately needed a good fight to distract him from that. Without hesitation, Li Tianming flung out his Blazing Dragon Chainblade!

"That's the Blazing Dragon Chainblade! Where did he get that from!"

Many people recognised the well-known weapon, but none of them could figure out how it landed in Li Tianming's possession.

A blazing dragon soared outwards as Li Tianming whipped his chainblade at his opponent. Enveloped in Draconic Blaze, the chainblade lashed at the Golden Wyvern Spear. As the chainblade and the spear clashed with each other, Li Tianming unleashed the full power of his Nine Flying Bolts, and it was also the best that he had pulled off so far. The sharp screeching sounds of metal clashing made many viewers frown. They realised that this was not the one-sided bullying they had expected to see, and Li Tianming being crushed by Wei Qingyi was not necessarily the result they would be seeing!

Through this battle, Li Tianming had a better idea on the effects that the Temporal Field might cause. Wei Qingyi was forced to fight at a pace he was unfamiliar with, resulting in flaws in his movements. While these loopholes might not be an issue if he had as much an advantage over Li Tianming as he had thought, they would decide the course of battle if they were at the same level.

Metallic shrieks rang in rapid succession as they continued to strike at each other.

"Try running from this!" The Blazing Dragon Chainblade tangled itself onto the Golden Wyvern Spear, obstructing its movements. Under Li Tianming's manipulations, the Blazing Dragon Fang slid towards Wei Qingyi's throat!

The Blazing Dragon Fang was mounted at the tip of the chainblade, making it impossible to dodge at such close proximity. Faced with incoming danger, Wei Qingyi released his spear to save his life. Since the battle had begun, Wei Qingyi's mind had been hazy when he realised that Li Tianming's strength was on par with his. It was an embarrassment to let go of his weapon in the middle of a battle, but he had no time to be ashamed by that. His mind was already a mess; letting go of his spear was just a natural instinct for him to stay alive.

But how would he expect that with a swing, Li Tianming had flung his Golden Wyvern Spear into the air!

"Wei Qingyi, where are you looking?" The next moment, Li Tianming's black arm slammed loudly into Wei Qingyi's belly!

“AHHH!” Wei Qingyi screamed as he flew backwards, smashing into Wei Lingxuan, who was right behind him. The two landed onto the ground a moment later in a messy pile.

With a deafening shriek, the Golden Wyvern Spear landed from the sky and planted itself into the ground between Wei Qingyi’s legs, just a centimetre away from his crotch!

“FUCK!” Wei Qingyi couldn’t hold himself back, and a dark stain appeared in the crotch area of his clothes.

Silence fell as the audience witnessed this amazing, stunning spectacle.

On the other side, Li Tianming had kept his weapon, and the fairy-like girl reappeared beside him. Her face was slightly red as she stood beside Li Tianming. Her head lowered, she played with the corner of her skirt. Li Tianming looked at her and grinned. That was honestly the best feeling he could ever imagine, and he loved the way their hearts beat together. With her attached to him, they had no secrets between them, and everything felt wonderful and pure.

“Damn, you wet yourself?” Li Tianming broke into chuckles when he glanced at Wei Qingyi. As for the little chick, it was already rolling on the floor, laughing madly. Their laughter was piercing to the ears.

Even Jiang Feiling let slip a brief giggle. She did eventually stifle her laughter, feigning a set of coughs to suppress her urge to laugh.

Other than the three of them, no one else was laughing. They were all supporting Wei Qingyi, and now that he had been defeated and even wet his own pants, they had no idea how to react. Wei Lingxuan was the first to climb up. She probably did not realise that her dress was soaked in a certain liquid.

“LI TIANMING!!” She was fuming with rage. Unlike Wei Qingyi, she was from the direct line of descent in the Wei family tree, the little princess of the entire clan. She was no different from a princess from the royal family, with the only difference being that the royal family had multiple princesses while the Wei family only had one.

Her reddened eyes were locked onto Li Tianming, who was still laughing. Noticing that, Li Tianming stopped his laughter and glared back at her with equal intensity.

“Tell me, Wei Lingxuan. Are you stunned now?” Li Tianming curved his lips.

## **Chapter 86 - Flameyellow Rock**

A few days back, Wei Lingxuan had already given Li Tianming a preview of her ‘stunned’ face together with her siblings. But the annoyed look on her face right now was far more spectacular.

Li Tianming smirked. “Just look at that stupid look of yours. Compared to your acting back then, this is what being stunned truly looks like.”

Wei Lingxuan was speechless with anger. To make things worse, there was a weird smell lingering around her, and the source seemed to be the wet part of her dress.

“Li Tianming, you are dead! Dead, you hear me?!” Wei Qingyi was even more angry. The burning pain from his abdomen and his involuntary incontinence were all reminders of his defeat. The shame that

this battle had brought him would last for years to come; killing him would be a mercy now. To add fuel to the fire, it was precisely that Li Tianming whom he so despised that had caused him all this shame.

“There is no way he could have beaten me even with the help of Princess Ling. This cannot be real! I have yet to send out my lifebound beast, I have not lost yet!” Wei Qingyi couldn’t imagine what would happen if the news of his defeat spread in the sanctum, and could only try his best to comfort himself.

Cursing in his mind, Wei Qingyi summoned his lifebound beast from his lifebound space. A huge golden bird took to the air, its body covered in glittering gold feathers. Its feathers were like brilliant daggers, but that wasn’t as surprising as the six wings it had — each of them was like a golden broadsword glistening under the sun.

“That’s the high-tier six-star lifebound beast, the Six-Winged Goldroc, a flying metal-type beast.”

Li Tianming stared at the Goldroc, shocked momentarily. How could he not? It was just too similar to his brother, Midas. Midas was also a Goldroc, but it had only four wings, making it a five-star beast compared to the six-star one that Wei Qingyi had. Li Tianming would never forget about the brother that had accompanied him for sixteen years of his life.

“But this is Wei Qingyi’s lifebound beast. It’s not Midas.” Li Tianming knew better than anyone that Midas would not return.

“Li Tianming, you brought this upon yourself. One of us will not be walking out of here alive today!” While Li Tianming was still stunned, the enraged Wei Qingyi had already closed in onto Li Tianming together with his Six-Winged Goldroc. The beast of course wouldn’t care about who Li Tianming was, its intention to kill Li Tianming painfully obvious.

“Wei Qingyi, who exactly isn’t walking out alive?” Just as Wei Qingyi was about to strike, an icy cold voice called beside him. That was the voice belonging to a master cultivator, and it made Wei Qingyi shudder instantly, forcing him to stop his moves.

Li Tianming had seen the woman walking out of the Flameyellow Pagoda before Wei Qingyi even summoned his Goldroc. She had short hair and was dressed in a neat workout suit that portrayed her figure well. Aside from her handsome features, she also looked like an experienced, respectable senior.

Li Tianming knew her. She was Princess Qing and Wei Lingxuan’s supernal mentor, Qin Shi.

“I, I, I... I was joking, mentor. Just a joke.” Wei Qingyi hurriedly halted his assault. No matter how much anger he was, there were rules he had to follow within the sanctum, rules that couldn’t be disobeyed even if he was Wei Zikun’s son. And one of them was: Do not disobey the supernal mentors.

Wei Qingyi could feel his face twitch. He had to hide all his frustration in front of Qin Shi, and anyone unaware who saw him right now would think he had constipation.

“If your mentor sees you yelling and screaming in the sanctum like this, you’d be in for some punishment.” Qin Shi stared at him. She was always known to be one of the stricter supernal mentors.

“Yes, mentor.”

Even the rest of the chattering disciples were all silenced by Qin Shi’s appearance.

“Get back to cultivating, all of you.” With a single sentence, Qin Shi sent all the bystanders scurrying away, with most of them returning to the Flameyellow Pagoda to cultivate.

That was one of Li Tianming’s favorite things about the sanctum. The rules here were strictly followed, and all disciples were treated indifferently. Even a little princess like Wei Lingxuan was just another regular disciple in front of the mentors.

Well, at least that’s how it was in public.

“Lingxuan.” Once the crowd dispersed, Qin Shi turned her attention to Wei Lingxuan. Her gaze was like a mountain, crushing her.

“Yes, mentor.” Wei Lingxuan hid her resentment and forced out a smile.

“I have high hopes of you. Place your focus on making it to seventh level Spiritsource and stop wasting your time on unimportant matters,” Qin Shi instructed.

“Yes, mentor.” Wei Lingxuan nodded.

Out of all the disciples in the sanctum, Wei Lingxuan was sixth level Spiritsource at the age of eighteen, marking her talent as above average. But if she managed to breakthrough to the seventh level, then she would become one of the better ones.

“As a member of the Wei Manor, you should know what is expected of you,” Qin Shi added.

“Oh.” Wei Lingxuan pouted.

“Then stop wasting time here.”

“Yes, mentor!”

Words couldn’t describe how satisfied Li Tianming felt as the two Weis were lectured by Qin Shi. Wei Qingyi had no choice but to return the Six-Winged Goldroc back to his lifebound space and follow Wei Lingxuan back into the Flameyellow Pagoda.

The only disciple still left outside was Li Tianming, who was accompanied by Jiang Feiling.

“Ling’er, you can achieve complete Spiritual Attachment with him?” Qin Shi turned to ask Jiang Feiling, her face visibly confused.

“Yes, mentor,” Jiang Feiling answered.

“And Qingluan agreed for you to hang out with him?” Qin Shi asked.

“She does. The three of us are good friends.”

“Good friends? The three of you?” Qin Shi was puzzled, given that she was aware of Li Tianming’s history.

On top of that, his position in Heaven’s Sanctum was just temporary, and it was likely that he wouldn’t be able to stay here for long. No matter how she looked at it, Li Tianming was on the verge of being expelled, and was in no position to be ‘good friends’ with the two princesses. She could hardly be impressed by a disciple who got into the sanctum using age advantage and a stroke of luck.

“Anything wrong, mentor?” Jiang Feiling questioned gently.

“Nothing. Since you are his friends, then remind him to abide by the sanctum’s rules and stay out of trouble.” With that said, Qin Shi turned around and left.

As for Li Tianming, he still had plans to enter the Pagoda. That he said, Wei Lingxuan, Wei Qingyi, and all the spectators were still waiting for him inside there.

“Don’t worry, big brother, fighting is prohibited in the pagoda. If anything happens, I can protect you.” Jiang Feiling raised her fist up playfully, her brilliant smile shining under the sunlight.

“Ling’er, don’t bother about him, he wouldn’t be dying anytime soon. I’m the one who deserves your protection.” The little chick on Li Tianming’s shoulders interrupted bashfully, like the shameless thing it was.

As for the Flameyellow Pagoda, what was there to stop him from entering? Not only did he walk in, he did it with Ling’er’s arm in his, and in full view of all the spectators.

“Li Tianming is here.”

“A piece of filth like him appearing in front of the ‘Flameyellow Rock’, it’s an insult!”

All kinds of whispers filled the pagoda, most of them derogatory. As for the topic of people’s discussion, Li Tianming himself was fascinated by the Flameyellow Rock they were talking about.

The first level of the Flameyellow Pagoda was quite spacious, and just the height of this floor was more than thirty meters. The reason for that was because up to a third of the space here was occupied by a massive, irregularly shaped rock.

The moment he entered, Li Tianming could feel the wave of spiritual energy buffeting him. He wasn’t even close to the rock, but he could already feel the impact of the treasure. The rock itself looked ancient, its surface covered in red and yellow stripes. The stripes were complicated, changing with each passing second, and spoke of myriad mysteries that Li Tianming could not understand.

It wasn’t an exaggeration to say that everyone in Vermilion Bird knew of the legends surrounding the Flameyellow Rock. Li Tianming too had dreamed that one day, he would achieve the opportunity to cultivate in front of the stone. Today, he finally found out for himself why many would give anything just for an opportunity to cultivate here. Be it the visual impact or the waves of spiritual energy that he felt, he could barely imagine just how much benefit this rock had for cultivators.

“Big brother, are you familiar with the Flameyellow Rock?” Jiang Feiling asked.

“Do you want to introduce it to me?” Li Tianming smiled.

“Sure.” Jiang Feiling continued, “The Flameyellow Rock was said to be placed here by our ancestors on the day the Institute was first established. It was told that the rock is a spirit ore with black heavenly patterns, and it is also the largest, finest one that the nation had ever seen.”

“The Flameyellow Rock took in an endless amount of the spiritual energy of heaven and earth, and it was said that it had even developed its own consciousness throughout the course of history. It was as if

the Flameyellow Rock was a living creature, capable of absorbing and guiding the flow of spiritual energy.”

“One of the most incredible things about the rock was that it could pick out cultivators whom it appreciates, and chase away those that it disliked. Every disciple of the sanctum has a unique synchronization level with the rock, where a higher level would mean more effective cultivation. Black heavenly patterns are the second best patterns, right after white ones. That means ores with black patterns are only inferior to those with white patterns. Big brother, can you see the black magical formation there? Those are the black heavenly patterns.”

Li Tianming looked up, and sure enough, there was a black magical formation that encompassed the entire rock. The formation was in fact a web made up of innumerable black veins, all part of the rock’s heavenly patterns.

Patterns of higher level were capable of forming magic formations, and it was precisely these formations that stored the power of heavenly will, which gave the Flameyellow Rock its unique qualities. Red, orange or yellow patterns were nothing compared to those magic formations in the stone.

It went without saying that the Flameyellow Rock was the crown jewel of Heaven’s Sanctum, and countless generations had cultivated here before making a name for themselves in this nation.

### **Chapter 87 - A Spicy Gamble!**

As they got closer to the Flameyellow Rock, Jiang Feiling said, “When one cultivates near the Flameyellow Rock, the rock will gather and guide the spiritual energy of heaven and earth, making cultivation more effective than simply refining spirit gems. ”

“The closer to the rock, the more effective cultivation would be. Based on the distance, the sanctum has divided everyone here into five different synchronization levels. Those at level one are the furthest away from the rock, and will therefore receive the least benefits from the rock.”

“As for those at level five, which is the highest possible synchronization level, they are said to have perfect synchronization with the rock, meaning that they can cultivate right beside the rock. It is a sign of the highest possible talent in the sanctum, and whoever can achieve that would be a legend in the institute.” Jiang Feiling finished her explanation with a hint of admiration.

“Perfect synchronization? How many people in the sanctum now has perfect synchronization with the Flameyellow Rock?” Li Tianming asked.

Jiang Feiling clicked her tongue. “Big brother, you must be joking?”

“Very few?” Li Tianming asked.

“You bet. In fact, perfect synchronization has always been a myth in the institute, and even throughout the sanctum’s history, very few could achieve that.”

“For real?” Li Tianming was shocked to hear how difficult it was to cultivate beside the rock.

“Of course. Even the best disciples in the sanctum right now could only reach level four synchronization with the rock. That’s only about seven people, one of them being Qing’er,” Jiang Feiling explained.

“And who is the one that can get closest to the rock?” Li Tianming asked

“Big brother won’t want to hear that name,” she replied.

Li Tianming got the hint immediately. It must be that number one genius of Lightning Manor, Lin Xiaoting. But even he was only at level four. Perfect synchronization hadn’t appeared in the institute for hundreds of years already.

Li Tianming had learned enough about the Flameyellow Rock. He was aware that the moment he tried to walk into the proximity of the Flameyellow Rock, a spiritual energy storm would appear and surround him. The gust of spiritual energy was highly repulsive, making it difficult to even stand stably within it.

Any disciple who wanted to cultivate here would run the risk of being consumed by the spiritual energy storm, especially when they tried to surpass the limits set by their synchronization level. Most people would figure out what their own synchronization level was the first time they approached the rock. Should a disciple at level one try to cultivate at the location meant for those at level three, not only would it not be beneficial for cultivation, the disciple might even lose his life to the spiritual energy storm.

A disciple’s synchronization level was decided by fate, and nothing would change that.

From what Li Tianming saw, the area near the rock was divided into five rings, and both the innermost and the second closest ring were unoccupied. Only in the third ring did he see a dozen people cultivating.

Third ring. That corresponded to a level three synchronization level.

With that said, most of the disciples spectating the fight outside just now hadn’t started cultivating. None of them expected Li Tianming to come into the pagoda, especially since he offended Wei Lingxuan and Wei Qingyi. If Wei Qingyi had the chance, he would definitely try to kill Li Tianming.

Just as Li Tianming was about to have his synchronization level tested, he felt an icy chill from his back. Turning around, he saw Wei Lingxuan and her cousin Wei Qingyi staring coldly at him.

There was no doubt that the two of them were stronger than Li Tianming, especially when he didn’t have Jiang Feiling attached to him. The difference between Wei Lingxuan, who was sixth level Spiritsource, and Li Tianming, who was at the first level, was not negligible.

Jiang Feiling frowned. “Fighting is prohibited in the Flameyellow Pagoda, so you better stay out of trouble.”

“Don’t you worry, Princess Ling, we have plenty of opportunities to have him grovel at our feet.” Even Wei Lingxuan’s tone towards her wasn’t as cautious as it used to be. After all, Wei Lingxuan herself was not far off from being a real princess.

“If Princess Ling is going to stubbornly ignore our advice and continue to stay with this degenerate, then don’t blame us for not warning you when anything happens in the future,” Wei Qingyi mocked, having given up his chances of creating a good impression in front of Princess Ling. After the shame he had gone through just now, he was in no mood for skirt chasing.



“I don’t need your advice to tell me who I should be with. And how convincing is that when it comes from someone who accuses others of being degenerates?” Jiang Feiling argued back.

It was rare for the crowd to see the usually cute, easy-going Princess Ling to have such a tough side to her. They could only envy Li Tianming for being the only one to receive this kind of treatment.

Wei Qingyi was already frustrated enough, and to make matters worse, he had no idea how to refute the princess’s statement.

“Forget it Qingyi, birds of a feather flock together. Why stop them if the losers want to keep each other company?” Wei Lingxuan stepped in.

“Yes, sis Xuan.” Wei Qingyi gritted his teeth in anger.

Wei Lingxuan knitted her eyebrows. She wasn’t willing to let Li Tianming off today after all that he had done. But the pagoda was not a place where she could act, so she could only lower her voice and hiss at Li Tianming with a voice that only the few of them could hear.

“Don’t you think of returning to the Wei Manor to meet your mother. Or else, I’d make sure you won’t be walking out in one piece.”

“That’s right, you better not let us see your cowardly face. Hiding behind a woman’s skirt, what kind of a man are you?” Wei Qingyi added. The two of them threatened Li Tianming under their breath.

“The kind of man that doesn’t pee in public like a wild dog. Hmm, do you smell that strange smell?” Li Tianming shrugged, a sunny smile on his face.

Wei Qingyi’s body was visibly shaking. He had already changed his pants and the smell was gone, but Li Tianming mocking him about it was enough to make him want to rip off Li Tianming’s face.

“Don’t be impulsive.” Wei Lingxuan held Wei Qingyi back and turned to Li Tianming, “Li Tianming, you surely are your mother’s son. Back then she angered grandfather and left with that bumpkin from Flamehaven and for twenty years, she cared not for the clan. She really deserved to get Lifesbane. As for you, don’t even think about seeing her before she dies and rots away in the Rainforest Pavilion. I’ll make sure to break your leg if you even dare to get close to the Wei Manor.”

“That’s right, don’t you think we will give you a chance just because we are related by blood. Both you and your mother are a disgrace to the clan!” Wei Qingyi cursed.

“Say that once more, I dare you.” No matter how good-tempered Li Tianming was, he could no longer take in any more insults. He could argue back if they had insulted him, but instead they mocked his mother, his reverse scale — something he could not tolerate.

“I can say anything I want and what can you do about it? Without Princess Ling, do you really think you can still match us?” Wei Lingxuan glared, her expressions that of a pampered child’s.

“Only this level at the age of twenty? People like you don’t deserve to be in the sanctum, least to say that you came back to beg for grandpa’s help. You wouldn’t really think that I have to respect you just because you are my cousin, right?” Wei Qingyi said.

Both of them were confident in their strength. Wei Lingxuan was certain that she could easily crush Li Tianming. As for Wei Qingyi, he firmly believed that without Princess Ling's interference, he would be the one that had won the previous fight.

"You said that you will break my leg when I return to the manor?" Li Tianming knew more than to count on these 'relatives' of his. Since they insisted with their stupidity, then he would not show them any face either.

"Of course!" Wei Lingxuan scorned with her head held up.

"Then you better keep track of my location, and make sure that I can find you when I return," Li Tianming replied.

Wei Lingxuan laughed. "What a joke. Don't worry. I'll be waiting."

Li Tianming knew that words alone were not enough for him to retrieve his reputation. He turned his attention to the Flameyellow Rock, his main goal of the day.

"Big brother, I will attach to you and then we go in. Let's see if you have level three synchronization level." Jiang Feiling suggested. She too did not want to waste her time with those kids.

"Let's go." Li Tianming said. The Flameyellow Rock was way more important to him than those two relatives of his.

"Excuse me? Level three synchronization level? Is this some kind of comedy?" Wei Qingyi chuckled when he heard Li Tianming and Jiang Feiling's conversation, "Sis Xuan, did you hear that?"

"Ignorant moron who only knows how to talk big." Wei Lingxuan rolled her eyes.

Li Tianming had intended to ignore them, but they were taunting him yet again.

"And what if I can reach level three?" Li Tianming turned around with his eyebrow raised.

"Is this a gamble?" Wei Lingxuan smirked.

"What if it is?"

"If you have level three synchronization level, I will lick your boots clean." Wei Lingxuan shrugged her shoulder indifferently.

Her confidence was not unfounded. Even she herself barely had level three synchronization level, while Wei Qingyi was only at level two. Most of the disciples in the sanctum could at most reach level two, and those at level three were already the elites of the sanctum. Li Tianming was at the bottom of Spiritsource, and only managed to get into the sanctum by beating Lin Xiaoxiao who was five years his junior. For disciples like him, even getting to level one synchronization level would be a problem, least to say level three.

There was no reason to worry at all, and in fact, she had other plans in mind too. For a disciple to be considered to have a certain synchronization level, they have to cultivate in that particular ring for an hour. That meant that Li Tianming had to spend one hour in the third ring, when his talent clearly

wouldn't even qualify for the first. If he insisted on continuing in the third ring, the spiritual energy storm may backfire on him, injuring him gravely.

That was exactly what she wanted. She knew that Li Tianming loathed her, so she offered a wager that Li Tianming would find hard to refuse.

Sure enough, Li Tianming fell for it.

"What if I lose the bet?" Li Tianming asked with his lips curved.

"Easy. Just bang your head at my feet and shout as loudly as you can: I, Li Tianming, am a perverted degenerate. Do you have the guts to bet with me?" Wei Lingxuan taunted.

"Give me a second." Li Tianming suddenly ran out of the pagoda.

"Did he just run in fear?" The pagoda was filled with laughters and jeers.

But Li Tianming was back in less than a minute. The first thing that people saw was the mud and dirt all over his shoes. He must have purposely stepped in a mud puddle.

How could anyone not get his hint? He had dirtied his boots on purpose just so that Wei Lingxuan could lick it after he had won. Clearly, he had accepted the gamble!

Things were spicing up in the Flameyellow Pagoda.

As the bystanders watched on, Li Tianming said to Wei Lingxuan with a smile, "Can we start? Do note that I'm quite a particular person, so I won't want any mud left on my shoes."

"Oh and Wei Qingyi, do you mind peeing on my shoes?"

## **Chapter 88 - Sky-Spanning Wings!**

Regardless, those who were spectating would never begrudge the matter for blowing up even more. Licking a shoe or kneeling while admitting to being a perverted degenerate were both exciting stakes. The Flameyellow Pagoda was a place of quiet cultivation, and hadn't been so lively for a very long time.

"Well, aren't you eager?" Wei Lingxuan glanced at Li Tianming's dirty shoes. She trembled somewhat, but she was so full of confidence that she wasn't deterred.

"Excited to clean my shoe? Don't worry, an hour will fly by." Li Tianming smiled, approaching the Flameyellow Rock, Jiang Feiling in tow.

The Heaven's Sanctum disciples cultivating by the Flameyellow Rock all halted when they heard of the bet. Stepping out of the rings, they watched Li Tianming and Wei Lingxuan with rapt attention.

"Is there something wrong with Li Tianming's head?"

"There must be. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been dumb enough to attack Mu Qingqing three years ago and ruin himself."

"He's a sensationalist. You actually expect him to act low-profile?"

All of them shook their heads, looking at Li Tianming with pity. Their minds were already full with the amusing events to come.

Wei Lingxuan's cold voice cut them off just as Li Tianming and Jiang Feiling were about to enter the rings. "Li Tianming, this bet is between you and me. Jiang Feiling is not allowed to go in. Don't keep thinking of getting a girl to help you, coward."

"Ling'er." Li Tianming stopped, giving her a smile.

"Will you be fine?" Jiang Feiling asked.

"Just wait and see."

"I'm still worried big brother may lose..." Jiang Feiling pouted, her eyes full of worry.

"Why would I be afraid of losing? You'll help me take the punishment, right?" Li Tianming grinned.

"No way!" Jiang Feiling giggled. She stopped walking after seeing how confident Li Tianming was. She watched with concern from the side as Li Tianming, with a yellow little chick on his head, walked into the outermost ring.

Everyone else could easily see the beginnings of a girl's first love.

Li Tianming stood in the region for level one synchronisation. As a rule of thumb, that was where most disciples belonged to, an unspoken requirement of sorts.

"A spiritual energy storm?" From this distance, Li Tianming could already feel the spiritual energy emanating from the Flameyellow Rock. The ancient rock in front of him, which had experienced the vicissitudes of time, seemed to have an ancient story to tell. Rather than an inanimate object, it gave him an impression of an elder.

The spiritual energy storm was like a gentle breeze when it swept past him, the whistles that passed by his ear sounding like it was trying to communicate with Li Tianming. The spiritual energy wove in and out of his body a moment later, and it felt like the Flameyellow Rock was examining him with its hands.

"For our Primordial Chaos Beast physiques, there's nothing we're less scared of than violent energy. We can withstand even the spiritual energy chaos eating spirit jades puts us in, so who cares about some puny rock? If there weren't so many people around, it'll be in my stomach by now," the little chick declared arrogantly, sitting in a nest made from Li Tianming's messy hair.

"Hey, you said it! Don't screw me over, or else you're joining me when I kneel later!" Li Tianming continued his approach to the rock.

"Bro, you must be dreaming! I'm not the one who made the bet," the little chick cackled madly.

"So you do admit you're screwing me over?"

"Naturally."

"And you're supposed to be my lifebound beast? What about the bonds of brotherhood?"

"My only dream is to see you humiliated in front of sister Ling'er so that I'll look better."

“You beast!”

“When egg two hatches, I’m abandoning you.”

“Do you believe I’ll go to the lifebound space right this moment and crack all nine runts?”

“How impressive of you.”

Li Tianming had already reached the third ring as he chatted with Ying Huo. It was also where Wei Lingxuan cultivated.

Li Tianming closed his eyes to better sense the spiritual energy storm here, which was far stronger. The density of spiritual energy here was ten times as large as outside. However, standing here was like being besieged by howling wind and torrential rains. The difficulty of absorbing and converting spiritual energy into beast ki was ten times harder.

A moment of carelessness might allow the spiritual energy storm to disrupt the process of cultivation. If that happened, the cultivator would lose control of their beast ki and suffer severe internal injuries.

The Flameyellow Rock was an area of great fortune, but also of great danger. That was what made knowing your personal degree of synchronisation important. Overestimating yourself would only lead to ruin.

Wei Lingxuan actually had sinister intentions in proposing such a bet. She didn’t want Li Tianming to kneel, but to suffer severe injuries. That was the only way for her to dispel her hate. She was the pampered, spoilt princess of Wei Manor. Flameyellow Scions Institute was the manor’s territory, which made it her’s too. How could she allow Li Tianming to get off scot free after provoking her in her own territory?

“Let’s get started. It’s just one hour — time to see if you’re a real man!” The little chick was enjoying itself.

“Wait.” Li Tianming felt the spiritual energy storm.

“Scared?”

“How could that be? Let me tell you something, don’t look down on a youngster now just because he’s weak now.” After Li Tianming finished his words, he continued on, walking towards the rock.

The geniuses of Heaven’s Sanctum were all waiting for Li Tianming to cultivate in the third ring. When they saw him proceed inward, they all called out, “Li Tianming, don’t waste time!”

Their natural assumption was that Li Tianming was only posturing, and would come out after walking around a bit inside.

Li Tianming simply ignored them and entered the fourth region.

The intensity directly doubled!

The region where Lin Xiaoting and the other core Heaven’s Sanctum disciples cultivated really was out of the ordinary. The storm was like the continuous attacks of a fierce beast. Anyone who could somehow cultivate here was impressive.

The little chick frowned. "You want to cultivate here?"

"What, I can't?" His back facing everyone else, Li Tianming crossed his legs and sat down.

The little chick whistled. "Gusty!"

"I'm not like you. I'm only pretending to be scared, while you're actually scared!"

"Are you looking down on grandpappy chicken?"

"You said it."

"Hmph. Come come, let's start our symbiotic cultivation, I'll show you what a real man is!" the little chick said confidently.

Naturally, symbiotic cultivation was even more effective than cultivating alone here. And it was especially effective when the lifebound beast was outside the lifebound space than when inside.

The lifebound space was a miraculous area. Most lifebound beasts would feel very comfortable inside. Furthermore, the space was connected to the beastmaster by the beast veins, so symbiotic cultivation could proceed even if the beast was inside.

The beastmasters present would generally cultivate with their beast inside the space. Of course, although most lifebound beasts preferred to stay in the space, exceptions like Ying Huo, who liked to prance around outside, existed.

The man and chick disregarded the shock of everyone else as they actually sat down in the fourth region and began cultivating, with Li Tianming running his Aeternal Infernal Codex. Li Tianming and Ying Huo's beast veins connected a heartbeat later, their infernalsources linking together. Now a singular entity, Aeternal Infernal Beast Ki began to rush madly through the connections.

Li Tianming had never seen any other cultivation technique's description to be as domineering as their Aeternal Infernal Codex. Combined with their Primordial Chaos Beast Bodies, they had no equal when it came to resisting such a storm.

The Aeternal Infernal Codex could forcefully devour, convert and suppress spiritual energy. Eternally undying, the Aeternal Infernal Body could survive the battering of their beast ki with absurd ease.

The moment they began cultivating, Li Tianming was clear today's bet was a guaranteed win.

Level four synchronisation? Nothing much.

The spiritual energy storm seemed to have found a storm drain, and it gushed into the symbiotic cultivation system set up by Li Tianming and Ying Huo. It raged around violently, trying to tear apart Li Tianming's body.

However, the Aeternal Infernal Codex was a bottomless hole that devouring everything effortlessly. Every scrap of ordinary spiritual energy ignited, turning into the magma-like Aeternal Infernal Beast Ki that flooded towards the infernalsource to strengthen it.

Like a volcano, the area around Li Tianming immediately spiked up in temperature.

It was the same for the little chick. Its tender little wings began to emit blistering waves of heat. Although its wings were merely the size of a pinky, flapping them unleashed tempestuous heat waves that should have only been unleashed by a massive beast. For a moment, everyone almost mistook it for having sky-spanning wings!

The two of them were beginning to bring the Heaven's Sanctum geniuses a sense of absolute suppression, as well as a hint of reverence none would ever admit to feeling.

The more they saw Li Tianming's specialness, the more vehemently they would reject those feelings.

After all, it was human nature to follow one's first impression. Who would ever admit that someone they once saw as a joke could instill reverence in them?

### **Chapter 89 - Are You Regretting It Now?**

Wei Lingxuan was the least willing to admit what she had seen.

Calmly, she asked her cousin, "Why do you reckon he went for the fourth ring?"

"I suppose since he knew he was bound to fail, so he might as well go for broke." Contempt surfaced on Wei Qingyi's face. "This way, when he exits, it's not as shameful because he failed in challenging level four synchronization."

"What do you guys think?" Wei Lingxuan looked towards the crowd.

"I agree with brother Qingyi."

"This guy must be a masochistic freak who enjoys being shamed by others."

The geniuses of the sanctum each had their own understanding, but at the center of it all they agreed on one thing: Li Tianming was a joke.

"Just look at him, withstanding the spiritual energy storm of the fourth ring. He'll be dead in minutes," Wei Lingxuan said.

"Who do you think will be blamed for his death?" Wei Qingyi brought up a legitimate question.

Wei Lingxuan rolled her eyes. "Who's there to blame but himself? The sanctum has always warned disciples to strictly abide by their own synchronization level with the rock, and to not go beyond their own limits. It's his own fault for challenging the rules."

"I agree, it has got nothing to do with Wei Lingxuan."

"Xuan'er had been nice enough to him already, given her identity and the power of the Wei Clan in the sanctum."

Wei Lingxuan was pleased with all the compliments from the spectating disciples. For now she would wait, not for the one hour to pass, but for Li Tianming to collapse on the spot.

She felt like it was about time. Three minutes had almost passed, and the girl even wanted to start a countdown. She had tried enduring the fourth ring before, and she knew the difficulty of the task. Back then, she had stayed there for around seven minutes, which had nearly incapacitated her. Luckily for

her, her father mounted a timely rescue, and ever since then she dared not stick her foot into the fourth ring ever again.

Recognising and adhering to their synchronization level was one of the basic lessons for a disciple in Heaven's Sanctum.

Wei Lingxuan took a glance at the nervous-looking Jiang Feiling, and smirked.

"For someone this pretty, it's a shame that she has problems here." She pointed at her head.

"I guess I can always try for Princess Qing, she's smart at least," Wei Qingyi said.

"My sixth-apprentice sister? She's not naive, you know," Wei Lingxuan replied.

"Just you wait and see, Sis Xuan. You gotta believe in your younger brother's charisma," Wei Qingyi said, adjusting his hair.

As they continued to talk, Wei Lingxuan noticed that quite some time had passed. Yet, what she'd expected to see had yet to happen. She wasn't worried though, since there was still plenty of time and it should be happening anytime soon.

An awkward silence began to well up in the Flameyellow Pagoda, as everyone had their eyes on Li Tianming. Seven minutes had passed. Wei Lingxuan curved her lips, knowing that that was how long she managed to last. And yet... why wasn't anything happening to Li Tianming?

"Shouldn't the spiritual energy storm tear him apart by now?" Wei Lingxuan was beginning to lose her calm.

"Sis Xuan, he is still cultivating..." Wei Qingyi forced out a reply.

Wei Lingxuan rubbed her eyes, reconfirming the fact that Li Tianming was at least on the same level as her. That thought alone was enough to freeze her blood.

"Wait... If he had stayed in the third ring, he probably could last the entire hour, right?" Wei Lingxuan stared at her cousin.

"Yes, Sis Xuan, you might have underestimated him." Wei Qingyi gritted his teeth. In fact, he wanted Li Tianming dead more than Wei Lingxuan did.

Wei Lingxuan was puzzled. "But how could that be possible? His age and his cultivation level all pointed to the fact that he had no talent. His bloodline was tainted by that pig from Flamehaven, after all."

"I can't think of a reason either. But luckily for us, he chose the fourth ring, and he'll pay the price for that. Sis Xuan, you really escaped by the skin of your teeth this time round," Wei Qingyi said.

Wei Lingxuan agreed with that, heaving a sigh of relief.

"Just die already," she cursed in her mind, her eyes still glued to Li Tianming.

Every moment that passed was a form of torture for Wei Lingxuan and those around her. The only exception was Jiang Feiling, and she knew better than anyone that Li Tianming hadn't just withstood the



storm, but he was also getting stronger! She stood in the direction closest to Li Tianming, her heartened expression a soothing visage in the pagoda.

Fifteen minutes passed.

Thirty minutes had passed!

As the spectators watched on in horror, forty five minutes had passed, and Li Tianming only had to spend another fifteen inside the ring! And from the looks of it, that was exactly what he would do!

Everyone in the pagoda was counting down in panic. For the past thirty minutes, their expressions had changed from smirks and jeers to one of confusion and frustration. They knew that there was a gamble at stake, and once Li Tianming walked out of the ring, Wei Lingxuan would...

The high and mighty princess of the Wei Manor, licking Li Tianming's shoes? To call that an explosive development would be an understatement.

When the one hour countdown first started, chatter and discussions had reigned, but now, silence pressed down on the eardrums of everyone present, their eyes fixated on Li Tianming. No one uttered anything, because they did not want to risk offending the two Weis.

As for the two Weis, their expressions were the least slightly of all. It was a mixture of anger, frustration and all kinds of emotions. On one hand, they refused to believe that Li Tianming actually had a level four synchronization level, and on the other, they thought of the bet that they had. It was a gamble with their pride and honor as stakes!

Wei Lingxuan had never expected herself to lose, but Li Tianming's performance now had made her desperate. Anyone would see that Li Tianming had not only endured the spiritual energy storm in the fourth ring, but he had even gotten stronger from the hour of cultivation!

That was simply a miracle.

It didn't take long before the crucial moment arrived. The clock in the pagoda had indicated that an hour had passed, and yet Li Tianming was still alive and kicking in the fourth ring. It was as if the spiritual energy storm couldn't even touch Li Tianming, even as he cultivated in front of the rock.

And with that, it was over. Wei Lingxuan had lost the gamble. In abject horror, the disciples watched as Li Tianming ended his cultivation. Man and chicken stood up to face the rest, a sadistic smile on their faces as they looked towards Wei Lingxuan. Amongst the silence, the two of them stepped out of the rings and stopped before Wei Lingxuan.

"C'mon, what are you waiting for? Can't you see everyone here is waiting? Just stick out your tongue already." Li Tianming pressured, his position as the victor undeniable.

Wei Lingxuan's fist was clenched, and her face purple. The look on her face was getting increasingly more dangerous, yet her body was trembling.

"Li Tianming, don't you dare! Remember your identity!" Wei Qingyi scolded. That said, even he could not maintain a facade of justice, since it had been a fair gamble both sides took up. Clearly, they were the ones that had lost, and there was a price to pay for that. Especially since they were from the reputed Wei Manor.

“Just forget it, Li Tianming, you have won today.”

“We admit that we have underestimated you, and we can all vouch that you can indeed reach level four synchronization level.”

Many of the disciples stood at Wei Lingxuan’s side. Their tone and words were courteous, but the look they gave him was clearly a sign of warning.

“You have achieved your aim, and we can apologise to you. No one in the sanctum will ever laugh at you for lacking talent again.”

“That’s right, just let Wei Lingxuan off this time. It’s not nice for a man to do this to a girl.”

More and more people stood around Wei Lingxuan as they all but coerced Li Tianming. They weren’t just trying to convince Li Tianming through words, but instead it was the aura that the group was giving off that tried to pressure Li Tianming into letting her off.

“They are right. Li Tianming, I take back my words. I’ll no longer call you a disgrace of the sanctum. We can forget about everything that happened here and outside just now. Don’t miss this chance!” Wei Qingyi stepped in front of Li Tianming, and blocked Wei Lingxuan with his body. His intention was clear — Wei Lingxuan’s wager was too much for her to carry out. In exchange, they were willing to forgive Li Tianming for the events that had transpired.

“Alright, alright, it’s time to leave. If not, when the supernal mentors come here later, we will get scolded for not cultivating.”

“That’s right, we are all disciples of the sanctum, don’t take things too seriously.”

There were just too many people trying to protect Wei Lingxuan. They were all pressing onto Li Tianming, forcing him to drop the bet.

But, would that be possible?

Against the pressure radiating off the mediators, Li Tianming suddenly smirked. The disdain in his expression was obvious, instantly silencing most of the disciples.

### **Chapter 90 - Challenging the Peak!**

All those present were the geniuses of the nation, behind whom stood mighty factions. They were even of their clan’s direct line of descent, and had great reputations.

For them to step out to resolve this situation could be considered as giving Li Tianming enough face.

So, what did that disdainful smile mean?

Was he actually mocking them for protecting Wei Lingxuan? How could there be someone so tactless? Could he perhaps not know that Wei Lingxuan was the chancellor’s daughter, as well as the identity of all those present?

“What are you laughing at?!” Wei Qingyi wasn’t able to control himself any longer.

“I’m laughing, because the so-called direct line of descent of Wei Manor, the so-called Flameyellow Scions Institute Chancellor’s daughter, actually just publicly broke her promise in front of so many people, only to hide behind other people afterwards! Wei Lingxuan, would you agree if I say you’re not worthy of a member of Wei Manor?” Li Tianming’s words rang loud and clear.

His burning gaze landed on Wei Lingxuan. His words, overflowing with strength and conviction, was enough to tell everyone present one thing — he wasn’t scared of anyone here.

“Li Tianming!” Wei Lingxuan gritted her teeth, her eyes reddening.

“Who are you trying to scare? Am I wrong to say someone cowardly like you who dares to bet but doesn’t dare uphold it is unworthy of your identity? Am I?! In my opinion, you’re the disgrace of Heaven’s Sanctum and Wei Manor!”

Every word of Li Tianming landed on Wei Lingxuan like a slap to her face.

“Li Tianming!” Wei Lingxuan snarled. Under the pressure, she cracked and tears started to fall. She had never been humiliated like this until today, having always been treated as a princess.

“Oh please, don’t act pitiful. You definitely didn’t have this expression just now when you wanted to use Flameyellow Rock to maim me. Who are you trying to elicit sympathy from? Wei Manor is always known for their strength of character, but it seems those rumours were blown out of proportion if they’re filled with people like you.” Li Tianming snorted dismissively, his words stabbing at her ears again.

Li Tianming wasn’t bullying a girl. In the battlefield, gender distinctions didn’t exist.

Since she had attempted to humiliate and injure him, Li Tianming would disregard any supposed cousin relationship they had.

Li Tianming had believed since young that all things had their cause and effect. If you were willing to do something, you had to be prepared to pay for it.

Li Tianming had swapped his target of disdain from Wei Lingxuan to Wei Manor. For her, the bloodline of Wei Manor had always been her source of pride, and now Li Tianming was trampling all over it. Her bloodshot eyes and tears were insufficient to express the depth of her current feelings.

“Shut up, SHUT UP! Mongrels like you have no right to comment on Wei Manor! You and your mother are the true failures and disgraces of our clan!” Wei Lingxuan’s hysterical shrieks only sowed confusion among the spectators. What relationship did Li Tianming have with Wei Manor? However, the matter was quickly put aside as the conflict continued to escalate.

“Funny. Those disgraces you mention at least know how to uphold their promises. Instead, it seems to be the ones with good breeding that hide behind others after losing a bet! Since we’re all trash, then don’t bother playing dress up and acting all noble!”

“SHUT UP! I’m not afraid of you!” Wei Lingxuan shrieked.

“Impressive! Then, you may start cleaning.” Li Tianming extended his foot towards her and pointed. Li Tianming didn’t find his actions trashy. Who cared about her dignity? She didn’t care when attempting to lead him into cultivation deviation, so it was a bit too late now.

"I swear that I will make you pay a price for this!" Wei Lingxuan pushed Wei Qingyi aside. Surrounded by baleful intent, she strode towards Li Tianming.

"Remember, clean it nicely and be quick about it!" Li Tianming inclined his head.

Honestly, if it was just a grudge, Li Tianming wouldn't care. However, if there was malice, it was a different matter. Li Tianming refused to back down, no matter how much criticism the onlookers levied on him.

"Come!" Li Tianming stared at Wei Lingxuan.

"You won't meet a good end!" Wei Lingxuan clenched her teeth.

"Stop wasting my time with your nonsense."

"We'll see who can protect you once you leave the pagoda. Don't give me the chance!" Wei Lingxuan was aware her personal strength was enough to crush Li Tianming.

"Didn't I say cut the nonsense!" Li Tianming directly pressed down her head onto his foot. The unprepared Wei Lingxuan's slammed onto the ground as she entered a crawling position at Li Tianming's feet.

Her pretty lips landed on Li Tianming's dirty shoe. However, Li Tianming didn't stop there as he brushed it across her face, smearing it with filth!

His brazen actions immediately caused an uproar. Today's events would surely change Heaven's Sanctum disciples' view of Li Tianming. There was no way someone with this much guts could be a coward or joke!

No one here was unaware of Wei Lingxuan's status. Even those with the strongest of backgrounds would choose to give Wei Lingxuan some face in this situation, but Li Tianming hadn't.

"You... YOU!" Wei Lingxuan trembled as she experienced another first in her life. For three whole breaths of time, her mind was a complete blank as Li Tianming continued to use her face to wipe her shoe.

She only finally reacted when her entire face was dirty. She burst into tears and struggled away. By now, Li Tianming had already released her, watching as she went crazy.

She wanted to kill someone. In the next moment, her fingernails scraped across Li Tianming's chest, drawing five bloody gashes on them.

Li Tianming ducked out of the way, lest she did even more damage. Although fights were prohibited in Flameyellow Pagoda, she had obviously gone crazy and couldn't control herself.

Although Li Tianming could feel stinging pain and blood was flowing, he didn't mind. It was just a flesh wound, and in the world, a loss of dignity and face was even more painful.

"I swear, I won't let you die with a complete corpse!" Wei Lingxuan hadn't lost all her rationality yet. After all, Li Tianming hadn't gone as far as he could have, as there was still filth left on his shoes. Still, that didn't stop killing intent and rage from filling her.

"I recommend you spend more time reading books and cultivating your inner qualities instead," Li Tianming said placidly, wiping away the blood.

"Don't you dare leave Flameyellow Pagoda, let me see you, or go back to Wei Manor to visit your mother! Otherwise, that'll be the day you die!"

"Alright, alright. Take a look in the mirror before you continue. Sheesh, the direct descendant of Wei Manor looks like some crazy shrew now."

"Li Tianming, don't get too pleased with yourself. You're finished. Sis Xuan, let's go." Helpless, Wei Qingyi knew they couldn't do anything but to leave now. There was no chance of retaliating in Flameyellow Pagoda, and if Wei Lingxuan did lose control, she would land in even more trouble.

"Get lost!" Wei Lingxuan pushed him away and rose to her feet herself, leveling Li Tianming with an icy look. "I'll be waiting for you at Wei Manor."

"Sure thing, prepare some fruits for me too. I'm especially fond of grapes. Oh, and they have to be seedless!" Li Tianming said.

"Sure, I'll prepare so many that your stomach goes bad!" Wei Ling walked out of the pagoda, intermittently throwing Li Tianming murderous glares.

The conflict was finally over.

Everyone was speechless, except for Li Tianming who acted like nothing of significance had happened.

Li Tianming turned back to the Flameyellow Rock. "Ying Huo, interested to challenge level five synchronisation?"

That was the supposed peak.

"Game on! Don't chicken out on me!"

"Oh, bold words for a chicken!"

"Haha, you dare to shame me? I'll make you lick clean my claws one day," the little chick roared.

Li Tianming realised everyone was looking at him coldly. None believed he could last long in Heaven's Sanctum after provoking Wei Lingxuan. She was so much stronger than him, and would trample him as soon as he left the pagoda. What would she care about some punishment after what happened?

However, among them remained one warm and gentle gaze that belonged to someone who had been waiting for Li Tianming to find her — Jiang Feiling.