

The Ages 941

Chapter 941 - Arrival of Three

As Tianming was about to leave, the Archaionfiend looked at the sky. The clouds were dispersing, revealing the densely dotted starscape. The Archaionfiend had a demonic smile. "See it, Frog?"

"What?"

"The stars."

"I see them," Tianming said.

"Every star has a nova source. That's how they shine. They're just so far that they aren't as bright as the sun."

Tianming was stunned. Were there so many worlds out there? Yet the answer was right in front of his eyes. The stars weren't jewels embedded in the sky that could be plucked out. They were just tiny because they were far away.

Tianming's vision finally surpassed the ceiling of the continent. The higher your vision, the greater your accomplishments would be. You could only grow more when you saw how much further you had to go.

"Thank you." Tianming's words were sincere. Regardless of whatever plot the Archaionfiend was hatching, it had enlightened his path.

Before, he had drawn a complete blank when it came to his father and the Primordial Chaos Beasts' secrets. But now he just had to ascend to the Divine Moon Realm and he could reach the territories of order.

"I always thought that the struggle over cultivation resources was cruel. But it turns out the struggle between worlds is even more cruel." A star had died and a race of criminals was banished to the lower levels of the cosmic aether, where they enslaved humanity.

It was like a mere sneeze from higher races had become a storm for those below.

Although it was fascinating, the most important thing for Tianming was still the Divine Moon Realm and the Ninefold Hell. Whether the continent could get through this situation was most likely going to heavily depend on him.

Tianming had grown up here; he could never abandon this place.

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Feiling finally woke up.

"Big Brother!" She rubbed her eyes, then opened them and saw Tianming sitting by her bedside. She relaxed when she saw that he was unhurt.

"How do you feel?" Tianming asked gently.

“A bit muddle-headed. Right, did you catch Jiang Wuxin?” she asked worriedly.

“Yes, but we failed.” Tianming explained what had happened.

He grabbed Feiling’s hands and asked seriously, “Do you remember what happened?”

Feiling frowned, thinking hard. She finally shook her head. “It’s all a confusing mess. I vaguely remember someone speaking.”

“Perpetia City manifested and suppressed the Archaionfiend. It even planted a Bloodrose Curse on it that lets Xiaoxiao control the Archaionfiend.”

“Huh?” Feiling was clearly unaware.

“I’m worried Xuanyuan Xi isn’t dead yet. She may yet make a comeback,” Tianming said.

“No, Big Brother. That feeling isn’t like Xuanyuan Xi.” Feiling shook her head.

“What do you mean?”

“It feels different. It feels simultaneously like me and unlike me. I can’t explain it.”

“Could it be related to the person I saw on the Radix World tree in my dream?” Tianming asked.

“I’ve never seen your dream, so maybe.... Speaking of which, that time you asked me to name Xian Xian, I immediately thought of the name ‘Xian Xian’ confidently. Perhaps that person was the first owner of Perpetia City. She then reincarnated into Xuanyuan Xi, and now me.”

“That would be too incredible.” The whole matter was unresolvable.

“Right, there was something else scary....” Feiling’s eyes widened.

“What?”

“I seem to have some of Xuanyuan Xi’s cultivation memories. I have all of her comprehension prior to godhood, all the techniques and battle arts she learned, and every step of her heavenly will. If this is true, I just need enough energy to retrain the Perpetia Sutra and form my heavenly will. I don’t need to stumble around, and I should be able to quickly reach godhood.”

“Isn’t that great?” Tianming said.

“But shouldn’t she be gone? Why are her memories here? And especially now of all times?”

“It probably has to do with Perpetia City. Right, any other memories, such as why she died?” Tianming asked.

“No details of her life. Just her training and heavenly will memories.”

“Anything to do with using the Bloodrose Curse?” Tianming asked.

“No.”

“That means that the curse is far above Xuanyuan Xi’s level. We can infer that the one who suppressed the Archaionfiend was Xuanyuan Xi’s previous incarnation. Let’s call her Perpetia City’s Master.”

“Such a mess. So my body has three people using it?”

“Don’t overthink it. It may just be that some part is lingering on. Worse comes to worst, we can give up on the innate godchild and find some other way to extend your life.”

“I think that’s no longer possible....”

“What do you mean?”

“After waking up, the two godchildren are locked together.”

“So we can’t use Spiritual Attachment?”

“Yes.”

Tianming was silent as he thought. Holding Feiling’s hand, he said, “If that’s the case, just cultivate for now. It’ll be quick for you to recover to her level of strength with her ascendant heavenly will.”

“It should be,” she replied.

The Archaionfiend had its memories, but it was limited by Lin Xiaoxiao.

Tianming thought of Li Muyang. He had originally been in the Heavenly Will stage. After recovering his memories, his strength had quickly risen.

Xuanyuan Dao and the rest who had lost their saint palaces would be able to recover their level quite fast if they could repair their saint palaces. It was just a matter of sufficient energy and resources.

Heavenly will was the true factor that deciding one’s realm. When one reached perfection in their heavenly will, they would become a god!

“You, me, and Xiaoxiao.... We might be able to plug the gap left behind by Dugu Jin, Fang Taiqing, and Feng Qingyu.”

Tianming finally wasn’t fighting alone.

“Yes! I’ll work hard. Xuanyuan Xi has many methods,” Feiling said. It seemed the descent of Perpetia City had brought many changes.

“Let’s go, I’ll bring you out.”

“Where?”

“I’m now the Human Emperor. I don’t want to hide anymore. I’m going to declare our relationship to everyone,” Tianming said.

“Announce you’re messing with an ancestor that’s a hundred thousand years old?” Ying Huo was sniggering in the lifebound space.

"Shoo."

Just as they were about to leave, Feiling suddenly came to a halt, a look of pleasant surprise on her face.

"What is it, Ling'er?" Tianming asked.

"Xuanyuan Xi's memories seem to have a technique for repairing saint palaces. It uses formations and saintly spirit herbs. Although it won't be as good as the original, it's still a miracle for the patient."

Tianming's eyes shone. Xuanyuan Dao, Ouyang Jianwang, and Yi Xingyin's condition had left him very distraught. Feiling's words were definitely a dream come true for him.

"I think it should recover fifty percent of their strength. The materials are a tad hard to find, but with how many people respect you now it shouldn't be a problem."

"Great!" Tianming was extremely excited, and he had none of the flair of a Human Emperor around him.

Tianming grabbed Feiling in a hug and charged outside.

"Hey!" Feiling quickly covered her face. There were too many people outside!

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At the lower levels of the cosmic aether, three streaks of light fell from the moon like shooting stars. When they were above the Flameyellow Continent, they finally stopped.

The streaks of light stood there and considered the continent below.

They were actually people.

One of them was a handsome, middle-aged man. He was tall and slender and dressed in fluttering white robes. His temperament was outstanding and his eyes shone like the moon. His most eye-catching feature was a crescent moon pattern on his forehead.

There was a man and woman by his side. Both were young, and the man was slightly older.

The young man had a head of silvery white long hair. A crescent moon mark was on his forehead, too. His face was even more pale, and he was a similarly dashing man. His ethereal presence made him seem very aloof.

The young woman had features similar to the young man. She was wearing a white silk dress with many magnificent circles embroidered on it, and had a pink butterfly knot at the back of her waist. Finally, she had a colorful headband wrapped around glimmering silvery white hair.

With her big eyes and delicate facial features, she looked very lovable. Although she looked rather young, her figure was bountiful and filled with charm.

Chapter 942 - Bodhi

"Moon Guide, Moon Guide, we're here! This should be it!" said the girl, her eyes filled with wonder as she looked down on the continent beneath her.

"That's right. This is Welkin continent number one, the mortal world with the longest history. It's named Flameyellow," said a middle-aged man.

"Moon Guide, the night demon that was exiled to the xenomemory space came from here, right?" asked the youth on the left.

"Yes," the middle-aged man called the moon guide said. He looked at Taiji Peak Lake and said, "The transmission stone's signal came from here. Let's go down. I believe it has something to do with the incident that happened two hundred thousand years ago."

They began descending toward Taiji Peak Lake.

"Moon Guide, I heard the lifeforms of the mortal world are uncivilized natives that don't bathe, don't cook, and hate cleanliness. Is that true?" the young girl asked with a look full of curiosity. Even though none of them had wanted to come here, she realized that the place was prettier than she'd thought upon first inspection.

"You mean to say they're savages, right Huiye Shi?" said the youth.

"You're showing off again! You think you're so cultured, eh? Stupid Huiyue Yin!"

"Shut up. Don't talk to your elder brother like that."

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It was noon. Despite the fact that everyone was still reeling from the shock from the Ninefold Hell's descent, word of Tianming and Feiling being an item had still managed to stun everyone. Tianming had to state that he wasn't the reincarnation of Great Emperor Xuanyuan to calm some concerns. After all, it wouldn't do for one distant ancestor to be in a relationship with another distant ancestor. Either way, the two of them could now spend time together without having to go out of their way to hide from the eyes of others.

Just as he had Feiling start helping Xuanyuan Dao recover his saint palace, a voice rang out from above Taiji Peak Lake. "Humans of Flameyellow, come forth. Who was the one that used the transmission stone?"

Tianming's body shook; the people from the Divine Moon Realm were here! "It's fine, I'll go alone."

He could see three people in the clouds, hovering like gods. Since they wouldn't come all the way down, he had to go up and welcome them personally. Great Emperor Xuanyuan had instructed him to not offend them. Plus, he needed to rely on them to deal with the Ninefold Hell. Not to mention, the fact that they were from the Divine Moon Realm meant that they knew far more than he did.

As such, he went to them with the utmost respect. One look and he had an idea. Among the three, he sensed a strange power that he didn't recognize coming from the two men, a kind of power that seemed to be out of the bounds of the world of the Flameyellow Continent. They seemed eternal and free, like they had ascended to the heavens! Their existence was fundamentally different from that of normal samsarans. In other words, these two were probably ascendants, gods in the eyes of those on the Flameyellow Continent.

It's no wonder they're considered gods. The gap between them and samsarans is far wider than the gap between saints and Heavenly Will cultivators. It's a whole different league, like they're higher lifeforms. It's like the Samsara stage is an extension of the Saint stages, but ascendants are even far above that!

Only the girl next to them that looked to be around his age was still a samsaran, yet her power was different from his own. If Tianming had to guess, her naturally bountiful power was the result of absorbing stellar source.

Respectfully, Tianming said, "Honored ones from the Divine Moon Realm, this humble Li Tianming greets you."

As he rose to them, the three seemed a little surprised.

"Hey, look up," said the girl. Tianming did as she was told. "Your hair color.... Are you one of the divine moonrace like us? No, you don't have a divine moon stigma."

There was a crescent moon between the eyes of the three of them. That was probably what she was talking about.

"You look rather young, too. How old are you?" asked the girl.

"I'm twenty-three," Tianming replied. The three of them immediately exchanged odd glances.

"Stop lying. Nobody would believe you're five years younger than me! You're already a twelfth-level life samsaran, right? Are you saying you're more talented than me?" The girl circled around him and even sniffed him. "Huiyue Yin, he's clean! He looks decent, too! Is he really a lowborn native?"

"Enough. Stop talking and move aside." Huiyue Yin also gave Tianming a couple more looks.

At that moment, the moon guide came to Tianming and looked him up and down. "Can you be the one representing the Flameyellow Continent?"

"Yes. I'm the one who calls the shots here," Tianming said, humbling himself by lowering his head.

"I didn't think that you people would have the ability to even hide your age. However, this won't work in the Divine Moon Realm. No matter what secret art you're using, you won't be able to fool the age test," the man said calmly. Interestingly, they were talking about Tianming's shocking age rather than the Ninefold Hell.

"Understood!" Tianming didn't even bother to retort.

"Oh, you prideful little prick, how dare you lie to me?" Huiye Shi snapped. She had almost believed he was really twenty-three.

"Senior, I wonder how I should address you?" Tianming said, wanting to cut to the chase.

"Exalted One should suffice," said the man.

"Understood, Exalted One." Unsurprisingly, they were quite particular about their status.

"Now, tell me about what happened."

Tianming quickly briefed them about the Ninefold Hell.

"So they ran to the realm of chaos, eh? Alright, I'll head there and talk with them." The middle-aged man immediately made a decision. It seemed that he was going to help the Flameyellow Continent, but what was this about a talk? Weren't they going to fight?

"Exalted One, the specters are a savage race. They might not accept negotiation," Tianming said.

"Just lead the way and shut up," said the man.

Hearing that, Huiye Shi couldn't hold it in. "Are you an idiot? If those criminals dare to go against the Divine Moon Realm, they're asking for death! The files state that they were rather powerful two hundred thousand years ago, and even dared to provoke us. But now that they've been sealed by the Cauldron of Order for all this time, they're weak. The fact that they went into hiding in the realm of chaos means that they're waiting for us to deal with them there."

Was it that simple? It sounded a little too fantastical to Tianming, but he had a feeling that wouldn't be all there was to it. He didn't say too much and continued leading them through an entryway into the Abyssal Battlefield. Blood and chaos could be seen all over the place as the specters ravenously consumed the wildbeasts.

"Wow, now this is savage. You look just like a normal person over here. Come to think of it, how old are you?" Huiye Shi asked, wide eyed with curiosity.

"I'm... uh... three hundred," Tianming said.

"So you're an old fart! I wanna puke! And to think I thought you were rather handsome... Why didn't you say that to start with? Let me see if your face has wrinkles!" She reached out to grab his face, but he avoided it. "How dare you avoid me?"

Tianming was feeling the onset of a headache. Couldn't the people from the Divine Moon Realm be more serious?

"Whatever. I wouldn't wanna touch you anyway." She ignored Tianming and began looking around. "Come to think of it, even though this place really is starved of the power of stellar source, it's still huge. But it isn't as dense as the Divine Moon Realm."

They immediately headed toward the Ninefold Hell without needing Tianming to lead the way. Inside, it was completely silent. After some time, a bald man dressed in white silently descended. It took only one look for Tianming to recognize him as the 'overlord'.

Even with a veil, he still resembled Ye Bodhi. It was hard to imagine how a pale and tragic-looking man like him was the ruler of the specters. His expression was fraught with worry and confusion, and it was really hard to tell what he was thinking. Even though he appeared completely harmless, Tianming was automatically wary of him.

He would never forget how much the specters hated him when he accidentally entered the Ninefold Hell the last time. However, this overlord seemed to completely ignore Tianming, as if he hadn't noticed him. Unsurprisingly, the power of an ascendant was wafting off him. While his cultivation level was obvious, it was still clear that he was in a weakened state. It appeared that the specters were rather malnourished after all. Both his physical abilities and cultivation seemed to not be at their peak, though he still wasn't someone that Tianming could take on. The reason they hadn't immediately wiped out the human race was because they knew that envoys from the Divine Moon Realm would come. Not to mention, now that they were free, they had more than enough time for vengeance.

"What's your name?" the moon guide asked, looking down from high up.

"Bodhi," said the bald man. It appeared that it was a name that indicated some kind of elite status among the specters.

"Alright, listen up." The man unleashed his power, applying pressure on Overlord Bodhi, visibly caving in some parts of his body. "Kneel."

"Understood."

What was most shocking to Tianming was that Bodhi actually knelt. Was the Divine Moon Realm really such a terrifying faction? Or was it just because the specters were still weak after their long hibernation? If that was the case, Great Emperor Xuanyuan would never have had to be so worried about their return. It seemed he really had no idea how it would turn out two hundred millennia later. Either way, the specters were definitely incredibly powerful back in those days. That could only mean that there were more people from the Divine Moon Realm in the fight against the specters all that time ago than the murals had suggested.

Chapter 943 - Ninefold Hell Reignition

"The specters shall heed the orders of the Divine Moon Realm!" Bodhi said respectfully.

"Two hundred thousand years ago, your kind broke the taboo of order and consumed sentient life as food, greatly disturbing the realm of order. You were punished with eternal imprisonment and extermination. After all this time, have you learned the consequences of your actions?" the moon guide asked in a deep voice.

"The specters have definitely changed! We won't repeat our mistakes!" Bodhi said with his head lowered.

"Very well. The fact that you were able to break out of eternal imprisonment means that the heavens have decided to grant you a chance."

Tianming was completely confused. This was completely different to what he had imagined. It sounded like the moon guide was just going to let the specters off. What did he mean when he said the heavens were giving them a chance? They had only managed to break out because some remnants outside the Ninefold Hell weren't eliminated and had worked to break them out. More crucially, Tianming had a feeling that the folks from the Divine Moon Realm were completely downplaying the role Great Emperor Xuanyuan had played in the events all that time ago. They made it sound like the war to seal the specters was a simple judgment rendered by the Divine Moon Realm.

The events had happened too far back, and many things could easily be distorted. Perhaps not even the descendants of the Divine Moon Realm had a clear picture on what happened back then. Whatever the case, Tianming had seen the murals Great Emperor Xuanyuan left behind. He had a sense that the people from the Divine Moon Realm had also fought dearly in that war. There was no way the truth of the past was something so simple.

The fact that the moon guide had said the realm of order was disturbed meant that it was a tumultuous time. Yet the specters had enslaved humanity for more than a million years! What was the Divine Moon Realm doing back then? Did they not notice it? There were far too many details that were still unclear.

As Tianming continued pondering, the moon guide continued, "The Divine Moon Realm will give you criminals one final chance. From now on, you are to coexist with the Flameyellow humans on the continent. You shall not breach the taboo and treat sentient beings like livestock ever again. Otherwise your entire race will be exterminated!"

"Understood!" Bodhi nodded again. He really did seem obedient, completely unlike the overlord Tianming had imagined him to be.

"I will leave transmission stones behind for the humans. The moment you breach the taboo, the Divine Moon Realm will send forces to wipe you out, understood?" the moon guide said.

"Yes!"

"Alright, the matter is settled. Let's return."

Was that really it? Was the specter disaster over just like that? This was completely different from the outcome Tianming had expected.

Right as they were about to leave, Bodhi looked up and asked, "Lord, apart from keeping sentient beings as livestock, normal fights over territory and resources aren't considered to be breaching the taboo, right? The Flameyellow Continent doesn't belong solely to humans, after all. All lifeforms have the right to fight for their own survival and prosperity. I'm sure this is a core tenet of the laws of the realm of order."

The words completely shocked everyone there. The moon guide turned back with a smile. "Looks like your intelligence is one thing that hasn't suffered after two hundred millennia. There is reason in your words, but the rootbeast race is considered a subdivision of humanity just like us, the divine moonrace. If you cause too much commotion, we will still deal with you."

"I appreciate the warning, Lord," Bodhi said with a look of gratitude.

The one who ended up being the most displeased at how things had been settled was Tianming. While rounding humans up and rearing them like livestock was forbidden, war and slaughter on a reasonable scale was allowed. The former was considered taboo, while the latter was just natural law. In other words, as long as specters didn't eat humans, the Divine Moon Realm wouldn't interfere in the matters of the Flameyellow Continent at all!

Consuming lifebound beasts was just a vice of the specters. It was more important that they survived. Currently, they could feast on wildbeasts without going for lifebound beasts. In other words, they would still be humanity's enemy and the Divine Moon Realm didn't really care about that fact. Temporarily refraining from breaking the taboo was definitely something the specters were capable of.

Tianming narrowed his eyes and looked at the moon guide's carefree expression with a feeling of distaste. As they were leaving, Bodhi stood up behind them.

"Wait," Huiyue Yin said. He turned to Bodhi and asked, "What's your cultivation stage?"

"The fourth," Bodhi answered.

In a flash, Huiyue Yin appeared in front of Bodhi and punched. Bodhi immediately reached his hand out to block, only to be sent flying. Blood trickled out from the corner of his mouth.

"Someone at the fourth level can't even take a punch from me at the first level. It's too pathetic. You have hard times ahead of you," Huiyue Yin said with a shake of his head and a scornful look.

"Yes, that appears to be the case," Bodhi said with his head lowered.

Then, the three of them went their way. Tianming and Bodhi exchanged glances. The man's gaze was blank and filled with worry just like a mannequin's, but Tianming could feel the madness within it.

"Li Tianming...." Bodhi smiled.

"You know who I am?"

"Of course." He waved at him and said, "Goodbye."

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After going through the passage back to the Flameyellow Continent, Tianming caught up to the moon guide and was just about to speak.

"Shut up and stop troubling us. Otherwise we won't hold back," the moon guide said. He tossed a new moonjade to Tianming. "Remember. Only contact me if they break the taboo. Otherwise, you won't get another chance. We do things by the book, not sentimentality, understood?"

Tianming caught the moonjade in his hand.

"Let's go!" The moon guide looked at the others and signaled them to go with him.

"Moon Guide, I want to stay here for a bit. It's not every day we get to come to a Welkin continent, after all," Huiye Shi suddenly said.

"Do as you like. But how are you going to leave then?"

"I'll stay back, too," said Huiyue Yin. He was an ascendant, so he would be able to go to the Divine Moon Realm.

"What's so fun about a place like this?" The moon guide smiled helplessly. "Oh well, only young ones like you would find this interesting."

"Moon Guide, my brother's already fifty. He's already an old fart," Huiye Shi said.

"I can't be bothered with you two. Just remember to come back after you've had your fun," the moon guide said before he left.

When he was gone, Huiye Shi blinked cunningly, as if her master plan had worked. Turning to Tianming, she called out, "Hey."

Tianming turned to look at them.

"The Moon Guide is a busy man. He's in a rush to go back to his tens of lovers, so it's impossible to get him to help. However, with us siblings around, that dirty demon down there won't dare to mess around," Huiye Shi said.

Tianming couldn't help but see them in a new light. Had he really misunderstood them?

Huiye Shi said, "Well, if you can show us anything interesting and wondrous, we might be more inclined to stay longer. That way, you'll be worry free, right? It isn't easy for us to be able to make such a trip, you know."

Apparently he didn't. He laughed inwardly and said, "Yes, that's right."

Nobody was more reliable than himself, after all.

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Back at the Abyssal Battlefield, Bodhi returned to the Ninefold Hell. A beautiful woman holding a girl in her arms was waiting for him there. "Are you alright?"

"They haven't changed at all. They're the same arrogant, high-nosed pricks. Looks like their nature isn't something that's changed even after two hundred millennia." Bodhi sat down and laid his head on her thighs, looking up at the boundless dark sky above.

"So, are you confident?" she asked.

"Well, we all need dreams, right? The whole reason we waited two hundred millennia for our escape was to conquer the Flameyellow Continent, right? There's nothing eternal in the mortal world. What we really need is a proper home.

"That's right, a home of our own. The Ninefold Hell has been dead for a long time. Only the Divine Moon Realm can nurture eternal life and lift this curse of ours. All the way back, if it weren't for that monster Xuanyuan causing trouble for our ancestors, the pathetic moonrace would never have been able to hold us back! Their forebears probably didn't even dare to write down the true history out of arrogance. How laughable."

Bodhi chuckled coldly as the woman stroked his head. "So our era will eventually come, right?"

"It will. And this time, we'll grow strong on the Flameyellow Continent. Once we rise to the Divine Moon Realm, we'll kill all the moonrace and obtain the stellunar source. Then we can reignite the Ninefold Hell! After that, we'll reenter the realm of chaos! We waited two hundred thousand years for our release. The efforts of our ancestors formed who I am today. I'll definitely give those people a surprise they can't even fathom!"

Bodhi stood up with his eyes closed and arms open. "Those of us who were forgotten and stomped on will eventually be the ones that drive a stake through the hearts of the arrogant! The day we rebuild our homes and usher in chaos is the day the world will forget our crimes and exile!"

When he opened his eyes, countless specters across the Abyssal Battlefield roared, their cheers shaking the entire place.

Chapter 944 - Royal Bloodline of the Specters

Moments later in a dark hall within the Ninefold Hell, Bodhi sat on a throne of darkness, his pale, star-filled eyes filled with worry. Before him were some dozen specters, most of whom were of the royal

bloodline. The royal specters were the ones among them who most resembled humans. They all looked worshipfully at their overlord.

"Yi Jun," Bodhi called out.

A huge specter approached in response. He was so big and burly he seemed to be over four meters in height. There were many black scales on his body, and he had four strong arms. When he looked up, one would see six eyes on his face. He was a six-eyed specter, which, according to Di Zang, was only inferior to the royal specters.

"Overlord, your servant Yi Jun awaits your orders."

"Have the people from the Divine Moon Realm left?" Bodhi asked.

Yue Shi is gone, but the two children remain. The girl demanded that Li Tianming take her around to have fun. The boy, on the other hand, is traveling alone across the Flameyellow Continent."

"The Divine Moon Realm has remained prosperous the whole time, so their population is definitely huge. But even to them, while the Flameyellow Continent is a lower world, it's much wider and has many more interesting things to see. Those two children probably don't get many chances to come here. They decided to stay and mess around, but that'll still be troublesome for us," said another royal.

"Overlord, can we still attack the humans? After eating wildbeasts for a few days, we've grown much stronger. Even though we still need more power, we're more powerful than before. The spiritual energy on the other side is gentler and easier to absorb, so it'll make up for our shortcomings," Yi Jun said.

"Currently, there's too many humans. They're all hiding in their cities and towns and protecting themselves within formations. Overlord, many of us are no longer able to hold back our millennia-long hatred for them," said another.

As many watched him, Bodhi waved his hand. "We shall not attack for now."

"Why?"

"Just do as I say." Bodhi stood up and his expression turned stern. "From now on, every specter is allowed to go through the bottomless pits to the Flameyellow Continent and absorb the spiritual energy to make up for what we lack. We'll also continue consuming wildbeasts to strengthen our bodies. But remember this: do not attack their cities or consume lifebound beasts without my order," Bodhi decreed.

"I'm in favor of this too. The formations around the human settlements aren't that weak, sometimes being able to make up for five times their number. Attacking them now will only needlessly sacrifice our numbers. That's unnecessary, because our real enemies aren't the humans of the Flameyellow Continent. Two hundred millennia ago, the ones who sealed us were Xuanyuan and the Divine Moon Realm. Apart from Xuanyuan, the livestock on the Flameyellow Continent aren't good for anything at all. They don't even have a single ascendant after all this time, so they're nothing to worry about at all. The ones we really need to get revenge on are the divine moonrace!"

"You're all right." Bodhi's gaze softened as he turned to look at the outside world. "Power is the only truth. We've already been waiting two hundred thousand years. There's no need to force ourselves to

act tough when we know we're weak. There's only one chance, and we're too weak to take advantage of it. We must ensure that we can crush the Divine Moon Realm in one single strike and not give them any chance to retaliate."

The others nodded in agreement.

"Overlord, should we just sit and wait until the day comes?" Yi Jun asked.

"No. I'll take Little You to infiltrate the Divine Moon Realm and absorb the power of their stellar source to strengthen myself. The Flameyellow Continent is far too barren, so it'll be useless even if we take it. Only the stellar source can truly unearth the potential of our fiendgod bloodline to the maximum. Only then will our race rise back to prominence! Currently, the Divine Moon Realm is thousands of times stronger than we are. Only by relying on our fiendgod bloodline can we grow strong enough to crush them! Even though I'm at the fourth level, I'm still far too weak.

"Every single one of our royal forebears paid the price of two hundred years of their lifespan to distill a single drop of royal trueblood. After two hundred millennia, we managed to distill enough for me and Little You to replace our blood with royal trueblood and awaken the sacred bloodline of our forebears of the empyrean fiendgod race! The sacrifice of our ancestors and their unwillingness to give up flows in our veins, and for what? All for the sake of breaking out of imprisonment and survival!"

Tears began to stream down Bodhi's face. "The empyrean fiendgod race is what we descended from, yet they exiled us and cast us down to Welkin. They'll never expect that we'd be able to recreate the bloodline after two hundred millennia, one that only a few among them have!"

He clenched his fists tight and looked down at his body. "All I need is one defining moment. I'll destroy the Divine Moon Realm, take their stellar source, and revive the Ninefold Hell! By then, even if we can't return to the empyrean fiendgod race, we'll still be able to roam the stars with dignity!"

As far as they were concerned, the Flameyellow Continent was far too small to house their ambitions.

"All hail the overlord!" They cheered with fervor and worship. Bodhi had swapped out his blood in its entirety for pure distilled royal blood, attaining the sacred bloodline of a fiendgod!

"As long as our overlord sweeps through the Divine Moon Realm and takes their stellar source for us, our entire race will grow strong!"

"Overlord, when will you go to the Divine Moon Realm?"

Bodhi said, "Tomorrow. I'll take Little You with me."

"You have to be careful with your current power. Even though your level is high, you lack too much energy," someone said worriedly.

"Don't worry about it," Bodhi said with confidence. "As for the Flameyellow Continent, once those children from the Divine Moon Realm leave, you can launch your attack. There's one human that poses a particular threat to us that we must kill."

"Overlord, is it Li Tianming?" Yi Jun asked.

"Yes."

"He was the one that killed the crown prince, so he's deserving of death to begin with. If it weren't for the fact that the girl from the Divine Moon Realm has stayed by his side this entire time, I would've killed him long ago," Yi Jun said.

"I expect those two won't stay for long. Once they're gone, our kin will have more or less recovered. Let's focus on taking all the good spots for cultivation on the Flameyellow Continent first. Remember to kill Li Tianming at all costs," said the overlord. He was in too much of a rush to head to the Divine Moon Realm. That was because, despite his high cultivation level, he was limited by a subpar energy source to back his power up. He didn't feel remotely safe in his current state.

"Rest assured, Overlord, the dozen of us ascendants have mostly recovered. As long as the divine moonrace doesn't interfere, we'll kill all the humans that dare to come to us," Yi Jun proclaimed.

"That's right. Even Brother Yi Jun was able to attain the third level without a royal bloodline. He's far too impressive."

"Yet he's so humble! Consume more and grow stronger!"

"The power of the flesh is easy to recover, but the power in terms of energy needs time to properly regulate. That's why, no matter how bad the Flameyellow Continent is, we still have to take the territory of the sects of the Nine Divine Realms, Specter Mountains especially. The spiritual energy there is the best!"

"Isn't that the divine realm our kin formed?"

They continued merrily chatting away. The Specter Mountains would be their first target, but the protective formation there had long been activated. It wouldn't be an easy task.

"Let's first focus on recovery. Ascendants aside, most of us are still weaker than a twelfth-level death phase samsaran," Bodhi said with a sigh.

"Don't worry, Overlord, I've eaten millions of wildbeasts and my body has been strengthened enough. I'll only need around a month to recover my energy on the Flameyellow Continent."

"No, that isn't enough! I already ate eight million!"

Bodhi, seeing the smiles on their faces, began filling with hope as the flames of passion ignited in his heart.

"Brothers, once I reach the Divine Moon Realm, I'll send you even better manna and cultivation resources!" He was confident that he could surpass all of his forebears. They were already prosperous two hundred millennia ago, but as he was now, he had the potential to exceed even the specters in their prime! "Only by consuming the Divine Moon Realm can we rise to prominence...."

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Back on the Old Deepstar Path, the caelum of Great Emperor Xuanyuan was orbited by the specters' blood moon caeli. Tianming spent the day traveling with Huiye Shi and the night cultivating, so he was still making progress. However, the lass was hard to please and often dragged him out at midnight. Even so, he still managed to properly enter the ninth-level death phase after some ten days.

"Now, even without Ling'er's Spiritual Attachment, I should be stronger than anyone beneath the Ascension stage." The caeli had managed to open up a new path of advancement for him. "Only three more life and death phases left. The Aeonian Grandbane's power seems to be growing more and more unstable...."

He was now in a death phase, and this particular one felt far more savage than the ones that came before it. A formless power seemed to be simmering in his saint springs.

"I wonder what other changes will come after I reach the tenth-level life phase. The caeli should help me advance through a few more phases, but I'll still have to find my own path to godhood...."

The caeli were indeed key to his advancement. Even now, Great Emperor Xuanyuan was still guiding his path ahead. "Ascending to godhood is difficult, but both Ling'er and Xiaoxiao stand a good chance of becoming ascendants before me! Perhaps I'll have to count on them to take me to the Divine Moon Realm."

Chapter 945 - Frost Sea of the North

Currently, both Feiling and Lin Xiaoxiao were within the Old Deepstar Path. As they were both from the Vermillion Bird Kingdom, they had quite a lot to talk about. As the Archaionfiend lusted after the caeli within the Old Deepstar Path, Lin Xiaoxiao kept it in her lifebound space the entire time she was there.

Lately, she was trying to break through to the twelfth-level death phase. As the Archaionfiend had forced her to assimilate too many caeli some time back, the speed of her breakthroughs was far too high. While they had since stopped doing so, the foundation had already been built. With the Archaionfiend's memories helping her, it shouldn't be too long before she ascended.

The vita was the foundation of life, while the caelum was something that never directly entered the body. Instead, it was more akin to a life's tether to the world, half belonging to the lifeform itself and half to the world around it. The vita was the one that entered the cycle of reincarnation, while the caelum was the recording of one's experiences from a third-person perspective.

As the caelum didn't have any actual consciousness or feelings of the actual body it came from, the Archaionfiend's consumption of caeli was fundamentally different from the Amnestic River Voidbanner's consumption of vitae. As such, the caelum could be said to be externally granted to a living being by the world around them. On the other hand, Tianming had a feeling that Ye Lingfeng's soulfiend consumed vitae, as it used to be the servant of the Primordial Demonlord.

"Looks like the Primordial Demonlord might be an enemy of the Primordial God-Emperor after all." Back at the Divine Capital, Tianming wasn't aware of the different kinds of souls, so he didn't have much of a reaction to the fact that the soulfiend consumed souls. Now that he looked at it, however, if it really consumed vita, it probably wasn't a good thing.

"I've relied on good karma and Omnisentient Will here to make huge strides in my cultivation. I wonder how Feng is doing. Did the Primordial Demonlord give him any benefits?" He felt a little regretful thinking about it. Even though he had promised he would take them to the divine realms after he settled

down, he'd been involved in one chaotic event after another. He was planning on making a trip back after the Number One Summit, but had been kidnapped and brought to the Kilostar Domain instead.

"Now, I'm already past the ninth-level death phase. I probably can't pass through the Canal of the Dead any longer. However, once I solve the issue of the specters, I should look into whether I can bring them to the Divine Moon Realm, or perhaps even the territories of order!"

Naturally, he hoped for them to be able to broaden their horizons too. "That's right, my stepfather included. He's an octabane, after all." He truly missed them after all this time.

"I wonder if Feng is smarter now, or if he still eats worms.... Haha, and Qingyu... is she happier than before? What about my stepfather? He's probably bored after being unmatched for so long. I should take him out of there and let him experience true defeat! Let's see if he still dares to act tough." The sudden recollection caused him to smile unwittingly.

"Oh, and Feng's Evil Suppression Pillar could be on the same level as artifacts like the Grand-Orient Sword and Prime Tower. I wonder if he's able to properly tap into the potential of a divine artifact like that yet."

Speaking of which, he recalled the Amnestic River Voidbanner, which was itself a divine artifact. While the banner itself was ruined, the flagpole was still there. He gave what remained of it to Lin Xiaoxiao. As she was also a bow user, he also let her pick some arrows with fifteen tribulation patterns from his ring, Skydragon.

"By the way, Ling'er, what weapons can you use?" Tianming asked.

"Me? None... I've never fought before." She clutched her skirt helplessly.

Tianming scratched his head in thought. The girl had indeed never personally fought all her life.

"It's alright. Even though you can't use Spiritual Attachment anymore, your current abilities involve space and time. You can still help me out like before if the situation calls for it."

Tianming knew her abilities well. Even though she lacked the ability to fight one on one, she was an expert at survival and crowd control. With Xuanyuan Xi's memories, she was also an exemplary patternscribe. She had already managed to heal Yi Xingyin and Ouyang Jiangwang's saint palaces, and they were now in recovery. She even managed to restore the Ninefold Formation's cores within a few days. Not only were her abilities terrifying, the memories of Xuanyuan Xi she possessed had made repairing the formation an easy task. Perhaps she would even be able to make god-level formations once she ascended.

"How far has your cultivation recovered?" Tianming asked.

"I'm at the sixth-level life phase now. I might need a dozen more days."

Originally, she would have needed around a decade to recultivate, but now it could be done within a short month. The difference was far too stark. These days, Tianming gave most of the tribulation spirit herbs in Skydragon that could be converted to tribulation force to her. In fact, he also let her absorb all the benefits of the spiritual energy springs within the Heaven Branch. That, coupled with her rapidly recovering heavenly will, allowed her to make a few breakthroughs each day at a speed that dazzled

even him. There was no way he could compare, for all that effort had been spent beforehand by Xuanyuan Xi a hundred millennia ago.

As for Lin Xiaoxiao's rapid breakthroughs, that was rather unique as well. Comparatively, Tianming was relying on his own insights and good karma to progress. As a result, while Lin Xiaoxiao had ended up with a higher cultivation level, her actual combat capabilities couldn't really compare. And if she didn't have any new insights, Tianming might just catch up and surpass her, especially with the changes of the Aeon Grandbane he was beginning to feel as he approached the Ascension stage. As for how large a change it would be, he would probably only have an answer once he ascended.

The three of them spent most of their time making progress on the Old Deepstar Path. Meanwhile, Tianming made sure to keep an eye out for the specters' moves. Currently, the various cities and sects across the land had deployed their defensive formations. The folks in smaller villages and settlements had been moved to the cities as well, completely unlike the time humans had fought among each other when they had to disperse into the wilderness. Different times called for different measures.

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At dawn, Xuanyuan Dao entered. Since his saint palace had been reconstructed, he had consumed quite a few tribulation spirit herbs that aided much in his recovery, but he would still need around two or three years to reach his prime again.

"Are there any changes?" Tianming asked.

"No. Currently, the specters have set up a base in the Abyssal Battlefield and are continuing to consume wildbeasts to strengthen their physical bodies. At night, they come to the Flameyellow Continent and mount occasional raids on cities to steal spiritual energy and spirit herbs, but they've refrained from consuming lifebound beasts," Xuanyuan Dao said.

"It's been two weeks already. Are they not going to attack at all?"

"Yes, they're just currently building up their power. Their situation is rather similar to ours. While their heavenly wills have reached the required level, their saint ki or tribulation force haven't caught up yet. The Ninefold Hell's spiritual energy is too bad, so they're in a malnourished state. However, the fact that they haven't attacked yet is probably due to the two that stayed behind. They must be afraid of the Divine Moon Realm. Tianming, do you have any way to make those two stay longer?"

"Those two are hard to please. Huiyue Yin, at least, finds his own fun without troubling us, but he's the hardest to keep here. As for Huiye Shi... it's too much trouble," Tianming said with a furrowed brow. The girl had been troubling him a little too much with all kinds of demands over the past few days. The slightest deviation from her whims would result in a tantrum.

"You'll have to take it for the team. Once they leave, the specters will definitely make their move. Given your rate of improvement, you'll be able to benefit from whatever extra time you can get."

"Yeah, I know." He was clear on the priorities he had. If keeping those two around could allow the Flameyellow Continent to catch a breather, he would do it. His minor annoyance was nothing in comparison to the suffering of billions.

"Oh well, we'll have to compromise either way."

"Is there a way to keep them here for more than a year?" Xuanyuan Dao asked.

"A year? Fat chance. They'll be gone once they're sick of this place."

"I have a way!" Ying Huo said with its wings crossed.

"What is it?" the two asked.

"Well... Have you heard of fait accompli? That is, knock her up, so she'll spend at least a year to pump that baby out. You'll definitely have ascended to godhood by then!"

"To hell with you!" Tianming grabbed it by the neck and flung it away.

"Either way, we'll be counting on you, Tianming," Xuanyuan Dao said as he gave his shoulder a pat.

"Guess that's all we can do." Right as he said that, they heard a commotion from outside.

"Lady, the human emperor is cultivating inside—"

"What human emperor? Aren't you embarrassed, calling him that? He promised me he would take me to the north to check out the Frost Sea! Make way!"

"Lady, this is our Old Deepstar Path...."

That was definitely Huiye Shi. She barged straight in and looked around. "You only have these trashy caeli? Our divine moon hall has at least a million ascendant caeli! And to think you're defending it like it's a treasure, how laughable." She immediately spotted Tianming and smiled. Hooking his arm, she said, "Let's go, it's daytime now! I want to see your frozen sea! The weather and sights we have are all manmade, so we don't have any natural sights like this. Take me there now!"

"Go ahead," Xuanyuan Dao said, giving Tianming a push after clearing his throat.

Tianming bit his lip. He had never felt this annoyed, not even during his face off with Fang Taiqing, Dugu Jin, and the two ghoulish kings. Back then, he could rely on himself. But now he had to count on humoring a spoiled brat to protect the world. It almost sounded like a joke, but it was all too real. Before he left, he shot Feiling a glance, signaling her to wait for his return.

However, Huiye Shi was really observant and immediately spotted their loving gaze. "Who's that?" she asked, rolling her eyes. Her expression seemed a little competitive. The fact that there was a girl on the level of Feiling on the Flameyellow Continent made her feel a little uncomfortable. As far as she was concerned, the natives of the continent were savages that didn't even bathe. Little did she know that Feiling's beauty was on the level of the city lord of Perpetia.

"Lady, she's my wife," Tianming said.

"Oh, she looks rather decent. You are a lucky one. Not to mention, she really managed to maintain her youth despite her age," she quipped. Her words invited many understanding gazes. They were starting to understand just how hard it was for Tianming to serve this lady from the Divine Moon Realm.

"Let's go!" she said again, hooking his arm.

"Go ahead, I'll be fine," Feiling said, not finding any fault.

"Wait for me to come back."

Tianming left with Huiye Shi. Even though he had tried getting someone else to take her around, she simply didn't agree and insisted on traveling with him.

"Let's go!" The carefree demeanor she had was as pure as a child's.

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Once they left, everyone exchanged glances.

"Do the people of the Divine Moon Realm not raise their children properly?" Ouyang Jianwang said.

"Well, we can't say for sure. She might just be an exception. Then again, there's a flaw that no human can possibly shake off," Yi Xingyin said.

"And what would that be?"

"Their sense of superiority and prejudice."

Chapter 946 - Grace of the Divine Moonrace

After Li Caiwei returned to the Birtual Divine Realm, she spent most of her energy repairing the formation core of the Birtual Yinyang Formation Dugu Jin had destroyed. Soon, the defensive formations were deployed across the cities and towns of the entire realm under her instruction. The sect and its cities would be the targets of the specters, the former especially, since it had the best spiritual energy springs in the area, which the specters desperately needed.

By the time she was done, she felt a little worn out. Sitting atop her cloudveil illusory fox, she returned to her cultivation grounds, the Cloudfox Hall. It was already the dark of night and the moon and countless stars were visible, thanks to the cloudless sky. Before entering the hall, she turned and looked at the Divine Moon Realm far up above.

"So they don't care if the specters wipe us out, only whether they break the taboo?" Her expression was cold. "They sure like to throw their weight around, though. At the end of the day, we can only rely on ourselves."

Even without personally dealing with the envoys from the Divine Moon Realm, Li Caiwei was plenty displeased after hearing about it from Tianming. As she was mulling over their predicament, she entered Cloudfox Hall and immediately felt a chill, as if a beam of moonlight was shining on her body. Looking up, she saw a white-haired youth standing in the clouds, wearing a large cloak. His face was fair and glowing, and he looked like the child of the moon under the illumination of moonlight. The crescent moon symbol on his forehead looked all too eye-catching.

"Ah, Lord from the Divine Moon Realm. I wonder if you need something?" Though she asked that in a casual tone, she was actually really nervous. Tianming had told her that he was a god, and gods hadn't existed on the Flameyellow Continent for a hundred thousand years.

As she watched, the man looked down on her, eyeing her pink hair from high up, and said, "Since you know who I am, why don't you kneel?"

"Lord, by the customs of the Flameyellow Continent, that's not the expectation. I'm neither your slave nor your servant," she said with her head lowered.

"By the customs of the Divine Moon Realm, those inferior must kneel." While his words sounded gentle, they cut like a sharp wind.

"But this is the Flame—"

"Where I stand is my territory." Before she finished, he put a hand on her shoulder and pressed down. He hadn't moved quickly, but the force caused Li Caiwei to grit her teeth. She couldn't resist at all as she was pressed down to her knees.

"Kneel well. I heard that you have a rather good status among your run-down place, so I have some questions for you." He continued looking down on her like nothing happened, completely unfazed at the fact that he just made someone as beautiful as her kneel. Right as she was about to look up, he humphed with dissatisfaction. "Keep your head lowered. Even though we're in the mortal world, it doesn't hurt to have some manners. That's what being civilized means."

"Understood. Ask away!" Li Caiwei waved her angry fox away to make sure it didn't come in. No matter how angry she was, she had to hold it back in the presence of a god.

"These days, I've heard some interesting rumors while traveling across the Nine Divine Realms," his lofty voice rang out.

"What rumors?"

"It's said that the human emperor of yours was only a sky saint a year ago when he joined the sect. In a short year, he managed to grow strong enough to kill twelfth-level death samsarans. It's said that he became the strongest person on the continent in his twenties and is soon to ascend," said Huiyue Yin.

Li Caiwei furrowed her brows. She knew that Tianming's amazing achievements were definitely annoying this fellow a lot. Otherwise he wouldn't be in such a bad mood. Based on his voice, she could tell that those rumors bothered him a lot. After all, he had mocked Tianming when he first told them of his age, only for him to find out later that it was true. If that was the case, the behavior the three of them had shown was utterly humiliating.

Li Caiwei was all too aware of what he was thinking. Knowing his troubles, she felt a little relieved. But the thought of this causing trouble to Tianming gave her a headache. They had thought getting into contact with the Divine Moon Realm would be helpful, yet it turned out that these three envoys were actually putting them in a tough position. Let's hope Tianming's made preparations to counter this.

The man stood before her and said, "Is all that true?"

"Yes. Our human emperor is said to be the successor of Great Emperor Xuanyuan and has inherited his legacy."

The legacy of Great Emperor Xuanyuan, including his caelum and Dragonhide, was public knowledge. However, Huiyue Yin and the rest wouldn't care much about that. Even so, Li Caiwei thought it would at least make Tianming's meteoric rise sound more plausible and less miraculous.

"Xuanyuan?" He suddenly chuckled, sounding completely unimpressed. "For someone at twenty-three to be able to reach these heights would make him rather decent even in the Divine Moon Realm."

It wasn't just decent, Tianming didn't have access to the stellunar source, nor a million god-level caeli, yet he was far superior to Huiyue Yin at the same age.

"Surely he pales in comparison to you, Lord."

"Oh? I seem to be hearing something else in that tone of yours." He came to her and pulled on her ponytail, raising her face toward him.

"Lord, did you not say I should not raise my head?"

"If I want you to raise it, you raise it." Looking at her coldly with his pale eyes, he suddenly chuckled. "Come to think of it, your looks and figure are decent. Did you think you might be able to seduce me with your charm?"

Li Caiwei felt like she was about to puke, but she didn't dare show it in fear for her life. "Lord, you're overthinking it. How could someone as esteemed as you come to like the looks of an ant like me?"

"You're a smart one, I'll give you that. Your bloodlines are too lowly! Even though we're all humans, there's supposed to be a minimum standard. Yet you lot are like animals, dogs and pigs. No matter how pretty a female dog is, a human would never be charmed by one, understood?"

"Yes, Lord. You truly are a man of grace. As expected of someone from a civilized land. However, I feel it's a little wasteful for you to remind me of my lowly stature. I'm already fully convinced, so I worry that your saliva will go to waste, Lord."

"Oh, trying to be smart, are we?" He raised her by her ponytail. "Don't you know you should be grateful? Without me here, your rootbeast race would've been killed by the specters long ago! It's one thing if you aren't grateful, but how dare you mock me?!" His mood was indeed terrible. Li Caiwei took a deep breath and swallowed her rage. "Next time you see me, kneel. I saved your dog life, understood?!"

He then raised his foot and slammed it against her knee, snapping it completely.

"Ugh...." Her face was pale, but she didn't utter a cry.

Then, Huiyue Yin tossed her to the ground and cried out, "Though I didn't think there would be useful stuff over here, but there's at least a few things, I bet." When he was done, he left the hall. The cloudveil illusory fox hurriedly rushed in, angered at its master's broken leg.

"It's fine, I just need to reconnect it. It won't kill me," she said as she crawled onto its back.

"Are we to be bullied just like that?!" the fox growled.

"Of course not!"

"Then what do we do?"

"I've never faced so much humiliation all my life. I'm going to complain to Tianming!"

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At the northmost part of the Flameyellow Continent was an endless ocean of ice. The severe cold caused many layers of ice to form, giving it a color that matched the sky. There wasn't a single person in sight on this vast expanse, making for quite an untainted sight of beauty. It was the first time Tianming had ever come to this place. The icebergs, sea, and cold drafts awed him with their beauty. If only I'd come here to witness such a beautiful sight with Ling'er, he lamented.

He shook his head, standing unmoving on top of an iceberg. A few hundred meters ahead of him was a girl in a short white skirt. She played around the ice and snow, her laughter echoing like the clearest of bells. She looked utterly elated, probably thanks to long periods of living in a claustrophobic space. She skidded around the icy layers and even smashed through them to swim with the colorful fish like a mermaid.

Whether she intended it or not, she was dressed rather lightly. After entering the water, her clothes tightly clung to her figure and seemed to make her glisten. Her figure was really alluring to begin with, and her cute face made her even more charming.

However, Tianming didn't pay her too much heed and continued practicing his swordsmanship. When twilight came, the setting sun cast an orange hue on the ice and made it sparkle.

"Hey, come play with me! The fish here are really pretty! There's all kinds of shapes and sizes!" rang her voice before Tianming could even see her.

Chapter 947 - Being Handsome is a Pain Sometimes

Tianming opened his eyes; the lady in damp clothes was standing a meter away from him. Her messy silver-white hair was clinging to her skin, making her look even more lustrous under the sunset. There was definitely a spectacular sight under that skirt of hers.

Huiye Shi didn't seem to realize it as she excitedly grabbed Tianming's hand, saying, "Look, the sunset is so beautiful. Let's head north!"

Tianming hurriedly extricated his hand. "No thanks. I need to go and practice my sword."

"Don't! What is there to train? It wasn't easy for me to come. It's really too beautiful here. I actually thought it would be all dirty here." Huiye Shi blinked her large eyes at him and looked hopeful.

"No." Tianming rejected her and stepped back. He sensed this woman was too erratic. She was dangerous.

"You're so boring! I'll find my elder brother and return to the Divine Moon Realm." She pouted unhappily.

Tianming was speechless.

"Come on, come on."

“I’ll find a few hundred people to play with you, how about that?” Tianming asked.

“No, the only one I want is you!”

Tianming really didn’t get it. What charm did a ‘three-hundred-year-old man’ like him have? Frankly, he had met many beautiful women. For example, there were Weisheng Ruosu and Xuanyuan Muxue. However, they all had reserved personalities. They had kept their distance and didn’t bring him any troubles.

However, someone with a forceful personality like Huiye Shi was unique.

Tianming was dragged into wandering around with her for a while.

Night finally fell.

“Time’s up, let’s go.” Tianming had a headache. These few days had been a torment.

“Why such a rush? Sit down, I have some things to ask you.” Huiye Shi wasn’t polite, and kept leaning toward Tianming.

They returned to shore. Tianming stood at one side, while Huiye Shi crossed her legs and sat on a rock.

She stared at Tianming, then cracked a smile. “Aren’t you a guy? Why don’t you have any reaction?”

“What do you mean, Milady?” Tianming asked.

“Am I not pretty enough?” Huiye Shi tilted her head and asked ‘naively’.

“Milady has a beauty that can topple nations.”

“Nonsense, you must believe that it’s not as pretty as your wife,” Huiye Shi said with some displeasure.

“Milady, don’t make such jokes with me. I’m much older than you.”

“Still lying! I heard about your story yesterday. You’re really just twenty-three. You’re even younger than me, Little Brother.” Huiye Shi jumped off the rock. She extended her hands and wrapped them around Tianming’s neck. “Aren’t you someone out of a legend? You conquered this whole world at twenty-three! I was thinking the whole of last night how you could accomplish it. The only explanation is that you’re an unearthly talent, and the Flameyellow Continent is even burying it. If you were to come to our Divine Moon Realm and get access to its stellunar source, what would happen? Hypothetically, you may even become the number one of our realm!”

Tianming had already known his age couldn’t be hidden forever, as it was common knowledge. Anyway, it wasn’t like he had been trying to hide it anyway. They just hadn’t believed him.

Tianming gently pushed her arms away. He wasn’t comfortable with her close proximity.

“You overestimate me. I’m not that impressive, especially compared to you all,” Tianming said.

“Gosh, how are you such a blockhead!” Huiye Shi said anxiously.

“Huh?” Li Tianming blinked.

"I want to bring you to the Divine Moon Realm! If you agree, we can go tomorrow. I guarantee that you'll instantly reach greatness and become a phoenix! You don't need to be a frog in the well here. Staying here with your talent is a waste," Huiye Shi said seriously.

"Milady—"

"Stop calling me that. It sounds horrible. Shishi will do!"

Tianming couldn't respond.

"Follow me. Tianming, can't you tell I like you? I, Huiye Shi, have the ability and qualifications to pull you up. You'll have glory and everyone will respect you!" She grabbed Tianming's hands and looked at him hopefully.

"You like me?" Tianming was a little dazed. Honestly, this was the first time he had experienced such a frank confession

"Don't joke with me like this, Huiye Shi." Tianming shook his head.

"It isn't a joke. Us ladies from the Divine Moon Race really are just this passionate. Is that a problem?" Huiye Shi said.

"You don't know me." Tianming found it ridiculous. They had only known each other for a few days. She had only found out his age yesterday, and she was already discussing romance?

"There'll be chances in the future to get to know each other. I think you're handsome and talented. Your style of conversation and that light in your eyes are my type too. This is love at first sight! You can't run away, you're destined to be my man!" Huiye Shi seemed very confident in herself as she overbearingly spoke.

"Come with me, Tianming. Once you go to the Divine Moon Realm, you'll know what a right decision it was to abandon this continent." Under the night sky, she waited for an answer,

In the end, Tianming's response was frank. He created a distance between them.

"Milady, I think I need to explain two things. First, I can't leave. My race is about to meet a disaster. Second, I have someone I like. If there's something I did to make you misunderstand, I apologize," he said seriously.

"That race thing is an excuse. You just can't abandon that girl, can you? How is she worthy of you apart from looking not bad? She's ruining your future! If you can't say it, I'll help you tell her. If she cares, she'll give up on you," Huiye Shi said.

"Don't overthink things." Tianming turned serious. "I think this matter is over. I should go back. Goodbye!"

"If you dare go, I'll kill her!"

As soon as Tianming turned around, her cold words reached him. As expected, her passion wasn't without thorns.

This immediately infuriated Tianming. Threatening Feiling was his bottom line. But this matter was troublesome as it was related to the issue with the specter race.

He turned around and coldly looked at Huiye Shi, saying, "Actually, you don't need to make such trouble for me. We're just strangers that happened to cross paths. I respect you as someone who came to help the Flameyellow Continent, but you don't need to waste energy and effort on me."

"Make trouble? I genuinely like you. What I want, I get."

"Love goes both ways."

"That's okay, familiarity breeds fondness."

Tianming was flabbergasted. What was going through this woman's head? Xuanyuan Dao and the rest all wanted him to keep these two here. However, he really couldn't continue with this situation! Playing tour guide was already annoying enough for him. This time, Tianming decisively walked away.

"So unlucky." In the lifebound space, Ying Huo and Meow Meow were shoulder to shoulder as they watched.

"Boss is too bashful. Me? I'd have done her and tossed her into the harem!" Meow Meow said mightily.

"What if one day she gets too jealous and kills your whole harem off before crushing your balls?" Ying Huo sniggered.

Meow Meow's body shook, and it laughed awkwardly. "Well, maybe I'll let her off then."

Despite how important the Divine Moon Realm's people were, Tianming left very quickly.

"Stop right there! Or else my brother and I will leave!" a tearful voice followed him this time.

When Tianming looked back, he saw that she was gritting her teeth and tearing up. He was very frustrated; saying 'get lost' was easy. But how would he account to Xuanyuan Dao? It would be his responsibility if there were millions of casualties after they lost the war.

"Whatever, I don't want to make things difficult for you." Huiye Shi softened when she saw his cold look. "Let's do this. You don't seem to understand the power of the stellunar source yet. Once you see it, you'll understand."

"Are you going to make me experience it?" Tianming asked.

"Was that a challenge in your tone?"

"It was," Tianming said.

"I'm twelfth-level death phase. I'll become an ascendant even before my brother. We of the divine moonrace are fundamentally different from you all. Do you think just because you can defeat one that's from here, it makes you capable of beating me?"

"How about this. Let's have a bet. If you lose, don't bother me and stay here for three months," Tianming said. Although Huiye Shi had a favorable impression of him, she still had a strong sense of superiority that Tianming could take advantage of.

This was the best way to solve his trouble.

“You want to use strength to bet?” Huiye Shi was shocked.

“Yes.”

“It seems that you really need to see the world!” Huiye Shi shook her head.

“Do you agree?”

“Ok. But promise a condition of mine.” Huiye Shi gave a crafty grin.

“Say it.”

“If I win, you come with me. Forget about this place and become my man,” Huiye Shi said.

“Fine, deal. Also, a word of advice. I never hold back because my opponent is a woman. When I fight, I go for the kill. Are you afraid?” Tianming said.

Chapter 948 - Totem: Moonfiend!

“Woah, trying to scare me? Everyone’s been placing you on such a pedestal that I’ve wanted to see what you can do!” Huiye Shi said.

“I hope you’ll keep your promise.”

“At least I won’t keep saying ‘Let’s go!’. If I lose, it’ll just prove I was right and you’re an unpolished gem.”

“Very well!”

The two had similar thoughts. Both were confident that they could win.

While Huiye Shi recognized Tianming’s talent, she was deeply aware of the gap between the dregs of power settling down on the Welkin plane and the stellunar source.

“I heard your rootbeast race’s lifebound beasts are interesting. Show them to me!” Huiye Shi said.

“You don’t have lifebound beasts?” Tianming was surprised. Without lifebound beasts or stars in their eyes, it meant they didn’t have the abilities beasts had.

“Ignorant. You think everyone is from the rootbeast race? We of the divine moonrace naturally have better ways. Who wants to cultivate with some filthy animals?” Huiye Shi said disdainfully.

“Eh. Then please let me witness it.” Ying Huo and Meow Meow popped out.

Lan Huang and Xian Xian were still with Feiling, protecting her.

“These are your lifebound beasts? Those two little things aren’t very useful apart from being cute, are they?” Huiye Shi was slightly disdainful. She believed that bigger lifebound beasts were more useful.

“I agree, they’re useless.” Tianming took out the Grand-Orient Sword, then separated it into two. His white hair fluttered and his pupils emitted a dazzling radiance.

“So dashing!” Huiye Shi felt her heart rate speeding up.

Tianming had never expected a day where his appearance would bring him trouble. Perhaps the Primordial God-Emperor’s legacy was causing his aura to greatly change as he improved his Imperial Will. He was completely different from when he was at Vermilion Bird; his bearing and looks were indeed extraordinary.

“Li Tianming, do you know what totems are?” As Huiye Shi spoke, she took out a thin saber the shape of a crescent moon from her spatial ring.

Power flowed on the divine artifact’s surface. It was from the same origin as Huiye Shi and was most likely made of stellunar source.

“I don’t.” Tianming shook his head.

“That’s why I said you were ignorant.” Huiye Shi was pleased. “Watch closely. Your lifebound beasts are nothing compared to my totems!”

Huiye Shi’s long hair and skirt fluttered as her body was covered by specks of light.

“Let the terra return and the totem descend!”

“Floating in the four seas, moonlight shines, the darkness advances—Moonfiend, appear!” Huiye Shi stabbed her saber into the icy ground and some kind of shocking power was released.

“You actually have to recite some chant? Don’t you feel stupid?” Tianming snorted.

“That was for you to hear.” Huiye Shi smiled sweetly. At that moment, her totem, Moonfiend, was born! Thread-like moonlight energy gushed out from the surface. When it covered the icy ground, the ice suddenly cracked apart. Giants, several dozen meters tall, began appearing. They were all ‘female goddesses’ clad in long robes! They towered high, and each of them had silvery white hair. They were all carrying sabers as well.

When Tianming closely inspected them, they didn’t have a bottom half. There were just threads of energy that connected them to Huiye Shi. It made them look like they had grown out of her body. They weren’t material, but were closer to Feiling or Xian Xian’s spiritual bodies.

Spiritual bodies were in between souls and fleshy bodies. They could exist in the real world, unlike souls, and even had miraculous abilities. They could likely attack and use powers, and may not be limited to spiritual attacks.

“This is a totem?” Tianming could tell these totems were Huiye Shi’s strongest combat strength.

“Have your horizons broadened?”

“What’s the principle?”

“It’s useless to tell you. Follow me to the Divine Moon Realm and I’ll slowly explain to you. You just need to know that it’s my race’s strongest talent. Its essence is that it’s formed from the terra of our soul that’s around our bodies being broken off. There’s millions of types of totems. Your symbiotic cultivation

means your talent and cultivation is limited by your beasts. You can't even imagine how strong our totems are!"

"You're still not twenty-five. If you hurry, perhaps we can use the divine moon radiance to break off part of your terra and form a totem to help you fight!" Huiye Shi said arrogantly.

Despite her arrogance being annoying, Tianming did admit the five totems had broadened his horizons.

"A special spiritual body?" The vastness of the world really was unfathomable.

"In Orderia, our divine moonrace's ancestral race, the celestial orderian race, is the source of totems! Follow me, and maybe you'll have the chance to go to Orderia and witness our celestial orderian race's glory! It doesn't matter if you throw away your useless lifebound beasts!"

"Oh." Tianming smiled coldly. "Brothers, you're being looked down on. What should we do?" Tianming asked.

"What? Of course we should teach her a lesson!" Ying Huo rolled its eyes.

"Then go wild!" Tianming had been stressed for over ten days, and he now finally had the chance to vent.

"Attack!"

When Huiye Shi saw the fierce gleam in his eyes, she grew even more excited. This is how someone who will accomplish great things should act! It'll be fine to make him suffer a bit now. She lifted up her saber and the five totems made their move.

While Huiye Shi's figure seemed delicate, her combat prowess was high. She shot toward Tianming and unleashed miraculous battle arts that were ever-changing.

Everywhere her saber went, moonlight shone! It was obviously a divine-class battle art that was on par with the Hexapath Samsara Sword Art. When she attacked, the totems by her side used the same battle art. However, their larger size made the attack more intimidating. Their nature as spiritual bodies seem to make their attack both physical and spiritual.

The sea of ice split apart in the wake of her saber, and Tianming felt like the entire world had been sealed by Huiye Shi and her totems.

He smiled in response.

Ying Huo and Meow Meow had already made their moves. They charged at Huiye Shi, unleashing their abilities. Lightning and fire entangled her and exploded.

Soulshaker Eye! Tianming began with this move. He couldn't be bothered to be polite and quickly donned the Dragonhide, reaching his peak battle state.

He charged into the fray as well, unleashing the Asura Fiendgod Formation. Sword ki spawned into the area, converging into two fiendgods that were even larger than the totems. The violent attack was even more powerful than the time it had killed Dugu Jin.

The two fiendgods attacked the five totems.

At the same time, Ying Huo had already circled behind Huiye Shi. "Looking down on me? Eat my sword!"

Huiye Shi moved even quicker. The Moonfiends weren't completely crushed by the asura fiendgods, so they managed to block Ying Huo's attack.

Then lightning flashed as Chaos Disaster fell from the skies. While there were five totems, none could block it.

It was a three-pronged attack.

"Break!" Huiye Shi finally managed to break the Asura Fiendgod Formation.

But Ying Huo engaged her again, using the Ninesky Beastsoul Formation. One of the moonfiends was pierced through by its sword ki.

"You!" Huiye Shi shouted. She waved her saber to disperse Ying Huo's attack, shaking in fury.

However, the real threat ripped right through a moonfiend and reached her eyes.

"What?"

A massive fist collided with her face.

Shrieking, Huiye Shi's face was covered in blood as she crashed into the ground. She slid for over five hundred meters and smashed into a mountain of ice.

"It hurts!" She couldn't open her eyes, and her face was stinging with pain. Even her nose was broken. She was shaking with fury as she climbed to her feet. However, she suddenly felt a slap to the face that sent her flying into the sea, all the way to the seabed.

"I... I..." Huiye Shi suddenly started crying.

She forced her eyes open and saw that her opponent had appeared at the seabed.

"Why did you go for the face!"

"Because your face is too—" Tianming said.

"AHHH!!!" It was a fatal blow.

The Grand-Orient Sword pressed down on her saber, forcing Huiye Shi's mouth to meet the unforgiving seabed.

"Are we still fighting?" Tianming asked.

"No, no!" Huiye Shi said, flustered.

"So, are lifebound beasts or totems more powerful?"

"Of course our totems... but you're passable!" she said.

"You still have that sense of superiority?" Tianming's sword pressed down.

"I don't dare!" Huiye Shi had mentally collapsed.

“You have status, so don’t go back on your word. You can’t leave for three months,” Tianming said viciously as he put away his sword. He refused to believe that, after conquering a continent, he couldn’t handle one Huiye Shi.

“I’m not leaving. Not until I get you!”

“There’s something wrong with your brain!” Tianming scolded before leaving.

Chapter 949 - Li Tianming’s Totems

On the way to Taiji Peak.

Huiye Shi’s totems seemed like they were attached to her body, giving her skin an obvious glow in the night. However, the injuries on her face would probably take a few days to heal.

She caught up to the speedy Tianming and spoke pitifully.

“Wait for me! Li Tianming, stop right there!”

Tianming turned around and said in a low voice, “Looking for another beating?”

“Do you still want to be unreasonable? Do you believe I’ll just return to the Divine Moon Realm?” Huiye Shi glared at him.

“What about your promise?”

“Idiot. Talking about honesty with a woman? What promise? Zero memory of it!”

Tianming couldn’t be bothered.

“Hey, I’ll be well-behaved if you treat me better!” She bit her red lips and caught up to him again. “You can’t escape me. You’ll kneel at my skirt sooner or later!”

Tianming felt like a fly was buzzing around him. He suddenly stopped right before they reached Taiji Lake and frowned at the girl. “I remember you said that if I go to the Divine Moon Realm before I’m twenty-five, I can make my terra become a totem?”

“Yes, follow me to greatness! Anything you want! My family is rich!” Huiye Shi said.

“Can everyone have their own totem?” Tianming asked.

“Technically. But in truth, an ordinary person’s totem will be far different from us divine moonrace’s, and especially the celestial orderian race’s.”

“How so?” Tianming asked.

“Give me a kiss and I’ll talk,” Huiye Shi said proudly.

“Look in the mirror first. Can you even physically kiss now?” Tianming said.

“Argh! You bastard!” Huiye Shi was anxious.

“Fine, whatever.” Tianming turned to leave.

“I’ll talk! Stop there!”

Tianming was just slightly curious. He didn’t care much if she refused to speak.

“Every person has terra. So if they use the divine moon radiance, they can create a totem. Totems are just formed by using terra to create a spiritual body. However, ordinary people’s totems only have terra, so it isn’t that effective to cultivate a totem. They don’t have most of the foundational ‘bane-rings’ in their totems. Bane-rings are what help totems store power, cultivate, and fuse. Bane-rings are as important to totems as our saint palaces are to us, got it?” Huiye Shi’s face was filled with arrogance as she spoke; she had subconsciously regained her sense of superiority.

“Bane-rings?” Tianming gave Huiye Shi a long look.

“Right, want to see my bane-rings?” Huiye Shi smiled sweetly and pulled up her right sleeve. Her arm had five moon-shaped markings.

Tianming was too familiar with this. She was the Pentamoon Skybane! Li Qingyu had one exactly the same on her.

“Lifesbane?!” Tianming was stunned. The divine moonrace was a lifesbane clan?

“Oh, you actually know about our celestial orderian race’s Lifesbane? I have the Moonsbane, which is counted as a Greater Lifesbane.”

Waves of shock battered Tianming’s heart.

“Does our Li Saint Clan originate from the divine moonrace? No, they don’t have lifebound beasts, but we do.”

“What’s wrong? Why’re you just standing there dumbly?” Huiye Shi smiled bashfully.

“This is the Moonsbane? There’s five of them?” Tianming asked.

“Heh, do you get it now? My terra can split into five because I have five bane-rings acting as foundations for the totems. My moonfiends usually just hide inside the bane-rings. See?”

Tianming could faintly make out faces on the bane-rings, which made it different from Qingyu’s.

“I see it.” Tianming nodded.

“So, it’s possible if you want to create a totem. But it’ll be much weaker and have far lower growth potential. But don’t worry, my family has money! I can still keep you even if your totem talent is low!” Huiye Shi guaranteed.

“Are you trying to pull a fast one on me? I don’t even have bane-rings,” Tianming said.

“Fine! You’re too smart. I’ll tell you truthfully, forget about totems! However, my family has a lot of manna for lifebound beasts that’re unusable. Does that excite you?”

“Are you trying to get me to marry into your family?”

“Yep. In our Huiyue Clan, our men are surnamed Huiyue and our women are surnamed Huiye. We don’t marry out.”

Tianming wasn't stirred by the treasures in her family. He was just thinking about his ten bane-rings and the possibility of getting ten totems. He had seen the power of totems. While Huiye Shi wasn't that strong, the celestial orderian race relied on totems to dominate the sun above. They couldn't be weak.

"Are there many kinds of totems?" Tianming asked.

"Yes. Any kind of totem can be spawned, it just depends on your bloodline and talent. Some people form weapons, some form beasts, and some form plants. However, the best is still heavenly being totems, like my moonfiends or my brother's canine voidgods!" Huiye Shi said proudly.

"In comparison, our rootbeast race only has beast-types," Tianming said.

"Yes, that's your weakness, you all cultivate too slowly. A beast's comprehension abilities will always be limited. Even if you're stronger in the same level, so what? We can easily overtake you in level!" Huiye Shi said disdainfully.

This wasn't applicable to Tianming, because Ying Huo and the rest were even faster than him in cultivating their heavenly wills.

But she did make some sense.

In comparison, the specter race's advantages were more balanced. They didn't cultivate faster than the celestial orderian race, but they were stronger than the rootbeast race. They could cultivate both abilities and battle arts, and their physical bodies were strong,

Tianming thought of something. "Your divine moonrace's talent is determined by the number of bane-rings?"

"Yes. The number is the most basic, but the type of ring is important as well. Also, the type of totems! If you have powerful bane-rings and totems, you'll be a peak genius as long as you have enough of them!" Huiye Shi said.

"Do you count as a super genius in the Divine Moon Realm?" Tianming asked.

"Maybe not super, but first-rate, yes," Huiye Shi said proudly.

"The first rate is your standard? How can you brag about your fast cultivation speed then?" Tianming asked mockingly.

"Silence! You need to see the overall standard. One monster like you can't represent the whole Flameyellow Continent, can you?"

"Well, you have a stellar source," Tianming said.

"Envious? Then elope with me and you'll have it too!"

"Don't be ridiculous. Last question," Tianming said severely.

"Yes yes yes, why are you such a curious child? I know, it's because you're ignorant!"

"What's the highest number of bane-rings your divine moonrace has?" Tianming asked seriously.

"It'll scare you."

“How many?”

“Seven!” Huiye Shi said loudly.

Tianming was stunned, then snorted. He internally cursed, Trash, that’s less than even my godfather!

“Hey, what’s with that attitude? Do you know what seven means? Really, the ignorant are fearless. Hmph!”

“What’s the highest in history?” Tianming asked.

“Eight! The most glorious people in our history have had eight totems. You don’t know how awesome they were. One punch of theirs could kill millions of you,” Huiye Shi said.

“Does the current divine moonrace have anyone with eighth bane-rings?”

“No. You think they’re vegetables growing on the roadside?” Huiye Shi sneered.

“The celestial orderian race?” Tianming asked. That was the sun, where he wanted to go the most.

“They have an emperor with eight. He’s the current overlord of Orderia. Our Divine Moon Realm is just one of their outposts. The countless continents on your Welkin Plane are all under him.”

“Incredible!” Tianming gave a thumbs up.

Eight bane-rings gave eight totems. In that case, even the octobaned Li Wudi could rise up with the right opportunity, let alone him.

“Can those over twenty-five create totems?” Tianming asked.

“Nope, their chance is gone.”

Tianming wasn’t looking down on the celestial orderian race or the divine moonrace. He and Li Wudi were just exceptions to the rule.

“Right, has anyone ever had over eight?”

“No, eight is perfection. That nosy woman from a while ago hasn’t been proven to have nine bane-rings yet, and it must be wrong anyway!” Huiye Shi said confidently.

“Nosy woman?”

“Don’t ask. No other woman has any relation to you apart from me.” Huiye Shi glared at him. It seemed that mentioning that person had made her unhappy. “She and that disaster-causing devil both escaped from the Chaos Skyjail above your continent. Who knows what other weirdos are inside!” Huiye Shi seemed quite emotional.

“What?” Tianming had no idea what idea she was talking about.

“Hmph!” Huiye Shi didn’t want to say anything more. Giving him one last glare, she went ahead first.

“Wait, I have one more question.”

Huiye Shi was speechless.

"Speak!"

"Does your celestial orderian race have any bane-rings in the shape of words?"

"No!"

Chapter 950 - I Was Bullied

By the time they returned to Taiji Peak Lake, it was deep in the night and Tianming hurried back to the Old Deepstar Path to continue his cultivation. While Huiye Shi had wasted quite a lot of his time, she had at least promised to stay for three months, buying humanity even more time.

The moment he entered, he saw a few people gathered together treating a patient. "What's going on?"

It turned out that the injured person was Li Caiwei. Her leg seemed to have been broken. "Tianming, I was bullied!" She grit her teeth and looked at him with teary eyes.

"Who did it?"

"Huiyue Yin!"

It was as Tianming expected. His expression turned cold. "Did he go to your place?"

"I think he was passing through. He heard about your miraculous exploits and wanted me to testify to it. He is a disgusting fellow! He thinks he's hot shit, constantly throwing his weight around. Absolute trash!"

She had been cursing since she arrived, but the others couldn't do anything about it.

"Rest up for now." Tianming stood before them in deep thought.

"Tianming, we have to be wary of this person. He looks down on us and doesn't treat us well at all. He's dangerous. No matter what, he's a god. If he really throws a tantrum, none of us can stop him, yet he's the only one we can count on to keep the specters at bay! How troubling!" Xuanyuan Dao said.

"The only thing we can do is to not provoke him and keep him satisfied. Let's just endure it a little more," said the coral fairy.

"Don't listen to Li Caiwei. We can't afford to cross them now. If we do, it'll only end badly for us whether they choose to fight us or leave. We should endure at times like this," Lin Yuntian said.

"That's right. I only came here to warn you to be careful of him. He's rather curious about you right now, but don't fight him when it isn't the right time," Li Caiwei said, regaining her sensibility after a vent.

"Don't worry. Right now, he's far more powerful than I am. I won't do something that suicidal," Tianming said. The others who were worried about his temper breathed a sigh of relief.

"Tianming isn't getting off easy either. He has to deal with the younger one," Xuanyuan Dao said.

"Huiye Shi is fine. I beat her up today so she's mellowed down a bit. Huiyue Yin's the one we have to worry about," Tianming said.

"Beat up?"

"Yeah...."

"She didn't throw a tantrum?"

"Well, more like she couldn't."

Everyone shot him a thumbs-up.

"Badass!"

"Either way, we'll still try to be amiable and endure for a little longer."

The others knew that there was hope for Tianming, Feiling, and Lin Xiaoxiao to grow stronger. Even if they couldn't take on many specter ascendants, they would at least be able to protect themselves while Huiyue Yin was here. But at the very least, they had to make sure he didn't cause any trouble. If he dared to break Li Caiwei's legs now, he might think about taking Xuanyuan Dao's head. He might even go all the way and kill Tianming. That was their greatest threat for now. Whether or not the Divine Moon Realm was truly their ally wasn't something they could take for granted.

As they continued discussing, Tianming came to Feiling with his head lowered.

"Are you feeling down, Big Brother?" She placed his hand into hers and smiled, looking really dreamy under the light of the Old Deepstar Path. Her features and figure were beautiful in a subtle, ethereal sense, unlike the overbearing charms of Huiye Shi. Tianming was far more used to Feiling's looks, hence his lack of reaction to Huiye Shi's beauty.

"Yeah."

"Huiyue Yin isn't a simple enemy. We need him, yet we have to be wary of him. This is truly a pain," Feiling said.

"We need him? Ling'er, why do you think they had to descend after I used the moonjade? Protecting the order of the Flameyellow Continent is their responsibility. I feel that there's nothing we have to thank them for. They're only staying here because they think it's interesting and fun. To be honest, I think Huiyue Yin is an enemy and we don't owe him anything."

"Got it! Are you facing a lot of stress now?" she asked as she leaned against him, stroking his back.

"It's fine. No matter how tough it gets, we'll work through it together."

"Alright. I'm almost there, Big Brother," she said, winking.

"Almost there?"

"Yes. While you were out there messing around with other girls, I was working hard, hehe!"

"I wasn't!"

"You smell heavily of a girl, do you know that?" she said with a squint. Seeing Tianming pale, she chuckled. "I was just messing with you. I can hear your heart and I know your true feelings. You're mine and nobody can take you away from me."

"Good girl!" Tianming relaxed and put his hands on her cheek. "Come give me a kiss!"

"Mmm!"

There was no stopping his face as he kissed the goddess right before everyone's eyes. The rest quickly turned aside and pretended not to notice, while Yi Xingyin and Ouyang Jianwang exchanged glances.

"Aren't you going to recite a poem after seeing that?" Yi Xingyin said.

"Badass!" Ouyang Jianwang said.

"Good poem, if a one-word poem is a thing. It's truly thought provoking, though. A minimalist description of our current situation. As expected of your poetic mastery, Ouyang. It's sure to be a song to be passed down through the generations!"

Ouyang Jianwang blanked out.

"Wonderful silence! It really adds a lot of dramatic tension, doesn't it? Masterful usage."

.....

The moon was shining high in the night sky.

"Huiye Shi, what's up with your face?" a snow-white man asked after he appeared before Huiye Shi. She had wanted to get Tianming out to watch the moon with her, only to run into him.

"Brother, I tripped," she said, rubbing her face.

Huiyue Yin pulled her to him and squinted. "That's a sword wound. Hehe...."

"It's got nothing to do with you. Stop getting in my business."

"I heard that they were warring among themselves just before the specters returned, so they've basically lost all their twelfth-level death samsaras. Only Li Tianming is capable of harming you now. How dare he step out of his lowly station and hurt one of the divine moonrace? Looks like even dogs will bite! They need to be taught a lesson!" Huiyue Yin was fuming with anger. His eyes were sharp and his hair seemed to rise as he opened his mouth to reveal sharp, furious teeth. "Come with me! I'll kill that reckless fool!"