

The Ages 961

Chapter 961 - Primalsea Fiend

Yusheng Luo was slaughtering away amidst the crowd of specters, her clouddream vines mesmerizing many of them at a time. At least a thousand specters had lost their lives to the vines; this was now a blood feud. The specters saw themselves as fundamentally different from the rootbeast race and divine moonrace, and their animosity flared up as Tianming desired.

"She killed the overlady!"

"Overlady, no!"

When rage simmered, reason melted away. The opening act was of utmost importance, and as far as Tianming was concerned it had been perfect. What surprised him even more was the moon guide, Liu Yizhao. Perhaps he was feeling a little guilty over the death of Huiyue Yin and wanted to make up for it, so he joined the fight immediately. He was about as powerful as Yusheng Luo and had four swords as his totems. The four gigantic swords swept across the area. Though they weren't as agile as the moonfiend or canine voidgod, they were capable of causing excessive destruction. A single sweep sowed immense death and destruction.

With his wife and Liu Yizhao already in the fight, there was no way Huiyue Du would hold back either. He pushed Huiyue Shi back and said, "Shishi, stay back. Dad will send these animals to the real hell, not their phony excuse of a planet."

"Dad, I want to fight too!" she said, tears flowing.

"Stay out of this! Don't cause trouble!" he yelled, stunning Huiyue Shi, then charged into battle.

"Dad, their ascendants were all involved! Don't spare any of them!"

Countless specters joined the fight, and soon, more than a hundred thousand of them had been killed. These three were a little too much for them to handle. The only one capable enough to match them was Bodhi, yet he was still recovering his abilities in the Divine Moon Realm.

Huiyue Du's totems were also of the heavenly being variety, and were called primalsea fiends. Each one of them stood three hundred meters tall, all giants that could upend the seas. Wherever they passed, countless specters were crushed.

If these specters didn't die, they would be able to kill tens of times more humans after the divine moonrace left. Tianming couldn't afford to be a saint, and only hoped that as many specters would die as possible. He kept count as best he could, not taking his eyes off them. These specters must die. He didn't want to let even a single one go.

Amidst the chaos, Huiyue Shi pouted and came to his side. "Hey, I did well, right? I used all my tricks to bring this about, you know. Say something about this, at least."

"It isn't over yet," Tianming said.

"They're already going wild with the killing. Don't worry, you'll live for sure." Despite having cried for the better part of the day, she was now smiling mischievously. Tianming had to admit that she had a talent for demanding to be spoiled. "So... are you saying I'll get a reward once this is over?"

"Nope, forget it."

"Can't you at least get your woman to remove that thing in my heart? It's terrifying, you know. I helped you so much, so you can see I'm sincere, right?"

"I can't do that, but don't worry. You've helped me a lot, so I'll return the favor when the time comes. Not to mention, as long as you don't harm me, that seed won't harm you in the least."

"Fine! Meanie. If you ever cheat, you better not fall for me. I don't need to give her a reason to kill me. Sigh, I can't even fairly compete for your affection."

Tianming was stumped. To think that she was still lusting for him after all this. Still, he kept his attention focused on the battle. Blood was raining down all over the Ninefold Hell. The more specters that died, the more their rage was boiling over. It was still a risky affair, but the pride and fury of the divine moonrace stopped them from giving the specters any chance to explain themselves. They went straight in for the kill. Liu Yizhao focused on all the ascendants, killing them one by one. He also tried to claim a few heads in hopes that they would help Huiyue Du calm his rage. They had been friends for centuries, after all.

Those three looked to be about fifth- or sixth-level ascendants, perhaps even higher. Tianming was stunned by their sheer power. If the elites of the divine moonrace relied only on their stellar source to achieve their power, how much more powerful would the celestial orderians, who had access to nova sources, be? It was said that they would suffer consequences for acting with abandon in the realm of chaos, so they had to hold back a part of their power. In other words, they were far more powerful than their current display of wrath suggested.

Looks like being so powerful can allow one to completely dominate. He watched as a dozen of specters were killed by Liu Yizhao, who was even trying to preserve their heads, probably as sacrificial offerings to Huiyue Yin.

Blood flowed all over the Ninefold Hell. Eventually, only Yi Jun remained before Liu Yizhao. He had already recovered power akin to a level-two ascendant, but was still a few levels short to face off against Liu Yizhao. He stood five meters tall and had four powerful arms, but he still looked puny in comparison to the sword totems. Nobody was powerful enough to take the blows of those swords.

It had all happened too quickly. The three elites had launched into a slaughter, causing hundreds of thousands of deaths among the specters. Even the dozen ascendants were being mercilessly hunted down by Liu Yizhao. Yi Jun couldn't bear to see his comrades die, but more than that, he wanted to know what they ever did to deserve something like that. "Moon Guide, we didn't break the taboo. In fact, we didn't do anything. Why are you slaughtering us?" Could the overlord's presence in the Divine Moon Realm have been leaked?

Liu Yizhao didn't even bother with him. He already had a bunch of heads in hand, and Yi Jun's was the next.

"Moon Guide! Even if we're going to die, I still demand an explanation! Why?!" He gave up on resisting and knelt.

"Still playing the fool?" Liu Yizhao thrust his sword, doubting that Yi Jun would actually not block it. However, the sword easily pierced through his heart.

"Why? Why?" Yi Jun hugged the sword as tears streamed from all six of his eyes. Fighting to his death was a fate he had come to accept, but in this case he didn't even understand what it was all for.

The fervent desire for an answer to his death even shocked Liu Yizhao. "Stop putting up an act. You dared to kill Huiyue Yin, and his sister witnessed it. You won't be able to fool us."

He drew his sword out in preparation to behead Yi Jun.

Chapter 962 - Blood-filled Ninefold Hell

"What?! Impossible! We just escaped imprisonment and are still really weak! No matter how brave we are, we would never dare to offend the Divine Moon Realm!" Yi Jun said.

"Huh?" Liu Yizhao was taken aback.

"Moon Guide, someone framed us! You've been fooled!" He finally understood why this disaster had befallen them. But by now, the specters had basically lost all their ascendants and elites before the misunderstanding had even been addressed. Yusheng Luo alone had killed tens of thousands of samsaras.

"Who could that possibly be?! Someone else must have killed Huiyue Yin! Moon Guide, please show mercy and spare us! We'll work with you to find the truth! We can't let the real culprit go free!" Yi Jun's eyes were bloodshot. Despite the rage he felt toward the Divine Moon Realm, he had to force it down. It was a matter of survival for his race.

"Truth? Culprit?" Liu Yizhao awkwardly looked at the string of specter heads in his hand and pointed his sword at Yi Jun. "Are you trying to instill confusion? Huiyue Yin is dead and I've killed a dozen Ascendant specters, enough to answer to his parents for his death. And now, you're telling me there's another culprit?"

"What do you mean, Moon Guide?"

"It's better if you just die. Don't complicate this simple matter of revenge." Liu Yizhao immediately struck, beheading Yi Jun before he could react.

His lifeless body fell to the ground. The last specter Ascendant had died. Liu Yizhao looked at the widened eyes of the head in his hand and muttered, "That lass must've worked with some other party to plot against her brother. This matter is far too complicated, and will only cause an outsider like me too much trouble. It's simpler to just pin the blame on you! That's far easier for me to handle. I want to bury this matter here and now, got it?"

Yi Jun couldn't understand it at all. Liu Yizhao was merely an outsider who wanted to get things settled right away. It had never had anything to do with him in the first place. The grudge would be settled once

the specters were dead. Even though he knew the truth, he would pretend he had never heard it. It wasn't like anyone had heard their conversation anyway. "Not to mention, that slap on the face wasn't pleasant!"

He stroked his face and left the matter as is. "That lass truly is cruel. To think that she would have her brother killed so easily just over a little family squabble..."

He never could have guessed that Huiye Shi had done that out of duress. Her act was too convincing; she didn't look like she had been threatened into doing so at all. "Whatever. What does it have to do with me? It was their idea to stay here in the first place. I might even be able to use the truth to make Shishi obedient...."

The thought of the beautiful young girl gave him some interesting ideas. Now that he had dealt with Yi Jun, he brought the string of specter heads to Huiyue Du as penance for his negligence. "Brother, I'm really sorry for your son's death. I killed these specters so that they may be sacrificial offerings to his soul."

Seeing those heads, Huiyue Du felt his rage seep away. He saw the red mark on Liu Yizhao's face and said, "Come to think of it, it was their idea to stay back. I can't blame it on you. I was too reckless just now, and for that, I apologize."

"It's all good. I understand. You were suffering from the pain of losing a son."

Huiyue Du nodded and went back to killing specters.

"Done deal!" Liu Yizhao smiled. He had never wanted to come back to this continent in the first place and couldn't wait to go back to the tens of beauties that were waiting for him back home. Turning back to Huiye Shi, he clicked his tongue and shook his head. The siblings were, strictly speaking, disciples of his sect. Compared to the proud young man, he naturally favored the cute and feisty girl much more.

Just like that, Tianming had survived a close brush with death. Even if the truth was revealed now, it was all within his expectations. This was a risky move filled with too many unknowns, but if it worked, the benefits would be tremendous. With the specters almost completely wiped out, they would hardly pose a threat to the Flameyellow Continent any longer. Even Tianming found it difficult to believe. Not only had he killed Huiyue Yin in retaliation, he also had Huiye Shi in the palm of his hand and used the Divine Moon Realm to wipe out the specters, fulfilling multiple goals at once.

"You've won, Li Tianming. If the truth really gets out, the entire Divine Moon Realm would be awed by the sheer scope of your success," Huiye Shi muttered.

"We're the only ones who know the truth. Let's keep it that way, for both our sakes," Tianming said. Little did he know that someone else also knew the truth, but just couldn't be bothered to act on it.

That aside, he was really agitated over finally resolving the specter crisis. He wanted to share his elation with Feiling as soon as possible. He couldn't wait to tell the world that even though he wasn't able to stop Jiang Wuxin from releasing the specters, he had managed to basically turn it around by getting the Divine Moon Realm to do the deed, and take the blame for their extermination. This secret must stay buried in my heart for life!

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While Huiyue Du had had his fill of slaughter, Yusheng Luo was still madly fighting. Liu Yizhao had wanted to bring up the fact that Bodhi still hadn't shown up yet, but he kept himself from doing so when he figured that the couple would no longer return to this backwater after they vented their rage. It would be better to keep it that way. As complicated as people's psyche could be, one thing was for sure: the deaths of Huiyue Yin and the specters would be for naught.

In the end, tens of thousands died tragically in the Ninefold Hell, and the grey star was now stained red with rivers of blood. Even Huiyue Du and Yusheng Luo ended up somewhat injured and exhausted, having massacred countless specters to avenge their son. Ostensibly, even the lives of all humans on the Flameyellow Continent couldn't compare to their son's.

Smelling the overwhelming stench of blood, Tianming winced. "Next, your mission is to make sure your parents forget this as soon as possible and return to the Divine Moon Realm. Then, this will be settled!"

The longer they stayed, the riskier it would be. The specters were already dead, so there would be no hearing their side of the story any longer, especially with the death of the overlady. But Tianming wanted to be certain.

"Got it!" Huiyue Shi checked to see that nobody was looking and pulled on his arm coquettishly. "Hey, why don't you come to the Divine Moon Realm with me? I dealt with the specter threat, so you shouldn't have any worries left, right?"

"What are you talking about? Stop messing around." Tianming shot her down with a glare. How was she still daring enough to tempt him while still under Feiling's curse?

"Hmph!" She loosened her grip. "Even if that lass is somewhat capable, you'll end up in my embrace at the very end!"

"Where'd you get that confidence?"

"I have status in the Divine Moon Realm and can help you rise to prominence. The Flameyellow Continent will always be a mere backwater that'll only hold you back. There aren't any new resources here for you, so you're just wasting time. No matter how incredible that vixen is, she'll hold you back. While you might not understand it now, you'll start panicking when you don't make any progress in a few years. You're talented, so don't waste it here!" she said with full sincerity.

"Alright, got it."

"So you've agreed? That's the sensible choice. As long as you want to progress, you'll have to start in the Divine Moon Realm. Only by reaching the top there can you have options," she said elatedly.

"I won't be going with you for now. But if there's a chance, I'll look for you."

"Alright! Come to Huiyue City and just tell them your name. I'll be waiting!"

"Fine."

What she had said did make sense. He would have to go to the Divine Moon Realm to find his way sooner or later. Having her help would be great, since he didn't have any connections there. He already had her life in the palm of his hand anyway. She did help out a lot with the extermination of the

specters, after all, and Tianming wasn't aware that she had anything to do with why Huiyue Yin had hunted him down in the first place.

"Don't tell me you're bringing that old vixen up with you," she said, dissatisfied.

"What are you talking about?"

"I'm guessing she's already quite advanced, age wise. I say, you really have a bad eye for women. I'm much younger, you know, and I'll keep my first time for you to take." She winked, but quickly blushed at the sheer embarrassment her words had brought.

"Eww, you pervert!" Tianming gave up. She was far too aggressive.

"That's going too far! That confession took a lot of courage, you know!"

Tianming quickly made some distance.

Within the lifebound space, Xian Xian grit her teeth in anger. "Man, why doesn't this girl learn?! This bitch can't keep her hands off that shitstain! I heard it all! I'm going to complain to half-mommy!"

"Sis is right," Ying Huo said with a laugh.

"Wait—who's the shitstain?" Tianming almost blacked out.

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It was all over, and now Tianming was watching the divine moonrace from a distance. He was only a minor figure, as far as the three elites were concerned, so he tried to keep his distance.

After taking revenge, Huiye Shi and her mom hugged and cried. The hundred thousand plus remaining specters were gathered before them, all fearfully huddled together. The Ninefold Hell had just undergone a baptism of blood.

Chapter 963 - A Secret That Cannot Be Told

Up in the sky, Huiyue Du stared at the defeated specter race and smiled coldly.

"These idiots who have been imprisoned for two hundred thousand years think they still possess the strength of the past? How dare this useless bunch kill my son? They must've grown stupid after their imprisonment. After finally escaping, they ended up throwing their lives away!"

"Yes." Liu Yizhao nodded. "It's a pity Huiyue Yin encountered these ignorant outlaws."

"He was unlucky, and there's nothing we can do about that. He was far too untamed. He suffered when he encountered a desperate one. It's my fault for not teaching him well." Huiyue Du sighed.

"Don't mention it anymore, Father. We have our revenge, now let's return and bury him," Huiye Shi sobbed.

"These bastards! We killed all their experts, Yinyin can rest in peace," said a red-eyed Yusheng Luo.

"We missed a few. Shishi, tell the people of the Flameyellow Continent to use this opportunity to completely wipe out these monsters. When we return, we'll enjoy a good reputation for relieving the Welkin plane of its troubles," said Huiyue Du.

"Yes!"

After conveying Huiyue Du's message, Huiye Shi immediately returned.

"Let's go home, Yinyin."

From start to end, the couple hadn't even looked at Tianming; they didn't care about the humans of the Flameyellow Continent. They returned to the continent through the bottomless pit. Once they returned to the Divine Moon Realm, there was little possibility of the truth being exposed. In the end, it completely slipped their minds.

Just as they were about to leave, Liu Yizhao smiled at Huiye Shi.

"Shishi, when we get back, don't forget to visit the Glowmoon Compound. You should put in some effort and make a breakthrough to Ascension," said Liu Yizhao.

"Alright, Moon Guide," she replied.

"This time, I'll be sure to teach you well." Liu Yizhao smiled as he stroked the slap mark on his cheek.

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Eyes narrowed, Tianming looked up at the demonic sun in the distant sky. It was a black sun above the Ninefold Hell that swallowed all the light, plunging the Abyssal Battlefield into darkness.

"The sun is Orderia, the nova source that emits light rays. Is the demonic sun just as vast as Orderia? Is it also a nova source?"

This thought flashed in his mind. What Tianming was really concerned about was the Ninefold Hell. After the people of the Divine Moon Realm left, he crossed the bloody sea of corpses.

"The royals were all killed, and the specters are almost all dead. There are only few of them at tenth-level samsara remaining." Looking at the bloody battlefield, Tianming felt like he was dreaming.

"Would Di Zang and Jiang Wuxin collapse if they knew that the specter race they exhausted all their strength to free were slaughtered in this manner? Sure enough, the tide has turned!"

Having lost their peak powerhouses, the specter race was now leaderless. They sorted out the corpses, which were piled up in a mess.

Tianming leisurely walked around. No one dared to approach him. Finally, he stood in front of the Dark Palace after passing Yi Jun's body. He stared at the beautiful woman hanging from the palace gates. Except for the dim stars in her eyes, she looked almost indistinguishable from a human.

"I'll take charge of the human race. Although I can't slaughter all the specters that're spread out in the Flameyellow Continent, I can suppress them. I can draw up rules to seal them in the Abyssal Battlefield. The two races will coexist on the Flameyellow continent with this new system."

There were at least a billion specters in the Abyssal Battlefield, and he couldn't kill them all.

"They suffered for two hundred thousand years. It's time to stop fighting. Only when the human race becomes stronger can we truly protect ourselves. Even if the specter race didn't exist, there's others who can easily crush us like the divine moonrace. A flourishing world is the basis of everything."

How would he create the golden age of the Flameyellow Continent? Beyond the shadow of a doubt, he would rely on himself.

"The gods' caeli, tribulation manna, and tribulation artifacts will all make us stronger."

This would be a long road to walk. Only a strong man who defies the heavens could use his own resources to benefit the world.

"Next up, I'll unify the human race, establish new rules and laws, and suppress the specter race!"

There was still much to do. However, his biggest concern was the fact that Bodhi's corpse was nowhere to be found among the dead specters.

"He has yet to appear, so perhaps he isn't anywhere nearby. So, where did he go?" Tianming looked up. "If he's planning on regaining his strength, he may have gone to the Divine Moon Realm!"

Tianming still possessed a transmission stone. If Bodhi appeared, he could notify the Divine Moon Realm.

"Even if Bodhi returns, the three people from the Divine Moon Realm will be the ones he hates! Therefore, I can't just kill all the specters. Ling'er and I have to stay under the radar and protect ourselves for the time being. Bodhi is still alive. We mustn't direct his attention to the Flameyellow Continent. Let the specters and the divine moonrace fight each other!"

Tianming knew that weakness was humanity's biggest advantage. No one paid attention to the weak. This was their way of surviving in the cracks.

"I can only show my strength after Bodhi dies. In any case, although this crazy move came with great risks, we've gained so much!"

He thought of Li Wudi. "Godfather, you said that ruthlessness is the mark of a great man. Have I passed?"

Tianming showed his first untroubled smile since the battle of Taiji Peak Lake.

"As long as the flames don't burn my feet, the Flameyellow Continent will be safe and without worry."

Leaving the Ninefold Hell, he rushed toward the bottomless pit.

"Let's go home! This time, we've won!"

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In the morning light, the Flameyellow Continent flourished with life. The world was peaceful, and the people prospered. Chasing endless peace was Tianming's dream. He wasn't in a hurry to leave; he

wanted to transform this world into the one in his vision, to do what Great Emperor Xuanyuan had once done, so all living beings progressed in a better direction.

“Perhaps this will benefit my imperial dao.” What was an emperor? Naturally, he could conquer, rule and defend the world.

He rushed toward Taiji Peak Lake. On the edge of the lake, Tianming saw a young woman dressed in blue, sitting on blue stones by the lake. Resting her head on her hands, she was waiting for his return. She sparkled in the morning glow, her bright misty eyes, gently trembling eyebrows, and peach-like cheeks the most beautiful sight in the spring breeze. That image was forever frozen in Tianming's mind.

“Ling'er!” He flew toward her.

Before Feiling could react, she was wrapped in his arms.

“How is it?” Feiling's delicate hands clutched her skirt. Upon noticing his gleaming eyes, her anxious heart awaited a favorable answer.

“Everything happened as we'd hoped. The elites of the specter race are all dead, and the people of the Divine Moon Realm were deceived and have all returned!” said Tianming.

“That's great!”

Hands clasped around Tianming's neck, she smiled brightly. This had been the most challenging period of her life, but now she had finally heard good news. Their crazy move had changed the fates of hundreds of millions in the Flameyellow Continent.

This was a secret that could never be told.

Chapter 964 - Unify The Nine Divine Realms

Feiling and Tianming rolled in the snow, staring into each other's eyes. Even though she didn't want to cry, the tears spilled from the corner of her eyes. During this period of time, they had carried too much on their shoulders, and now they were finally relieved of their burdens. Even if Bodhi still remained, the situation was much better. These were tears of joy. The pair laughed and rolled into the lake, their bodies soaked but their hearts fiery.

It wasn't easy being the Human Emperor or a god. Hundreds of millions of lives were at stake, and one wrong step would destroy the world. Because of that, they felt completely relieved and lightened of their burdens after the divine moonrace had practically annihilated the specter race.

In the water, Feiling was as limpid as an elf. She leaned against Tianming's chest, face flushed as she listened to his heartbeat.

“Big Brother, I don't want to be a god anymore. I have to be decent and dignified all the time. Starting today, I want to be myself.” Feiling blinked.

“And what are you?” Tianming fiercely stamped his lips on the corner of hers and grinned.

“That's—you're poking me.” She shyly lowered her head.

"Is it the Grand-Orient Sword?" Tianming asked with a smirk as he leaned close to her ear.

"Yes!"

"Ling'er, I miss your heavenly pattern formations." Tianming stretched out his sinful hand as he spoke, but his arm was suddenly squeezed.

He lowered his gaze, only to find Feiling squeezing his hand. She glared at him and said, "I'm stronger than you now. It's my turn to bully you. Raise your hands and stay still!"

"Whaa?" Dammit, he had lost his dignity as a man! "But it feels good."

He gave up resisting.

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Tianming gathered the elites of the Nine Divine Realms in Xuanyuan Lake. Xuanyuan Dao represented Archaion, while Li Caiwei represented Biritual. The representatives of Triflair, Quadform, Pentaphase, Hexapath, Heptastar, Octagram, and Nonahall were present as well. The nine sects had lost most of their power. At the moment, Tianming's strength was enough to suppress the masses. Not even the Hexapath swordbeasts dared to act recklessly.

"The people have all arrived. Please speak, Human Emperor!"

The specter race was a threat to the Nine Divine Realms. They were spread out all over the continent, and Tianming was their only pillar of strength. Feiling would stay under the radar for as long as she could. From the day she had entered Archaion, she'd been forced to be their god until it was possible for her to hide and become her real self once more.

Tianming descended from the sky right before their eyes. Xuanyuan Dao, Li Caiwei, the coral fairy, Jiang Yuanjun, Lin Yuntian, and everyone else had their gazes focused on him. Even Long Youyue and Changsun Shenqiong had basically surrendered and accepted Tianming's command.

"I've called you here today to share good news!"

Upon hearing his words, everyone widened their eyes in surprise.

"Recently, there's been less movement from the specter race. I heard there's been great changes in the Abyssal Battlefield."

Under the fiery gazes, Tianming announced, "The specters were bold enough to kill the emissary of the Divine Moon Realm, provoking the fury of the divine moonrace. Three powerful gods descended to help us annihilate the specter race, slaughtering tens of thousands of their elites. Since then, the specters have suffered heavy losses and lost their most powerful members. Their remaining warriors are no longer enough to pose a threat to a united human race!"

The news caused a sensation in the audience. All of Xuanyuan Lake was boiling with excitement. They stared blankly at Li Tianming, their faces a picture of incredulous disbelief.

"From today onwards, we must show the greatest respect and gratitude for the divine moonrace of the Divine Moon Realm. It is they who have rescued us!" Tianming said passionately.

As he spoke these words, he realized even more that history was written by the victors. And Tianming was now the winner, therefore he was writing a new history of the Flameyellow Continent. Thousands of years later, no one would know the truth. They would only believe that it was the divine moonrace who helped destroy the specters.

His announcement overwhelmed the audience.

“Really?!”

“Goodness! The specters seem to have courted disaster!”

“They’re all beasts incapable of rational thought!”

“Their elites were all slaughtered! That’s why there were so few of them wandering around yesterday.”

“This is great news that we must celebrate!”

Everyone was ecstatic, a far cry from their previous gloom. Because of this earthshattering change, they had won half the battle between the humans and the specters before even going to war.

“Is your news reliable?” Li Caiwei asked in surprise.

“Yes!” said Tianming.

“How strange.”

She knew the specter race better than Huiyue Du and his wife. Because she understood them, she wasn’t blinded by hatred and had her suspicions.

“It’s not strange at all. This is the truth, got it?” said Tianming.

“I understand! I’m just happy!” Li Caiwei smiled so hard she was squinting her eyes.

The entire human race would rejoice once the news had spread.

“This is wonderful!”

Xuanyuan Dao repeated himself three times, his red eyes staring at Tianming.

“This is great!”

Everyone cheered. The news had rescued the Flameyellow Continent that had been in dire straits. Their fates were all connected in this calamity. When they had celebrated enough, Tianming signaled for silence.

"Although our enemy’s elites are gone, the specter race has more than a billion individuals left, most of whom are stronger than the human race. What awaits us is a battle that’ll last for hundreds, even thousands of years. We can't ease up. Although we can’t completely eradicate the specters, we can grow stronger as a race, then suppress and control them. We all bear a heavy responsibility to maintain peace in the Flameyellow Continent!"

The imprisonment of two hundred thousand years ago was an exception. At the time, the specter race was based in the Ninefold Hell; there were few of them out here. Additionally, Great Emperor Xuanyuan was obviously more powerful than Huiyue Du and the others.

Tianming had his own purpose in exaggerating the difficulty of suppressing the specter race. He wanted to change the Flameyellow Continent; he wanted to become emperor, unify the Nine Divine Realms, and furthermore, he wanted to unite the human race. They had to be united, because they were weak. Only then will the human race have a say in the face of the next disaster, unlike this time where they were led by the nose and had had their destiny decided by others. Right now, the pressure from the specter race had exhausted their energy for internal strife.

Among those in control, Li Caiwei was the only eleventh-level death phase samsaran. No one else could match Tianming. Even Feiling and Lin Xiaoxiao, both of them powerful forces on their own, were under Tianming's control.

At that point, Tianming turned to Li Caiwei. He needed her help with something.

Chapter 965 - The Birth Of The Tianming Dynasty

Li Caiwei wasn't a member of Archaion Sect, and represented the eight divine realm's strongest power. It would be of great help to him if she spoke up. Just as Tianming thought, she knew very well what the young man wanted.

Therefore, she stood out at this moment. "Only a unified human race can completely suppress the specters in the upcoming prolonged war! If we continue fighting separately, the Nine Divine Realms will eventually be captured by the specter race, whose talents far surpass ours. This is an unquestionable fact! Therefore, we must unite. We need a new emperor to lead the human race to grow and prosper over the next thousand years. And this person is right before us! Thus, I've decided that the Birtual Divine Realm no longer exists from today onward. I'm willing to lead Birtual in serving the Human Emperor and contributing to the human race!"

With her impassioned opening, the situation proceeded with few obstacles. The sect masters of Triflair, Pentaphase, and Octagram followed in her wake.

Xuanyuan Dao also spoke out, so the others wouldn't think they were merging the eight divine realms into Archaion. "I agree with Li Caiwei's statement. The human race is weak. In the face of the specters, a divided humanity will only give the specters an opportunity against us. Only a unified human race is qualified to compete with them. For the sake of our future generations, for the sake of a peaceful world, I'm willing to dissolve the Archaion Sect, follow the Human Emperor, and contribute to the human race!"

Tianming wasn't a member of the Archaic House of Xuanyuan. His relationship with the eminent proved that he wasn't the reincarnation of the Progenitor. Thus, the Nine Divine Realms found it easier to accept his identity, because it meant they weren't just being swallowed by the Archaion Sect.

Xuanyuan Dao and Li Caiwei's words had a decisive effect. Tianming didn't think Long Youyue of Quadform would be the next one to stand up and express her willingness to follow him. After all, they were enemies. Her lover, Dugu Jin, had met his demise at the hands of Tianming.

"The winner is always right. There's no point in dredging up the past. I hold Quadform's fate in my hands. Let's look to the future together," said Long Youyue.

The Hexapath Sword Sect was the next to follow. They were currently led by the swordbeasts, who didn't have much time left, so they made what they thought was the right decision. If Feng Qingyu was still alive, he would have done the same.

"It was Feng Qingyu's disciple who released the specters. We're very much to blame for this," said the swordbeasts.

Next was Changsun Shenqiong. He wasn't a courageous man, and basically clung to whoever was strongest. Finally, only Nonahall remained. Although they were still situated in the Specter Mountains, they refused to admit any relationship with the specter race. They had few leaders left, so it was only natural that they would support Tianming.

"Unify the world, Human Emperor!"

From today on, the words "Human Emperor" were no longer just an honorific title, but the real emperor of the Flameyellow Continent. Tianming was acclaimed emperor under the eyes of the masses.

"Because you believe and trust in me, I will not let you down!" he said.

"Long Live The Human Emperor!"

Everyone fell to their knees.

This was no trifling matter, but true surrender. They had personally delivered the power over this world to Tianming. In fact, Tianming wasn't interested in power. All he wanted was to make this world a better place. Although his parents weren't natives of the Flameyellow Continent, he had grown up here and every item on his body originated from this continent. Thus, he had never felt like he wasn't one of them.

In creating a prosperous dynasty, he was also pursuing the imperial dao and following in Great Emperor Xuanyuan and the Primordial God-Emperor's footsteps. Perhaps this was his hope of becoming a god. He required a consummate Imperial Will before he could enter Ascension.

"Listen to my command!"

Tianming had already made a decision. Amplifying his voice so it enveloped the entire area, he said, "From today on, the continent will be unified! The Flameyellow calendar will now be converted to the Tianming calendar!"

His eyes burned with fervor as his Imperial Will swept across the realm.

"From today on, the divided Nine Divine Realms will no longer exist, only a unified Tianming Dynasty! The Tianming Dynasty will prevail as long as I live and breathe."

In a sense, Tianming was similar to Dugu Jin. They had ascended to a high position without a clan behind them. One was bound to the Flameyellow Imperial Sect, while the other created the Tianming Dynasty. The difference lay in Tianming's boundless future. He understood that the Flameyellow Continent couldn't withstand another setback. Thus, he couldn't fall. The human race was very weak at the moment. He had to create a truly prosperous world, encourage the birth of countless geniuses, and push for a new era. There was a long way to go, and the burden he shouldered was heavy.

However, there was no fear in his heart. This was the first dynasty that truly belonged to him. It was his first step on the path of the imperial dao. On this day, he shone with a majesty that far surpassed Dugu Jin's previous light. Tianming was the real son of destiny! Of course, this was just the beginning.

He had to establish a real system and truly take control of the cities, then use the dynasty's system to establish various official positions to stabilize the continent. These were long-term plans that required time and Xuanyuan Dao's assistance.

Tianming's first imperial mandate was to build the Tianming Palace in the Specter Mountains, the location with the most spiritual energy. It would become the center of the Flameyellow Continent. Why had he chosen the Specter Mountain Range instead of Taiji Peak Lake? There were two reasons.

First, because of its geographical location, the Specter Mountains would be a more suitable center of the Tianming dynasty than Taiji Peak Lake. Second, Nonahall was the most chaotic and cruel territory in all of the Flameyellow Continent. Tianming Palace would be built there to suppress and reverse the chaotic situation. The Specter Mountains would no longer exist; they would henceforth be known as the Tianming Mountains, the imperial city.

Of course, important state events couldn't be accomplished overnight. Tianming made the arrangements so that the continent would gradually change. The most important thing now was suppressing and defending against the specter race.

"Tianming—I mean, Your Majesty, are we going to march into the Abyssal Battlefield and annihilate the specter race?" asked Li Caiwei.

"No. We're taking a defensive strategy, not an offensive one," he replied.

"They might grow stronger with time," said Li Caiwei.

"It's alright. As long as I'm given some time, I'll also grow stronger. Now is the time to stabilize ourselves and practice patience," said Tianming.

"I understand!" Li Caiwei winked.

Tianming didn't want Bodhi to turn his hatred toward the Flameyellow Continent. With the establishment of the Tianming Dynasty and the unification of the continent's power, it was very important that they stay under the radar.

"Hey, you established your dynasty. Isn't it time you build your harem?" Li Caiwei teased.

"Be careful, or Her Eminence might give you a beating." Tianming glared at the former Biritual leader.

"Her Eminence is so gentle. I'm just testing you on her behalf," Li Caiwei laughed.

Tianming wanted to say that he had already avenged her broken leg twice over, but he couldn't speak a word about this.

"By the way, next, I'd like to concentrate on cultivating. The Tianming Dynasty has just stepped on the right track. I'll need both Xuanyuan Dao and your assistance," said Tianming.

"If you're going to make me work, what official position will you grant me?" Li Caiwei asked.

"I'll make you chief eunuch...."

"Fuck off! You can't speak decent words with that filthy mouth. You don't have the slightest dignity of the Human Emperor," Li Caiwei mocked.

She was joking, of course.

"Hurry up and cultivate. Just let me know if something comes up. I'll be your servant," she said softly.

"Don't say that. You sound like my mother..." said a shy Tianming.

.....

Tianming was waiting on two matters. Would Huiyue Du and his wife have new suspicions after their return, causing another crisis? That was where the true danger lay, so he had to be prepared. Therefore, neither Feiling nor Tianming would appear in public anymore. The key figures of the Tianming Dynasty must also avoid gathering in groups so they wouldn't be captured and killed in one fell swoop if something were to happen.

The other matter concerned Bodhi. He was a ticking time bomb with a high probability of detonating in the Divine Moon Realm. However, there was also a chance that he might turn against the Flameyellow Continent, as well. To guard against him, the only thing Tianming could do was cultivate.

Since the Tianming Dynasty had been established, Xuanyuan Dao and Li Caiwei were mostly in charge, while he cultivated in the Old Deepstar Path. Without Huiye Shi's interruption, Tianming basically cultivated day and night, seeking enlightenment and practicing the sword.

But it seemed he was right; Great Emperor Xuanyuan's caelum had little effect on him after reaching the tenth-level life phase. His Imperial Will's providence was more complicated than that of Great Emperor Xuanyuan. With the same heavenly will, Great Emperor Xuanyuan would have long reached Ascension. Heavenly will was the basis of advancement in cultivation. The specter caeli had even less of an effect on him.

"There's no pressure and scant spiritual energy. Sure enough, the basic conditions of the Flameyellow Continent have become an obstacle to my growth." He had anticipated such an outcome. "If I want to achieve godhood and continue moving forward, I must leave the Flameyellow Continent and explore a higher level. Perhaps that's what 'ascension' means."

One had to cross the sky and travel to a wider world to find a more profound path of cultivation.

"Of course, perhaps I may cross that last step a few years later if I stay here, but it'll be a waste of time."

Huiye Shi was all too clear about the basic conditions of the Flameyellow Continent, hence her certainty that Tianming would eventually seek her out. Following the establishment of the Tianming Dynasty, the defense systems of the cities had been enhanced. With the cooperation between the Nine Divine Realms, as well as the heavy losses of the specter race, the human race could seize this opportunity to mobilize their powerhouses so the specters wouldn't dare enter the continent. Everything was developing in the direction of lasting peace and prosperity. As long as the two "bombs"—Bodhi and the Huiyue clan—didn't explode, the Flameyellow Continent could rest easy.

A month passed in a blink of an eye. Tianming's growth had been extremely slow.

"Even without Ling'er, Huiyue Yin couldn't have defeated me in our fight. However, it would've also been difficult for me to defeat him. I might be able to contend with a first-level ascendant once I reach the tenth-level death phase. If I want to truly change the destiny of the human race, I must reach Ascension and step into the sky so that I can break away from the Welkin plane and come and go freely."

Therefore, Tianming decided that he would go to the Divine Moon Realm.

Chapter 966 - Li Wudi's Letter

This time, Tianming wasn't being forced to leave, but actively seeking change in order to grow stronger.

"Before heading up, there's one thing I must do!"

After spending such a long time in the Nine Divine Realms, he finally had time and opportunity. On this day, Tianming and Feiling brought dozens of children from the Archaic House of Xuanyuan who were in the same cultivation level as Xuanyuan Xu was back then. Together with the children, they headed to the Canal of the Dead. Tianming gave it a shot, but discovered he couldn't even enter the canal, much less pass through it.

He flew to the lower levels of the cosmic aether, thinking he could cross over the Canal of the Dead and return to the Decimo Dao Nation if he flew high enough. But when he looked down, he realized that the Canal of the Dead was really an enormous sphere embedded in the periphery of the Flameyellow continent.

The sphere enveloped the entire Decimo Dao Nation, sealing it away from the Flameyellow Continent and Abyssal Battlefield.

"How interesting! It was said that the Canal of the Dead is an obstructive wall capable of severing karmic threads. But it appears it's more than just that. The Canal of the Dead seals the Decimo Dao Nation, turning it into a closed world on the Welkin plane where only the weak can enter and exit."

No wonder the Decimo Dao Nation was so inaccessible.

Since Tianming couldn't enter, he sent the Xuanyuan children he trusted with countless cultivation resources into the Decimo Dao Nation. First of all, he hoped to bring Ye Lingfeng, Li Qingyu, and Li Wudi over. Others, like Feiling's sister Jiang Qingluan, could leave if they wanted. Second, he wanted to

bestow treasures upon the Decimo Dao Nation. After the children entered, Tianming and Feiling waited outside.

Time quickly passed. After several days, the others finally showed up. After a long time apart, Tianming truly missed them. However, contrary to his expectations, only Ye Shaoqing and Jiang Qingluan were present. Li Wudi, Li Qingyu, and Ye Lingfeng were nowhere to be seen.

"Master, Qingluan, why are you the only ones here?" Tianming asked in astonishment.

"There's been some changes." Ye Shaoqing was full of vigor. It seemed he was doing pretty well.

He walked up to Tianming and grabbed him in a bear hug. Patting him on the shoulder, he added, "You look good. Have you already reached Samsara?"

"You're the idiot, yet you dare underestimate me. Would you believe me if I said I'm now the emperor of the entire Flameyellow Continent?" said Tianming.

"I believe your ability to brag is handed down from Li Wudi!" Ye Shaoqing rolled his eyes.

On the other side, the sisters Feiling and Jiang Qingluan were hugging each other after more than a year apart. They were so emotional others might think they had been separated for hundreds of years.

"Ling'er, you've called me to a new place again. Don't tell me you're going to leave again!" Jiang Qingluan gritted her teeth.

"It looks like it," Feiling replied.

"You cruel, unconscionable woman. How dare you call yourself my sister. Damn you!"

As soon as her voice fell, Feiling handed her a spatial ring and said, "Stop making a fuss. These are all gifts for you."

"Hmph, using treasures to buy me off again! Do you think I'm a money grubber?" At that point, she had seen all the treasures inside and her eyes suddenly lit up. "Alright, I'll accept your kind intentions. I've missed you this entire year, but seeing how well you're doing makes me feel much better. Don't worry about me, I'm doing very well all by myself. My appetite is great! Everything tastes good!"

"Go away, you little bugger!" Feiling said between laughter and tears.

She didn't want to talk about the storms she had weathered, or her experience as a god. In their eyes, they were just sisters who grew up together sleeping in the same bed for more than ten years. They shared all their thoughts about growing up and often lay in bed amusing each other. Late at night, they seemed to have endless topics of conversation. They would always be two simple girls from Ignispolis. Life might be divided into different levels, but everyone's souls were equal. The most commendable aspect about Feiling was her ability to let go of her power, background, and status. In front of Jiang Qingluan, she was just a younger sister.

Tianming smiled as he watched them fool around. However, he composed himself, sat on the ground with Ye Shaoqing, and solemnly asked, "Master, what happened to Godfather and the others?"

"I'm not sure either. On the day you left, Qingyu and Feng disappeared. Even the Soulfliend was gone. Li Wudi wasn't worried at all. He said not to ask questions, so I thought everything was fine. I didn't expect he'd also leave a while later and hand everything over to me. I was so angry I even accepted a harem of three thousand concubines!" Ye Shaoqing grit his teeth.

"Th-three thousand?" Tianming asked in wide-eyed shock. He had to concede that this group of people were indeed talented.

"Damn it! "Ye Shaoqing smacked his head. "So you do have bad intentions. Shouldn't the focus of your attention be the fact that they're missing?"

"You're right!" Tianming had his suspicions.

"Here you go. This is the letter Li Wudi left for you before his disappearance. It's all nonsense. God only knows why he's acting all enigmatic. And I don't know what kind of profundity I'm pretending to be. My son almost ruined it with a wee," said Ye Shaoqing.

"Master, you have a son?" Tianming asked in surprise as he took the letter.

"Of course! I was always behind Li Wudi the first half of my life, but now I've had eight in one year. I've overtaken him with my unparalleled talents," Ye Shaoqing said confidently.

Tianming was speechless.

"Look at the letter. Why're you so interested in my personal affairs?" Ye Shaoqing glared at him.

"It's because you're so long-winded!" Tianming rolled his eyes.

Despite the jokes, he opened the letter in his hand.

"Tianming, my son, seeing my words is no different from speaking face-to-face. You must bathe and change, rid yourself of all dirt, face the southeast, kneel three times, and kowtow nine times, lift your buttocks with your arms crossed over your chest, and fill your heart with piety to realize the true meaning of this letter!"

Tianming was exasperated upon reading the beginning of the letter. He would recognize that crooked writing and cheeky words even if they were blurred by urine; they had been written by Li Wudi!

He read on. Unexpectedly, the subject began to deepen.

"Tianming, our so-called destinies are all designed. I used to think that a physique with eight bane-rings was unprecedented and extraordinary. But now I understand that it was inevitable, and no accident. The Li Saint clan are merely lowly guinea pigs. I wanted to find an answer, so I left. Don't think about me or miss me. Perhaps I'll return soon, or maybe I'll die. Don't be sad if I do. After all, you still have a biological father you can make do with. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of your sister's departure to a place known as the Divine Moon Realm. If you're able to reach those heights one day, go to her and see if you can help. Her path is a hard one to walk. Ye Lingfeng is an idiot. As a brother, you should guide him. Don't look any further. That's all I have to say."

Chapter 967 - Still The Same Young Lad

After reading the letter, Tianming sat there in a daze.

"So Qingyu and Feng may have gone to the Divine Moon Realm. Where'd Godfather go?" Tianming mumbled.

"You believe him? He's probably taking a nap somewhere," said Ye Shaoqing.

Tianming laughed. He read the letter again—find an answer, guinea pigs, eight bane-rings, no accident.

Those were the letter's main points. However, it was difficult for Tianming to figure out what Li Wudi's words meant for the time being, because the man didn't want him to understand. His real intention was to ask Tianming to find Qingyu one day and help her. And the Divine Moon Realm happened to be Tianming's next destination.

"In other words, Qingyu and Feng arrived in the Divine Moon Realm a year before me. At the time, they could pass through the Canal of the Dead at their cultivation level. But who brought her to the Divine Moon Realm?"

It seemed he would only get an answer after meeting them again.

"Looking at how serious you are, I'm guessing something happened," said Ye Shaoqing.

"It's fine, I'll handle it." Folding the letter, Tianming put it away.

"Master, are you interested in staying and cultivating in the Nine Divine Realms and embarking on a higher path?" Tianming asked.

"Of course not. My harem of three thousand is still waiting for me! This time, I came to deliver the letter. The Decimo Dao Nation needs me," said Ye Shaoqing.

"Alright. I'll give you some treasures."

If Ye Shaoqing stayed here and cultivated, he wouldn't be able to return once his cultivation level passed the upper threshold. Therefore, Tianming respected his decision. His nation needed him; after all, it was the size of a divine realm.

They reminisced about the past for a long time. Ye Shaoqing learned about Tianming's experiences here. Upon hearing that he had established the Tianming Dynasty, Ye Shaoqing was dumbfounded and wordlessly stared at Tianming for some time.

"Master, why're you looking at me?"

"You should have several thousand babies and pass down your talents at once. Remember to give me one of your children. I plan on nurturing one," said Ye Shaoqing.

"Fuck off!" Tianming was tempted to strangle the man. Now that his life had improved, the old man had become too comfortable!

After chatting for a long time, Ye Shaoqing rose to his feet and said, "Alright, I'll pass these treasures to your family. They'll extend your grandfather and grandmother's life. Listen to Li Wudi and go check on Qingyu. After all, you're her older brother."

"Of course."

Tianming looked up at the moon. He was obliged to complete the task Li Wudi had entrusted him with. After all, he also missed Ye Lingfeng and Qingyu.

"Goodbye then. Next time we meet, I'd like to hear of you taking the Divine Moon Realm by storm." Ye Shaoqing pulled him in for a bear hug.

"Then you're underestimating me. Perhaps I'll have already dealt with Orderia." Tianming laughed.

"There you go again! Go on, show off!"

The two exchanged a smile.

Ye Shaoqing suddenly teared up, the salty drops cleansing his cheeks.

"Why the hell are you crying? Mid-life crisis?" said Tianming.

"Bullsh*t!" He wiped away his tears and said, "I'm just a little bit emotional after seeing the self-important know-it-all boy I once knew suddenly become an indomitable young man."

"Don't be so emotional. That's a characteristic that only old people have. Go back and serve your harem of three thousand. Be careful, or you might grind that iron rod into a needle!" Tianming laughed.

What talent!

"Goodbye!"

"Goodbye!"

Ye Shaoqing left freely and unconstrained, and Tianming couldn't help but envy him. Up to this day, he had only recognized one master. A master not only guided one on the path of martial arts, but also life. Hence the saying "a teacher for a day is a father for life."

It wasn't until his master's figure completely disappeared that Tianming looked up at the moon and the vast nothingness.

"Godfather, the road ahead is very lonely, but one day we'll walk it together."

Squeezing the letter in his hand, he bit his lip. This time, he wanted to reunite with his family, but he had only managed to take Jiang Qingluan away.

"Perhaps our family will be reunited in a new place."

Tianming had two families; one with Li Muyang and Wei Jing, and the other with Li Wudi, Qingyu, and Li Jingyu. They were all very important to him.

"Tianming!"

As he was about to leave, Jiang Qingluan stood in front of him, opened her arms with a smile and said, "It's been a long time since I last saw you. How about a hug?"

"I don't think so. I'm afraid you'll press your heavenly pattern formations against me," He replied.

"What?" Jiang Qingluan asked in confusion.

"Ignore him. He's being nonsensical!"

Although Feiling was glaring at him, she wasn't really angry. Those words reminded her of the Abyssal Trials a long time ago, the day the three of them left the Abyssal Battlefield. Tianming had severely wounded Mu Qingqing and rescued Jiang Qingluan.

How quickly time flew. The extraordinary thing about him was the fact that he was still that same young lad.

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Jiang Qingluan had a good time at Taiji Peak Lake for two weeks. Tianming wouldn't stay in the Divine Moon Realm forever, as the Tianming Dynasty had just been established. The palace in the Specter Mountains was under construction; it was the base that he would return to from time to time.

To his surprise, Lin Xiaoxiao, Xuanyuan Muxue, and Jiang Qingluan had become friends. They were rather innocent girls who didn't care about the difference in cultivation level or background. They simply believed that life was more interesting with more friends.

Xuanyuan Muxue's lifebound beast had evolved into a beast with nine hundred and ninety-nine stars, and her ability had certainly skyrocketed. With Tianming's resources, she would easily succeed Xuanyuan Dao and become the new house king of the Xuanyuan clan in the future. There would be no big problems there. On the other hand, Tianming needed Lin Xiaoxiao's help.

"I'll head over and explore the Divine Moon Realm. I'll leave you in charge of things. Xuanyuan Dao will come to you if there's any trouble," Tianming said to Lin Xiaoxiao.

"I'll do my best," she assured him.

"Watch the Archaionfiend and make sure it doesn't cause trouble," said Tianming.

"I won't let it out of my lifebound space unless you're around," said Lin Xiaoxiao.

Hearing that, the Archaionfiend wailed. "Who would've thought the great Archaionfiend would fall to this point!"

There was no point in anger; it was forced to lie on its stomach before the Bloodrose Curse. With Bodhi still alive, Tianming had to keep an eye on the situation while he was gone. With his powerful suppression, the specters didn't dare cross over to the main continent. Tianming had asked Li Caiwei and Yi Xingyin to set up heavenly pattern formations over the continent's bottomless pits, anyway.

It would be a huge project, because of how many bottomless pits there were. However, for every sealed pit, the people of the Flameyellow Continent would be that much safer. The Tianming Dynasty had to be

well fortified. With proper arrangements and supervision, the world was on the right track. When order was restored in the continent, Tianming decided to visit the moon.

Chapter 968 - The Resplendent Moon

Before reaching Ascension, Tianming didn't have the power to break away from the Welkin plane, but Feiling did. So this time, he only brought Feiling. Of course, his four lifebound beasts looked forward to the battlefield in the sky.

"Ling'er, the horrible woman on the moon still thinks about Lizi. You must teach her a lesson when we get up there."

As Feiling carried Tianming into the starry sky, Xian Xian's spiritform hung from Tianming's shoulder and chattered on endlessly.

"I won't look for her unless it's a last resort. I just want to inquire about Qingyu and Feng," said Tianming.

It had been over a month since Huiyue Yin's death. From the divine moonrace's silence, Tianming assumed that humanity had safely passed the storm. But to be on the safe side, he didn't want to step foot on the moon. If it weren't for Qingyu, Tianming would have waited a while longer.

They crossed the Kilostar Domain and continued moving up. The higher up they went, the more dazzling the stars became as the bright moon in the sky grew bigger and bigger.

"The moonlight originates from the stellunar source, which is located in the starcore of the Divine Moon Realm, so the real Divine Moon Realm is bigger than the stellunar source that we can see with the naked eye!"

In the Flameyellow Continent, all they saw was the luminous part of the moon. It was light that passed through the surface of the Divine Moon Realm and into the outside world.

"How do you feel?" Tianming asked Feiling.

"It's a bit strenuous, and we're only halfway there," said Feiling.

"Looks like going to the Divine Moon Realm is no easy feat. The old gods of the Flameyellow Continent, such as the Hexapath Sword God, must've never imagined a more magnificent world existed above it," Tianming sighed.

"You're right. It's getting harder." In taking Tianming, Feiling was expending a great deal of energy.

The higher up they went, the brighter the stars were.

"So this is the real world. It's beautiful!" said Tianming.

"Look down, Big Brother," Feiling said in surprise.

When Tianming looked down, he was stupefied.

"This is a complete picture of the Flameyellow Continent!"

It was a vast continent, suspended in the void. Below it was the realm of chaos, a disorderly world that resembled the dark abyss, or perhaps an enormous mouth filled with boundless energy. Tianming was astonished to find that the Flameyellow Continent was shaped like a person, like an enlarged version of the Specter Mountains, and the spherical Canal of the Dead was actually its 'head'.

"This is the mortal world of the Welkin plane."

The higher up she flew, the wider their field of vision grew. Tianming could even see other Welkin continents. However, those continents were too far away from their homeland, so there was no intersection between them. The Flameyellow Continent was rather isolated, but the other continents were closer to each other.

The Archaionfiend wasn't lying. This was what the world really looked like.

Atop the Welkin plane was the realm of order, which was divided into the astralscape of order and the lower levels of the cosmic aether. Below was the abyss-like realm of chaos. The Welkin plane stretched endlessly between them, a dividing line between order and chaos.

Countless particles and remnants of stars had been deposited on this plane over hundreds of millions of years, forming a bilateral continent. The Welkin plane seemed to be the foundation of the entire universe sandwiched between the realm of chaos and the realm of order.

"How vast!" This was the only description Tianming could think of.

"The Primordial Chaos Beasts in my dreams were most likely roaming the cosmos. So my dreams must be real! Only by leaving the Welkin plane can I embark on the path of deciphering the secrets behind the Primordial Chaos Beasts." Tianming's heart surged with excitement.

"Look! It's the Divine Moon Realm." Feiling's voice trembled a little from the exhaustion she felt ascending into the sky for the first time.

Having been focused on what lay below, Tianming raised his head and saw a moonlit planet that covered half the space above his head.

"It's much larger than the Ninefold Hell! The surface area of the Divine Moon Realm is at least half that of the Flameyellow Continent!"

The Flameyellow Continent was flat, while the Divine Moon Realm was a planet. Half of the Flameyellow Continent was still huge, and it still seemed shocking when he stood before it. Although the Divine Moon Realm wasn't as populous as the Flameyellow Continent, it was ahead by many levels. After all, it had a history of millions of years as an outpost of Orderia that monitored dozens of mortal worlds.

At first, the light from the stellunar source concealed everything, but as Tianming approached the Divine Moon Realm he gradually made out mountains, rivers, and dry land on the surface. Just like any other place, there were forests, seas, and cities. However, every rock and tree was clearly filled with a silvery-white glow. That was the power of the stellunar source. When it penetrated into the rocks, they became spirit ores, and any vegetation pervaded by it became spirit herbs. Cultivators used them to strengthen themselves.

"The nova sources and stellunar sources are the foundation of the entire world, and every cultivator within them. Without its stellunar source, the Divine Moon Realm would be just another Ninefold Hell or Flameyellow Continent." Before he had even gotten close, Tianming could feel the majestic power from the stellunar source.

"What concentrated spiritual energy." The air entering his lungs felt extremely refreshing.

"So that's why the Archaionfiend said they're feasting on meat while we can only slop up the dregs. Although comprehending the will of heaven is more important than supplementing strength, they rely on strength to produce powerhouses, which are passed on from generation to generation via caeli. It's a virtuous cycle!" Those below Ascension in the Divine Moon Realm didn't have to worry about increasing their strength. "If the power of the stellunar source is this vast, I wonder how unfathomable a nova source is."

One had to reach Ascension to cross the astralscape of order and set foot on the battlefield of the higher races. He shouldn't bite off more than he could chew.

"What I need to do is take root in the Divine Moon Realm and achieve godhood first."

Tianming was stepping closer and closer to the goal he had in mind. When Feiling reached the vicinity of the Divine Moon Realm, a force pulled and swallowed them.

"This is the gravitational force of the stellunar source!"

At this point, Feiling couldn't resist anymore. With Tianming in tow, she was forced to slow down instead, lest she slam into the surface and perish. To escape the gravitational pull of the Divine Moon Realm, one had to reach Ascension. Therefore, those who lived in this world couldn't leave it at will.

The Divine Moon Realm was enormous. Tianming figured it was impossible to monitor all entries and exits. Therefore, he and Feiling were able to quietly enter the world. After passing through moonlit clouds, they slowly descended. Tianming looked down and saw the mountains and rivers below, terrain that stretched for millions of miles.

"There's many cities larger than Taiji Peak Lake and towns everywhere. It's no wonder Huiye Shi said it's crowded here. Even the houses here glow with moonlight!"

One might feel nothing after living in this beautiful world for a long time. But as first-time visitors, Tianming and Feiling found it breathtaking.

Chapter 969 - Tale of the Nightfiend and the Ninemoon Goddess

"Big Brother, we look like country bums who're coming to the city for the first time!" Feiling said.

"Indeed, but it's important that we get a good bearing on our surroundings. Let's think of it as a field trip!" he said.

"Are you addicted to being a tour guide?"

"I want to be your tour guide across the universe!" Tianming held her by the waist, letting her bring him down.

"I don't care! Your first trip is already mine!"

It was the first time he had heard about such a thing as a 'first trip'.

Eventually, they landed on a desolate patch of land. As she had said, he seemed a little overwhelmed like a country bum when he felt the dense stellar source and the glowing rocks and plants. "This world is too beautiful. If we have time to spare, we definitely have to travel more. Let's search out the entire universe and try to find where it ends."

"Definitely!" she said, nodding confidently.

"Let's enter the city then!"

Soon, they saw a small town ahead of them, Yuexing Town. It was a town of moderate size. When Tianming entered, he immediately noticed two problems: the first was that the citizens of the town were on average sky to empyrean saints, much stronger than humans of the Flameyellow Continent, but not to a ridiculous degree. Samsarans could already be considered among the elite in these towns. As for cities, there might even be some ascendants there.

Second, the Divine Moon Realm's residents didn't only consist of the divine moonrace. On the streets, he spotted many lifebound beasts. It appeared that throughout the long history of the place, many clans had probably moved there. As a result, Tianming's arrival there wasn't an exception.

There were people of all shapes and sizes, and this small town was probably a microcosm of society at large. Tianming needed to understand this new world. Only then would he be able to find Qingyu. He casually dragged a rootbeast race child from the streets into an alleyway.

The kid was around ten and rather chubby, though his voice sounded really delicate. Nervously looking at him and Feiling and hugging his arms, he said, "What are you doing? Are you going to violate me? I... I'll let you go first, Big Sis!"

Tianming smacked him on the head. "I'm just going to ask some questions. I'll be happy if you tell me what I want to know. I'll even give you these treasures."

Having seen his lifebound beast, Tianming offered him a tribulation manna, which immediately caused the kid's eyes to widen.

"Big Bro, ask away! I'll even tell you what color undergarments my mom is wearing!"

"Why would you know that?"

"Yeah, why would I indeed? Ah, no, I don't! It was just a figure of speech. I don't really know."

"I thought the folks of the Divine Moon Realm were all stuck-up pricks like Huiyue Yin. It's more normal than I thought," Tianming said, though that seemed to have offended the kid. "Big Bro, if you aren't one of us folks, are you a wandering ghost?"

"Enough nonsense. First question: do you know Li Qingyu?" His plan today was to ask around and get a good idea of the factions, hierarchies, and power structures of the Divine Moon Realm so he would have a lead to find Qingyu.

Though, the answer to his question was one he would never have expected. "Big Bro, do you think I'm a fool? Even a stray dog of Yuexing Town would recognize Li Qingyu!"

Tianming almost cursed reflexively.

"Big Bro, make it quick, I think I need to pee," the kid said, pulling his legs closer together.

"Hold it in!" He pulled the kid's face closer and asked, "Tell me what kind of status she has, where she lives, and what her achievements are!"

"Come on, you're messing with me, aren't ya?"

"Just answer the question!" Tianming gave his head another smack, causing the kid to fall on his bum and almost lose control of his bladder.

Startled, he immediately rambled on. "Lin Qingyu showed up out of nowhere and is said to have a nonabane body of the divine moonrace! She has nine moons on her arm, far more impressive than any of the ancestors of the divine moonrace. The moment she showed up, the entire Divine Moon Realm was completely overturned. Even elders of the divine moonrace that were in secluded cultivation had to come out and take a look! She awakened nine totems, which are all said to be top level even among celestial orderians! Almost immediately, news spread to Orderia and they took away the Ninemoon Goddess, probably to nurture her. She truly is a monstrous talent of the Divine Moon Realm... Every time I think about it, I feel my bladder tighten!"

"Nine?" Didn't Qingyu only have five bane-rings? It began sounding more and more ridiculous. However, he suddenly recalled that Qingyu had told him about the dream she had with nine bright moons. Additionally, Huiye Shi had also mentioned some accursed woman who was a nonabane. Coupled with the testimony of the kid, realization suddenly dawned on him.

"Qingyu's a nonabane?" He met Feiling's gaze. At the very least, Qingyu didn't seem to be in immediate danger. She had shocked the Divine Moon Realm with her talent and was brought to Orderia, the place Tianming ultimately wanted to go to. "That means our trip here was a waste."

"It's best we ask a few more people for details," Feiling said.

"Alright."

Right as Tianming was about to hand the manna over, his hand stopped.

"Big Bro, don't play with my feelings like that!" The chubby kid didn't dare to reach out and take the manna for himself.

"I have one more question," he said with a solemn look. Huiye Shi had also mentioned another monster. "Do you know Ye Lingfeng?"

Stunned, the kid said, "Of course!"

Tianming didn't think it would be so easy getting the answers he wanted. "What about him?"

"He's the Nightfiend that came with the Ninemoon Goddess!"

"Nightfiend? He has a sobriquet now? What happened to him? Did he go to Orderia too?"

"What are you thinking? Putting that monster in Orderia would scare all the celestial orderians to death!"

"What do you mean?"

"Big Bro, don't you know? The Nightfiend can consume totems! Totems are the basis of power for the celestial orderians and the divine moonrace, but they're completely useless before the Nightfiend! He can just gulp them down! Terrifying, right? Even though he isn't really strong right now, the mere fact that he can consume totems is enough to scare the entire divine moonrace."

"He can eat totems no matter how strong they are?"

Totems were basically terra. The Archaionfiend consumed caelum, while Ye Lingfeng consumed terra? Was that one of the abilities he got from the Primordial Demonlord? Tianming had guessed that the soulfieud could only consume vita, which was the foundation of the soul that reentered the cycle of reincarnation. Now, it appeared that all three parts of the soul could be consumed by some entity, assuming his guesses about the soulfieud were correct.

The kid fearfully answered, "That, I'm not sure of. I only heard that he consumed quite a few totems before. When he was still a samsaran, he actually managed to consume the totems of ascendants, and he only grew stronger doing so. What is he if not a monster? It's also said that he's a specter and has the fiendgod bloodline. He's probably destined to be a huge villain."

Still, the kid's words weren't exactly trustworthy, so Tianming had to verify it with a few others first.

"Then do you know where the Nightfiend is now?"

"He's done for! He's the nemesis of the celestial orderians. No monster like him has been heard of in the millions of years of history, so the elites were all scared. Initially, the celestial orderians sent orders to have him killed, but after the Ninemoon Goddess threatened them with suicide, they decided to banish the monster to the xenomemory space. Though, I've heard that it's just a ruse to trick the goddess. The elites probably had him killed on the way to the xenomemory space, not that it makes much difference. Anyone banished there would never be able to return and are effectively dead anyway."

"I see..." Tianming's gaze darkened.

"If Feng is really that powerful against totems, it's not surprising that the divine moonrace would have him killed," Feiling said with a worried look.

"That's right. If it weren't for Qingyu's importance, they might not have kept him alive at all." Having recently learned of the power of the Primordial God-Emperor, he wasn't surprised to find that the successor of the Primordial Demonlord had similarly powerful tricks up his sleeves, too. Though the news that he could consume totems had come completely out of left field. It wasn't something normal people could even come up with on a whim, either, so the kid was probably telling the truth.

"Let's ask someone else next about the xenomemory space and see if there's a chance we can save Feng."

"Got it." Tianming tossed the manna to the kid, who wore an expression of utter gratitude as he ran off.

"Are you worried about them?" Feiling asked, holding his arm.

"Qingyu should be fine for now. I'm more worried about Feng." He was the one who had taken Ye Lingfeng out of the formation he had been sealed in, so he understood him. That youth was simple and sincere. Tianming would never leave him to suffer alone, now that he was in trouble. "Let's hope he's still alive."

The thought of such a pure youth facing a crisis ignited the flames of anger in him. He didn't have any fond thoughts of the divine moonrace, while Ye Lingfeng was like a brother to him.

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Outside the Divine Moon Realm, a man dressed in a large white robe pulled a girl along, smiling as he escaped the gravity of the moon.

"Little You, your mom's birthday is coming soon. I'll be bringing her some gifts, but don't ruin the surprise, alright?"

"Got it, Daddy! It's been so long. I miss Mommy!"

"We'll see her again soon." He stroked his daughter's head with a look full of love.

Chapter 970 - Unseen Killer

Descending from the Divine Moon Realm was much easier than ascending to it. Once they were free of the moon's gravity and reached the lower levels of the cosmic aether, the gravity of the Welkin plane began working on them. Overlord Bodhi took off the hat he was wearing, revealing his bald head as he descended to the Flameyellow Continent with Little You in his embrace. The place hadn't changed since he had last seen it.

"They haven't attacked yet? Does that mean the two children from the Divine Moon Realm haven't left yet?" Bodhi smiled coldly. He didn't linger, as he was set on returning as soon as possible. He didn't have any reason to rush the invasion of the Flameyellow Continent anyway. Not to mention, if it went too quickly, they might provoke a reaction from the Divine Moon Realm.

Now that his powers had recovered, it wouldn't be easy for the Divine Moon Realm to kill him. However, he knew he still had weaknesses: for instance, his kin in the Ninefold Hell. They didn't have access to a stellar source and had nowhere to escape to.

"Before I reach my former peak, it's best that I don't attract the attention of the Divine Moon Realm." Lately he had been really careful as he cultivated up on the moon. "With my fiendgod bloodline, I reached the peak of the Ascension stage after seven centuries of cultivation, yet my real power is only at the first level, thanks to not having access to stellar source. But now I've recovered around seventy

percent of my strength, so there are no longer many on the moon that can match me. Once I reach my peak again, I'll be on par with the strongest elites there. By then..."

The pent-up hate built over two hundred millennia burned in his heart. He hadn't been improving his cultivation on the moon, but was merely recovering it to its former state. He was only laying low to protect his race and family.

After passing through the bottomless pit, he took out his gift. It was a flower infused with moonlight that gave off a beautiful, multi-colored glow. While it was a common sight on the moon, it was a precious treasure in the Ninefold Hell.

"Huh?" The world seemed oddly quiet. It was as if the entire Abyssal Battlefield was bereft of activity, completely unlike how it usually was. Having had so much time to recover, the specters should be filled with vigor. He had a bad omen.

"This isn't right. We took every step carefully and didn't make any mistakes. What could've gone wrong?" He carried Little You and went straight for the grey star. He could hear his own nervous breathing as he approached it; it was just like the time they were trying to break the Skysource Hellshaker Formation.

When he finally arrived, his vision pierced the veil of mist around the grey star. He immediately turned straight to his palace. There was a large group of specters gathered there, all blankly waiting for his return. When they finally noticed him, Bodhi saw the results of what he was most worried about.

There had been a grand battle! Even though some of the traces had been cleaned up, the corpses and blood were still plain to see. He saw rows of corpses lined up in the distance, still unburied. The specters wanted their overlord to witness the sheer devastation they had suffered in his absence. There were at least tens of thousands of bodies there, a realization that seemed to make his heart bleed.

Then Little You shrieked in such a horrifying manner that even Bodhi began panicking. He looked where the little girl was looking and saw a quaint coffin at the entrance of the palace. He was still airborne, but he could clearly see the person within the coffin. His eyeballs seemed to tense at the sight and he felt his organs churning and tearing apart. He felt like spikes were piercing his entire body, making him bleed from every orifice. His wife of centuries was his closest family. Until just recently, they were practically inseparable, but now death had torn them apart before he was even remotely ready for it.

Who would he share his dreams and aspirations with now? What point was there left to fight for? The flower from the moon fell from his hand to the ground. He struggled to approach the coffin, and when he reached it, he placed his hands on it. The one slumbering inside had long stopped breathing.

"Mom... Mom... wake up..." Little You crawled into the coffin and snuggled against the overlady's chest just like any child would. She caressed her mother's head with her two little hands. Whenever she did that, her mother would always wake up, but no matter how she shook her this time, she would never open her eyes ever again. "Nooo! Don't leave me behind!"

She placed her ears against her mother's chest, wanting to listen to her heartbeat like she always had. Her soft sobs cut into Bodhi's body like knives. He shakily raised his hand as tears of blood flowed from his pale eyes and a wild power burst from the depths of his body. He looked to the sky and roared,

almost instantly scattering the dark clouds above. The entire Ninefold Hell shook with his heart-wrenching roar, with many specters tearing up at the same time.

"Overlord!" Countless specters knelt to him, their eyes all bloodshot with hate. This had nothing to do with good or evil. It was a feud, plain and simple, and vengeance was their destiny! Now, their hate threatened to overwhelm the heavens. Every fiber of their being had inherited the overwhelming hatred of their ancestors.

"Tell me who did this!" Bodhi's teeth shook as he spoke.

"It's the Divine Moon Realm!"

"The moon guide brought two elites here and started slaughtering us without explanation!"

"The overlady only went there to receive them, but a woman immediately killed her! All three of them were much more powerful than us! Many of us were sacrificed, and all the royals were completely exterminated!"

"Overlord, this is a debt of blood we must repay! We have to let the Divine Moon Realm experience what we have today!"

"Overlord! This grudge will never fade!"

Their cries of despair were all heard by Bodhi.

"Even though we only just managed to see the light, they didn't give us any chances and killed us like animals!"

"Overlord, if you find the moon guide, you'll definitely find the other two culprits!"

Bodhi was the sole remaining hope for all the other specters. He was the only thing that helped them keep their will to live. About a tenth of the billion specters were now at the Ninefold Hell, crying out in rage for Bodhi to help them.

Bodhi left the coffin and turned to his subjects, many of whom had been beheaded without mercy. Many of them had been his comrades his entire life, his brothers. He recalled the times they shared in their youth.

Now, they were nothing but cold corpses.

"Kill! Kill! Kill!"

Tears of blood continued flowing from his pale eyes. His deep voice rang out across the field. "Let's bury them."

"Overlord, what should we do next?"

"Spread out and settle down in the Abyssal Battlefield. Leave the rest to me." Despite his searing rage, he was completely cold and calculating like a lifeless machine. He switched out the coffin of his wife for a crystal one that could maintain the corpse and prepared to leave even though he had just returned. His thirst for vengeance could not be understated.

"Little You, let's go," he said, putting up a gentler expression.

"Where are we going, Daddy?"

"The Divine Moon Realm. We'll go to Huiyue City and kill them."

"But wouldn't that expose us?"

"It won't. We'll only kill those three. Nobody else will recognize me. As far as they're concerned, a nameless, unseen killer lurks among them. One by one, the divine moonrace will be snuffed out. I'll continue terrorizing them until every single one of them is dead!"

A killer nobody could see would be most terrifying, especially one that was a peak ascendant.

"I want revenge, too," the little girl said.

"We'll take it together." Bodhi held her hand as he carried her while he ascended through the bottomless pit and headed back toward the Divine Moon Realm.

"Daddy, will we still attack the Flameyellow Continent?"

"We can't, for now."

"Why?"

"They might've left quite a number of transmission stones behind. If we attack them, we'll draw the Divine Moon Realm's attention here. I wouldn't really mind it, but I can't afford to let our kin be their targets once more. What our people need is time to settle down in silence. It'll make matters easier once I kill the moon guide, as well as the others who know about my presence. After that, I'll just be a nameless ghost."

"Alright!"

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Tianming had asked a dozen people about Qingyu and Ye Lingfeng at the Divine Moon Realm and received more or less identical answers. Qingyu was known as the Ninemoon Goddess and had been brought to Orderia, so she wasn't in any trouble for now. Instead, Ye Lingfeng was the one who might need help.