

The Ages 1781

Chapter 1781 - Spy Bugs Activate!

Tianming could be described in three ridiculous ways: decabane miracle, slayer of seven million, and First Dragon imperial. The overwhelming news spread through the Myriad Solar Sects, finally allowing the cultivators some relief. They finally had a ray of hope. With the appointment of the First Dragon Imperial complete, all two billion plus of them wildly cheered. All they had to do was wait and let their new situation settle in. It was expected that the Myriaddragon Mountains would host even more refugees from weaker sects, most of whom had already lost their homes.

It was the only place they could run to, and the only place with any hope. This was a fight that the beastmasters couldn't afford to give up on, for if they did, all of them and their future progeny would be enslaved forever. They would lose their long legacy on the sun. As such, the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect didn't have to worry about taking in any spies. It would be clear who friend or foe was. Before the battle of the Myriaddragon Mountains, there had been some sects that bowed down to the celestial orderians without daring to oppose them in the slightest. Some even served them, like the Supracloud Sanctuary had. It was only after the celestial orderians had finally barged into their homes to kill their friends and family that they realized their efforts were repaid with nothing but shameless cruelty.

"The doors of the Myriaddragon Mountains are open to all factions. We still don't know how many cultivators in total will gather here, but this place is sure to become the most dangerous in all of the sun. Even our Xuanyuan Dragon Sect risks being annihilated. However, it's also the safest place at the same time. The more people that come, the better we'll be able to protect ourselves."

Only the truly brave and resolute would dare to go there now.

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Tianming and the others went to a hall at Great Saintdragon Peak that was filled with dragon pillars. The other Dragon Imperials were there with the sect masters of the refugee factions. Gujian Qingshuang and Yun Tianque were there as well. Most of the other factions had a standardized tier system. People with Tianming or the Saintdragon Emperors' statuses were considered tier six, while Gujian Qingshuang and Jiang Qingliu were tier five. Sect masters of third-rate sects were tier four, while those of fourth-rate sects were tier three. Normal sect masters were usually fourth- to sixth-level solarians, but they numbered quite a lot. Most of them were currently scattered across the sun.

As for third-rate sect masters, they were about seventh- to ninth-level solarians in strength, making them among the strongest people on the sun. Without including the Omnisentient Threads, Tianming's power would be at that level. Now, the top elites had gathered following the assembly of two billion people from before.

The Saintdragon Emperor organized the meeting from Tianming's side. "Frankly speaking, the Myriad Solar Sects are quite some ways away from matching up to the celestial orderians. With the Sky Palace sealing themselves off like tortoises in their shells, nothing can stop us from being annihilated if we don't step up to save ourselves, not even the Aeonic Infinidragon Formation. The enemy started using underhanded tactics like going after the weaker sects and uprooting them one by one. It'll be too late to band together and fight back only when the top ten sects remain."

Everyone there understood the logic, yet there was nothing they could do to counter the insidious plans of the enemy.

"Back then, we only cared about ourselves without answering any calls for help. That allowed the celestial orderians to get ahead of us every step of the way. But now we have someone we can rally around. This will be the formation of a true alliance that binds the Myriad Solar Sects together." He turned to Tianming when he was done speaking.

"I agree."

"Let's appoint Li Tianming as the first leader of the alliance."

"At the very least, he's able to hold people together. It'll be better for people to gather around him than hide in fear after losing their homes."

"He's a decabane and has more potential than the sun emperor! The celestial orderians must be seething."

"I believe he has good rallying power as well."

While many of them hadn't witnessed the events at the Azurecloud Continent, they did hear about it from many of their allies. Everyone was filled with trust in Tianming.

"If there's no dissenting opinion, I'll inform the other sect masters about the formation of the alliance," the Saintdragon Emperor said.

"Understood!"

Unsurprisingly, many figures of authority, including masters from the top hundred factions, would be involved in this grand event. It wouldn't be that big an issue for the elites to leave alone in a time of war. Many of them wanted to see Tianming for themselves.

"With the pressure from the celestial orderians mounting, I'll have more authority after the formation of the alliance. That'll let me coordinate our forces to fight them." Tianming was looking forward to the future. He had a huge advantage, thanks to Yin Chen, especially in planning their battle strategies. He had twenty-five million silver eggs, all of which could turn into invisible cockroaches.

The eggs had increased in size, but the size of the cockroaches and bonegnaw ants remained the same. In other words, each egg could turn into more insects than before. In total, he could muster some six hundred million cockroaches. While that number couldn't match the number of cultivators in the Myriad Solar Sects, they would be used for surveillance, rather than combat. Only one cockroach needed to be present to surveil a wide area, and they were far more useful than spreading the cultivators thin to serve as scouts. They were invisible, after all, while normal scouts could simply be killed. Not to mention, information transfer between the metal insects was nearly instant. Anything an individual cockroach saw would be seen by all the rest, whereas normal scouts had to spend time sending information back.

Currently, the celestial orderians had tens of thousands of informants among the ranks of the Myriad Solar Sects, having information superiority despite being invaders. Information was vital in war, after all, as many conflicts throughout the sects' long history had shown. But now, it was completely different.

With Yin Chen deployed, it was only a matter of time until Tianming had eyes all over the place. He could pinpoint the enemy troop movements, and even sniff out the spies of the celestial orderians. Yin Chen was a monstrously efficient information network. Those in the know were aware that the Myriadworld Immortabeast was far more vital than the decapath era godswords, despite the totems getting far more fanfare and attention.

It would take some time for Yin Chen to spread its net, as well as for the sect masters to assemble to discuss matters of the alliance, so all that remained was to wait.

Chapter 1782 - Manna Imperius Dragonpit Godsword

After the secret assembly concluded, the ones who weren't from the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect took their leave. Only the Saintdragon Emperor, Long Wanying, and a few others remained.

"Tianming, let's go to the Primodragon Cave," Long Wanying said.

"What's to see there?" Tianming asked.

"You'll know when you get there," she said. The Primodragon Cave was as mystical as the Kunlan Realm; Tianming looked forward to the visit. Holding a dragonspring himself, he entered with far less difficulty than before. Passing through a storm, he found himself in a mysterious world. Primodragon Mountain looked the same as it did before, ancient and stable. One difference, however, was that the bodies of the dragon imperials of old were now gone, including Long Wanying's husband, Long Junxuan.

"Look there," Long Wanying said, pointing at the peak of the mountain.

"Hmm?" Tianming could vaguely see a gigantic sword. However, it was clear that it was neither a divine artifact nor a divine hazard. "Is it a universal manna?" Universal manna in the shape of a sword was quite rare.

He flew toward it with the two others following behind, their expressions pensive. It was indeed a universal manna that was shaped a little similarly to the Grand-Orient Sword. It was deep gold on the left side and dark blue on the right, giving it a rather weighty impression. The sword had eight stars that seemed to be formed from dragons. Based on the energy it seemed to be giving out, it was an eight-star universal manna, or in other words, a manna imperius.

"This is something that manifested in the Primodragon Cave half a year ago and reached eight stars. Based on historical records, this particular configuration is called the Dragonpit Godsword. It's a manna imperius with high damage potential," Long Wanying said with awe.

"The Primodragon Cave has been giving rise to manna imperius since times long past, but an eight-star manna imperius is a first. We knew you would be coming back, so we didn't move it. Leaving it here was the safest choice." The Saintdragon Emperor stroked his beard and continued, "Tianming, even though you aren't a Xuanyuan, you happen to have a dragon lifebound beast. Since your other two beasts have already become sovereign beasts, your dragon lifebound beast shouldn't lag behind. You're the First Dragon Imperial now. In fact, that dragon of yours needs to become a symbol. Take it. Perhaps it's what the founder has prepared for you from the afterlife. You now represent the dragonfolk, after all."

Tianming felt a little taken aback. Of the many treasures he wanted, getting something to evolve his lifebound beasts was what he wanted the most. His strongest assets were his Primordial Chaos Beasts,

and Ying Huo and Meow Meow had both undergone staggering transformations after becoming sovereign beasts. In fact, top geniuses from the Mysterium Cluster had a full arsenal of sovereign beasts. But that was almost impossible on Violetglory and the sun, as they barely had any manna imperius to give away, yet the Primodragon Cave had given rise to a new one half a year ago. The Saintdragon Emperor's words were right; Lan Huang couldn't afford to lose out to the other two, even if it was a little slow. It was the only dragon he had, after all.

Tianming nodded at the two elders and had Lan Huang come out. The ground shook heavily. With how loose the dirt of the mountain was, it took quite a while for the gigantic two-headed dragon to stabilize itself. It looked around and said, "Boss, why'd you bring me here? What're you trying to pull?!"

"Stop messing around. We're changing your clothes," Tianming said.

"No, doooooon't!" it squealed, as if it desperately wanted to hold onto its draconic dignity. "Are you saying you're going to rip my clothes off?" It then stood up on its hind legs and protected its vitals with its forelegs. "Chicken Bro said it would come to this!"

Tianming's head started to hurt. Even after all these years, Lan Huang's intelligence still seemed like that of a toddler, though it did seem to be growing more shameless. "Stop wasting time and get it done with."

"Wait, let me warm up first."

Tianming decided to leave it there. The evolution of a sovereign beast would cause quite a bit of commotion, so the Primodragon Cave was a relatively safe choice. As Lan Huang's Greenspark Tower worked the best, it usually had the fewest issues during its evolution. As there was still time, the three of them waited after Lan Huang swallowed the sword and fell into a deep sleep.

"A sword-shaped manna is the hardest to digest.... It no doubt has the strongest blowback. Will it really be fine?" Long Wanying asked, casting a worried glance at the fool. "It'll be fine. Its skin is the thickest of them all, so it can take the pain," Tianming confidently said. Right as he finished, dark gold and blue appeared on Lan Huang as boundless sword ki began surging out from its body, making it look like a porcupine. It yelled from the immense pain, jumping around nonstop and almost overturning the entire mountain. It shouted and exaggeratedly flailed about even though its body seemed fine. Tianming felt incredibly awkward from it all.

"Is it really fine?" Long Wanying anxiously asked.

"Just... get used to it."

The two-headed dragon was definitely no normal dragon. After two hours, Long Wanying and the Saintdragon Emperor could no longer take the screaming, so they left. Tianming remained and waited. Despite his harsh words, he was quite worried about Lan Huang. It was like an eternal child that always charged headfirst into enemy lines. Every time, it was the one that was hurt the most, bearing all kinds of wounds.

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Three days later, Tianming blankly continued watching the creature. He was almost certain that it was the largest lifebound beast on the sun. If it remained still, it would be a mountain range upon which

countless creatures lived. Lan Huang's size had increased so much that it was beginning to resemble the humongous form Tianming had seen in that dream.

Having become a sovereign beast, it hadn't just changed in size, but had considerably powered up and changed in color quite a bit. The earth-like brown of its scales now adopted a sheen of dark gold. Like Tianming, it had a regal flair. As for its ocean-blue scales, they turned dark blue, looking like a deep abyss. Nothing but a harsh chill could be felt from within. Every one of its scales were changing into conical spikes, out of which swords seemed to sprout. The scales looked incredibly sharp and the swords seemed able to retract into the scales. While they were out, they could stretch tens of meters long, much like gigantic blades. Lan Huang resembled a porcupine dragon.

It looked at the swords in its scales with joyous frenzy. One could only imagine the devastation it could wreak in a huge crowd. Those retractable spikes were called Primordial Swords.

Chapter 1783 - Sun Emperor's Laughter

"I'm big and strong now! I'll be fine and dainty!" Lan Huang said.

"Don't you mean fine and dandy?" Tianming said.

Lan Huang's scales were a mix of gold and dark blue. It spun around, pushing the swords out from its scales and pulling them back, almost like a tortoise that kept poking its head out of its shell and withdrawing into it. Despite its impressive appearance, its happy-go-lucky behavior and laughter undermined its domineering aura. It appeared that it could only show its true might in a real fight.

"This is fun! Haha!" Lan Huang ran about like a child as Tianming grimaced.

"This dragon doesn't seem to have any dignity at all," Long Wanying said.

"It... it does... sometimes," Tianming said, awkwardly clearing his throat.

"That's okay. It's rather cute."

Not that a dragon's dignity mattered much. It wasn't the first time Lan Huang had been mistaken for a tortoise. All that mattered was that its shell only continued to grow thicker and thicker, making it an immovable tank on top of the prime wonder and Greenspark Tower. Its sheer ability to draw firepower on the battlefield would no doubt be enough to annoy the enemy to no end.

Primordial Chaos Beasts had rather specialized characteristics. Meow Meow, for instance, couldn't be chased down by anyone, while Lan Huang couldn't be moved by anyone. Even if the Saintdragon Emperor used the grade-eight Ninedragon Imperius on it, he wouldn't be able to make it budge.

"After the Omnisentient Threads formed, I'm able to channel the weakest form of astralforce to it through the pandemonium sacrosun. That'll make it even more terrifying."

The Saintdragon Emperor hoped that Tianming would present himself as a dragon beastmaster to bolster the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect's reputation. By now, Lan Huang was no doubt qualified for that mascot role.

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In the following days, the celestial orderians didn't make any moves. Tianming was still waiting for two things; the first was for Yin Chen to seek out celestial orderian informants and tail them, and the second was the grand assembly of the newly formed alliance. The Xuanyuan Dragon Sect had invited all sect masters to participate. Those that had lost their sects and homes sought refuge in the Myriadragon Mountains. While the journey was risky, it wasn't too bad, as Tianming informed them about potential dangers using Yin Chen's surveillance abilities. By now, he had a full view of all the troops of the enemy.

As Qingyu's case was rather special, Tianming had her and Lingfeng hidden away. They focused on cultivating first and foremost. Lingfeng, for instance, was making progress on the sixth level of Tranquil Battlefield. Qingyu, on the other hand, was facing quite a bit of trouble. Her appearance had considerably changed, thanks to the ancient blood in her. However, she was more concerned about the safety of her father. While having her looks change was hard to stomach, it didn't take up most of her attention.

"Godfather, where are you? Are you doing well?" Tianming looked north from the Great Saintdragon Peak. He was at the southern side of the sun, and if he guessed right, Li Wudi should be at the northern side. He patiently sorted through his complex thoughts as he waited. The billion Omnisentient Threads of Violetglory, along with the dense power of faith he got from Flameyellow and the sun filled his Imperial Will. It was a give-and-take relationship. His experience battling at the Azurecloud Continent had given him even more insights, real insights of his own that were even more effective than witnessing those of other caeli. After symbiotic cultivation with the newly evolved Lan Huang, his physical body had been considerably enhanced, as if he had become a smaller version of the Primordial Terraqua Dragon. His Imperial Will also broke through, allowing him to reach the third level of the Solar stage.

It had been quite a long time since he had broken through; he could clearly feel his cultivation speed slowing down now. Even so, he was still way ahead of even the geniuses of the Mysterium Cluster. By now, Yanwu Dao would be completely outmatched by him.

"While the increase of Omnisentient Threads can help me gain a lot of power in combat, my cultivation level is the most basic foundation. I shouldn't neglect it." He found himself growing more and more calm despite the escalating situation. "I reckon the sun emperor knows I'm a decabane by now, right?"

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The flaming clouds above rained embers onto the ground. The whole world was set aflame. Fires of red and gold could be seen all over the place, but even then, the flaming clouds didn't seem to decrease in volume despite raining down so much. At the south pole of the sun, the Voidsky Flame Pillar injected nova source into the flaming clouds nonstop, constantly replenishing them. Nova source was practically infinite, nourishing all life on the sun for countless years before and countless more to come.

Magma flowed all across the reddish ground like a flaming net. There was a palace located in the area with the most lava that looked like a golden human head. Both of its eyes were dim and lifeless, as if it had lost its life and turned into a normal building. This used to be the mighty Divine Sun Palace that had struck terror in the Myriad Solar Sects just a few years ago. Nowadays, the location near it was considered a forbidden area. Nobody dared to approach. Since the battle of the Myriadragon Mountains, the celestial orderians had undergone quite a few conflicts with the Myriad Solar Sects, yet

the sun emperor had never personally graced the battlefield. One reason for that was that the celestial orderian troops didn't really need him to be there as they were ferocious and effective on their own. The other was said to be that the sun emperor was cultivating to obtain enough power to crush the Myriad Solar Sects on his own, though nobody knew how much that rumor had been exaggerated.

One thing that couldn't be denied, however, was that the sun emperor was indeed within the deactivated Divine Sun Palace. He didn't even need to set foot out to cause chaos among the Myriad Solar Sects. The fight between him and the Sky Palace had motivated his troops enough to go on even without him. Before the recent battle at the Azurecloud Continent, his might had been inviolable. He was the god among gods for the celestial orderians!

Yet when word of the decabane First Dragon Imperial, slayer of seven million began spreading, the celestial orderians were struck by disbelief. It was as if they had suffered another shocking loss like that of the battle of the Myriaddragon Mountains. Countless people flocked to the Divine Sun Palace to beg the sun emperor to slaughter Tianming and completely crush the hopes of the Myriad Solar Sects. Tianming was too powerful, despite his youth, hence their desperation.

Countless people had gathered outside the Divine Sun Palace. There were many youths who had yet to be recruited into the army, yet they charged into enemy territory to vent their rage. This matter seemed far more serious than their loss at the Myriaddragon Mountains. After all, in the latter, the Myriad Solar Sects' situation was still hopeless despite their victory, but now a new hope had been born.

Tianming was far more terrifying than the Ninedragon Emperor of legend. He was so young that he defied all explanation. In fact, many even doubted his age, completely oblivious to the fact that he had even trumped all of the young geniuses of the Mysterium Cluster.

The celestial orderians were growing desperate. Large numbers of old folk knelt outside the Divine Sun Palace, begging and praying for the sun emperor to wipe out Tianming. Even though there were people trying to clear out the crowds, even more simply flocked in to replace those that were chased away. It could be seen how seriously they were taking the matter of Tianming. Yet pray as they might, all they got was the laughter of the sun emperor coming from within his palace.

The laughter was filled with glee, as if something miraculous had happened. The celestial orderians were completely stumped about why he was so happy. Was the news of their seven million troops' annihilation a sign of good tidings? Some even felt that their emperor was losing his wits, ignorant to what was happening within the palace.

The inside of the palace was dark and didn't have a single light source. In a corner, a person paced around. He had retracted his glow, and even his hair was completely dim. The only things that shone were his golden eyes, making it seem like two floating eyeballs were moving about in the darkness. He paced around quickly and leaned against the object before him. Based on the light coming from his eyes, it seemed to be a mystical coffin.

"Decabane? Amazing. I didn't think you'd be hiding a trump card like that." A ghastly man with dark red hair lay inside the coffin like an unmoving puppet. He didn't respond to the sun emperor at all.

"Did you know? These past few years, I wasn't afraid of his talent at all. It doesn't matter to me whether he's a decabane or two times that. The only fear I had was that he would never return. Even after the

loss of my army of seven million, the only thing I was afraid of was that he would disappear into the boundless astralscape with my daughter, eluding me for the rest of my life."

He held his arms up like he was drunk and snickered. "You were far too clueless.... How would you know how large the universe truly is? If you'd gone a little further, it'd be like going into an endless abyss past the point of no return. That's why you'll never understand why I'm so glad to hear him return. He's back earlier than I thought—I expected him to take another decade at least."

The sun emperor couldn't be happier even if he wanted to.

Chapter 1784 - Grand Alliance Assembly

"It's all good now that they're back. Right on time, in fact. Had he returned ten years later, who knows if I'd be able to deal with him based on the rate of his growth? He's giving me a chance. I just so happen to be ready to deal with him soon, and the spare Solar Wheel will be complete soon. It's the perfect time for me to run other experiments. These lab rats really know to do the right thing at the right time without giving me extra trouble," the sun emperor said. Had Tianming and the rest returned earlier, it wouldn't have been ideal, either, as he had other things on his mind. But this was the perfect timing.

"Wonderful." He shook his head with a smile as he slapped the coffin, causing the sound to reverberate through the empty Divine Sun Palace. It almost sounded like a heartbeat. "The show's about to start. Let's hope my little commotion here isn't noticed by Flameyellow. Otherwise it won't be fun anymore."

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A month later, the attendees of the grand assembly had mostly arrived at the Myriadragon Mountains. The day Tianming had been waiting for had finally arrived. As only the sect masters had come, there wasn't too big of a crowd. As for the factions that had lost their homes, they brought everyone along, including their families, which created a bit of trouble. That also made them easier targets for the celestial orderians, but thanks to Yin Chen's reports, the casualties had been kept to a minimum.

In one short month, the number of people in the Myriadragon Mountains grew to three billion, crowding the place quite a bit. However, that wasn't the end of it. After things at the Azurecloud Continent went south for the celestial orderians, many other sects had placed their hopes in the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect, which was ranked first among all of them. They hoped they would be able to fight together to avenge those they had lost. They may have left their home, but they kept their bravery and fighting spirit.

The Myriadragon Mountains was now a core location for the entire Myriad Solar Sects, even though it was only home to a second-ranked sect a few years ago. By now, the combined might of the people there far outstripped that of the capital of the dreamless celestial nation, Somnium. In fact, whether the dreamless celestial emperor would join the assembly wasn't something people were even concerned about. Most of the Orderian natives had already lost confidence in the immigrant races and had only come for the First Dragon Imperial.

Tianming already knew that the dreamless celestial nation and Voidword Shrine wouldn't be participating, despite occupying the second and third place on the faction rankings. The Voidword Shrine had issued an official statement that they wouldn't be participating, which was in line with their usual actions. They were even more detached from the Myriad Solar Sects than the dreamless celestial nation,

yet they didn't serve the celestial orderians, either, unlike the wargodeans and Blueblood Starocean. They were almost entirely neutral. Their weird behavior was quite intriguing during peacetime, with many people trying to find out why, but people had quickly forgotten about it when the chaos started.

As for the dreamless celestial nation, they didn't respond to the First Dragon Imperial's invitation, so their attendance couldn't be counted on. And it was a given that the traitorous wargodeans and Blueblood Starocean wouldn't be there. Apart from them, the leaders of the other top ten factions were all present.

There were also a hundred and twenty leaders of second-rate factions like the Azuresoul Palace. Most of them were either there themselves or had sent representatives. The third- and fourth-rate sects were the first ones to suffer from the chaos, so most of them had sent representatives if their sect masters couldn't attend. More than ninety-five percent of them did, and some even came as a whole faction of refugees, making quite a large number. They even included some who had been injured in battles.

In total, the faction representatives alone numbered almost ten thousand, all of whom were fifth-level solarians or above. Regardless of the rating of their factions, those that stood at the top were nothing to scoff at. In essence, the Myriad Solar Sects were mostly present, much of them thanks to Tianming's decabane status. If he hadn't returned, there would be no way for the Saintdragon Emperor to gather them in this fashion with his reputation alone. Tianming's performance would be incredibly important.

"Where's the Imperialdragon Princeps?"

The crowd watched as Tianming came to the grand hall with the other Dragon Imperials. He radiated his most dignified aura and demeanor before the crowd, his black and gold eyes radiating imperial majesty while his body exuded impeccable sword ki. The first impression most people got of him was that he shone the brightest, even though a mighty senior like the Saintdragon Emperor and a stunning beauty like Long Wanying stood beside him. His youth only made him stand out further. People weren't able to look away from him if they tried. Even with the sheer number of people there, the venue was really quiet.

"Respectful greetings to the Imperialdragon Princeps." Tianming was now the representative of the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect. He sat upon the main throne, high above all others; this wasn't time to be humble. He had to stand out and be judged. The representatives of the Empyrean Sword Sect were situated to the right of those of the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect, while to their left were the representatives of the Divinemight Empire, ranked fifth and sixth respectively. It was a shame that the second-, third-, and fourth-ranked factions weren't really a part of the Myriad Solar Sects.

Apart from those, the leaders of the remaining factions in the top ten were also present, such as the aunt of Yan Nuxia, Yan Lingxian of the Group of Celestial Maiden Halls, which ranked ninth. She was a senior on the same level as the Saintdragon Emperor. It was said that she used to hold the title of the most beautiful woman during her youth. Even now, it was clear to see that she was beautiful back in the day, still retaining her dignified and elegant aura. Tianming thought that she was the most beautiful old lady he had seen.

The Northdipper Swordsage, Ninesun Martial Lord, and Yan Lingxian were among the most important figures in the Myriad Solar Sects. The Northdipper Swordsage, for instance, had the advantage of being

quite young, and his authority could almost rival the Saintdragon Emperor's. Tianming's goal was to convince them, unify the Myriad Solar Sects, and gain the right to command their armies.

"Everyone, please be seated." Tianming didn't look out of place in the slightest among the ancient and powerful people surrounding him.

Chapter 1785 - Stunning All Factions

Tianming was clad in a black dragon robe with his white hair combed straight. His eyes radiated a look of dignity and his black arm gave people the chills. He'd only spoken a few short words, yet his presence had caused others to forget his age and focus on his aura. Long Wanying had taken care to ensure that his getup not only looked good, but also imposing, subtly suggesting that he was born to rule. It contrasted against the senior-looking Saintdragon Emperor, arrogant Northdipper Swordsage, and savage Ninesun Martial Lord, who were all hard to approach.

The Myriad Solar Sects needed someone that could stand up against the sun emperor in terms of aura. Even if Tianming was a little short of that, he was still young. He had beckoned for them all to sit, and the Saintdragon Emperor knew that that alone meant they were halfway successful thanks to his stunning reputation. Tianming didn't like empty pleasantries.

After they all sat and looked at him, he simply said, "We've gathered here today for only one goal: to defeat the celestial orderian invaders and take back our homes. They tried to invade and enslave us and our descendants. We'll tear that plan apart and pay the blood debt back in full! Over the past few years, we've been enduring their humiliation and trampling. All of us here surely know how unforgettable that kind of humiliation is. We've been left with only one path: to unite together and share our strength. We'll push aside distractions and form a unified group as organized as the celestial orderians. We need a systemized and effective army of our own."

People looked at each other and chattered after hearing those words, still feeling a little confused. The celestial orderians had always been the ones with the more unified forces, whereas the Myriad Solar Sects were used to having their own autonomy without being tied down to a greater whole. Having them work together under a unified banner would be a hard ask, but they all knew that was the only way. Otherwise they would only keep on fighting among themselves while the enemy took them apart piece by piece. Yet even knowing that, they were at a complete loss as to how they could work together.

Tianming knew their worries and said, "I'll take charge of the specifics about organizing the cooperative effort. The Xuanyuan Dragon Sect is capable of forming a united army out of all your troops. I only need your agreement to proceed."

Even so, not many agreed outright, with many still having their reservations. The main flaw of the alliance was that all of the leaders sought to maximize their own benefits. There were still some sects that hadn't been attacked by the celestial orderians so far.

Unsurprisingly, the Northdipper Swordsage stood out at that moment. Tianming inwardly laughed at the sight, knowing that he needed someone to represent the dissenters to speak against him. As long as he could win the argument with said representative, that would bring the rest to his side to support him.

Calmly, the Northdipper Swordsage said, "Tianming, we don't doubt your performance at the Myriad Dragon Mountains and Azurecloud Continent. However, it's a fact that you're still young and lack

experience. It's true that all of us came here to form an alliance. There would be no point of risking travel during such chaotic times otherwise. But before that, why don't you show us your totems? Many of us here have only heard about it, after all, rather than seen it for ourselves."

Many others echoed his sentiment. Most of them had come for Tianming alone, but it would be quite hard to ask them to place their hopes in him before actually seeing proof that he could do what he claimed.

"I have to thank you for this chance to prove myself, Northdipper Swordsage," Tianming said.

"You're welcome. Make sure you don't let down our trust in you," the Northdipper Swordsage said with a shrug. Back then, he had failed to recruit Tianming, and there was beef between them as well. However, Tianming didn't think he was hated. But given the Northdipper Swordsage's personality, he wouldn't stop trying to become the top dog of the alliance, as evidenced by his previous attempts to form one himself.

Tianming left his seat for the center of the grand hall and casually opened his arms wide. His bane-rings brightly glowed as all of the decapath era godswords manifested, each of them unique with different aspects. The might they radiated far surpassed the expectations of the onlookers. Most beastmasters had only seen totemancers with identical totems, while Tianming had ten different ones, which caused quite a few of them to gasp in shock despite having heard about them beforehand. Their eyes lit up at the sight of the ten swords. Tianming himself was wielding the Godsin. He had also manifested his cyclic sacrosun, as well as his many sword ki strands. This ultimate sword god was far more powerful than many leaders present. Almost immediately, most of the leaders felt a sense of worship forming in them.

"He's only in his twenties, yet he already has so much power. What is he if not a genius?"

"He was a decabane from the very start, but he was still weak back then and worried that the sun emperor would target him so he kept it hidden. He only showed his full power after returning."

"A decabane... I wonder if such an existence has ever appeared in the history of the universe...."

"So that's a grade-nine divine artifact?" The Northdipper Swordsage's gaze fell on Tianming's sword. He had heard about the totems, but the sword was something that shook him.

"That's right. This is the Godsin, forged from formless glacier and infused with the grade-nine divine hazard Galactic Godsin," Tianming said.

The seven stars on the Northdipper Swordsage's mask glowed as he stood up. "Why don't you demonstrate the power of your totems to me?"

People stiffened and quieted down. It sounded like a provocation, not necessarily to Tianming himself, but to the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect as a whole.

Yan Lingxian immediately stood out. "Northdipper, it was already quite rude of you to ask him to show his totems. Even if his skills are to be tested, you aren't the right person to do it. Given your cultivation level, if you gave it your full power, you'll create the impression that his totems aren't powerful enough. Why don't you have an eighth-level solarian do so instead?" It was clear that she stood on Tianming's side.

But before the swordsage could reply, Tianming said, "Thank you, Senior Yan, but an eighth-level solarian wouldn't be able to draw out my true power. Since the swordsage has asked to personally test me, I won't disappoint him." His no-nonsense demeanor immediately earned him quite a number of fans. It wasn't just a mark of his bravery, but also a signal to the others present that he would stop at nothing no matter the odds.

"Don't be nervous. Just attack me as you please. I'm only testing you, and won't harm you." The Northdipper Swordsage casually beckoned as he left his seat and came to Tianming. "Come, child."

It was like he was trying to put Tianming in his place. While he could be convinced if the Saintdragon Emperor was taking the lead, he felt uncomfortable about letting Tianming lead him. Tianming had future potential, and the Saintdragon Emperor had a lot of experience, but the Northdipper Swordsage thought himself above the both of them.

Even so, Tianming hadn't come here just to be called a child. His goal was to become the leader of the alliance with absolute authority over the battlefield! "If you please!" He smiled coldly. If he were to convince this group of top elites, he had to make it swift and settle the question once and for all. He was a third-level solarian, but he wouldn't have problems fighting a ninth-level solarian. Since he was going to stun them, there was no need to hold back on using the Omnisentient Threads.

He started absorbing their power, causing his aura to change. He even demanifested his totems and let them absorb enough power. By the time they manifested again, they were ten times their original size, stunning those present with their might. His power explosively surged, coupled with the Godsin and his many strands of sword ki. Together with his totems, he executed the Sevendragon Tribulation with full force, sending his most powerful strike toward the Northdipper Swordsage, who stood facing Tianming with his arms behind his back without using his lifebound beasts. The chaos came at him in an instant.

"Fucking hell!" the swordsage cursed. People couldn't see his expression through the mask, yet they could see him draw his sword and gather his astralforce to block the strike. When Tianming's move enveloped him, his own sword strike was shattered and he was sent haggardly flying away, smashing into the ground. He raised his hand and coughed to signal Tianming to stop as he lay there, petrified like everyone else who was watching.

Chapter 1786 - Roar of the Xuanyuan Dragons

Tianming's full power attack had struck the Northdipper Swordsage, who was neither mentally nor physically prepared. He had hastily blocked, but he was unable to cancel out the might of ten totems and a grade-nine divine artifact. The most powerful part of the attack was the boost from thirty million believers, though it couldn't be seen.

Hence, the sect masters present only saw the truth: the Northdipper Swordsage had been beaten back by a youth in his twenties, even if he was caught off-guard!

The Northdipper Swordsage was a twelfth-level solarian, someone with the potential to become a sovereign. These years, his momentum had brought him close to being above the aging Saintdragon Emperor. It wouldn't be wrong to call him the number one elite of the Myriad Solar Sects.

Tianming, on the other hand, was a kid still fighting in the Voidsy Skirmish a few years back..... There wasn't just a few years difference in experience, but entire centuries!

That was why Tianming was so shocking. Once this miracle got out, it would be inflated to Tianming defeating the Northdipper Swordsage and claiming the spot of the number one elite of the Myriad Solar Sects.

Tianming knew inside that if the Northdipper Swordsage was just slightly serious, he could still easily defeat him as he was now. However, the various experts of the Myriad Solar Sects had already recognized him. Before, they had all believed that his miracle was mostly exaggerated, or even intentionally created by the seniors of the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect.

But now they had seen it with their own eyes. They all knew how competitive the Northdipper Swordsage was. If he became the leader of the Myriad Solar Sects and led them out of this disaster, it may very well be his chance to become a sovereign. Hence, there was no way he would cooperate with Tianming and create a show.

Everything had gone according to Tianming's plan. Shocking the Northdipper Swordsage led to shocking the myriad sects! He struck while the iron was hot. Recalling the decapath era godswords, he summoned his lifebound beasts. The three sovereign beasts were especially eye-catching.

A phoenix ascended to the skies, infernal flames crackling around it as a black and white Regal Chaosfiend raced around above the heads of the sect masters. As for Lan Huang, which was like the king of all dragons, it let out a deafening roar under Tianming's direction.

When the countless dragons on the Myriaddragon Mountains sensed the imperial aura of a sovereign dragon beast, they all roared in response, causing the entire mountain to shake underfoot. The showmanship naturally heavily impacted the sect masters' hearts.

Tianming had a dragon lifebound beast, which made him perfectly suited to take up the role of the Imperialdragon Princeps and the successor of the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect. Ying Huo, Meow Meow, and Lan Huang had over eight thousand stars in their eyes, while Xian Xian and Yin Chen hadn't reached that level yet.

However, Ying Huo, Meow Meow, and Lan Huang's eyes could be clearly seen. Xian Xian and Yin Chen's couldn't, so those present assumed all five of them were sovereign beasts.

Ten totems, defeating the Northdipper Swordsage, countless dragons roaring in response to one, all sovereign beasts.... Together with his previous miracles, Tianming had sent a strong signal that he was the king the Myriad Solar Sects had been praying for.

He kept his sword and spoke to the sect masters. "I let my lifebound beasts out to let everyone know that, apart from being a decabane, I'm also a beastmaster. And even more so, a dragon beastmaster of the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect. My totems are strong, but my beasts aren't weak either. In fact, they're a critical component in us winning this war!"

The sect masters' blood was boiling. They didn't say it out loud, but their fiery gazes were enough to signal their admiration for the white-haired decabane. His goal would be accomplished as long as they were willing to place their hopes on him.

The hopes and desires of the masses is a double-edged sword. It grants me authority and the rallying power to unify the Myriad Solar Sects, but it's also a weighty pressure. When hope is lost, I'll fall into the

deepest of hells. But that's the path of an emperor, a path of no retreat. If I were scared, this path wouldn't be my choice! Tianming said to himself. Outwardly, he only showed an infectious confidence, conviction, and charm.

The Northdipper Swordsage finally realized he had become a stepping stone to deify Tianming and wasn't sure whether to laugh or cry. The current situation told him he had already lost his chance to be in the running. This wasn't a place where combat power or status decided the winner. He was no match for the hope or rallying power Tianming brought to the table and his only advantage, power, was being caught up to.

Everyone knew the Myriad Solar Sects had to unify. There were two purposes for this assembly today. Firstly, it was to determine a decision maker that would have real authority. Secondly, it was to decide the plan for counter-attacking the celestial orderians.

Anything Tianming announced today would quickly leak to the celestial orderians with over ten thousand people here. Hence, the decision maker's decisions couldn't be announced.

The Saintdragon Emperor stepped forward with a solemn expression. "Presently, the Myriad Solar Sects face a crisis of survival. Unity is imperative. Originally, we had no hope and could only bitterly struggle against destiny. But now, Li Tianming's return has brought us new hope. I've been utterly convinced by his performance. Do not look at him as just a kid. Behind him stands the full support of the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect!

"I nominate Li Tianming as the first alliance leader of our Myriad Solar Sects Alliance. He alone will possess the greatest authority. At the same time, we'll set up an alliance council, formed by the commanders of six of the top ten sects. Li Tianming, Northdipper Swordsage, Ninesun Martial Lord, Frost Empress, Fusheng Gongyi, and Yan Lingxian. The council will make the final decision on war intelligence, troop deployment, and logistics. The Myriad Solar Sects will accept the council. This isn't the time for disloyalty, but a time for trust. Trust is the only path to survival, to seizing back our homeland and dignity!"

It would be very difficult to get all the autonomous small and medium sects to accept unification, future dispatches, and expeditions. That was the difficulty with forming an alliance and why past gatherings had struggled. However, with Tianming's support, the Saintdragon Emperor's words helped the sect masters make their choice.

"Everyone!" Tianming swept every person there with a steely gaze. "You have to bleed on the battlefield to stop those celestial orderians nibbling at us. Every cultivator has to play their part. I can't promise salvation, but I can promise to do my best and to be impartial. We will bleed, while the enemy dies in droves. That's the only way to beat them out of our lands like defeated dogs, just like at the battles of the Myriaddragon Mountains and Azurecloud Continent!"

The Saintdragon Emperor's prestige wasn't as great as Tianming's, whose words caused the sect masters to passionately clap and cheer. Many there had already lost their homes and no longer had anything to care about. When they thought about their deceased family, friends, and children, going on a killing spree would be their first thought, not eking out an existence without dignity!

"The celestial orderians have taken our land, seized our treasures, and slain our families. Today, our sects are fractured while suffering fills our lands. Yet these bandits continue lawlessly and arrogantly doing despicable things. If I don't get vengeance for this enmity, I'll regret it for three lifetimes! I don't really have much skill, but getting revenge... I'm an expert in. If you're willing to join me on my path and unite the myriad sects, together we shall become the enemies' nightmare and let them realize that a debt of blood can only be paid for with blood!"

All of the sect masters subconsciously walked a few steps forward, looking at Tianming with scorching gazes while the Saintdragon Emperor and the rest teared up.

The Myriad Solar Sects had finally let go of their prejudices and united together because of Tianming! This youth had accomplished something that would be impossible for older experts through his miracles and personal charisma.

Even the Northdipper Swordsage, Ninesun Martial Lord, and the rest were excitedly cheering. The new council members all looked at each other and quickly put aside their prior doubts and unease.

It would be easy to deploy the sects, as all the sects and their cultivators had clear stratas, making everything orderly.

Fourth-rate sects generally had over a thousand elites on the level of 'swordpupils', along with tens of thousands of gods.

Third-rate sects would have over ten thousand elites and hundreds of thousands of gods.

Second-rate sects, like the Azuresoul Palace, had a hundred thousand swordpupils and almost ten million gods.

The Xuanyuan Dragon Sect had over a million peak beastmasters, the Ninedragon Army with over thirty million troops, and over a billion gods.

The Ninedragon Army was partly formed of peak beastmasters and partly ordinary gods. The seven million celestial orderians who had perished on the Azurecloud Continent were set up the same. In those seven million, about three hundred thousand were on the level of swordpupils.

Chapter 1787 - Secret Meeting for Alliance Leaders

Tianming had long since memorized the names and origins of every single sect. Next, he needed all of them to report their military forces and where they were stationed at. But before that, he had to deal with the alliance council.

Right now, the second-, third-, and fourth-rate sects all stood by him. However, the fifth-, sixth-, seventh-, eighth-, and ninth-ranked sects hadn't truly fallen under his banner yet. He still needed a deep discussion with Northdipper Swordsage and the rest.

"Please follow me, alliance leaders," he said. He was above them in status, but these were all his seniors based on qualifications. Hence, he still had to be polite with his words.

But if they tried to use their seniority to bully him, he wouldn't be polite.

The reason he had to give the first-rate sects so much importance was that, when added together, they were the equivalent of all the second-rate sects in military power! The Myriad Solar Sects had ninety sects like the Azuresoul Palace. In truth, the Myriad Solar Sects weren't that much weaker than the celestial orderians. The main flaw was in how fragmented they were. Led by the Saintdragon Emperor, the alliance council entered a secret room.

Long Wanying remained outside to help Tianming organize the sects. "Don't worry everyone. The alliance leaders are currently holding a secret discussion so our tactics don't get leaked. When there's a conclusion, perhaps our first alliance leader will come out and give us good news. Please wait expectantly!"

Long Wanying's words grabbed the sect masters' attention. They were filled with patience and waited there. They also cooperated with her to let her know their military power. She had information on all of the sects, so if someone hid things from her, she would get to the bottom of it. The issues she was dealing with were all critical ones.

Long Wanying being in charge meant that the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect already held the leadership position. Tianming had unparalleled rallying power, especially among the third- and fourth-rate sects. The second-rate sects might be more cautious and wait out the results of the council meeting, but their opinions no longer mattered.

History proved that whoever had the hearts of the people could influence history.

Based on the rules the Saintdragon Emperor had set, there were six alliance leaders.

The first alliance leader: Xuanyuan Dragon Sect, Li Tianming.

The second alliance leader: Empyrean Sword Sect, Northdipper Swordsage.

The third alliance leader: Shenwu Dynasty, Ninesun Martial Lord.

The fourth alliance leader: Frostsoul Imperium, Frost Empress.

The fifth alliance leader: Fushen Clan, Fushen Gongyi.

The sixth alliance leader: Group of Celestial Maiden Halls, Yan Lingxian.

The council didn't establish a voting system, which meant that the system would be Tianming making the decisions while the other leaders supported him. He was confident in gaining their trust step by step. Hence, he had to reveal some things today to gain the cooperation of these five first-rate sects!

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In the secret room, the seven people, including the Saintdragon Emperor, were standing in a circle, looking at Tianming at the head. No one else spoke since he hadn't spoken yet.

So far, he had only gotten power through suppressing the Northdipper Swordsage. He hadn't revealed any methods to reverse the dire situation they were in.

“Saintdragon Emperor, announce our next steps.” The Northdipper Swordsage still wasn’t comfortable with asking a young child; hence, he still believed that no matter how incredible Tianming was, the decisions would still be made by the qualified seniors.

The Saintdragon Emperor seriously replied, “I’ll be following whatever Li Tianming says.”

The Northdipper Swordsage and the rest exchanged a look.

“Saintdragon Emperor, Li Tianming is indeed bold and courageous, but he’s also young and inexperienced. It’s enough for him to rally the hearts of the people in the open. The decisions should be made by you,” said the Ninesun Martial Lord, emperor of the Divine Martial Dynasty. He was dressed in black robes, well-built, and over three meters tall. He was the one with the most imperial bearing other than Tianming, as his power was a dynasty, and he led a Divine Martial Army that was as strict and regimented as the celestial orderians’.

The Shenwu royal clan had lifebound beasts called nine-headed shenwu tortoises. They were an evolved form of a xuanwu tortoise, quite similar to Lan Huang, a monster on the battlefield. They had given the Shenwu Cavalry quite a bit of fame.

There were two others present that Tianming wasn’t familiar with other than the Ninesun Martial Lord.

One was the palace master of Frostsoul Imperium, the Frost Empress. She was roughly the same age as the Northdipper Swordsage, making her relatively young among the sect masters from the top ten sects. Her face was covered with a veil and her body let out a chilling cold. Her skin was rather similar to the mysticians, except it was like blue crystals and even more beautiful.

The Frostsoul Imperium was a special case on the sun, a sect constructed in the Frostsoul Sea, which was a special zone on Orderia. Everyone knew Orderia was a giant flaming ball, but the Frostsoul Sea had instead been frozen over for millennia, the extreme opposite of the rest of Orderia’s environment.

It was because Orderia’s nova source wasn’t pure. While fiery nova source was the majority, some of it was frosty. It had all been pushed to one corner and leaked out of the fusion formation to there, becoming the Frostsoul Sea. From space, it looked like a beautiful blue eye on the sun.

Those living in the sea had built the Frostsoul Imperium. They all had strong ice-type lifebound beasts. For now, they were still in relative safety. However, they neighbored the Blueblood Starocean. Those totemancers clearly coveted the thick nova source of the Frostsoul Sea. Thus, the imperium had no choice but to work together with the rest of the Myriad Solar Sects or their future would be in question.

The other was from the eighth power, the Fushen clan. Similar to the wargodeans, they were tied together by the bloodline of those with the surname ‘Fushen’. There weren’t many clan members, but they were of high quality and were beastmasters that used various strange insects.

Their clan patriarch, Fushen Gongyi, was a strange one. His body was covered in thick green robes, his head was covered by a hood, and his face was covered by green mist. The only things visible were his four long and narrow eyes. They were dark green and looked like gazing into a deep abyss. And like the Frost Empress, he was a man of few words.

That could be because the Fushen clan was located in a steep area filled with caverns and deep streams. It was easy to defend and hard to attack, so the Fushen clan had suffered few losses, much like the

Frostsoul Imperium. However, they interestingly also had another lapdog of the celestial orderians nearby. The wargodeans had become the strongest external organization under the celestial orderians after the Veildragon Palace had been lost. Their Warlord and the Tumulus Pill God were eyeing the Fushen clan's territory.

The two territories were probably the rewards the celestial orderians had promised the wargodeans and Blueblood Starocean.

All six sect masters present had no way out. Tianming had to topple the sun emperor to save his godfather and break the curse of the old gods' blood. It was also the path for his ambition to establish an empire on the sun.

The leaders all looked at the Saintdragon Emperor. Their thinking made sense. Strength, talent, and a halo didn't equal deciding rights. When it came to deciding the fate of all life in the Myriad Solar Sects, experience was needed; there was no way Tianming was mature enough.

But the Saintdragon Emperor was staunchly set in his ways. "I'm serious. Tianming will decide. From now on, us old folks can advise, but the one who can create miracles is him."

The Northdipper Swordsage and the rest were speechless.

Chapter 1788 - Precise Hunting

Only Yan Lingxian said, "What age are we in, why are we still labeling people? Who said kids can't see the big picture? In my opinion, we have too much experience. Experience in getting scared shitless by the celestial orderians, that is, so we've lost our boldness and ingenuity. Why not just listen to Li Tianming first?" Her and the Saintdragon Emperor's age were much higher than the other four. They were the Northdipper Swordsage's seniors, already sect masters while the swordsage was still making a name for himself.

The situation wasn't unexpected for Tianming, and he didn't panic. After the Saintdragon Emperor and Yan Lingxian gave him his chance, he frankly said, "Ladies and gentlemen, as I see it, we have two advantages. They can help us replicate the success at Myriaddragon Mountains and Azurecloud Continent. The opponent can't even take one more success of ours, but we're going to be achieving so very, very many more."

These words frightened the five. The Northdipper Swordsage couldn't stop himself from sitting down and saying, "Come, come, come! Share with us these two advantages. I'm all ears. If you convince me, I'll let you boss me around, kid."

Tianming chuckled. "Well, isn't the swordsage enthusiastic? I actually do need your help soon. The most important part of the plan requires the Empyrean Sword Sect."

"Fine, just fart it out already!" Northdipper Swordsage didn't believe it was possible to replicate the successes at the Myriaddragon Mountains and Azurecloud Continent.

The Myriaddragon Mountains was due to the Ninedragon Emperor and a hundred thousand dragon imperials throwing themselves toward death, and the Azurecloud Continent was due to the fury of the Azurecloud Divine Tree.

Tianming wasn't afraid of doubts. He evenly said, "Our first advantage is the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb. Apart from the space taken up by the saplings, we can squeeze fifty million inside. Even one hundred million, if we really pack them in. While the opponent can't use the Divine Sun Palace, the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb's speed and defense are unbeatable. We can quickly deploy reinforcements anywhere, overwhelming the enemy with sheer numbers. I trust this advantage doesn't need explaining?"

Northdipper Swordsage and the rest's faces turned serious.

"It really is an enormous advantage, I agree." The Ninesun Martial Lord was a straightforward person and clapped his hands, giving Tianming support.

"I agree," the Frost Empress said. Her voice was very cold, as if it had been frosted over. White mist came out of her mouth at the same time; it was no wonder she needed to wear a veil.

"I agree, too. The Ninedragon Imperial Tomb is our ultimate weapon, since they can't use the Divine Sun Palace. It'd be perfect if it could attack like the Divine Sun Palace," Fushen Gongyi said with a gloomy voice.

The Northdipper Swordsage could only nod after the three of them had spoken up. "Yes, not bad, the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb is exactly the biggest reason I was alright with you being the first alliance leader."

"Oh just shut up." Yan Lingxian was flabbergasted.

The Northdipper Swordsage shrugged. "The second advantage? I already thought of the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb, so I didn't get a happy shock."

Tianming found the Northdipper Swordsage interesting. He may have been bickering the entire time, but it had only aided him. In the first place, the bickering was born from a desire for the Myriad Solar Sects' survival.

While the Northdipper Swordsage wanted power, he had never forgotten his roots.

The alliance leaders were quite curious about the second advantage, as the later entries in a list would always be more impressive.

Tianming grinned. "Look at this."

Small silver eggs flew out from his lifebound space and began morphing. One moment, they were metallic locusts. Next, they were metal butterflies. The next, they vanished as they had become invisible cockroaches.

"Eh? I've seen these bugs!" Yan Lingxian pinched the air, seizing something. But when she opened her palm, it was empty. However, she could feel an insect crawling on her palm.

"I've seen, and even researched it," Fushen Gongyi said.

Tianming had used Yin Chen to fight before, but this was the first time they had seen the invisible cockroach form.

"What use does it have? Isn't it your lifebound beast?" the Northdipper Swordsage doubtfully asked.

"It is indeed. But it's even more amazing than you imagine, because it has five or six billion clones hidden throughout Orderia. Every body communicates with me in real time and tells me what they see. All of the Myriad Solar Sects' battlefields hold no secret for me anymore, including the convoy routes for the celestial orderian armies. They'll act as my eyes in the coming war, spying everywhere," Tianming said.

"Impossible!" the Northdipper Swordsage laughed. "Do we look like toddlers to you? How could such a ridiculous lifebound beast exist? That exceeds the realm of possibility. I can only say that your imagination is good!"

He turned to Fushen Gongyi. "You're the expert on insect lifebound beasts. Tell me, what's the characteristic of a broodmother lifebound beast?"

"It's just an ordinary insect. All of the intelligence is in the broodmother. Thus, such a lifebound beast is impossible, according to the wisdom gathered by my Fushen clan over millennia," Fushen Gongyi seriously said.

"It's too unbelievable." Even Yan Lingxian shook her head.

Yin Chen wouldn't have been the Myriadworld Immortabeast if it didn't surpass their worldviews; their reactions were normal.

Tianming smiled and continued, "Before the battle of the Myriaddragon Mountains, Senior Northdipper Swordsage, you said to a subordinate, 'That fellow Li Tianming is too incredible. I don't believe it, so I'll definitely examine him when I go to the Myriaddragon Mountains.' I remember he had a birthmark here." Tianming pointed at the side of his face.

The Northdipper Swordsage froze.

Tianming turned to Fushen Gongyi. "Senior Fushen, you went to Nowhere Valley three days before setting off. An illegitimate son of yours is there. He's very talented, so you planned to nurture him in private—"

"Stop right there." Fushen Gongyi was awkward.

The Frost Empress frowned. "You used some method to spy on us? Definitely not the insects."

"How else if not these invisible insects? Even a cultivator of your level would've been noticed by you all." Tianming casually continued, "I know you all won't believe me, so I planned a show today to show off my lifebound beast and let you understand its importance in the war."

"Good! I'm looking forward to it." The Northdipper Swordsage smiled. Actually, his heart was pounding. He wasn't worried because Tianming was so amazing; he was worried this was a fantasy that would let him down. This ability of his beast would be too scary if it existed!

It definitely gave the Myriad Solar Sects hope for survival and was even more important than the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb. The results would be fabulous if they worked together.

"Actually, this show started when the gathering was convened. I got Yin Chen to spread through the sects over the past month, and it rooted out all the scouts of the celestial orderians hidden in the wilderness. Racial characteristics are too eye-catching, so I'm tracking all of them. There were eight

million of them, some strong, some weak. The weakest weren't even gods! My Xuanyuan Dragon Sect has sent out over ten million beastmasters in a precise hunt. It's been two weeks, and all of them have been wiped out!

"The celestial orderian armies will all lose their eyes, while we can watch all of them. They'll still have non-totemancer scouts and inside spies, but I'll root those out next. The extermination of eight million scouts is already a fact. The proof is the eight million heads that the Ninedragon Army are bringing back to the Myriadragon Mountains. But I think you should all be smart enough to know the answer. I wouldn't be here if I didn't have the confidence and was faking it!" Tianming didn't need to emphasize so much, as they could no longer be shocked further.

The Northdipper Swordsage finally realized why Tianming had wanted divine ore mines at the Azurecloud Continent during the battle for the saplings—this lifebound beast could eat ore to clone itself. Monster, monster, monster!

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Outside, Long Wanying announced the extermination of eight million scouts, causing the atmosphere to fill with energy.

Chapter 1789 - Unexpected Visitor

With his current position, there was no way Tianming was joking about bringing back eight million heads. To the various alliance leaders' knowledge, the scouts and spies hidden in the wilderness were the hardest to deal with. They had never heard of anyone ever taking them down in the millennia of Orderia's internal wars.

Although the scouts wouldn't be as strong as regular soldiers, they were experienced, well-trained, familiar with the geography, and good at concealment. These eight million scouts were more valuable to the war effort than ten million soldiers.

The alliance leaders looked at Tianming and the metal cockroaches in their hands with shocked gazes. The metal cockroaches lifted their heads and gazed back at them. Two feelers wiggled, showing how each individual one was so expressive.

The alliance leaders' experience made them more and more shocked the more they mulled over Yin Chen's powers.

"No wonder I lost so badly to you in Azurecloud Continent, you knew every move I was making!" The Northdipper Swordsage angrily stood up and his teeth could be heard gnashing even through his mask.

Tianming could only smile humbly.

They heard cheering from outside, which meant Long Wanying had already released the news. Tianming could tell that he had accomplished all of his goals for the gathering. It had all gone very smoothly with the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb and Yin Chen. The five alliance leaders had all gained faith in Tianming, as well as the willingness to pass the decision-making power to him. All had gone according to plan.

Yan Lingxian said, "I've lived for so long, but this is the first time I've heard of such an incredible beast. Tianming, if your totems proved your peerless talent, this lifebound beast proves your qualifications to

rule the sun. I have absolute trust in you. From now on, the Group of Celestial Maiden Halls, ranked ninth of the Myriad Solar Sects, will follow all of your commands no matter what, even if it's to walk into a sea of fire." Her words showed their judgment of Yin Chen.

"Thank you, Senior Yan!" Tianming nodded.

Fushen Gongyi inhaled deeply before adding, "This is an emperor among insects."

"I have nothing else to say. We'll follow Tianming," the Frost Empress said. "This insect alone can make my Fushen clan blaze with passion and do our best."

The Ninesun Martial Lord was even more blunt. "Child of destiny, you have my trust too, along with that of Shenwu's beastmasters!"

"Thank you seniors, for your trust. This junior will try his best. If any mistakes are made, don't hesitate to scold me," Tianming said.

Quickly, the Northdipper Swordsage was the only senior left.

When everyone looked at him, he shrugged. "What're you looking at me for? What choice do I have when he's at this level? A wise man submits to his fate, so I'll be following this kid. But kid, if you screw up, I'll naturally still trounce you!"

While it was in an amusing manner, Tianming had successfully gained the trust of all the alliance leaders, which was the equivalent of gaining six first-rate powers. "Senior Northdipper, you should know that my lifebound beast needs ore to increase in numbers and strength. The Empyrean Continent is rich in ore veins, so..." he asked.

"It's all yours! Did I actually need to say that? The ones who benefit from more insects are us. My Empyrean Sword Sect is more than willing to contribute to the survival of the Myriad Solar Sects," the Northdipper Swordsage righteously said as he crossed his legs.

The Empyrean Sword Sect was purely composed of sword cultivators and was the originator of the Azuresoul Palace. Their swords needed large quantities of ores. However, the same ores would prove far more useful if given to Yin Chen.

"My Fushen clan may not have many ore veins, but we can also contribute if needed," Fushen Gongyi offered. This four-eyed man in green robes seemed very stand-offish, but Tianming could tell that he really venerated Yin Chen's abilities. It was impossible not to for insect-type beastmasters.

The Shenwu Dynasty, Frost Imperium, and Group of Celestial Maiden Halls made similar declarations.

"Thank you. The ore from six first-rate sects should be enough. Yin Chen's special ability is still a secret for our council. Not many know yet, but all of you are among those I deeply trust. This is our trump card, so we can't let it out. So will it be a problem to ask everyone here not to spread it around?"

"Naturally." They all nodded.

Yin Chen's ability couldn't be announced to the second-, third-, or fourth-rate sects. Tianming had only taken it out to convince the alliance leaders.

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After Yin Chen had taken down eight million scouts, everyone else in the Myriad Solar Sects Alliance, the celestial orderians, and even the Ninedragon Army had no idea how it was done. Leaving them to imagine things only amplified Tianming's mystique. If the enemy prepared for the insects, their effectiveness would greatly fall.

"Let's leave if there's nothing left to discuss," Tianming said.

"Alright."

The six alliance leaders and the Saintdragon Emperor all filed out into the hall at Great Saintdragon Peak. The sect masters there were already expectantly waiting.

A commotion started as soon as Tianming came out. All the credit for the scouts' deaths had gone to him. While they didn't know the how, those scouts had previously made the sects suffer a lot. Not knowing was just good tactics, anyway. Who knew if any of the sect masters were spies?

Knowing the results were good enough.

"Welcome, alliance leader!"

Regardless of whether they were from a first-, second-, third-, or fourth-rate sect, they were all looking at Tianming with passionate and trusting eyes. When he met their gazes, he knew today was a resounding success. He had made many preparations for this. It was especially tiring and dizzying to communicate with Yin Chen for intelligence on eight million scouts. Fortunately, it had been masterfully pulled off.

"Now it doesn't matter even if the enemy dispatches more scouts, because Yin Chen has already taken over the territory. Cleaning them out will be even easier from now on." The whole point of being a scout was hiding. Since they couldn't hide from Yin Chen's eyes, they would be easy to kill.

"Now our Myriad Solar Sects shall be of one heart as we slay our enemies!"

Tianming entered the crowd to socialize. Honestly, these were all his seniors and they all had things they could teach him. When they saw him acting humble and willing to learn, their impression of him grew greater, allowing him to truly become the king of the Myriad Solar Sects.

However, an unexpected visitor suddenly arrived.

Chapter 1790 - The Strange Dreamless Celestial Emperor

Yin Chen hadn't noticed the visitor, as he was alone. However, when he reached the edge of the Aeonix Infinidragon Formation, the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect's people notified Tianming, who was briefly stunned before telling the sects, "Brothers, let's welcome the dreamless celestial emperor!"

The meeting was inevitable. Tianming also wasn't afraid of him while he was on his turf. Still, he hadn't expected this after the lack of response to his invitation. What was he going to do? He was definitely curious about the secrets of the group that he suspected to be divine wonderians, and there definitely weren't any positive feelings.

“The dreamless celestial emperor?”

“Didn’t he not reply? Why’d he come now?”

“Isn’t it awkward for him to arrive after we’ve already decided on the alliance leaders?”

“He must want to be the second alliance leader, which will push down the Northdipper Swordsage.”

“Second? The dreamless celestial emperor has always been the number one figure of the Myriad Solar Sects, so it’s likely that he wants to be the first alliance leader as Li Tianming has less experience due to his age.”

“I don’t want him to be the alliance leader.”

“Neither do I.”

“Honestly, it’ll be great if they want to contribute, since the Dreamless Celestial Nation is strong. However, no one can relax considering their past attitude and performance. It’ll still be the native sects like the Xuanyuan Dragon and Empyrean Sword Sects that’ll stand up when the going gets tough!”

“I remember seeing the historical moment at the battle of the Myriaddragon Mountains when the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect’s hundred thousand ancestors slaughtered their way out.”

Actually, everyone was lifting up the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect while putting down the Dreamless Celestial Nation. They had all practically forgotten that if the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect hadn’t swallowed the Veildragon Palace, the number one ranked sect would still be the Dreamless Celestial Nation and the number one expert would still be the dreamless celestial emperor.

“Outsiders will never have their hearts with us. He’s definitely up to no good.”

A streak of white light descended outside the hall amidst the fervent gossiping and the dreamless celestial emperor appeared like an immortal. Dressed in white robes, he had peerlessly good looks and was surrounded by white mist. All alone, he stepped into the hall.

The sect masters immediately shut their mouths and people clustered around Tianming, forming an invisible resistance against the dreamless celestial emperor.

When the emperor stepped in, he raised his head and his gaze just happened to clash with Tianming’s.

Tianming noted that his attention was fully on his left eye, but the Azure Spirit was missing from it! Although he quickly suppressed it, Tianming still noticed the very minute change the dreamless celestial emperor’s expression went through.

The dreamless celestial emperor walked toward Tianming and pleasantly laughed, “Apologies for arriving late, everyone.” ‘Arriving late’, and not ‘not coming’.

If the Myriad Solar Sects Alliance excluded the Dreamless Celestial Nation despite their power, they might as well serve themselves up to the celestial orderians on a silver platter. Hence, there was no way they would reject the Dreamless Celestial Nation as long as they were willing to join. It had never gone against the Myriad Solar Sects anyway.

The dreamless celestial emperor's words were friendly, but anxiety immediately filled the air. Everyone had thought the dreamless celestials had parted ways with the Myriad Solar Sects when they didn't reply. So now, there was no reason to reject him as he smilingly asked to join the alliance he should have been leading.

Tianming had no choice, even knowing the emperor had ulterior motives.

"The emperor is indeed late. We were just regretting that the Dreamless Celestial Nation had abandoned us. We could only establish an alliance first, which we've just completed," the Northdipper Swordsage mildly said.

"Apologies, I was caught up with some matters. Regardless, my Dreamless Celestial Nation is ranked second on the myriad sect ranking. It's our duty to resist the celestial orderians and fight alongside the Myriad Solar Sects." The dreamless celestial emperor smiled. If they were rejected, it would just create cause for them to join the celestial orderians instead. Hence, their faction was a huge variable.

Tianming could only generously reply, "Then on behalf of the Myriad Solar Sects Alliance, I welcome the dreamless celestial emperor and the Dreamless Celestial Nation." At least that would make the sect masters more comfortable.

"Offering my feeble strength for the Myriad Solar Sects' survival is what I should do," the dreamless celestial emperor replied. He spoke every sentence with a gentle smile, giving others a sense of comfort.

Many had their prejudice disappear when they saw how good his attitude was. After all, the Dreamless Celestial Nation was different from the wargodeans. They had at least fought the celestial orderians before. If they pushed this massive power to the other side, that would just be suicidal.

"Since the dreamless celestial emperor is here, our alliance leaders should increase by one. I wonder what number the dreamless celestial emperor hopes to be?" Yan Lingxian asked. She was experienced, so she knew that was important. Number whatever leader didn't exactly matter, since the decision-making rights lay with Tianming, but it was still symbolic. Otherwise, the people of Dreamless Celestial Nation wouldn't be happy. Hence, it was critical to know whether the dreamless celestial emperor wanted to seize power from the white-haired youth.

Everyone was waiting for his answer. Actually, they had all already acknowledged Tianming.

The dreamless celestial emperor suddenly laughed, "It's fine, alliance leader is just an empty title. I'm happy as long as I can contribute."

The words were popular, as the conflict everyone had been worrying about hadn't happened. The alliance getting stronger was a good thing, and the dreamless celestial emperor not fighting for the top position was even better.

"I think the dreamless celestial emperor should be the second alliance leader."

"Yes!"

"The seven alliance leaders all deserve our respect. The Saintdragon Emperor too."

"Very good."

Many sect masters had changed their opinion of the dreamless celestial emperor. However, Tianming and the other alliance leaders knew things weren't so simple.