

## The Ages 61

### Chapter 61 - And I Wish You To Die Heirless!

Sadly, he would never get an answer to that what-if. Three years on, she now stood with the Lightning Manor, supporting her opponent with the countless other spectators in the stadium.

She had appeared without any fuss, looking at Li Tianming as if he was a stranger. It was as if the young man had never left a mark in her life. From the very start, she had been inside the Lightning Manor's room, taking in everything that had happened so far. Only when he was about to battle with Lin Xiaoxiao did she walk out to stand beside Lin Xiaoxiao, supporting her lover's younger sister.

Their arrival in Ignispolis, their struggle to survive in this big city... everything seemed like just yesterday when all that happened. But now, she had adapted to this land, surpassing her contemporaries here.

Li Tianming had no desire to mourn for their ruined relationship. Nor did he want to cover that burning hatred in his heart. He could handle her betrayal, but he would never forget the cruel murder of Midas at her — and Lin Xiaoting's — hands!

His eyes blazed with anger. The mere sight of her had torn open the wound in Li Tianming's heart. Personal emotions shouldn't affect his upcoming battle with Lin Xiaoxiao, but just seeing her standing beside Mu Qingqing was enough to rile him up.

Of course, everyone in the stadium knew the story, but it was the version that she and Lin Xiaoting had made up together. In this story, Li Tianming was but a laughingstock, a disgrace of a disciple. Now that their paths had crossed again, especially under the public eye, things were bound to get interesting.

"Long time no see, Li Tianming," she said gently as her sight landed on him. Surprise flickered through his face as she initiated the conversation — according to her script, he should be the detestable, immoral brute.

"It's been some time," Li Tianming replied.

"I have never imagined that you could reach this step." Her words were emotionless, neutral.

"Disappointed?" Li Tianming said coolly.

"No. I'm happy you have turned over a new leaf and found your direction in life again. Remember to not make any more mistakes."

"Thank you for your advice. I'll make sure not to make mistakes next time," Li Tianming replied. What 'mistake' meant to both of them, however, varied vastly. For him, it meant his meeting and saving of her, back when they first met. But he wasn't ever going to say it.

"Then, I wish you all the best for your future," Mu Qingqing said.

"And I wish you to die heirless."

How could Li Tianming not understand her intention to act benevolent in front of the public? Evidently, Mu Qingqing herself was too absorbed with that story she co-authored with Lin Xiaoting.

There was no point tearing off her mask since no one would believe a word he said. But his wish for her die heirless was genuine. Since Mu Qingqing and Lin Xiaoting were together, it was as good as wishing for the Lightning Manor to end in their generation!

Anyone could hear the aggressiveness in their conversation. Mu Qingqing was a magnanimous girl, who didn't just forgive Li Tianming, but also wished him all the best. In contrast, Li Tianming had started alright, but the vicious curse at the end was enough to shock everyone. In everyone's eyes, this was living proof that leopards never changed their spots.

"Getting you to start afresh and forget the past seems impossible after all." Mu Qingqing shook her head regretfully and sighed.

"Big sis Qingqing, don't bother yourself with this kind of person. He doesn't know how to be grateful for your forgiveness, and he probably still hates you for executing his lifebound beast." Lin Xiaoxiao was generally a good-natured girl, but even she couldn't control her temper.

"Hm." Mu Qingqing smiled at her and held her hand. The hint of disappointment in her eyes was so realistic, Li Tianming would have given her a prize for her acting.

"Challenge me, Li Tianming! Scum like you have no place in the institute, let alone Heaven's Sanctum. No one here will even support you!" Lin Xiaoxiao pointed at the largest arena.

No one will support him? But he never needed it in the first place. His mother was sitting in the audience, and wasn't that enough? He also had Chief Mentor Mu Wan, which was another huge plus!

At that moment, Wei Zikun announced, "The final battle for the prime disciple position will hereby commence!"

The announcement tossed the stadium into applause and cheers once again. But before the fight could commence, something unexpected happened. Two girls walked out of one of the private rooms and approached the arena. Their appearance riled up the crowd, and Li Tianming's jaws dropped in disbelief!

"Look, it's the sixth princess Jiang Qingluan, and the Vermilion Bird Emperor's goddaughter, Princess Ling!"

"It's no wonder why they call her the number one beauty of Vermilion Bird. Her beauty is otherworldly."

"She's always giving off this unique, fairy-like aura that makes even Princess Qing look mundane when placed beside her."

"That's right, 'goddess' is the only suitable word to describe her."

"You can't say that. If the Sixth Princess was by herself, she would be a looker too."

Li Tianming's mind went blank for the briefest of moments. He knew that Jiang Feiling and Princess Qing were in Ignispolis, that they belonged to the Vermilion Bird Clan, but their appearance here was... unexpected.

They must have been with King Xuan previously.

Li Tianming looked up to see the two of them. He only found out today that Princess Qing was the Sixth Princess, Jiang Qingluan. She was quite a sensation in Heaven's Sanctum, having gotten in there with the emperor's help without even having to attend the entrance exam. Even on the Heavenly Leaderboard, the sanctum's internal ranking, her name was ranked among the very top.

Having not seen them in a few days, Li Tianming missed the way Jiang Feiling stood out in the crowd. It was like she could make him forget all his worries and focus just on her, befitting her nickname of 'goddess'.

"Number one beauty of Vermilion Bird, huh?" Li Tianming smiled. It was a suitable title. Mu Qingqing wasn't a serious contender for that title, now that he'd seen both princesses. He recalled how he thought Princess Qing was Jiang Feiling's maid — Mu Qingqing must have felt that way when she stood beside Jiang Feiling.

Jiang Feiling was just charming in all aspects, be it appearance, aura or elegance. It was a charm that transcended gender. As an illustration, Mu Wan, whose eyes were glowing right now, was currently whispering in Li Tianming's ears, "Even I would want that Princess Ling."

"Errrrr..." Li Tianming didn't expect his chief mentor to be so open-minded.

"Look at them walking towards the arena, do they want a better look at the battle?"

"Or are they going up to support Lin Xiaoxiao?"

## **Chapter 62 - Celestial Wings**

Even though they were still a distance apart, Li Tianming's eyes caught Jiang Feiling's.

"Big brother Tianming." Her cry was soft as she trotted towards Li Tianming, dragging Jiang Qingluan along. The crowd automatically cleared a path for the pair as they approached the arena.

"Who was Princess Ling calling?"

"I didn't hear clearly..."

"Why did I hear 'Li Tianming'?"

"Bro, you deaf? How would these two even know each other?"

"Yeah, the difference between shit and silver's smaller."

And yet, for all their denials, Jiang Feiling had stopped in front of Li Tianming, a brilliant smile on her face. "Big brother Tianming, I watched your performance just now, they were really amazing! I can't believe you really came to Ignispolis."

"Ling'er, I've told you to stay away from this farmer. Haven't you heard what he did three years ago? So what if this bastard can accomplish something today?" Princess Qing rolled her eyes.

"Don't say that. I can see for myself what kind of a person he is. His heart is pure — he would never do such a thing," Jiang Feiling replied, simply because she trusted her judgement. She was a special girl, and had her own ways of interpreting the world around her.

“Here we go again.” Jiang Qingluan slapped her forehead, but there was nothing she could do.

She glared at Li Tianming, “Farmer, now that you are in Ignispolis and had finally found us, it’s about time you give me back my jade pendant.”

The stage was dead silent other than the three of them — everyone was listening to their conversation with bated breath.

“Must I?” Li Tianming asked.

“Obviously.”

“What a pity, I just don’t want to return it.”

Jiang Qingluan gritted her teeth. “Ling’er, now that you have seen this man, can we leave now? He’s about to become an embarrassment.” She pursed her lips, acutely aware of the audience’s gawking.

“No, you can go first. I want to try my newly awakened ability with Brother Tianming. And I want to support his battle,” Jiang Feiling immediately replied.

“You...” Jiang Qingluan was speechless. Jiang Feiling was in fact not a patient person, and would never hold back once she made her decision.

“Hurry up then. This guy has a trashy reputation. Being together with him will put you under public scrutiny too.” Jiang Qingluan threw another glare at Li Tianming. No matter how she saw it, Li Tianming looked like the evil one deceiving innocent girls.

“Don’t accuse him, big brother is a clean person.” Jiang Feiling’s eyes were firmer than ever.

“Whatever, just hurry.” Jiang Qingluan knew there was no way she could stop Ling’er. As such, Jiang Feiling finally had the chance to talk to Li Tianming without being interrupted.

“Big brother, after I returned to Ignispolis, another of the abilities in my nails was unsealed. Other than Spiritual Attachment and Temporal Field, I learnt a third ability,” Jiang Feiling said eagerly. The last time they met, she promised that she would try her newly awakened abilities with Li Tianming.

“Care to show me?” Li Tianming was totally aware of the audience staring at them, but he couldn’t care less. Right now, this world belonged to them and them alone.

“The ability is somewhat like Spiritual Attachment, and requires me to attach to big brother’s body too.” Jiang Feiling said with anticipation.

Spiritual Attachment had allowed her to fuse into his body and give a mystical power to his beast ki. The effects were capable of boosting Li Tianming’s strength by almost an entire level. What would the new ability do? Li Tianming looked forward to it just as much.

As for the spectators, some were confused, while others were irked. Li Tianming just smirked, enjoying their reactions. The two princesses had stunned everyone who had looked down on him. Everyone thought of him to be just a beggar, but why was this beggar so close with the princesses? And was he actually teasing that Princess Qing...

But before they could express their annoyance, the events that followed transcended their imagination.

“Big brother, ready?”

“Naturally.” Li Tianming opened his arms wide, looking as if he was about to embrace Princess Ling.

Although Princess Ling was picked up by the Vermilion Bird King and was therefore not his bloodline descendent, she had been treated like a real daughter, even given a prestigious position in the royal clan. She had no lifebound beasts and no means to cultivate, but it was said that she possessed the power to make Princess Qing stronger.

The audience blanched right after Li Tianming finished his words. Jiang Feiling’s body had broke apart into millions of sparkles, gathering around Li Tianming’s body and his back in particular to form something.

Boom!

With a brilliant radiance, a pair of blinding white wings had appeared on Li Tianming’s back. The wings were woven by the sparkles, which were tightly packed together.

As the wings spread wide, Li Tianming took to the air with a single flap like a flying beast. Like a fledgling flying for the first time, he mucked around in mid-air for a few moments, before landing catastrophically.

It was quite a fast demonstration, and as Li Tianming landed, the sparkles regathered in front of Li Tianming to form back into Jiang Feiling. Part of the radiance remained on her body, making her look even more like a fairy.

“Big brother, look at that! The Celestial Wings had complete synchronization too!” Elated by the results, Jiang Feiling wanted to hug Li Tianming. Common sense, however, informed her that there were too many people, and it was with some reluctance that she hugged Jiang Qingluan instead.

“Qing’er, Qing’er, did you see that? Big brother is incredible, he fully synchronised with the Celestial Wings too! Did you see the speed at which he was flying?”

“Oh. Oh.” Jiang Qingluan could feel her head aching. How could she not be jealous of Li Tianming? Unfortunately, she could only close her eyes and swallow this bitter farmer pill.

Jiang Feiling, on the other hand, was overjoyed. She had gotten the results that she wanted. Li Tianming and her were practically made for each other.

This was within Jiang Qingluan’s expectations as well, but she could only curse at Li Tianming in her mind. Ever since they met at Red Twill Mountain, all of Jiang Feiling’s other skills showed signs of awakening. It wouldn’t be that bad if he was a prince charming, but the notorious farmer, Li Tianming, was worlds away from that.

My head hurts... Pursing her lips, she said, “Ling’er, you got what you wanted, can we go now?”

“No, I still want to support big brother’s battle,” Jiang Feiling said hopefully. “Big brother, Qing’er is a disciple of the sanctum and both of us live there. If you become the prime disciple today, you can come and visit us more often!”

**Chapter 63 - Blow Enough Hot Air To Blow Away Ignispolis!**

“Sure, then I have to become the prime disciple for Ling’er’s sake.” Li Tianming puffed up his chest.

“I believe you,” Jiang Feiling said sweetly.

Jiang Qingluan snorted. “Believe what? In your ability to brag? If you, a farmer, does somehow become the prime disciple, I won’t stop you from meeting Ling’er anymore.”

“Really?” Li Tianming said excitedly.

“‘If’ being the operative word.”

Li Tianming chuckled. “Alright, watch and learn.”

“Hmph, we’ll see.” Before tens of thousands of people, the grand Princess Qing deigned to spit on the ground to show her contempt.

The current Li Tianming was definitely very eye-catching. People couldn’t help but wonder how he was so close to Princess Ling, even winning her fancy to boot.

Li Tianming had noticed it too. Jiang Feiling had chosen this moment of all times to meet him and even show him the Celestial Wings. Was it possible she was trying to help him with her identity as a princess, when he was being cursed by many?

Everyone could see her adorable behaviour in front of Li Tianming. Who would call him a joke after this?

“If that’s how it is, she really is too kind.” Li Tianming felt a long-lost warmth in his chest.

His impression of Jiang Feiling wasn’t one of an impatient girl. It wouldn’t have been difficult for her to approach him after the fight was over. In fact, they could meet anytime in Flameyellow Scions Institute. For her to choose now was a sign of how considerate she was.

Li Tianming suddenly realised that this truly pure-hearted girl had already found a place in his heart, one that had been empty for three years.

It wasn’t just a gaping emptiness. It was filled with wounds from when Mu Qingqing had taken his heart and shattered it into pieces. However, today, this girl had picked those pieces up and filled it with sweetness. Perhaps one day, it would heal whole again. ‘Moved’ wasn’t enough to describe his feelings now. He picked up many seemingly tiny details, from her saying he was a good person to believing he could do what he claimed. Such a person was capable of overturning the distaste towards ‘love’, a conviction Li Tianming had held for three years. Before this, Mu Qingqing and Li Yanfeng had made him consider it to be one of the filthiest things in the world.

Li Tianming was actually underestimating the positive ripples caused by Jiang Feiling’s appearance.

Some of his critics had been shocked into silence, unable to understand how he was even able to get along with two princesses so well. It was like a toad becoming friends with a swan, simply inconceivable.

Some others, who had a greater understanding of Jiang Feiling, had completely different feelings when they heard ‘Celestial Wings’ and ‘complete synchronisation’.

“From what I know, the Vermilion Bird King once said Princess Ling is a miracle. Although she can’t become a beastmaster, she has certain special abilities sealed in her. When all are unlocked, there will

be great benefits for those around her. Currently, the person most compatible with her is Princess Qing, who was born on the same day as her. They have a grade six synchronisation, and as for others? Not even grade four." Lin Xiaoxiao looked enviously at her when Jiang Feiling appeared, before speaking about her to Mu Qingqing.

"She really is quite mysterious. She's a child the king picked up that was supposedly abandoned at birth. Everything about her really can be a miracle, which is why it's unfathomable Li Tianming can reach a complete synchronisation with her," Lin Xiaoxiao continued, but Mu Qingqing didn't respond.

"Big sister Qingqing, do you know how this came to be? You used to know him. Was there anything special about him?" Lin Xiaoxiao asked.

"Err..." Mu Qingqing finally snapped out of her daze, before she hurriedly responded, "I don't really know. We could only barely count as acquaintances three years ago."

"I see." Lin Xiaoxiao nodded.

"Li Tianming and Lin Xiaoxiao, it's time! Hurry up!" Wei Zikun's voice caused the area to heat up again. Everyone was waiting for the final battle, and even two princesses could only delay it so much.

"Big brother, you have me and Qing'er's support! Win and become prime disciple!"

Li Tianming smiled. "Definitely. I'll definitely send her home crying."

Jiang Qingluan rolled her eyes. "Blowing hot air again? Be careful not to blow Ignispolis away."

"Remember, you won't stop me from becoming friends with Ling'er if I win."

"Har har."

And with this, Li Tianming gained half a supporter, Jiang Qingluan.

He stepped onto the stage and prepared for battle. Lin Xiaoxiao stood in front of him, annoyance and doubt written on her face.

"Li Tianming, you've been an eyesore to me for quite a while. I detest shameless people like you who still dare to show your face after committing evil the most! I'll teach you a lesson today and make you apologise sincerely to big sister Qingqing!" Li Tianming's curse of Mu Qingqing being childless had infuriated her.

"Little miss, you actually aren't scared of me! I'm a big bad wolf who always carries drugs on me. Do you have a boyfriend to come out and save you at the critical moment though?" Li Tianming said, much to the shock of everyone present. He actually dared to mention it in public?

"Let's see if you're willing to have your lifebound beast sentenced to death again, then," Lin Xiaoxiao replied quietly, a calm fury brewing in her. Riling her up was no mean feat, but this person, who had committed wrongs yet still acted in such a way, had done it anyway.

## **Chapter 64 - A Fifteen-Year-Old Girl Genius!**

"Execute my lifebound beast? That's ok, I have backups!" Li Tianming smiled.

"Wow, Li Tianming, and I took you as a brother!" The little chick nearly fell off his shoulder from the shock.

"Lifebound beasts are like brothers and sisters to me. Yet, you can actually utter such words. Whoever becomes your lifebound beast is unlucky through and through!" Lin Xiaoxiao's face turned even redder in her anger.

"What can I do? I can only blame my charm for making so many lifebound beasts line up to follow me!"

"You really are incorrigible. I've never met someone as shameless as you before!" Lin Xiaoxiao returned fire.

"That's just because you lack social skills. If not, you would know that the world is just filled with shameless people. Who knows, one of them might even be right next to you?"

"Acting mysterious!" Lin Xiaoxiao looked anyway, but only Mu Qingqing was next to her now, which only served to infuriate her further.

"Enough, enough! Begin the fight!" Wei Zikun was forced to step in as the argument heated up. This was the fight to become the prime disciple, not to resolve their personal grudges. Their argument would never end, so they might as well cross blades to decide who was right.

"I've been waiting for this." Lin Xiaoxiao gritted her teeth. However, due to her youth, her red face and gritted teeth gave her an adorable look instead.

Lin Xiaoxiao nodded to Mu Qingqing, reassuring her that she would definitely teach Li Tianming a lesson.

She jumped onto the largest stage and jabbed a finger at Li Tianming. "The lesson I teach you today will be a very painful one."

Li Tianming's mouth twitched. "How scary. You're so shrew-like at such a young age. What kind of childhood did you have?"

Lin Xiaoxiao's anger turned into a frigid chill, and she stopped speaking. Martial might would do it for her.

She had been evaluated to have 950 points after a few random battles, just shy of a perfect score on the rating system. She definitely wasn't one to underestimate.

When they both stepped onto the stage, the long-awaited battle would start.

Who would be the prime disciple would be decided soon!

To Li Tianming, Mu Qingqing being so close to watch was just perfect. He still didn't have the chance to make her pay, but at least he could make her see clearly from nearby, and tell her that not killing him three years ago was her greatest mistake.

Only Li Tianming could see in her eyes the absolute contempt she had for him.

Perhaps, in her heart, she regarded twin beastmasters as unrivaled, and both Lin siblings fell in that category. Furthermore, the fifteen year old Lin Xiaoxiao was more worthy to be the prime disciple than the disciple who was nearly overaged.



As Li Tianming glanced at Mu Qingqing, Lin Xiaoxiao's two lifebound beasts appeared.

The violent Vajra Berserk Ape appeared by her side, the juxtaposition of a little pretty girl and a huge beast creating quite the visual impact.

The Tri-Coloured Darkthunder Bird fluttered above her, its eyes locked onto the little chick, killing intent concealed within them. It was the animosity between avian lifebound beasts.

"Twin beastmasters really are the darlings of fate!"

"Lin Xiaoxiao really is a cut above her peers. Li Shufan didn't even get to resist earlier on."

"It was the same with Lin Xiaoting four years ago. Who can stand up to two lifebound beasts? Those siblings are incredible."

"I foresee a bright future for the Lightning Manor in the coming decades."

Many top powerhouses gave Lin Xiaoxiao high evaluations.

In terms of performance, she was actually better than Lin Xiaoting in the past. As long as she defeated Li Tianming, the 'overaged disciple', what followed would be the brilliant prospects of Heaven's Sanctum!

With both lifebound beasts now out, Li Tianming and the little chick just looked inferior from every angle. Twin beastmasters had incredible advantages — numerical superiority and double beast ki, something Li Tianming lacked.

Lin Xiaoxiao, who had entered a combat state, no longer seemed like a young girl but a hardened veteran. Her path here was paved with bodies and violence, the difference between Chen Yao and her. Lightning Manor prized the martial spirit, and even the Lightning Seigneur's granddaughter had to grow through battle.

The Vajra Berserk Ape roared, stomping its foot three times before charging at Li Tianming in a golden blur.

The high-tier lightning and berserker-type lifebound beast was the primary combat force on Lin Xiaoxiao's side. However, that didn't mean the Tri-Coloured Darkthunder Bird could be ignored either. The threat of it swooping down to deliver a mortal blow existed at any moment.

The might of these two beasts gave everyone certain expectations. Whether it was ability or talent, the fifteen year old genius Lin Xiaoxiao was indeed more suitable to bear the title of prime disciple than Li Tianming and represent the institute.

As the ape entered battle, its figure swelled up and its power increased. Exceptional melee combat skills was a characteristic of berserk-type beasts. And yet, it was actually Lin Xiaoxiao who presented the most danger right now, because two grade four bestial weapons had appeared in her hands.

One was a golden bow with lightning snaking around it, the other a purple arrow. People in the know would recognise them as the Roaring Thunder Bow and Luminous Lightning Arrow.

The bow would use yang-type lightning to unleash explosive power, while the arrow infused the arrows with the power of yin-type lightning. The mutual augmentation of yin and yang granted great power.

Like lightning, the Luminous Lightning Arrow could pierce an unlucky victim's heart in a single instant, only to be recovered by the bow moments later.

Lin Xiaoxiao immediately notched the arrow before pulling it to a full draw.

Everyone knew Li Tianming was finished. Li Shufan had lost this way too, to an arrow that had lodged itself in his thigh. If she was aiming for a mortal blow, Li Tianming likely couldn't avoid it.

"Brother, scared?" Li Tianming asked the little chick conversationally.

"Scared? Psshhawww, I was born to fight one on two!" Ying Huo said disdainfully.

"Big talk." Li Tianming raised an eyebrow.

It was at that moment the ape finally arrived, its sharp claws aimed at Li Tianming's face. The bird chose this moment to dive down as well, but a streak of purple was the first to close the distance.

Before the twang of the bow could arrive, the arrow itself had already arrived at Li Tianming's chest!

### **Chapter 65 - Electric Twined Shot!**

Lin Xiaoxiao's Electric Twined Shot was an intermediate source-ranked battle art. Its power was formidable on its own, and it would be further boosted when used together with the Roaring Thunder Bow and the Luminous Lightning Arrow. This was precisely why Lin Xiaoxiao was famous for this killer move of hers!

Lin Xiaoxiao was smart. She had the Vajra Berserk Ape, a melee-ranged berserker-type beast to confront the enemy up front, while the Tri-Coloured Darkthunder Bird would distract the enemy with flanks and sudden attacks. Because of that, she could use ranged weapons like a bow to safely deal damage from a distance. The arrow was deadly to a tee, and if it wasn't because she detested perverts like Li Tianming, she wouldn't have aimed at his chest.

Like lightning, the killing flash streaked towards Li Tianming. The sheer speed of the Luminous Lightning Arrow was sufficient to elicit compliments from the onlookers. It was clear that Lin Xiaoxiao was far stronger than Li Shufan or Chen Yao, and she could probably even defeat opponents of the fourth level Spiritsource. Facing such a terrifying opponent, no one would be surprised if Li Tianming was defeated immediately.

A sharp screech pierced through the stadium, and Li Tianming skidded backwards, having taken the blow head on.

"Is he dead?" It wasn't that hard to imagine Li Tianming getting pierced through the heart and dying in that one shot.

"Not yet!"

But an incredible sight greeted them. The Luminous Lightning Arrow had been blocked by Li Tianming, the deadly projectile clutched in his left hand!

In fact, he had reacted calmly, reaching out and catching the arrow without any fluster. Even though the impact of the arrow had knocked him back, the arrow didn't even get to touch his torso.

“No way!” Lin Xiaoxiao was stunned by that result. She was clear of the speed and power behind that shot, and catching that would qualify as a miracle. On top of that, the arrow was covered with spikes, and anyone other than her who attempted to even hold it would have his or her palm ripped open by those thorns.

But she didn’t know that Li Tianming’s left hand was invulnerable. Those spikes on her vaunted arrow were useless against it.

She wasn’t alone in asking that, however. Even some of the strongest cultivators in the stadium had the same query as Lin Xiaoxiao. How did he catch that arrow bare handed?

“Come back!” Using the Roaring Thunder Bow, Lin Xiaoxiao guided the arrow back towards her. Yin and yang-type lightning were opposites that attract, and she used that particular property to pull the arrow back to her.

The power from the attraction was almost about to pull the arrow out of Li Tianming’s hands. But what she didn’t expect was that Li Tianming had grabbed on tight to the arrow, lifting his feet off the ground.

The Luminous Lightning Arrow zipped back to her, dragging a stray Li Tianming along with it. The speed of the returning arrow even allowed him to dodge the bird and the ape’s attack!

Having realised that their targets were escaping from them, the two lifebound beasts turned back to chase Li Tianming.

“You go deal with that bird,” said Li Tianming.

The little chick raised an eyebrow. “You sure you can fight the two of them?”

“Watch.” Li Tianming tossed it out into the air, so as to let it take on the bird for him. Life would be much easier for him when he didn’t have to worry about attacks from above.

Li Tianming had his eyes on Lin Xiaoxiao. The Vajra Berserk Ape was fast, golden bolts running through its furs. But when Li Tianming used the Confounding Mirage Walk, he could easily confuse the ape.

“Return me my arrow!” Lin Xiaoxiao was clearly unhappy, her still chubby face blushing red with anger.

“Here you go.” Li Tianming was quite close to the girl already, as he held the Luminous Lightning Arrow with both hands and exerted force using his left. The arrow was pretty thin, and he wanted to test how strong a grade four bestial weapon was.

With a crack that tugged at one’s heartstrings, the Luminous Lightning Arrow snapped into two on the spot!

What kind of monstrous strength did it take to break a grade four weapon with his bare-hands? Sure, the arrow was pretty thin, but that didn’t make this feat any less astounding.

At that sight, Lin Xiaoxiao’s eyes teared up, ready to fall anytime.

“This was a birthday gift from my elder brother!” If her feelings towards Li Tianming just now was just aversion, it had changed completely to hatred. It was her beloved weapon, and Li Tianming had returned it to her in two pieces.

“Don’t cry, I’ll get you another one next time.” Li Tianming could feel his eye twitching. The girl had started crying in the middle of such an intense battle, and he had no idea what to do about it.

“It’s not the same.” Lin Xiaoxiao wiped her tears. She knew that Li Tianming had no idea how important that Luminous Lightning Arrow was to her, but the biting chill in her eyes intensified anyway.

For those who knew Lin Xiaoxiao better, they recognised her enraged stance at once. This was a prelude to her foes’ nightmare.

“Hoo boy, Li Tianming touched Xiaoxiao’s reverse scale. He’s doomed for sure.”

“Xiaoxiao generally doesn’t injure others too much, but this time, that’s not gonna be the case.”

While the discussion carried on in the Stadium, the Vajra Berserk Ape and the Tri-Coloured Darkthunder Bird had both sensed their master’s fury. The bird was battling the little chick, while the ape was still looking for every opportunity to pounce onto Li Tianming. The ape’s berserker strength would devastate him utterly, should it land a direct hit.

“Li Tianming must still be proud to break the arrow. If he thought Xiaoxiao only knew archery, then he would make a costly mistake.”

“That’s right, as compared to bow and arrows, Xiaoxiao is actually stronger in terms of melee combat. Don’t forget that she has the berserker strength of her Vajra Berserk Ape as well.”

As the audience spoke, Lin Xiaoxiao produced a new bestial weapon. It was a battleaxe that contradicted the aesthetics her image and size created. The battleaxe was gigantic and imposing, its bluish purple body like a dragon with electricity flowing across its body. It was the Voltaic Dragon Battleaxe! It was one of the standard weapons in the Lightning Manor, a hand-me-down from her brother. It was with this battleaxe that he conquered the talents of his time during the ranking test and became the prime disciple. And now, it was in Lin Xiaoxiao’s hands.

Although there was something incongruous about a huge battleaxe being used by a petite girl, no one would be stupid enough to doubt her right and her ability to wield it. Furthermore, by her side was the Vajra Berserk Ape.

Every second was critical in combat, and the two flying beasts were having their own battle in mid-air, unable to provide any aerial support. On the ground, Lin Xiaoxiao and her ape had leaped up at the same time, the two of them closing in on Li Tianming.

“Lin Xiaoxiao knows an advanced source-rank battle art known as the Sky-Ripping Three Strikes, and both her lifebound beasts could use the bestial counterpart too. Li Tianming can’t possibly deal with that.”

As expected, the tiny Lin Xiaoxiao leaped through the air with the gigantic battleaxe, striking from above! Powered by her formidable beast ki, the battleaxe tore through the air, drawing a downwards trajectory towards Li Tianming!

The Vajra Berserk Ape with the Sky-tearing Three Claws was equally scary. Li Tianming was unaware, but the beast had already used its spirit-source ability, the Vajra Stance. It made the ape’s fur and muscles stronger than steel, rendering it practically indestructible to normal methods.

Against the two foes, Li Tianming had only the Thunderfire Chain, a miserable grade three weapon nowhere as threatening as the Voltaic Dragon Battleaxe. But Li Tianming was calm as the sea. His fighting spirit burned stronger than ever, especially since Mu Qingqing was spectating his battle. If he admitted defeat today, how could he gather his will to face even stronger opponents? To become the prime disciple was only a means to an end, and Li Tianming's real goal for returning to Ignispolis was to take revenge and take back what he had lost! He had already met Mu Qingqing today, and he was finally back on the same playing field as his archenemies, even more qualified than he was three years ago. Vengeance... was it still far away?

He had already prepared himself for Lin Xiaoxiao's attacks. Other than the Aeternal Infernal Beast Ki from his infernal source, Li Tianming had many other trump cards, like the black arm or the Bewildering Eye on his palm.

After some trial and error, he found that the Bewildering Eye was way more effective on lifebound beasts or wildbeasts. This was because beasts usually had weaker mental defences, as compared to beastmasters.

The Vajra Berserk Ape was already in front of Li Tianming, while Lin Xiaoxiao was still in mid-air, having just leapt from her original position.

To be fair, her moves were clean, but that wasn't enough to win her the battle!

"Can the Vajra Berserk Ape take on my seduction?" Li Tianming grinned. The Bewildering Eye might be a dirty trick, but it was just too useful!

As the ape's claw was about to reach Li Tianming, his left palm suddenly opened up. The ape was greeted by a creepy red eye in the center of his palm. Activated by his beast ki, the effects of the Bewildering Eye struck the ape. Having spent time to master the technique, the results showed immediately.

With a roar, the Vajra Berserk Ape almost stopped in its tracks, its attack dissolving instantly due to its lack of focus.

"Don't you move!" The next moment, the Thunderfire Chain wound around the ape, and its neck in particular.

"Come here!" With a mighty heave, Li Tianming pulled the Vajra Berserk Ape's colossal body towards his position.

This had all happened in a single second, and Lin Xiaoxiao had no idea why her ape would freeze up on the spot, allowing itself to be hit by the chain. Before she could react, Li Tianming had already jerked the body of the ape between the two of them!

All this time, she was still in mid-air, and it was too late for her to change the course of her attack. Her target had changed from Li Tianming to her own lifebound beast!

The Voltaic Dragon Battleaxe was a powerful weapon, but its drawback was its inflexibility. Once she had launched an attack, it would be difficult to change course, and attempting to do that could even harm herself in the process. But Lin Xiaoxiao had no choice. She had yet to master the berserker style of battling completely, and could only try her best to divert the direction of her battleaxe.

“Despicable!” She had no wherewithal to speak, however, and her scream never came out fully. Despite her best efforts, the Voltaic Dragon Battleaxe still landed a direct hit on the ape’s back. Even while it was in Vajra Stance, the strike still managed to tear open a bloody gash on its body!

The ape roared loudly in pain as blood spurted out from the wound, painting its golden fur a bloody red. Had Lin Xiaoxiao not tried to control the force of the axe, it would have been decapitated.

### **Chapter 66 - And Now, Here I Stand Matchless!**

Because she had tried to reduce the impact of the battleaxe, Lin Xiaoxiao herself sustained injuries from the backlash of retracting her beast ki.

“Grr!” Her inwards shuddered and twisted, and a small fountain of blood erupted from her mouth.

“How did he even do that?” Lin Xiaoxiao’s face paled with shock. However, she was in no position to figure that out, as Li Tianming’s Thunderfire Chain was still wrapped around the Vajra Berserk Ape’s neck. Furthermore, the Vajra Berserk Ape was weakened by Lin Xiaoxiao’s attack, and this was the perfect opportunity for Li Tianming to counterattack!

Making sure that the chain was tightly bound to the ape, Li Tianming’s next move horrified the entire stadium. With a swing of his arm, he sent the ape, which was a few times bigger than him, flying into the air and then crashing back into the ground, repeating the process with a vicious grin on his face.

“Fly! How do you like that, ha!” Minor earthquakes rocked the stadium, and within moments, the ape had slammed into the ground three times, struggling to pull the chain off its neck the whole time!

The ape would spin in mid-air, before gravity and Li Tianming’s strength worked together to slam it back down, over and over, creating sonorous thumps everything this happened. It was a terrifying sight to behold.

The Vajra Berserk Ape was enraged, but it couldn’t make a noise. Its face was paler than paper, given that the chain was about to strangle it any moment.

This was made possible because of Li Tianming’s mastery of the chain. Compared to weapons like the Voltaic Dragon Battleaxe, the Thunderfire Chain was as nimble as a snake, allowing Li Tianming to strike at every single weak point of his opponent.

But he had underestimated the beast as well. As it made contact with the ground a third time, a frightening golden bolt erupted from the ape’s body. The bolt quickly traveled through its torso and onto the chain, threatening to electrocute Li Tianming a moment later. It was its spirit source ability, the Golden Flux! The sheer strength of this move — enough to put Li Tianming out of commission — was evident, and Li Tianming hurriedly released his chain right before the bolt could hit him.

As for the Vajra Berserk Ape, the Golden Flux clearly took all the strength it had left. Right after letting out the bolt, the ape collapsed completely, clearly on the brink of death. Not only had it suffered considerable blood loss, a good handful of its bones were broken after being swung around by Li Tianming. It was evident that the Vajra Berserk Ape was out of this battle!

Li Tianming’s action was astonishing, as he had not only blocked Lin Xiaoxiao’s Sky-Ripping Three Strikes, but also made her injure both the ape and herself. That was enough to turn the tides of the battle.

At the same time, the battle of the two flying beasts had reached a climax too! The Tri-Coloured Darkthunder Bird's Sky-Ripping Three Claws were on par with the little chick's Netherfire Ghostclaw, and it wasn't about to lose out in speed too.

However, when it used its spirit-source ability, Fusion Wave, to launch a tri-coloured lightning bolt at the little chick, it was greeted with a smirk.

"Wanna compare your ability with mine?" Ying Huo grinned, as it opened its mouth to spew out a blazing phoenix!

The Infernal Blaze charged towards the bird, vaporizing the Fusion Wave in its way and crashed directly onto the Tri-Coloured Darkthunder Bird!

Ying Huo laughed. "Burn, you stupid bird!"

The bird screeched as it fell from the sky, engulfed in flame. Its intention was to extinguish the fire by rolling on the floor, but it didn't know that the Infernal Blaze would burn on forever. Without the little chick's mercy, it had but one fate — a fiery death.

All of these happened simultaneously as the ape collapsed. Lin Xiaoxiao could only gasp at her two lifebound beasts, one gravely injured and the other spazzing out from the burn.

"LI TIANMING!" Lin Xiaoxiao's face paled even further, knowing that she was at her wits' end. But she was a warrior of the Lightning Manor, and there was no way she would concede here. Once again, she picked up her Voltaic Dragon Battleaxe and charged at Li Tianming and the little chick, without any help from her lifebound beasts.

"That's it, just admit defeat now. Don't let your lifebound beast suffer," Li Tianming called out. If this persisted, the Tri-Coloured Darkthunder Bird would burn to death. Such was the terror of the little chick's ability.

Lin Xiaoxiao was never his foe to begin with. All Li Tianming needed was the victory, and he didn't need the girl to pay any price for the crimes that her brother had committed. Three years ago, she was but a twelve year old girl, uninvolved in the incident. She had done well today, even struggling to fight till the end. Looking at the Tri-Coloured Darkthunder Bird being tortured by the Infernal Blaze, Li Tianming thought of Midas. That had hit a soft spot in his heart.

"No! I shall not lose, not to someone like you!" Lin Xiaoxiao stared at him, eyes bloodshot as she dashed towards Li Tianming.

Clang! Li Tianming's Thunderfire Chain was swifter than her battleaxe.

"Too young, too naive." He knew that Lin Xiaoxiao had gone hysterical, and with her injuries, she wasn't much of a threat. Therefore, his chain shot at the Voltaic Dragon Battleaxe and tore it out of her hands. With a swing, the battleaxe was sent flying out of the arena, landing directly in front of Mu Qingqing! As it slammed into the ground, the faint vibration from the impact even caused Mu Qingqing's hair to flutter.

Having lost her weapon, Lin Xiaoxiao could only face the reality that she could not fight any longer. Looking at her lifebound beasts, their injuries brought tears to her eyes.

“I concede.” Her voice was feeble and coarse, as she glared at Li Tianming with teary eyes.

“Should have done that earlier. Ying Huo, spare her lifebound beast,” Li Tianming said to the little chick.

“Don’t worry, it wouldn’t die. At most it’ll be bald for a few months.” The little chick sucked the Infernal Blaze back into its stomach. By then, however, the pretty Tri-Coloured Darkthunder Bird was charred all over. Even if it was prettied up later, it was still going to be featherless for some time.

The fight to become the prime disciple was over! There was a clear winner, since one of them had both her lifebound beasts injured and she herself had conceded defeat. The expected winner — Lin Xiaoxiao — had lost, causing the whole stadium to fall into a deathly silence. Most of the audience stared mindlessly at Li Tianming and the little chick, who was still strutting around and bragging. Within the Lightning Manor’s private room, Lin Tianjian, Li Yanfeng and Liu Qing were all dumbfounded. And in the Xing & Chen Merchantry’s room, Madam Xue Lan was gritting her teeth.

They could be annoyed at him, some even angry about his victory, but now? They could only swallow those sentiments!

“Ha, who are you all looking down on now!” Li Tianming thought. At this moment, he was the star of the stadium!

“I don’t dislike Lin Xiaoxiao, but there’s just so many things I can prove by defeating her! Mu Qingqing, Madam Xue Lan, and Ignispolis! Watch me, for I am back!”

This victory had significant value for Li Tianming, as he was no longer just the laughing stock from three years ago, but also the prime disciple of Flameyellow Scions Institute! It was an identity that couldn’t be ignored, since every single one of the past prime disciples turned out to be the elites of Vermilion Bird!

That was just what Li Tianming needed for now. For now, his name will be known by the entire nation, not just because of his past, but also because he was the best disciple in these four years! But Li Tianming wasn’t going to be full of himself, and neither had he forgotten his purpose. He knew that this was just a beginning, and ultimately he would show the world who were the scumbags three years ago!

He surveyed the audience, most of which were wearing faces of disappointment and disapproval. It was only natural that most people didn’t support him as the prime disciple. Someone who was overaged and had a stained record just wasn’t worthy of such a prestigious position. Most of the youths his age, such as Chen Hao, Xing Que, Mu Qingqing and Lin Xiaoting had all entered even higher levels, and Li Tianming was but an above average teenager compared to them.

Yet, this overaged teenager could make it into Heaven’s Sanctum and enjoy the resources and treatment reserved for the prime disciple! Clearly, the system had its own flaws. But rules were rules, and Li Tianming had topped the test fair and square. No matter how many people might find Lin Xiaoxiao to be a more suitable candidate, they couldn’t alter the result.

For Li Tianming, there was something even more important. That was his mother’s pride and joy. He knew that he had done Wei Jing proud with his performance today, and Wei Jing could easily be the happiest person in the stadium right now. And the happier she was, the sulkier Xue Lan would be. Just thinking of Xue Lan’s stinking face made Li Tianming grin.



Most importantly, Mu Qingqing had witnessed the entire battle in close proximity. She was fully confident in Lin Xiaoxiao, as she thought the siblings were at levels that Li Tianming could never dream of touching. But now that Li Tianming had made his comeback and easily crushed Lin Xiaoxiao, could Mu Qingqing still stare at him with that indifferent manner?

Of course not. Li Tianming caught the look on her face momentarily, and it was an expression of dismay. Her slender fingers gripped on to the side of her dress, and the shade in her eyes reminded him of that fateful night three years ago. But this time, it was mixed with a tinge of disbelief and fear. She didn't worry about Li Tianming's current strength, but he would no doubt be a factor of instability in that peaceful life of hers.

Seeing that look on Mu Qingqing's face, Li Tianming smiled in relief. If he could, he would tell her personally, "This is just the beginning, and I will have plenty of time to deal with you!"

Three years ago, they tore Midas' feathers off, one after another. And now, Li Tianming would shred them up piece by piece, be it their body or their soul!

"Midas, just a while more. Just give me some more time, and I will let you rest in peace. I will send you off with their blood!" Li Tianming could feel his urge for vengeance burning stronger than ever.

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The result of the battle was justified, and the five hall overseers could also only accept that result. For the Hall of Phoenix's overseer, Wei Zikun, to have the prime disciple come from his hall was an honour in itself.

"As everyone has seen, the result may be surprising, but there is no doubt to it. Therefore, on behalf of the Flameyellow Scions Institute, I congratulate Li Tianming on being the prime disciple for this year's ranking test. At the same time, you are now officially a disciple of Heaven's Sanctum, and you will be continuing your cultivation there." With Wei Zikun's announcement, Li Tianming's victory had been made official.

From there, there were still a few more battles to adjust a few minor details. But since the prime disciple had already been decided, not many paid attention to the rest of the battles. The quadrennial ranking test was nearing its end.

Lin Xiaoxiao didn't have time to sulk over her loss. She hurriedly returned her two lifebound beasts back to her lifebound space, where they would rest and gradually heal up.

"Big sis Qingqing..." She was still in disbelief, unable to accept her defeat. It was something that she had never felt before, and she could only seek Mu Qingqing's comfort. But when she looked up, she saw that the way her sister Qingqing looked at Li Tianming was no longer as calm as it used to be.

"Xiaoxiao." Only after a while did she notice Lin Xiaoxiao, and she pulled the young girl over to pat her on the back. "Don't worry. With the Lightning Manor and your brother, you will end up in Heaven's Sanctum anyway. It's just a matter of time. This battle says nothing of your cultivation level, considering that he has a five year advantage over you."

"I know, but to lose to him..." Lin Xiaoxiao felt like she was useless. She promised to help Mu Qingqing teach Li Tianming a lesson, but it ended up being the exact opposite.

“Xiaoxiao, there are more important people worth your attention. Even if he defeated you today, he’s not worthy of being your opponent in the future. You need to cast your gaze higher,” Mu Qingqing consoled her.

But Mu Qingqing herself didn’t even believe what her own words. Her fingers were still grabbed on to the tip of her dress, and red marks had formed on her hand from her tight grip. Mu Qingqing couldn’t see it for herself, but even the veins of her eyes were swollen with blood.

## **Chapter 67 - Wash Your Neck!**

No one could possibly know what was going on in Mu Qingqing’s mind and just how much she wanted to just kill Li Tianming right now. The Voltaic Dragon Battleaxe that flew to her was by no means a coincidence, but a declaration of war from Li Tianming.

“I get it now, big sis Qingqing. He may have defeated me today, but one day I will be so strong he won’t even be able to challenge me.” Lin Xiaoxiao finally found her confidence.

“I will look forward to that day.”

Just as Lin Xiaoxiao was talking to Mu Qingqing, she saw that annoying person walking towards them. He was already the prime disciple, so what else did he want with her? To rub his victory in her face?

Lin Xiaoxiao realised that it was not she who Li Tianming was looking for, as he was staring into Mu Qingqing’s face with a complex expression.

It has been three years since he last got this close to Mu Qingqing. She had become more mature, more charming.

“What are you here for? There’s nothing to brag about for beating a kid five years younger than you,” Mu Qingqing said.

“Of course not. I’m just here to see if you will still congratulate me like how you did just now,” replied Li Tianming. She destroyed his life, and then said she was happy that he managed to pick himself back up again? If this also worked, then Li Tianming would love to ‘be happy for her’ too.

Mu Qingqing could of course understand the hidden meanings behind what he had just said.

“Do you not know any shame? Big sis Qingqing is kind enough to forgive you for what you have done, and yet you come here to annoy her like a fly! If my brother wasn’t in seclusion, you would have gotten your comeuppance.” Lin Xiaoxiao was the first to flare up. She didn’t know the truth, and therefore, she wouldn’t understand their thoughts either.

“Don’t get me wrong, I have turned over a new leaf and I’m here to make friends with Qingqing. I just want to ask which part of Heaven’s Sanctum do you live in, so next time I can go and say hi.” Li Tianming was smiling, but his eyes suggested otherwise.

“Better not. I can forgive you, but that doesn’t mean I want to have anything to do with you.” Mu Qingqing’s reply was calm, but it had taken all her strength to contain her murderous intent.

“I see, what a shame. I thought I could still compete with Lin Xiaoting,” Li Tianming laughed.

“Quit dreaming, you are not worthy!” Lin Xiaoxiao felt like she was going mad. Just how could someone be this shameless!

“Just leave us alone. Li Tianming, I hope you know what you are doing. I don’t think people like you can ever change, so you better not go around ruining your life again.” Mu Qingqing was getting uncomfortable with the way Li Tianming was staring at her. It was as if he could read into her mind, and see the things that she wished to hide from the rest of the world.

“Qingqing, I will remember what you’ve said.”

“Please don’t address me like we are friends.” Mu Qingqing could not tolerate him any longer. It would do her no good to keep talking to this man, but then again, it was her own fault for acting all forgiving towards him in the first place.

“Hmm and how would you like me to address you? How about... Bloodflower?” Li Tianming tossed out the phrase at the most unexpected moment!

Bloodflower! The instant he said the phrase, he could see Mu Qingqing’s pupils dilating. It was a natural reaction for someone who felt guilty!

He knew her well enough, and now he could confirm that the assassin sent to him the night before the ranking battles was hired by Mu Qingqing! Everything made sense now.

Li Tianming did not continue the conversation, and just stood there, smiling placidly at Mu Qingqing. As for Mu Qingqing, she knew that he had figured it out.

Upon hearing the news of his return, she instantly hired an assassin that nearly took Li Tianming and his mother’s life! Was she heartless? Perhaps sinister? It was more like a mixture of both! She betrayed Li Tianming three years ago, leading to the death of Midas whom he treated like his brother, and now she called a hit on him without hesitation!

If it wasn’t for Xue Lan, Li Tianming would have suspected her long ago. But after this conversation, he had come to a conclusion — this cold-blooded woman was the one behind the assassination!

Mu Qingqing knew that Li Tianming had gotten what he wanted, and she didn’t intend to waste any more time with him either. Pursing her lips, she turned to Lin Xiaoxiao. “Let’s go, he’s disappointed me enough.”

“Alright, be gone with you, Li Tianming. Don’t ever let me see you again!” Lin Xiaoxiao hissed.

“Bye bye, remember to wash your neck.” As the two turned around, Li Tianming said one last line.

Wash your neck? What was he going to do, execute her? Mu Qingqing stopped her steps for a moment as his parting words entered her ear, her body quivering for the smallest of moments.

“Take care of yourself.” That was the last thing Mu Qingqing said to him, and she no longer used that magnanimous tone that she had earlier. Her tone was now cold, threatening.

It was her warning to Li Tianming. So what if he knew who hired the Bloodflower Chamber? With her current wealth and power, she could easily wipe a peasant out of existence with no one the wiser. She

had the Lightning Manor to back her up now, while Li Tianming was no different from three years ago, with no background and no power.

With that said, the two of them both knew that the war between them had officially started. From there on, one of them will eventually get the other killed.

“Big brother.” Just then, Li Tianming could hear a cheerful chirping from behind his back. The voice was almost magical, relieving Li Tianming of his hatred and cleansing his soul. While he would never forget his revenge, he wouldn’t be engulfed in it to the point of ignoring the other, better things in life.

Li Tianming turned around to find Jiang Feiling standing behind him. In fact, the moment he saw her innocent and flawless complexion, he instantly put Mu Qingqing behind. Perhaps many would claim that Mu Qingqing was as beautiful as a white lotus flower, and that few can compare with her in terms of appearances. But when placed beside Jiang Feiling, she no longer looked that flawless.

Inside Li Tianming’s heart, Mu Qingqing was like a vial of venom, poisoning him 24 hours a day, while Jiang Feiling was like the sweetest honey, soothing his pain and even acting as an antidote to that poison.

“Ling’er.” Li Tianming smiled. It was a hearty smile, unlike the cold-blooded sneer that he had been showing Mu Qingqing.

“Congrats on becoming the prime disciple! This is the address where Qing’er and I live in Heaven’s Sanctum, once you move in do come by and visit us.” Jiang Feiling put a wrinkly piece of paper on his hand, on which there was a line written elegantly.

Li Tianming carefully kept the slip in his pocket. “Definitely.”

“Big brother has really done well today,” Jiang Feiling praised him.

“It’s totally because Ling’er is here to support me, that I have the courage to triumph over my opponents,” Li Tianming claimed seriously.

“Blargh!” The little chick fanned itself with its wings, as if it was puking from Li Tianming’s acting.

“Big brother Ying Huo did really well too, that fire phoenix was really pretty.” Jiang Feiling smiled.

“Really? Cause if you want, I will breathe fire for you anyday, darling.” The little chick was suddenly all lively again.

“Oh shut it, will you?” Li Tianming forcefully muted the little chick by grabbing on to its beaks. The way Ying Huo tried to struggle out of his hand made Jiang Feiling giggle non-stop.

“Big brother, there’s something I would like you to know.” After she was done giggling, she looked at Li Tianming earnestly, her eyes as clear as crystal.

“I’m listening.” Li Tianming nodded.

Jiang Feiling lowered her head slightly. “I’m well aware of what happened three years ago, the thing that happened between you and them.”

“Does Ling’er despise me for what I have done?” Li Tianming asked.

“Not that.” She shook her head, “I believe my eyes and my own judgement. When I was attached to big brother, I could listen to your heartbeat, and hear the voice inside your heart.”

“I could even see the secret that you have hidden with you for these three years. I could see them bullying you.” Before Jiang Feiling could even finish her sentence, there were tears swelling up in her eyes.

Lightning seemed to strike Li Tianming as he stared at Jiang Feiling, flabbergasted. It has been three years. For the first time, other than his own mother, someone had cried for Li Tianming, for the suffering that he had gone through. As her tear dripped onto the ground, he could also feel it rinsing the pain in his heart and nourishing his soul.

There was only one thing Li Tianming had to say. He wanted to thank the gods, to praise the heavens, for letting a girl like this appear in his life. Even if the relationship between them didn't turn out to be love and they were only friends, Li Tianming would be happy enough. Other than Wei Jing and his new lifebound beasts, he thought he would never find anyone else in the world who would shed a tear for him. The sound in his heart was not the sound of heartbreak, but the sound of it healing from all the pain he had gone through. From the moment he met her, he thought that there was something special about this girl. It was as if he expected her to be part of her life, even if they had only met for a short period of time. It even felt like she had already accompanied him for millions of years before this.

“Big brother, can I give you a hug?” She suddenly raised her head and looked at Li Tianming with teary eyes.

### **Chapter 68 - Three Days Later To Heaven's Sanctum!**

Li Tianming never knew that Jiang Feiling had seen so much from that one attachment. That explained why she was so friendly towards him, even making use of her identity as a princess to support and encourage him when he arrived in Ignispolis. She had seen what happened for herself, and that was way clearer than having Li Tianming explain it to her verbally. As a result, she had suddenly become the person that knew him the best.

“Let me listen to your heartbeat, and that voice from your heart,” she whispered.

“Mm.” Li Tianming opened up his arms.

He wasn't going to care about what the others thought. Whether the masses viewed him as shameless, dishonourable or anything else had no bearing on him. From young, his mother had taught him to follow his own beliefs. If he had to please everyone for everything he had done, he would have long died from sheer exhaustion.

As such, when he felt the shock and the warmth that this girl had brought to him, he would give up the whole world just to have her in his arms.

Li Tianming embraced Jiang Feiling. Just like what she claimed, she laid her ears on Li Tianming's chest, and listened to his heartbeat. A while later, she smiled, “Big brother, your heart was raging just now , but it's calmed down and sounds much better now.”

“That's because you soothed it.” Li Tianming smiled.

“Huh, you sure made harassing Ling’er in public sound pretty. Do you think everyone in the stadium is blind?” Unfortunately, an irritated chirping just had to disturb the ambience now.

“Don’t say that, stupid Ying Huo.” Jiang Feiling’s cheeks blushed like a peach. She slowly withdrew herself from Li Tianming’s embrace, but her eyes remained fixated on him.

That could only suggest that she cared less about the audience’ opinions than he did. Her world right now only contained the two of them.

“No, no, not like this. Look at that ugly fool of a beastmaster, and look at the handsome, fantastic me. How can a pretty girl like you possibly choose him over me?” The little chick howled in disbelief.

“Ying Huo, despite your little size, your skin is sure thicker than an elephant.” Li Tianming sneered.

The hug was over, but it was a sensation he would never forget. If only it could last forever...

The only flaw was that he coincidentally made eye contact with Mu Qingqing. As Mu Qingqing turned her head one last time before leaving the arena, she saw Li Tianming and that legendary beauty of Vermilion Bird hugging together. On top of that, Jiang Feiling was leaning against his chest, clearly enjoying it.

Mu Qingqing could feel her eyes on the verge of popping out and smashing into the floor. Li Tianming didn’t need to see it to know how irked she was. She was always one who liked to compare, and ended up choosing Lin Xiaoting over Li Tianming. But now, if she was to compare herself with Jiang Feiling, it was clear that she paled in both looks and position. And yet, Princess Ling was hugging the Li Tianming that she had personally destroyed and abandoned, in front of hundreds of thousands of spectators. What would the world think of their relationship?

No matter how she looked at it, Li Tianming was more successful than her at the moment. The impact of defeating Lin Xiaoxiao and becoming the prime disciple was incomparable to hugging Princess Ling in the middle of the stadium. People could still say that he had won the battle using his age advantage, but how would they explain his relationship with Princess Ling? Obviously no one had a clue, and could only look on in shock.

As Mu Qingqing’s eyes met Li Tianming’s, he grinned and made a puking motion. Immediately after, Li Tianming turned around to face Jiang Feiling with the brightest smile he had, and completely ignored Mu Qingqing.

His meaning was clear: You disgust me!

This was but the beginning. Her debts to him were far from being paid, and Li Tianming will hunt her down for that!

Mu Qingqing and Lin Xiaoxiao left the stadium without another word, while the audience continued to watch Li Tianming with a variety of emotions. For example, Fang Zhao was now wishing for a hole to appear beside him, so he could jump into it and never come out again.

As for the rest of the disciples, their feelings turned from abhorrence to envy. They couldn’t understand why Princess Ling would be so close to scumbags like him, but there was nothing they could do but curse in their mind. After all, none of them were qualified to judge the princess’s actions.

Even from within the private rooms, many sighed from disbelief or envy. Li Tianming had shocked them all today. Furthermore, the two youngsters were still chatting atop the arena, as Li Tianming joked with Princess Ling and she giggled along.

“Ling’er, you must be mad!” Just then, a blue figure zoomed up the arena and inserted herself in between the two. She was none other than the fuming Princess Qing.

She stared at Jiang Feiling. “You must be crazy, letting the farmer do this to you in front of the public!”

“But I liked it.” Jiang Feiling smiled, her expression making it impossible to be angry at her.

“Hey, do you remember your promise to me, Princess Qing? Don’t tell me you are going to break your promise,” Li Tianming said.

“Shut up, pervert! Scram!” Princess Qing snapped.

“Surely a princess wouldn’t back off from her promise, right?” Li Tianming taunted.

“Alright, Qing’er, calm down. We shall leave first, big brother, do remember to find us in Heaven’s Sanctum.” Jiang Feiling grabbed on to Jiang Qingluan to stop her from raging.

“I will break your leg if you dare to!” Princess Qing warned.

“Ha.” Li Tianming was too lazy to waste his time with her. A promise was a promise, and she had agreed to them meeting personally.

“Look at you, it’s not like you are equipped with the right tool to marry Ling’er. What good does it do to you to split up these two lovebirds?” The little chick rolled its eyes.

“Shut up! I shall not let this notorious hooligan harm Ling’er’s reputation.” Princess Qing glared at them as she dragged a helpless Jiang Feiling along with her off the stage. But as they left, Jiang Feiling managed to throw a wink at Li Tianming. He believed that she would find ways to deal with Qing’er, considering that they were closer than real sisters.

As they left, Li Tianming was summoned by Wei Zikun.

“Li Tianming, you have three days to rest, after which I will bring you into Heaven’s Sanctum. To become a member of the sanctum, you will have to follow a ‘supernal mentor’. Make use of these few days to ask Mu Wan about the different mentors there.”

“Yes, hall overseer.” With that, Li Tianming left the arena, as there were still other battles taking place.

Heaven’s Sanctum was the heart and the sacred place of the institute, and it worked in a very different way as compared to the institute. In the institute, the disciples joined classes led by chief mentors, and generally they would graduate after twelve years of cultivation. From there, they would leave the institute and serve the nation.

But one simply doesn’t graduate from Heaven’s Sanctum. It was the core structure of the entire Flameyellow Scions Institute, and technically all the chief mentors were part of it. Within Heaven’s Sanctum, those in charge of guiding the disciples were known as the supernal mentors. They were

stronger than the chief mentors, and had greater responsibilities. A supernal mentor's position could easily surpass that of a governor's, and each of them was well-known in Vermilion Bird.

Inside the sanctum, supernal mentors would personally accept and guide their disciples. In fact, each supernal mentor had less than ten disciples. Therefore, one of the most important aspects to cultivating in the sanctum was to pick a supernal mentor that was suitable. Each mentor had a different personality, different teaching style, and even the type of their lifebound beast would make a significant difference.

"Usually the prime disciple will be highly sought after by the supernal mentors once they enter the sanctum. But your case is a little... different. You are much older, and not exactly talented. You better keep a low-profile once you get in, and make sure you don't piss off any of the mentors there. If not, you better be ready to come back to my Muwan class and remain a joke there." Mu Wan suddenly popped up from a corner, and explained to Li Tianming.

"For real?" Li Tianming didn't know whether to laugh or to cry. Even after working this hard to become the prime disciple, he still had the risk of not being able to make it into the sanctum.

But he found the rules understandable. Since the supernal mentors would pick their disciples directly, they would never pick those that they didn't see potential in. Otherwise, it would be their own reputations at stake. If Lin Xiaoxiao was the prime disciple, they would probably fight over her, since real talents like her were bound to have a bright future.

In short, it boiled down to how he appealed to the supernal mentors three days later.

"Chief mentor, how do you feel about me beating Chen Yao and Lin Xiaoxiao?" Li Tianming asked, remembering how she said there was no way he could win.

"That was to encourage you to perform better, you must learn to appreciate how much your chief mentor loves you." Mu Wan pouted, but that was just a lie. She was just as shocked as the rest of the audience, having realised that Li Tianming was a changed man.

"And exactly how much is that?" The little chick interrupted.

## **Chapter 69 - The Treasure of My Life!**

"Hmmm, interested in finding out?" Mu Wan answered the little chick's question with a sinister smile. Terrified, Ying Huo jumped back into Li Tianming's lap.

"What do you know about the supernal mentors? Any target in mind right now?" Mu Wan turned to ask Li Tianming.

"Not as for now. I don't know anyone there."

Mu Wan threw him a wink. "Hmm, how about you come to my room tonight, and I'll tell you all about it."

"Chief mentor, surely it's not appropriate if the two of us meet in your room at night, right?" Li Tianming asked cautiously.



“Of course it’s appropriate. Plus, I’m really interested in what’s so special about you that can make even that Princess Ling hug you.” Mu Wan tilted her head. Li Tianming knew that wasn’t a good sign.

“Don’t worry, I’m not gonna eat you.” She smiled dubiously, casting another layer of suspicion on her.

“Chief mentor, I have to send my mother back home first and spend some time with her. Do you mind if I find you the night after...” Li Tianming asked sheepishly. He had to meet Mu Wan at least once, and there was no escape from this...

“Sure, I can take my time with you.” Mu Wan continued to tease him.

That being said, Li Tianming wasn’t going to fall for that. He wasn’t narcissistic enough to think that the goddess of the Hall of Phoenix, the woman that even the overseer sought, would be charmed by him. Chances were that if he ended up believing what Mu Wan said, he would only be bullied even harder.

.....

All in all, the test was over, with him achieving everything that he could possibly desire. Li Tianming was brimming with joy, and of course the first thing he thought of was to share the moment with his mother!

Li Tianming parted with Chief Mentor Mu Wan, heading towards the spectator stands. There were still a few battles going on, but the audience was on the verge of leaving.

Finally, he saw her. Dusk was at hand, with the setting sun dyeing her pale white hair a brilliant orange. The light also made the wrinkles on her face more obvious, but that didn’t hide the bright, blissful smile on her face.

“Mother!” Li Tianming bounced towards her, embracing his mother and spinning her around in his excitement.

The little chick joined in. “I want to hug mom too!”

“Haha...” Wei Jing held Li Tianming shakily with one hand, Ying Huo with the other. She was smiling, but visible tears were forming at the corners of her eyes.

“Mother, it’s ok for you to be touched by my performance, but there’s no need to cry,” said Li Tianming.

“Who told you I was about to cry?” Wei Jing was a little embarrassed.

“Well given your son’s outstanding results, it’s perfectly normal for you to be so touched to the point of shedding tears of joy,” Li Tianming bragged.

“And what makes you think I’m touched? In fact, I’m very disappointed in you right now,” Wei Jing rebutted with a straight face.

“What? What else could I have done better today?” asked Li Tianming.

“I’m not talking about the test, I’m talking about Princess Ling. Tell me, since when did you find such a good girl without me knowing?”

"It's not confirmed yet, things are just getting started." Li Tianming didn't know whether he should laugh or to cry about that.

"Really? You better keep me updated if there's any progress." In the end, Wei Jing still wasn't able to control her tears.

Li Tianming smiled. "Definitely. I will bring her to you one day."

"That's more like it." Wei Jing cheered up instantly.

"Mom, forget about this blockhead who has zero ideas on how to pick up girls. You'll be better off expecting a grandson from me soon." The little chick chuckled, making the little family laugh even harder.

Just then, a very different group happened to walk past, a callback to how both parties had crossed paths at the start of the ranking test. It was none other than Xue Lan's group, which had quite a number of people there. Other than Xing Que, Chen Hao and Chen Yao, Madam Yuan Yu of the Xing Mansion was accompanying them too.

Xue Lan and Yuan Yu were leading the group with sullen faces, and no one made a sound. Their mood only worsened when they saw Wei Jing and Li Tianming laughing at one side. Xue Lan's face twitched violently, almost shaking off the layer of make-up powder that she used. Not only had Li Tianming defeated Chen Yao to become the prime disciple, he was even unnaturally close with Princess Ling. That was enough to suggest his superiority over those two sons of hers. Simply thinking of how she was now eating her words made her fume.

As they walked past, the two disciples of Heaven's Sanctum, Chen Hao and Xing Que, stopped in their tracks and glared at Li Tianming.

Chen Yao gritted his teeth. "Brothers, take revenge for me. I want him to beg for mercy at my feet."

"That's bound to happen once he enters the sanctum. He is the same age as us, and his age advantage will disappear completely there. That's when we can slowly deal with him," said Chen Hao.

"Rest assured, younger brother, that scum only got to where he is today by bullying those younger than him. Once he enters the sanctum, he'll definitely be the weakest."

"Mother, let me have a moment with them," Chen Hao suddenly said.

"What for?"

"Sit back and watch." Chen Hao glanced at Xing Que, and the two of them approached Li Tianming.

"Li Tianming." Chen Hao stopped in front of Li Tianming, his posture hinting out that he was the true elite of their batch.

"What do you want?"

"Just asking, is this your mother?" Chen Hao smiled, only to be greeted by Li Tianming's frown.

Chen Hao snickered. "Seems like it, though she looks way more like your grandma."

"If you have nothing else to say, please get lost." Li Tianming glanced behind him, his eyes fixating on how those two ladies were watching.

"No, no, I have good stuff for you actually. Do you know where block 187 of the Ignihills Street is?" Chen Hao asked.

Li Tianming was silent.

"You will find a coffin shop owned by Xing & Chen Merchantry there. I think your mother needs one soon, so I decided to gift you one to congratulate you on your victory today. Once you get there, just mention your name and they will bring out the best coffin they have there. After all, you won't want to end up dumping her body on the street, right?" As he finished, he and Xing Que began to laugh. Even Xue Lan smirked at the joke, dispelling that sullen mood she had.

"How could you say such a thing?" Auntie Li mumbled, displeased with what he had said.

"Shut up, lowly servant." Xing Que flared up immediately, aiming a slap at her.

Pah!

Thankfully, Li Tianming was fast enough to block that slap with his left arm, or it would have easily killed Auntie Li. Xing Que was near the peak of Spiritsource, and he was far stronger than Li Tianming. Even if Xing Que had not used much of his strength, Li Tianming had to back off a few steps after taking the hit with his black arm. He could even feel pain travelling up his shoulder.

What Li Tianming didn't know was that Xing Que was in fact far more surprised than he was. Hitting Li Tianming's arm was like slapping a chunk of steel, and even his own palm was smarting from that.

"Chen Hao, Xing Que, let's go." Madam Xue Lan held her head up like an arrogant rooster.

"More surprises will await you in the sanctum once you get there. You will soon find out that making enemies with the Xing and Chen clans is the worst mistake you will ever make." With one last threat, the brothers turned around to leave.

Li Tianming remained silent. There was no point arguing with them, and his mother did not want to have anything to do with those people either. Time would prove the real victor. If he could crush Chen Yao today, then it wouldn't be long before he could catch up with those of his age. Mu Qingqing, Chen Hao, Xing Que and even Lin Xiaoting were all his targets.

"Mother, don't waste your time on them," Li Tianming said. It was quite a lowly move from their side, insulting Wei Jing on her strange illness.

"I'm not angry, I'm just sad that so much has changed. Not many things could withstand the test of time." Wei Jing sighed. The Lan'er that she knew and loved and the Madam Xue Lan of today were already two completely different people.

Auntie Li sighed. "Madam is right. We average citizens have it much worse, and life has been tough for me too."

"Thank you for all that you have done for us," said Wei Jing.

“Don’t worry, we are all in the same boat now. It’s difficult for people like me to just stay alive, and I’m lucky enough to meet madam and young master.” Auntie Li said sincerely, “I pray that young master makes a name for himself, and madam lives a long and prosperous life. Surely the heavens will reward kind people like you.”

She herself was very aware that she had nearly died just now.

Li Tianming took Wei Jing onto his back. It was time for them to leave the stadium too.

“Mother, now that I have gotten into Heaven’s Sanctum, you have to tell me who can help you with your Lifesbane,” Li Tianming said earnestly, having noticed that Wei Jing was still hesitant about it.

“Don’t worry, no matter what stands in our way, no matter how hard it will be, I promise you that I will do it. I, Li Tianming, promise you that even if I can’t cure your Lifesbane, you will not die alone.” Li Tianming would stay true to every word he had said.

“Alright, I will tell you once we get back.” With such a vow, Wei Jing was unable to reject him. After all, he had lived up to his words, and became the prime disciple! She put her arms around Li Tianming’s shoulders, and leaned on his back.

“Ming’er, you really have grown up. I’m... just so proud of you. My life was not a fortunate one, but you have always been the greatest treasure in my entire life.” As Wei Jing said this, Li Tianming could feel tears dripping onto his ears.

“Don’t say that, there’s so many things wrong with that sentence,” Li Tianming stood still and said seriously.

“Why?” Wei Jing tried her best to hold back her tears.

“Your life will be a fortunate one, as you still have many, many years ahead of you.” She couldn’t see Li Tianming’s expression from her angle, but she could sense his determination.

“Alright.” She could barely control her emotions. She cried not because of her misfortune, but because she realised that the gods had blessed her with the greatest fortune she could ever hope for, her son.

“Life may be tough, but there are always things to look forward to in this world.”

“Tianming, mother doesn’t want to die. I want to see you start your family, to see you prosper and succeed, and to see you take your revenge and fight for what you have lost. Tianming, I... I don’t want to die!” She could no longer hold back her tears, and they began to flow down Li Tianming’s neck in earnest.

Li Tianming stood still on the spot, letting the tears slide down his skin. He could feel the cold tingling sensation of the beads, and it ignited an even stronger determination in him. Without another word, he readjusted Wei Jing so that she was comfortable, and continued forth on their journey!

From here on out, nothing could stop him!

## **Chapter 70 - Grandfather**

The prime disciple's name, 'Li Tianming', spread to every corner of Ignispolis, throwing it into an uproar and even shook the whole country. He was now a household name.

He was definitely a hot conversation topic, given his special identity and the incident three years ago.

However, whether it was to praise or curse him differed for every individual.

The only constant was a sense of pity for Lin Xiaoxiao, who was truly suited to be the prime disciple in both age or talent.

By evening, petitions to revise the rules of the ranking battle had made their way to Flameyellow Scions Institute. They didn't want a similar incident to happen again, where a genius would feel resentment and a fake genius would receive benefits. Only time would tell whether the petition passed.

The commotion in the day finally died down by nighttime.

Now that he had accomplished his first goal of joining Heaven's Sanctum, Li Tianming got Auntie Li to prepare a scrumptious feast. They gorged themselves on the meal, enjoying the peace and happiness.

Whenever Wei Jing had mobility issues, Li Tianming would personally feed her.

"When you were young, you were a picky eater and I had to feed you. Now the places have switched," Wei Jing said, touched.

After the meal, Auntie Li kept the dishes while Li Tianming brought his mother to the courtyard. The night sky tonight was particularly beautiful, the stars lined up in a beautiful river. Fire seemed to burn within the river of stars, dying it a faint red.

Li Tianming had finally reached the point where his mother was willing to talk about the past. "Tell me, how I can help you remove the Lifesbane?"

Li Tianming sat on the stairs next to her, his eyes shining like the stars.

As for the little chick, it had eaten its fill and was currently burping as it watched them from the roof.

Now, Li Tianming was at his second goal — to extend his mother's longevity and return her youth. It wasn't just any pressing matter; it was the most important matter in his life!

He thought of Xue Lan and her sons' mockery of his mother's state, his mind replaying their words of delivering a coffin to him. He thought of Wei Jing telling him that she didn't want to die.

Wei Jing sat on her chair and looked at the stars. "Only one person can remove my Lifesbane in Heaven's Sanctum. And even for him, it's an exhausting matter. It has lurked in my body for twenty years, so it's deeply rooted in my body now."

"Who is it?" Li Tianming asked.

"He's the Sanctum Potentate of Heaven's Sanctum, the master of Flameyellow Scions Institute." Wei Jing's expression turned complicated.

"That can't be. Shouldn't the chancellor be the controller of the institute?" Li Tianming asked doubtfully.

“You don’t know this, but actually, the Sanctum doesn’t belong to the institute, but rather, controls it. That’s why the Sanctum Potentate is higher than the institute’s chancellor in status and authority,” Wei Jing said.

“I see...”

The Potentate had always been a mysterious figure. The chancellor was always the public face of the institute, so Li Tianming didn’t know this relationship.

“Mother, you mean it’ll be hard to get this potentate guy to help because it’s too exhausting for him?”

“No, that’s not it.” Wei Jing lowered her head, a bitter smile on her face. “There’s another reason.”

“What, you offended him?”

“The reason is that I was once the potentate’s daughter. Furthermore, I offended him, and very severely at that.” Wei Jing lifted her head, looking helplessly at Li Tianming.

“What?” Li Tianming thought he had misheard. She was the Sanctum Potentate’s daughter. Didn’t that mean the person currently in control of Flameyellow Scions Institute and Heaven’s Sanctum was his grandfather? He had speculated that Wei Jing had some family background in Ignispolis, but this was a tad ridiculous.

“That was once upon a time. I was disowned twenty years ago and our relationship ended. That’s why he can remove the Lifesbane — I inherited it from him.” Wei Jing spoke of these old matters with a light smile, but the smile was filled with some bitterness.

“What made him so angry with you?” Li Tianming asked.

“I was pregnant, but he didn’t like Li Yanfeng,” Wei Jing said frankly.

“...” Li Tianming could only say that was life. If she had known that Li Yanfeng would abandon them twenty years later, would she have made that choice?

“Do you think I reaped what I sowed?” Wei Jing asked.

“How could that be? If so, I wouldn’t be alive now,” Li Tianming said. Wei Jing wouldn’t have had to marry Li Yanfeng if she wasn’t pregnant, and the potentate probably wouldn’t have been so furious that he disowned her. Furthermore, they had seen neither hide nor hair of him in these twenty years.

For the potentate to be this heartless with his own daughter showed how furious he was.

Li Tianming didn’t know the full story. However, he could infer from the bits and pieces he had about how severe a crime Wei Jing had committed.

And to save her, Li Tianming definitely had to face this grandfather who had been so heartless then. The difficulty was obvious.

“I told you someone in Heaven’s Sanctum could save me primarily to give you hope, to motivate you. However, you now know he dislikes me more than anyone else. Seeing me in this state will only make him happy. Let’s not mention the Lifesbane. If he knows I’m here, he’ll probably try to expel me from

Ignispolis so that I don't embarrass him. Just like Li Yanfeng, he places high importance on his face," Wei Jing said helplessly.

"So what now?" Li Tianming asked.

"Now just cultivate in Heaven's Sanctum." Wei Jing grabbed his hand and looked gently at him. "Child, believe me. There's no chance."

"I don't believe it." Li Tianming pulled his hand out and smiled, "Why so serious? Let me give it a shot. I'm the kind of person who won't regret it even if I smash my head against something and it bleeds."

"Ming'er..." Wei Jing's eyes turned misty. "It's hard on you, being my son."

"Alright, enough with the exaggerating of how hard it is. Tell me, how do I meet this Sanctum Potentate?"

"Heaven's Sanctum has a 'Wei Manor' inside, but an ordinary Heaven's Sanctum disciple can't enter."

"Then who can?"

Wei Jing considered it. "When you seek out a supernal mentor in two days, try getting 'Mu Yang' if possible. If he accepts you, you can tell him my circumstances and that you're Wei Jing's son. He might be able to bring you to the Potentate."

Li Tianming finally had a lead. "I'll remember the name."

"This Mu Yang wouldn't happen to be another admirer of yours, would he?"

"Don't talk drivel," Wei Jing said anxiously.

"Look at how antsy you are. I knew it, my mom used to be a super beauty in Ignispolis." Li Tianming smiled, trying to lighten Wei Jing's mood.

"Wait. You said 'another admirer'. What did 'another' mean?" Wei Jing suddenly stared at Li Tianming.

Li Tianming had said that because he had met Sage Chen.

"Haha..."

"Don't give that dumb laughter. Explain, who did you meet?"

Under her harassment, Li Tianming could only sell out Sage Chen.

"Don't meet him again. He's Xue Lan's husband," Wei Jing said.

"Okay. Still, do you have to be considerate for her sake?" Li Tianming felt nauseated when he thought of that woman.

"How others act or think should have no bearing on my own actions and thoughts," Wei Jing replied seriously.

Li Tianming agreed. Unfortunately, the other party was clearly longing for Wei Jing's death.

His mother had been gone from Ignispolis for very long and hence knew little about this Mu Yang right now.

Before joining Heaven's Sanctum, Li Tianming had to make a trip to chief mentor Mu Wan's residence to get an understanding of all the supernal mentors. Hence, on a dark and stormy night, he made his way to Mu Wan...

His only hope was to maintain his personal integrity that night.