

## The Ages 711

### Chapter 711 - Crush the Obstacles to Pave the Way

The fiendwing blaze seadragon, bladedge terra seadragon, greenthread bolt seadragon and nineclaw gale seadragon were dazzled by the sudden onslaught. They thought they had known all the opponents they would face in the Nether Battlefield, yet they would never have expected that a tortoise-like two-headed dragon and a tree would be able to beat the four of them back like that.

"They're in the death phase? Why does their death tribulation force feel so horrible?"

"I don't know!"

"What's with these vines? I feel so tired all of a sudden!"

"What kind of lifebound beast is that?"

Despite them unleashing many abilities, Xian Xian still had them trapped. The monstrous two-headed dragon came to bite them one by one before pressing them to the ground and pummeling them nonstop. The fiendwing blaze seadragon then used Blazewater Pierce on Lan Huang, the clashing elements of fire and water forming a chain reaction that blasted its Mountainsea World apart. Then the bladedge terra seadragon used Mountainsea Quake, an attack with the same elements as Lan Huang.

However, the Infinite Stardragon Diagram came into play, protecting Lan Huang from any damage. It then turned to the earth seadragon and said, "That's so weak. Are you sure you're eating properly?"

The loud mockery infuriated the dragon, causing it to roar and charge toward Lan Huang at blinding speed, aiming its sword-horns toward its necks. Then, Xian Xian's Radiant Vines pulled on its own neck, creaking and groaning in the process but managing to raise the seadragon a few meters higher, exposing its neck.

Lan Huang immediately turned and swung its tail, swiping its Annihilation Godsword at the neck of the earth seadragon, managing to pierce its scales. The force of the physical attack was far more powerful than any normal ability, though the earth seadragon didn't die as its hell barrier formation came out to stop the Annihilation Godsword. Even so, it had been eliminated from the battle. Losing one member, despite having twice the enemy's number, was a mark of humiliation for Long Xiaofan.

Xian Xian and Lan Huang's elemental synergy was amazing. Even though they weren't as powerful as Ying Huo alone, they could last a long time in battle. Lan Huang, especially, was a battle maniac and didn't tire easily, thanks to how restless it usually was. Right after taking down one foe, it immediately turned to the others.

Even though the three seadragons' abilities managed to break more and more vines and even left a bloody mark on Lan Huang, they suffered even more damage. Lan Huang's two heads bit one dragon each and shook furiously, smashing them on the ground and causing the earth to quake before tossing the dragons into the volcano. Their scales were useless before its terrifying bite.

While Lan Huang was at a disadvantage in terms of star count, its bloodline talents were far too terrifying. Every inch of its body was like Ying Huo's, but there were so many more 'inches' in

comparison. Even without its tails and heads, it was more than a hundred meters long. The Triflair disciples were utterly shocked at seeing Lan Huang fight. The same could probably be said for those watching from the Triflair Divine Realm. It was far too savage.

Meanwhile, Xian Xian was only a helper in this battle. Not only that, it was also helping out on other distant fronts too. Thanks to it, Ying Huo and Meow Meow were able to force the Quadform disciples away from Tianming. Even though there were many foes to fend off at the same time, Xian Xian's roots were bursting out of the ground and wrapping around man and beast alike.

Among the Quadform disciples, only Long Yinfeng and Long Xiaofan were fourth-level samsarans. The former was at the life phase while the latter was at the death phase. The others weren't even at the fourth level.

Beigong Mengmeng and Ximen Xuanzi finally reacted and came to Tianming's aid. Coupled with Ying Huo's sneak attacks and Meow Meow's rapid Misty Hellthunders, they kept everyone else apart from Tianming and Long Xiaofan, allowing them to fight one on one. Their goal was to take down the leader first. As there were so many foes, being surrounded would be a huge problem, as had been shown by Jiang Wuxin, who only had one lifebound beast.

All of this had happened when a single disciple took on twenty-four Quadform disciples. The ones watching the battle were shocked enough at Tianming's strength, but the disciples from the two sects on the battlefield were even more flabbergasted. Beigong Mengmeng and Ximen Xuanzi could almost cry at the show of strength.

"What kind of hero is this? I wonder if he's already engaged," Beigong Mengmeng said. She was dressed in a long orange robe, making her look rather cute and energetic. She seemed to be Beigong Qianyu's cousin.

"I think not. He's the disciple of the goddess of the Archaion Sect. Some time back, he killed the Hexapath Sword Sect's disciples, but how could he be this powerful to the point of being able to hold Long Xiaofan back?" Ximen Xuanzi asked. She was a confident young woman with a head of short, boyish hair.

"He's not engaged? Wonderful!"

"Hey lass, how dare you forget about me so quickly?" Ximen Xuanzi snapped.

"Jealous? You're such an idiot," Beigong Mengmeng said, more relaxed. "Dogs of the Quadform Sea Sect, do you see? The one who'll punish you for your shameless sneak attacks is here! There's no way you'll be able to kill us!"

"You're going to die sooner or later anyway. Why struggle?" Long Yinfeng said, though he was actually more nervous than he let on.

By now, even the greenthread bolt seadragon's hell barrier formation was activated. With two of his dragons gone, how could he hold on?

"Vile fiend, don't think you can run!" Beigong Mengmeng's coral lifebound beast blocked Long Yinfeng's way.

"Get out of the—aaah!" He suddenly clutched his rear as Ying Huo flashed past with a sly smile.

"Exposing your rear to me, eh? That wasn't a smart move."

Beigong Mengmeng was dumbfounded as she watched the chicken blaze past her, leaving behind a near-dead Long Yinfeng in its wake, and chuckled. "By my mother's balls, I'm starting to like this chicken.... It's too amazing..." she said, laughing as she clutched her belly.

"Lady, stop swearing!" Ximen Xuanzi spat.

Then, a loud boom was heard from where Tianming and Long Xiaofan were fighting. The two girls turned back to look as they continued stalling the others; the battle was too significant to miss.

Tianming's white hair fluttered from the reverberations of the death tribulation force in him. He was death incarnate. Right in front of him was the blue-haired dragon-horned Long Xiaofan, watching coldly with his trident in hand. There was a spike at the other end of the trident, making four sharp points in total, which each contained a type of energy. It was the Divine Imperial Trident.

"Goddess' disciple, I didn't think you'd reach this stage in only two weeks...." Long Xiaofan's hands hurt from the last few clashes he'd had with Tianming. Traces of death tribulation force were in his flesh.

"Do you submit?" Tianming asked.

"What's there to submit? You really are naive. Your goddess counts for nothing. No matter how powerful you are, you can't compare to a god. Play hero for those damsels here all you want. You'll just die later anyway. Even Fang Taiqing and Xuanyuan Dao will have to kowtow to us and beg. Put up airs if you want. When the time comes, you'll still have to beg all the same."

"You're right. But before that time comes, I can kill you. I'll make an example of you for the Quadform Sea Sect. Your's is the fate that will soon come to them."

"They do say wild dogs bark the loudest. You don't dare kill me."

"Who do you think you are, anyway?"

"Hahaha, you really don't know a thing about the status quo, do you? Currently, only Hexapath and Biritual want all-out war with you. The other three divine realms, mine included, don't border yours, so we don't care about war. All it'll take is for you to send your goddess to the next life. However, if you dare touch any of our disciples, we'll also join the warmongering camp. You'll be involving lots of innocent lives. Fool, you should be pragmatic in life and know when to compromise, got it?"

"You may not know this, but I don't care if we go to war or not." Tianming's eyes grew redder as he smiled sinisterly.

"What do you mean by that?"

"Anyone that wants Ling'er dead shall die!" He and Feiling were just guests in the Archaion Sect. Even though there were many in the sect that had helped him, Feiling was still the most important one to him. She was his everything, much like Jiang Wuxin's wives were his world. He could understand where Jiang Wuxin was coming from, but he still wouldn't show him any mercy. Feiling hadn't had a choice

when she'd come to the Nine Divine Realms, so there was only one thing Tianming could do: pave a path of blood toward freedom!

"Die!" Sometimes he wondered what the essence of death was. Everything would eventually come to an end, devoid of breath, emotion, and love. Ying Huo, Meow Meow, Lan Huang, and Xian Xian would forever be gone. He would never be able to hear Feiling's voice, nor feel her warmth ever again. The pain that would entail was hard to even imagine.

"The way of the sword is one of slaughter and death. Hungry ghosts parade by the sidelines as one culls his enemies to fuel his own life. This sword is the sword of plunder and slaughter. Animacorpus Eradication!"

Ever since he had entered the death phase, he understood what the way of the hungry ghost and the sword of death truly meant. His two swords buzzed nonstop. Even though his mastery of Animacorpus Eradication was still minor, Lifesbane's unique death tribulation force had brought many insights to him, allowing his mind to infinitely approach the proper state to use this move to its fullest.

"I shall sever death and transcend mortal life, wielding the ultimate sword to slay body and soul!"

This move was the complete antithesis of the Mortal Dao Sword, which utilized the will of all sentient beings in the sword of life. This sword of death, on the other hand, slaughtered impartially. Even so, both of the moves were incredibly suited to certain states of mind. Human emotions were complex; the paradox of wanting to be a benevolent ruler was that one would always have to stain their hands in cold blood. It was impossible to avoid.

"I shall crush all obstacles to pave my own way forward! The ghosts pave the way, souls of the accused, your time of reckoning has come! Kneel and accept death!"

Tianming was like a vile demon that left a trail of mournful souls in his wake. Mountains of bones, blood, and flesh could be seen behind him. Now, all sentient life seemed to be an obstacle in the trajectory his sword was traveling in.

"Ghost Dao, Animacorpus Eradication!" The sword of life howled like vile spirits while the sword of death mourned like spirits of the accused, filling the entire area with boundless sword ki.

All that Long Xiaofan could see now was the lord of unfortunate spirits slaughtering his way, willing to cull an ocean of people to protect just one. Desolation, death, and violence made up that savage sword intent. Unlike the righteous Mortal Dao Sword, this strike was filled with endless resentment from the depths of his heart, mixed with explosive death tribulation force.

Long Xiaofan felt his scalp tingle at merely the howls of the ghosts and spirits. His world immediately fell into darkness. "You're courting death!"

He charged in and used a first-origin samsara battle art with his trident, the Quaddragon Imperial Art, Draconic rise. The power of fourth-level death tribulation force filled his body, forming four imperial dragons. Based on his level, he shouldn't be any weaker than Tianming, but everyone could clearly see Tianming's sword smash through the trident and trigger Long Xiaofan's hell barrier formation.

"May you perish from ghostly possession!" The black Grand-Orient Sword pierced through with death tribulation force, causing a huge explosion that shattered the hell barrier formation.

Fearlessly, Long Xiaofan attempted to threaten him. "Li Tianming, if you kill me, the Quadform Sea Sect will—"

However, he couldn't fully hide his primal fear of that terrifying sword.

"Will what? I hereby proclaim that the Quadform Divine Realm will be eradicated!" The final burst of power from Animacorpus Eradication gathered to a point and pierced through Long Xiaofan's heart. Tianming drew the sword back out.

Long Xiaofan clutched his chest and took two steps back, blankly staring at Tianming as his life left his body, replaced with death tribulation force. His flesh began to age and degenerate at a visible rate.

"You... you...."

He couldn't even articulate properly as he pointed at Tianming.

"Stop with the threats and be on your way to your next life." Tianming gave him a push, causing him to fall off the volcano and lay there dead. He then turned back and looked at the stunned Beigong Mengmeng and Ximen Xuanzi. "I want to kill all the Quadform disciples. You don't have anything to say about that, right?"

### **Chapter 712 - Quadform Sea Sect Elimination**

"I... I h-have nothing to say about it! Go ahead!" Beigong Mengmeng stammered.

They had been on the brink of despair, only for all their enemies to be wiped out without a single death on their side, and it was all thanks to Tianming. The Triflair disciples were even more flabbergasted when they saw him dive back into battle without saying another word.

"What're you blanking out for? Help out!" Ximen Xuanzi said as she gave Beigong Mengmeng's head a slap.

"Dammit!" She almost fell from the slap and cursed again.

"Senior Beigong, help us break our hell barrier formations!" cried some disciples who were trapped within.

"Are you all daft? Once the barrier formation is broken, someone can kill you for real!" Beigong Mengmeng said as she fought.

"Don't be naive! If the Quadform Sea Sect already dares to try to kill us, we'll be sitting targets if the other sects come!"

"That's right! Not to mention, Tianming is facing so many of them on his own. We can't just sit and watch him take the blows for us! We have to fight too!"

"Xuanzi, help me break my hell barrier formation too!"

More and more of them clamored to be freed.

"Fine! You're right. The Triflair Celestial Sect isn't full of cowards!" Beigong Mengmeng rather capably took down her opponents before turning to free the disciples from the hell barrier formations. The ones who were free helped free others too.

"The next time, our deaths are certain," Beigong Mengmeng said, worried.

"So what? Without Tianming's help, we would've died all the same," Ximen Xuanzi said.

"The lowly Quadform Sea Sect dares to cross us by killing us, huh? I've had enough! It's time for revenge!"

"That's right! How many of our disciples have they doomed in the past summits?"

"Go!"

The most hated sect was no doubt the Quadform Sea Sect.

Tianming went even harder on Long Xiaofan, as many Quadform disciples had managed to break through Meow Meow's Misty Hellthunder and began approaching him. At the same time, more than twenty lifebound beasts unleashed their abilities in his direction, making him feel rather pressured. Had the Quadform disciples known that Long Xiaofan would be in trouble so soon, they would've come sooner, but now it was too late. Tianming's lifebound beasts had returned to his side.

"Is that all the people on your side?" He smirked and kept the Grand-Orient Sword away, swapping it for Archfiend. The chain of eyeballs hummed as Tianming sent it swiping. With the chain in his right hand, he opened the third eye on his left hand and pointed it at the Quadform disciples.

"You're dead, Li Tianming!"

"You killed Xiaofan! There will be war! We'll attack from the sea to exterminate your sect!"

"You're in big trouble!"

The Quadform disciples were already convinced of how powerful the disciple of the goddess was. They already feared the goddess enough, so what kind of terror could her disciple bring? Was the goddess really as weak as the rumors suggested? Her disciple started off at the Emyrean Saint stage and could now crush fourth-level death phase samsarans, something that had never been seen before.

"Stop with your tall tales. You already said you'd break and humiliate us before the Nether Battle. What happened to that?" Tianming didn't want to bother talking to them too much. The only lingua franca during the Number One Summit was his fists! Having dealt with Hexapath, Quadform would be next.

Ying Huo, Meow Meow, Lan Huang, and Xian Xian joined the chaotic melee. For now, Long Xiaofan's four seadragons were trapped within their hell barrier formations.

Tianming executed the Eight Desolation Fienddragon Whip, Centurius Dragonslay, causing Archfiend to dance through the air like hundreds of roaring dragons. Working in perfect tandem with the Radiant Vines, it struck the many lifebound beasts around him and caused their hell barrier formations to trigger.

Then, he used the Soulshaker Eye, blinding many of his enemies at once. Before they could regain their sight, the chain wrapped around their heads and triggered their hell barrier formations. Without those, their heads would've come off.

The entire battlefield was in abject chaos. The Quadform disciples had thought they would be able to rely on their superior numbers to avenge Long Xiaofan, yet they hadn't expected that the Triflair disciples would be so fierce. Even though they had been disqualified after their hell barrier formations had triggered, they willingly asked others to break them out of them so they could help Tianming in the fight at risk of death. Gradually, the Quadform disciples' numerical advantage began slimming down as Tianming's chain pierced through all corners of the battlefield like an ethereal demon.

"Don't let even a single one of them leave."

"Alright!" Xian Xian spread its roots and formed a net that surrounded the entire battlefield once more. Lan Huang then charged and pushed away many lifebound beasts singlehandedly.

Even more chaos ensued as abilities were unleashed all over. With the help of the Triflair disciples, the delicate balance from before crumbled. Now, nobody could stop Tianming or Beigong Mengmeng and the others.

"Run!"

"They've gone mad! They don't even care if they'll die! We must go to the higher layers for reinforcements! We now know where their hell tree is, so we'll wipe them out with Hexapath, Birtual, Nonahall, and the rest!"

"I didn't think the Triflair disciples would be so dumb as to not know what's good for them. It's over for them! They can't see the big picture at all!"

When Long Xiaofan had died, they still had a chance to escape, but now only four or five of the Quadform disciples hadn't had their hell barrier formations activated. Tianming had his eyes on them the whole time.

"I won't let even one beast leave, let alone any beastmasters!" He, Ying Huo, and Meow Meow gave chase, and sure enough, their hell barrier formations were soon activated. No matter how they struggled, they wouldn't be able to leave from inside. Even then, they hammered at their barrier formations and threw threats Tianming's way nonstop.

"You better think this through! Don't let the innocent lives of the Archaion Sect pay for your sins!" Long Yinfeng cried when Tianming came to him, drawing the Grand-Orient Sword. "The Triflair Celestial Sect were fools, but you still have a chance! If you continue your foolish actions, Triflair will be wiped out as well! You'll no doubt become public enemy number one!"

"Wipe us out? Who do you Quadform pricks think you are? There hasn't been any real war across the continent for thousands of years, and that's a real difficult feat to achieve. You think peace is easy? Do you even know the cost of war?" Ximen Xuanzi snapped.

"If that means we can swallow your entire sect, we'll pay any cost!" Long Yinfeng argued back. Like Long Xiaofan, he still didn't feel a single hint of fear even though his moment of reckoning was so close. But right as he finished, Tianming shattered his hell barrier formation. "You—"

Off with his head. The deal was sealed before he could even yell. His corpse collapsed, much to the shock of the others. Tianming had actually made the act of taking a life look trivial and easy.

"Umm... Brother Tianming, do we really have to kill them all? Shouldn't we leave some face for the Quadform Sea Sect? Their divine realm is still rather powerful..." Beigong Mengmeng sheepishly asked.

"Didn't you hear what they said? Once you let any single one of these flies go, they'll bring more to your hell tree. You'll be the ones dying then. Well, you're free to make the choice either way," Tianming said plainly.

"Fine!" She poked her tongue out and turned to Ximen Xuanzi. "This person is so fierce!"

"I think he's fine. He's just cold and rational. Being too soft can bring harm to the ones we cherish," Ximen Xuanzi said.

"Sigh, survival is tough, huh.... We don't really have a choice, given the circumstances."

Neither of them could quite make up their mind as the Quadform disciples kept insulting them from within their hell barrier formations. It was nightmarish, thinking that any one of them could be next. Once a hell barrier formation was broken, that meant the death of one of them!

"Can't we just keep them within the hell barrier formations?" Beigong Mengmeng asked.

"We could've done that, but I have to avenge the disciples of my sect that were killed at Skyorigin Battlefield," Tianming said. If others pitied the Quadform disciples, who would pity the dead Archaion disciples? Tianming would never forget that his fellow disciples were still in a dangerous predicament on the ninth layer of the Nether Battlefield. It wasn't even certain they would survive the next ten days. While the Quadform disciples wouldn't be able to leave their hell barrier formations, they might have some way to lead others to where they were, and Tianming didn't want to take that risk.

Being a monarch doesn't mean not killing. The philosophy behind the Animacorpus Eradication reflected this state of mind of his. In the end, he killed all twenty-five Quadform disciples and their lifebound beasts before tossing their corpses into the volcano.

"Now that the trash has been taken care of, I won't disturb you any longer. May we meet again," he said.

The Triflair disciples seemed a little terrified of him, but he merely smiled and left.

"Brother Tianming!" Beigong Mengmeng called out.

"What is it?"

"I wish you all the best no matter what happens!"

"Thanks," he said, then flew off.

"He's a little dreamy," Ximen Xuanzi said.

"That's right! Just, he's a little too fierce. What if he terrifies me into pissing myself when we get it on? It's better to just feast on his looks from afar!"



"Naughty girl! He probably doesn't even know you at all, yet you're here fantasizing about making out with him?!"

"It was a slip of the tongue, I swear!"

### **Chapter 713 - I've Finally Found You**

On the Dimensional Battlefield.

As soon as Tianming began his bloodbath, the entire battlefield fell into dead silence once more.

"Is the Nether Battlefield a stage for Li Tianming's one man show?"

The question was rhetorical; the answer was definitely yes, from the Hexapath Sword Sect to the Quadform Oceanic Sect. At least there were two Hexapath Sword Sect disciples remaining. However, the Quadform Oceanic Sect disciples were all gone, including Long Cangyuan's son.

"Throughout history, there haven't been so many deaths in all the Nether Battles put together, and this is only the third day."

"What's more terrifying is that most of the deaths were the work of one man!"

"What on earth is he doing?"

"Revenge."

Revenge for the Archaion Sect disciples who were killed on the Skyorigin battlefield. It was payback, many times over.

In the Triflair Celestial Sect area, the coral fairy, Beigong Linlan, had been watching the entire battle. She was neither happy nor angry, and the same was true for the three talented Triflair Celestial Sect powerhouses beside her. They were all shocked by the goddess' disciple, but from their perspective, it was obvious that he had killed so many in order to force the Triflair Celestial Sect to the Archaion Sect's side. He was very domineering, though with different methods.

Others killed and intimidated, he saved his people while slaughtering his enemy!

"Long Cangyuan must hate us. Sect Master, what should we do?" someone asked.

"Let's see what the other two sect masters think. I haven't changed my mind," said Beigong Linlan.

In fact, with their power and influence, it wasn't a good thing to stand on either side. It was best to stay out of the fighting, but unfortunately that wasn't possible.

"Keep an open mind. In this world, everyone's forced to take a stand."

Beigong Linlan turned to look at the Quadform Oceanic Sect's powerhouses.

There was dead silence in their corner. The top twenty disciples of the Quadform Ranking were dead, even Long Cangyuan's son. This was tantamount to breaking an inheritance.

What a heavy blow it was to the Quadform Sect. Ashen was too light a description for their expressions. Perhaps the best word would be heartbroken.

...

The Quadform Seadragon Hall was the capital of the Quadform Realm and the headquarters of the Quadform Sect. The hall itself was built in the sea.

At this moment, there was chaos in the hall. Loud outcries and expletives filled the air.

"Why are we still watching?"

"Kill!"

"No one's allowed to make a move without the sect master's command."

"We're not allowed to attack?! Then why are we still watching? Our disciples are all dead!" Earth-shattering cries resounded throughout the Quadform Realm.

This exact situation had just been experienced by the Sixpath Divine Realm not too long ago. It was fun to bully and kill. But in case of retaliation, one would just have to endure.

...

The view through the Skyeeye Formation had been concentrated on Tianming this whole time.

"He's searching for Jiang Wuxin's whereabouts," said Xuanyuan Dao.

The others nodded.

"Jian Wuyi, looks like your protection wasn't fruitless. He's helped you this time. The Triflair Celestial Sect can only stand on our side. Both you and your wife will be in agreement," said Xuanyuan Dao.

"Yes, he's done well." Lowering his head, Jian Wuyi stared at Tianming on the battlefield.

"As long as the Triflair Celestial Sect stands firm, the Octagram Heart Sect and Pentaphase Earth Sect will follow. This situation is in our favor. This kid is creating miracles with every step he takes," said Xuanyuan Dao.

"Yes, he's amazing," Jian Wuyi replied.

"It's ridiculous how the other sects want to kill our disciples and put pressure on us to force us to surrender Her Eminence. But now, they've failed to kill our disciples. Instead, two sects have lost their people to Tianming." Ouyang Jianwang laughed.

His words were unbridled, his laughter somewhat abrupt.

"Tianming hasn't let Her Eminence down," Xuanyuan Dao sighed.

At the end of their conversation, complete silence resumed.

"Fang Taiqing, don't you feel good watching Tianming defeat the Quadform Sect, especially after they humiliated the Sterling House of Fang?" asked Xuanyuan Dao.

"Yes." Leaning into his seat, Fang Taiqing gave a one word answer.

"Sect Master Xuanyuan." They all looked over to the source of the words and found it was Dugu Jin.

"The current situation has deviated from their plan. To be honest, though, the Number One Summit is an ultimatum directed at us. If we miss this, there won't be any possibility for peace talks later."

"What're you trying to say?" asked Xuanyuan Dao.

"What I'm saying is, you should fully prepare for battle now. The Quadform and Sixpath Divine Realms will soon make their move," said Dugu Jin.

"Are you afraid?" asked Xuanyuan Dao.

"I fight for Her Eminence. What's there to be afraid of?" Dugu Jin retorted.

"Don't worry, we deployed our forces to the borders long ago. All we have to do is survive this catastrophe. The Archaion Sect will dominate the world in the future," said Xuanyuan Dao.

Tianming had already performed a magnificent feat. At this point, no one would speak unfortunate words or suggest that they surrender Her Eminence.

However, everyone knew in their hearts that the Number One Summit wasn't over yet. Whether or not the Archaion Sect disciples in the ninth layer would survive in the end was still uncertain.

But one thing was clear—even if Xuanyuan Yucheng and the others all perished, Feiling wouldn't be killed in such a humiliating manner. Tianming was growing closer and closer to his goal.

...

Tianming had searched the bloodpool layer, the sixth layer of the Nether Battlefield.

This was where the Quadform Sect was sent. Since their hell tree was completely unguarded, Tianming took the opportunity to destroy it. All it took him was thirty minutes; his score was outrageous.

"The more people I kill, the more death feuds I forge. The five divine realms won't be willing to just execute Ling'er, so that means she's safe during the Number One Summit. If this goes on, there will definitely be war! War is war, and suffering numerous casualties is a given. But at least we'll still have opportunities. It's probably unrealistic to hope for help from the remaining three divine realms, but perhaps this will prevent them from attacking us when we're down."

Tianming looked up as he hovered in the bloody sky.

"Next up is the Biritual Demon Sect, Heptastar Aerial Sect, and Nonahall Ghost Sect!"

Above him was the fifth layer.

Tianming soon arrived at the thunder layer. This was the thunder abyss, with lightning hazards everywhere. Jiang Wuxin and Feng Xiaoli weren't on this layer either.

"If we all travel through the channel at the same time—I go up while they go down—then I might miss them. But the probability of that happening is very low."

The hell tree on the fifth layer seemed to be far away. Tianming wanted to find Jiang Wuxin and Feng Xiaoli as soon as possible, so he continued moving up.

There was still no one on the fourth layer, the windblade layer. That suggested they had gone to one of the top three levels.

Tianming continued on. In the third layer, the darknight layer, it was so dark he couldn't even see his fingers. A glowing hell barrier formation would certainly be even more obvious. Once a hell tree was destroyed, even if the hell barrier formation was broken, it would still glow on the body.

"I've finally found you!"

Tianming found an icy-blue light that shot into the sky on the horizon.

### **Chapter 714 - The Yinyang Demon Sect's Hell Tree**

The light was from either Jiang Wuxin or Feng Xiaoli's hell barrier formation. Without another word, Tianming climbed on Meow Meow's back and swiftly headed toward the light. Just as he was about to approach it, Tianming discovered a crowd of people next to Jiang Wuxin. It appeared he had found himself numerous helpers.

Tianming told Meow Meow to backtrack, then quietly moved through the darknight layer. The natural environment of this level allowed him to use his third eye to see more clearly, but it would still be difficult for others to find him. He hid behind a rock and looked up at the top of the mountain ahead.

At the peak of the mountain, fifty or sixty people had gathered. Among the crowd was a man glowing in blue. there was no way he could hide.

It was Jiang Wuxin! He had his back to Tianming.

"It might be difficult to kill him with so many people around."

Although Tianming hadn't wasted any time, it seemed Jiang Wuxin was still a step ahead. Such a large group of people meant that at least two sects had gathered together.

"Most of the disciples of the Hexapath Sword Sect and the Yinyang Demon Sect are by his side."  
Tianming frowned and carefully stopped.

Jiang Wuxin wasn't speaking, but the others were. It sounded as if Jiang Wuxin had first located the Yinyang Demon Sect, then ventured into the third layer and found the Heptastar Aerial Sect. They were still waiting for the return of those who had invaded the other levels.

The Nonahall Ghost Sect, which had the most disciples present, was located in the second layer. There were already a few of their disciples here. It seemed they had already sent someone up to inform the rest. These sects had quite a few disciples scattered all over the various layers; it would take them some time to gather them all.

"When they're all together, they'll certainly head down to the ninth layer, destroy the hell tree, and kill our disciples. They already know the tree's location, so even if we abandon it and escape up here, they'll

still be able to sweep layer by layer. There's nowhere for us to escape. The only thing we can do is fight to the death!" Tianming furrowed his brows.

"The disciples of these three sects add up to a total of more than a hundred and forty people. There's countless powerhouses among them, far more than the Archaion Sect has. There's no way we'll survive if we're hunted and killed by these people...."

Tianming wouldn't die. But what about Xuanyuan Yucheng, Beigong Qianyu, and the others?

"I must defeat them one by one. But now that they're gathered together, how can I do that?"

There would be more and more disciples coming together.

Tianming continued listening to their discussion. Many of their disciples were spread out. They were going to wait until everyone had assembled before acting together. That way, their plan would be foolproof. It would only require some time to assemble over a hundred people.

Tianming also overheard some information. The Yinyang Demon Sect's hell tree was located on the fifth layer, the thunder layer; the Heptastar Aerial Sect's hell tree was situated in the third layer, the darknight layer; and the Nonahall Ghost Sect's hell tree stood on the second layer, the incandescence layer.

They were now in the third layer.

"There isn't much difference in the glow of the hell barrier formations. If I take this opportunity to destroy their hell tree, then everyone will be glowing. Wouldn't that be misleading?"

Being able to find the hell trees was Tianming's advantage. For anyone else, finding the trees was based entirely on luck. What he wanted was to rely on his advantage to strive for more opportunities.

"The disciples of the Hexapath Sword Sect and Quadform Oceanic Sect have lost over sixty disciples, so there's about three hundred disciples remaining. If I use this opportunity to destroy the hell tree on the third layer, more than half of the participants will be glowing. If that's the case, I'll have more space to operate."

At the thought of that, Tianming got to work at once. While they were still gathered, Tianming quickly traveled down to the fifth layer.

"Xian Xian, find the hell tree as soon as possible," said Tianming.

"I want a reward," Xian Xian demanded.

"Hurry up! You can eat all you want, until you throw up!" said Tianming.

"Throw up? That's impossible!"

With the promise of delicious food, Xian Xian began accelerating. The thunder had a certain effect on taking root in the soil.

"Over here! Here! That's right!"

The search took half an hour. The hell tree appeared before Tianming. Without a doubt, the Yinyang Demon Sect would station people here to protect the tree. Tianming took a closer look.

"Only one man?"

It was evident this man was no weakling.

How daring! In all likelihood, he had already seen Jiang Wuxin. Thus, he remained all alone by the tree. When those above returned, they would certainly take him away.

After confirming that he was indeed alone, Tianming wasted no time appearing in front of him.

"Li Tianming?"

The man sat under the hell tree, bored in every way. Upon noticing the visitor, he was stunned.

"It's you. You're the one who killed Jiang Wuxin's wives and more than forty Hexapath Sword Sect disciples?"

The man was dressed in fiery-red robes. His appearance was rather strange, somewhat androgynous, and his voice was effeminate.

"Qin Chaotian?" Tianming recognized him at once.

The Yinyang Demon Sect had two sect masters, namely the solar master and the lunar master. Qin Chaotian was the son of the solar master, Qin Fengyang. His cultivation realm was equal to Long Xiaofan, a fourth-level death phase samsaran. This was a top genius of the Flameyellow continent. Qin Chaotian's name resounded throughout the Yinyang Demon Sect.

So why was he guarding the hell tree alone? That's because he wasn't their bellwether!

Today, the yin branch far surpassed the yang branch. There were even rumors claiming that the solar master, Qin Fengyang, had no authority. The entire Biritual Demon Sect was under the control of the lunar master. Thus, even the yang disciples had no rights. Qin Chaotian wasn't the Yinyang Demon Sect's strongest disciple anymore.

Their strongest disciple, the current lunar master's direct disciple, was working with Jiang Wuxin. Apparently, the lunar master was a legendary woman in the Flameyellow continent. She was supposedly hundreds of years younger than Fang Taiqing and the others, and unrivalled among her peers.

For this woman, having her disciple become first in the Number One Summit was but an insignificant matter in her career. With the lunar master's brilliance, even Qin Chaotian's father, the solar master, seemed bleak in comparison, much less Qin Chaotian himself. It was as if he had been forgotten and left behind. Even so, the moment he laid eyes on Tianming, his gaze burned with fervor.

"Li Tianming, do you know how important the word 'contribution' is to me?"

When Qin Chaotian spoke, his three lifebound beasts sped toward the hell tree.

"That's none of my business."

Tianming was racing against time, and this battle was inevitable. As soon as the words left his lips, all four of his lifebound beasts appeared beside him.

"I can prove myself by killing you. Your reputation is glorious. All I have to do for the entire Flameyellow continent to know my name is step on your head," Qin Chaotian sneered.

Tianming had no interest in the internal disputes of the Yinyang Demon Sect. This was an opponent who was not to be underestimated. Tianming's gaze fell upon Qin Chaotian's three lifebound beasts.

What was interesting was the fact that his beasts were different, but possessed the same attributes. Much like Tianming, triple beastmasters were rather rare. The three lifebound beasts were four-footed, avian, and insect-type beasts.

The first was a huge lion with golden flames and sharp claws. On its forehead were nine ferocious eyes—an evil eye in the center and four pairs below. A fierce, domineering aura radiated from it. It was a nine-eyed gold suanni, with a total of four hundred and twenty stars.

His second lifebound beast was a golden-red bird whose wings extended more than a hundred and fifty meters across and resembled clouds of fire. Flames exploded when it flapped them, forming a raging wave of fire. It was a yangfire goldencrow.

His third lifebound beast was a dark red scorpion that resembled a red-hot iron sheet when it crawled on the ground. It had two huge pincers and nine sharp tails, which were obviously dripping with fire poison. It was a ninetail blaze scorpion.

These lifebound beasts were all fire-type. Qin Chaotian stood in front of them with a red spear pointed at Tianming. The crimson flames that engulfed his body made him appear even more demonic; this was a person who desperately needed to prove himself.

"Li Tianming, I heard that you killed many disciples of the Hexapath Sword Sect. Your performance is very eye-catching, worthy of your status as the goddess' disciple. Dying at the hands of Qin Chaotian will be considered an honorable way to go."

In his eyes, Tianming only had one beast beside him, and that was Lan Huang. Ying Huo and Meow Meow sat on his shoulders. Xian Xian had lost too much in the last battle, so Tianming decided to let it rest.

Thunder rumbled and lightning streaks danced across the sky. As the lightning crashed, Tianming held the Grand-Orient Sword in his hand, one man alongside three beasts like the god of death.

The Yinyang Demon Sect were the biggest suspects behind Feiling's assassination attempt. That incident had altered Tianming's mood. Finally, he had come face-to-face with one of their disciples. Most of them were twin beastmasters, and as a triplet beastmaster, Qin Chaotian would certainly be stronger.

"You're the first of the Yinyang Demon Sect!"

...

In the Dimensional battlefield.

"It's Li Tianming again!"

"That's Qin Fengyang's son. Can he stop Li Tianming?"

"Keep watching."

Many stared in the direction of the Yinyang Demon Sect. They were all aware of the deep enmity between the Yinyang Demon Sect and the Archaion Sect.

"Is Li Tianming going to cut down their hell tree?"

"Most likely."

"If the situation becomes chaotic, perhaps the Archaion Sect disciples will still have a chance."

"We'll see!"

Many were curious.

"Most of the Hexapath Sword Sect disciples have been wiped out. What'll happen to the Yinyang Demon Sect?"

### **Chapter 715 - Skypiercing Sun**

Qin Chaotian's lifebound beasts were all fourth order tribulation beasts. Burning with rage, the three gigantic fire-type beasts moved alongside Qin Chaotian. With a wave of his spear, they sprang toward Tianming.

The fiery-red spear sliced through the air, causing an ear-splitting noise, while the flames formed a huge wave that swept toward Tianming. Qin Chaotian's body was enveloped in flames, his flesh resembling red-hot steel.

Balls of fire appeared on his head, torso, and limbs. It was as if there were nine suns hidden within his body. This was a well-known body-refining art of the Yinyang Demon Sect that required the absorption of external materials.

However, what Qin Chaotian had absorbed wasn't astralsources, but something called sunsources. His Ninesolar Body burst into flames, a clear sign that he had mastered the body-refining art.

On the other hand, Tianming shone with starlight, his five hundred astralsources far surpassing his opponent. Additionally, he possessed five different kinds of astralsources, resulting in a more stable form. His current physical strength was a huge advantage. However, he could also see how powerful Qin Chaotian was in his fiery state, armed with a weapon that had six tribulation patterns. The strength he possessed was equally astonishing.

Accompanied by their lifebound beasts, both beastmasters collided with each other. The yangfire goldencrow, nine-eyed gold suanni, and ninetail blaze scorpion either ascended into the sky or violently pounced on their opponents.

Tianming raised his left hand and engaged his Soulshaker Eye.



This trick was not only aimed at Qin Chaotian, but also his lifebound beasts. Their attraction to the eye would cause a great impact on their soul power.

For a while, Qin Chaotian and the three beasts were plunged into complete darkness, with only one blood-red eye in all the heavens and earth that jolted their souls.

"Retreat!"

Qin Chaotian quickly closed his eyes.

Unfortunately, it was too late. Since Tianming had decided to use the Soulshaker Eye, he would certainly establish an advantage over his opponent. Left hand in the air, Tianming unleashed Archfiend with his other hand. Eight Desolation Fienddragon Whip—Eight Desolation Hell!

This was one of his ultimate moves. As the whip shot out at a terrifying speed, it transformed into an eight-headed fienddragon that seemed to have crawled up from hell. Surging with devilish ki, it sealed all eight directions, roaring as its jaws opened wide to sink its teeth into the yangfire goldencrow.

"How despicable!"

As soon as Qin Chaotian broke free from the Soulshaker Eye, he noticed that the crow was in danger. Spear in hand, he rose from the ground and rushed into the sky. The next moment, a black cat shot from the side, raining down lightning.

In battle, discerning key moments was important, especially in team battles where striving for the upper hand was crucial. Tianming's mind was very clear. At the moment when their souls had been confused, he had locked on to the crow and swooped in for an attack with Ying Huo. Having cooperated in countless battles, the two had become extremely proficient, especially with the help of a long-range weapon like Archfiend.

In the face of these fire-type opponents, Lan Huang performed exceptionally as well. Giant waves rolled from the Azure Oceanic Purgatory, covering the entire sky and crashing into everything that was in the way. The nine-eyed gold suanni and ninetail blaze scorpion could only exert their combat power by relying on the ground. So when the ground turned into a sea, the two were immediately swept into the water by Lan Huang.

Flames engulfed the sky, drying up the Azure Oceanic Purgatory. But when the suanni and scorpion finally left the water, they were greeted by the sight of a wounded crow. The Eight Desolation Fienddragon Whip had left bloody wounds that exposed bone. Tianming had wrapped Archfiend around the crow, pulled it down from the sky, and slammed the beast onto the ground.

Ying Huo's Sixpath Infernal Lotus blasted into the giant bird's head. Then, gathering tribulation sword ki in its blazing wings, Ying Huo stabbed the beast's head with Skypiercer Ki. Its Infernal Blaze exploded!

The hell barrier formation deflected the force of the explosion, keeping the crow alive. However, that was also an opportunity for Tianming to get rid of an opponent.

"Li Tianming, you're a cunning one!"

Qin Chaotian forced Meow Meow back with his spear, then reached the crow in an instant. Unexpectedly, he attacked the hell barrier formation. As soon as the hell barrier formation was

destroyed, the crow would have recovered its combat effectiveness. However, the hell barrier formation would no longer protect its life.

"Fine," Tianming sneered.

Even so, there was a huge wound on its head, as well as injuries caused by Archfiend all over its body. Storming with ferocity, it ascended into the sky, spewing huge fireballs that resembled the sun! The fireballs fell like meteorites. Since it couldn't strike Ying Huo and Meow Meow, the crow aimed at Lan Huang instead.

Faced with two opponents, Lan Huang was already fighting a strenuous battle. With the addition of the crow's attacks, Lan Huang screamed in pain as its body was scorched by the fireballs.

In its Regal Chaosfiend form, Meow Meow unleashed Soulchasing Hellthunder upon Qin Chaotian's Ninesolar Body, then immediately followed up with Myriad Thundernet to trap the nine-eyed gold suanni. Attacking from the side, Meow Meow sank its teeth into the suanni, dragging it away from Lan Huang's body. Entangled in battle, the two beasts rolled on the ground.

The suanni was a burly, sturdy beast covered in a dense mane, with limbs much thicker than Meow Meow's. In contrast, Meow Meow had all the advantages of a lion, tiger, and leopard, its physique no less powerful. It also had the same death tribulation energy that Tianming possessed. If the two beasts continued tearing at each other, the suanni was bound to lose its vitality and would eventually die in a protracted battle.

Thunder and fire shocked the earth as the rumble of explosions resounded.

It was about to get uncomfortable for the yangfire golden crow. Ying Huo hovered around its opponent. As the crow's body grew bigger, it also grew more and more convenient for Ying Huo to attack. Skypiercer Ki stabbed the crow's feathers, tearing its flesh apart; Ying Huo's abilities were stronger than its opponent's. Two flame birds—one large and the other small—fought fiercely in the sky. It was the crow that held its head and screamed time and time again.

Amidst the battle, Archfiend flickered once more, entangling the ninetail blaze scorpion's poisonous tails. The poisonous beast used its tails to attack Lan Huang's vulnerable parts, such as the eyes and mouth.

Its pincers were terrifying. However, when Archfiend was wrapped around its tails, the spikes sank into its exoskeleton and all the way through its flesh. The scorpion released a miserable cry. Using its body to pin the scorpion down, Lan Huang immediately bit and severed one of its tails.

The battlefield descended into chaos. Tianming used Archfiend to help his lifebound beasts gain an advantage. At the same time, he resisted Qin Chaotian's spear with his dark arm three consecutive times.

Because of Qin Chaotian's Ninesolar Body and the Setting Sun battle art in which he drew his will from the sun, Tianming couldn't see his expression, but he could certainly sense his rage. Dazzling sparks appeared when the sharp end of the spear collided with Tianming's left arm.

Tianming managed to grab the spear with his hand.

"What's the deal with your hand!" Qin Chaotian was stunned.

Tianming responded with a flick of Archfiend. The whip flew toward Qin Chaotian, and just as it was close at hand, the power of the Eight Desolation Fienddragons exploded.

After all, it was a second-origin samsara battle art. Qin Chaotian quickly withdrew his spear and backed away.

"Don't you dare run!"

At that point, Tianming switched to the Grand-Orient Swords, holding one in each hand as he made his onslaught.

A loud scream sounded at that moment. Without even looking, Tianming knew that Ying Huo had used its Infernal Blaze to blow up the crow's head. It had grown more proficient at the Mortal Dao Sword, and a phoenix that could demonstrate the number one sword art certainly possessed a frightening lethality.

The yangfire goldencrow was dead, a fact that had Qin Chaotian bursting in rage. Grief and anguish bubbled inside of him.

"What are you trying to do? When your hell tree is destroyed, you'll die over the next seven days. Why struggle so desperately?! That damn goddess of yours should've died a hundred thousand years ago. Protecting her will only destroy the Archaion Divine Realm. You're all daydreaming!" Qin Chaotian roared.

"So you sympathize with us?" Tianming asked.

"Sympathize? What a joke! You're all pigheaded idiots who deserve to die! Especially you! The more arrogant you are now, the more miserable your death will be later!" said Qin Chaotian.

"It doesn't matter if I die. Anyway, I'll be accompanied by more than sixty disciples of the Hexapath Sword Sect and the Quadform Oceanic Sect. And there'll be more to come. Make sure to wait at the gates of the underworld. I promise you won't be lonely!"

Eyes fiery, Tianming struck with monstrous force. The power of the two swords could never rival a combined one.

The Hexapath Samsara Sword—Animacorpus Eradication! It embodied the path of death.

With both tribulation sword ki and death tribulation energy, as well as the Ancient Deepstar Godbody, Tianming's move was bound to deal a fatal blow. He soared with majesty. The nine suns on Qin Chaotian's body radiated a brilliant glare and his flesh seemed to disappear. All Tianming could see was a scorching sun.

As the second most powerful disciple of the Yinyang Demon Sect, Qin Chaotian's talent was on par with Long Xiaofan, perhaps stronger. He possessed the courage to stare death in the face without the slightest shiver of fear.

"Die!"

The Setting Sun—Skypiercing Sun! The spear loaded with the power of the Ninesolar Body catapulted toward Tianming.

Then came an earth-shaking blast. Though intact, the spear had been bent out of shape by the Grand-Orient Sword.

However, this was merely the sword of life. When combined, the sword wasn't as quick as two swords used synchronously. It was impossible to attack simultaneously. However, the sword was certainly more powerful in this state.

Rising once more, Tianming struck with his sword, his eyes cold and indifferent. The second consecutive attack slammed past the spear and bore into Qin Chaotian's shoulder, neatly slicing off his arm.

Qin Chaotian fell to the ground screaming in pain. Although he had lost an arm, his hell barrier formation hadn't appeared, indicating that it wasn't a fatal injury.

However, the sword-shaped heavenly patterns on the Grand-Orient Sword, known as the Imperial Sword Prison, climbed up Qin Chaotian, swarmed inside, and instantly spread all over his body.

He was just about to fight back, only to find himself completely weak. The Imperial Sword Prison had sealed his death tribulation energy.

### **Chapter 716 - Your Son is No More**

"How could this be...."

Qin Chaotian opened his eyes and stared blankly at Tianming. Tianming was now fighting the ninetail blaze scorpion, forcing it out of its hell barrier formation. Meanwhile, Ying Huo and Meow Meow were teaming up on the nine-eyed gold suanni's hell barrier formation to force it out, too. Qin Chaotian was unquestionably defeated.

"What in the world did he do to me? He managed to seal my power!" Qin Chaotian said.

"It can kill you, too," Tianming said with a smirk.

"What?!"

Tianming ignored him and charged toward the hell tree of the Birtual Demon Sect. Raising his sword, he destroyed it before a huge audience. Almost immediately, Qin Chaotian and his lifebound beasts all began brightly glowing. His goal had been achieved.

"Li Tianming, don't bother! All your efforts won't change anything!" Qin Chaotian said, laughing. He was laughing at his own tragic self, who couldn't change anything himself either.

"Why should I care what a dead man thinks?" Tianming had only left him alive to test out the effects of destroying the hell tree. Now that Qian Chaotian was glowing bright like Jiang Wuxin's, that was all the confirmation he needed.

"You must be afraid. Haha, you Monorigin Sect folks call yourself the Archaion Sect. You think you'll last forever? One day, Taiji Peak Lake will definitely return to the hands of my sect!"

"Dream on in your next life!" Tianming wrapped Archfiend around his head, causing the hell barrier formation to appear to protect him. However, the Imperial Sword Prison was still sealing up his body. "Looks like not even the hell barrier formation is able to block the Imperial Sword Prison."

He smiled and willed the formation to activate, causing thousands of swords to manifest and pierce Qin Chaotian's heart.

"Ugh..." He slumped powerlessly on the ground, but the hell barrier formation persisted, funnily enough.

"The Yinyang Demon Sect's disciples now have nowhere to run. It'll be their turn to die next!"

Tianming looked into the distance and saw a few of them within the lightning layer of the Nether Battlefield. They had come with quite a lot of people, so it took quite some time for the many of them who had gone about on their own to regroup. Some of them were still trying to contact others to rejoin them, but it was no longer necessary as the bright lights coming from their bodies easily revealed their locations to each other. Yet the very same lights also made them the perfect prey. There were around thirty Biritual disciples near Jiang Wuxin, as well as another ten or so further away from them.

"Let's go." Tianming finished dealing with Qin Chaotian's lifebound beasts, got on Meow Meow, and charged away. "It's time to hunt!"

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In the viewing area of the Biritual Demon Sect, a group of ten or so elites were sitting not far away from Beigong Linlan. The two sitting in the highest seats were the sect masters, Solar Master Qin Fengyang and Lunar Master Li Caiwei. Qin Fengyang looked like a brave soul, with both his eyes shining bright like suns amidst his pale skin. His black hair flowed like a waterfall, much like Qin Chaotian's own. He was just as impressive as the other sect masters there. However, whenever he stood next to his female counterpart, nobody would set their eyes on him.

The Lunar Master commanded too much attention. Even when she was sitting, she looked like the ultimate empress. Her comfortable posture and luscious curves were enough to give young men bloody noses. Such was the sheer charisma and charm she commanded. The slightest grin or gaze would be enough to incite a flurry of confusing emotions.

Her life story was one of endless drama. Far too many men in the Biritual Demon Sect had fawned over her for her looks, only to be messed around like a toy in her hands. Now that she was the empress of the sect, even Qin Fengyang had to grovel beneath her feet. She was also easily the youngest among her peers of the same rank as her. It was said that the number of men she had scandalous relations with were innumerable. However, no man in the present day could stand on the same level as her to marvel at her beauty.

She was often said to be the most ambitious woman on the whole continent, a rose with poisonous thorns that brought no good end to the men that picked her. Her name, Li Caiwei, was humble and elegant, drawing a picture of a gentle young girl smiling innocently in a field of flowers, but reality was anything but. Her smile sent chills down one's spine and, by extension, their lower body. The only reason their camp was still so silent was because she hasn't spoken yet.

"Brother Fengyang, looks like your son is no more," she said, winking her pink eyelids. Though much of her thighs were exposed from being crossed, nobody dared to hazard a look.

"That's right." Qin Fengyang nodded.

"I bet you're filled with the desire for revenge. When the war starts, why don't I let the Solar House of Qin take the vanguard?" Gentle as the suggestion may have sounded, nobody dared to take it as anything but an order.

"Very well."

"The Solar House of Qin will no doubt earn the credit of reclaiming Taiji Peak Lake."

"We wouldn't dare. The credit is all yours, Sister," he said with his head lowered.

.....

The third layer of the Nether Battlefield was covered in the dark of night. A group of seventy people was listlessly waiting there. Right at that moment, around thirty of them began brightly glowing like Jiang Wuxin.

"What's going on?!"

"It's our allies from the Biritual Demon Sect!"

"Was their hell tree destroyed?"

The Biritual disciples were all at a loss as to what was happening.

"Isn't Qin Chaotian guarding the tree?"

"Who would dare touch our hell tree? It can't be Octagram or Pentaphase; they're being dealt with.... Don't tell me it's Triflair?"

"There's no way those cowards would dare!"

"Then what do we do now?"

"We'll see what Junior Sister Chu decides."

At the center of the group was Jiang Wuxin and a girl in a light pink dress. Needless to say, she was a treat for the eyes. Her eyes were cute and made her look meek and easy to pick on. She was the kind of girl that inspired in men the desire to protect; she seemed just the right kind of 'weak', appearing like a harmless little bunny among the rest. Her hell barrier formation also started glowing, which marked her as one of the Biritual Demon Sect.

"Junior Sister Chu, that fool Qin Chaotian failed to guard the hell tree. What do we do now?" asked another Biritual disciple.

"That fellow is just useless. It doesn't help that he's usually so arrogant, too, sheesh," Chu Xiaoqi said.

"That's right. He doesn't work well in groups and thinks very highly of himself. Who knew he couldn't even do something as simple as protecting a tree? He's nothing like Junior Sister Chu."

"Our aim is still to regroup and attack the Monorigin Sect. Even though our hell tree was destroyed, it doesn't affect us much. But we at least have to know who was behind the destruction of the tree," she said.

"You're right, Junior Sister."

She was constantly surrounded by the male Biritual disciples. It was no surprise, considering she was the sole disciple of the Lunar Master in her generation.

"I believe Li Tianming was the one behind it," Jiang Wuxin coldly said.

"Why do you say that, Big Brother Jiang?" she asked with a sensual tone.

"Nobody else would dare."

"You seem to hold him in high regard, Big Brother."

"Why wouldn't I?"

"I'd like to see him myself. If he's really as you say, he'll come for the rest of the Biritual disciples soon, right?"

"Yes. He'll definitely do that. Senior Brother Jiang said that he could even defeat fourth-level death samsarans. Though, I doubt he'd be able to defeat Qin Chaotian. Then again, Xuanyuan Yucheng could be working with him, but I wonder who's guarding their hell tree then."

"We still have some ten disciples down there. They're at a rather huge risk with their positions exposed."

The Biritual disciples turned to Chu Xiaoqi.

"How about this," she began, "Big Brother Jiang, Big Brother Changsun, since our hell tree was destroyed, we should go down and regroup with the rest now that our hell barrier formations are glowing. I believe our friends from Nonahall will soon finish dealing with the Octagram Heart Sect on the first layer. Once we join up with the rest, we'll come back up here, or maybe we can get the others to go down and join us."

"That works. However, if the Monorigin disciples are all together, there's no need for us to attack them for now," said Changsun Xingyue, the leader of the Heptastar disciples. He had a pair of starry eyes and seemed to glow in a myriad of colors.

"If Big Brother Changsun is worried for our safety, why don't you come with us?" she coquettishly asked.

"Forget it. We're still looking for the Pentaphase hell tree. Those fellows are too good at hiding. Maybe we should deal with them after wiping out the Monorigin Sect first..."

"If that's the case, we won't be fighting the Monorigin Sect directly then. I don't want us to suffer any losses whatsoever."

Jiang Wuxin bit his lip when he heard that. The Hexapath Sword Sect had only ended up like this because they charged in for a fight without much forethought, something that obviously unnerved the Biritual Demon Sect and Heptastar Aerial Sect.

"When Nonahall finishes taking care of Octagram, do come down to join us!" Chu Xiaoqi said. The only benefit of having their hell barrier formations glow was that it made it easier for others to find them.

"Goodbye," Changsun Xingyue said.

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"So, Junior Sister Chu, we should avoid fighting any Monorigin disciples we run into, right?"

"Of course. Why should it be up to us to fight? Didn't you see what happened to Hexapath?"

"What if they only have a few there?"

"We'll see. Let's focus on joining up with the others, first."

The thirty of them were traveling together, making them a shining beacon in the sky.

"What if they're the ones to chase us down?"

"Chase us?" Chu Xiaoqi smiled. "They're a huge group, so they can't possibly be that fast. If they try, we'll mount a fighting retreat as we rejoin Nonahall and Heptastar. They'll be led right into a trap."

"So, whatever the case may be, we won't have to suffer a humiliating loss like Hexapath."

"That's right. We won't be as stupid as Jiang Wuxin."

"Hahaha, only two of their forty-five remain! It's hilarious."

## **Chapter 717 - Hijacked**

The fourth layer of the Nether Battlefield was a windy hell. Sharp winds blew so hard that they had shaved down the mountains of the layer, making it mostly a flat plain with no elevated terrain to be seen. On this layer, the wind made it hard to even walk.

Chu Xiaoqi and the other Biritual disciples had come here from the third darkness layer above. Their bodies glowed brilliantly, making them easy to see from afar. Since that was the case, there was no need to keep their lifebound beasts away for stealth purposes. Instead, they let them roam freely.

Chu Xiaoqi was surrounded by a whole host of people. She wasn't even twenty-four, and was easily the youngest in the group, yet she was so talented that she ranked among the top five disciples among the entire continent, eclipsing even Qin Chaotian, the prodigal son of the Biritual Divine Realm.

Even so, she seemed really weak based on her appearance alone. There was a hint of meekness behind her veil of purity, causing nobody to take her seriously at all. That didn't stop anyone from fancying her and acceding to her every demand, however.

She wasn't actually of any noble birth. After all, the Lunar Master of the sect didn't have any children of her own. However, she was her disciple nonetheless, which made her even more favored by others due to the meritocratic nature of her position. It was said that both she and her master had come from an ancient clan of the Flameyellow Continent, one that wasn't that big or significant and hadn't produced any prominent members. Yet the fact that they had survived so long was already amazing enough.



Incidentally, others preferred to refer to her given name rather than 'Junior Sister Chu'.

"Xiaoqi, look over there!"

Right as the group descended, they scanned the surroundings and saw a bunch of lights in the distance. There were around a dozen of them, and judging by the size of the balls of light, they were beastmasters.

"They're from our sect."

"Thirteen of them, eh? We're all here then."

"Guess only Qin Chaotian's not accounted for."

"Either he's sitting and crying next to the destroyed tree, or he was already killed."

For the number two disciple of the sect and the son of the Solar Master to be maligned by his own comrades to this degree was a testament to Chu Xiaoqi's amazing ability to forge connections and networks. Almost all of the disciples in the sect were on her side.

"He probably thought of coming to join us the moment the hell tree was compromised," she said.

"Yeah, he should have no qualms of joining up with us now, since the tree is already gone."

"If only we'd known that Jiang Wuxin's group would find the Monorigin Sect's hell tree so soon, we wouldn't have split up with them from the get go."

They were still casually chatting with each other despite their tree being destroyed. It wasn't like not having a tree would affect their plans to deal with the Archaion Sect at all. The worst thing to come of it was the thirty points awarded to the one who destroyed it.

"In past summits, our sect has never been at the top. Before, we'd be in deep trouble if our hell tree was destroyed, but it shouldn't matter much now since we have lots of allies."

Thus, the group of brightly glowing people continued traveling across the windy plain without a care in the world, and the smaller group ahead of them did the same. Closer and closer, they approached each other. By now, they could see glowing silhouettes a kilometer away.

"Gu Liuyu, bring the rest over here," Chu Xiaoqi ordered. Even though her voice was gentle, it was oddly compelling. However, the group ahead of them didn't move and remained where they were. They didn't even respond to her, as if they wanted her to personally go to them!

"Are they daft? Those idiots...." The other male disciples around her were displeased by the lack of respect.

"Go beat them up! How dare they not listen to Junior Sister Xiaoqi!"

It barely took an instant to cover the distance.

"What's that?!"

When the group approached them, they saw that the smaller group were all bound by a black and red chain.

"They've been hijacked!"

The chain completely bound all of them. At the other end of it was the tail of a gigantic black feline beast that had tiger-like stripes and panther-like proportions and speed. That beast had been dragging the other disciples behind it and was waiting for the group to approach. Even more infuriating was how all the disciples had sword-shaped patterns all across their bodies and mouths. Like needles, they stitched up their mouths and stopped them from saying anything. Their faces were pale and their eyes were red as they despaired from the agonizing pain. No matter how much they had struggled, they weren't able to escape the fate of being dragged across the ground by that beast as it traveled.

"It's Li Tianming's lifebound beast!" someone said. Tianming was famous for being the goddess' disciple, and they no doubt had lots of information about him. Jiang Wuxin had updated them on his actual strength, but that was only comparable to his fourth-level death samsaran level, which didn't seem that amazing to the Biritual disciples.

"Not bad. You recognized it at a glance," said the white-haired youth from atop the beast's head, smiling as he looked at the Biritual disciples. The moment he finished speaking, the sword patterns disappeared from the mouths of the hostages.

"Junior Sister Xiaoqi, he killed all our lifebound beasts!"

"He crippled us!"

"Our hell barrier formations were broken and he also used some method to seal our strength!"

"Junior Sister Xiaoqi, kill him and avenge us! He's just one person! He also killed Qin Chaotian!"

"Kill him!"

Their rage was boiling over after being held hostage for so long.

"Hey hey hey, no need to get so mad. I didn't take you hostage to cause conflict. I'm here to negotiate," Tianming said, not caring in the slightest about how much they wanted him dead. He spotted a beauty in pink in the middle of the group and asked, "Are you Little Xiaoqi? Big Brother is here to negotiate with you."

"Little? I heard you're only around twenty. You should call me Big Sister instead," she said with a cool face, despite usually being full of smiles. As the leader of their sect's disciples, she couldn't bring herself to smile at all after seeing how badly her comrades had been treated.

"Big Sister? That's even better. I love older girls with experience. I'm sure you have lots to teach me." Tianming winked as he looked her up and down. "Big Sister sure is a looker. I heard you don't have a boyfriend yet. Does Little Brother here have a chance?"

His words sent the other disciples into a fit of rage. They couldn't endure it even though they knew that it was a clear provocation. Some words simply couldn't be said.

"Stop messing around. Didn't you say you want to negotiate? Let's hear it," she said. She had to be considerate of the hostages as well.

"Simple. I let them go and spare them and the Biritual Demon Sect stops causing trouble for the Archaion Sect. How does that sound? As long as you pledge to leave the alliance, I promise they'll live to see the end of the Number One Summit."

His words sent a bout of laughter throughout their ranks.

"Is he daft?"

"Junior Sister Chu, stop wasting time with him. Since he dared to come here, let's fulfill his death wish!"

"Come on, I came here with the utmost sincerity. There are so many sects against ours. All I want is for you to sit back while Nonahall and Heptastar make their move. Don't mess with us, and I'll make sure your buddies here survive. Let the other sects deal with us and stay out of trouble. Sounds like a good deal, no? Big Sister Xiaoqi?"

"You mean to say that you're confident you can escape even if we refuse?" she asked.

"Of course. I happen to be really good at that."

"Are you sure you know what kind of status you hold?"

"What status? If I had to guess, maybe the most handsome guy in the world?"

"Nonsense! You're the goddess's disciple! Your life is worth much more than theirs! Do you think I won't swallow you up now that you've shown yourself to us?" Her voice grew colder and colder.

"Wait, I think I'm mishearing things, but you kind of sounded like you'd like to swallow this Little Brother's... little brother?"

"To hell with you!"

Those words set off the fuse of the rest of them. Chu Xiaoqi's intentions were obvious. As far as they were concerned, the lives of the hostages couldn't even compare to Tianming's, so sacrificing them was only natural. Was Tianming really confident in his speed, or did he just not understand that basic fact?

"Kill him!"

The thirty-odd disciples and their lifebound beasts came flying toward Tianming with Chu Xiaoqi leading the way.

"This lass here is a fifth-level life samsaran despite her young age.... She's definitely a whole level above Jiang Wuxin. I wouldn't expect anything less from the personal disciple of the Lunar Master. Meow Meow, go!"

Meow Meow immediately turned and bolted away, accelerating like a lightning bolt.

## **Chapter 718 - Massacre**

Tianming's hair fluttered in the wind as he rode Meow Meow, rapidly zipping through the terrain. Chu Xiaoqi was following closely behind along with all the other Biritual disciples. Meow Meow raised its tail, dragging the hostages up to face the strong winds and causing them to moan in agony, making for a

rather cruel sight to behold. Their cries, along with Tianming's callous words, sent the remaining disciples into a frenzy to the point that they stopped considering everything else and singlemindedly gave chase. However, they would soon discover why Tianming had dared to come provoke them. His lifebound beast was unbelievably fast! Part of the reason for that was its latest evolution, while the other was its nature as a speedy lightning demon.

"You shan't escape!" Chu Xiaoqi yelled. Swallowing his little brother? The words were so humiliating that she felt a volcano erupting within her.

"Don't worry, Junior Sister Chu. As long as he drags the hostages with him, the hell barrier formations will make sure he can't hide."

"That's right! We still have a week to get rid of him!"

"I won't be able to quench the hatred I feel unless we cut him into a thousand pieces!"

"He dares act so arrogant just because he's a little fast? Let's see how he runs when the other sects come."

They had more than enough time to slowly wear Tianming down. Just like that, the chase continued across the windy plains. The hostages were all bundled together into a glowing lump where Meow Meow was. They looked like a bright lamp, behind which a trail of seventy or eighty figures, beastmasters and lifebound beasts alike, followed. Chu Xiaoqi maintained a set distance behind Meow Meow and seemed like she would be able to catch up. However, the ones behind her were lower level and their beasts had different speeds, so some were left behind. The hell barrier formations were glowing so brightly they looked like a chain of pearls that was being slowly pulled apart.

Despite all that, if Chu Xiaoqi was a little further ahead, she would notice that Tianming wasn't riding Meow Meow at all. It was running away alone with the hostages tied behind it. The moment they'd started running, Tianming had left Meow Meow and delved into the darkness. Naturally, he hadn't come to negotiate with them. Instead, he was there to wipe them all out, and first he needed to split them up by taking advantage of their speed difference.

Though it sounded like a simple plan, it required a dastardly mind and guts to pull off. Once he angered his enemy, they wouldn't be able to think as clearly. Not to mention, the key to pulling off the plan was making sure he could fight quickly enough. He was hiding and waiting for the strongest disciples to run far ahead so that he could pick out the weaker ones at the back first. All of a sudden, he made his move.

"You?!" There was no time to react after the third-level samsaran disciple let out that cry. He wasn't able to take Tianming and Ying Huo's strikes at all. The Grand-Orient Sword pierced him, causing the hell barrier formation to manifest. Then Ying Huo's tribulation sword ki swiftly broke it, allowing Tianming to follow up with the killing strike. It was a clean, instant kill. Unlike Qin Chaotian, whose barrier formation still glowed even though he had been killed by the Imperial Sword Prison, this disciple's simply faded.

"Next."

Tianming no longer played around like before and had nothing but one thing on his mind: if he didn't kill these people, Xuanyuan Yucheng and the others would die. The moment that happened, the Archaion

Sect would feel pressured and Feiling would be in a dangerous position. That was reason enough to not show any mercy.

"Next!"

"Next!"

He slaughtered his way from their rear. The most people he faced at once were three, and they weren't able to take his onslaught at all.

"Time to train my swordsmanship!"

Now, he was trying to master Animacorpus Eradication, causing heads to fly off as he harvested their lives. Soon, the ones at the front noticed what was happening and immediately turned back, but it was too late. Their hell barrier formations were far too obvious for Tianming to miss and they weren't able to see him either.

"Who is it?! Who's killing our comrades?"

"Quick, regroup!"

"Turn around! We fell for a trap!"

They were beginning to panic. The killer was hiding in the shadows and instantly killing them with no reprieve. Death could come from the shadows at any moment; it was a terror like no other. Some came back and saw the whole area littered with headless corpses and carcasses of man and beast.

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"Xiaoqi, something happened!" someone called out from behind.

"What is it?" she snapped. She was just about to catch up to Meow Meow and vent her pent-up rage.

"The number of people behind us is decreasing! Someone sent a signal to regroup! There might be an attack coming from behind!"

Stunned, she instantly realized what was happening. "We've been fooled!"

"Don't go, Big Sister! My feline balls are delicious too, you know!" Meow Meow jeered, seeing that she was no longer chasing it.

Chu Xiaoqi felt like she was about to blow up and immediately turned tail, sending a signal for everyone to gather where she was. She felt like she had lost all sensation. "How did we lose so many in such a short time?! She could see their lights being put out one by one. There were only a dozen left, belonging to beastmasters and their beasts alike, and they were disappearing at a staggering rate! Tianming was too quick when he was able to strike without being seen. That was the real reason he had destroyed the hell tree.

Her eyes were about to pop out as she rushed toward one of the lights, only to see a corpse laying there. "Xiaowei!" she cried. Her good friend's head and body had parted ways. She located the head and saw the eyes still wide open in terror.

"Li Tianming!" she cried hoarsely as she slumped to the ground, her long hair all messed up.

"Quick, quick!" The remaining lights gathered around her. It had only taken seconds for sixteen of their group of thirty to be wiped out.

### **Chapter 719 - Another Murder Spree**

Chu Xiaoqi was mostly responsible for how things had turned out. Had she not been so hasty in chasing Meow Meow down, this wouldn't have happened, though it had to be said that Tianming being able to kill sixteen of them in such a short time was terrifying enough already. The surviving disciples stood there with tears flowing nonstop.

"They.... Sixteen of us died...."

The moment someone uttered that, the ten lights behind Meow Meow were suddenly extinguished—the hostages had been killed! In other words, only these fourteen of the original forty Biritual disciples were left. They weren't much better off than the Hexapath Sword Sect now.

"Aaaaah..." Chu Xiaoqi cried almost soundlessly as she knelt on the ground in pain.

"Junior Sister Xiaoqi...."

The other disciples also let their tears flow. They had tasted true pain and despair. Tianming's merciless killings made them aware of the kind of person who had experienced a true battle before. There was no room for mercy in war. The wars in the Grand-Orient Realm and the Theocracy were precious formative experiences for him. While the people there weren't that powerful, they knew better than to treat situations like these lightly.

"Everyone, let me teach you a lesson," Tianming said as he suddenly appeared before them on Meow Meow's back. "Do not unto others what you do not want done unto you."

His gaze was cold like a god of death's; fresh blood was still dripping from his sword, completely contrasting him from his previous playful self. The disciples had just learned his true nature. Tianming then set his eyes on the despairing Chu Xiaoqi.

"Big Sister, don't feel too good about yourself. Honestly, I can't even get into goods like you even if you wanted me to."

Right after saying that, he disappeared into the darkness. Chu Xiaoqi had suffered yet another mental blow from the words alone. Her eyes were bloodshot as she dug her nails into her flesh. "Li Tianming, I will definitely tear you to shreds and reduce you to ashes in this life!"

It was the first time she had lost so badly. It had all happened in an instant, and she hadn't even managed to react to it.

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"I know you're young and reckless and all... but I'll make sure to tell Her Eminence about your 'little brother's little brother'," Meow Meow teased.

"Ling'er will understand. I was fighting for my life," Tianming said.

"Explaining it will only make you more suspicious! Your life is over."

"Stupid cat, are you turning against me?"

"I'll go against you as long as you don't let me rest! I want naps!"

"Now that you've dealt with Quadform and Hexapath and left only a dozen Biritual disciples here, they won't be able to take on Xuanyuan Yucheng and the rest by themselves. What do you plan to do next?" Ying Huo asked, perched on Meow Meow's head.

"I'll go to the third layer and do the same thing. Destroy Heptastar's hell tree so that they'll start to regroup. I doubt they'll have many people guarding it either. If I can get to them before they meet up with Chu Xiaoqi and the rest, it'll be a win for me even if it doesn't cause much chaos."

"Then let's hurry! Cat Bro, accelerate!" Ying Huo gave it a light tap.

"No can do. I need a rest."

Ying Huo flew back and perched on its tail. "What about now?"

Meow Meow bolted forward as fast as it could.

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The third layer of the Nether Battlefield was even better for Tianming to move around in. He hid in the shadows as he had Xian Xian search for the hell tree. Currently, the Biritual disciples were on the lower layers, so only Jiang Wuxin's location was obvious to him. He had to do all he could before the Biritual disciples returned, for this method would no longer work if they joined up with Heptastar.

"I'll get close to them before I start searching!" He took Xian Xian and approached Jiang Wuxin's group first.

"Half-daddy, the hell tree on this layer isn't far from them," Xian Xian said.

"I expected as much."

The Heptastar Celestial Sect wanted to choose a base without exposing the location of their hell tree, so they probably picked somewhere nearby so they could react in time if anything happened to the hell tree.

"If it's nearby, it's even better. I won't even have to bother putting up an act. Once they see me destroying the hell tree, they'll chase me down without provocation."

Tianming made his decision and hurried Xian Xian up. It didn't take more than fifteen minutes for the tree to be located. At the same time, Tianming also noticed the Biritual disciples coming up to this floor, thanks to their glowing barrier formations. Now, their locations and Jiang Wuxin's were plain to see. While it would take some time for Chu Xiaoqi to meet up with the rest, it wouldn't be too long.

"Let's hurry things up!" He charged straight toward the hell tree that was guarded by four Heptastar disciples, one of whom was a fourth-level life samsaran. Tianming immediately unleashed all his

lifebound beasts. Xian Xian took root next to the hell tree and dominated the battlefield with its Radiant Vines and Bloodrain Swords.

"Who is it?!"

"It's Li Tianming!"

In a panic, all of them sent out red flares into the sky. Jiang Wuxin could be seen immediately approaching the area, which surely meant the other thirty plus disciples were heading there, too. Tianming didn't have much time. As Ying Huo and the rest dealt with the four disciples and their lifebound beasts, he went straight for the hell tree.

The Heptastar Celestial Sect had a core bloodline called the Starbeast Clan. All members of that clan had lifebound beasts that were starbeasts—beasts that were shaped like stars. They didn't match typical species profiles like avians, insects, or fish and were, strictly speaking, luminous rocks that only seemed like they had real flesh.

The interesting thing about starbeasts was that they could fuse with their beastmasters and truly fight as one. For instance, a triple beastmaster could fuse all three starbeasts into one to gain more power than the sum of them all. A single body would be able to produce more power than three separate starbeasts, something other kinds of lifebound beasts couldn't imitate.

The disciples near Tianming could fuse their starbeasts together as long as they had two or more, but he didn't really pay attention to it. As Xian Xian and the rest were taking care of his foes, he used his strongest techniques and the Grand-Orient Sword to break the barrier formation. Though he could just use his left hand to tear it apart, he didn't want to reveal that before such a large audience.

Soon, the barrier formation broke and Tianming swiftly felled the hell tree, causing all the Heptastar disciples to brightly glow. The dark layer they were on was now as bright as day. Tianming immediately turned back, only to see a huge group of Heptastar disciples right in front of him.

"It's the goddess' disciple!"

"How dare he destroy our hell tree alone?"

"Chase him down!"

Everyone went mad in their pursuit. He didn't even need to provoke them to induce such a reaction in them. He had Xian Xian, Lan Huang, and Ying Huo return to the lifebound space and turned in the direction of the Biritual disciples.

"Want to reveal my secrets, eh?"

Tianming immediately darted in the opposite direction, causing all of the Heptastar and some Nonahall disciples to chase him down.

"Kill him!"

Cries like that echoed throughout the entire layer. The direction Tianming ran made it so that the Biritual disciples were trailing behind the Heptastar disciples. As long as they couldn't catch up, they wouldn't be able to find out about Tianming's plan. This time around, he was mainly relying on acute



time management. The fact that they had based themselves so near the hell tree was a huge boon to him.

He rode away on Meow Meow without any obvious lights on him, but it didn't matter as his foes were close enough. But beyond two hundred meters, they would lose sight of him.

"This is exciting!" Meow Meow said as it freely ran, welcoming the rush of wind on its face.

"It's dangerous too!" Tianming saw a single light charging toward him at a terrifying speed—it was Jiang Wuxin. "He's much faster than before! Did he improve or something? It looks like life tribulation force. Maybe he made it to the fifth-level life phase."

Tianming knew how much Jiang Wuxin hated him.

"He's fast!" Meow Meow said.

"That's right. I think he cultivated a form of Kiloflash Sword Body." Tianming saw the light closing the distance on him, filled with killing intent. Jiang Wuxin was so bright Tianming couldn't make him out clearly.

"Meow Meow, can you shake him off?"

"More or less. As long as I don't stop, he won't be able to catch up."

"There's some Nonahall disciples in the darkness too. You should be careful."

"Leave it to me."

"Deal!"

Tianming saw that the group was slowly being drawn apart thanks to the speed difference. He immediately left Meow Meow and blended into the darkness. After about twenty breaths, one light disappeared without anyone noticing. The rest disappeared at a staggering rate too, as if they had been swallowed by a black hole.

"Stop chasing!" Chu Xiaoqi yelled, but to no avail. She didn't dare leave the other Biritual disciples behind, so her voice didn't travel far enough. She despaired when she saw the lights ahead of her disappearing one by one. By the time the Heptastar disciples turned back and noticed it, at least ten of them had died.

"Someone's striking from the darkness!" More and more such cries rang out.

"He's here—aagh!"

A human head tumbled about in mid air.

## **Chapter 720 - The Drive for Constant Self-improvement**

Currently, there were far too many people around Tianming. The only thing he could count on was that he could widen his distance from them, as he could clearly see them. Thanks to the surrounding darkness, they wouldn't be able to see him unless they were within a few hundred meters of him, giving

him more room to act on this layer than the previous one. However, it would be difficult to repeat what he had done to the Biritual disciples, due to the sheer number of enemies and how soon they had noticed it.

"Die!"

Tianming did his best to kill a few more as they gathered, causing the number of Heptastar disciples to fall to the twenties. This was his limit. Right as he was about to continue, Meow Meow unleashed Misty Hellthunder from afar, forcing the pursuers back. It appeared that Jiang Wuxin had posed a threat to it.

"Meow Meow might be in danger!"

He had no choice but to give up on the hunt and hurry toward it. Beastmasters and their lifebound beasts had a telepathic connection, so he could easily locate it in the darkness. The Heptastar and Biritual disciples had gathered together, leaving only Jiang Wuxin chasing Meow Meow down. He was easy to spot, thanks to the light, so Tianming hurried toward it.

To avoid Jiang Wuxin's pursuit, Meow Meow undid its Regal Chaosfiend form and became much faster in its smaller form. The Misty Hellthunder it unleashed held Jiang Wuxin back while also allowing traces of Soulchasing Hellthunder to enter his body. The moment the energy contained within exploded, Jiang Wuxin felt numb all over and slowed down considerably.

As he approached Meow Meow, Tianming flicked Archfiend with blinding speed, stretching it out to a thousand meters to wrap it around Meow Meow and pull it over. It had happened so quickly that it even managed to catch up to it as it was avoiding Jiang Wuxin's sword ki. Tianming quickly took the cat back into his lifebound space.

Now that Jiang Wuxin no longer had Meow Meow in sight, he continued charging forward, unable to spot Tianming at all, allowing him to easily leave. He turned around and saw another thirty lights in the darkness layer. Since Quadform was all wiped out and there were only two left from Hexapath, fourteen from Biritual and twenty-one from Heptastar remained. That meant Tianming had managed to kill so many from Nonahall that only thirty or so remained in total.

"Did he kill over a hundred of them?"

Only around forty disciples from the Archaion Sect were killed in the Skyorigin Battlefield. It was plain to see who had gotten the worse end of the deal. While not all of the hundred were killed by Tianming himself, he was the one who had orchestrated the whole thing. Not to mention, he had claimed a disproportionate number of lives in the last two massacres. By the time he left the dark layer and continued upward, everyone watching all across the Flameyellow Continent fell absolutely silent.

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Feiling, Fang Qingli, and a few other tribulation elders from the Xuanyuan house intently watched the events from Soulburn Hall.

"Your Eminence, Tianming does indeed live up to our hopes. He is worthy of our admiration," Fang Qingli said.

"He is doing fine, but it's not over yet. Let's keep watching," Feiling said. Nobody had told her what the other divine realms were planning, but there was no doubt she understood her own predicament. Tianming had told her to act as calm as she could so that she could trick others into thinking she had been expecting this outcome.

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In the Dimensional Battlefield, it was now Heptastar's turn to fume with rage. However, it was the quiet kind of fuming, compared to the viewers from the previous two sects.

"Looks like Xiaoqi has much training to do. She won't fall for the same trick next time," Qing Fengyang said, even though his head was lowered the whole time.

"That's right. She was lured into the chase and caused her fellow disciples to die. That's a crime worthy of death," Li Caiwei said with a smile.

"Sect Master, please don't. Xiaoqi's future is bright. Please give her a chance to make up for her foolishness," said an elder accompanied by a few others behind her.

"If she can kill the goddess' disciple, I'll consider her crime atoned for."

Even though Qin Fengyang was also there, the only sect master anyone took seriously was the Lunar Master.

"This trick worked well twice, but it won't have any effect before true power."

Even now, they had more people if they included the Nonahall disciples in the count.

"It will all come to an end after the battle."

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The Nether Battlefield's second layer was scorching white. It was the complete opposite of the dark third layer, a place where strong, blinding light beams shot all over. It was hard for Tianming to even keep his eyes open. The light was so scorching it would even char one's skin. Thankfully, his Ancient Deepstar Godbody wasn't affected much.

This was the turf of the Nonahall Ghost Sect, so he would start with finding their hell tree. "As long as I can destroy the tree, they'll be completely exposed."

That was the only thing he could do for now. It was thanks to Xian Xian that he had managed to take the initiative so often, but even then, this was his limit. If he managed to destroy the Nonahall hell tree like the previous ones, chances were they would gather together.

Soon, he managed to locate it, but there were around fifty Nonahall disciples guarding it. While the bright illumination on this layer made it easier to hide the hell tree's barrier formation, it presented some difficulty for Tianming in moving discreetly, so he wasn't able to approach it.

It was plain to see that Jiang Wuxin, Chu Xiaoqi and Changsun Xingyue were also heading for the tree. Tianming hid nearby and eavesdropped on their conversation, getting a few pieces of information for his trouble. First, there were another twenty plus Nonahall disciples on the metalstar layer of the Nether

Battlefield looking for the Octagram Heart Sect's hell tree. Second, they had already spotted the Biritual and Heptastar disciples heading their way. The moment they joined up, they would have around ninety people. Coupled with the twenty that would soon head back from the first layer, their number totaled up to more than a hundred and ten, with around eighty of them being Nonahall disciples. They already knew about the heavy losses the other four sects had suffered at Tianming's hands. Though they had initially intended to deal with Octagram before going down to the ninth swamp layer together, they had no choice but to speed things up.

"We were about to find their hell tree, but they really know how to hide. They created quite a few diversions."

"Eleven Octagram disciples died, leaving them with only twenty remaining. I don't know why they're still trying, hehe."

"I bet their seniors are about to submit to us after seeing how ruthless we are."

"Forget it, let's deal with the Monorigin Sect first."

"How did the other sects even lose their hell trees?"

Based on their discussion, Tianming felt a little more confident about the current status quo. "I wonder how we can hold against all of them at the swamp layer...."

He wanted to cut that number down by another thirty, but even then, that would still be too many for the Archaion disciples. "Nonahall is too powerful."

He looked at the fifty-odd Nonahall disciples, coupled with Jiang Wuxin and the rest. There were already ninety plus of them there, so destroying their hell tree would prove impossible. There wasn't anything he could do to delay them, either; that Meow Meow's trick had managed to work twice was thanks to a miracle. A third attempt definitely wouldn't succeed.

"I doubt I'll have the time to go to the first layer. I should go back down to the windblade layer and look for Pentaphase while they're still waiting for the rest instead!" He didn't have much time, so he rushed down to the fourth layer where he had massacred the Biritual disciples. That was where the Pentaphase disciples were.

"Quick, Xian Xian!" He only needed to find their hell tree to locate them. This time around, Xian Xian spotted it much faster as it had grown more and more used to the search. The tree was at the center of a windstorm, next to which twenty disciples stood guard.

"I believe thirty-three of them entered the Nether Battlefield...." He took a deep breath and dove into the eye of the storm.

"Who goes there?!" The Pentaphase disciples were all anxious at having their hell tree discovered. It could be fatal for them.

"It's me, Li Tianming from the Archaion Sect," he introduced himself, much to their relief. They seemed really anxious and depressed.

"What're you doing here? Several of our disciples died because of your goddess! If not for her, they wouldn't have caused trouble for our sect!" said a green-clad girl with a fierce glare.

"Qingqing, that's enough," reprimanded a youth dressed in gold. He had a tall nose and lots of charisma. It was only natural to assume that he was their leader. He was Zhao Tianxing, the top disciple of Pentaphase, and was about as strong as Xuanyuan Yucheng. The girl who had spoken before was Jiang Qingqing, the daughter of the sect master.