

Mana 251

Chapter 251 - Who are you, really? II

Back in the World of Cultivation, a multitude of thoughts bloomed in Noah's mind as he delved into the memories of the beings from the Magus World, his eyes being opened up once more to the many things he did not know of in this universe.

There was an abundant amount of information, but the one holding most importance was the reason why the Saint Ranked Black Serpent was leading a force of Magi to kill and obtain the bodies of Cultivators

Black Serpent belonged to one of the central powers of the Magus World. Shockingly, this central power actually held grand designs of power that involved the use of the bodies of cultivators!

Noah connected the things he continued to peruse through his memories with a being he had recently come in contact with, the Celestial who was given the mission to obtain the Dagger of Time that he had taken for himself.

The Celestial had come with a protector that was known as a Punisher, and those like the Devilish Time Unveiler knew more information, like the fact that the Punishers were all beings of the Elven Race turned under the command of the Celestials with no will of their own.

Shockingly, one of the powers of the Magus World was trying to build up a force similar to the Punishers, with their research allowing them to use the bodies of Cultivators as the base for their new creations! It was a grand scheme that was already underway, with many Transcendent Rank puppets in the hundreds already being made successfully, and those of higher rank slowly increasing.

Noah pondered these new set of events as they did not take center stage of his attention even now, his mind already set on getting his hands on the powerful skill that would allow him to always escape whenever he wished, even with spatial locks in place. This was one of the first steps he was taking as he gradually, and carefully, increased his power. This would require him to spend some time in one the most powerful sects on the World of Cultivation, the Profound Astral Sect.

This Sect was the origin of the Devilish Time Unveiler, and also the place that held a skill which even the Devilish Unveiler did not get his hands on before he left the sect. Coming to the subject of the old schemer, Noah gave another look at the many Saint Ranked cores and skills that burst out of him. Even though the schemer used to be at the rank above Saint in his prime, he was only at the Saint Rank when Noah killed him, and the rewards reflected that.

If he had waited for the Devilish Time Unveiler to achieve his wishes and obtain his cultivation at the Void Fimmerment Realm, only a repeat of horrendous events would occur again.

Many of the skill books were the skills he had seen the Devilish Unveiler use himself, and they would only serve as great addition of skills he could use to combine with his [Abberant Saint] as they were of the space attribute.

This wasn't to mention the cores and skills obtained from the recently defeated Saint Ranked Magus, which gave skills that fit the attack attribute of the future skills he planned to combine.

Many of the things he had planned for were falling in place, with the addition of even more that he hadn't thought about before. He remained careful as his figure teleported from the Devilish Abode, having roamed in it as long as he could but still not being able to find the other target he was looking for, the Celestial Disciple.

He appeared above a large mountain that was surrounded by multiple peaks, the location of the Main Peak of the Karmic Sect that he had been led to when he first arrived in the World of Cultivation.

He had already used [Insight] to test the possibilities of events when it came to the mysterious Sect Master Inuit who had always been his helper, and yet he still did not understand enough information about him. The results from [Insight] were a huge surprise to him, as they portrayed what he was watching now in an eerie fashion.

In the Karmic Sect he had seen before that was filled with thousands of disciples training and moving about on each of the peaks surrounding the main peak, there was only silence and quietness.

The peaks surrounding the mountain he was standing on looked deserted, as if nobody had been there to begin with. Even the main peak he stood on only held a single elevated platform that stood out, everything else surrounded by trees and vegetation.

The Karmic Sect that he had seen with his own eyes, as well as many of its disciples, was nowhere to be found!

In the only elevated platform that stood out, a single aged old man with a calm smile was sitting down in deep meditation. Noah's entrance seemed to have caused a change as the wizened Sect Master Inuit opened his blank eyes towards Noah.

Having seen some of the possibilities through [Insight], Noah was not too worried, as this was also the same being who had saved him from certain death in the Lost World of Atlantis. He just wanted to understand his motives. He gazed at the serene face of the being he knew as 'Sect Master Inuit' as he asked.

"Who are you, really?"

A bright smile bloomed on the face of the old man in front of Noah as his blank eyes focused on him.

"I am only an old thing, a nobody that is still trying to follow some principles."

Noah nodded at the usual obscure answer as he also sat down and asked.

"You knew of what would happen in the Devilish Abode?"

A nod came as the 'Sect Master Inuit' waved his hands and allowed a teapot with two steaming cups of tea to appear between the two of them.

"Yes. It was something you had to go through yourself without any help. You were able to do it successfully, and thus we have been able to initiate a change that will only perforate into something grander as time passes. I could not force my influence in it too much, as that would have been a cause for an entirely different set of results."

Noah sipped on the fragrant tea in front of him as the old man continued.

"There are no save points or take-backs from now on though, and it all lays on your shoulders. The tools you have should be more than enough for you to proceed with a certain degree of certainty and success though, otherwise I would not have bothered."

As they were talking, Noah noticed the figure of the old man gradually becoming more and more transparent, as if he would fade away at any moment. He looked at this as he asked.

"You won't even tell me who you are or what exactly you want?"

Slight surprise appeared on the gradually transparent face as it replied.

"My identity will be of no use to you right now, and you will eventually see me again if you follow the path you are on now. As for my purpose..."

His disappearing figure gazed around the trees surrounding them as he continued.

"...well, as hypocritical as it is, peace is one of my goals. Along with the simple destruction of cowards that continue to bring us closer to ruin because of their prideful ideals. But none of this will be of any use to you now. I have interfered as much as I can, and things will now play out depending on your future choices. Trust in yourself and those around you, and I'm sure I'll be seeing you again before you know it."

A smile that seemed to contain a variety of emotions remained on the fading Sect Master Inuit as his blank eyes continued to gaze at Noah, until he disappeared from his sight.

The particles that made up his being disappeared in a blink as they crossed through space, shooting off faster than the speed of light to a faraway distance, only to arrive and covertly disappear into a particular star.

The particles of light made a swift beeline for a location deep in the center of this star, going towards a dark space near the core where there was a simple styled golden cage that was holding a single being.

The cage was simple in its style, but unlike anything seen before as it held countless spikes that pierced the being held at the very center. The spikes were golden and went forward to pierce the body of this being thoroughly, entering one side of his body and leaving through another. Countless bloody gashes were apparent as golden-red blood continued to leak from the body of this being, the blood following a created path on the floor as it was drained into some unknown location. A strong beating heart could be seen among the gashes on the impaled body, drawing an interesting contrast.

The particles of light entered this impaled being, causing a wheeze to come out as sickly coughs were released, even more droplets of golden-red blood leaking out. After this fit of coughing, a calm smile appeared on the face of the being that was impaled on all sides.

Aside from the many spikes impaling him throughout, a level of strength that many beings would never come across their entire lives was vibrantly showing even while a tremendous amount of blood continued to leave the body of this being.

The head that was impaled along with almost all other parts of the body rose as blank white eyes looked up from the dark space they were in, peering across the prison and overlooking many of the locations on the star they were on.

Among the many things the blank eyes saw, one of them was the scene of a wizened old man holding a vibrant Watering Can as he tended to treasured Medicinal Plants in a simple styled monastery. A golden light bounced from his body and into his surroundings as he had no idea he was being observed, continuing with his routine as usual.

The impaled being observed this and many more things occurring on this star that held more powerhouses than many would see in their lifetimes as a calm smile spread across their disfigured face.

'The cards have been set, and all the pieces are in place. Now, we only wait for time to pass and see where fate leads us.'

In the silence on this enclosed space holding a golden cage, a being closed their blank white eyes as they observed and waited.

Chapter 252 - Serenity

Noah looked around the peak he was on as many thoughts passed through his mind, realizing he did not really get any solid answers, but knowing that there was an unknown being somewhere who could be considered to be on his side.

None of the memories he held were of any help as he gazed at the peaceful vegetation and trees surrounding him, his thoughts wandering from his next goals, and what he wanted for himself.

He thought of the beings around him, those that depended on him, and those that he stood above. He thought of the two women he still did not fully open up himself to, as well as the woman taking care of a small Star City he had nearly forgotten about.

He could be considered strong and powerful to an extreme degree when others looked at him, but there was always a place where one would be weak at.

After the loss of his parents, he did not open himself up to anyone fully, not wanting there to even be a possibility of feeling the same pain he felt back then. Without his conscious knowledge, he had gotten extremely close to some of the women around him, that when he witnessed one of them ripped apart right in front of him, he was reminded of a pain he never thought he would feel again.

Even when he reversed everything and events returned to a better past, he still held those memories, and they weighed heavily on his mind. This was why he was not against it when Barbatos said she wanted to remain in the Spiritual Land and do her training there. This was why he continued to let the Ice Queen manage the Frozen Kingdom as a Ruler, and not someone he wanted to fight on the front lines.

Gradually, he was realizing that he was slowly opening himself up again to these people around him. This provided a conduit that could cause him great pain, something he had experienced before and never wanted to come across again. He gazed at the serene trees on the mountaintop he stood on as he continued to be lost in his thoughts.

Was it truly worth to open himself up to others like this? To open up the possibility to feel a tremendous amount of pain again?

Many thoughts appeared and disappeared in his mind as he was not able to find an answer. He stared at the leaves of trees swaying peacefully on the mountain he stood on as he closed his eyes and felt the abundant essence that could be felt everywhere in the World of Cultivation.

He felt the bubbling power in his body that was constantly boosted by Ultimate Skills from the Seven Deadly Sins, by Transcendent and Saint Ranked skills, as well as the naturally powerful Golden Sea Body he gained from the Lost World.

With his eyes closed, he began absorbing the many Saint ranked cores obtained from the Devilish Time Unveiler and the Magus, Black Serpent. He held Saint ranked abilities because of Skill Combination, and he could use them all without any problems because of the large mana pools he had access to. But his actual attributes were not in the Saint Rank. Barring the [Focus] attribute, his [Vitality] and [Strength] attributes were still capped at the peak of Transcendent Rank.

He absorbed the Saint Ranked [Core]s from his loot as his body gradually entered a serene state, and he fell asleep.

[Sleep Evolution] - When the user breaks into a new stage, they'll fall asleep, and their body will evolve in a favorable way.

[Awaken Sleep] - The user is aware of everything going on around them, while they're asleep.

The subskills of the Ultimate Skill, {Sin of Sloth}, were activated as even in this state of sleep, Noah could sense the surroundings and the changes occurring in his body.

The abundant amount of origin he was absorbing from the Saint Ranked [Core]s were rapidly absorbed as a milky white color began to surround him. The [Sleep Evolution] ability came into full effect as it caused this milky white aura to explosively increase, his entire body being covered as he felt his bones and musculature be improved in ways he did not think could be further improved.

His dark hair flowed and became more abundant, obtaining a glossy sheen as it neared his shoulders as if he had not given himself a haircut for the longest time. The already compact musculature all over his body became more pronounced and refined as the milky white color exploded out, revealing a body that he recognized, yet it looked much more beautified.

His gaze lingered on himself for a few brief seconds before he shook his head wearily, not wanting to obtain the traits of a certain arrogant penguin as he stood up from the mountain and took into account the remaining Transcendent and Saint Cores he held with him. Because of [Sleep Evolution], he saw that his attributes at the Saint Rank were already more than halfway maxed, the supposed 'favorable' evolution from this Ultimate Skill not being a joke. This brought about new uses for the cores that he did not really need. A few more points in his [Vitality] or [Strength] would not really do anything for his power, and they could be put to better use if given to those around him.

Many of the beings around him were at the Phantasmal Rank at this moment, and he would divide the remainder of the Transcendent and Saint Ranked [Core]s he did not need to have them upgrade their attributes to enter the next ranks.

Even if they didn't have skills of the equivalent rank, their power would still be boosted as they held Ultimate and Unique skills that only grew stronger depending on what rank the user was.

There was also the abundant [Law Crystals] from the cultivators he had taken down recently, vastly improving any of his skills that could be placed in the category of Water, Time, or Space attribute.

He continued to peruse through all of these gains as his body lifted off the mountain peak, looking around him for the last time and then flying away. Plans about the distribution of loots and his future moves were outlined in his mind as his figure began moving towards the direction of one the three Supreme Sects in the World of Cultivation, the Profound Astral Sect.

In this sect, he had plans of infiltration that would allow him to gain access to one of the prized Treasures that was only given to the Core Disciples of the sect that showed the most promise, potential, and strength.

In the Profound Astral Sect, Elders at the Saint Rank were not rare, with the most talented Core Disciples that could be called geniuses actually having similar cultivation as the Elders of the Sect.

Multiple powerhouses at the Void Fimmerment Cultivation Realm were also situated in this powerful Sect, with many mysteries surrounding the Sect Leader of this Profound Astral Sect.

Yet, Noah had extremely clear memories from a certain Devilish Unveiler that detailed much of the secrecy and mystery surrounding this powerful sect, giving him a very clear picture of how he should start. His memories were a few hundred years behind, but the players remained the same, just slightly more powerful.

His goal was to first observe and collect information on the current Core Disciples of the Profound Astral Sect before making a move and obtaining an identity as one. After that, it was simply careful planning and scheming as he made his way closer and closer to something that even the Devilish Time Unveiler was denied.

His mind cleared up from the reverie of thoughts as his figure became enveloped in a dark light, the [Aberrant Saint] that was proficient in space being activated as a single minuscule ball of darkness flew even faster in the air.

In this small piece of darkness, numerous vicious Dragonoid heads and suffocating tentacles that nobody could see were contained, just waiting to be unleashed at a moment's notice.

Chapter 253 - The Genius Wastrel of the Profound Astral Sect

Among magnificent mountain peaks and landscapes, one of the three Supreme Sects in the World of Cultivation proudly stood with shining grandeur and regality.

Many of the major sects made it a habit to find large and famous mountains to build their Sects on, and the founders of this Supreme Sect occupied the natural wonder that was the Steller Sky Mountains!

The surrounding lands near the abundant mountain peaks were all under the control of this powerful sect that held stupendous techniques geared towards the spatial attributes. Geniuses all over the world flocked over to this sect in order to learn their numerous intuitive ways of manipulating essence to bring wondrous effects in the space surrounding them.

A sect filled with competitiveness and spirit, where the Disciples were encouraged to be free and unbound, staying true to their hearts as they followed their path of cultivation with only a single final goal- to become the strongest!

This was the sect that held sway over ⅓ of all the lands in the World of Cultivation, the birthplace and congregation of geniuses, the Profound Astral Sect!

In the many mountain peaks of the Stellar Sky Mountains, there was a particularly busy one where cultivators left their lonely abodes to come down and revel in the many enjoyments provided from the wealthy peaks around Profound Astral Sect.

This peak was actually termed Sunset Paradise, with the famous lines that once the sun set, paradise with all of its wonders would open up.

In a particular establishment in Sunset Paradise, a rare confrontation was occurring between two disciples of the Profound Astral Sect. This could be considered an extremely rare occurrence as this confrontation was not between some outer or even inner disciples of the sect, this was a confrontation between two Core Disciples of the Profound Astral Sect!

Any disciple that gained the title of a Core Disciple was known to be an unmatched powerhouse, with some of them even nearing the power of some of the Elders of their sect. This was the case for one of the Core Disciples that was involved in this confrontation, vigorous power leaking out of his body which made the observers in the establishment almost turn their eyes away from the sight.

Some observers were whispering in hushed voices as they watched the unfolding show in an isolated space barrier that was erected between the two Core Disciples.

"Is the Shining Son of the Profound Astral Sect back here to pick up the dredge of waste again?"

Words that would be considered extremely disrespectful towards one holding the status of a Core Disciple were thrown out without worry from a bystander as another replied.

"Ay, the wastrel of Profound Astral Sect came down to drink and cause trouble again. How many p.r.o.s.t.i.t.u.t.es do you think he ended the lives of today?"

"Oh, we're still counting? Not really sure if it was 3 or 5 today, all I know is that he's ruining the best spots in town. I can rarely find the just ripe ones as he makes sure to always target them first."

"Haha, then why don't you stand up to him and give the wastrel a beating?"

One friend dared another to openly act against a Core Disciple of the Profound Astral Sect as a silence came briefly, before the entire establishment broke out in a burst of raucous laughter.

"Haha, touch the wastrel? Not unless you want to lose your life!"

"He's the worst, but still the Core Disciple of the Profound Astral Sect. He's untouchable!"

Even though insults were being thrown around at this particular disciple of one the three Supreme Sects, all the beings here knew that they could only watch as he did what he wished, but could never act against him.

The bystanders were careful to only throw words of disdain towards the one known as wastrel of the Profound Astral Sect, but they were very careful to only sing praises when it came to the other Core Disciple confronting him, the Shining Son whose name resounded across the Steller Sky Mountains, the one known as William!

This was a known reality- that one could throw disdain and make fun of only a single core disciple of the Profound Astral Sect, and that was the wastrel that held the name of Crixus.

A powerful name, a waste of a person! That was the only way to describe Crixus.

The Shining Son spoke calmly to the drinking Crixus as his eyes could not hide the disdain.

"Do you hear that? The sound of nobodies are actually laughing right in front of your face with no fear. They are ridiculing you as if you are nothing. Does this not fill you with a sense of shame to actually stop doing the things you've been doing, my dear Junior Brother?"

It was a common message that a caring Elder Disciple would give to another, and William had even cast an isolation barrier and caused no words coming out between them to leak out. This seemed like a courtesy, but whenever he spoke, his lips moved, and this meant everyone in the establishment knew what words were said between them. Of course, this was something that William knew, and had even planned this way!

Seeing no reply from the Crixus that just continued to drink, a dangerous light passed through William's eyes as he turned and began moving away, dissolving the barrier of space as he knew nothing else would get across the drunken brain today.

"Even though you are a waste of space, you are still Profound Astral Sect's waste of space. Any ridicule directed towards you is also aimed at your sect."

His vibrant power at the Saint Realm erupted out as a heavy pressure descended, his words carrying with them an insult to Crixus and a warning to the surrounding bystanders who quickly turned away and went back to their food and drinks.

The Shining Son left the establishment with light steps as his body disappeared from everyone's sights in a blink of an eye, but his disdain for his junior disciple still very much apparent!

There was a long history between the two that caused this disdain and conflict that many people did not know, and it was this conflict that caused William to descend from his Cultivation Abode every time he heard the news of the wastrel going wild in Sunset Paradise again.

The simple conflict that was only known among a few cultivators in the Profound Astral Sect was the fact that very early on during their cultivation journeys, William had his eyes on a particular Senior Sister, and so did Crixus!

Crixus was the son of a famous Elder in the Profound Astral Sect, while William was a normal genius disciple just beginning his cultivation. To William's dismay, he found out just a few months into his journey in the Profound Astral Sect that Crixus had used his identity to force himself on this Senior Sister, ruining her face and making her ashamed to even be seen around the sect.

This beautiful senior sister finally could not take it, and with the help of a certain Elder that did not want things to garner too much attention, she ended up leaving the sect to start anew elsewhere, her history with the Profound Astral Sect forever ending.

This event had caused a tremendous wedge to grow between William and Crixus, with William using this rage and directing it towards his cultivation, his genius comprehension being put to full use as he grew to a powerful genius of the Profound Astral Sect and gained the title of the Shining Son!

With his new title, even with the fact that Crixus had a father for an Elder, William could now look down and even act against him as he wished to some extent. This was also one of the reasons why Crixus was drinking and ruining the lives of poor women frequently nowadays, his cultivation had not been able to advance from the Transcendent Realm all these years, and the cause was none other than William.

A duel had been called forth by the Shining Son some years ago, and William used this duel to deal heavy injuries that Crixus carried to this day. Until now, with William holding a cultivation level in the Saint Realm, Crixus was still left behind at Transcendent Realm!

Crixus became despondent and acted more and more like a wastrel as the years passed, eventually gaining the title of Wastrel of the Profound Astral Sect that he held now.

He finished his last drink as rage and jealousy filled his head, looking at the direction that William left in as he left the establishment himself. Crixus did not even gaze at the bystanders who were bashing him as his drunken mind filled with rage moved out of the establishment, and his eyes landed on the red light district once again as he went forward to find a place to quell his anger.

Among the many bystanders that he was not paying attention to, a single one had a thoughtful expression on his face as he left the establishment along with Crixus, following closely behind him as their two figures disappeared among the masses on the Sunset Paradise.

Chapter 254 - A Perfect Identity

Crixus weaved around the mass of beings around him with ease as he made his way over to the red light district.

His body was at the Transcendent Realm, being such a genius that he almost entered the same cultivation realm as his father, an Elder of the Profound Astral Sect that had yet to break through the Saint Realm and into the Void Fimmerment Realm.

With how rapid he was used to breaking through cultivation ranks, the blow of this speed being halted at the Transcendent Realm was too heavy for his mental mind to take.

He was weaving through the masses when a tingling voice that seemed to be coming from his head whispered how annoying the beings around him were, making him want to go through the darker alleys where there were fewer people as he made his way towards the red light district.

It was only a small voice at first, but it became gradually louder over time as he shook his head in a drunken stupor and turned away from the bright streets of Sunset Paradise and began weaving through the dark alleys.

His figure only made it another block before something completely unexpected occurred.

POP!

A bizarre dark circle appeared out of nowhere, and in the span of less than a second, a Dragonoid head erupted out, swallowed the figure of Crixus, and then quickly returned into this small dark spot.

Less than a second!

Silence reigned among the small alleyways of the buildings hidden by darkness as a few minutes passed with not a single being in sight.

A few minutes later, the figure of a young genius wastrel reappeared in the dark alley of Sunset Peak.

His eyes held a different light, where one could distinctly see sparks of ingenuity and confidence briefly before they went back to looking disorganized and drunken as the Core Disciple of Profound Astral Sect changed directions from the red light district he was going to, and began heading towards a particular peak of the Profound Astral Sect.

In the span of a few minutes, a core disciple of the Profound Astral Sect had disappeared, and an entirely new being took his place, with nobody else being the wiser!

The figure of the wastrel made its way towards the Pill Pavillion Mountain of the Profound Astral Sect, the location where Elder Baldwin, his father, acted as the Mountain Master.

Elder Baldwin occupied a unique position in the sect, his power as an Elder being average at the peak of the Saint Realm, but it was his skills in pill concoction that etched his status in stone.

Even after the Core Disciple William had gained the Sect Title of Shining Son, he still could not do too much against Crixus, the duel that injured his mental state and kept his cultivation base at Transcendent Rank being the most he could do currently without causing an eruption of rage against two parties that were both favored by the sect.

Crixus entered the Pill Pavillion Mountain and made his way towards his living quarters while bringing as much attention to himself as possible. The disciples on the mountain that saw him could only describe his face being that full of drunken wrath and anger, a face that seemed to say that enough was enough!

His body let out vigorous essence at the Transcendent Rank as a unique energy signature released from him and opened the large door to his Cultivation Abode, a wide cave that was expertly architected into the Pill Pavillion Mountain.

"Our little mountain master seems to have been humiliated by the Shining Son yet again. He looks fed up with it, but how long do you give him before he gets frustrated from his cultivation and goes out to drink again?"

"Hah, how long? I give him a day at most before he rushes back to Sunset Paradise."

"A day?! You're looking too highly at him, I think a few hours is more like it!"

Hushed voices talked among themselves as they talked behind the one they called 'Little Mountain Master', the title of the son of Elder Baldwin, the Pill Pavillion Mountain Master.

All the disciples then continued about their business after witnessing Crixus fumingly rush back to his cultivation abode, with some even taking bets on how long the wastrel could last while cultivating.

In the grandiose Cultivation Abode that Crixus entered, a convergence of essence that was more than three times what could be felt outside permeated the luxurious cave, a large golden bed by the side, as well as a naturally formed spring that was flowing with clear blue water into the crevices of the mountain.

'Crixus' entered this Cultivation Abode as he immediately sobered up and stood straight, his gaze overlooking the area around him as he waved his fingers...and a rotating miniaturized Spiritual Land appeared in front of him.

Only a second passed before the Spiritual Land was set down among the granules of sands around the Abode, and his figure swiftly disappeared.

Unbeknownst to anyone, an otherworlder had infiltrated one of the three Supreme Sects in the World of Cultivation and began hatching a scheme that nobody would know the grand effects of in the future!

In the outside world, disciples were shocked to find out that an entire 2 days passed since the little mountain master entered seclusion in his Cultivation Abode after being bullied by the Shining Son once more.

Shock spread throughout as some disciples lost their Spirit Stones from losing bets, with others putting up even more bets on how long Crixus would continue staying in his Abode for this time around.

Three more days passed, and the little mountain master still had not left the mountain!

Even more disciples lost their money as word began to spread around the Pill Pavillion Mountain, gradually making its way to Elder Baldwin and even the Core Disciple William not too long after.

Elder Baldwin was floating next to a huge cauldron forming spectacularly colored pills as he got this new information.

"Has this unfilial son finally come to his senses after all these years?"

Not just the Elder, but many were wondering- what exactly had happened to the wastrel Crixus?!

Not a single being knew, but when the days he locked himself up in the Cultivation Abode reached 8, disciples could not help but crowd around the entrance of the Abode to see just what would happen.

"He...couldn't have ended his life in there right?"

"Don't say useless things, the son of the amazing Elder Baldwin wouldn't be that much of a wastrel."

"But...could he really be cultivating all this time?"

Questions continued to spread with no answers, until this day, even the Master of the Pill Pavillion Mountain himself could not take it!

Elder Baldwin came out of his dwelling as the powerful aura came in front of the entrance of Crixus's Cultivation Abode, his appearance bringing reverent faces among many of the disciples as they bowed with greetings. Elder Baldwin ignored all of this as he called out.

"Unfilial Son, come out!"

His words rumbled as a strong essence at the peak of Saint Realm activated the hidden mechanisms of the Cultivation Abode.

RUMBLE!

The cave door was opened forcefully as the father went forward to see if his son was actually cultivating, or if the stupid words of the disciples in the surroundings were actually true.

The sight that opened up to him was stunning to see though, as it was the figure of Crixus meditating peacefully on the ground as his body elevated up and down, the unstable milky white aura of a Saint being clearly visible!

Seeing the milky white aura, an expression of elation appeared on Elder Baldwin's face as he saw this.

"My son! You have finally destroyed your inner heart demons and advanced! Haha, that's my son!"

Prideful laughter came out of the entrance of the Cultivation Abode as the surrounding disciples peered in with shock on their faces.

The wastrel of the Profound Astral Sect had actually advanced in rank?!

Chapter 255 - A Hunt?

News spread out across the Pill Pavillion Mountain about how the wastrel of the sect had actually broken through to the Saint Realm!

This came as a shock to many, as they had watched this fallen genius waste his life for the past few years. Many disciples then recalled the tension between the Shining Son of the Profound Astral Sect and Crixus, and they wondered how things would play out from here on out.

Back in the Pill Pavilion Mountain, Elder Baldwin waved his hand as the cultivation abode they were in closed and granted them privacy, his face going up and down as he looked proudly at his son.

"Good, good, good!"

Words full of pride came out as he saw the milky white light gradually stabilize, Crixus opening his eyes and showing elation on his face.

"Father!"

The two beings gazed at each other as different thoughts passed through their heads. The proud father looked at his son as old dreams and hopes reappeared, already looking forward to the changes in the future of Pill Pavillion Mountain as at this moment, both father and son were at the Saint Realm!

Elder Baldwin knew the genius of his son, and thus was the one that was most disappointed when his cultivation was affected so heavily after one roadblock. Yet now, his son was back.

These thoughts were only true to his head though, as the being standing in front of him was someone completely different from the son that he knew!

Their brief gaze seemed to portray all of their powerful emotions as Crixus cleared his throat and looked over to his father with a firm expression.

"Father, I want to try and get my hands on the Absolute Space Technique of our sect once more."

...!

A gasp came out of Elder Baldwin's mouth as he heard extremely bold words as the first thing after Crixus's advancement. His gaze turned serious as he seemed thoughtful.

"Historically, only the Shining Son of the sect would be given the favor of entering the Resplendent Abode to try their luck on learning this treasured skill..."

His thoughtful gaze looked carefully at Crixus as he saw a determined expression, hearing powerful words come out of his son's mouth.

"If need be, I will duel with William again for the title of Shining Son!"

The words were full of conviction as they stated a longing wish that seemed to have been welling up in Crixus for ages. Elder Baldwin saw this and sighed as he weighed the possibilities.

He knew his son had just advanced, but William had already been in the Saint Realm far longer, with his realm consolidation already done and continuing to advance forward. Even on the slight chance that Crixus won, there was still the Council of Elders whose decision he would have to face if he wanted to be deemed fit as the new Shining Son! Elder Baldwin was thinking rapidly of the possibilities as he became hesitant, because he knew of one particular way that might just make it possible to grant his son's wish.

'Crixus' was looking at his father's face with a careful expression that hid the true thoughts floating in his mind as he became thoughtful at this hesitation from Elder Baldwin.

A sigh came out of the Elder as he sat down in front of his son and began slowly.

"There might be another way for you to get your hands on that technique without clashing with William..."

The hesitation of Elder Baldwin's face was gradually wiped away as he continued to speak.

"...Only the Elders know of this as of right now, but we have received word from the Sect Master that the Infernal Hunt will be initiated a century earlier than usual, and that we will soon be sending disciples to one of the Infernal Realms, the First Hell!"

Shocking words came out of the Elder's mouth as Crixus held a surprise expression that was not false, he was actually hearing a new piece of information he had not expected.

"I wasn't even planning on letting you go, thinking you were unfit and would simply lose your life. But now..."

He gazed towards his son with powerful emotions as he made up his mind and continued.

"...I see that you have come back to your old self, and have a chance in redeeming your reputation, as well as obtaining great rewards through this Infernal Hunt!"

An Infernal Hunt! Something that Noah had only briefly seen and ignored in the many pieces of his stolen memories had popped up. He listened carefully as his knowledge was expanded, pulling out as much information as he could from this Elder Baldwin.

The Infernal Hunt that many powerful worlds at the level of Prime World and above were under a treaty to act on would actually occur a hundred years earlier than expected.

After many Infernal Hunts, the norm had been established that Powers would send their disciples and beings they were nurturing as a way to empower them and also reduce the Infernals that continued to propagate throughout the First Hell.

Over the years, The Infernal Hunts became more of a competition, and especially so in worlds like the World of Cultivation, where scores were kept and disciples of the three Supreme Sects were ranked based on how well they did in the Infernal Hunt.

Once they entered the First Hell, they would be faced with droves of powerful Infernals that they would have to take down, with those being able to face and take down powerful infernals gaining more recognition.

"Infernals are diametrically opposite to us, with their very origins being extremely vile and evil, only seeking destruction on anything they come across. They have a unique source of essence that when killed will be absorbed into one's body, giving them cultivation comprehension and a boost to their power!"

Powerful words continued to come out of Elder Baldwin as he explained more of the history and undercurrents of the Infernal Hunts.

"But it is the same with us, where if the infernals kill any of us, they also gain power much faster, and explosively increase in rank."

Thus, it had been crucial to make sure that Infernals were not given a chance to grow with their forces throwing themselves in the Infernal Realms and dying, while at the same time reducing the number of infernals as time passed. This was the Infernal Hunt came to be!

Noah's mind soaked in all this new information as behind his carefully listening exterior, his mind began working rapidly as excitement was blooming from the many possibilities.

Chapter 256 - An Event for the Ages

"Our Profound Astral Sect will be among the many sects participating in this coming Infernal Hunt. The Sect Master expects an outstanding performance from our disciples this time around, so the rewards will be reflecting that!"

The Mysterious Sect Master of Profound Astral Sect had informed the Elders and told them of the coming Infernal Hunt, with this information soon being released to everyone as soon as the preparations were complete.

"Among the top rewards for the disciples that outshine and outperform...is the Absolute Space Technique of our sect!"

Noah's eyes shone at this new piece of information as his mind worked at high speeds, the face of the being he was portraying showed an interested look that expressed his enthusiasm.

"I will show them my power in this Infernal Hunt, Father! I will take down a higher number of Infernals than anyone else!"

His face was that of a young man with his blood boiling in excitement as he looked at the proud gaze of his father. 'Crixus' sharply turned his shining eyes towards elder Baldwin as he spoke carefully.

"When it comes to stabilizing my cultivation though, I used up all of my Spirit Stones while breaking through, and have completely run out as of right now though..."

Haha, don't sit on the ceremony with your father. Spirit Stones, Pills, and even the Saint Realm techniques you haven't looked at yet, I'll bring them all here and prepare you for the Infernal Hunt to come."

An expression of appreciation was plastered on Noah's face as he nodded, his vibrant power at the Saint Realm still showing signs of instability as Elder Baldwin moved out of the Cultivation Abode and went out to grab some of the less restricted techniques of Profound Astral Sect, as well as an abundant amount of refined [Core]s, also known as Spirit Stones, for his 'son'. His face was full of pride as his figure disappeared in the skies.

Noah rose up as he observed silence in the Cultivation Abode once more, his gaze turning calm as he thought about his great use of time this past week.

For 8 days, he had been able to coop himself up in the Time Space of the Spiritual Land as he used [Budding Farmer] on the plots of lands he made in the Time Space for an even faster growth of the Medicinal Fruits and Herbs that he then turned into resplendent pills through the {Forge of the Silver Flame}.

He was also able to raise the proficiency of many of the Saint Rank skills he held, the ones he obtained from the Devilish Time Unveiler and Black Serpent already being maxed as he was able to effectively use the time period of more than 2 months in the Time Space to his advantage.

New possible combinations for the space and draconic based attributed skills from the Devilish Unveiler and Black Serpent which would optimally combine with the [Aberrant Saint] to bring about a terrifying skill of the next rank were already swimming in his mind as he continued to move forward.

He spread out his powerful senses as he pulled out the purple-gold Dagger of Time, using [Insight] once more as many possible plans formulated through his mind with the addition of this interesting event, the Infernal Hunt.

On a glowing star in a distant location, the Celestial Drax was breathing out stably as a milky white aura calmly floated around him. In the period of a week, he had released the limiter he placed on himself that

allowed him to consolidate his strength at the Transcendent Rank and finally reached the Saint Rank, or what the Celestials called the peak of Rank 3 Celestial.

His body held enough strength to battle on par with those in the Saint Realm when he was just Transcendent, and even though he had just stepped into this new rank, he expected his battle power to be even more astounding.

He meditated peacefully as he stabilized his strength when he soon received a message from his master.

"The time is here. Come down to meet the ones that will be going with you into the Infernal Realm through the World of Cultivation."

Drax's eyes snapped wide open as his figure disappeared, quickly appearing near the monastery where his master was as he saw four new figures of beings letting out levels of power no less than himself.

They all held unique aspects, with one having similarities to the Elven Race, and another was a being looking very close to a human, yet they had gloriously shining white wings erupting from their back. Drax looked curiously at this rare being of the Faerie Race as he observed the last two to be humans.

Shock appeared on his face as he laid his eyes on one of the humans, a dark-skinned girl with a head full of glossy hair tied in a ponytail and a prominent figure that was still visible even with the red robes that she wore.

The red robe that this woman wore signified that she was not just any normal Celestial Disciple, but one that was about to take on the full title of a Celestial with the completion of just a few more missions!

Drax knew the identity of this famous disciples as she was known with the title of The War Princess, Athena.

She was only a mere human mortal with not an ounce of strength less than one hundred years ago, and a Celestial had chanced upon her when they were traveling across the stars and observing the planets and stars that needed to be saved or destroyed.

She was in a world on the verge of ruin as her people continued to wage wars amongst each other, eventually depleting the resources of their planet as their only path left became destruction. The Celestial was observing this ruined world when they noticed her unique body disposition that was perfectly inclined towards techniques related to Fate. This Celestial took her in as a disciple right away, finding in her a monstrous ability to advance through ranks unlike anything seen before.

Among the many rising Celestial Disciples, Athena was at the forefront of all them with her power and wit, even being granted the rare chance to work with other Celestials as they brought balance throughout the stars.

One particularly recent mission that Drax recalled was one where Athena was accompanied by a Golden Robed Grandmaster on one of the Interstellar Warsh.i.p.s that very few disciples would have a chance to come close to. These were the warsh.i.p.s that held powerful weapons capable of destroying lower-ranked planets with ease.

She was in charge of releasing this power down to a particular planet that continued to interfere with the Order of the universe with the creation of cursed items known as World Engines that naturally defied Order with each usage.

In this mission, her will was tested as she excelled in the lesson that many of the Celestial Disciples were still learning- the death of a few can be ignored in order to bring a more perfect balance in the universe, that taking away the lives of billions to return things to their natural order will only save a trillion more beings over the vicissitudes of time.

Athena had an extremely strong will as she was able to complete this mission with ease, gaining even more recognition from the upper ranked Celestials. This was the War Princess, Athena!

Drax calmed his beating heart as he chanted incantations in his mind, his gaze going towards his master that had begun talking.

"You all will meet with our representative at the little sect known as Profound Astral Sect, and be given special identities among their disciples. Your participation in this Infernal Hunt counts as a mission, with those of you being the most successful reaping the most rewards."

The Grandmaster spoke slowly as the five beings looked at each other, his gaze focusing on Drax and Athena.

"Be especially on the lookout for any irregularities as you investigate to see whether the ones tampering with fate are still moving around the World of Cultivation."

"Yes, Grandmaster!"

Drax and the others placed their palms over their hearts as they received the commands, calling out in unison words they had been trained to say for many years.

"For Order and Balance!"

"For Order and Balance!"

Bursts of power resonated around the five of them as they turned away from the monastery and made their way towards the abundant Teleportation Portals on the Celestial Star they were on.

Chapter 257 - A Penguin at War!

In another part of the starry space, a particular world that held a frozen outer layer was feeling the tides of change for the first time in many years.

The inhabitants of the Icebound World found themselves at the precipice of something new as the Frost Race gained a new protector that they took as their leader!

Not too long ago, a group of beings had appeared on the battlefield where yet another war was brought to the doors of the Frost Race by the tyranny of the Ice Giants.

Being a race of giants with impeccable strength, the Ice Giants sought for more land and resources as they targeted the weaker Frost Race located in the northern region of the Icebound World first, their eyes set on the Humans populating the east soon after.

The Ice Giants were a powerful race of beings that were naturally strong since their birth, becoming even stronger as they grew in the extremely cold conditions of the Icebound World and became very proficient in Ice Attributed abilities. Their robust bodies required an enormous amount of resources, making them extremely greedy for more lands where they could procure what they wanted.

During a crucial fight where the Frost Race continued to see colossal losses from the obscene strength that the Ice Giants portrayed, they felt blessings shine down from above as powerful figures appeared on the battlefield to lend a hand and push the Ice Giants back!

"RAA! RAA! RAA!"

Calling out stupendous battle-cries, a group of powerful beings appeared to aid them at the last moment! At the forefront was a gloriously sleek Emperor Penguin that let out deadly attacks of the spatial attribute, and accompanying him was a fiery phoenix, a much too talkative human with a party of beast girls, and a collection of powerful Calamities of the Sea accompanied by many more other beasts that followed behind the sleek Penguin.

Their power was unlike anything the beings of the Icebound World had seen before, showing stupendous strength that stopped the invaders on their tracks and began a campaign of their own. There was the powerful Swordsman known as Kazuhiko, who valiantly fought on the front lines with his treasured Katana while taking care of his balanced party of beast girls. The large number of beasts and Calamities of the Sea also made for a surprising addition as the terrifying Kraken was seeing strangling Ice Giants with its many arms and tentacles.

Their power had produced a grand effect as they pushed the Ice Giants back and finally stopped their advance towards the North, gaining the favor of the Frost Race as they were treated with the highest respect. The beings of the Icebound World gradually came to know these powerful saviors, preparing themselves for a better world as they felt the tides of change occurring right in front of their eyes.

A few more days passed where the newcomers continued to push back the Ice Giants, being so dominant that the Frost Race termed the Emperor Penguin and his followers as Generals of their Race!

They were a race that loved nature and peace, with the Frost King being the one most in tune with nature and abhorring war. When the opportunity came to side with these powerful new individuals that fought on their behalf, the Frost King quickly jumped at the opportunity and made them his generals, giving them all the power they wanted as long as his people were kept safe.

A week passed as grand battles were fought, the Emperor Penguin and his forces gaining more and more status and power, becoming indispensable from the forces of the Frost Race and the cowering humans in the East.

After seeing the very close similarities of the leader of their saviors and a particular race of beings in the northern lands, the Frost King even allowed another species of the Frost Race, the coldbourne Chinstrap Penguins, to be the official helpers that took care of all the needs of their saviors. The arctic penguins took this role with the highest dignity as they looked up to the grandiose figure of the Emperor Penguin, feeling extreme reverence as they observed the glossy layer of feathers they only imagined in their dreams.

In a particularly large ice fortress near the border of the North and South of the Icebound World, the sleek Emperor Penguin was no longer miniaturized as he was proudly displaying his form with a size of more than five meters.

He sat upon a huge magnificently built throne made of resplendent ice as a shining icy crown was added atop its smooth head. The Icy Crown shone with a gorgeous color, being a unique treasure of the Icebound World that the Frost King had given to the Emperor Penguin.

Its gaze was full of pride and power as it looked around the room, watching Kazuhiko trying to flirt with the Imperial Phoenix while the other beasts were being catered to by the rapidly moving arctic penguins that wore small tuxedos with shining bow ties that made them very prominent in the room.

The Emperor Penguin had asked his master for cool clothing he could give to his distinguished followers, and had his expectations exceeded when Noah quickly teleported in and left behind these clothes he came to know were called tuxedos. They made his followers look so distinguished that he almost wanted to change back to his miniaturized size and wear one himself. The arrogant penguin found himself thinking yet again- his master was actually not too bad!

DONG

At this moment, a sound could be heard in the distance that signified a call to arms, with some well-dressed penguins quickly entering the wide room in the fortress and looking towards the Emperor Penguin.

"Sir Ice Spirit! the King of Giants, Larruk, is gathering all of his forces for an all out attack!"

Panic was all over the faces of the beings of the Frost Race as they heard the terrible name of the King of the Ice Giants.

OONG!

Essence was released with the Emperor Penguin at the center as his body lifted up and his beady eyes looked around.

"Hmph, a mere giant king is nothing to worry about. Let's go!"

Waves of power were released as the beings that followed behind the Emperor Penguin shook their heads deprecatingly at this aquatic bird that held an overabundance of pride and confidence as their figures moved out.

They assembled the forces of the Frost Race as they went forward to meet the Ruler of the Ice Giants that were the main cause of war and death in the Icebound World!

Chapter 258 - Convergence of Forces

As some forces waged war in frozen worlds, others continued to elevate the power of their Worlds as dungeon diving became widespread in one small Blue Planet, the Beast World, and the Demon World.

There were still an enormous amount of beings that could not be considered 'Awakened' and did not fit into any category, but more and more were joining their ranks naturally as the essence of their Worlds

continued to be elevated, with some finding themselves stepping into the F Rank in their sleep as their bodies continued to be cradled with the abundant amount of essence.

This allowed for a large number of beings to actively dive in the many created dungeons that were catered to making them stronger, with very few beings facing death from carelessness and stupidity every now and then.

In the Blessed Empire and United Federation, abundant trade had bloomed as they gained access to unique items, treasures, and produce from the two worlds they were connected to.

The Blessed Empire received more influence from the Beast World as there was a Main Gateway connecting the Beast World to the Blue Planet near its borders, while the United Federation had more influence from the Demon World as they began the widespread trading and production of [Power Jewels] that were unique to the demon world.

These [Power Jewels], a product of Abyss Magic that the demons specialized in, were among the hottest commodities being traded nowadays because they acted as huge damage amplifiers to their skills, having a unique function of 'Corrupting' their abilities and making them almost twice as powerful. It was more frequently being called a Modifier by the newly awakened hunters that still observed everything like it was a game.

The Beast World continued its focus on produce and weapons, especially from the Frozen Kingdom that Noah visited the most frequently, making it the one that received more attention with the use of [Budding Farmer] that continued to explode the agricultural sector with plants that could be termed Medicinal Herbs already with their current effectiveness.

The system of power that all three worlds currently enjoyed, being able to quantify their strength and visibly see their skills, as well as combine complementary skills, made for a competitive environment where many beings were trying their best to advance through the ranks of Awakened/Hunters and become well known while gaining enormous amounts of wealth.

The Atlanteans and Merfolk were also quietly rebuilding their own version of Atlantis in the seas of the Blue Planet, causing an explosive growth of species in the sea while using their technological advancements to build towering structures that caused the envy of many.

Those that were rich enough to call upon the help of the beings from Atlantis found themselves in luxuriously built homes that even the billionaires of the planet before the apocalypse would be jealous of.

The Ocean Master observed all of this as he continued to work behind the scenes for the recreation of multiple World Engines, moving with extreme care after the words of a certain savior of theirs came down yet again for increased secrecy of the project, with very few beings having knowledge of it.

The worlds were vast, with many beings moving around them. Each had their own goals and ideals as they moved forward, collectively continuing to create a powerful group of beings that were rapidly growing and expanding their knowledge and power.

Across the stars, many different powers received the news that the Infernal Hunt would be occurring a hundred years earlier than planned, and they all prepared for this momentous event as trainees and disciples from various worlds were moving with excitement.

The excitement this time around was even more glorious as they heard of the increased rewards for those that do exceedingly well, with the disciples of the Three Supreme Sects of the World of Cultivation being even more driven as their Sects' powerful Absolute Techniques were the topmost rewards they could get their hands on!

This was something that was only in the wildest of dreams from even the Core Disciples of these sects, as very few were granted the clearance from the Council of Elders to observe these powerful techniques and try to learn them.

In the Profound Astral Sect, it was even busier as besides the shocking news that the Wastrel of the Sect could not be called that name anymore, the arrival of old disciples that were the trump cards that the sect was raising in secret in the outside world were returning to join in this excursion!

They were Core Disciples that very few knew of, but they increased the excitement of the disciples of the sect as they knew with their addition, they would be even safer while traversing the Infernal Realm that was the First Hell.

This was because the returning disciples were no less powerful than the Shining Son and even the newly advanced Crixus, with some of them being even more powerful!

Their arrival caused a tumultuous movement in the shock as many disciples gathered on the main peak with the preparations to set off for the First Hell being underway. They watched the Teleportation Portal shine as five figures made their presence clear before their eyes, aweing them to their very cores as they sensed their levels of strength.

From what they could see, even the weakest of the five newly arrived disciples was at the Saint Realm, with them not being able to see the realms of others! This left them roiling in shock and awe as they asked themselves- in front of such geniuses, weren't they just trash?!

Among the many disciples congregating on the Main Peak of the Steller Sky Mountains, the Shining Son, William, was looking closely at the appearance of these unheard of disciples as someone not too far from him was giving these beings an even closer look.

The figure of 'Crixus' had a brief change in expression as he observed the faces of two particular beings among the newly returning core disciples, as he knew these faces very well!

One was the Celestial Disciple Drax that he had already come in contact with before, while another held a prominent figure that he recognized from the memories of Drax, the being that acted on the orders of the Celestials and directly caused the destruction of the Lost World of Atlantis!

In the recesses of Drax's memories, Noah had found the collections of missions of many of the Celestial Disciples, with many of the memories occupying the renowned War Princess, Athena.

The Celestial Disciple at the forefront of power, the one that many Celestials looked at with favor as someone who would soon join their ranks. The ever so powerful and beautiful Athena, as well as a party

of other Celestial Disciples, had all arrived to take part in the Infernal Hunt with the disciples of the Profound Astral Sect.

Chapter 259 - A Journey Through the Stars I

Powerful forces were gathering from all around, each one holding their own goals and ideals as they all focused towards a particular location. It was an area across the vast space that was filled with ruthless beings that only sought death and destruction, it was the Infernal Realms!

In these wide Infernal Realms, the focus for many of the powerful worlds currently was on the First Hell, the Infernal Realm that was closest to them, the first realm that could very easily open its gateways into this universe.

As always, the trainees and disciples of the powerful powers were prepared as the Infernal Hunt was about to begin. Over the thousands of years, the powerful forces under the direction of even more terrifying forces behind the scenes had created this Infernal Hunt to become more of a competition than the widespread massacre of the destructive beings in the Realms of Hell.

This competitive spirit was even more apparent in the World of Cultivation as its three Supreme Sects were always fighting for power, trying their best to garner more resources from the higher powers based on how they perform on events such as this.

It was not just disciples that were given incentives and rewards to do well in the Infernal Hunt, the leaders of the different sects and powers were also incentivized by the powerful force of the Celestials behind them. The powers that made the most contributions would garner the favor of one of the few powerful and secretive forces of the Universe, while also gaining abundant rewards in the form of stupendous techniques and treasures for them to add to their collections.

Thus, the powerhouses in the Profound Astral Sect were most pleased when they saw the 'returning disciples' that would be fighting for them, the joy of those who knew the actual secrets behind the scenes being even higher, as they knew these beings were disciples of the Celestials themselves.

This was the favor that the Profound Astral Sect of the World of Cultivation received after connecting themselves with the powerful force that was the Celestials!

The other two Supreme Sects only had suspicions and unconfirmed theories as they gradually watched the power of the Profound Astral Sect continue to rise higher and higher over the years, with very few having the knowledge of their association with the Celestials.

The newly arriving Celestial Disciples looked at the numerous disciples around the main peak of the Profound Astral Sect as they serenely made their way to the section where Core Disciples were situated.

Powerful auras felt each other out as the new figures observed the auras of the Saint Realm William and Crixus, along with other disciples that were at the peak of the Transcendent Realm.

These were beings that could be called geniuses by many standards, but Drax, Athena, and the other Celestial Disciples only looked at them briefly as their gazes only passed through them, finding their own positions and looking forward to where the Elders of the Profound Astral Sect were situated.

"Quiet Down!"

OOONG

A powerful sound reverberated throughout the main peak as a single bearded Elder of the Profound Astral Sect spoke. Surrounding him were a few more Elders that let out levels of power no less than his, being vigorously powerful, they were releasing a purple milky aura of the Void Fimerment Realm!

Their show of power awed the disciples as the Elder up front, the one known as Elder Spacewarp, waved his aged hands to cause a powerful ripple to appear in the skies above them. A few seconds later, the sky darkened as a tremendously large ship floated in the skies above the Steller Sky Mountains.

The large vessel could only be described as a ship as it took the general outline, with various runic markings and spreading throughout its black exterior, and powerful weapons that let out an oppressive light.

Elder Spacewarp's eyes let out a sharp light as he laid them on the Interstellar Warship above him yet again. He very rarely got the Sect Master's permission to use this amazing piece of ingenuity, but today was a special day with the arrival of the beings that gave them this Interstellar Warship in the first place!

His gaze briefly stayed on the figure of Athena who was standing at the forefront of the Celestial Disciples as he continued.

"The journey to the First Realm of Hell of the Infernal Realms will begin now. The disciples who wish to participate can now board the ship!"

VOOM

A wide section of the Interstellar Warship opened as it revealed wide doors and an exquisitely built interior. A ship like this only held a single purpose, and that was to traverse through space!

This was one of the many unique things about the place known as the Infernal Realms, They existed in locations where the powerful forces could not establish teleportation portals, and they had to travel to these locations through powerful sh.i.p.s like these.

The many disciples looked at this sight with blazing eyes, but they held themselves back and remained still! They knew how things worked, and their eyes gazed upon the location of the Core Disciples.

The Shining Son, William, moved first as he nodded the five Celestial Disciples, leading the way as he flew up serenely towards the ship. The Celestial Disciples also moved next as behind them, the being with the figure of 'Crixus' moved with a mixed expression that any watching disciples and Elders interpreted as a look of determination and slight fear.

Elder Baldwin watched his son fly towards the spaceship as he nodded his head.

'Be strong, my child. Show me that you have truly regained your genius and wit!'

Elder Baldwin held strong beliefs about his son, providing him with almost all of his reserves of Spiritual Stones he had collected over the years, even wagering many of his pill making hours to other Elders of the Sect to borrow more Spirit Stones and Medicinal Herbs for his son's use to consolidate his cultivation.

After a few days, his aura at the Saint Realm had consolidated, and Elder Baldwin had provided him with an abundant amount of Saint Techniques from the Elder's Vault of the Profound Astral Sect for him to peruse as he journeyed across the stars towards the Infernal Realm.

'Crixus' looked back towards his father briefly as he nodded, before he entered the tremendously large Interstellar Warship where powerful Celestial Disciples were calmly walking through, along with the slightly surprised William that was looking at everything with wonder.

Behind them, the time came for the less powerful Core Disciples and Inner Disciples of the Profound Astral Sect to begin boarding the huge ship, the many figures on the Main Peak of the Stellar Sky Mountains moving busily, the disciples choosing to test their lives in the Infernal Realm all boarding with enthusiasm.

Elder Spacewarp watched the process with calm eyes, and after a significant amount of time had passed, nodded his head as he observed a significant amount of disciples board the ship. He turned to the ones remaining on the mountains as he spoke out.

"Cultivate hard, and years from now you will be among the ones fighting in the front lines against Infernals, gaining power and glory like your fellow disciples that you will be looking up to!"

OOOH!

Excited yells were released from the disciples as they bade farewell to their heroic brothers and sisters that would brave the dangers of the Infernal Realm.

The figures of Elder Spaceward and a few other Elders disappeared in the Interstellar Warship soon after, a rumbling ensuing across the Stellar Sky Mountains as the tremendously large piece of weaponry released abundant energy as it began moving higher and higher towards the sky.

Those within could only distinctly start seeing the world below them become smaller and smaller as they observed the environment outside of the Interstellar Warship, some still amazed at this simple feature that allowed those inside the ship to see the things outside as if there were no barriers between them.

On a more elevated area of the Interstellar Warship, the group of Celestial Disciples were situated in one of the extravagant wide spaces calmly, with the powerful Athena in the lead looking at the environment of the ship around her with reminiscence.

She wasn't the only one in deep thought as not too far away from her, Noah, in the form of Crixus, was calmly sitting down and gazing at the gradual appearance of stars with their rapid ascension, many thoughts crossing in his mind as a dangerous smile could not help but spread across his lips!

He had prepared, and prepared extensively for the journey ahead.

More than 3 months of time he had spent in the Spiritual Land under accelerated time. He had combined a tremendous amount of skills and learned new ones, looked at countless possibilities, and made plans on top of even more back up plans. Yet, he had not foreseen the appearance of a being he never thought he would meet so fast, the extremely powerful Athena, nor the reappearance of Celestial Disciple, Drax!

The [Insight] ability of the Dagger of Time had not given clues about these beings before they appeared, and their appearance could have any number of effects on the many possibilities he calculated. Yet, he still could not help but smile.

The wide smile he could not help but release was from the fact that the events which will take place in this journey were just too...interesting!

Chapter 260 - A Journey Through the Stars II

Across the vast emptiness of space, a colossal Interstellar Warship was traversing through at high speeds.

The Inhabitants of this particular Warship had left behind the World of Cultivation, gradually watching as it became a tiny blip in the periphery of their visions as the expansive and shining space opened itself up before them.

The Interstellar Warship was being piloted by the Void Fimerment Realm Elders, with the powerful Elder Spacewarp in the lead as they released their unique auras that were attuned with the void to travel through space.

This was what the realm above Saint signified, a breakthrough where one became stupendously powerful enough to be able to traverse through space, the length only being dependent on how abundant their energies were.

Many different powers throughout the universe held their own names and terms to signify the levels of strength, but they all gradually converged and became more similar as the ranks went higher.

The Cultivators called the rank above Saint to be the Void Fimerment Realm, while Noah already had the knowledge of the next rank above Saint would simply be called the Void Rank by his own System. The Celestials had an even simpler way to break apart the levels of power, with a Rank 3 Celestial encapsulating the ranks of Transcendent and Saint, while a Rank 4 Celestial encompassed the Void Rank, and the rank above it once one reached the peak of Rank 4 Celestial.

The Celestial Disciple Drax was currently at the peak of Rank 3, having vigorous strength at the Saint Rank, but the woman with a serene expression and calculating eyes that was Athena...she was most definitely not a Rank 3 Celestial.

This meant that at the least, the War Princess Athena was an Initial Stage Rank 4 Celestial, making her stably standing in the Void Rank!

This was the true genius that the disciples spread out around the Interstellar Warship could only stare at from afar as they talked to one another.

Noah continued to scour through the many memories dealing with this deadly figure, trying his best to understand why she was given the title of War Princess by an organization as powerful as the Celestials themselves.

His thoughts were interrupted as William slowly neared his position and spoke coldly.

"I'm glad my junior brother was finally able to break past his restrictions and enter the Saint Realm, but are you sure you are competent enough to not embarrass yourself and the sect in front of the eyes of many major powers?"

His voice was neither too loud nor too quiet, those that were near being able to hear it as Noah turned his head and looked at this young genius of the Profound Astral Sect. His voice languidly came out as he spoke calmly.

"I know I did some horrible things in the past, causing many of the things that happened between us, but I am prepared to leave all of these behind."

His eyes gazed towards the floating stars that could be seen outside the ship as he continued.

"My father agreed with this line of thought and even asked me to be the first one to reach out to you, so I will do so now. Let us put behind us our bad history as we move forward."

His words were roughly something a changed Crixus that had broken through and regained his genius would say, but they more so came from Noah himself as he didn't want this genius of the Profound Astral Sect to continue butting heads with him, nor possibly do something stupid like come for his life.

The Crixus that he had problems with was long dead, being given a much-deserved rest after living such horrendous years of crimes that he did not have to be taken accountable for. He knew the character of William, and thus wanted to spare the being an early death in case he decided to move against the body that he was currently wearing.

The Shining Son listened to these words in shock as he did not even know what to say, his gaze changing to confusion as he moved away and went towards the party of five Celestial Disciples.

Noah continued to observe the starry space around the Interstellar Warship as they traversed through the stars at high speeds, his awareness spread out as he observed every single movement that the Celestial Disciples were making while even more of his thoughts were on the First Hell of the Infernal Realms that he was about to delve into.

His preparations were abundant and he was not worried, but it would not hurt to make even more back up plans while taking into account the new arrivals. He continued to calculate in his mind as the hours passed, the ship they were on continuing to shoot through the gorgeous scenes of stars all around them.

Soon enough, they began to observe movements aside from their ship as more and more vessels moving through space began to appear, heading towards the same direction that they were heading in.

These were the sh.i.p.s from various powers of Prime Worlds and higher worlds that sent their disciples and trainees towards this Infernal Hunt. A sense of pride welled up within the disciples of the Profound Astral Sect as they found to their surprise that their ship was among the largest ones they could see.

Awe and amazement continued to bloom as a grandiose scene of Interstellar Warsh.i.p.s traversed through space towards a singular location- the doorway that led to the First Realm of Hell.

Another few hours passed as they continued, and soon enough they began to see a shining red light begin to encompass their entire field of vision as they neared a stupendous and unimaginable sight.

The multitude of sh.i.p.s carrying powerful beings all continued to congregate towards this shining red light as the scene gradually became clear to the eyes.

In front of them, the outline of a ridiculously large door looking structure stood alone in space!

The outline of the door was surrounded by searing red flames, its entire existence looking completely out of the norm as it blazed powerfully in space. It was so humongous in size that many of the large Interstellar Sh.i.p.s congregating towards it could not even compare in size, only being 1/10 the size of the flaming gateway in front of them.

This was the doorway leading to the First Realm of Hell!