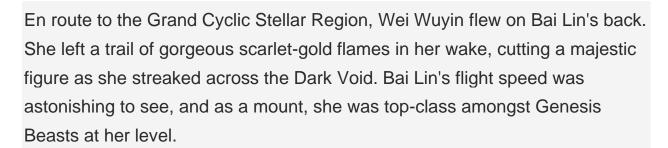
PARAGON OF SIN

Chapter 1151 1145: A Benevolent Gesture; A Path Forward



While her aura often gave Earthly Saint's a dangerous feeling, Bai Lin's flight prowess was one of her greatest attributes. When she had just entered the Second Stage of the Nirvanic Rebirth Realm, she had combat strength exceeding the average Grand Cyclic Stellar Region's Highlord and top speeds that could match the casual pace of a traveling Earthly Saint, and after refining the Phoenix Feather acquired from Huoyan Liulan, her bloodline strength had peaked at the Second Stage. This significantly increased her strength and speed, and now, she was even faster than Ma Zheng and Wu Yu.

Moreover, she relied solely on her physical body for momentum, suffering very little resistance from the Chaos Mana of the Dark Void, and could maintain this speed for very long periods. While Bai Lin might not be fast enough to outrun the average Worldly Saint, she could undoubtedly outlast them.

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to call Bai Lin the fastest flying existence in the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region, barring beings beyond the Earthly Saint Phase and Voidships that could open Void Gates.

Despite her speed, the journey was bound to be a long one, so Wei Wuyin began to cultivate. While he had adjusted to his newly established body after these two weeks of flight, after returning to a location that possessed the Mortal Dao's and Mystic Dao's presence, he could finally cultivate normally.

Firstly, he brought out Element, merging it with King to begin refining its Saber Energy using the Profound Saber Meridian, an acquired ability of its Level Three state. Shockingly, when the Profound Saber Meridian activated, Wei Wuyin's body began to open its pores discreetly, almost unnoticeable, and then started to siphon Chaos Mana from the Dark Void.

Typically, this type of absorption was lethal to Mortals, but Wei Wuyin, who barely noticed it due to his extreme sensitivity towards Mana due to his Zenith Origin State Astral Souls and their Spiritual Sense, found that his body was entirely unaffected by the Chill of the Dark Void. Instead, the Chaos Mana was drawn over and began to exert a unique aura.

Profound Saber Energy!

The Chaos Mana began to subtly change as it made its way towards his Profound Saber Meridian, but it only changed its aura, not its composition. When it entered the Profound Saber Meridian, he realized that it was naturally producing Profound Saber Energy without any additional assistance!

"..." Wei Wuyin's eyebrows furrowed slightly as he inspected the Profound Saber Meridian. The Profound Saber Meridian did not appear out of nowhere but used the foundation of an existing meridian to transform itself. This state was temporary as it was an external transformation provoked by merging with Element, a Level Three Nascent Saber Soul.

The pre-existing meridian had the innately imbued aura of eternal inexhaustibility just like the rest. Suddenly, Wei Wuyin's eyes constricted. Without hesitation, he tapped his finger at key parts of his body, and his body

began to exude explosive bursts of colorful energy. There was Soul-tier Light Energy, Spatial Energy, Time Energy, Physical Energy, Mental Energy, Bloodline Energy, and Yang Energy.

During his two-week-long journey to escape the Absolute Void Region of the Desolate Dragnet Stellar Region, Wei Wuyin had refined all sorts of ninth-grade replenishing products to completely recover any exhausted innate energies, astral force, or lifespan and could be considered to be in peak condition at the moment.

However, the introduction of the Profound Saber Meridian had caused a change, and he wanted to immediately test this theory. After a few seconds, Wei Wuyin discovered that the rate at which his body absorbed the ambient Chaos Mana of the Dark Void began to accelerate.

He closely observed ten strands of Chaos Mana congregating within him through an invisible system; no, it was ten different complex systems, each heavily resembling the blood circulation system, but they were uniquely structured systems that overlapped on his vital systems seamlessly and without any indication otherwise. If he hadn't looked closely, he wouldn't have noticed these systems.

The Chaos Mana flowing within these systems were granted various auras. He sensed a Light Energy aura from four and a Bloodline Energy aura from one of them, and they were all generalized, as indistinguishable and fundamental as these energies could be. They each had final destinations, much like a heart to the blood circulatory system.

The Light Energy mana strands entered his four Primary Light Sources, and as if galvanized by some mystical force, his Primary Light Sources began to process and refine this Light Energy Mana strand until it transformed into Soul Light. The Soul Light perfectly adhered to the standards of his Astral Souls.

"What's this?!" Ori was startled for a moment as it noticed its yet-to-be-named Soul Light was slowly recovering after being expelled by Wei Wuyin. The other three had similar reactions. Wei Wuyin quietly observed, and he gleaned some truths from this.

"So that's how the Renewal Physiques work," Wei Wuyin had investigated the Yin Renewal Physique in-depth, but he couldn't find these strands. In his perception, Jiang Feilan's physique simply produced Yin Energy at the Primal Yin Energy level magically. Additionally, it expelled the Yang Energy gathering upon her Primal Yin. All his original theories were wrong!

"My Yang Energy is at the level of Primal Yang Energy, too, as if I've yet to taint it with any Yin Energy. If others inspected me, I could be mistaken for a virgin." Wei Wuyin had experienced a rebirth through that cocoon, and his bone age and Primal Yang Source were reset.

"But how exactly? I can't even convert Mana into energy even with World Heart Intent, but my body can?" Wei Wuyin curiously exerted his Minor Authority of Time Law, trying to impose his will into the Chaos Mana to infuse an aura of time within. Alas, he failed his dozens of tries.

"Is my authority too low? Am I being rejected? But I don't feel a sense of rejection. Is my strength so low that I can't even notice the rejection?" Wei Wuyin wryly smiled as he thought of this, almost forgetting that his cultivation was still within Mortal Limits, regardless of how much he shattered conventions.

He realized that the dense Chaos Mana within the Absolute Void Region was unable to be absorbed. He didn't know if it was because his physique was too weak to do so or if it simply had a density limit.

After inspecting the process for three whole hours until his energies had recovered, Wei Wuyin closed his eyes and softly said aloud despite being in

the Dark Void where air particulates didn't exist. "Mortal Dao! Mystic Dao!" Wei Wuyin called out in a tone resembling praying. "I ask that you allow my bloodline to ascend!"

"..."

"..."

There was no response.

Wei Wuyin took a deep breath of Chaos Mana, stimulating his bloodline as he touched the shackles that he hadn't sensed before.

ROAR!

Kratos went wild! It unleashed a draconic roar so explosive that the chaos mana in the area stirred into a storm, and then a faint Mystic Aura exuded from it!

Wei Wuyin's eyebrows twitched, and then he hurriedly settled Kratos' attempt to instigate the Divine Mark of Mystic Myth's evolution! After knowing where the shackle was, it wasn't hard to push through it.

"I ask that you allow my bloodline to ascend!"

ROAR! ROAR!

Kratos resumed its efforts, exerting a greater degree of power that violently stimulated Wei Wuyin's bloodline, automatically evoking the Draconic Transformation! In his scaled state, Wei Wuyin looked increasingly imposing and domineering, and his expression contained a wisp of savagery that perfectly encapsulated the insanity of a feral beast.

Then, Kratos halted its attempt at the cusp, just as the Divine Mark of Mortal Myth was illuminating, and it felt the surging tide of Mystic Essence that lingered in the area approaching. For a brief moment, it sensed Mystic

Essence! This should be impossible, given Wei Wuyin's Mortal Existential Framework.

"If you do, I, Wei Wuyin, will owe you a single favor!" Wei Wuyin greeted his teeth with closed eyes, and then his Law Seeds began to thrum chaotically, exuding a fascinatingly profound aura! If the world knew that a mortal was trying to bargain with the Daos, those supreme experts would laugh at the nonsensical hubris of it all!

This was what Wei Wuyin had decided to do! He didn't wish to offend the Mortal and Mystic Daos by shattering their imposed limitations without reason, but Kratos was the only Astral Soul of his that hadn't evolved, and he increasingly felt that evolving all his Astral Souls before the Star Core Phase would generate unimaginably, heaven-defying effects that would set him on a path of a...

This feeling might have simply started as a hopeful idea that grew with maddening quickness after a long period of thought, but he had promised to take every risk! As for changing his Existential Framework, that was a heavy violation, disrespectful to the utmost! However, Kratos' Mark of Myth wouldn't change his Existential Framework, merely change its bloodline quality and purity.

Kratos had a unique path of cultivation that was a hybrid of a Genesis Beast and a Spirit of Cultivation, so it should be fine, right?

Wei Wuyin's gritted teeth ground against each other as his expression grew increasingly intense. He didn't know if the Mortal Dao or Mystic Dao could even hear him, but he was mustering the will to push through, and all of his Astral Souls were behind him.

"I'm doing it!" Wei Wuyin violently roared. Bai Lin's head turned as she eyed Wei Wuyin; seeing his aggressively ferocious expression, her eyes glowed with a mysterious light.

"..." Wei Wuyin suddenly came to a halt. The aggressive aura and ferocious expression he wore changed to one of confusion and then to stupefied amazement, lastly changing and settling onto contemplation. Without hesitation, he canceled his Draconic Transformation.

"What happened?" Bai Lin didn't feel anything, so she was unsure if Wei Wuyin had succeeded or not.

Wei Wuyin couldn't help but wryly smile, "I was mistaken."

Mistaken? Bai Lin's curiosity grew.

Wei Wuyin heaved a soft sigh as he sat cross-legged on Bai Lin's back, his eyes slowly opening as he gazed at his two hands. "I was wrong," Wei Wuyin admitted. "The shackle isn't something imposed by the Mortal Dao and Mystic Dao to restrain, but to protect."

Wei Wuyin had used the Eyes of Fated Avoidance Spell at the cusp of shattering the shackle. He saw his body absorbing the Mystic Essence of the world at an absurdly fast pace, but he didn't see the phenomenon that consuming the Mystic-Refined Divinity-Forging Pill would create, the admonishing of the Mortal and Mystic Daos. Instead, his soul shattered.

It just...shattered.

He died.

Instantly!

Wei Wuyin realized that the shackle there hadn't been set to prevent him from reaching a high level beyond his time but to protect those who enter this hybrid path of cultivation, a benevolent gesture of the Mortal and Mystic Daos!

His Existential Framework was still within Mortal Limits, so his soul couldn't handle the full process of a Mystic Evolution.

If he had tried to elevate his bloodline in the Absolute Void Region, he would've died! Without a shadow of a doubt!

At first, it seemed that this path was strictly bloodline-focused, but Kratos' Divine Mark of Myth was the foundation of its Spirit of Cultivation's existence. If the Spirit of Cultivation, his soul, or fleshy body couldn't withstand the transformation, it would fail and lead to his demise.

Wei Wuyin did not doubt that Kratos and his physical body could withstand the evolutionary transformation given their highly refined state, especially Kratos, whose Astral Core already harnessed Mystic Rune Seeds, but his soul was still too fragile.

"What now?" Kratos asked sullenly, feeling despondent after the discovery. If this was true, then they'll have to wait until Wei Wuyin reached the Mystic Ascendant Realm and acquired an Ascended Existential Framework to withstand the Mystic Dao's power.

"Well, there's only one path forward: Alchemy!" Wei Wuyin clenched his hands into fists, his silver eyes exuding a wisp of brilliant radiance.

PARAGON OF SIN



Within the vast Dark Void, the void-blank space between Starfields was almost as massive as the Starfields occupied spaces, but most of it was simply neglected hazardous areas and debris of abandoned or dead Celestial

Bodies. They were the home of treasure hunters and dreamers, but most importantly, they were locations that were difficult to regulate and observe and thus were often used to conduct various businesses.

The Void Hunter Organization led by Venerable Slayingsword, the Reaping Sword, had a base of operations upon a crumbled and desolate flat continental earth that they've essentially colonized using various miraculous formations and techniques. It was habitable and could sustain lives; some Mortals had lived their entire lives on this earth.

The flat continental earth was called the Sword Dome Continent, and it contained a dome that covered roughly 80% of its space, and within this dome was the thriving society of Void Hunters, including their families and cultivation dens. Above it was a large ten-thousand-foot sword created by Venerable Slayingsword that protected the continent, a mechanism that took nearly thirty years to complete. This was not an uncommon practice, with some powerful Void Hunters organizations outright terraforming rogue planets to establish their home base.

On this continent was a Void Gate, recently built, the most advanced model of Void Gate in recent years that had been designed by the R&D department of the Golden Life Pavilion alongside several highly capable architects from other organizations. It wasn't a very well-known fact, but Void Gates had distance limits, and these limits could be affected by certain factors, such as active Starfields between destination and point of entry.

The Grand Cyclic Stellar Region was littered with starfield-wide spatial disruption formations ingrained into their protective arrays, including individual protective formations for specific domains. There was an extensive process to determine precisely how much energy was required to generate a Spatial Portal and whether the Void Gate could sustain that level of energy.

The Void Gate that was established on the Sword Dome Continent was called the Prosperous Gate S6KG, and it had an effective range, on average, of six starfields. The Prosperous Gate S6KG was a model that acted as an Output and Input Spatial Portal, emulating Wei Wuyin's Void Portals, and this was why its average range was nearly three times greater. It was the only Void Gate in the market besides those used by the Void Voyage Sect that could traverse six starfields of distance from most locations.

Near this Void Gate were several well-dressed figures, and at the lead were two figures, a beautiful woman with healthy dark grey hair and a youthful appearance and an old man with a vibrant pair of eyes that gleamed with intelligence and well-earned wisdom of time. They were Ma Sujiang and Ma Zheng, respectively. After Wei Wuyin's rise to prominence and Ma Zheng's change of position, Ma Sujiang was put to work as the Third Manager, effectively using her countless years of training and solidifying the Ma Clan's grip over the Golden Life Pavilion.

She had been performing her job exceptionally well. Of course, she was still the Realm Guardian, forced to manage the Golden Horse Realm's affairs with equal importance.

While they seemingly waited, Ma Zheng said to Ma Sujiang while staring straight ahead: "I've heard that you've exhausted the coffers of the Third Branch recently, creating a little deficit of earnings and losses this month."

Ma Sujiang's originally calm expression shifted slightly, her eyes flickering with an indistinct light of anxiety, but she hastily regained herself and knew her father was asking her a question despite not doing so. It said: "Is there something I need to concern myself with?"

In the end, she took a sharp, quick breath and responded: "No, Pavilion Master; I've simply made some personal investments." She didn't say

anything, but her tone carried a particular meaning that caused Ma Zheng to give her a side-eyed glance.

The term 'personal investments' meant she invested in a person using the Golden Life Pavilion's resources. He had done the same thing on Wei Wuyin, exhausting a great degree of the Third Branch's funds to house and maintain the well-being of countless beasts, including providing cultivation resources for all the beastmen. Moreover, he had ordered the creation of the Abyssal Dawn Planet of the Demon migrants and then infused further funds to help rapidly progress their planet. It hadn't stopped there, such as establishing proper Spiritual Projection Obelisk connectivity on New Everlore.

The investments that he put into Wei Wuyin before even officially meeting him were stupendously high, yet he confidently forged ahead and, as a result, greatly benefited, becoming the Pavilion Master of the Golden Life Pavilion and an Earth Saint with a rapidly expanding business without having to submit any degree of control over it! The returns were godly.

Ma Zheng nodded slightly, not saying anything, but the gesture spoke volumes to Ma Sujiang, and her heart felt as if the grip of anxiety had been released, allowing her to breathe normally.

Whoosh!

A starry light landed before them; it exuded an aura that could seize the hearts and minds of many, giving them the desire to kneel. The regal and handsome Wu Yu had arrived, his eyes shining with the starry light of the vast cosmos.

"Has anyone arrived?" Wu Yu asked as he approached the group.

"None yet; the Prosperous Gate S6KG's activation time is in four minutes and thirty-seven seconds," Ma Zheng calmly explained. Wu Yu nodded, giving the Void Gate a look. He knew that its activation would cause an outpour of

visitors and that the Void Gate's coordinates would only be active for one hour.

"I must say, Young Master Wei's thoughts on the profoundness of Stable and Fixed Space are ingenious, and even I likely wouldn't have been able to create a joint Spatial Channel. This will revolutionize Void Gates technology," Ma Zheng remarked with a sigh of astonishment.

"Young Master Wei?" Wu Yu's eyebrows lifted with interest. He didn't feel too stunned by Wei Wuyin's knowledge or means, having experienced them himself, he was numb to his revolutionary feats.

"Just a title," Ma Zheng smilingly said. Originally, Ma Zheng had referred to Wei Wuyin by his name, but he'd finally settled on a term of address. It was familiar and respectful, and it wouldn't do to call him Alchemic Sovereign Wei, as that was a little distant and official, or Lord Wei, as he wasn't officially his subordinate.

Wu Yu nodded, not minding it at all. He was just curious if Ma Zheng had officially decided to submit himself to Wei Wuyin, but it seemed not.

Ma Sujiang glanced at Wu Yu surreptitiously. Years ago, when she had first met Wu Yu, he was at her cultivation level, and while he had given her a sensation of threat, it wasn't too intense. However, almost two decades later, he was already a glorious Earthly Saint and the Grand Knight of Neo-Dawn, the subordinate of the most talented Mortal Sovereign Alchemist of the New Era.

It was wild how swift the change was, yet she was still cultivating her physique to reach the Demi-Mortal Lord. There was a wisp of frustration in her eyes that was hard to conceal because she didn't feel like she was less talented than Wu Yu, and she hadn't failed a tribulation yet.

"I'm happy that Young Master Wei has ended his closed-door seclusion," Ma Zheng said with a smile. Wu Yu only nodded, not giving out any details with his expression or body posture. He remained focused on the Void Gate as he counted down in his head.

Ma Zheng inwardly shook his head; Wei Wuyin had vanished inside a newly appeared strange region that had the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region's Earthly Saints come to investigate from all over. However, after one of those Earthly Saints entered and was afflicted with the Chill of the Dark Void, something they didn't think was possible, not a single one of them dared to enter. That Earthly Saint was still trying to recover, and there was a high chance they'd die.

The Chill of the Dark Void was termed as a lethal dose of unrefined Chaos Mana that was forcefully integrated into the body, inducing all sorts of ill symptoms, most notably the rapid degradation of lifeforce. It was so sudden that most simply dropped dead right then and there. Even if the Earthly Saint survived, chances were their lifeforce would be cut by a significant degree—a horrendous fate.

If it wasn't for the armored Earthly Saint, subordinate to Wei Wuyin, being entirely unconcerned, assuring his life wasn't in danger, Ma Zheng didn't know what he would've done. However, just a few days ago, he received news from Wei Wuyin himself via spiritual transmission to invite cultivators to this discreet location. Of course, he handled the task perfectly and even put out bait to attract them all.

If any of Wei Wuyin's past actions were an indication of his intentions, then this was likely going to end with a ton of bloodshed. The likes that the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region hadn't seen for a long, long time.

VROOM!

The Prosperous Gate S6KG proceeded to activate on schedule. Embedded at the top of the gate, a large rhombus crystal shone brightly with multicolored light, illuminating the space. Then, twenty-three lines of light shot out into twenty-three different locations. From those locations, a curtain of Spatial Energy formed!

"It works!" An architect behind Ma Zheng sincerely exclaimed with excitement. The Multi-Linked Void Gate function was highly experimental and had only been implemented in this Void Gate; moreover, the Prosperous Gate S6KG had only been field tested under controlled conditions and hadn't had a proper field test yet where different models of Void Gates could simultaneously link with a single Void Gate. The dual special functions of the Prosperous Gate S6KG greatly expanded effective travel distance and allowed multiple individuals to use it at the same time—utterly revolutionary!

The forging method for this Void Gate would eventually need a Golden Auction formed to properly assess its value.

Suddenly, figures began walking out of the curtains. One of them was none other than Huang Xiaolong, a renowned Highlord vagabond! He, with his heavy-set appearance and amicable smile, arrived with a laugh.

"Old Friend Zheng, it's been a while!" While others were getting their bearings, he strode towards Ma Zheng with a laugh.

Ma Zheng looked at this vagabond of a cultivator, reciprocating with a smile of his own. Just as he was about to speak, he and Wu Yu looked up. Huang Xiaolong's head followed along as well. His eyes constricted slightly as a blazing flame of scarlet gold streaked toward them!

KREE!

A voice resounded through the protective array of the Sword Dome Continent. "It seems I've made it just in time." Wu Yu smiled.

The Void Gate didn't stop as twenty-three curtains formed, bringing more and more cultivators, all with the aura of the Mystic Ascendant Realm!

PARAGON OF SIN

Chapter 1153 1147:An Alchemist's Greatest Power



Through the usage of the Prosperous Gate S6KG, the Sword Dome Continent swiftly became populated by Ascended beings numbering in the tens of thousands and rising by the minute. Within the allotted hour, Mystic Ascendant Realm cultivators arrived in droves, accompanied by their attendants, disciples, and blood relatives. When the Prosperous Gate S6KG powered down, exhausted of its pre-stored spatial materials, exactly 63,439 cultivators had arrived, and, among them, a total of 127 Highlords stood at the forefront of the assembly with their disciples standing respectfully and curiously behind them.

Some of them were Chosen, others were descendants, and a few were wives, husbands, and Dao Companions. When they came here, their first response was shock, finding the constantly emerging cultivators from the multicolored light curtains to be startling, to say the least. Fortunately, the Ascended beings that led their groups were calm but they all had solemn and dignified expressions as they observed ahead.

Opposite to them was none other than the illustrious Pavilion Master of the Golden Life Pavilion, Ma Zheng! Additionally, and more shockingly, the Grand Knight of Neo-Dawn—Wu Yu, was present. And despite their unfathomable,

breath-suppressing presence, it was not them but a mortal that was leading the group, and they all knew his identity without a doubt!

Wei Wuyin!

The Neo-Dawn Alchemic Sovereign! The creator of the Neo-Dawn Eclipse Pill and Sharded God Domain Pill! The Mortal that had established a cultivation requirement that altered the entire Grand Cyclic Stellar Region's concept of Chosen and personally determined the requirements!

To the general public, Wei Wuyin was a talented Alchemist with at least two Earthly Saint-level Alchemic Knights at his beck and call; he had close relations with the Golden Life Pavilion and owned the sole Fire Phoenix that was rumored to be so terrifying that even Earthly Saints felt it was dangerous! He was the most successful Mortal Sovereign Alchemist of his generation, of any generation, and could rival the top starfields with his private force alone!

Moreover, he wasn't even a hundred years old yet! The whispers of the Second Coming of the King of Everlore were rising by the day, and with the consistent loss of reputation that the Everlore Association had experienced during these recent years, it was showing that a new era of alchemy might be ushered alongside a new age of Chosen.

After all, the merchant organization that only dabbled in alchemy, mainly focusing on facilitating trades, importing and exporting resources, and providing rare, uniquely crafted items, concoction methods, and architectural designs, was currently exceeding the Everlore Association in terms of quality for their era-defining products. While this might be temporary, should Wei Wuyin ride the wave of their recent dominance of the Mortal-tiered alchemy market, it would become increasingly hard to say if the Everlore Association will be able to retain its position as number one.

This could even lead to a cascade of issues should Wei Wuyin ascend and eventually become an Alchemic Saint!

They all saw the white-robed youth standing before them, his silver eyes exuding a faint glow of exceptional spirituality that could ensnare the soul, and his ungodly levels of handsomeness made him seem as if he was an impossibility. He softly caressed his Fire Phoenix's feathers with a faint, heart-throbbing smile that sent many of the female Ascended and disciples aback.

The imagery of Wei Wuyin and Bai Lin was picturesque, especially given their auras and dispositions that felt as if they were endlessly compatible. Seeing the female Fire Phoenix so relaxed as its golden-colored eyes carelessly swept over them left many with indescribable feelings.

Moreover, the dynamic of seeing an Earthly Saint, the Grand Knight of Neo-Dawn, Wu Yu standing respectfully and deferentially behind Wei Wuyin caused their minds to reflect on all the rumors of Wei Wuyin's means and abilities, and their hearts shook with anticipation and a little fear. This was an Earthly Saint, a literal peak-tier expert of the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region, and his battle accomplishments were by no means little!

He defeated two Ever-Knights shortly after becoming an Earthly Saint, escaped from the Everlore Association's revenge-fueled pursuit, and defeated Nansi Yuangu in the battle for the Pavilion Master's seat of the Golden Life Pavilion! In recent years, he's also made other astonishing accomplishments, but they paled in comparison to those three.

Yet such a domineering figure was standing behind Wei Wuyin without the slightest sense of discomfort. This firmly settled in their minds that Wei Wuyin was a figure that far surpassed their original beliefs. While most had seen Wei Wuyin during the Saint Cyclic Renewal Summit, seeing him from afar and facing him directly were two entirely different things.

"Welcome, everyone; I hope your journey was a comfortable one." Wei Wuyin spoke with a broad greeting and an amicable tone, but there was a wisp of exalted pressure that subconsciously exuded from his body that made them feel inwardly reverential. It was this that made them all silently watch as if they faced an Emperor, only allowed to speak when directly spoken to.

"I'd like to first give my apologies for the subterfuge that I used through the Golden Life Pavilion; I hope none of you hold a grudge against them for this," Wei Wuyin calmly said. The expressions of the Ascended beings and their accompanied members slightly changed in varying ways. Many of them had come for the prospects of a business venture, including being contacted after their 'requests' had been heeded to receive one of the two era-defining Worldly Domain-establishing pills.

While these products were being produced at a crazed pace recently, the recent gambling had caused a lot of losses, and the amount produced couldn't satisfy an entire Stellar Region's elite population. The cost wasn't something that many could afford either, and they much rather hold out for a Neo-Dawn Eclipse Pill than a Sharded God Domain Pill for their loved ones and disciples.

"As an apology, regardless of how the next events go or your decision, each group will receive a low-quality Neo-Dawn Eclipse Pill." Wei Wuyin's words instantly stirred the crowd, especially the hopeful juniors and spouses of those invited. Most came for the prospect of the much inferior Sharded God Domain Pill, so how could they not be excited?

Huang Xiaoming laughed heartily, taking the lead, and smilingly said: "How can we find fault with you? Just from your promised words, I'm sure none of us would be leaving with anything less than what we came for, or even more than that." He was unanimously elected as the leader of the group by the other Highlords, mainly because his relationship was the closest with Ma

Zheng. They often interacted and often drank together; while Huang Xiaoming was young for a Highlord, he had an old and amicable spirit that made him quite enjoyable to be around.

Ma Zheng inwardly chuckled, gesturing with his eyes that nothing unbecoming would happen here, and Huang Xiaoming inwardly relaxed. It wouldn't be an exaggeration that many here felt increasingly fearful in their hearts, especially seeing a line-up of three Earthly Saint-level beings and an Alchemic Sovereign! Just Bai Lin alone could burn them all into crisps. If they had unintentionally offended Wei Wuyin, they would have nowhere to cry.

Wei Wuyin didn't mind Huang Xiaoming sounding out his intentions with his words and simply smiled in response. "Indeed, you'll all be leaving here with more than you came with, perhaps much more." Those words of his instantly perked the ears of many. He continued, "I wish to discuss more about that possibility with those at the Soul of Mysticism Phase and higher privately. Shall we?"

"..." The experts here were instantly left with a decision. They could go forward and accept the discussion, hearing Wei Wuyin out, or take their leave and secure an era-defining product for their loved ones.

There were over 20,000 Ascended beings here, with more than 19,000 Soul of Mysticism Phase cultivators. Some didn't come with their loved ones, while others brought them along for the experience considering the Golden Life Pavilion was covering their travel expenses under the guise of 'testing' out a new Void Gate. None of them feared that the Void Gate would be faulty or unreliable, and they had cultivations that would allow them to easily protect themselves and those accompanying them should something go awry.

A female Soul of Mysticism cultivator, a well-known vagabond, spoke out.
"Will there be danger involved with this discussion?" She had unruly dark hair,
which seemed untamable, but her facial and bodily features were beautifully

fierce. She was renowned for her combat power amongst Vagabond Venerables. Her official name was Venerable Bloodtorrent, and she was a partial member of a Void Pirate group and a Void Hunter organization.

She was wanted in four Starfields with an Arrest-On-Sight Order on her. Of course, the Golden Life Pavilion's operating grounds had no extradition agreement and was considered neutral, never revealing her location. A reason why she often traded with them her ill-gotten gains. Similarly, she never dared to attack any of the shipments of the Golden Life Pavilion.

Wei Wuyin saw her and his eyes lit briefly, answering: "There will, but the greater the risks, the greater the rewards."

Venerable Bloodtorrent went silent, her eyes focused on Wei Wuyin as she noticed his particular gaze. However, she didn't say anything. Her next decision could cost her everything, so she was mentally occupied.

Great risk!

Great rewards!

The hearts of many throbbed, and their loved ones looked towards these figures that were their sky pillars. Some were hopeful, others a little fearful. Events like these weren't uncommon because the greatest power of an Alchemist was their ability to rally others to their cause with prospects of tremendous gains. Instead of scouring Void-Blank Space, entering ancient ruins of ancient starfields, cultivating their own resources over hundreds or thousands of years, or attacking shipments, this was one of the most reliable ways for vagabonds to acquire resources.

The Chosen hoped their fathers, mothers, master, or many-great grandparents would risk it for them, a selfish desire certainly, but one that was perfectly reasonable given the times. Should they wish to stand out, they had to seize chances like this.

Huang Xiaoming was the first to stand out, walking towards Wei Wuyin while instructing his disciples to stay there, and he laughingly said: "To pursue greater heights, either for yourself, your little ones, or your loved ones, how can there not be danger involved? I'd love to discuss further on this, Alchemic Sovereign Wei."

Seeing Huang Xiaoming take the first step and speak those words that carried truths, many began to step forward as well. Among them was Venerable Bloodtorrent, and when she arrived, she saw Wei Wuyin smiling at her. Her heart shook slightly, but she didn't mind it. There wasn't any ill intent in his smile or eyes, so she didn't place it in her heart and inwardly speculated further about what this might be.

No one here was a fool; the recent happenings of the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region certainly coincided with the reasoning for this gathering of experts. The most important? The founding of the Born True Starfield!

Which one of them wasn't aware of Trueborn's existence? The leading figure of black market deals that was the opposite of the above-board Golden Life Pavilion. Some of them even had dealings with them, but none of them ever took it further, either out of fear or caution.

Involving themselves with a clandestine organization that cultivated illicit resources such as Primal Yang Liquid and Refined Beast Essence Blood and was linked to many, many inexplicable disappearances and deaths over the millennia, they would be fools to carelessly involve themselves with that group. They wouldn't be able to discern if their bodies might be refined into certain materials for cultivation without an explanation.

And they were also aware that there were rumors that Wei Wuyin was in direct conflict with Trueborn, and considering how Wu Yu and the Golden Life Pavilion had involved themselves in the battle for supremacy in the Great Blue

Starfield, causing the Pentastar Cluster Unification to be stopped, it was clear that this was true.

A shadowy battle between Wei Wuyin, a mortal with enough private forces and connections to rival a top-tier starfield, and the clandestine organization known as Trueborn that terrorized the hearts of many cultivators, was unfolding beneath their feet. And what was this if not a rally of mercenaries?

They knew what this was, and they still leaped forward!

At the very least, they had to see what was offered! Only a few decided against it, taking their effortlessly earned gains and hurriedly refused. In the end, only 118 Highlords remained and a little over 18,000 Venerables. Those that did decline were given a simple Mystical Oath to swear before receiving their pill and offered to stay for a bit. While this was an 'offer', only those who were stupid would think of it as such.

They could only stay in the Sword Dome Continent and cultivate until the 'discussions' ended, and perhaps a little beyond that.

Five days later, another group of cultivators appeared, with their numbers reaching 12,000. They were given the same choice, and very few declined.

Ten days later, a larger group numbering 34,000 cultivators arrived, only coming after taking multiple Void Gate trips to reach the range of the Prosperous Gate S6KG.

A month later, several unfathomable beings arrived by themselves. Among them, two figures instantly stood out, and one of them felt fiendishly evil with an ever-present sanguine aura surrounding his body!

After a total of thirty-eight days had passed since the first meeting, there was an air of tension in the Sword Dome Continent, rising steadily without end.

"Young Master Wei." Ma Zheng stood outside the most luxurious palace within the Sword Dome Continent, the residence of none other than Wei Wuyin. Shortly after he called out to Wei Wuyin, the door opened.

Standing before him was a fierce-looking, dark-haired beauty loosely draped in a male's robe with nothing underneath, her hair even messier than before, and her eyes were shining with energy while looking equally exhausted from her languid body movements. Her cleavage was unintentionally exposed, and she rubbed her eyes a little.

"Pavilion Master Ma?" She seemed to have thought that it was someone else, as she looked at his hands initially as if trying to spot a plate of prepared dishes, not expecting a male arrival.

Ma Zheng faintly smiled. "Venerable Bloodtorrent, please inform Young Master Wei that we're ready for him."

Venerable Bloodtorrent!

"En." She nodded absentmindedly; a tinge of embarrassment crept into her expression as she covered herself more with Wei Wuyin's robe. She went back in and called out with a gentle voice.

Shortly after, Wei Wuyin, dressed in Essence of War-conjured white-colored robes, left with Venerable Bloodtorrent beside him. They soon arrived at a gate leading to the Reaping Sword's headquarters.

'Here we go.'

PARAGON OF SIN

Chapter 1154 1148: Born True Starfield

"A new era rife with change." The old coots, sly foxes, and long-lived experts were all echoing the same sentiment! Ever since the Golden Life Pavilion's proclamation of Wei Wuyin's existence at their Golden Auction, alongside the announced release of the Neo-Dawn Eclipse Pill, the flow of the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region became highly unpredictable. The once peacefully quiet river stirred into a storm of epic proportions that was hard to describe.

The Neo-Dawn Eclipse Pill had outright changed the potential of cultivators, and those young geniuses with it would inevitably outpace those without. This was a definitive certainty that not even the most elite of the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region could deny. It was difficult to not see the implications of such a convention-defying product.

The pill's existence preceded countless world-changing events, causing them to explode with a torrential force that would continuously shake the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region. The first that could be highlighted was the fall of the twenty-three starfields, the elimination of the Ravenous Edge Starfield, and the ensuing division of resources that was still ongoing. The starfield had become an ideal place to send elite talents to train themselves in fire and blood due to its lawless state that had no clear leadership.

The sharp, insatiable fangs of the elite powerhouses had bitten down and none felt like letting up; therefore, a behind-the-scenes agreement was established to allow the chaotic society that had inadvertently formed to be used for other purposes.

This event coincided with equally thundering news, such as the existence of an ancient Fire Phoenix, an unidentified Earthly Saint, the Tang Clan's failed capture attempt of said Fire Phoenix, the deaths of two Earthly Saints belonging to the Ravenous Edge Starfield, and the Soul-Rising Saint's abrupt departure and betrayal of the Ninestar Sainthall.

There was even the birth of a new Earthly Saint after a long period—the Grand Knight of Neo-Dawn, Wu Yu!

Next, the contest for the Pavilion Master of the greatest merchant organization of the Aeternal Sky Starfield, the Golden Life Pavilion, was underway! One of the oldest recognized cultivators in the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region, Ma Zheng, formerly known as the Third Manager of the Golden Life Pavilion, had challenged Pavilion Master Sheng Jizi! And won!

It had then contributed to the greatest gathering of Chosen and powerhouses of renown that had ever been known since recorded history—the Saint Cyclic Renewal Summit, which resulted in the defining changes of Chosen standards throughout the stellar region. A race involving talents, geniuses, peak forces, and a need for resources had begun.

However, no one could've predicted that the Great Blue Starfield would experience a coup, but they all knew that the Golden Life Pavilion and Wei Wuyin had their hands in the act with funding or outright showing support by sending their signature Alchemic Knight. This was almost immediately followed by the complete domination of four starfields and their eventual united announcement!

Born True Starfield!

Unchained Heart Sect!!

Within this decade alone, the twenty-three starfields that had enjoyed millennia of peace had undergone a series of tumultuous changes and were brought down to nineteen starfields.

"A new era rife with change."

This single phrase was continuously spoken as all levels of the cultivation society, from the young cultivators to the peak powerhouses were making moves, and at the center of it all was none other than the Neo-Dawn Alchemic Sovereign, Wei Wuyin!

The Born True Starfield was the combination of the Great Desolate Starfield(6th), All-Fury Starfield(8th), Beyond Light Starfield(9th), and Verdant Paradise Starfield(19th), but the process of formulating a single starfield from multiple and merging them into one was not a simple matter. Firstly, the Void-Blank Space that segregated these starfields had to be cleansed of all chaotic debris, rogue planets, and dangerous phenomena by countless experts. This was a task that took years, if not decades, to properly perform.

Secondly, a centralized Solar Star or Solar Stars had to be established that created a natural orbit that allowed a proper diffusion of Solar Essence throughout the starfield. Therefore, the larger the starfield, the greater the size of the Solar Star or Solar Stars. This was often circumvented by using multiple Solar Stars to compensate such as the Ninestar Starfield, Trihex Starfield, and the Hexaflame Starfield. It could also involve attempting to merge all Solar Stars into a single, overwhelming entity that could govern the entire space.

Thirdly, the planets, lunar satellites, flat continental earths, World Realms, and Secret Realms had to be relocated. The task itself was incredibly complex and not even Earthly Saints will dare say they could reliably do so, especially

given the changes to orbit that needed to calculate gravitational forces, total mass, occupied space, and stability of World Cores.

Lastly, and the most precarious situation, the deactivation, and relocation of Starfield-wide Arrays and Formations. Most of these arrays and formations were anchored to locations for the greatest stability and they provided the strongest power due to connecting with the various Star Cores, World Cores, Secret Realms, and World Realms of a starfield. The True Element Sect's Domain-wide Array had used this principle to fight against Wu Yu, and the array could even bring harm to legitimate Worldly Saints. Each Starfield was a nigh-impregnable fortress, and with the precious three tasks necessary for a process of merging, this was an unavoidable circumstance.

While it was entirely possible to maintain the four starfields as an independent starfield, that would eliminate at least twenty times its potential defensive, offensive, and material-creating strength. The provided power that four starfields merged into one could exert if combined into an array or formation was unfathomably great.

The last several months of the Born True Starfield were hectic signs with heavy work. There were occasional bursts of erupting waves of energy and light as Celestial Bodies were being moved carefully. From time to time, ripples of chaotic spatial power would surge outwards as World Realms and Secret Realms were either deconstructed or forcefully shifted.

The entire world was observing the Born True Starfield slowly forming into a whole as the Void-Blank Space that served as vast chasms of borders noticeably began to shrink. That said, only a few months had passed, and while the process was being conducted with abnormal efficiency, it hadn't even been completed by a tenth yet. Just cleaning the Void-Blank Space was an increasingly difficult task to perform, especially considering that Ascended beings of a certain level didn't dare to assist.

Not only was every iota of their Mystic Power extremely precious, but they also formed the totality of their military might and defensive prowess, especially given the collapse of starfield-wide arrays and formations. They were its guardians, and if they assisted, while the process would go tens of times faster, they would leave themselves vulnerable and weakened.

Far, far away from the True Born Starfield was a single Sky Destroyer that had been stationed there by the order of the Imperial Clan. There were four Earthly Saints on board, an astonishing line-up. They included Tian Muyang, Tian Lingyu, the oldest Sky Monarch, and one of the greatest symbols of the Imperial Clan, Empress Xiaocheng!

The Sky Destroyer belonged to Kong Yi; he was a decorated expert that had rivaled Ma Zheng in seniority. While his cultivation path hadn't involved any outstanding feats, the fact that he stood here today as a Sky Monarch spoke volumes of his staunch effort towards cultivation.

Tian Muyang and Tian Lingyu observed the flashes of light and incessant ripples of space unfold in the vast distance. They both had calm, dignified facial expressions.

Tian Lingyu frowned slightly after a light of curiosity flashed in her eyes. "I don't like this," she flatly stated through spiritual transmission. As a woman of practical thinking and realistic beliefs, she didn't believe having a Sky Destroyer stationed at the edge of the current restructuring of four starfields was wise. Moreover, they were given orders that she felt went against her interests.

"I know." Tian Muyang understood her thoughts completely because they heavily resonated with their own. Unfortunately, he was left with no other choice as it was an order from the Imperial Advisor, and that typically meant it was approved by the Aeternal Sky Divine Emperor himself.

"Have you had any contact with Wei Wuyin lately?" Tian Muyang asked with his eyes staring straight at the Born True Starfield.

"No; he's gone completely off the grid," Tian Lingyu answered solemnly. Over the years, Wei Wuyin would occasionally send requests to be completed that wouldn't infringe on their Mystic Oaths. This was their trial period, and they've helped in many different ways, even assisted from the distant shadows in the Great Blue Starfield's coup.

Tian Muyang had reasonably kept a few key cultivators of the Great Blue Starfield inside the Aeternal Sky Starfield on 'official business' that prevented them from intervening with the eventual vote for succession. Meanwhile, Tian Lingyu sent intelligence reports regarding the movements of certain shipments from the Aeternal Sky Starfield that were being sent to the Great Blue Starfield.

They perfectly skirted certain Mystic Oaths. Fortunately, most Mystic Oaths were directed towards their loyalty to the Aeternal Sky Starfield, not a distant starfield.

"That strange space that devoured the Desolate Dragnet Stellar Region, do you think...?" Tian Lingyu frowned as she thought of the Absolute Void Region that induced fear in her heart. There were some loosely unverified reports that Wei Wuyin was stationed in the Desolate Dragnet Stellar Region, but no one dared to investigate because doing so meant likely offending the Neo-Dawn Alchemic Sovereign himself.

Furthermore, he had yet to swear any Mystic Oath of any substance and had a level of freedom that could bring extreme fear into the hearts of powerhouses. Just his two Alchemic Knights at the Earthly Saint-level and the ancient Fire Phoenix were enough to cause pause.

There was a floating theory that Wei Wuyin was dead, and Trueborn had killed him to ensure their conquest went off without a hitch. Considering they haven't been in contact with him for nearly a year, this felt increasingly true. Fortunately, Grand Knight Wu Yu was still active and seemed to be performing tasks here and there without any haste, so it was unlikely to be the case.

Tian Muyang shook his head with a solemn light in his eyes, "The calm before the storm. Why else would we be here?"

"..." Tian Lingyu stayed silent. She swept her gazes across the vast Dark Void, sensing the various presences there.

Will he come?

Her thoughts were interrupted by a blazing burst of flaming light in the distance, followed by a clear, piercing clarion cry!

Kree!

They both turned their heads to see an incoming flaming comet streak across the Dark Void. It was heading directly toward the Pentastar Cluster!

"He's here." A silky voice carrying an innate tone of imperial nobility resounded as Empress Xiaocheng arrived alongside the Kong Yi. Her gorgeous eyes carrying endless allure and imposing dignity gazed upon the streaking light. It was difficult to determine what she was thinking.

Both Tian Muyang and Tian Lingyu's expressions grew darker, their eyes rippling with complex emotions.

A man and beast soared towards the edge of the Pentastar Cluster alone, cutting a figure that was reminiscent of an immortal legend and halted just before entering the range of the still-intact arrays.

Hovering at the edge, tensions inevitably rose!

"..." The white-robed Wei Wuyin stared at the Born True Starfield with a steady gaze.

Whoosh!

Suddenly, a black-robed masked figure appeared at the other edge of the starfield's border. The distinct mask! The stylized robes that concealed their features, gender, and body type!

Undoubtedly, it was Trueborn, and they weren't even trying to hide it!

The figure had a cultivation base at the Soul of Mysticism Phase, a genuine Ascended being, and was clearly sent to open a dialogue between both parties!

"Alchemic Sovereign Wei, how can I help you?" Despite their scraggly voice, there was a modicum of respect within that showcased their intentions.

The various presences watching from afar, including the Sky Destroyer, were waiting with bated breath for Wei Wuyin's response!

PARAGON OF SIN

Chapter 1155 1149:The Unchained Heart Sect



"Heh."

Wei Wuyin's response was overly simple—a sneer! It was condescending, disrespectful, aggressive, and most of all, extremely dismissive!

The refined, fearless, and enigmatic image of Wei Wuyin that almost everyone had in their minds only exacerbated their response to this simple, direct sneer! It encapsulated and verified the entirety of everyone's thoughts toward the

situation, and that was that Wei Wuyin held an open grudge against Trueborn!

KREE!

Bai Lin's clarion cry was world-shaking, disturbing space and time as she ignited! From her mouth, she violently spewed a literal ocean of scarlet-gold flames that could encapsulate an entire large-sized planet!

The masked figure's pupils behind the mask constricted as a glow of the searing, incinerating flames painted their body with its radiance. The approach of the flames was inevitable, and the shivers of death and annihilation overwhelmed their soul so much that they froze. Even if they hadn't frozen out of fear, the flames were remarkably swift, to the point where dodging was a foregone conclusion the moment Bai Lin had the intent to unleash her attack!

BOOSH!!!

By the grace of the heavens, the masked figure watched as the flames crashed against a layer of darkly-colored light! It wasn't exactly black, more of an indistinct color that fluctuated out of many different dark color schemes. The layer of light protected the masked figure!

°Will it last?° The masked figure had forgotten to use this time to dodge, observing the flames intently as if to determine if his life would be spared. In truth, if Bai Lin could penetrate the Defensive Array of the Born True Starfield, then running was entirely useless. The flames were simply too fast, and not even Spatial Shifting will afford them enough speed to escape.

Ravaged! Sundered!

The Nirvanic Flames swept across the layer of light viciously and violently, exuding fearsome heat that burned all, even Chaos Mana, yet the Defensive Array remained intact and unbroken after three full seconds of uninterrupted attacks.

Kree!

Bai Lin slowly closed her mouth as the Nirvanic Flames began to flow backward, re-entering her body in a raging flood of fire. Wei Wuyin was washed entirely by it, completely unharmed from head to toe, and the imagery was miraculous to witness.

The barrier held!

The tensed mind and heart of the masked figure slowly relaxed.

They slowly took a breath and eyed Wei Wuyin from the protection of their Array. "Alchemic Sovereign Wei, our Unchained Heart Sect's priority was to establish the outer layer of our defensive array to defend against unforeseen enemies foreign to our Born True Starfield. My sect hopes you do not waste your energy on trying to test its limits, as we're still in the process of structuring.

"Alchemic Sovereign Wei, tell me how the Unchained Heart Sect has offended you. We wish to rectify our mistake to the best of our ability, and hope you allow us to do so." The masked figure was clearly skilled in holding discussions and extremely elegant in their approach and choice of words. It was hard not to open a line of dialogue, no matter how brief, facing them. Especially given how they so quickly regained their calm and acted as if he didn't just tether on the verge of incineration.

The implication of compensation was there. The masked figure was certainly saying that, should Wei Wuyin wish for it, they'll compromise to end all grudges.

Empress Xiaocheng, Tian Muyang, Tian Lingyu, and Kong Yi were all observing, and they had varying expressions, with only the Empress being composed and calm in the face of Wei Wuyin's initial attack.

"Why does Wei Wuyin have a grudge against Trueborn?" Tian Lingyu had asked this question more than once inside her heart, especially after being assigned to be stationed here and wait for his arrival. It was clear that the Imperial Advisor knew that Wei Wuyin's grudge against Trueborn was absolute, and he would unhesitatingly come here after learning that they were establishing a public base of operations.

"..." Tian Muyang was equally as baffled; it all started with sightings of a Fire Phoenix in the Ninestar Starfield, and the later reports of a destroyed Shadow Egg within their territory. Then, Trueborn launched an assault of three Earthly Saints against the owner of the Fire Phoenix, which most assumed was an Earthly Saint due to how easily the Shadow Egg was destroyed given the limited strength of the Fire Phoenix and the exceptional power of a Shadow Egg.

One must remember that an Earthly Saint had lost half their life and then some after finding and attempting to destroy a Shadow Egg. This was why few Earthly Saints dared to scour for it, even if it was in their territory. Moreover, it was obvious that many had implied permission from leadership to operate in their territories as long as they didn't go overboard.

The Ninestar Starfield was a perfect example of this, especially after the Soul Saint King had only taken action against Shadow Eggs after Yue Songli and the Soul-Breaking Saint were attacked. But none of this explained why Wei Wuyin and Trueborn clashed at all in the first place, and so much so that he had come here.

"Trueborn is likely at fault" Kong Yi quietly murmured. They all heard, however!

It was true, from the perspective of an outsider, with all the given information and calculated timelines of events, chances were that Wei Wuyin was operating in the shadows out of the Ninestar Starfield while hiding his presence from prying eyes, he likely left behind his Alchemic Knights to handle other matters, and while doing so was acted against by Trueborn. Who couldn't tell that Wei Wuyin was an exceptional cultivator with the rumored potential to be the next King of Everlore?

Even if all that was placed aside for a moment, Wei Wuyin was also an absurdly handsome man of a peerless caliber, alluding to his exceptionally refined Yang Energy, and Trueborn was renowned for hunting innately talented cultivators with no backing. Wei Wuyin was a relatively unknown figure back then, and the Shadow Egg was most certainly a Yang Extraction Farm Station.

"Based on what we know, chances are, Wei Wuyin was forcefully captured and brought to the now-destroyed Shadow Egg in the Ninestar Starfield." Kong Yi firmly spoke out his theory, and Tian Lingyu's expression changed at the ridiculousness of it all. Trueborn must be shouting angrily to the heavens for their bad luck.

"All evil gets punished eventually," Empress Xiaocheng profoundly said. Then, her beautiful eyes flickered as she added: "Unfortunately, today is not that day." Her words caused Tian Muyang and Tian Lingyu's expressions to immediately darken, reminded of their purpose. The latter even clenched her fists tightly while biting her lower lip.

The masked figure felt slightly unnerved by how Wei Wuyin wasn't responding, but they stayed the course they were given.

He began: "Alchemic Sovereign Wei, I know-"

"Do you think this barrier can protect you?" Wei Wuyin finally spoke, and his voice was eerily indifferent. It sent shivers down the masked figure's spine that caused their breathing to accelerate. "Protect any of you from me?" There

was a hint of amused contempt from within his tone, and those silver eyes that seemed to contain the truths of the world were exceptionally piercing.

However, the masked figure's state of mind had swiftly recovered and, seemingly having expected this, he spoke with a solemn tone and a trace of glacial iciness within: "I was sent here in the hopes that Alchemic Sovereign Wei and my Unchained Heart Sect can come to a compromise that benefits both parties, but make no mistake," the masked figure paused as his body became slightly more upright, continuing, "we have restrained ourselves from acting against you out of respect and hope for a future cordial relationship, not out of fear."

"..." The spectators were all stunned!

But the masked figure didn't stop, his stance growing firmer, "The Unchained Heart Sect left the Great Sea Starfield alone out of respect; the Unchained Heart Sect left your allies alone out of respect; the Unchained Heart Sect left the Eternal Monarch Sect alone out of respect; the Unchained Heart Sect did not attack you, not out of fear, as we do not fear even the World Beyond, but out of respect! Do not mistake our inaction as cowardice, Alchemic Sovereign Wei."

"..." Those witnessing such bold declarations and veiled threats weren't just left stunned, speechless, and shaken, but they were once again reminded that, while yes, Wei Wuyin was an exceptional cultivator, many of them hadn't taken action not out of fear, but out of respect and hope that the relationship between them could be maintained! At least, that's how it was before Wei Wuyin was so well-established with three Earthly Saint-level beings and a bevy of elite allies.

"Heh." Wei Wuyin's sneer was the only response! And it was even more contemptuous than before! It was readily apparent to all watching that Wei Wuyin didn't take this gargantuan clandestine organization that operated

throughout the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region from the shadows seriously!

Threats be damned!

The masked figure's body shook slightly, but they still continued despite the response given: "Alchemic Sovereign Wei, by the declaration of the Unchained Heart Sect, any further attacks against our territory or persons of association will be taken as an act of irrevocable aggression—an act of war!"

"...!" Tian Lingyu's eyes flashed as her nails dug into her palms. "Shall we go now?" There was a wisp of urgency in her voice now, and it seemed that her original unwillingness to complete her assignment had been replaced by a panic that they wouldn't complete it fast enough. Only the true peak characters of the Stellar Region, such as the Imperial Clan, knew the extent of Trueborn's power.

And Wei Wuyin's shown strength simply wasn't enough to take them on. It was better to kill a potential King of Everlore than to have them determined to launch a war against you!

"Calm down. Trueborn isn't so foolish to act," Tian Muyang softly chided Tian Lingyu before saying plainly. If Trueborn, under the guise of the Unchained Heart Sect, actually attacked Wei Wuyin, that would allow many to side with him and protect him. This was a silent battle of interests, patience, and tolerance!

"You're wrong," Empress Xiaocheng calmly stated. Tian Muyang's eyebrows furrowed as he glanced at the lovely figure and side profile of Empress Xiaocheng.

"Wrong?"

Empress Xiaocheng's eyes reflected the image of Wei Wuyin and Bai Lin, including the faint radiance of the protective barrier around the Born True

Starfield's predetermined border. "If they attack, they won't give anyone a chance to interfere."

KREE!!

As if on cue, her words directly preceded the beginnings of the Unchained Heart Sect's move!

Bai Lin's cry was utterly incisive to the mind, and she erupted into a flurry of Nirvanic Flames! A rich bloodline aura diffused out into the world as chaos mana began to burn! BURN BRIGHTLY!

NIRVANIC TRANSFORMATION!

WHOOSH!

Within the blink of an Ascended's eye, Bai Lin had transformed into a twenty-thousand meters Fire Phoenix! She was the embodiment of flames, majestic and gorgeous! Her beauty bedazzled the eyes as her fiery form shattered the invisible ripples within fixed space!

Suddenly, within the Born True Starfield, at the Unchained Heart Sect's headquarters that was a nine-stories pagoda forged from the whitest bones imaginable, a series of explosions erupted alongside anguished howls of pain and suffering!

Wei Wuyin stood upright atop Bai Lin's enlarged flaming head that seemed almost material, unharmed by the flames, and while tiny in comparison, stole away everyone's focus as his silver eyes bore down on the masked figure. The imposing demeanor he exuded resembled a Monarch of the Ages, endlessly domineering and boundlessly charismatic!

All around Wei Wuyin, fragments of broken space scattered about after having been solidified by Spatial Power of the Mystic-level. At times, wisps of Void

Energy fluctuated as well. It was foolish to attempt an ambush using space against a True Void Dragon!

"Did you really think I'll walk into a trap?" Wei Wuyin said coolly, his contempt as ever-present as ever. "Let's see how long your turtle shell can last. Burn it all!"

KREE!!!

Bai Lin's fiery body began to grow! AND GROW! AND GROW!!

There was a legend that the phoenix carried the cursed power of the Divinity of Fire! Forced to be reborn through intense painful fire! Alongside this legend was another one that was equally as shocking. It was that the Fire Phoenix was born from the union of the Primordial Origin of all Avians and the Immortal Solar Demon—the largest Solar Star in existence!

At the moment, when Bai Lin was taken into account, both could be equally as true!

Bai Lin's Nirvanic Flames began to expand like a growing Solar Star, raging and unstoppable, and it kept going and going!

200,000 Meters!

2,000,000 Meters!

20,000,000 Meters!

"RETREAT!" The numerous spectators all exclaimed in shock. No one knew who gave the first order, but it was given, and a tide of dozens upon dozens of high-end Voidships broke out of their concealed state and fiercely retreated!

At the center of these world-searing flames, Wei Wuyin was perfectly visible, outlined by his white-clothed and those glowing silver eyes that carried within them a death sentence.

Bai Lin's enlarged form clashed against the darkly-colored light with a level of ferocity that was hard to describe in mere words! But the explosions from the erupting defensive power all over were hell-raising and heart-shaking!

KREE!

Bai Lin smashed against the barrier, and slowly the flames began to surf across the barrier and cover the entirety of it!

"THE FIRE PHOENIX IS TRYING TO SWALLOW THE STARFIELD?!" Kong Yi's eyes explosively widened as he piloted the Sky Destroyer into a retreat. The scene was something he'd never thought he'd see in his lifetime!

PARAGON OF SIN



The sight unfolding before them was heaven-shaking! The ancient Fire Phoenix had become the embodiment of the grandest fire ever witnessed and began to spread as wildly as a dry forest ignited! The fiery radiance painted their ashen faces and aghast expressions with a scarlet-red glow.

Among the numerous Voidships forced out of their concealment and commencing a tide-like retreat backward, there was one painted scarlet, barring the symbol of the Inferno Solaris Church!

"It's not possible!" A scarlet-robed woman of mature looks, and graying hair, yet still carrying traces of beauty exclaimed disbelievingly. She wasn't very tall, her physique quite petite, but she innately exuded a type of respected charisma etched into her bones. That and her unfathomable aura of the

Mystic Dao, signifying her existence as an Earthly Saint, was enough to allow all to know she was a fearsome character.

Huoyan Liulan stood beside her, her expression as equally as pale as the others on board, absolutely stupefied by what she was witnessing. The Fire Phoenix was trying to engulf several starfields in its flames! Was Wei Wuyin mad?!

The scarlet-robed woman—Song Cixi—was a Cardinal of the Inferno Solaris Church, a leading figure whose authority amongst the church was only beneath the Pope himself. She was given the order to be stationed here, awaiting Wei Wuyin's almost inevitable arrival by the Pope. This elusive figure was almost impossible to meet or find, not even the Heavenly Seers and Oracles of the Golden Gate Pavilion was effective, so this order baffled her until she learned of the rumored grudge between the two.

However, she would've never guessed that Wei Wuyin would arrive here on the back of a Fire Phoenix alone and lead a lone assault against the entire Born True Starfield! What the hell did they do to offend him?! Of course, only a fool would think that Wei Wuyin, someone who was a Grand Alchemic Sovereign and had two Earthly Saints at his beck and call, would think he was alone here.

"Should we act?!" Huoyan Liulan's expression was a little fearful as she felt the absurdly high heat touch her skin, granting an additional layer of warmth, despite being so far away. Her heart shuddered at how intense the heat must be.

Cardinal Song's eyes flickered as she observed the situation. She quietly inspected the surrounding Voidships, the depths of her pupils shifting once again with unfathomable thoughts, and she soon shook her head, saying firmly: "Not yet." She knew why no one was acting yet despite all of them being here for a similar, if not the same reason!

"Are we seriously going to wait until then?" Huoyan Liulan understood why the Cardinal wanted to wait! She, like the others, wanted to swoop in and act as heroes in Wei Wuyin's time of need, gaining an advantage as a helper rather than a group of oppressors. It was simply a way to mitigate the offense that they would give Wei Wuyin! But she felt that it was being too reckless, and this was likely to backfire in their faces.

"It's not just that," Cardinal Song confessed after giving Huoyan Liulan a sidelong glance. She continued, "It's best to wait and see the—"

Aboard the Imperial Clan's Ione Sky Destroyer, Empress Xiaocheng spoke calmly, "—extent of Alchemic Sovereign Wei's power. Our purpose here will be greatly assisted if we understood his limitations. Or do you think Wei Wuyin's only trump cards are two elite Earthly Saints and an ancient Fire Phoenix bred to the levels of an Earthly Saint in power?"

Tian Lingyu softly gulped after receiving Empress Xiaocheng's explanation as to why they weren't acting yet. She wanted to test his upper limits! To see his trump cards! Was everyone else waiting for that too?! She looked at Tian Muyang whose expression was dark, and pale, with eyes that vividly reflected the growing world-searing blaze in the distance.

By this point, Bai Lin's Nirvanic Flames' growth seemed to be virtually endless. At the moment, about five percent of the entire Starfield-wide Defensive Array was being engulfed. Continuous explosions were happening as the barrier tried to mitigate the damage, disperse the fire as it accumulated in heat to protect itself, and weaken the flames trying to invade. It was as if the flames were scouring for a weak point.

The masked figure retreated violently out of terror. Their eyes focused on the barrier, and through the flames, they could still see Wei Wuyin standing upon a burning head of a Phoenix, staring at him as if viewing his soul. Their fleshy heart was pounding so intensely that it felt as if it was going to explode. An

urge to scream out swelled within their mind, but it was hurriedly restrained with a mighty will.

One of the reasons why the masked figure was selected as the negotiator was their ability to navigate and discuss. While they had resorted to threatening earlier, that was solely due to external orders, and they wouldn't have done so if they were given full control over how to handle the situation. Unfortunately, the masked figure was a skilled mouth with its voice box gripped.

"Alchemic Sovereign Wei!" The masked figure shouted out, hiding their terror as all flames enveloped every angle of their vision. "Alchemic Sovereign Wei! Our Unchained Heart Sect doesn't wish to reach a point of no return with you!! However we offended you earlier, we're willing to compensate you!!!" Their words grew increasingly intense and louder as the flames' spreading speed increased alongside the sounds of erupting explosions from the blistering heat and defensive power.

They couldn't resist the urge to look around themselves, their Soul of Mysticism Phase level of perception was mighty, and they could see that nearly a tenth of the Starfield's Defensive Array was engulfed!

"WHAT THE FU-" The masked figure yelled out at the ludicrous development. The Starfield-wide Defensive Array wasn't a simple array, and it enveloped the entirety of four Starfields of the original Pentastar Cluster, including the remaining Void-Blank Space, so it was truly hard to fathom how vast this area was. It wasn't even simple enough to use distance measurements. It was simply too freaking vast!

Yet now, ten percent of the array had been enveloped in flames! This meant that should Wei Wuyin want, his Fire Phoenix could engulf and incinerate an entire starfield! AN ENTIRE STARFIELD!

Whoosh! WHOOSH!

Suddenly, three figures arrived, all exuding an unfathomable aura of an Earthly Saint. In the distance, dozens of other figures were approaching as well. They were all Highlords! Genuine Demi-Mortal Lords!

The three Earthly Saints stared at Wei Wuyin, their eyes glinting beneath their masks with killing intent and a little trepidation. Without any audible order, one of the Earthly Saints rushed forward, exuding a defensive sphere of Mystic Power around their body. The glowing blue radiance it exuded revealed it to be Water Power! A mixture of Water Energy and Mystic Power of a Mystic Ascendant Realm expert.

The Earthly Saint shot out of the defensive array where Wei Wuyin stood calmly. He was relatively close to the barrier, likely a few miles out, so to beings like them, it should be easy to arrive. The other two Earthly Saints emanated a silvery light of Spatial Power! They were ready to interfere at a moment's notice, likely to halt any support Wei Wuyin had hidden.

The Highlords didn't assist the Earthly Saints; they soared towards the barrier and began to pour copious amounts of Mystic Power into key areas. They were reinforcing the barrier! The explosions intensified immediately, and the heat that the masked figure felt was reduced by a considerable degree.

"They're making their move!"

There was a Voidship that was of a similar design as the Boundless Martial Sect's Boundless, the gargantuan planet-sized Voidship that awed the world. It was considerably smaller, roughly the size of a large-sized Voidship, but it still contained a similar outward appearance as Boundless. It was called Vastless, and it was one of three Voidships belonging to the Boundless Martial Sect.

The one who spoke was none other than a young girl, looking no more than ten years old, appearing like an actual doll with porcelain-like skin, big, bright

eyes, and her flamboyantly pink hair styled into twin pigtails. No one would guess that this small girl was one of the most fearsome characters of the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region!

The Titanic Hell-Crushing Queen!

Da Shan was beside her, but her body was restrained by a rope constructed of dense Mystic Power. Despite her struggles, she was unable to move. While she wasn't in danger here and couldn't be very helpful in a battle of this level, she wanted to at least warn Wei Wuyin about these scheming organizations!

"Don't worry, your little husband isn't so easily taken down." The Titanic Hell-Crushing Queen consoled as her big eyes watched the scene unfold with growing interest.

The Earthly Saint easily bypassed the defensive array and entered the sea of Nirvanic Flames. Their intent was clear: rapidly approach and subdue Wei Wuyin! But just as they left the protection of the defensive array, the eyes behind their mask widened as their pre-established Mystic Ward instantly ignited.

Before the Earthly Saint could take a few steps forward, they were already feeling the incinerating heat of the Nirvanic Flames on their skin! Their defenses melted almost instantly!

"EEK!"

They released a strange, embarrassing cry of choked disbelief and fear as the Necro Energy within them began to burn away. They didn't think for long, already deciding in their heart to retreat. However, a glacial voice resounded beside their ears like a soft, monstrous whisper in the wind.

"Why don't you stay?"

Their eyes bulged behind their mask as they turned violently around and exploded with Mystic Power. But suddenly, they found themselves slowing down! It wasn't by much, but their speed of action was delayed!

KREE!

Bai Lin's cry was world-piercing as gushing waves of Nirvanic Flames began to surge toward the Earthly Saint like a spiraling whirlpool forming with exceptional speed. In moments, the Earthly Saint was surrounded and engulfed. Their defenses were nothing and their Water Power helped very little to resist the Nirvanic Flames' incinerating heat!

The Earthly Saint was instantly swallowed by the Nirvanic Flames.

They vanished.

Gone.

"...!" The two Earthly Saints felt as if thunder exploded in their minds. They could no longer sense the soul aura of their ally!

The masked figure only watched as the Earthly Saint entered the flames and abruptly vanished without explanation. The speed of everything was simply too fast for them to observe, so it sent absolute chills down their spine. "Alchemic Sovereign Wei, is there really no other way?!" They roared out in frantic panic.

The two Earthly Saints glanced at each other.

With gritted teeth, the masked figure continued: "If those flames breach the Defensive Array, trillions upon trillions will die! Do you understand that? Not everyone here has submitted to us! You'll be killing countless innocent lives! We can still talk about this!"

"..." Wei Wuyin remained silent; the flames grew further and further until they covered fifteen percent of the defensive array.

The masked figure's voice grew beastly as his attempt to plead on Wei Wuyin's better nature, finishing off with: "WE HAVE THE SOUL-RISING SAINT! IF YOU CONTINUE, SHE'LL BE THE FIRST TO DIE!!"

"..." The flames began to stop their growth as Wei Wuyin's silver eyes focused on the masked figure. This development caused the spectators to be stunned on the spot! They were threatening the Soul-Rising Saint?! When did they get her? Furthermore, why would Wei Wuyin care about her? Moreover, did he actually stop?

The two Earthly Saints inwardly heaved out sighs of relief. It seemed taking the Soul-Rising Saint alongside their captured Earthly Saints had been the correct decision. After all, the Soul-Rising Saint had connections with Ma Zheng.

Wei Wuyin's voice resounded like a malevolent, dispassionate demon, "She'll have the company of tens of quadrillions of souls; For her, it won't be lonely on the road to Hell."

"...!!!"

The spread of Nirvanic Flames instantly intensified threefold, and the speed already took over thirty percent in a matter of a few seconds!

"YOU! YOU!!" The masked figure was unable to say anything else. The madness!!

The two Earthly Saints realized the killing intent of Wei Wuyin was real, and the defensive array was on the verge of collapse. They hurriedly poured in their Mystic Power to reinforce the barrier, preventing it from collapsing for now. Unfortunately, they weren't capable of handling this by themselves. With haste, they began to send out an urgent transmission.

Within the depths of the Born True Starfield, there was a Shadow Egg, the largest in existence, and it was handling various matters. A violet-robed figure

stood upright as they observed a shadowy mirror-like existence. They received the transmission and inspected the state of the array.

"Reinforce the Unchained World Aegis Array," the violet-robed figure ordered.

"We don't have enough power! While the Nirvanic Flames definitely can't be endlessly exuded by that Fire Phoenix, its current strength is enough to breach the array at this rate! We can only delay for a few minutes," was the reply.

"...If he wants to fight to the end, then so be it. Does he truly think we don't know about his rallying of forces? Naive. We'll have to teach him a lesson about our true strength. Summon all non-essential Ascended." The violet-robed figure ordered.

Throughout the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region, every last Shadow Egg received urgent updates on the ongoing situation, including the summons. Void Gates spun to action, and soon hundreds upon hundreds of figures began to arrive inside the Born True Starfield, ready for war.

PARAGON OF SIN



"How's it?" Wei Wuyin mentally communicated with Bai Lin, who was exerting herself to an extreme, all while being fed endless unrefined strands of lifeforce to sustain her blazing rage of heaven-swallowing flames. They were interlinked, and the Mark of Eden's reservoir of lifeforce kept gushing out.

"It's absolutely great!" Bai Lin energetically replied; not a wisp of exhaustion could be heard from her. In fact, she could be considered to be extremely

excited. It had been a while since she got the opportunity to unleash all of her strength, and after consuming that feather, her strength underwent a qualitative change. Moreover, she never lacked alchemical products that helped enhance her innate, physical, or bloodline energies and was certainly stronger than any other Fire Phoenix her age.

Of course, she was remarkably young for a Fire Phoenix, akin to an infant still waddling in diapers, but she wielded unimaginable power. Similarly, Wei Wuyin was in the same position as Bai Lin. As a Timelord at the age of sixtynine, he could kill Highlords, and that was before refining the Neo-Dawn Paragon-Forging Pill and acquiring Origin Fire.

They were both infants relative to their age, species, and cultivation stage.

"Good," Wei Wuyin felt comforted as he kept contributing more lifeforce.

"Keep it at this level for now," he said as he realized roughly thirty percent of the defensive array was covered, adding: "and lower the intensity of the Nirvanic Flames' heat. Make it seem as if it's gradually going down as they reinforce the barrier. Have it coincide with each major explosion."

Bai Lin acted as instructed; her control of Nirvanic Flames was unmatched and seamless. This control was undoubtedly due to alchemical products she regularly refined that enhanced the qualities of her mental energy, greatly amplifying her connection with every iota of flame that existed.

Wei Wuyin's Celestial Eyes glanced beyond the flames and observed the changes of the Born True Starfield. Continuous spatial ripples were manifesting in the Dark Void. As a True Void Dragon, his sensitivity toward those fluctuations was the highest among any mortal.

"I think there's more!" Bai Lin exclaimed as she realized the defensive array was growing stronger. It was being reinforced by Venerables, Highlords, and Earthly Saints. At this point, the explosions on the defensive array were less

intense, and her Nirvanic Flames were being destroyed with an equivalent amount of power.

"Increase the intensity of the flames! Cover fifty percent!" Wei Wuyin then interfaced with the Mark of Eden and poured vast quantities of lifeforce into Bai Lin's head, and her Nirvanic Flames exploded with greater intensity as she acted.

The expressions of the newcomers became aghast; they hurriedly called out for additional assistance as a particular area was being breached, melting in such a way that it felt as if the energy that was solidified by the array's profound power was turning liquid. A few screamed as a small tongue of Nirvanic Flames broke through, incinerating a limb or two in an instant. Some were engulfed, dying then and there.

While Bai Lin went to work pressuring Trueborn, Wei Wuyin's Celestial Eyes transformed into draconic pupils. He kept the transformation limited to his eyes and observed the ripples within space. He looked around and marked a series of locations based on intensity, direction, energy consumed, ripples produced, and numbers sent. After performing high-speed calculations, his eyes glinted with a grayish-colored Void Light.

From within the defensive barrier, the masked negotiator's face behind the mask was as ashen as a ghost on the verge of death. The sky was on fire! The Born True Starfield was bathed in scarlet-gold radiance! It was endless, spreading in every direction, sometimes penetrating inside.

The masked negotiator retreated fearfully. How could a Fire Phoenix exhibit such unreasonable power? Where was it getting the energy to unleash this torrential storm of endless world-blazing flames?! It wasn't just unreasonable; it should be downright impossible!

"Assist!" A Highlord shouted at the masked negotiator, causing their eyes to flicker as they contemplated helping. Then, from the corner of their eye, they saw a Venerable channeling their power into the barrier when a breach occurred, and they were swept by the flames. It only lasted for a microsecond, but not even ash remained. Terror suffused every fiber of the masked negotiator's existence as they sent over, "I have to keep negotiating!"

The response caused the Highlord to glance over and then focus on reinforcing the barrier. They all had their jobs. Furthermore, if the masked negotiator could cause Wei Wuyin to pause his aggression like earlier, it would buy them more time.

Seeing their flimsy excuse work, the masked negotiator heaved an incomparably heavy sigh of relief in their heart and began to shout out words toward Wei Wuyin. While those words were ignored, and they knew there wouldn't be any response, they persisted.

"How does the Fire Phoenix have such massive reserves of bloodline energy?!" Tian Lingyu was astonished, her mouth gaping out from utter shock. They were all Ascended beings, all Earthly Saints, so they could accurately measure the quantity of energy needed to produce every iota of flame and then calculate the total expended energy based on area.

Even Empress Xiaocheng's normally calm and dignified expression grew solemn; the depths of her eyes revealed the light of disbelief and uncertainty. Every living being had a limit to the energy they could contain within their body or Energy Center, such as the Dantian or fleshy hearts, and what the Fire Phoenix had used vastly exceeded her limits by thousands of times. It was unimaginable!

"Could it simply be the ability of its flames?" Tian Muyang asked with an uncertain tone. Some abilities could restore energy by devouring external sources such as essence or energies.

"No." Kong Yi shook his head; his third wife was from the Tang Clan, and he had discussed the Nirvanic Flame Intent with her and knew that it didn't have such an absurd power. While it could ignite other objects, it was limited in what could be caught on fire. Mystic Power was not one of those ignitable sources.

"If Alchemic Sovereign Wei can unleash this level of power freely, then very few within the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region would properly be able to deal with it." Kong Yi glanced at Empress Xiaocheng, his eyes weary and a little joyful, continuing: "The Imperial Advisor's foresight is exceptional as always."

Empress Xiaocheng's expression flashed intensely but subdued almost immediately after. She nodded, agreeing, "As always."

Da Shan's eyes widened uncontrollably as the beautiful burning of the Dark Void reflected in her pupils. The Born True Starfield seemed like a Solar Star being eclipsed; half of it was drowned by fiery radiance. Wei Wuyin's location was beautifully chosen, as the furthest location was the Great Blue Sea, so it'll reach it last.

"Your little husband reared a fearsome beast..." The Titanic Hell-Crushing Queen remarked admiringly. Da Shan was startled, then a glint of unconcealed pride flowed in her eyes, and she bore her well-endowed chest as well. A tantalizing sight, for sure.

The Titanic Hell-Crushing Queen caught her prideful stance and touched her own chest, pouting with discontent. Not only had Da Shan gained two feet in height, but she was also already incredibly 'gifted' in other areas. She wagged her finger, forcefully causing Da Shan to sit. "Stop making a fuss," she said as she ignored Da Shan's eyes filled with grievance directed her way.

"If this continues, he might just eliminate the entire Born True Starfield by himself," Huoyan Liulan said in wonder. But Cardinal Song shook her head:

she gestured toward the space around the burning barrier. "Do you not see the wake of Spatial Traversing? Trueborn is calling forth reinforcements. Chances are they're about to teach this young mortal a brutal lesson."

Huoyan Liulan furrowed her brows, "Isn't this playing into Alchemic Sovereign Wei's hands? After all, he rallied quite a few to his cause. It's obvious that Alchemic Sovereign Wei wants a fight." They, too, were aware of Wei Wuyin's gathering of forces over the last two months. It was a well-controlled act, but it was soon seen through by many of their networks of information.

"Do you believe Trueborn is so weak that a few meddling rogues can fight against it? At best, that Grand Knight of his, the Armored Saint, and the Fire Phoenix are threats. But not even they are enough to handle Trueborn's true power," Cardinal Song said with disdain. If Trueborn was so weak, the organizations of the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region would've long since eradicated it.

"True power? What do you mean?" Huoyan Liulan was taken aback. While she knew Trueborn was powerful, from the sound of it, it was far, far stronger than she was made to believe.

Cardinal Song gave Huoyan Liulan a side-long glance, restraining her contempt, "The Pope hasn't told you the fullest extent of Trueborn's history. But they've existed since the beginning of the First Era, tens of thousands of years ago, when humans first learned to cultivate. Their cultivated forces and hidden reserves are inestimable, and they simply don't concern themselves with imperial power."

"What?! So long?" Huoyan Liulan didn't know this despite her position and cultivation base. She felt ignorant, and this spurred a little anger. "That doesn't make sense; what force doesn't want to rule?"

"...I once met the Divine Emperor about four thousand years ago alongside other peak forces to discuss what to do about Trueborn. We asked a similar question then, especially given their desire to seek out resources and territory in secret but their unwillingness to expose themselves. Do you know what the Divine Emperor's response was?"

Huoyan Liulan's eyes widened, never having heard of that meeting before. She had only Ascended three thousand and four hundred years ago, so she wasn't privy to that information. That said, she was over twelve thousand years old. She shook her head in response, unable to guess.

Cardinal Song stared at the burning world before her, "For every speck of darkness in existence, there is light that is driving it away, protecting the world from its encompassing ambition."

"..." Huoyan Liulan.

Cardinal Song sighed, "They didn't because they couldn't."

"But they're establishing a base of operations now after tens of thousands of years? Why would they do it now?" Huoyan Liulan instantly questioned that statement.

"Then the light has been weakened, and the darkness and its encompassing ambition are no longer as restrained." After saying this, Cardinal Song no longer spoke out. She had an idea as to what that light was, a force as enigmatic and hidden as Trueborn, an organization that acted freely and didn't concern themselves with any external matters—the Void Voyage Sect.

Her expression became gloomy and grim.

They weren't here.

Within a mass of Nirvanic Flames, Wei Wuyin began to reduce the levels of lifeforce he was sending to Bai Lin. "Reduce your range slowly, but gradually intensify your strength."

Bai Lin acted as instructed. She began to feign weakness as her Nirvanic Flames slowly drew back, but its strength increased as it did!

The Venerables, Highlords, and Earthly Saints all had the same thought: "the Fire Phoenix was finally spent!" It was about time!

"Prepare for its last-ditch attack! REINFORCE!" They were very coordinated as they began to recede together, reducing the range of their reinforcement alongside the reduction of the Nirvanic Flames. Their movements were effective. Soon, the barrier was covered by only ten percent. However, the Ascended beings were fiercely sweating as the heat intensified, penetrating the barrier.

"Hold!" They shouted.

"Hold!" Wei Wuyin instructed.

"Yes!" Bai Lin kept the intensity at eight percent, holding strong as if it was using its last remaining energy to keep the assault going. This was a good sign for Trueborn's forces. They saw an end!

But Wei Wuyin, too, saw an end! The end of the Void Gates' transports! It soon came with no other reinforcement in sight. Most of those who arrived stayed hidden, only sending Mystic Power from the shadows to not give away their existence, waiting for Bai Lin to grow exhausted!

"That's it," Wei Wuyin said with a heavy breath. Then, he looked at the vast Dark Void, and his eyes brightened considerably as he sent a single spiritual transmission out.

Then, Bai Lin's fiery form violently receded like a tide preceding a tsunami, all accumulating until she reverted to her twenty-two-meter-sized form. Wei Wuyin calmly stood upon her back, gazing at the Ascended beings that were exhausting themselves to defend wholeheartedly.

"You have a tough turtle shell; I'll give you that. So, why don't we talk?" Wei Wuyin stared at the masked negotiator, a hint of a smile on his face.

The masked negotiator gulped.

Venerable Bloodtorrent was situated in a lightless space, isolated and large. Within this space were hundreds of other Ascended, including an Earthly Saint that made her feel uncomfortable. The sanguine aura enveloping him felt supremely evil and vile, yet this being's spiritual sense was firmly honed onto her body, giving her great discomfort. But she forcefully ignored it; her eyes focused on the mission instead.

The sanguine aura was behind a mortal woman. It was an auburn-haired woman that gave off a floral scent, had a sword on her hip, and possessed an innately commanding presence. She was Hong Chunhua!

After a while, Hong Chunhua's eyes sharply narrowed. "We have our orders; we leave in twenty seconds!" She exclaimed, her aura surging, and despite being a mortal, to Venerable Bloodtorrent, she felt stronger than any Starlord cultivator she'd ever met. It was baffling. How did she cultivate?

Twenty seconds later, a large-sized Void Portal, enough to fit a hundred people, manifested before them.

"Go!" Hong Chunhua roared. The Ascended listened, shooting into the Void Portal with killing intent flaring in their hearts, minds, and spirits. As Venerable Bloodtorrent entered, she heard Hong Chunhua icily shout: "KILL!"

PARAGON OF SIN

Chapter 1158 1152:Bloodtorrent's View

"Kill!"

Upon Hong Chunhua's inciting order, Venerable Bloodtorrent sped through the large-sized Void Portal with her blood-red bullwhip in hand; she gripped it so tightly that her hand trembled a little. Since she started the difficult path of cultivation, long before she took upon the Daoist title of Bloodtorrent, becoming a fiercely regarded rogue cultivator amongst the stars, when she was simply Wu Jinyan of the Twisted Earth Starfield(13th), she had never felt so on edge.

It wasn't because of the danger.

Exiting the Void Portal, she saw the icy steel hallway. It was incredibly spacious, sufficient to safely funnel some of the largest beasts in the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region. There was a damp feeling in the air, and her eyes adjusted to the low lighting with frightening quickness as she channeled her Spiritual Power through them.

At the sides of the hallway were several doors forged from steel, possessing multiple lock mechanisms that required specific circulation of one's Spiritual Energy to access. They littered the hallway. Looking back, she saw a long stretch that kept going for several hundred meters.

Despite entering the Void Portal alongside others, she found herself alone. This was something she had expected.

It wasn't the feeling of being alone.

Clink! Clack! Doosh!

Her eyes widened slightly, her grip holding her bullwhip with greater strength when the door directly beside her opened. It was casually opened, and with a calm, relaxed gait, a male of average height walked out with a mask firmly placed on his face. A symbol was engraved on his mask; it was composed of three spirals—one at the top, one at the bottom left, and one at the bottom right; they interconnected and gave the illusion of movement. The center of all three spirals held the most notable detail, possessing a star-shaped mark with longer vertical rays.

"Huh?" The masked man was confused. He saw a masked woman staring at him but was unable to process the situation clearly enough. Who was this? Why was she here?

Whoosh.

The bullwhip in Wu Jinyan's hands moved swiftly, lashing across the man's neck. His cultivation base was at the Gravity Emission Phase, the Sixth Stage of the Astral Core Realm, and while this might be an imposing cultivation level in typical settings, when facing a genuine Ascended being, a true Venerable, he was but an ant before a boot.

The bullwhip lash was swift, silent, and ferocious. His neck couldn't withstand a single strike as it landed, severing his head from his body before he could even elicit the slightest sound of surprise. While his head began to dissipate from the infused Mystic Power, the masked man still had enough time for one last thought: "She has such wild hair."

While it was an irrelevant thought in the grand scheme of things, to this masked man, it was the last thought he'd have in life.

Wu Jinyan's eyes flashed as she shot into the opened door, her eyes scouring about as if to find more victims for her bullwhip. When she entered, she had

indeed found what she was looking for, as four other masked figures were handling various formations and objects. She didn't hesitate to whip about, and their four lives all ended before they could even react.

Shortly after clearing the room, she inspected a few of the glass vials and formations these cultivators were operating. There was a smell of blood in the air, dense and pungent. "An essential blood refinery?" She concluded as her eyes narrowed upon a vial of refined essence blood. It belonged to a beast of the shark lineage, cultivated and enhanced through various methods and exuding enriched lifeforce.

It wasn't the exploration of the unknown.

She hurriedly found a wall, firmly placing a palm-sized glass sphere against it that melted into the surroundings. Then, she rushed out, her eyes darting about. She waited with her hand tightly wound against the grip of her bullwhip, ready to exact a swift end to any cultivator that was freely roaming these halls.

No one came, and soon, her spatial ring glinted with a sparkle of spiritual light. Inspecting the transmission, her mind was soon enlightened by the structure and size of this area. A gargantuan object was shown through her eyes, mapping the entirety of internal and external layout in excruciating detail.

If one saw it as a whole, one would instantly see its egg-like shape! It was none other than the interior and exterior of a Shadow Egg! Not just any Shadow Egg, the Shadow Egg that Wu Jinyan was currently located in!

She quickly located herself on the map, homing onto her signature—a minuscule dot within a vast super-structure. Then, other dots began to manifest, each barring a unique signature identifying their strength and real-time location. She instantly noted a particular one. It was sanguine in color, outrageously large when compared to the others, and seemingly three floors

above her. She instinctively looked upwards, unaware that the figure above her was similarly looking down.

Then, more dots began to manifest. They began to change from their dull colors, becoming green and red spots of varying sizes. The green was an indicator of the innocents, while the red was all active combatants. They, too, had varying sizes based on their strength.

There wasn't a single red dot of the sanguine aura's size. Wu Jinyan heaved a breath of relief that had been pent up in her chest.

"It worked," she quietly said in awe. Wei Wuyin's means were absolutely world-shaking and mind-boggling. She hadn't felt the slightest trace of Spiritual Aura despite the entire Shadow Egg being mapped out perfectly. Moreover, this differentiated enemies from allies and innocent captives.

It was as if Wei Wuyin knew a method to easily sort them out, and she couldn't help but recall that handsome face with soul-stirring silver eyes.

BOOM!!!

An explosion occurred in the upper decks. She inspected the map and saw a rapidly moving sanguine dot racing toward the largest red one. Moreover, all red dots vanished as it passed them, while the green ones transformed into rays of light that shot out of the Shadow Egg map, exiting its sensory range.

She calmed herself down as she turned to a door. "Seven red dots, two green." She noted the location, and by estimating their size, there was a Mystic Star Phase expert here; she rushed in with a vicious palm strike to the door, unleashing ferocious Mystic Power. The door bent and then shot backward, smashing a red dot as it soared across the room. Then, it vanished.

When she entered, the crumpled door was dripping with fresh blood and falling bone fragments.

CRACK!

No longer bothering about stealth, she launched vicious strikes aimed at their vitals. The heads of those at the Astral Core Realm were smashed into a bloody gush while the Mystic Star Phase expert, a fellow female, tried to react, but who was Wu Jinyan?

She was Venerable Bloodtorrent, a figure wanted by four Starfields, a name that other Venerables feared as she freely acted to plunder, steal, and live. She unleashed a Mystic Art, her whip transforming into a gushing river of sanguine light that cracked onto the body of the female expert. She cried out painfully, cut short by her body exploding into bloody gore.

She was dead.

It certainly wasn't the fear of combat.

Wu Jinyan flashed across the room, finding two figures segregated by shackles tethered to the floor and walls. A sickly middle-aged woman and a young woman.

"Elves?"

The latter's eyes stared at her with vigilance. The woman's eyes exuded a bright, intelligent light that was hard to find. It seemed she realized that Wu Jinyan wasn't like the other women, and despite seeing such a bloody scene, she didn't shiver or retreat out of fear.

Wu Jinyan checked the map. She realized this stretch of hallway only had a single Exalted level cultivator, and they were here guarding mortals?

Moreover, they weren't even in the Astral Core Realm.

Elves were considered inferior cultivators. Despite being here for thousands of years, elves have been unable to ascend to the Mystic Ascendant Realm successfully, and this caused their status to reach an all-time low. If it wasn't

for the Everlore Association establishing the Elven Sanctuary, they would've been reduced to slaves and servants for the affluent and eccentric.

Wu Jinyan didn't think too heavily about the why. She brought out two grey and white talismans and tossed them toward the two prisoners. They couldn't even react before they were plastered on their bodies. The talismans exuded a gentle radiance, a wisp of enriched lifeforce surged into their bodies, and the sickly complexion of the woman was melted away by the glow of health. Whatever condition she was afflicted with was cured instantly.

Then, the young woman was stunned and cried out as her body felt lighter. She attempted to grab the middle-aged woman desperately, tears swelling within her eyes, but before she could do anything, a powerful void aura shifted them away through the walls.

"..." Wu Jinyan furrowed her brows slightly as she gazed at their previous location. Then, she took a deep breath and darted out the door, finding masked figures running away in fear, some even saw her, and her eyes became incredibly glacial.

A torrent of death and blood tainted the walls of the hallway alongside the crackle of a whip.

She wasn't on edge because of the danger or being alone or entering the unknown or the fear of combat, but because this was the first time that she felt like her soul was light, that she was cultivating on a road of blood and death purely for the sake of it, that the abilities that she strove to cultivate had a use that made her feel...good.

It was the mission that made her on edge, a mission not to just kill or steal or conquer, but a mission to save. A first for her, and it was surprisingly...liberating.

"KILL!" With bullwhip in hand, she saved lives.

PARAGON OF SIN

Chapter 1159 1153:A Good Talk

"...So, why don't we talk?"

"What?!" The masked negotiator backed at Wei Wuyin's sudden shift in attitude, losing all of that terrifyingly glacial malevolence that was determined to send countless souls to the afterlife. It was so abrupt that not even the Earthly Saints observing the situation could restrain their expressions, all of the faces changed wildly, disbelief and uncertainty flowing from their eyes.

Wei Wuyin placed his arms behind his back like an immortal character of legend as his silver eyes shone with spiritual light. "Talk. Oh? Do you not want to anymore?" Wei Wuyin teased with a grin.

Kree!

Bai Lin's cry caused the masked negotiator to shudder, their mind consumed by the imagery of a world on fire, and they gulped. It was difficult to mentally process this situation, especially given how viciously dismissive Wei Wuyin had once been as if he wouldn't stop until the entire world was burned to ashes.

The masked negotiator received a spiritual transmission from one of the leading Earthly Saints, "He's bidding time, use this. Keep him engaged until further orders." The masked negotiator was quick-witted and knew that the higher-ups were about to make their move. Wei Wuyin had failed to take them down using his obscenely powerful Fire Phoenix, likely greatly exceeding his

expectations, and was probably going to resort to using his recruited allies to muster an invasion force.

"Talk? Okay. Let's talk." The masked negotiator steeled their nerves.

Trueborn's initial goal was to settle the grudge with Wei Wuyin for now, firmly establishing their base of operations, but after this assault, the cost to resist that flaming assault was incalculable. It was impossible to settle the grudge now, especially given Trueborn's current state.

If the masked negotiator had to guess, Trueborn was planning to deal a severe blow to Wei Wuyin. If possible, it would be best to slaughter him where he stood. An overwhelmingly talented Mortal Sovereign Alchemist that had sufficient charisma and means to rear a Fire Phoenix and two powerful Earthly Saints was far too dangerous to be allowed to live freely, especially if that alchemist had a grudge against them.

"Good," Wei Wuyin nodded acceptingly. "Before we begin, I'd like a few answers. Then, we can discuss terms for peace. I guess I shouldn't be using that word—discuss compensation for peace." Wei Wuyin instantly placed himself as the overwhelming victor, essentially stating openly that Trueborn needed to pay him for any type of peace.

"..." The masked negotiator kept their heartfelt feelings that Wei Wuyin was far too ignorant within their thoughts and flew closer to the segregating barrier. The barrier was considerably thinner than before, but it was slowly thickening as time passed by. Trueborn was reinforcing their position, stabilizing the barrier, and patching any gaps that formed due to the Nirvanic Flames.

"Questions?" The masked negotiator said slowly, then added: "We were willing to settle all grudges before, so isn't it a little too unreasonable to suggest that we still give you compensation? Your brute actions just now were not cheap, as you must know." The cost of maintaining a Starfield-wide Array

was obscenely pricey, and likely exceeded the originally intended level of compensation to Wei Wuyin by dozens, if not hundreds of times.

Wei Wuyin simply looked at the masked negotiator with an innocent blink, "Well, I had to see if your Chained Blot Sect, uhm, Unchained Heart Sect had the right to negotiate, right? I mean, see it from my perspective, would you negotiate with an ant for treasure if you could simply crush it and take everything it has?"

"..." The various experts witnessing this scene unfold had varying, complex expressions, especially Trueborn who was being compared to an ant. Wei Wuyin was truly ignorant! Not a single organization within the Sealed Regions, especially the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region, would ever think of Trueborn as an ant!

Moreover, the disdain and contempt Wei Wuyin had were downright obvious. Did he truly regard Trueborn as nothing?!

"I see," the masked negotiator's tone lowered several octaves, and their eyes narrowed beneath their mask.

"Do you still think we're ants?!" A masked male Highlord who had resisted the torrent of Nirvanic Flames couldn't help but roar out. It was as if Wei Wuyin had disparaged his wife for being too ugly, smelly, and dull considering how enraged he was.

Wei Wuyin didn't even glance his way, disregarding him as if he was a genuine ant. "Your Mystic Array is exquisitely established and quite resilient. How long have you guys been planning this takeover of the Pentastar Cluster?"

"...!" As a Highlord, when has this masked figure ever been ignored by a mortal? It was hard not to possess an innate sense of pride after cultivating to this extent and having such a terrifying force behind them, and given Wei

Wuyin's publicly-known personal force, the Highlord shouldn't feel so angry, but he still growled like a beast. Every fiber of his being was itching to teach Wei Wuyin a lesson.

"Is that your question?" The masked negotiator asked, clearly using various tactics to stall the conversation.

"One of them," Wei Wuyin replied coolly.

"A while," the masked negotiator ambiguously answered. Wei Wuyin didn't press his answer, only nodding as his eyes observed the array's fluctuations. It was growing stronger by the second. After establishing his new physique, Wei Wuyin's normal visual sense could perceive Mystic Energies and Mystic Essences, as long as he paired it with his Celestial Eyes of Spiritual Divinity.

This was a delightful upgrade, simply one of the many benefits granted by the Neo-Dawn Paragon-Forging Pill.

"Why now?" Wei Wuyin asked a question that many, many others had on their mind. Trueborn had been acting as a clandestine organization operating in the shadows of leading powers and starfields, thriving on anonymity and the safety of their elusive bases, but to suddenly establish a fixed base was abnormal and out of character.

What changed?

The masked negotiator answered simply: "It was about time."

"Do you even know?" Wei Wuyin asked with a faint smile, poking at the masked negotiator's ignorance. "Or were you here simply to negotiate compensation, unable to know the true inner workings of your organization?"

"No need to explain. I don't care if you're an ignorant pawn limited in authority and knowledge of your organization's grand scheme nor am I interested in

some deflection of yours. How about this: I'll ask you a question that you should be prepared to answer." Wei Wuyin waved his hand dismissively, not wanting to dwell on the masked negotiator's excuses or other delaying tactics to acquire vague 'answers' to his question.

"Then ask away," the masked negotiator was truly a little awed by the way Wei Wuyin handled himself, especially given the rumors that he was less than a hundred years old.

"Yue Songli," Wei Wuyin said. As he spoke, his silvery eyes emanated a glacial chill that seemed to originate from hell, absolutely soul-shaking!

Tian Lingyu's eyes flashed, her lips pouting ever-so-slightly. Yue Songli was classified as the number ONE Immortal Saintess during her generation, then she vanished from the public eye, and then reappeared roughly five hundred years later. She created an incredibly chaotic stir upon her return, with geniuses, Chosen, and exceptional long-established experts all coming to celebrate.

If it wasn't for her mother's overt limiting of potential suitors to a narrow category, the entire world might've flocked over. Moreover, she was even more highly regarded upon her return.

"Yue Songli..." Empress Xiaocheng's eyes exuded a light of contemplation, continuing: "She's the one who declared Alchemic Sovereign Wei as her lover long ago. If I recall correctly, she returned a few months after the Shadow Egg in the Ninestar Starfield was attacked by the Fire Phoenix and Armored Saint."

It was widely believed that the Armored Saint—Legion Commander Zhan Zheng, had shattered the Shadow Egg's defenses and then Bai Lin cleaned up what was left behind.

Tian Muyang absentmindedly said after recalling Wei Wuyin's Saintmaker title, "The Soul-Breaking Saint is her mother, and she ascended to the Earthly Saint Phase recently."

Kong Yi's brows furrowed, "Could this grudge be because of a woman? How juvenile." If Empress Xiaocheng's implied meaning was correct, then Yue Songli was likely involved with Trueborn and Wei Wuyin had attacked them because of her.

"Sky Monarch Kong, have you seen her before?" Tian Lingyu asked this question while a little annoyed considering how Kong Yi carelessly responded.

"...No," Kong Yi answered flatly. He was a Sky Monarch, the eldest amongst the lot, and his standing and cultivation were exceptional. Why would he care about a youngster that was only a thousand or so years old? Especially one that was a mere mortal until recently, presumed dead to some, and then only highlighted because of her mother and beauty.

"There's some truth to the title: Nation-Toppling Beauty," Empress Xiaocheng said with a hint of a smile. If Yue Songli was a nation-toppling beauty, then shouldn't she be a Stellar Region-collapsing beauty? If she wasn't the Aeternal Sky Divine Emperor's wife, who knew how many would fall beneath her skirt?

Tian Muyang felt a wave of envy surge in his heart thinking about the Aeternal Sky Divine Emperor. What did he lack? The desire to reach a greater level burned fiercer, and perhaps one day...he would have everything.

The masked negotiator nodded as if acknowledging that they were aware of this, but they seemed a little uncertain. The masked negotiator then said, "Do you want to private our exchange?" They were communicating through spiritual energy that anyone with an appropriately strong Spiritual Sense could grasp and comprehend.

"No need," Wei Wuyin casually replied. He knew that Trueborn wouldn't give him a direct response, private or not, so it didn't matter.

"She's the fiancé of one of our Earthly Saints. He invested heavily to ensure she reached the Mystic Ascendant Realm with the best possible foundation and even used our organization to scour for the best resources. We simply attempted to reclaim our investment." The masked negotiator answered the question.

"Oh?" Wei Wuyin inwardly rolled his eyes, and then outwardly mockingly said: "Don't you mean Yin Vessel?"

The masked negotiator shrugged, "Call it what you want. We respected her decision in the end, and didn't launch any further assaults, no?" It seemed like the masked negotiator didn't care if the 'truth' was exposed.

"You mean you decided to suffer no more losses, no?" But Wei Wuyin knew this was bullshit from all eight directions, but he only openly acted as if he was contemplating this situation. Yue Songli's situation was more complex. Why? Because they offered a simple, dismissive answer that could answer every question.

The masked negotiator didn't respond, "She's untouched, untainted, and received endless benefits from us. We've already found a replacement for her and rewarded that Earthly Saint with sufficient compensation for our decision to respect hers. So, you can become Dao Companions if you want."

"Haha," Wei Wuyin laughed, shaking his head with a contemptuous smile.
"Great! So everything's all good, huh?"

"Do you know how difficult it is for cultivators to successfully assail the Mystic Ascendant Realm? Do you think Yue Songli was so supremely talented and blessed simply because she was born to a Highlord? Because she was a part of an organization like the Ninestar Sainthall? Do you know the percentage of

number ONE Immortal Saintesses and Immortal Heroes who have strived for the Mystic Ascendant Realm? How many fail with greater talent and greater backing?

"I'll tell you this: it's less than ONE PERCENT! We gave her all sorts of resources that gave her the highest chance of becoming a powerful Ascended, expending copious amounts of precious resources, and despite all that, we've decided to give you face and drop this matter. Are you so insistent on going against us that you're willing to use such a flimsy excuse?" The masked negotiator exploded with anger, their eyes exuding a fierce light.

"Do you think we're afraid of YOU?!" The masked negotiator seemed on the verge of ripping apart any chance of a peaceful negotiation. The change of attitude took everyone aback, and their heart rate began to subtly rise.

Wei Wuyin's eyes roamed the array, then the Dark Void. He scoffed softly, "So you're finally ready to come?"

The masked negotiator's chest heaved up and down, and if one looked extremely closely, one might see two slight protrusions from the chest area. But no one focused on that as the Voidships from afar began to make their move!

A fleet of various Voidships started to approach, and at the lead of this fleet was none other than the Imperial Clan's Sky Destroyer!

At the bow of the ship, in all of her outstanding beauty and imperial dignity, was Empress Xiaocheng. "Greetings, Alchemic Sovereign Wei."

While her words were soft, every being for hundreds of thousands of miles could hear them clearly.

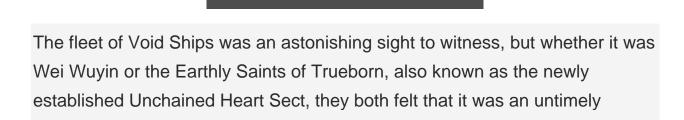
The two Earthly Saints exchanged gazes and then they began to communicate with others. The numerous Earthly Saints that had concealed themselves across the Dark Void with Spatial Merging Arts empowered by

wisps of Void Energy that even Earthly Saints have difficulty discovering unless they were extremely close held back their intent to act on Wei Wuyin in a coordinated sneak attack. Maintaining their concealment as the Voidships made their approach.

Wei Wuyin saw the Sky Destroyer leading the fleet of Voidships and couldn't help but inwardly curse in his heart. So close! Despite his frustration, he formed a bright smile and greeted the Imperial Empress of the Tian Clan energetically.

PARAGON OF SIN





eyesore. Unfortunately, neither could act without regard given their presence.

Wei Wuyin's Celestial Eyes dimmed slightly; the Nexus War Flag kept concealed within his glabella receded its thrashing aura. Within his Sea of Consciousness, a Spirit of War Commander, Zhan Kongjian, clenched a silvery cube etched with Mystic Runes within their palms tightly as the order to stay their hand was issued.

There was an Earthly Saint in Wei Wuyin's Sea of Consciousness! Moreover, if one looked closely, it wasn't simply one! With their uniquely formed bodies composed of Wei Wuyin's Soul Light, they possessed the ability to mimic certain qualities, and the Seven Source Soul Light, the Primary Light Energy of Eden, could integrate with the Sea of Consciousness without rejection.

Still, ruined plans aside, Wei Wuyin energetically turned to Empress Xiaocheng with a bright, welcoming smile as if this was a casual day. Empress Xiaocheng similarly held a slight cordial smile, but there was an added distance to it. This sense of distance was quite telling.

"...!"

Kong Yi furrowed his aged brows; Wei Wuyin's greeting wasn't appropriate at all in his eyes. Empress Xiaocheng was the Empress of the Aeternal Sky Starfield, loosely the Empress of the entire Grand Cyclic Stellar Region, and to be greeted by a mortal junior in such a way was extremely disrespectful and a sign of lacking status awareness. In truth, he should be deeply bowing or kneeling before the Empress.

Tian Muyang and Tian Lingyu's expressions changed as well. Wei Wuyin could act freely while at the Saint Cyclic Renewal Summit as manners of etiquette were placed on the sideline due to the situation, and how awkward it would be for every last expert, possibly breeding animosity towards the Imperial Clan. That said, if it was the Emperor himself, no one could dare not kneel as a greeting.

However, they were in the outside world, witnessed by countless experts, and Wei Wuyin only clasped his hands in greeting with a friendly smile. This was a sign of equality in status, and to many, this was bringing down the Empress's status and even arrogantly elevating his own.

Wei Wuyin's disrespectful act was actually a lapse of his focus and a combination of the debonair Wei Wuyin's memories. As the Void Voyage Sect's Sect Master, the other Wei Wuyin interacted with the Tian Clan quite often, and mostly with the Empress, and never had to bow, resorting to this friendly clasp of hands greeting each time. It could be considered a grown habit.

As for the distraction, it came from continuous reports from the Ascendants.

"The Sealing Array has been established." This message was received many times, equal to the number of Shadow Eggs invaded, and this made Wei Wuyin relieved. With the Sealing Array established, whether it was transmissions from inside, Void Gates transportation, or reinforcements from outside arriving, they were all cut ruthlessly off.

Stalling had worked exceptionally well. Unfortunately, the fleet of Voidships had essentially ruined his multi-step assault plan, unable to deal Trueborn another devastating blow and preventing them from reacting with Highlords and Earthly Saints. However, this will also act as another distraction, buying some time, so he wasn't too bothered.

Wei Wuyin eventually noticed the anxious expression from Tian Muyang, and only then did he realize that his manners were lacking to the Imperial Clan's Empress, the second-most authority figure of the Imperial Clan. The silence from the Voidships was uncomfortable, and soon, they halted a few miles off, seemingly cutting off Wei Wuyin's route of retreat.

He sighed softly in his heart, realizing that his actions might have induced a little bit of caution from his allies. Not even Tian Muyang and Tian Lingyu were doing anything but revealing their concerned gazes.

'Forget it. Since I didn't kneel to the Imperial Clan's authority immediately, I won't do so in this lifetime.' Wei Wuyin decided mentally, no longer binding himself to his original plans to wear a mask. As for appeasing the Imperial Clan and entering into hostilities with the Imperial Clan, for now, he had bigger priorities, and it was impossible to avoid that eventuality anyhow.

Empress Xiaocheng seemed unbothered by Wei Wuyin's actions, glancing at the Fire Phoenix that eyed her with an innate sense of majestic superiority. It seemed that Wei Wuyin genuinely has an inflated sense of self, and this was likely the result of many different factors, especially the lack of suffering losses or being taught a lesson. Considering he was less than a hundred years old with a personal force that could shake starfields, including his outstanding alchemic talent, it was hard to suffer in the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region.

She proceeded to give Wei Wuyin a knowing gaze, before looking at the vast Dark Void with a seething spiritual light, strongly speaking out: "Friends of the Unchained Heart Sect, will you not greet this Empress?"

"..." The fleet of Voidships was silent, but a few top-notch experts realized something was wrong. After several uncomfortable seconds, spatial ripples diffused out from locations all around Wei Wuyin ranging from two hundred to five hundred miles. This was an insidiously close distance for Ascended beings, and they all revealed their unfathomable aura and masked figures.

There were sixteen Earthly Saints!

SIXTEEN!!

"Oh my heavens!" Tian Lingyu's heart pounded violently. She hadn't even realized that there were Earthly Saints hidden in the folds of fixed space, but she felt deeply disturbed that they were so close to Wei Wuyin!

Kong Yi's eyes turned grim; in his eyes, Wei Wuyin was on the precipice of death, because even he hadn't noticed their presence, and he possessed a Spatial Soul.

Tian Muyang looked at the depths of the defensive array, noticing two other Earthly Saints. This meant that the Unchained Heart Sect had eighteen Earthly Saints! Moreover, this was only what was initially sent, who knew how many they had still protecting their territory or covering escape routes?

The Unchained Heart Sect...

Wei Wuyin kicked his acting skills into overdrive, his head swerving as extreme light of shock was effused from his eyes. He had to send Bai Lin a mental message, and she cried out vigilantly, erupting with Nirvanic Flames that enveloped Wei Wuyin protectively.

This gave all those on the Voidship the impression that Wei Wuyin was defenseless until now, entirely ignorant of the Earthly Saints slithering towards him with life-reaping intentions. If it wasn't for the Empress' timely interference, Wei Wuyin's life would've been forfeit!

When they recalled the disrespect earlier, their emotions stirred. They hoped this revelation would teach Wei Wuyin a lesson, and tell him to never underestimate his enemies.

The sixteen Earthly Saints and two Earthly Saints within the defensive array, all gave uniformed greetings to the Empress. They didn't kneel, but their bow was not light, and their androgynous tones carried respect. Perhaps it wasn't towards the Empress herself, but who she represented—the Aeternal Sky Divine Emperor!

This refreshed the belief in the hearts and minds of all those present of the exceptional might that the Imperial Emperor possessed, so much so that these eighteen Earthly Saints of this incredible organization dared not skimp on their show of respect.

Wei Wuyin inwardly rolled his eyes, and Bai Lin restrained the disdain in her eyes. She and Wei Wuyin were the perfect acting duo as they seemed incredibly panicked, twisting and flying here and there, but finding their routes of escape blocked by either Voidship or Earthly Saint. Wei Wuyin even sent out spiritual transmissions, but only bursts of spiritual light erupted when the Earthly Saints of the Unchained Heart Sect intercepted them without moving, their eyes following him wherever he went, exuding their murderous intent.

It wasn't hard for them to intercept a Spiritual Transmission performed by a mere mortal. They were all doing this simply to tell Wei Wuyin this: "Your call for reinforcements isn't coming, fool."

"Alchemic Sovereign Wei, please calm down. No one will act against you." Empress Xiaocheng comforted with a pleasant tone filled with unquestionable dignity. It seemed that she had given her word, and that word must be abided by.

Da Shan watched all this with a quiet gaze. There was a rousing killing light within his golden eyes.

"Your little husband seems to have bitten off far more than he can chew. Look at him, acting like a headless chicken." The Titanic Hell-Crushing Queen couldn't help but shake her little head. However, this was to be expected. Wei Wuyin was a mere mortal and an exceptionally young and inexperienced one as well.

Da Shan glanced at her master, and then her eyes sharpened. She, more than anyone, knew Wei Wuyin far more intimately than anyone present. She knew how profound his plans could become, how insidious his foresight was, and she had never once seen Wei Wuyin panic in his life.

However, she didn't dare to say anything, unsure if her words or transmissions could be heard or intercepted. She trusted Wei Wuyin.

Tian Lingyu sighed with relief. While they were acting against Wei Wuyin, they still saved his life.

"Within life, there are endless opportunities," Tian Muyang said softly to console Tian Lingyu. The latter nodded, given Wei Wuyin's young life, he was bound to flourish. Suddenly, she looked around, observing the countless toptier sects, associations, and clans that were here with representatives. She frowned slightly, thinking: "Shouldn't the Golden Life Pavilion be here?"

Wei Wuyin soon calmed down, his eyes becoming incomparably gloomy. "You've sealed space," he stated as he looked at the Earthly Saints of the Unchained Heart Sect and the Highlords and Earthly Saint representatives of the countless top-tier Mystic-rank forces. Even the Inferno Solaris Church and Ninestar Sainthall were present, and while their leaders weren't here, they brought their Earthly Saints.

The Voidships and Earthly Saints were all working in conjunction to seal off space. Wei Wuyin continued with a questioning tone with a hint of anger, "You've all planned this?"

Cardinal Song spoke at this moment, "Alchemic Sovereign Wei, you must understand our plight."

As if coordinated, He Bojing, the Earthly Saint of the He Clan, followed: "Your current actions only serve to reinforce our mission. Please understand." While he seemed to be pleading for forgiveness, there was a dark glint in his eyes.

The other Eight Noble Clans were all here, including the Boundless Martial Sect. Even the Tang Clan was present, and Highlord Scarletflame—Sister of the Matriarch, was the representative. While the True Element Sect, Golden Life Pavilion, and Golden Gate Pavilion were notably absent.

The strongest forces of the Aeternal Sky Sect were all here!

And of the current remaining nineteen Starfields, excluding the Great Blue Starfield and United Source Starfield, the leading forces of sixteen Starfields were also here, including some of the less Mystic-tier forces.

The Dark Void was crowded with authority and power that spread across the entire Grand Cyclic Stellar Region!

Wei Wuyin had the urge to say: "All for me?" But he kept his cheeky side in check, only revealing a pair of gloomy eyes and a grim expression resembling

a cornered animal. Instead, he coldly asked: "Are you all here to capture me?"

Suddenly, an Earthly Saint of Unchained Heart Sect spoke out: "Fool."

Wei Wuyin sent a chilling glare over and then turned his gaze towards Empress Xiaocheng as if demanding an answer. While the others saw his attitude as disrespectful given how the Empress had just shown that he was at the precipice of death, they didn't say anything as many were thankful if the Tian Clan and Wei Wuyin remained non-allies.

The Empress shook her gorgeous head, "No."

"We're here to resolve the Oathless Calamity of our Stellar Region, little boy." The Empress' simple reply allowed an unexpected speaker to take the stage and speak out excitedly. It was none other than the Lavender Pill Alchemic Sovereign, Xun Yicao!