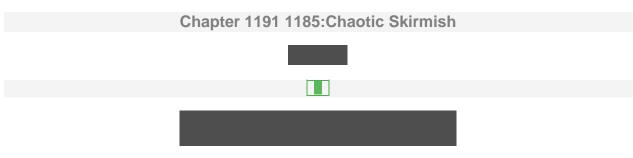
PARAGON OF SIN



"...oh?" He Bojing curiously observed the raging flow of Mystic Aura from Yun Che.

The aura was considerably nascent in stability and strength. The level of refinement of Mystic Energy equated to the Soul of Mysticism level; this imposter had certainly made his breakthrough recently, likely within a few months. This type of unrefined Mystic Energy that was weaker than one's cultivation base was the same that Wu Yu had faced against the Ever-Knights.

While Yun Che had the profound abilities of a Demi-Mystic Lord, a fully refined Mystic Physique, the principles of the Demi-Mystic State etched into his body, and intrinsic foundation at the Demi-Mortal Lord Phase, he hadn't fully consolidated his newfound cultivation. The estimated average period of Demi-Mortal Lord consolidation without the support of Alchemical Products or hoards of Mystic Stones was roughly eighty to a hundred years.

A full century!

There was a reason why Demi-Mortal Lords and especially Earthly Saints valued their Mystic Power with obsessive stinginess that was borderline scourge-like behavior.

"Such a strange concealment," Wei Wuyin muttered to himself. While his Celestial Eyes were exceptionally powerful and unique, possessing top-class visual piercing abilities, the type of concealment that Yun Che used was odd. Extremely odd. It was hard to describe in words, but despite piercing the mask's veil, he wasn't capable of getting a 'clear' picture of Yun Che or his aura—it felt as if he was a different person. He felt an irresistible urge to learn more about it.

"I agree," He Bojing casually echoed Wei Wuyin's mutterings with an amused smile. He shook his hand lightly, watery mystic light flowed through his fingers beautifully. The lacerations on his hand and forearm were rapidly healing at visible speeds.

The He Clan's Earthly Saint watched as Yun Che and Wei Wuyin contested for the Heavenly World Core. The former unleashed dark reddish light to envelop the core, violently pulling it towards him with a scowl, while the latter could be mistaken for a bystander given how relaxed he looked. Moreover, Wei Wuyin's grey light was indescribably weak. In his eyes, it felt as if the core was going towards Wei Wuyin of its own free will, using its own power to fly, not Wei Wuyin actively pulling it.

Such an absurd sight baffled him.

That said, he scrunched his brows thoughtfully.

He lightly stepped on the Dark Void, kicking off with such power that space for tens of miles violently rippled and distorted. Within a blink of a mortal's eyes, he was beside Yun Che. He Bojing launched a simple palm at Yun Che's chest!

"Shit!" Yun Che's eyes constricted violently; the Heretical Berserk Godsword moved according to his will, positioning itself before his chest with exceptional quickness, and He Bojing's palm fell heavily upon the blade's flat surface. There was a soft explosion resembling a cannonball smashing against water, and the entire world quaked. Yun Che gritted his teeth, but his body refused to move. Those dark eyes of his oozed spiritual light.

"..." He Bojing took a spirit-crushing spell point-blank. Besides a slight grimace on his aged expression, there was little change. With a soft breath, he pulled back his palm and launched it once again at lightning speed!

Yun Che's focus was diverted as his reddish Mystic Power was pulled back from the Heaven World Core! Using his hunk of metal that could barely be called a sword, he kept defending while nullifying He Bojing's strength with it.

°He's not using any Mystic Power!° Yun Che instantly realized that, like most cultivators, He Bojing was exceptionally stingy with his Mystic Power. He struck solely using his refined body's physical strength. However, even this much was terrifying!

Yun Che was pushed into a corner by He Bojing's casual strikes within two blows.

This caused him to instinctively remember the warnings he'd received from that old spirit: "Don't overestimate yourself by thinking jumping stages to fight can always be done. Remember, a single Earthly Saint had conquered the Dark Stars Era, bringing to heel all chaos to instilling unquestionable order. All bowed."

He cursed in his heart! At the time, he had dismissed those words because they described the Aeternal Sky Divine Emperor! The strongest expert in the world! However, only now, as he faced the third strike of He Bojing, did he realize that those words had greater meaning, especially: "All bowed."

All bowed!

Every organization; every powerhouse; every demonic talent; every cultivator! THEY ALL BOWED! The Earthly Saint Phase might be known as the fourth stage of the Mystic Ascendant Realm, but the difference between it and the Demi-Mortal Lord Phase was as vast as a mortal facing an Ascended being!

If Wei Wuyin knew Yun Che's thoughts, he would find it quite amusing. After all, wasn't he a mortal? Fighting an Ascended being?

"...!" Wei Wuyin's hands moved and the core was beckoned. Without Yun Che's interference, the Heavenly World Core streaked across the Dark Void as fast as lightning. Wei Wuyin briefly contemplated sending it into the Void or Void Crystallizing it and storing it, but his eyes instantly shifted.

WOOSH!

He Bojing sent a third strike toward Yun Che. But abruptly, he vanished!

Wei Wuyin instantly drew upon the Draconic Transformation's latent strength! He executed the Martial Art of the True Dragon Transmutation Method: True Dragon's Armor! An overflow of domineering Draconic Force raged!

When Wei Wuyin executed this Martial Art against Kun Yiming and the others, it amplified his dragon scales' defensive strength eighteen-fold! Now, with his newly established physique, the limits of every type of his cultivated Astral Force were miraculously lifted!

Six hundred...

SIX HUNDREDFOLD!

He Bojing's figure was like a ghost of water, emerging from fixed space with a ghastly haze of a state, yet when he struck out with his palm, his figure solidified as it crashed heavily toward Wei Wuyin's chest. There was no doubt that this single palm could bring an end to entire planets.

Facing this palm, he now realized the terrifying power that Yun Che faced. It genuinely was incomparable to anything he'd faced from a cultivator before!

The constant and eternal Demi-Mystic States of Earthly Saints were truly not to be underestimated!

Wei Wuyin didn't shriek back; his stance exquisitely and skillfully shifted as he threw a punch toward the palm carrying his full weight. His scaled hand was clenched violently, and reinforced by True Dragon Armor, his newly refined physique, and the result of maximized cultivation of energies, it slammed against the palm!

PAH!!

BOOSH!

An explosion sent chaos mana in all directions away from the two. The two figures, a grey-scaled masked young man and an aged aquamarine-robed old man, stayed in a single location without moving!

"YOU?!" He Bojing's eyes widened with shock, "Y-"

PAH!!!

Wei Wuyin's follow-up was swift to the apex, like the flow of light, it smacked against He Bojing's right cheek with frightening accuracy. The Earthly Saint's eyes that had widened nearly bulged out of his sockets as he was sent backward, saliva spewing out of his mouth.

"Yo-"

PAH! PAH! PAH!

Wei Wuyin had never been one for talking unless it suited his needs. Unfortunately for He Bojing, this World Prison and the Evil Blessed planetary assault had alerted several cultivators at the Earthly Saint level; he didn't have time to waste. He launched a barrage of maddening swift blows, striking twice at He Bojing's body and three times in his face!

Woosh!

BAM!

The Earthly Saint flew backward like a rocket, crashing against his World Prison, inducing countless ripples and a few cracks.

"FINALLY!" Kratos roared excitedly within his heart, fueling Wei Wuyin's strength further.

WOOSH!

Yun Che didn't expect that Wei Wuyin would be weak, so he wasn't shocked in the slightest. However, he was cunning, and he didn't hesitate to seize this slight delay. His body rushed toward the Heavenly World Core that had stalled after He Bojing's attack! He reached out and seemingly activated a strange rune in his palm.

The Heavenly World Core's shadowy mist glowed with a dazzling brilliance before rushing towards Yun Che with speed even faster than Wei Wuyin's Mana Dominance. In a blink, the core was in his palm, and he turned around and was about to cut his way free. He, too, knew the urgency of the situation.

"Mana Dominance!" Wei Wuyin instantly sensed the profound powers the rune was emulating. Moreover, this type of Mana Dominance exceeded his own. Why? Because it was at the level of the Mystic Dao! Wei Wuyin's Astral Souls were still that just that, only Astral Souls, so their Zenith Origin State was still at the Mortal Dao level. If he had to guess, this was a Mystic Rune left behind by a Heavenly Saint!

If Bing Tian knew that this was how the Heavenly World Core was remotely activated, she might be able to accept it.

Yun Che was already mid-flight, ready to cut a path out and escape.

"Where are you going? Stay. I have some questions." Those words were like a ghost, and Yun Che's eyes constricted instantly. He Bojing was directly to his left, his figure as ghastly as before, but his eyes were brimming with spiritual light!

"Shit!"

Yun Che's Mystic Ward flared as his eyes exuded a similar brightly lit radiance of spiritual light. He was fiercely resisting a spell! Instinctively, he positioned the Heretical Berserk Godsword before him. But his defensive maneuver left the Heavenly World Core undefeated, and He Bojing reached out and grabbed the core.

"...!"

BAM!

Wei Wuyin rocketed in, unleashing a fierce dropkick toward He Bojing's ribs. The Earthly Saint erected his Mystic Ward, but his eyes instantly shook as he realized that the Heavenly World Core couldn't be brought into his Spatial Ring or captured by his Mystic Aura.

The kick sent him a few miles away! Leaving the core behind! The saliva spewing out into the Dark Void aside, Wei Wuyin twisted his figure elegantly, reaching for the Heavenly World Core. This thing, the complete version, was drastically different from the piece he'd obtained before.

SWOSH!

A sword cut his way, aiming for his outstretched arm. Unhesitatingly, Wei Wuyin pulled his hand back. The Heretical Berserk Godsword sliced a few inches away from his face, and his mask trembled.

Yun Che wildly unleashed his Mystic Aura! This attempt to push Wei Wuyin away was violent and explosive! Wei Wuyin didn't retreat; with a kick aimed at Yun Che's stomach, Wei Wuyin cut through the Mystic Aura with tyrannical strength and crashed against the Heretical Berserk Godsword. "An automated-defensive treasure? That's a sword? What?" Wei Wuyin had seen Yun Che defend against He Bojing, but experiencing it himself, he instantly realized why Yun Che's sword kept moving to block He Bojing's attacks. He had only heard of shield-type armaments with this feature, and it was limited by the cultivator's power.

Suddenly, they both looked up!

He Bojing was there, two palms out, and he was falling towards both of their heads!

BOOM!

Wei Wuyin kicked against Yun Che's sword and Yun Che pushed against Wei Wuyin's leg, they both were sent backward in opposing directions, dodging He Bojing's attack.

The He Clan's Earthly Saint seized the core in his palm as he sank to the edge of his World Prison without stopping his momentum. Only when he touched the walls of solidified space did he stop, his eyes shining with greed. He finally knew what this was!

"The Heaven Relic!"

In a way, it was slightly more valuable than Bing Tian in his eyes! Only slightly. Of course, his information of its existence was limited, otherwise, it wouldn't be only 'slightly' more.

Yun Che and Wei Wuyin both glanced at each other.

"I wasn't using any of my true strength because I needed to capture you alive, and I didn't want to damage this, but with this-"

WOOSH! WOOSH!

He Bojing's monologue resembling a storybook villain was cut short; the two Blessed were unimaginably fast, and they arrived at He Bojing's right and left at the same time! He Bojing's eyes shook slightly!

Wei Wuyin's right hand became flat, his nails' grew a full three inches, and his scaled hand resembled a blade. He sliced toward He Bojing's neck!

Yun Che's Heretical Berserk Godsword's power was pushed beyond its Soul of Mysticism limits! At the Demi-Mortal Lord Phase, he unleashed a newfound swing!

"!!!" He Bojing's arms moved!

BOOOOOM!!!

PARAGON OF SIN



"ENOUGH!"

A thunderous shout followed the ear-splitting, space-rippling explosion. The shockwaves spread throughout the World Prison, its walls trembled as minute fissures began spreading throughout its surface, and two objects soared away from the epicenter at hair-raising speeds!

"Gah!" Yun Che held the Heretical Berserk Godsword in his hand defensively, jetting backward while skidding across space with enough momentum to cause abnormal distortions. When he finally halted himself, the fixed space in the area formed a heavy depression that twisted and bent to accommodate his body. He had forcefully halted his momentum by leveraging fixed space! Such an exquisite technique indicated that his comprehension of Spatial Arts was at a level where the Spatial-type Mystic Rune was all but guaranteed upon his Earthly Ascension.

The other object continued to soar explosively until it smashed against the World Prison, and then the fissures greatly enlarged, and the cage began to crumble into bits of condensed spatial fragments. The object seemed exceptionally heavy, comparable to a planet, and was sent flying by an abnormally terrifying strength.

When Yun Che finally collected himself, his eyes and senses darted swiftly to locate He Bojing. He expected a vicious follow-up after He Bojing began to use Mystic Power!

"You!!!" But what he found was not He Bojing's imposing figure exerting dominance over the battlefield with casual bearing befitting an Earthly Saint. No, what he saw caused his heart to race: An one-armed old man with a reddened expression of exasperation getting absolutely thrashed! Subconsciously, he looked at the other object that flew out alongside him, and his pupils constricted slightly as he noted it was a severed limb!

PAH! PAH! PAH!

Wei Wuyin's assault was relentless! His fists and legs were moving at speeds that defied space and time, seemingly shadows of the Dark Void, afterimages of space, and they struck with unerring accuracy and fantastic skill. Every strike was backed by extreme precision, hitting a location that either discombobulated the enemy or dealt severe damage. There was no inbetween!

He Bojing's flow of Mystic Power was hindered as Wei Wuyin struck key locations, continuously disrupting the flow of all four mystic-graded energies, especially the energy of his Mystic Soul—Spiritual Energy!

"Ugh!" A fist smacked dead-center into He Bojing's right temple, and his eyes blanked for a second as an unbearably disruptive Spiritual Strength infiltrated his Sea of Consciousness. Then, as he defended against this strike, another blow, a fierce leg sweep, hit his abdomen, sending a burst of Spiritual Strength to his Mystic Soul.

These types of attacks weren't very powerful, but they were insidiously designed, and they came at unpredictable times at difficult-to-pinpoint angles and locations. The double layer of sensory deception made defending at such close-range as difficult as an ant trying to carry away a tree.

Woosh!

At random times, a hand that acted as a blade struck at He Bojing's vital points. Unfortunately, the Earthly Saint defended against each of these lethal strikes, clearly placing the utmost focus on dealing with these specific attacks. Still, Wei Wuyin's hand swept at an inconceivable angle at his neck, and when He Bojing defended, the angle distorted and slammed down onto his head!

He Bojing guarded against this attack with his remaining arm. But then, from the corner of his eyes, he saw a grey glint slice past.

WOOSH!

A severed leg jetted out like a missile towards the World Prison, crashing against it, fracturing it more, and almost bringing about its collapse. He Bojing's teeth clenched heavily, his eyes wide with indescribable rage! Wei Wuyin's wings had attacked, slicing at his leg while his focus was drawn elsewhere!

Occupied by Wei Wuyin's assault, He Bojing was unable to reinforce his World Prison. Moreover, his remaining arm desperately held onto the Heavenly World Core, refusing to allow Wei Wuyin or Yun Che's controlling methods to work, giving him less maneuverability than normal. Facing this type of mystifying, high-speed, intense close-quarters-combat style, He Bojing was instantly suffering losses. Moreover, he was a Water-Attributed Cultivator, so he was a mid range to long range fighter, and his physical body wasn't close to being even average amongst Earthly Saints, nor was he adept at Martial Arts.

Yun Che was scarcely able to believe his eyes; He Bojing, an Earthly Saint, was being crushed. This winged, grey-scaled masked cultivator displayed extremely adept fighting skills at close range and had shown a degree of vast and rich experience fighting Ascended beings. Furthermore, the figure was using a peak Mystic-Earth concealment mask—incomparable to his Thousand Faces of Man, yet he hadn't revealed the slightest traces of his powers or origins. This figure could be a Demi-Mortal Lord or an Earthly Saint—there was no way to determine.

The only indications were the bouts of Spiritual Strength, but sensing them was like trying to grasp the Void!

Yun Che gritted his teeth; he should leave right this second while both were occupied, but the Heavenly World Core was still in He Bojing's hands! He clenched his sword, and with a deep breath, he shot back into the fight with madness raving in his eyes!

He had a feeling that teaming up with Wei Wuyin was the best course of action despite their desire for the core. This feeling originated from his heart and instincts, and he always followed his instincts for survival and fortune.

When Yun Che arrived, he swung his sword again! The titanic-sized planetary force was birthed, followed by an ungodly suppressive power. He Bojing's eyes shook slightly as he used his remaining leg, pumping a self-damaging amount of Mystic Energy forcefully into it at even greater damaging speeds, and it thickened by twice its size, and with a ferociously deep growl, he kicked out and space bent.

Wei Wuyin's wings folded protectively in front of him in an instant. To He Bojing, it was as if the Infinite Void Wings were always there, which startled him. The profundities of time and space this cultivator was using were peerless! In addition to their tactics of mixing disruption with lethality, his mind could only think of a single person that could rival this cultivator!

"The Void Voyage Sect's Sect Master!" Despite his belief, he ruthlessly kicked! The feeling of pushing something away didn't happen, however. The tremendously empowered strike of physical force sunk into the wings like marshmallows, vanishing as if it was sent into the ether.

The sharp distortion between reality and expectations left him temporarily dazed; Yun Che's sword swung down at this exact moment! The sword smashed against his back, and his eyes blanked into a ghastly white, his pupils and irises vanishing amidst the sclera of whiteness and bloody veins.

If the world knew that a sword had sent an Earthly Saint into unconsciousness, the uproar would be massive, and desire at an all-time high for this godly treasure!

Wei Wuyin deftly moved, his wings opened promptly, and the Heavenly World Core was summoned by his Mana Dominance with his left hand! The grip of the temporarily unconscious Earthly Saint was pried open by the Heavenly World Core's own power and shot toward Wei Wuyin's hand!

"Yoink!" In a playful, mocking tone, Yun Che activated the Mystic Rune that was forged by a Heavenly Saint, granting him Mystic-level Mana Dominance, and the Heavenly World Core's shadowy mist twisted vigorously, forcefully causing Wei Wuyin's hand to retreat.

Woosh!

The core instantly shot into Yun Che's hand, and he grinned. Then, without hesitation, he touched his chest and, just like before when he fought against

Bing Tian, Void Energy surged outwards and engulfed him, and then he vanished!

"..." Wei Wuyin watched all this happen silently. Then, he looked toward He Bojing, who was regaining consciousness. He couldn't help but pity this Earthly Saint. If he hadn't held back since the beginning, this fight would've been his to win, or at least it would have bee very difficult for him to lose. Unfortunately, Wei Wuyin knew that the Heavenly Daos had likely influenced him to hold back against two Blessed.

After all, it didn't make much sense for He Bojing to hold back against him, whatever the mental excuse the Heavenly Daos gave him. Wei Wuyin was reminded of the terrifying influence it could exert over others. While it wasn't outright mind control, it was borderline hypnotic suggestions that could or could not be followed based on a variety of factors.

"Was my fortune saving Xiao Bing?" Wei Wuyin contemplated. The Karmic Luck deduction was relative to the payoff. Going down this road of thinking, perhaps He Bojing intended to capture Xiao Bing for his own goals, and while he would protect her from the Evil Blessed, he would also bring her harm.

"Oh? Hm."

If he saw this as an opportunity that could be exploited and Xiao Bing's engendered life as the foundation, then some of this made sense. The potential gains and losses came at certain levels, with Xiao Bing's death at the hands of the Evil Blessed as the greatest possible failure and negotiating for her life with one of them as the highest conceivable outcome. If so, then he'd exceed his potential gains, protecting Xiao Bing with little cost using his own strength.

This was only a conjecture, though. This entire event, especially how it started, was confusing and hectic. He didn't know what the Heavenly Daos

wanted, especially considering their notably obvious intentions to establish a team-up effort against He Bojing.

Then again, it's not like this was the first time a Karmic Luck encounter led to meeting a Blessed.

"Lin Ming..."

All those years ago, in the Myriad Yore Continent's Golden Milk City, he'd met a struggling-to escape-youth that entered a mysterious palace.

"Unless this...is it to establish a relationship?" Wei Wuyin continuously pondered the intentions of the Heavenly Daos. If he opened a line of negotiation, then his relations with another Earthly Saint or a Blessed could've been established.

"AHHH!" A fierce howl resounded.

Wei Wuyin's Infinite Void Wings flapped, and then he shot towards the location where Yun Che vanished. His wings glowed faintly, and the space there ruptured into a multi-colored scar of light. He vanished within.

The scar instantly closed.

He Bojing's figure arrived there, missing an arm and a leg, and his eyes as red as a raging bull. He had not only lost Xiao Bing but the Heaven Relic and the one responsible for Bing Tian's strange state. He was livid!

He roared once again, causing his World Prison to shatter!

Numerous unfathomable auras flooded in almost immediately after!

In the Skyrend Domain, space shook slightly as Yun Che tumbled out of the Void Energy-empowered Spatial Shift. Despite his cultivation increase, shifting using this enhanced spatial tool was still a rough experience.

He looked at the Heavenly World Core, and his eyes brightened considerably! Last time, he was unable to bring the Heavenly World Core with him, but after studying the Mana Rune during these years, he learned he could not only cause it to erupt with power but also sink it into passiveness, allowing it to be shifted spatially with a void-enhanced treasure.

If he had grasped this power before, he would've escaped with the three cores when he fought against those two meddling and thieving bitches.

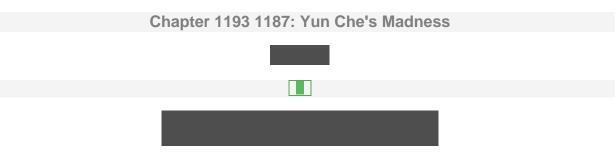
"Unfortunately, that little Everlasting Ice babe escaped. Who in the heavens was that winged cultivator? He resembled a humanoid dragon..." Yun Che was still baffled by everything that happened, especially He Bojing's quick appearance and even his objective. Still, he at least accomplished his primary objective.

Heavenly World Core: GET!

"Interesting tool you have there."

A voice resounded that caused Yun Che's scalp to tingle.

PARAGON OF SIN



Yun Che reacted appropriately, pushing forward and then turning around with sword in hand, his expression solemn, his eyes radiant, and his heart pounding from the slight fright. As he turned to face this sneaky foe, his vigilant eyes immediately lit with the light of recognition. "You?!" The shock in his heart was utterly mind-shaking! He had used the Void Tear to escape! This was a heaven-sent, priceless artifact of ancient times that he'd found off the corpse of a titan within a ruined secret realm. His exploration not only allowed him to obtain the Void Tear, a crystallized substance that contained refined Void Energy, but he learned that it was created using Void Piercer, a treasure that belonged to the wife of the ancient Emperor of the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region more than a hundred thousand years ago!

It had saved him from all sorts of dire situations of life and death and even escaped from the clutches of Ascended beings while he was a mere mortal, and now evaded even Earthly Saints!

Moreover, the Void Tear's power was difficult to control, so besides the distance, he was unable to determine direction. The empowered Spatial Shift interfaced with the Void, and the spatial fluctuations were absorbed, leaving little to absolutely no trace to be followed. Only those who possessed specialized means could find any traces remaining, and solely because of his Mystic Power left behind the tiniest of trails.

Yun Che tightly gripped the Heretical Berserk Godsword in his hand. The urge to ask questions was hurriedly suppressed in his heart, and he readied himself for an intense battle yet again. He could only hope that He Bojing hadn't followed as well.

However, Wei Wuyin was entirely nonchalant facing Yun Che's vigilance, seemingly showing no indication of attacking. He coolly said, "If I wanted to kill you, you'd already be dead." Those words were like stinging bells pounding against Yun Che's ears.

In truth, Wei Wuyin had thoughts of slaying Yun Che for a brief moment.

First Calamity: Survived - 7/7.

Second Calamity: Claimed - 1/1.

Third Calamity: Claimed - 3/3.

Fourth Calamity: Suppressed - 48 Years.

Karmic Luck Value: 212,732.5.

Forty-eight years remaining—Wei Wuyin refused to sabotage his time to cultivate and prepare for Yun Che's life; the eighteen Calamities of Hell was an ever-present guillotine at the ready to drop. If he could delay it by another second, he would.

Furthermore, he was curious how Yun Che's existence could benefit him. What machinations had the Heavenly Daos' prepared for him to exploit? Thinking up to here, his curiosity bloomed.

"..." The two Blessed faced off for a long while. After determining that He Bojing or the other Earthly Saints hadn't followed this masked figure, Yun Che's heart relaxed a little.

"Evil Daoist," Wei Wuyin calmly said, breaking the building tension, and causing Yun Che's brows to furrow. The audacity to call him evil took him by surprise. Despite Yun Che's surprise, the Evil Blessed did cultivate a variety of Evil Cultivation Methods, so his aura similarly possessed a type of madness and a vile presence to it. It was hard to refute, so Yun Che didn't even try. "For now, hand it over."

Yun Che's hand tightened upon the hilt of his sword as he sneered, "If you want me dead, I'd be dead? Do you think I'm a fool to capsize at the first sign of mercy? That I'll simply believe you?" Yun Che didn't know how this masked figure had followed him, but it was likely that he possessed a treasure also formed from the legendary Void Piercer of ancient times.

As for killing him? He was initially shaken, but when he recalled his Heretical Berserk Godsword's secret function and his recent clash with this masked cultivator, all thoughts of such a claim's validity were shattered. If this cultivator could've killed him, he would. Why spare him? Especially since he actively tried to slaughter Xiao Bing, caused the devastation of Ice Jade, and killed the Bing Clan's Matriarch.

It simply didn't add up.

Regardless of the reason for the masked cultivator's interference or He Bojing's, none of them would let him be free if they could restrain him. He Bojing's attempt to capture him had been muddied by the masked cultivator's interference and the presence of the Heavenly World Core, so he was unable to fully unleash his power. Moreover, he likely feared Yun Che dying to a true attack.

As for this masked cultivator...

"Fine," Wei Wuyin calmly said. Then, his Infinite Void Wings unfurled!

Yun Che's heart clenched! He was about to launch an attack when his Heretical Berserk Godsword moved like a bolt of lightning, and it defended to his right.

BOOSH!

A terrifying force pushed him away, his arms shook slightly, but he was capable of skidding across fixed space with practiced ease to halt his momentum. His eyes widened as his Spiritual Sense began to spread, but before it could get far, his sword twisted his arm into a frontal defense!

BOOSH!

He was once again pushed back. What type of speed was this?! He couldn't even sense his opponent's attacks! If it wasn't for the Heretical Berserk Godsword's autonomous defensive function, he would've been hit twice!

BOOSH! BOOSH! BOOSH!

Yet Yun Che was surprised to find that the attacks kept coming, and he was unable to pinpoint Wei Wuyin's figure, even after the attack hit, it was as if an invisible force had crashed against the sword again and again. As a newly Ascended Demi-Mortal Lord, while his mystic-graded energies were at the Soul of Mysticism-level, he still possessed the enhanced Spiritual Sense, refined Mystic Physique, and overbearing vitality of a Highlord! Yet, as he faced this assault, he was unable to use any of it!

"No wonder He Bojing was ruthlessly suppressed! What type of speed and attack was this?"

Suddenly, his eyes caught a glimpse of a seven-colored light sparking off the Heretical Berserk Godsword. For some indescribable reason, when he felt it, his heart and mind were sending him blaring warnings. The result led to a pressing sensation of crisis, and he roared violently as his Mystic Aura erupted.

"Was that so difficult?" A voice resounded behind him that seemed utterly relaxed, seemingly satisfied. When Yun Che turned, he saw the masked figure appraising the Heavenly World Core floating above his palm. Instinctively, Yun Che glanced to his side and realized the core enveloped in a shadowy mist had vanished! His heart sank.

"You!" Yun Che immediately activated the Heavenly Saint's Mana Rune! He was going to have it explode with power, ripping Wei Wuyin's hands to shreds, and then reclaim the Heavenly World Core!

However, as he tried to interface with the Heavenly World Core through Mana Dominance, he received no feedback from the rune. "What?" He tried again, his palm glistening with gorgeous light, yet no changes followed!

Wei Wuyin twisted the Heavenly World Core in his palm, checking it out from multiple angles. At the moment, the Heavenly World Core no longer existed in this layer of space. It was within the Void! The current Heavenly World Core was a visual replica of its existence, an anchor of itself to this space, but it was no longer here!

"Wha-what did you do?" Yun Che realized that he couldn't sense the Heavenly World Core's aura anymore, and his Mystic Soul's feedback towards it proved that, while this looked like the Heavenly World Core, it wasn't it! He was entirely baffled, and his eyes darted to search for the real Heavenly World Core!

Even if it was sealed in a Spatial Ring or a legendary Internal World, he should be able to connect with the core and cause it to forcefully breach any restraints or seals! In the worst case of being unable to obtain it, he could induce a minor Chaosnova with the rune!

"So I was right," Wei Wuyin said while his heart was brimming with joy. Yun Che's Mana Rune was incredibly problematic as shown during their skirmish. His abnormal control of it was why he was able to escape with it among the three.

After seizing the Heavenly World Core, Wei Wuyin obtained one of the greatest benefits of this Karmic Luck encounter, regardless if it was the Heavenly Daos' intentions or not. According to his memories, this Heavenly World Core was a product of a Heavenly Saint, and it belonged to Trueborn. They had used this to destroy a node in both of his lives, producing a Chaosnova, and causing indescribable levels of destruction.

It was also evidence that Trueborn was receiving sizable support from the outside. The Void Voyage Sect was trying its hardest to prevent any illegal smuggling of resources from the World Beyond the Fold into the Sealed Regions.

They, of course, failed.

"WHERE IS IT?!" Yun Che howled, madness swelling within his eyes, and his thoughts became muddled with rage and violence. The Heretical Berserk Godsword responded to his emotions, amplifying these negative feelings by several degrees, and Yun Che's aura was going wild.

Wei Wuyin frowned at this sight. This Evil Blessed was lighting a signal flare to the world, no? While they had escaped He Bojing and the other Earthly Saints, they were still in their range of perception. He already knew that, right about now, this activity had alerted many experts and they were Spatial Shifting toward their location.

"Calm," Wei Wuyin activated the latent Seven Source Soul Light within the Heretical Berserk Godsword! Earlier, he had infused Soul Light into his attacks, infiltrating and trying to grasp the sword's identity, and he was able to make several verifications! The most important was that its internal formation structure bore similarities to the Nexus War Flag!

Suddenly, Yun Che's intense emotions died down. The Heretical Berserk Godsword's emotion amplification was being suppressed!

"..." Yun Che was utterly stupefied.

"Come," Wei Wuyin beckoned. The Heretical Berserk Godsword trembled within Yun Che's hands, and then, it released a burst of explosive light that caused Yun Che's grip to break, and his hold of the sword to be released! His eyes widened as the sword shot toward Wei Wuyin, and while enveloped in seven-colored light, spun at his side like an obedient toy! "You should never enter a battle with a tool you haven't fully refined. To think you're using your Cultivation Method to control a sword's latent Soul Light instead of using your own. It is an exquisite bypass of a method, using your Seed of Law's aura to leverage control and recognize you as its previous owner, but it has far too many flaws." Wei Wuyin perfectly analyzed Yun Che's situation, and the gaped expression of the Evil Blessed reflecting the endlessly ravaging shock he was feeling indicated the truth in Wei Wuyin's words.

Wei Wuyin looked to the distance, his Infinite Void Wings unfurled once more, and he sighed in his heart. He wasn't done! Unfortunately, Yun Che's recklessness gave him little time to act. After all, the Skyrend Domain's Domain-wide Array was activating!

"If you want your sword, follow." Wei Wuyin could no longer dither here, and he emulated the Void Tear's power, using his wings to slice open a spatial tear that erupted with multi-colored light. With the sword by his side, he shot into the spatial tear.

"...!" Yun Che was barely able to process what just happened. In a blink, he'd lost the Heavenly World Core and the Heretical Berserk Godsword. Who was this cultivator?! Now, when he recalled the cultivator's earlier words of sparing him from death, he firmly believed it.

"Is he like that Old Ghost?" Suddenly, a wisp of confusion, vigilance, and excitement surged in his heart. Meeting an unfathomable expert like this had launched him from a nobody to a cultivator that could fight against and escape Earthly Saints. Was this another opportunity?!

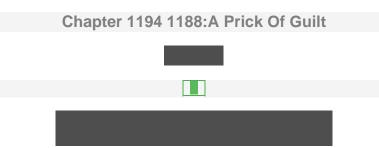
He gritted his teeth, praying that this was an opportunity.

Suddenly, the Skyrend Domain's Domain-wide Array was activated! Yun Che was stunned as he finally noticed that several spatial fluctuations were

approaching, and he realized that he'd given them his location in his fit of madness! The Void Tear needed to accumulate energy once again to activate, so he was left with no choice!

He clenched his fist and flew into the spatial tear!

PARAGON OF SIN



The Skyrend Domain was engulfed by a layer of pulsating energy, vigorous and thick, outlining its vast territory and locking down all within its range. The generated spatial tear rippled slightly before dissipating, vanishing without any indication of its previous existence.

A burst of silvery spatial light erupted near the area of the spatial tear where remnants of Yun Che's vile and violent aura remained. The area was dyed a faint red, making it exceptionally easy to locate. The silvery light revealed two cultivators, a young man, and a middle-aged woman.

The young man was slovenly from attire to hair, his eyes exhausted and with a pallid countenance. His sickly appearance aside, he floated amidst the Dark Void effortlessly, and his half-opened eyes exuded a dim, piercing light. The aura of the Mystic Dao was quite prevalent from his body, revealing him to be a Highlord!

The woman was mature-looking, her hair tied in a chignon-style bun, her lips colored a light pink, and her eyes were particularly overbearing. There was a dominance within her that was etched into her bones. This added a charm to her existence that could easily allow her to be classified as among the beauties of her gender.

The two investigated the area briefly. The rapid approach of Earthly Saints caused them both to halt, their eyes glancing at the world beyond the array's range, and they noted the arrival of top-tier characters. Among these characters, standing at the very edge of the array, his eyes dark and his expression frustrated, was a full-bodied He Bojing!

There was a suppressed rage boiling within him; the urge to smash this array swelled within him, but he held back as he looked piercingly at the duo through the array. Not even the pulsing power of the Skyrend Domain's array could block his sight. This was also true for the other dozen or so Earthly Saints that had arrived!

The two Highlords of the Skyrend Domain looked at each other, their thoughts flickering within their gazes as they communicated spiritually.

He Bojing's patience swiftly ran out, "Open your Sky Severing Array! We're here to locate and find criminals who attacked the Bing Clan's Frostwind Domain!" Yun Che's outburst had led them here, especially considering how unique his aura was!

The middle-aged woman heaved a frustrated sigh.

Endless Prosperity Domain, Worldly Equilibrium Moon.

A spatial tear appeared in an exquisitely luxurious courtyard with refined air, rich and thick astral and mystic essence, and all sorts of ambient energies of the purest qualities. It created a miniature paradise far surpassing anything else on the lunar satellite. The sheer number of formations established to upkeep this area was astonishing, let alone the number of resources, but as of now, it only housed a single cultivator—Xiao Bing!

From the spatial tear, Wei Wuyin walked onto a well-bricked path as his Draconic Transformation beautifully and seamlessly regressed. He casually removed his peak Mystic-Earth concealment mask, revealing his silver eyes and world-defying masculine features to the world. With a wave of his hand, the spatial tear squirmed and blipped out of existence as he sent a Spiritual Transmission out. Both the Heavenly World Core and Heretical Berserk Godsword were notably absent.

He saw at the end of the path, sitting at the edge of a freshwater pond, a young woman gazing at her reflection as her slender fingers gently caressed the watery surface to produce small waves and ripples. Her white hair dangled across her expression, revealing traces of her astonishing beauty through the gaps, adding a type of alluring charm that resembled a painting brought to life.

Wei Wuyin's eyes flashed with emotion at this picturesque sight, as beautiful as the stars in the vast void and as refreshing as a blooming iris.

"Xiao Bing," he called out lightly.

The young woman lifted her gaze, surprise blooming in her eyes. Then, that surprise transformed into an emotion that he'd never have expected from Xiao Bing, the one he felt only agreed to become his Valkyrie to remain with Hong Ru, the true focus of her affection. It was an emotion of joy.

She was happy to see him!

"So it was you!" It was as if she was convincing herself this entire time that the masked figure had to be Wei Wuyin, and only now did she confirm her belief. She rose from her seated position and stared at Wei Wuyin. It felt as if she was trying to absorb the reality of the situation into her heart.

This sight, for an inexplicable reason, made Wei Wuyin feel a prick of guilt in his heart. Her following words only poked at that sore, developing spot.

"Twenty-three years, seven months, and eight days." Xiao Bing stared at Wei Wuyin, the joy in her eyes gave way to an emotion that held complaint and grievance—justified grievance.

"..." Wei Wuyin was rarely silent when facing women, but her exact dating of the last time they met in person left him a little stunned. He knew that, along the way, something within her changed. They soon stared at each other silently.

Eventually, Xiao Bing took a step and broke the tension. She faintly smiled as her icy bearing that pushed everyone away momentarily vanished amidst a shine of warmth, relief, and satisfaction. Wu Yu's protection, the endless quantities of any and every resource she ever needed, and his appearance when her life was truly threatened were evidence of that—he was always there.

"I know you've been busy. I'm not an unreasonable woman. At least...you didn't forget me when it mattered," Xiao Bing strode over until she was directly before Wei Wuyin, a mere two feet away.

"Did you know what I experienced after arriving here?" She calmly said. The 'here' was the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region. She, like the others, arrived twenty years ago. Came to a world that was as foreign to them as one can imagine. They were pulled away from their allies and past relations to continue their cultivation or abandoned to live on a Nascent planet.

"..." Wei Wuyin didn't answer, didn't nod, didn't shake his head, only listened. Despite his feelings, he was aware that the best thing he could do was to simply listen.

Xiao Bing looked into his eyes as if etching his appearance in her mind, "I entered the Ice Lotus Sect in the Skyrend Domain. It was..."

At this time, another spatial tear appeared in the meeting room of the Golden Life Pavilion. It hovered above the discussion table at its center, glowing with multicolored light. There were eighteen seats here, and all were occupied except for one.

In the lead seat was Ma Zheng. This seat was once occupied by Sheng Jizi. The other seats were occupied by Incarnations of Golden Councilmen and Branch Managers. They all looked at the spatial tear curiously, not a sign of fear or panic in their expression.

Soon, a figure tumbled out. They were ruffled and imbalanced, nearly falling over. After regaining their posture, they swept their gazes while standing on the table. Yun Che's eyes instantly widened as he noticed he was surrounded.

"Sit there, young man." Ma Zheng calmly said as a seat emerged near the only empty seat. Yun Che was taken aback, turning and noticing Ma Zheng instantly! Wasn't that the Golden Life Pavilion's Pavilion Master?! The former Third Branch Manager?!

Where was he?

"You're...?!" Yun Che was deeply confused.

"Sit for now; when Councilman Wei has settled his other matters, he'll deal with you." Ma Zheng glanced at Yun Che and then returned to his files, reading them intensely.

"..." Yun Che didn't know how to respond. Councilman Wei? Who? Was that the person who brought him here? He hesitated, thinking if he should make his escape.

"Sit." Ma Zheng, for the third time, told him. But this time, his Mystic Aura of a 9th Runic Ascendant Earthly Saint flared, and Yun Che felt a suffocating force press upon him. His body, without his will, was moved to a seat like a small child, and he was properly positioned. The sheer degree of helplessness he felt was indescribable!

This was Ma Zheng?! He blankly stared silently as the council continued to discuss matters through a Spiritual Network. He could only wait behind Councilmen Wei's seat.

"...the Bing Clan treated me well after that. It was certainly because they were fearful of you." Xiao Bing's story tugged at Wei Wuyin's heartstrings. She described her difficulties, and she didn't gloss over the gritty details, such as her will nearly collapsing as she was ready to end it all or her being captured by Bing Tian to become a Yin Cauldron.

It was clear that she didn't want to spare Wei Wuyin any feeling of guilt. He deserved this feeling. He had neglected her due to his bias towards all things pertaining to Long Chen, and despite accepting her into the Valkyries, despite having free time to pick up maids and lovers, he hadn't bothered to do anything more than handle her cultivation needs.

Suddenly, the two feet of distance was breached. Wei Wuyin felt a cold body in his embrace, a head full of long white hair dug into his chest, and he could feel a faint wetness growing where she buried her head.

"Through-throughout all that...I kept...I kept thinking about you. About your letter. I know. I know. I-" She couldn't hold it in anymore. All her grievances were spewed out in tears that turned into ice crystals as they fell as if she was expelling and freezing years of harsh treatment.

Wei Wuyin recalled the spiritual letter he gave them through Tuo Bihan. He said:

"I was pleasantly surprised to hear that you decided to become a Valkyrie. While I imagine you had other thoughts, I'll do my best to honor your decision. And if you're feeling anxious about entering a new world, that's good. A woman as beautiful and talented as you is bound to face all sorts of difficulties and dangers, so be ready to face them.

"Xiao Bing...you'll certainly survive and thrive in this new world. Never surrender until your last breath, and if the world gets too heavy to hold on to, I'll be there to prop up the sky.

"Good Luck,"

It wasn't much. In fact, it was very little. It lacked the depth and emotion that Su Mei, Na Xinyi, and even Qin Rui received, but to Xiao Bing, these words caused her to hold on as Wei Wuyin kept rising in the world. He was slowly growing in reputation and power until he could prop up the sky.

And as she faced death, he had arrived.

What did he do?

He propped up her collapsing sky, freed her from captivity, changed her treatment, and gave her everything a cultivator would ever need without demanding her body or freedom as others had! Even when she was in the Myriad Monarch Sect, she was pursued endlessly and even faced heavy pressure from her clan to marry.

She was moved from afar, as absence hadn't just made her heart grow fonder, but she also realized that Wei Wuyin was different from every man she'd ever come across or every provider that demanded something of her.

"I..." Xiao Bing's voice quivered.

Wei Wuyin embraced her trembling body tightly.

PARAGON OF SIN

Chapter 1195 1189: Faultless & Guilt



Within the paradisiac courtyard established on the Worldly Equilibrium Moon of the Endless Prosperity Domain, Wei Wuyin and Xiao Bing spent time by the pondside. They sat together, the latter leaning against the former's shoulder, and engaged in relaxed conversation. The scene was as idyllic as one could imagine.

Mostly, it was Xiao Bing asking questions and Wei Wuyin answering, typically detailing a few of his adventures over the last two decades with an added flair of extravagance and excitement. While he embellished a little here and there, from Xiao Bing's smile filled with content, excitement, and concern, it was clear that his manner of padding hype to stories was top-class.

"Haha, really?" Xiao Bing laughed with a hand to her stomach, displaying a sight completely unlike her normally icy disposition others were familiar with. Wei Wuyin nodded with a profoundly dignified expression emulating Xun Yicao, "Yes! I kid you not, he said: JUNIOR, DO YOU DARE!" The rage he mimicked was rather on point and sent Xiao Bing into a spiraling bout of laughter.

"I-I can't!" She clutched at Wei Wuyin's arm and leaned further in. She exuded a fragrance that resembled lilacs. It was gentle and soothing, and Wei Wuyin wondered if she had mindfully put on perfume expecting him to arrive.

Wei Wuyin joined in with a laugh. While Xun Yicao had never said that exactly, in Wei Wuyin's mind, was there a difference? In a way, Wei Wuyin was just paraphrasing events and emotions.

"You've been through quite a lot," Xiao Bing said after finally managing to stop herself from laughing.

"Perhaps," Wei Wuyin hadn't told her everything, only about twenty percent, yet when he finally laid out his journey thus far, even if it was minimized to non-secret events, he realized the number of things he'd experienced in such a short amount of time was not only thrilling but heavy. If he added the Calamities of Hell, the Battlefield, and his encounters with Daos and embodiments of Laws, who knows how anyone would feel?

"You have," Xiao Bing stated softly yet strongly, placing her chilly hands into Wei Wuyin's, the latter exuded a type of warmth that caused unimaginable comfort, balancing out her natural low-body temperature, and allowing her to experience something akin to an embrace.

"You assisted two cultivators to become Earthly Saints, nurtured Bai Lin to become as strong as an Earthly Saint, helped Pavilion Master Ma take his position back, installed a new ruler into the Great Blue Starfield, initiated the next upcoming era with your creations, basically established the standards for geniuses, thwarted Trueborn's plans at every step and later forced them to their knees, and skillfully avoided the schemes of the entire world's peak forces again and again. All in two decades. If you haven't done a lot, who has?" Xiao Bing gazed at Wei Wuyin's side profile.

"I've talked quite a lot, huh?" Wei Wuyin finally realized that he had told her a lot of things. While they didn't seem all too important to say, hearing it so concisely explained allowed him to finally grasp the monumental actions he'd performed since arriving at the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region. From the beginning of arriving, no, even before arriving, his sights had always been at the level of the Realm of Sages and Calamities of Hell. His mind was focused on only one thing.

Everything he'd done was all a means to that end—survival.

He never had time like this...where he could simply look back and revel in his achievements without comparison or worry. Was this what it meant to be relaxed? The only other time he'd felt like this was with...

"I guess great men would often forget that they're only mortal, huh?" Xiao Bing softly whispered.

"Huh?" Wei Wuyin's enlightened daze ended.

"Nothing," she smiled. Then, before Wei Wuyin could respond, she said: "I'm sorry." The grip she used to hold Wei Wuyin's arm tightened, and her tone was riddled with guilt.

"Sorry for what?" If anyone should be sorry, Wei Wuyin felt that he was the one. After all, he had neglected Xiao Bing for so long because of his own biases.

"I...I'm sure there's a lot more you're not telling me. Probably all the dangerous encounters you've had, the truly dangerous ones. And for so long, I...I felt a little resentful that you never came. I'm sorry for being selfish." Xiao Bing was on the verge of tears, her lips quivering, and her grip impressing her full strength on Wei Wuyin's arms.

Before Wei Wuyin could say something to console her, she added with a faint wailing: "I felt resentful for what? For just a few years? As cultivators...we...you've been doing so much in so little...I feel so stupid." At this point, her ice tears had begun to fall, and the pent-up grievances she had had turned into a strong sense of self-resenting guilt.

"If you hadn't, sniff, if you hadn't done everything you did, would we be, sniff, able to enjoy this moment? This little paradise?"

"..." Wei Wuyin heavily sighed in his heart. He understood what she meant, and why she felt what she felt. After entering the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region, and receiving the training and education of one of the Eight Noble Clans, her horizons and understanding of the world were certainly heightened. The feats Wei Wuyin had just told her were heaven-defying, hell-resisting achievements for a mere mortal despite his exciting way of telling the story. Yet Wei Wuyin had accomplished them all, and while he struggled to cultivate to attain the power to perform those feats, her resentment for Wei Wuyin had grown because of her little treatment.

What she suffered wasn't remotely comparable to what Wei Wuyin had gone through, what he had to face on a daily, and how perilous every single second was. Just being here, in the Aeternal Sky Starfield's territory, was a dangerous act in and of itself. Why else wear a mask?

"Don't downplay your tragedy, Xiao Bing. You suffered, and that was..."

"DON'T!" Xiao Bing shouted forcefully. She looked at Wei Wuyin, her eyes still glistening with tears, and she said with a quivering voice: "Don't. Please don't say it's your fault. I'm not a naive little girl that...that will be fooled by the comforting words of her man so easily. Don't treat me like one."

"..."

The two sat in silence for a long moment.

Only after Xiao Bing finally gathered her bearings, wiping off her tears, regaining a light of strength in her eyes, did she say: "If I never met you, where do you think I would be right now?"

"..." That wasn't a question that Wei Wuyin could answer. Better off? Worse off? He was unsure. But he did know that if she hadn't joined the Valkyries, she would've been married off by now. While Wei Wuyin had surmised that the Bing Clan's marriage engagement was a ploy to lure him out, he now knew that the driving force was her unique physique. While they might have had slight hopes to bring him out of hiding, Bing Tian's main objective was for a family member to benefit.

"I'd have been forcefully married off, abused and discarded, or buried, so don't say it's your fault—it's not." When she thought about Hong Ru's death in the Grand Spirit Trials, Xiao Bing recalled her desire to join her in the afterlife after getting vengeance. However, Long Chen had told her there was a chance for Hong Ru to come back to life, and Wei Wuyin had pulled her from the depths of despair, bringing Hong Ru back to life!

While she didn't have any feelings for Wei Wuyin at the time, she knew that the seed was planted then.

And now, that seed had grown, and her feelings were undeniable. In truth, she never understood why Hong Ru liked Long Chen, and she only accompanied Hong Ru because of their rivalry, and her secret affection for her. They eventually became friends thanks to Long Chen's struggles with the other Myriad Monarch Sect's clans, and she felt extremely happy then.

Not because of Long Chen, but because Hong Ru no longer treated her like a rival meant to be surpassed, but an ally. She had even set her determination to join Hong Ru in Long Chen's seemingly endlessly growing harem if she wanted. She had taken that path with Wei Wuyin, but her reality was far from her expectations. She finally knew why Hong Ru had taken a liking to Long Chen, and when she looked at Wei Wuyin, she firmly believed that what she felt was dozens of times more than what Hong Ru felt.

After all, she no longer wanted to be with anyone else or had thoughts of leaving him. She feared the possibility.

"Alright, I won't." Wei Wuyin didn't console her and directly admitted that her circumstance was not his fault. After thinking about it, he knew that her kidnapping from the Bing Clan might have been Long Chen's Karma still affecting her. After all, the Heavenly Daos likely planned her meeting with Bing Tian and then an eventual rescue that'll strengthen their feelings for one another. Considering how stonehearted and uninterested Xiao Bing seemed to be in men, this aligned with the Heavenly Daos' M.O. for Long Chen.

"Good!" Xiao Bing visibly relaxed, relieved, and content with Wei Wuyin's acceptance. She had long come to terms with her worth in this vast world of cultivation, and the desire others had for her to become a Yin Cauldron for their benefit. But Wei Wuyin, even now, hadn't shown any interest or care for her physique.

In her mind, Wei Wuyin likely needed immediate power and cultivation resources more than anyone, yet he hadn't plucked her from the Bing Clan's hands after they began to treat her better, and used her for himself, especially considering she already agreed to be his woman, not his wife or concubine of any sort.

The two kept talking for a while longer, and the atmosphere lifted as laughter and words flew. Before they knew it, two whole hours had passed and they now lay flat on the ground, staring at the endless stars above.

Wei Wuyin was instantly reminded of his Solar Star project that was placed on pause. Each second was a heavy cost paid.

"You have to go?" Xiao Bing quietly said, her words sounded saddening, yet there was a tinge of acceptance in them. She knew that Wei Wuyin was a great figure, and great figures were busy. She refused to be a hindrance to further greatness.

Wei Wuyin's focus was brought back and he faced this exceptionally beautiful woman lying on his chest. How many men would be indescribably happy to experience such genuine feelings from a woman of such standard?

"Yeah."

"...I understand." Xiao Bing got to spend two hours of undivided attention and peace in paradise with the man she accepted in her heart, and it vastly

exceeded what her imagination had conjured for years. There was no lust or ambitious desire, no hidden agenda, there were simply pure feelings of comfort and togetherness. For two hours, she felt that they were the only two in this entire world. Even she didn't know why her imagination felt like utter trash when comparing the real thing.

"Let's go." Wei Wuyin gently rose.

"What?" Xiao Bing was taken aback.

"I won't make the same mistake again. Let's go get Hong Ru."

Xiao Bing's eyes widened.

PARAGON OF SIN

Chapter 1196 1190: Interrogation & Lnformants



"Who attacked you?" Tian Muyang interrogated. The object of his interrogation was a mass of indistinct amalgamation of the four essential energies. If one peered into its cloudy existence, one would notice the presence of a fragile Sea of Consciousness tethered desperately to a tiny sphere that glistened with an icy light.

Behind Tian Muyang were five Earthly Saints, including Yang Chaoyue, whose Sky Destroyer was anchored nearby. They were standing amidst the epicenter of chaos and destruction—Yun Che's ambush site.

"Bing Jingru!" Tian Muyang's tone was oppressively heavy. The indistinct mass of energies was none other than the Bing Clan's Matriarch, Bing Jingru!

The five Earthly Saints, including Yang Chaoyue, had slightly pale expressions alongside their gloomy faces. The Bing Clan had suddenly been attacked by an unknown assailant roughly twenty minutes ago, and one of their planets had been plunged into misery by an attack. If it weren't for He Bojing's quick actions, the vast majority of the planet's inhabitants would've died.

Tian Muyang had been alarmed, informed, and reacted by summoning five Earthly Saints who were in good standings with him or allied through other individuals. He had brought five, an outstanding amount. Yet, despite this, they were at most only able to use a conjoined Temporal Reversion by executing an isolation spell that focused solely on Bing Jingru's Mystic Soul and Sea of Consciousness. All of which were destroyed by a power that made reversing time exceptionally difficult. With the Mystic Soul reborn, Bing Jingru's soul was tethered to it.

Unfortunately, he was a little late due to various matters and was unaware of the costly price of revival, which had increased exponentially. Tian Muyang had to make certain excruciating promises and offerings to these elite cultivators to appease his beloved wife, Bing Fei, who was also the daughter of Bing Jingru.

If it wasn't for the fact that they were related, Tian Muyang would've preferred just placing his wife as the new Matriarch. An urge to vomit welled within him thinking of his lost lifespan and the cost he'd have to pay to the other five Earthly Saints; the urge to crush the world emerged in his heart.

If it wasn't for his rewards for diligently acting for Wei Wuyin's interests in these last few years, he'd have been unable to even get them to agree. Now, he was back to square one—broke. His anger and frustration were hard to conceal. "I-I don't know..." Bing Jingru's choppy, ghastly voice resounded from the indistinct mass of energy. She had no physical body, and her Mystic Core was gone, so her cultivation had essentially been reset. She was in a similar state as Wu Yu had been. The only blessings she could be thankful for were that she wasn't dead and Tian Muyang was here.

"Tell us everything," Tian Muyang demanded in a deep voice. Bing Jingru didn't hold back and informed them about everything that she could recall, including Bing Tian's return and likely the reason for the ambush. She even mentioned the shadowy mist that erupted from Bing Tian's ring.

"A treasure?" Yang Chaoyue pointed out. Everyone here was a prominent figure in the cultivation world and immediately came to the same conclusion. Bing Tian was a wanted woman for questioning since her aura was found beside the Chaosnova. While it wasn't too urgent, there were top-tier elites that felt she had answers to the Chaosnova's origins and why it happened. More importantly, they were curious as to why she was there, as if expecting it.

After all, Heavenly Seers deduced that she had been there for an extended period, and it was just outside the blast range of the Chaosnova, as if perfectly calculated. There were too many suspicious points.

"..." Tian Muyang thoughtfully considered this matter. If this entire event was born from the competition for a treasure, then Bing Tian's return and the following sequence made sense. Moreover, it meant that Bing Tian's disappearance was deeply rooted in concealing the existence of this treasure.

Woosh!

He Bojing arrived at this point, his expression extremely dark, and his mood was like a volcano on the verge of eruption. Only when he saw the group of Earthly Saints did he smile faintly to mask his expression.

"You asked for me?" He Bojing had been with a few Earthly Saints demanding the Skyrend Domain be opened for investigation, but the damnable Liu Clan refused to do so. They were conducting their own 'private' investigation and would 'inform' them of their findings. The desire to crush the Skyrend Domain's array was heavy in their hearts.

Unfortunately, the Skyrend Domain foundation was established by their imprisoned Earthly Saint, so breaking it wasn't a simple task. Even with their power, they'd take about a few days to do so. Additionally, the cost of Mystic Power simply wasn't appealing to the other Earthly Saints. Since they could only wait for that investigation to conclude, the Earthly Saints left envoys and departed. They weren't too invested in the event anyhow, simply curious.

He Bojing, however, was fuming! The Heaven Relic! The fact those two escaped his grasp was already embarrassing enough, but he lost a leg and an arm. If that cultivator was the Void Voyage Sect's Sect Master or a Grand Elder of the Sect, then it wasn't too unexpected. Still, it left a sore spot.

Now, he was called by Tian Muyang as the first one on the scene. This Tian Muyang was extremely frustrating to deal with when it came to Bing Clan matters. Especially since he was so lustful for them, even pursuing the Bing Clan's Matriarch before settling for her equally as a beautiful daughter. It was borderline obsessive.

Then again, he also similarly wanted the Bing Clan's women. Their Cultivation Methods often incorporated Yin and Ice, making them exceptionally beautiful and extremely potent Dual Cultivation partners or Yin Cauldrons. Any man who was ambitious for power would seek them out. Unfortunately, he never had the eternal joy of experiencing Ascended Bing Clan members. He Bojing noted the indistinct mass of energy that was Bing Jingru and was shaken. He had inspected the cost of reviving Bing Jingru, and it was absurdly high, far too costly for his blood, and that was within the first few seconds. She was thoroughly killed by a power that made it seem as if she was killed by an Earthly Saint, so after ten minutes, it was disgustingly pricey to reverse.

However, seeing the pale expression of all six Earthly Saints, he immediately realized that they half-measured the revival and it was still costly. What was it? A thousand years? More? Each?

"You were the first Earthly Saint on the scene, and you engaged with the perpetrator outside the planetary boundary." Tian Muyang didn't add a questioning tone to his words, essentially stating that this was an interrogation.

He Bojing's eyes flickered, "I was."

"..." Tian Muyang leveled a strong, oppressive stare at He Bojing. The tension built to an unbearable degree, almost as if stating that if He Bojing didn't speak, he'd attack.

He Bojing stiffened. This troublesome bastard! "Haaa...I'll tell you..."

He Bojing decided not to conceal anything, even about the Heaven Relic.

"Heaven Relic?!" Yang Chaoyue, the other Earthly Saints, and even Bing Jingru all exclaimed with shock. The Heaven Relic was an item that was depicted as a treasure made by those who wielded heaven's power. It was an ancient item that was described as a core of heavenly chaos that could be used to cultivate a unique state that would elevate one's insight and perception of the Mystic Dao.

Their information wasn't entirely complete, but it was true! The Origin State was renowned for being able to grasp higher levels of the Mystic Dao. It was a critical reason why Worldly Saints could enter the Heavenly Saint Phase and beyond. Without an Origin State, it was impossible to grasp higher levels of Mystic Intent.

The light of greed, desire, and urgency emerged in all of their eyes except...Yang Chaoyue. If the world knew that she had a 1st Origin State Mystic Soul, they would hound her viciously for the secret. Despite that, she still mustered her greed to hide her thoughtfulness.

"Grey-scaled masked cultivator? Adept in Spatial and Time Arts? What was their cultivation?" Tian Muyang focused on other things, as he too, didn't seem to care about this Heaven Relic.

He Bojing sighed depressingly, "I couldn't tell you. Their Spiritual Strength felt as if it was a formless void, and even though it entered my body during our fight, I couldn't gain the slightest clue. It was like trying to see into a murky cloud for an invisible needle." His description made little sense to them, but the fact it sounded so profoundly difficult only indicated that the cultivator's cultivation base was great. "I did, however, sense Mystic Energy, so it wasn't a pure Body Cultivator with beast infusion arts."

"The other?" Tian Muyang asked.

"A Nascent Demi-Mortal Lord, for certain. He wielded a strange sword that could unleash a power that can injure my Mystic Physique. If it wasn't for the inherent dispersion and flexible qualities of Water Power, I might've suffered greatly taking it head on." He Bojing was an Earthly Saint, so his report was relatively reliable.

"They weren't working together?"

"No; they seemed to be in direct contention, only teaming up to resist me, and the grey-scaled cultivator-"

A figure flew hastily, interrupting the interrogation.

"Uncle Muyang, where's grandma?!" Bing Liya rushed in with flowing tears. The Earthly Saints all frowned, and if it were anyone else, they would've sealed them away and sent them off, but considering how particular Tian Muyang was...

She directly rushed into Tian Muyang's embrace while spewing out hectic tears. Tian Muyang's eyes softened slightly, patting the girl's head to console her. "Your grandmother's fine, so calm down. I still have things to do, okay?"

Bing Liya's sniffles were quite loud, and then she glanced at the surroundings curiously and found each figure was exceptionally prominent. However, in Tian Muyang's embrace, she was fearless. There was even a slight sense of superiority in her eyes.

He Bojing had the urge to send this girl off to the next life. Just because you have a powerful uncle, you think you can brazenly look at me like that?!

"Where's Sister Xiao?" Bing Liya curiously asked, heedless of the annoyed expressions of these elite powerhouses. She only hugged Tian Muyang increasingly tighter.

Yang Chaoyue laughed inwardly. It was clear that this girl was striving to outdo her aunt, becoming the next Bing Clan woman on Tian Muyang's belt. This little minx didn't even bother hiding it. But this was the world of cultivation, and Tian Muyang was an Earthly Saint of the most powerful clan in the world, so she didn't feel this was wrong. In fact, given Bing Jingru's condition and Tian Muyang's attempts to pursue her in the past, she was bound to hug his thigh and commit an openly-concealed affair for the sake of regaining her former glory.

It wouldn't be wrong to say that Tian Muyang's wife had a theoretically higher status in the Tian Clan than she did as a Sky Monarch and greater access to specific resources. Just the fact he could summon Earthly Saints here to revive a dead Demi-Mortal Lord through joint Temporal Reversion was evidence of his influence and wealth.

"Xiao Bing? The Everlasting Ice Essence Physique cultivator?" Tian Muyang was shocked. He glanced toward He Bojing, who immediately explained that the grey-scaled cultivator had taken her since the sword-wielding cultivator tried to kill her.

"..." Tian Muyang frowned. Xiao Bing...

She was one of the figures he was asked to assist if needed by Wei Wuyin's Grand Knight. Since Wu Yu was part of the Star Formation Unit, Wei Wuyin had asked Wu Yu to delegate his overseer duties to certain experts. He didn't fear others knowing their relation to him, he feared that they didn't, and they acted against them. The only exception was Na Xinyi, who was given a wide berth due to her unique ambitions.

If Xiao Bing was saved, then that meant the grey-scaled cultivator was likely the hidden protection sent by Wei Wuyin. This began to make sense. Of course, Wei Wuyin never predicted that delegating protection duties would reveal his involvement here despite his efforts to conceal himself.

Fortunately, Tian Muyang was an asset.

After talking a little more, Tian Muyang moved away and sent out a Spiritual Transmission using Wei Wuyin's special transmission jade that transmitted through the Void. It was extremely discreet and concealed. Not even Earthly Saints would notice unless it was done right in front of them. While he did so, two other Earthly Saints sent Spiritual Transmissions out discreetly; one was Yang Chaoyue. The other was Yu Clan's sole Earthly Saint, Yu Changyun!

He was average-looking, wearing green scholar robes, round-shaped glasses, and exquisitely tattooed hands that exuded a faint formation power. As the foremost authority in the Creationist field of Architects, the Yu clan was renowned for their formations, arrays, and talismans. They had an unfathomably deep relation to the Golden Life and Godforge Pavilions, having contributed heavily to several successful Golden Auctions.

At roughly the same time, three detailed reports came into Wei Wuyin's information network, filtered out, and then sent to him in a condensed summary of facts and intelligence.

The Earthly Saints soon gathered and then proceeded to assist the inhabitants of Ice Jade. Since they were here on Tian Muyang's dime, they might as well exert a little to form a good impression. Ice Jade received enviable assistance.

He Bojing left; he was depressed after Tian Muyang sent him away, giving him a guarantee that he'd receive compensation for the expended Mystic Power and saving the lives of the Bing Clan's citizens and members. He was left with very few gains despite his heavy losses. He even had to return Bing Tian's living body without a soul.

Tian Muyang brought Bing Liya and Bing Jingru along as he investigated the planet for any traces left behind by the sword-wielding cultivator. He was also thinking of wiping out any traces of Wei Wuyin's involvement, should he come across it.

Given that Xiao Bing was given preferential treatment due to her relation to Wei Wuyin, it was going to be hard to prevent this information from leaking. But for now, he could delay any concrete verification.

Three hours after the Ice Jade incident, Wei Wuyin and Xiao Bing entered the Vermillion Domain, the home of the Tang Clan.

"Haha," Wei Wuyin chuckled.

"What is it?" Xiao Bing curiously asked.

"One of my informants just told me that you were kidnapped by a vile miscreant of indeterminate power and intentions." He couldn't resist the urge to smile. Wasn't he the vile miscreant described? Moreover, what colorful wording was this? Vile miscreant? How amusing.

PARAGON OF SIN



"Really?" Xiao Bing giggled from the side, her eyes smiling with relaxed joy. Wei Wuyin was taken aback, stunned by how beautiful she looked. He was initially only familiar with Xiao Bing's icy, unapproachable facial expression, quiet demeanor, and high-born bearing, but as he interacted more with her, he was exposed to her warmth and social side.

She was unafraid to laugh, willing to frown if displeased, and ask questions when curious. It was this disparity that allowed him to realize that Xiao Bing's personality that he had been exposed to was the several layers of established protection against others. As she stood by his side, leaning ever-so-slightly towards him, she had willingly dropped all her shields against him.

"Is something wrong?" Xiao Bing asked curiously.

"Hm?" Wei Wuyin's daze abruptly ended.

"Is there something on my face?" Xiao Bing rubbed her face with questions in her eyes. He then realized that he had been intently staring at Xiao Bing, but unlike inexperienced little boys who might blush and look away in embarrassment, he nodded seriously. "You're far too gorgeous," Wei Wuyin stated matter-of-factly.

"Hm!" Xiao Bing's eyes went alight with shock, not expecting such a direct statement. However, she didn't blush as well or react as a typical woman would. She pouted her lips slightly, "It's the cultivation method of the Bing Clan—the Truefrost Ice Qi Method. It supplements Yin Energy, enhancing my innate charm, especially toward men. Also, the ocular spell—Truefrost Gaze Spell—has a beautifying aspect to it."

She explained with a tinge of bitterness leaking. The Bing Clan was notoriously filled with beautiful female cultivators.

"I was thinking of taking Highlord Frostwind's approach to avoiding unwanted attention..." Xiao Bing said with a tick of frustration. The cultivation world was incredibly cruel, dominated by power and desire, and she was widely considered high-quality goods by cultivators. Her outstanding looks only highlighted and elevated her value. But when she thought about the power that Wei Wuyin wielded, she no longer felt the slightest hint of frustration nor the intent to hide her looks. She had already decided in her heart that she would follow him.

"Highlord Frostwind?" Wei Wuyin was naturally curious. Wei Wuyin had never met Highlord Frostwind, also known as Bing Tian, so he was unable to understand what she meant immediately. After all, Wen Mingna had scarred her face, and others would simply wear veils to hide their looks.

Xiao Bing nodded, sighing, "She purposely added imperfections to her features, offsetting the gains from cultivation, and that's why her portraits were just slightly better than the average woman in terms of looks. That said, it did her little good as her greatest value as a woman was her Primal Yin at the Demi-Mortal Lord grade." "Ah," Wei Wuyin understandably nodded. That tactic might have helped Bing Tian avoid being pursued early on by those superficial, but after her cultivation rose, the difficulty of suppressing the innate characteristics of her cultivation method would similarly increase, and her charm shifted from looks to Primal Yin. Additionally, while she might have been ugly as a mortal, as she continued to ascend it became harder to hide her naturally cultivated charm.

This type of cultivated beauty didn't have lines of falsity and could be compared to a state of puberty for cultivators, as natural as can be. If Xiao Bing cultivated a Yang Method, she would naturally grow taller, attain a bulkier musculature, and exude a masculine aura. The ordinary man would find this off-putting and unattractive. Not all, of course.

"This cultivation method of the Bing Clan, is the boost to dual cultivation great?" Wei Wuyin was quite educated regarding various cultivation methods, having the experience of two different lives and the Palace of Eden, but there were questions that his debonair version had little information on because he didn't care or the library had no information on them.

The Truefrost Ice Qi Cultivation Method was not in the Sacred Library, so he wasn't familiar with its characteristics.

Xiao Bing stared at Wei Wuyin as if trying to ascertain if he was asking this for insidious reasons. However, she had already felt that Wei Wuyin wasn't that type of person, and when she saw no lust burning in his enchantingly silver eyes, she steeled her will and nodded.

"Yes. It's no less effective than some of the Dark Yin Palace's Yin Cultivation Methods. In fact, in some ways, it's exceptionally better." While she didn't want to be seen as a Yin Cauldron by Wei Wuyin, she didn't hide its characteristics and benefits. She explained everything about the cultivation method, stunning Wei Wuyin as he curiously asked if she wasn't under any oaths to protect their cultivation method. However, shockingly, Xiao Bing said the Truefrost Ice Qi Method wasn't a heavily guarded secret. "Actually, the Tian Clan found the Truefrost Ice Qi Method in ruins of the ancient world and bestowed it out without a price shortly after the beginning of their reign, and the first Ascended being to be born from this method became the Bing Clan's first Matriarch, regarded as their ancestor. More importantly, she became the Divine Emperor's first concubine.

"The other cultivators of the method were gathered together and formed the Bing Clan. They renamed themselves and were bestowed territory by the Imperial Clan. However, the Imperial Clan never outlawed the circulation of the method. Anyone qualified to cultivate it would be considered an official member of the Bing Clan." Xiao Bing explained with a faint expression.

"Only its Mystic Ascendant Realm portion was restricted from the public because it was created 'after' the Bing Clan was established, created by the ancestor herself. Without it, the only future those who cultivate the method would have is to be halted at the Mystic Star Phase." Xiao Bing added. Those with the potential for this high-quality cultivation method would be forced to travel to the Bing Clan and join them. Considering how the Bing Clan had a chance to marry the Imperial Clan, this likely caused countless maidens to cultivate it bravely for their ambitions to ride the dragon's lap.

"Is it difficult or dangerous to cultivate?" Wei Wuyin thoughtfully asked.

"Very. It can be cultivated by men and women, but men have a heavier chance of losing their fertility if they can't combat the Yin-Yang imbalance born from it. But there are real dangers involved, such as the possibility of becoming an ice sculpture with the slightest deviation. I would say that the Mortal Realm portion of the Truefrost Ice Qi Method is likely one of the highest, if not the highest, graded cultivation method in the entire Grand Cyclic Stellar Region." Xiao Bing confidently replied, her words laced with confidence and genuine belief in her statement.

"..." Wei Wuyin silently pondered the validity of this statement, knowing this might just be Xiao Bing's pride talking. After all, while they might be absurdly powerful among mortals, it was clear their Mystic Ascendant Realm portion was greatly lacking, created by an ancestor who only reached the Demi-Mortal Lord Phase. Bing Tian couldn't even catch Wu Yu, who was a stage lower than her. An unmistakable sign that her cultivation method was no longer qualified to be regarded as among the 'highest-graded'.

"So the Tian Clan is indeed cultivating the Bing Clan to be Yin Cauldrons. Especially since most of them become infertile, unable to propagate their lineage by blood. No wonder they publicly released the cultivation method to attract members."

Xiao Bing's eyes dimmed. Fortunately, she didn't have to worry about infertility or the need for the Mystic Ascendant portion of the cultivation method. She had the Everlasting Ice Essence Physique, like the Ancestor, so her body's ability to handle the Yin Ice properties of the method was unfathomably high. In a way, she was like the first Bing Clan's Ancestor and could give birth to a proper blood lineage.

Bing Liya, Bing Jingru, and Bing Tian were all members of the first Bing Clan's Ancestor's proper blood lineage. It was thanks to this link to their ancestor, the first concubine of the Imperial Clan, that they were never arranged to marry any of the Imperial Clan's direct lineage of the Divine Emperor and had the freedom to choose their partners without interference.

That said, those of the Imperial Clan and their lot all sought after the ancestors' lineage for the faint traces of Everlasting Ice Intent they carried in their bloodline.

Wei Wuyin looked at Xiao Bing as their conversation entered this phase, and she, too, stared at him. The two exchanged lingering gazes. The former was piercingly curious, and the latter was shocked by Wei Wuyin's unsaid question, stunned by how adroit his mind was to instantly grasp this point.

"..."

"Blood lineage?" Wei Wuyin asked.

"..." Xiao Bing.

"When did the Ancestor of the Bing Clan die?"

"...." Xiao Bing.

"Why did the Divine Emperor not arrange for you to marry into the clan, given your unique physique?"

"..."

"Well, it's fine." Wei Wuyin didn't pursue the topic seeing how Xiao Bing was unwilling to delve into it. However, he suddenly had the feeling that Xiao Bing's past was heavily connected to the Bing Clan's ancestor, and her Xiao Clan lineage likely had an unfathomable secret.

"Thanks..." Xiao Bing softly said.

Wei Wuyin smiled. From the very beginning, he knew that each of the women that met Long Chen on his path had an astonishingly great history or past, orchestrated by the Heavenly Daos to assist him on his journey. None of them were simple.

After learning about Xiao Bing, he was now aware of almost all their origins, from Lian Yu's Dragon Lineage to Lin Ziyan Multi-Clan Lineage and Long Tingyu and Qing Qiumu's relations to those former hegemonic figures. He was just curious about Hong Ru. What was her story? Just as he thought about this point, they had finally met the one they were waiting for. Using the Golden Life Pavilion's import and export channels, they arrived at the Vermillion Domain's Golden Life Pavilion branch and had been waiting for their escort to arrive, drowning the wait with conversation.

Wei Wuyin didn't have the Locator Rune Spell for Hong Ru, so he was unable to pinpoint her location like Xiao Bing. Each spell was tailored to each protective rune, uniquely designed to be separate for differentiation purposes, and he didn't think of retrieving Hong Ru from the Tang Clan's Domain until a short while ago.

Considering the vast distance between the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region and the Heptasage Pillar Stellar Region, and Wu Yu's inability to create a Void Gate at a moment's notice, he decided to simply have an escort and source of information by his side familiar with the Vermillion Domain.

Since he was here, he might as well complete another objective of his.

"Little Boss!" A familiar voice resounded joyfully.

PARAGON OF SIN



"Little Boss?! Who?" Xiao Bing started. Who dared to call Wei Wuyin, the Neo-Dawn Alchemic Sovereign, whispered by the elites as the Oathless Calamity, leader of the Ascendants, and a mortal that could slay Ascended beings as little boss?! She had kept herself deeply apprised of all Wei Wuyin's unimaginable feats since she regained her freedom in the Bing Clan, so this greeting startled her.

Wei Wuyin was unable to contain his warm smile that leaked with unconcerned elation. The only existence in this world that still had the gumption to refer to him as anything other than his Majesty, Young Lord, Young Master, or Alchemic Sovereign Wei was only that endlessly familiar grey-bearded old man.

Wei Wuyin turned to see him—Tuo Bihan! The old man was stylish with a moon-white robe, his long hair tied back, and his grey beard was trimmed. He had changed considerably from before, regaining some of his youthful exuberance and handsomeness of his past. Yet despite that, the casual air of an elder that slept at random places carelessly remained. Despite being in contact, Wei Wuyin hadn't personally met Tuo Bihan since he gave him the assignment to distribute those spiritual letters.

He had performed this task astonishingly.

"Old man," Wei Wuyin called out. Xiao Bing was instantly stunned, she instantly recognized Tuo Bihan, the former Grand Imperial Sage of the Myriad Monarch Sect! After the World-Shifting Net's secret realm, she hadn't seen him or heard of him since.

Tuo Bihan arrived before them, his sporadic naming sense aside, he was utterly flawless with his respectful greeting and gesture. The old man had been one of Wei Wuyin's first subordinates, amongst the first of the Ascendants, and he had operated as such since obtaining the title.

"Are you our escort?" Wei Wuyin inquired curiously. He had thought it would be an Ascended being of the Ma Clan, this minor branch's manager, but Tuo Bihan had arrived instead.

"Haha, I am." Tuo Bihan laughed boisterously. After having his Worldly Domain crushed by Ma Sujiang, the Golden Life Pavilion provided him with a rich environment, resources, and a variety of other tools to recover and grow stronger. It was Ma Zheng's way to appease Wei Wuyin's possible resentment toward the event. After all, attacking the messenger was a deeply disrespectful act.

"You're this minor branch's manager?" Xiao Bing asked, her astonishment fading as she regarded Tuo Bihan as one of Wei Wuyin's subordinates. This was the branch established to oversee the operations within the Vermillion Domain. It was rare for an Ascended being to not head the department.

"Temporarily," Tuo Bihan said mysteriously with a sly look in his eyes. "The Vermillion Domain's minor branch has more or less been closed down, so there's not much to it."

"Closed down?"

"Yeah. Since their assault on Bai Lin in the Ninestars Starfield, business with the Tang Clan has been plummeting. The Golden Life Pavilion first elevated all prices of their merchandise, and then various shipments to resupply were diverted elsewhere. After Pavilion Master Ma gained the seat, the branch is a mere shadow of its original brilliance, with all imports stalled or stupidly overpriced." Tuo Bihan chuckled. "You wanted information about the Vermillion Domain?"

Wei Wuyin hadn't kept himself informed of the Golden Life Pavilion and Tang Clan's relations, so he was a little shocked by the development, albeit he expected it. Ma Zheng was very proactive in handling his matters and establishing firm lines even when he was just a Branch Manager.

The trio soon left, entering a Voidship as they shot towards the Vermillion Domain's capital planet, Unity. It gave off a reddish hue that felt as if it would be naturally hot.

During their journey, Xiao Bing and Wei Wuyin learned a lot about the Vermillion Domain. It was rife with internal conflicts and battles. After their

failed attempt at seizing Bai Lin, they suffered monstrous losses, and many elite members were severely injured, killed, or crippled. This caused the power balance among the upper echelon of the Tang Clan to go berserk.

Furthermore, the Tang Clan had subordinate clans, sects, and associations throughout their lands like most Domains of the Aeternal Sky Starfield, and these organizations further divided the Tang Clan into various elites by siding with various members. The fight for resources grew, and the Golden Life Pavilion's stance of reducing their business further crushed the morale of the Vermillion Domain.

While the Tang Clan was tethered to the Imperial Clan, they had been suffering cold shoulders recently from the latter.

"Why? Aren't they interconnected with various marriages and blood relations?" Xiao Bing couldn't help but ask. Given the Tang Clan's history with the Imperial Clan, it should be difficult for them to receive any form of a cold shoulder.

Tuo Bihan shook his head, "It's because of the various marriages and blood relations that their relationship had grown awkward. It has to do with the Young Mistress of the Tang Clan, Tang Xingyun, and the current leader of the Tang Clan—the Seventh Generation Matriarch."

"Oh?" Xiao Bing's interest was instantly piqued.

Tuo Bihan explained: "Unlike the Bing Clan, the Tang Clan's marriages have more or less been refused."

"Trying to break away from their destiny as Yin Cauldrons?" Wei Wuyin said.

"Yes," Tuo Bihan confirmed, "and this has been going on for a while. The Tang Clan's currently established marriages are all exceptionally old, with many having died due to cultivation difficulties or age. The last marriage between the Tang Clan and Imperial Clan dated back about six thousand years. Since then, there have been no other engagements. Except one, Tang Xingyun."

"Why?" Xiao Bing couldn't fathom this. She hadn't heard anything about this at all. During her studies, the Bing Clan's instructor had referred to the Tang Clan as being in the same situation as them, tethered to the Imperial Clan by marriage. The Bing Clan has insanely deep interconnected marriages and even sought out actively entering into the Tian Clan's harem.

Wei Wuyin decided to throw out a guess, "the King of Everlore?" Xiao Bing started. What does he have to do with this?

"Oh!" Tuo Bihan was ecstatic by Wei Wuyin's intellect once more. The breadcrumbs here and there were almost always grasped by this young man, and it was borderline terrifying. "You're correct, the King of Everlore had interfered with the process. I don't know why or how exactly, but after the King of Everlore grew in prominence, the Tang Clan gained the freedom to decide their fate as a whole and the Imperial Clan allowed it. The only exception was Tang Xingyun."

"Why her?"

"She's the firstborn of the Seventh Generation Vermillion, the Matriarch of the Tang Clan, and this was an agreement the Divine Emperor himself had orchestrated. His Seventh 'officially recognized' son would be engaged to her firstborn. I also heard that the Divine Emperor had originally intended to not recognize a seventh son, but Tian Yinwu was simply too outstanding. As for the Seventh Generation Vermillion, she had similarly sworn off from having children to avoid that situation, but love and desire for partnership weren't something one can resist so easily, and she had a child. It's almost as if it was-"

"..heavenly fate," Xiao Bing interrupted Tuo Bihan, who solemnly nodded and bitterly smiled.

"I always thought the Tang Clan and Bing Clan had similar situations. To think the Tang Clan had shed off their status as Yin Cauldrons for the Imperial Elites long ago." Wei Wuyin thoughtfully and admirably said. He could guess that the Tang Clan had offered something to the King of Everlore to gain their independence.

"But why wouldn't they willingly agree? The Imperial Clan is outstanding, it's rare for women to choose to marry down when they have the chance to marry up, right?" Xiao Bing instantly keyed into a critical point.

"Perceptive! The answer is relatively simple when you think about it, little lass: the Tang Clan isn't the only one that's refusing to marry; the Imperial Clan has decided to sever their relations as well, likely forbidden by the Divine Emperor himself. It might have to do with the King of Everlore's interference or the utter disrespect they displayed by trying to distance themselves after receiving support using an outside force." Tuo Bihan thoughtfully explained as he considered which was more likely.

"How come you know about it? Why isn't this information well-known throughout the world?" Xiao Bing was unable to figure out why she was taught otherwise.

"The Tang Clan wants to be protected," Wei Wuyin answered instead.

"Correct!" Tuo Bihan exclaimed admiringly. "Little Lass, the Tang Clan, or any of the factions of the Aeternal Sky Starfield, do not operate solely in this starfield. The Imperial Clan's alliance is a shield of unimaginable value. The world outside is dangerous with little protection, especially when it comes to a contest for resources. If you take away the Imperial Clan, the Tang Clan is certainly powerful, but not enough to contend for high-end resources, perhaps they would struggle for resources in its own territory. If the Parasitic Clans of the True Element Sect tells you anything, it's not hard to make the Tang Clan a puppet for benefits.

"Recently, the Ravenous Edge Starfield's division of territory and resources could be used as a perfect example. If it wasn't for this false protection, the Tang Clan or its subordinates wouldn't have been able to involve themselves in it. Only forces with backings of Earthly Saints could've participated and taken a tiny piece of such a delicious pie.

"As for why you don't know and I do? Well, the organizations who do know are all under oaths. I, Tuo Bihan, am under no oath; I am an Ascendant." The old man rubbed his beard as he looked at Wei Wuyin smilingly. There was a reason why the world feared Wei Wuyin as an Oathless Calamity, just Wu Yu was enough to instill fear and insecurity, but the unregulated information was likely more terrifying.

Wei Wuyin could, without hesitation, leak this information and the Tang Clan's area of operation would shrink after learning of how distant they were from the Imperial Clan.

"This explains why the Tang Clan received no help from any force when they hunted Bai Lin and why every force waited with bated breath for their failure," Wei Wuyin remarked with a tinge of amusement in his tone. If all the elite forces knew of their situation, why would they help? They had no real support, and offending the behemoth that was the Ninestar Starfield or an Earthly Saint, why would they?

It was as if an invisible piece of a puzzle had suddenly lost all its concealments enabling one to see the greater picture. Why hadn't the Imperial Clan assisted the Tang Clan during their operation? If they grew in strength, as Yin Cauldrons, wouldn't they also receive an explosive boost? Now it was clear as to the reason why.

"So the Tang Clan's situation must be increasingly worsening," Xiao Bing concluded with a tone rife with concern. Hong Ru was with the Tang Clan...

"Indeed, it has. Indeed...it has..." Tuo Bihan said as they neared Unity. The planet's atmosphere was chaotic, seething, and exuded a heat that affected the Dark Void.

"This..." All three of them were stunned.

The planet was at war!

PARAGON OF SIN

Chapter 1199 1193: World At War; Unseen Developments

"The spatial activity surrounding Unity is intense," Wei Wuyin remarked as his Celestial Eyes exerted themselves, his silver eyes surged with vibrantly piercing spiritual light. Tuo Bihan and Xiao Bing both gulped subconsciously, their eyes wide with disbelief and vigilance as they observed Unity. This planet's heat emissions were not a product of its own environment. There was an ongoing escalation of fire energies erupting at various locations, clashing vigorously with similar or other energies.

While from a distance, the Dark Void surrounding Unity seemed to appear peaceful at first glance, there were several turbulent fluctuating abnormalities present, and they resembled newly established secret realms.

"Shell Worlds?" Tuo Bihan gasped solemnly.

"Ascended beings are fighting," Wei Wuyin stated as his eyes flashed across the Dark Void. There were dozens of varying Shell Worlds present, each a horrifying battlefield of cultivators. The abnormal fluctuations were the excess Mystic Power that was being contained, like a heavy fist smashing from within a steel coffin.

Tuo Bihan didn't doubt Wei Wuyin's statement in the slightest. There was a fierce war going on! "Your Majesty, we should retreat for now." He had already piloted the Voidship to an immediate halt, roughly tens of thousands of miles away from Unity's planetary border.

Considering that he hadn't gotten any news about this, then this must've just happened recently. If he had known that Ascended beings were going to be fighting, he would've brought tea to Wei Wuyin and Xiao Bing to wait it out.

"The planet!" Xiao Bing exclaimed. The planet Unity was trembling and volcanoes were erupting, spewing over the planet's surface, and that's where the abhorrent heat was originating from. The volcanoes must've been cultivated to the Mystic-level, likely one of their cultivation of the Tang Clan, and they had now turned volatile.

"Why are they allowing Starlords and Exalted to fight on the planet's surface?" Tuo Bihan shouted as this was absolutely ludicrous. Fortunately, Unity was a mystic-graded planet with thousands of years of refinement and protective formations, so it could resist the fierce, destructive clash of the Mortal Realm and 'false' Ascended cultivators

"Shell World Pearls aren't cheap commodities," Wei Wuyin calmly pointed out as he continued to inspect the various Shell Worlds, viewing the ongoing battles that were happening within. Since this was a fight within the Tang Clan territory, it was certainly a result of internal strife. From what he could tell, the Tang Clan was fighting forces of various organizations.

"Ah! Hong Ru!" Xiao Bing's concerns flared. Her aura fluctuated and she primed herself to act. Her Worldly Domain was on the verge of expanding, but Wei Wuyin gently touched her shoulder. Her beautiful eyes darted to Wei Wuyin and the fear in her eyes was palpable.

"Calm down," Wei Wuyin softly said.

Xiao Bing's breathing was tangible, and her chest was rising and falling as her mind was imagining the worst. What if Hong Ru was hurt? What if Hong Ru...

Her Astral Soul went extremely active, and she could barely hold herself from rushing toward Unity, all risk be damned. Given her cultivation base, she should be able to reach the planet within minutes. If it wasn't for Wei Wuyin's hand, she would've already left.

Wei Wuyin sighed in his heart; he couldn't blame Xiao Bing for her instinctive reaction to get involved and secure the safety of Hong Ru. She never hid her feelings for the first redhead.

He began to exert greater effort, his Celestial Eyes scouring the Shell World and Unity for Hong Ru's aura. Unfortunately, after a long while, he was unable to catch the slightest glimpse. Perhaps due to the rampant auras on Unity, her own was too difficult to pinpoint. This was also a flaw of Wei Wuyin as well; he couldn't recall her aura.

Hong Ru's cultivation base and aura were fundamentally different from before. He had no idea how to identify it, and if she was fighting or had already fallen, he simply couldn't tell. Moreover, she shared the basic cultivated aura of the Blazing Unity of Twin Flames Method, so she closely resembled almost every other Tang Clan member!

"Wei Wuyin..." Xiao Bing softly muttered as her eyes effused emotions that were as tense as they could be.

"Your Majesty..." Tuo Bihan felt they should retreat lest they get swept in the chaos. There was no telling if an Ascended being would break apart a Shell

World and cause an incident. He also was unaware of who was fighting, so he wanted to cautiously observe before any further action.

"..." Wei Wuyin's gaze was like lightning, darting here and there. He instantly recognized that the Highlords of the Tang Clan were either fighting against themselves or against cultivators that he wasn't that unfamiliar with.

The largest Shell World was likely the most terrifying.

He spotted an Earthly Saint fighting against another Earthly Saint supported by four Highlords. Three of those Highlords were of the Tang Clan and one was an ally, a male, and both the Earthly Saint and non-Tang Clan Highlord had faint traces of the Tang Clan's aura within their Mystic Power. They were likely the husbands of a Tang Clan member.

The Earthly Saint they were struggling against was easily recognizable—

"Traceless Emptiness Void Queen?" Wei Wuyin was taken aback by this veiled woman, her slender figure was despotic to the extreme, and she fought against them with hell-raising ferociousness. Among the three Highlords, Vermillion was present! She was equally as fierce, fighting from the back while unleashing power far beyond a typical Demi-Mortal Lord.

Shockingly, her flames seemed more of a threat than the Earthly Saint's attacks, and the Traceless Emptiness Void Queen was dodging them, not daring to block them. The specialness of those cultivated flames was clearly beyond the norm.

The Traceless Emptiness Void Queen was an equally notorious Earthly Saint as the Sanguine Demon Evil King. She led the largest dual-Void Hunter and Pirate organization in the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region and was feared by many elites for her ruthless behavior and the lengths of shamelessness she could go to for profit. Wei Wuyin had tried to recruit her for his operation. For some reason, she had denied his invitation.

Now that he could see her, he now realized why.

Others might not be able to view the Traceless Emptiness Void Queen's appearance due to her veil, but his Celestial Eyes with the Paragon-Forging Physique foundation could!

"She's..." He was quite intrigued and taken aback, so much so that he forgot about Hong Ru for a split second. Why? Because the Traceless Emptiness Void Queen had the exact likeness of Vermillion!

They were twins!

While their cultivated auras were drastically different, and their cultivation techniques caused one to have developed fiery red hair and the other was jetblack hair, there was a facial similarity that was undeniable.

"..." Wei Wuyin was stumped by this development. He hadn't expected this. Who could've predicted this? Not even his other life's memories were aware of this connection, and the Traceless Emptiness Void Queen never attacked the Tang Clan before. Well, to be fair, the Tang Clan in his past life never tried to kidnap Bai Lin, suffered any losses, had a healthy relationship with the Golden Life Pavilion's Sheng Jizi, and the vague protection of the Tian Clan was still present.

The path each Wei Wuyin took was drastically different! As such, the Tang Clan's fate was different as well! The undercurrents were bound to be complex and filled with intrigue.

Suddenly, Wei Wuyin felt a quivering hand slither into his own. He turned to see the anxious Xiao Bing that was as restless as physically possible. Her anxiety caused Wei Wuyin to frown.

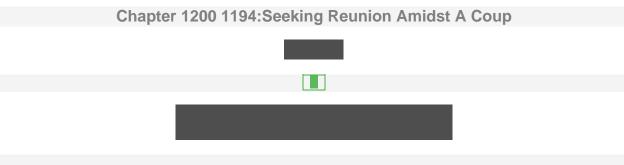
He decided.

"Stay here." Wei Wuyin didn't place his mask on; he soared out of the atmosphere formation of the Voidship while wearing his signature white alchemist robes, his bearing was impeccable and his dignity was on full display. He channeled his Spiritual Strength into his voice, adding the qualities of spatial piercing, and with a strong, firm voice, he announced:

"I, Wei Wuyin, the Neo-Dawn Alchemic Sovereign, have arrived! Is there no one to greet me?!" The voice was like rumbling thunder, halting all the fighting for hundreds of thousands of miles, and even the Shell Worlds trembled and the fighting momentarily ceased.

An exhausted, fang-bearing Vermillion wiped the lingering blood from her lips, her blazing eyes flashed toward the outside world, and she felt her heart pound immediately.

PARAGON OF SIN



"..."

A stifling silence descended across the chaotic, bloody-filled, and battleravaged Vermillion Domain within an instant of Wei Wuyin's announcement. Enemies looked at each other, once pointing deadly blades at each other's throats, with confusion and uncertainty. Neo-Dawn Alchemic Sovereign?! This title, in recent years, has been like a whirlwind of change and power, and no one could easily ignore it. The Traceless Emptiness Void Queen stared at her opponents. Behind her veil, there was a torrent of thought-provoking light within her eyes. Moreover, her entire soul tensed. The mere thought of the Grand Knight of Wu Yu or the Armored Saint arriving with unknown intentions was infecting her serenity.

She could only find some comfort in the confusion that was in her opponent's eyes, especially Matriarch Vermillion's reaction. The leader of the Tang Clan was as confused and disturbed as she was. Unfortunately, this put them all in a conundrum.

They were in a red hot phase of the battle, and if they put down their knives and killing intent, there was bound to be greater variables developing. However, if they continued and Wei Wuyin decided to intervene, this matter could go against whoever was too stubborn to relent.

The Traceless Emptiness Void Queen lightly clenched her pearly white teeth and fists. This was an organized assault that was devised from years of coordination and planning, and she was on the verge of seizing victory. What to do?

Matriarch Vermillion's heart pounded at Wei Wuyin's voice, but there was no excitement or hope within it. In fact, she was terrified. They were already on the cusp of being pushed back, and it wasn't hard to determine Wei Wuyin's thoughts towards the current Tang Clan's leadership, especially her who had hunted down and attempted to capture his Fire Phoenix.

However, just like her ambitious twin, she was also unable to determine what to do. If she ignored him, then wouldn't this essentially solidify his distaste for her? She violently clenched her teeth and fist. She had to take the risk!

"Stop fighting!" She told the Earthly Saint that fought beside her, the Volcanic Fist True King, a Grand Elder of his own organization in the Hexaflame Starfield, no, former Grand Elder, as he had resigned to assist them in this conflict without involving them and fully joined the Tang Clan. Moreover, he was her grandfather-in-law. The Highlord fighting beside her was her husband, Tang Xingyun's father. They listened to her and stood down.

The Volcanic Fist True King was preparing to escape the Shell World. Unlike these two sisters, he was sharply aware of Wei Wuyin's importance and didn't want to display the slightest disrespect towards the young up-and-coming Alchemic Sovereign. There were simply too many feats under Wei Wuyin's belt despite his ridiculously young age, and unlike the King of Everlore, this Alchemist had his own force that not even the Inferno Solaris Church could underestimate.

The Traceless Emptiness Void Queen deeply frowned. The urge to launch a sudden critical strike swelled within her chest, wanting to take advantage of this seemingly poor decision, but she hesitated.

Seeing her react like this, Matriarch Vermillion shot this rebellious sister of hers a piercing gaze, "Are you going to keep us trapped here and prevent us from meeting Alchemic Sovereign Wei? Are you not going to greet the Alchemic Sovereign yourself?"

Considering that Wei Wuyin's voice had breached the Shell World, then he must have eyes on all happenings here. Whether it was through Wu Yu, the Armored Saint, or his other hidden force, the fact he could grasp the happenings here was in her favor. She decidedly showed a willingness to go out.

"Bitch." The Traceless Emptiness Void Queen wasn't a blind idiot, so she was fully aware of this calculated move. If she refused to let them go, it would be the same as giving Wei Wuyin no face. After all, if he didn't want them to greet him, he didn't need to announce himself. Clearly, this was an announcement to cease the conflict. Facing this insult, Matriarch Vermillion smiled brightly, enough to infuriate the entire world. She was clearly provoking her sister.

"..." The Traceless Emptiness Void Queen silently waved her hand, and the Shell World began to tremble. Then, it collapsed. They were soon exposed to the Dark Void of the Vermillion Domain, and they easily spotted Wei Wuyin floating in the Dark Void beside a tiny-sized Voidship.

The Volcanic Fist True King sighed in his heart; he was losing against this woman even with the assistance of Highlords and had already suffered several severe injuries. If this lasted a few more minutes, chances were he would suffer catastrophic injuries. Of course, he didn't think the Traceless Emptiness Void Queen could kill him. After all, she was suffering injuries too.

He wasn't that weak.

The middle-aged man with an athletic build and firm muscles, brought the Highlords along as he flew towards Wei Wuyin. The Traceless Emptiness Void Queen did the same, her sleeves clenched a second Shell World Pearl, ready to trap the Volcanic Fist True King and Matriarch Vermillion at the slightest sign of seeking an escape. If they did that, then even Wei Wuyin wouldn't have any grounds to suggest her actions were disrespectful.

If the world knew that all these peak experts in their home territory were being so cautious toward a mere mortal, they would completely understand! It was, after all, Wei Wuyin—the Neo-Dawn Alchemic Sovereign!

Wei Wuyin floated calmly in the Dark Void. He naturally gave off an imposingly dignified bearing. The first thing the Earthly Saints noticed was that the Armored Saint, Wu Yu, and the Fire Phoenix were absent from the scene. Were they hiding? Regardless of what, they wouldn't think for a moment that Wei Wuyin had come alone with no protection. Even if they had that thought, he was bound to have tools, talismans, and Protection Runes forged by Earthly Saints on his body.

Moreover, there was a type of unseen protection that no one talked about. And that was the hectic and spontaneous support he would receive from all sorts of figures if he was assaulted seeking to earn his favor. As for those idle Earthly Saints viewing the Vermillion Domain at the moment? They wouldn't hesitate to interfere to assist Wei Wuyin.

After all, he was notoriously generous toward his helpers. At least, that's what rumors say. There was even a faint rumor that Tian Muyang had kept the Great Blue Sea Starfield's experts uninvolved as leadership changed and received an untold amount of resources in return for a simple act. The reports of Wei Wuyin's payment toward those vagabonds were leaked, and they were outrageous.

Some even thought that Wei Wuyin's wealth felt too excessive for an Alchemic Sovereign. There were even rumors of Mystic-Earth products being awarded to those Highlords and the Sanguine Demon Evil King. This only elevated Wei Wuyin's reputation, and endless requests to become his Alchemic Knight was born.

Unfortunately, how many could compare to Wu Yu? An 8th Runic Ascendant with several Earthly Saint kills under his belt?

"Alchemic Sovereign Wei," Matriarch Vermillion greeted respectfully. If it was any other time, she would be slightly trembling since this day that the Tang Clan dreaded had arrived. She and everyone else knew that Wei Wuyin hadn't taken overt action out of fear, no, considering he had no fear toward Trueborn, out of caution toward the Imperial Clan.

"If you try to activate the Domain array, I'll kill you even if I have to ignite my Mystic Soul." The Traceless Emptiness Void Queen sent a Spiritual Transmission to her sister. Matriarch Vermillion's expression changed drastically, becoming slightly unsightly. She had thought of discreetly accessing the Domain-wide Array, and with it, this little coup d'etat would end here, but this caused her to no longer take that risk.

Wei Wuyin's eyes moved toward the female Earthly Saint as if he noticed her transmission, and she grumbled internally before offering her greetings as well. "Alchemic Sovereign Wei, it's a pleasure to finally meet you." Her tone came off as amicable, skillfully hiding her annoyance.

"Oh? Didn't you refuse to accept my invitation before?" Wei Wuyin grinned, the very picture of amused.

"I was busy then with private matters, so I ask for your understanding." There wasn't even a single lapse of silence before she properly responded. She expected Wei Wuyin to bring that topic up.

The Volcanic Fist True King then greeted as he introduced himself, his face full of smiles despite his internal injuries. "It's my honor to meet the great Neo-Dawn Alchemic Sovereign today. I was blessed with seeing your splendor at the Saint Cyclic Renewal Summit, a pride of mine. Unfortunately, I was unable to have a conversation with you at that moment before your departure."

Wei Wuyin gave this flatter a curious look and recognized him as a Grand Elder of the Blazing Eruption Sect, a World Sect belonging to the Hexaflame Starfield, second only to the Inferno Solaris Church. "How unfortunate indeed," Wei Wuyin's aloofness perfectly matched his status. Even before two Earthly Saints, he was the one with the limelight.

"May I ask why you're here?" The Traceless Emptiness Void Queen grew slightly anxious, and she no longer held back.

"Right! How can the Tang Clan assist you, Alchemic Sovereign Wei?" Matriarch Vermillion jumped on this and then added with a beautiful smile, "If it's regarding our ignorance-fueled folly of harming the majestic Fire Phoenix you reared, I'll first like to deeply apologize for it. It was a misunderstanding of our fault, and our Tang Clan admits it fully, and we're willing to offer suitable compensation even if we have to sacrifice an arm and a leg."

"..." Eyes immediately darted toward Matriarch Vermillion. When had this arrogant woman ever lowered her head so easily before? Even her husband had a shocked expression.

"..." The Traceless Emptiness Void Queen could only hope that Wei Wuyin wouldn't interfere. If it was any other force, she genuinely wouldn't give any thought to it. After all, the Mythical Oaths of the Aeternal Sky Starfield were extremely protective, but Wei Wuyin was an Oathless Calamity who slayed the Incarnation of Xun Yicao, and the act was swept under the rug and turned into a minor matter.

He was an Oathless Calamity that caused Trueborn to become turtles in their shells, quietly licking their wounds, and there was still no news of the thirty Earthly Saints or how they were brought away. It wouldn't be a lie to say she deeply feared Wei Wuyin. Who didn't? And the Imperial Clan would certainly not engage in conflict with him over the Tang Clan. They'll find some loophole to avoid any conflict.

"Then I'll get right to the matter: Where's Hong Ru?" He didn't bother hiding his intentions. He couldn't find her in this mess. If she hadn't been killed through Wu Yu's protection, she must be somewhere else.

"Hong Ru?" The Ascended beings they were listening in and those before him were all taken aback.

The Crimson Jewel Saintess?

This was a figure that had reached the top 100 Saintess Rankings shortly after emerging, her talent and strength were rising. She was a rising star of

the Tang Clan despite her foreign status, and she had high compatibility with the Tang Clan's signature Cultivation Method—Blazing Unity of Twin Flames.

Xiao Bing clenched her fists; she was also a Saintess, but her status had more or less dissipated after the death of the Bing Clan's Young Master.

"Hong Ru?" Matriarch Vermillion was stunned by the name. Unlike the Bing Clan, the Tang Clan hadn't paid much attention to Hong Ru's history or background. They accepted her off the merits of her outstanding show of talent. However, her eyes brightened considerably.

"We protectively seek all our talents away from the conflict. She should be in our Secret Realm safely. Do you wish to see her?" Matriarch Vermillion instantly saw this as her chance. Hong Ru was a beauty, and while she might have suffered some injustice as one, the Tang Clan hadn't neglected her cultivation or livelihood.

"A Secret Realm?" Wei Wuyin now realized why, despite his Celestial Eyes and Spiritual Sense, he couldn't find the slightest traces of Hong Ru. He had imagined it was due to her shift in her aura and other changes, but he was wrong. She was elsewhere entirely. "Bring me there."

"Alchemic Sovereign Wei!" Traceless Emptiness Void Queen urgently exclaimed, "We're currently-"

Wei Wuyin dismissively said, "I don't care about your coup, simply bring me to Hong Ru." The chill in his voice was spine-shivering, and his eyes reflected a killing intent. If anyone tried to hinder him from reaching Hong Ru today, then he'll deal with them decisively.

"You..." the female Earthly Saint clenched her fist anxiously, her intuition was telling her that Hong Ru was the key to Wei Wuyin's involvement, and she wasn't certain if this would cause him to lend aid to the Tang Clan or not.

She couldn't let all her planning turn to dust!