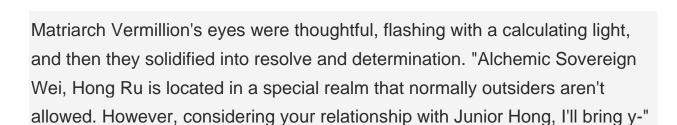
# **PARAGON OF SIN**

Chapter 1201 1195:The World; Stopping Hatred With A Single Move



Her words were viciously interrupted!

"WATCH OUT!!!" The Volcanic Fist True King roared.

Wei Wuyin's eyes constricted; the Traceless Emptiness Void Queen sent a spiritual transmission while Matriarch Vermillion was talking, and it said: "Apologies, Alchemic Sovereign Wei. Forgive my rudeness..."

Those words triggered Wei Wuyin's mental warning bell, and his Celestial Eyes shifted to the apologetic Earthly Saint, and he bore witness to an abrupt explosive surge of unfathomable power. It was as tyrannical and terrifying as a thousand volcanoes erupting all at once!

"Vitality Ignition Art!"

The force of the eruption sent Tuo Bihan and Xiao Bing's Voidship tumbling backward uncontrollably, creaking and cracking on the verge of collapse. The Highlords of the Tang Clan barely reacted as they were blown away like severed kites in the wind, traversing thousands of miles as blood leaked from their orifices, and the Volcanic Fist True King unleashed a domineering fiery fist in an attempt to resist the sudden explosive power.

While he wasn't sent flying, he was stalled for a brief moment amidst a torrential spatial storm. Despite a second roar of blistering rage, he was unable to move. The frustration in his eyes was palpable, and his senses darted and honed onto Matriarch Vermillion who was sent flying.

The Traceless Emptiness Void Queen surfed across the Dark Void elegantly as her face had bulging veins and pulsing bursts of light from her pores, and she was racing toward the Matriarch Vermillion with killing intent in her eyes. She had used a self-damaging art to enhance her powers, burning through her mystic-graded lifeforce to acquire a burst of horrifically powerful strength.

"ARGH!" Matriarch Vermillion screamed in pain as her body was blasted by vigorous power. Unfortunately, she was simply a Highlord, and her Demi-Mystic State wasn't unleashed, so she was deeply caught off-guard. She wanted to bring out her Armament to defend against any follow-up, but her reaction was slightly delayed as her body was wracked with pain and power, interfering with her ability to react.

"NO!" She struggled to spread out her Spiritual Sense, and she caught the murderous Traceless Emptiness Void Queen rushing toward her with single-minded focus. "She's going to kill me!" If she died, this coup was all but half-finished. Given that her sister had the Tang Clan's core bloodline within her, she could seize her position as Matriarch while maintaining all the protective oaths.

She cursed in her heart at those traitors or assisted her sister in launching this sneak attack, in hindering the activation of the Domain Array through sabotage, and if it wasn't for her grandfather-in-law's presence and support, she might have already been buried and forgotten.

She cursed the Tian Clan for not helping immediately, albeit she understood why, she cursed them nonetheless.

She cursed her idiocy for believing that Wei Wuyin's reputation would be enough to protect her, settling the situation, and lowering her guard as a result.

She cursed Wei Wuyin too.

This was all his fault!

As she faced her blood relative's murderous charge, she didn't realize how much fear she had toward death. She didn't want to die. In her long life, she thought she would be able to accept her death, but now that it was her time, she desperately wanted to cling to life! The regrets she had were all rushing toward her thoughts, and the edges of her eyes formed unshed tears.

The urge to beg for her sister to spare her was followed by an instant flashback of their lives and what led them here...

From the beginning of their shared birth, to her sister's disownment, to being driven out, hunted down, and announced deceased. Who would've thought she was still alive and that she cultivated to this extent? If she had known...she would've used all her means to kill her for certain!

A stinging bitter sensation itched at her teeth, and she glared at her would-be killer. Hatred. Pure, unadulterated hatred. For the world, to the heavens, to the fool who announced her dead, to the traitors, to the Golden Life Pavilion's one-sided exile, to Wei Wuyin for his grudge that caused it, to Bai Lin who resisted so strongly, to her ancestors for being stupid fools who cultivated a flawed method, and to herself for allowing this all to happen.

"Sister." The Traceless Emptiness Void Queen was a mass of surging energy, and she appeared before the Matriarch of the Tang Clan, her fists clenched while fixed space quivered, and she threw her fist with the ferocity of a thrown Lance! She wanted to obliterate her sister down to the tiniest molecules!

Within her eyes, behind the veil, was pure, unadulterated hatred paired with glacial killing intent. "Go to hell." Her voice was like a trigger to both of their memories. Shortly before she was hunted down, her sister had told her those exact words, and she gnashed her teeth and ran away while being pursued like a scared doe. She had never forgotten those delightful words from her lips.

She could never forget.

Today will be the day it all comes to an end.

"Haaa." A sigh resounded. It was heavy, omnipresent, and extremely domineering. It existed throughout time and space, distorting the senses, and the next words came into the mind of everyone present.

It sounded like an irresistible command; it sounded dimensionally foreign; it sounded potentially endless.

It sounded like...za...waru...do...

Then, as if the world bleched in a deep bass, a torrential wave swept across the twin sisters and everyone else. They both were mere inches from each other, the fist of the Traceless Emptiness Void Queen was only two inches from coming in direct contact with Matriarch Vermillion's chest. If it hit, she would unravel from every conceivable point, bursting into a terrifying death that other Earthly Saints would find extremely difficult to reverse.

They stared at each other.

What...was...this?

The entire world had...stopped?!

A white-robed figure arrived slowly beside the two. Their eyes wanted to constrict, but they couldn't even generate the slightest movement. While their

ability to form conscious thought had remained intact, their power and body had all frozen completely.

But their thoughts were unified: "WEI WUYIN?!"

Wei Wuyin was holding onto a grey-colored talisman that exuded endless Temporal Power, reminiscent of an Earthly Saint, but it exuded the profound aura of the Minor Authority of Time. It was burning rapidly with Void Flames.

Wei Wuyin looked at the Traceless Emptiness Void Queen, his silver eyes bore upon her with cold indifference. "Should I kill you?"

"...!" The two sisters both had their hearts clenched violently as if seized by a gigantic, forceful hand. What was this? What the hell was this?!

The world was frozen! They couldn't even fathom the level of Temporal Power needed to halt a Highlord and an Earthly Saint, let alone if everyone else in the vicinity was frozen. For the first time since she had been hunted like a dog, the Traceless Emptiness Void Queen was terrified. Deeply terrified.

Wei Wuyin gently touched the Traceless Emptiness Void Queen's hand, and then pushed lightly. Her body felt as if all resistance had been bypassed, and she was pushed across fixed space at unthinkable speeds. This was Spatial Shifting!

Wei Wuyin was forcefully Spatial Shifting her! An Earthly Saint! Her thoughts were chaos and fear.

Then, he reached out to grab the Matriarch's slender waist and moved away from the original path of the fist.

A pop resounded.

The world regained its sense of normalcy!

The raging power that the Traceless Emptiness Void Queen had unleashed barreled toward Matriarch Vermillion's original location, tearing apart fixed

space and borrowing a hole into it. A sporadic burst of multicolored light flashed, a sign of chaotic space leaking out!

Then, by natural law, space repaired itself and regained normalcy.

But not a single person here dared to move; the Volcanic Fist True King's eyes were wide and his body was intensely shivering. He had never experienced such unimaginable terrifying circumstances, a sensation of weakness and helplessness surged into his heart as he recalled the feeling of being frozen. He couldn't even breathe.

"..."

Matriarch Vermillion was in Wei Wuyin's embrace, resembling a confused damsel who had just been saved, her eyes wide and shaken, her hands clutching Wei Wuyin's robes, and her mouth agape.

Wei Wuyin looked at her, his silver eyes locking with her astonished eyes, and he said: "Bring me to Hong Ru."

"O...kay." There was no disobedience or reluctance in her voice. She no longer dared to have any thoughts as she stared up close at this breathtakingly handsome man. The absolute charm he exuded as he stopped her sister and brought her away had ignited a strange feeling in her heart.

Since young, she had always been domineering and arrogant, forceful and aggressive, but for the first time in her life, her freely tyrannical spirit was tamed by five words and a look. What power...

If she knew that her sister felt a similar feeling but from four words, not five, she wouldn't even be surprised.

The Traceless Emptiness Void Queen just stood there, her eyes shaking intensely, and her breathing was heavy as can be. She didn't even dare to run. Could she even run?

"You, come with us." Wei Wuyin glanced at the Earthly Saint and commanded. The twin sisters were being ordered around! Moreover, the Traceless Emptiness Void Queen canceled her Vitality Ignition Art, and then slowly approached with the most docile aura imaginable. There was not the slightest indication that she would attack, only bright curiosity behind her fearful gaze.

"Lead the way," Wei Wuyin instructed and Matriarch Vermillion nodded softly. She was released from Wei Wuyin's embrace, gave her sister a strange look, and then quietly flew toward Unity.

The twins, one in front and one behind, followed Wei Wuyin as a Voidship trailed them from behind. The ship had survived, albeit just barely.

----

They soon arrived before a strange Void Gate within the Tang Clan's gorgeous palace. It was said to be where the Ancestor of the Tang Clan had Ascended to the Mystic Ascendant Realm, and the location had a searingly hot climate, but there was an accompanying wind of air that made it oddly comfortable.

The Void Gate had two Vermillion Birds depicted in an artistic design, and it glowed scarlet red. With Xiao Bing and Tuo Bihan, Wei Wuyin was escorted by Matriarch Vermillion to his left and the Traceless Emptiness Void Queen to his right. Xiao Bing was directly to his right, holding his hand while eyeing the two Ascended beings.

The way their gazes shifted toward Wei Wuyin brought her a sense of discomfort, and she didn't know why. But considering how calm Wei Wuyin was, they certainly weren't a threat. She had to resist the urge to ask Wei Wuyin about that strange temporal change, and that was extremely difficult.

Wei Wuyin inspected the Void Gate and his eyes brightened. "What a strange Void Gate. I can't even sense where it leads...No wonder I couldn't sense Hong Ru's ring," Wei Wuyin thought to himself. He had presumed Hong Ru's ring was destroyed during the conflict, which wasn't an unlikely scenario, and one of the core reasons he decided to act swiftly to find her.

If she was dead, he could hope that it was recent so it could be reversed. But facing this Void Gate, he realized that this Secret Realm of the Tang Clan was unordinary. As a True Void Dragon, this invigorated his curiosity.

"Was this made with the Minor Authority of Space?" Wei Wuyin inspected the Void Gate deeply, and he more or less gauged how it was structured, and this answered why he was unable to pierce through it with his bloodline and comprehension of space.

"This is the Blazing Graveyard of Blessed Vermillions, our greatest secret, and reason for the Tang Clan's prominence." The Traceless Emptiness Void Queen softly said as her eyes became emotional while observing the gaze. Her eyes told a deep, painful story, but she held it back as she gulped. Thinking of Wei Wuyin's earlier words, her spine shivered and she went silent.

"The Vermillion Graveyard is where we placed our greatest disciples to prepare for the upcoming Chosen King Competition. Junior Hong Ru was placed here alongside our other Saintesses, Heroes, and Geniuses to finalize our Chosen," Vermillion Matriarch explained calmly.

This was where Wei Wuyin had always wanted to visit! He intended to bring Bai Lin here after kidnapping Tang Xingyun and blackmailing the Tang Clan for information, but it seemed that he needn't resort to such sordid matters. They were going to lead him directly in!

## PARAGON OF SIN

### Chapter 1202 1196:Emotions Of Black & White

The Blazing Graveyard of Blessed Vermilions was a Secret Realm that's existence predated the Mystic Enlightenment Era—over fifty-eight thousand years ago; during ancient times, before Imperial Clans dominated the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region, cultivators and beasts were not disjointed in their relationship, both governing their own societies, starfields, and stellar regions.

The Desolate Dragnet Stellar Region was a prime example of this history. It was named after the dragon lineage beasts that inhabited it and its inhospitable environment unsuitable for cultivators. However, similar to how societies had divisions, there were alliances between them as well.

The Blazing Unity of Twin Flames was irrefutable evidence of this; the Cultivation Method was devised by cultivators and structured under the principles of Vermilion Birds and Fire Phoenixes, two birds with uniquely powerful flames. By cultivating this method, cultivators could emulate the two birds' flames and forge bodies that resemble theirs.

During that time, Vermilion Birds and Cultivators were allied, and they survived, traded, fought, and survived together in the Sealed Regions. Unfortunately, the Sealed Regions' altered environment was no longer conducive to sustaining a Genesis Beast's flourishing societies, and a great war caused their eventual downfall. With the Sealed Region separated from the World Beyond the Fold, there was no longer a Solar Star exuding lifebearing and sustaining solar essence for beasts at the Mystic-level.

To put it simply, they began to die off rapidly—they starved. Their bodies regressed toward the Mortal Dao, thereby lowering their intelligence and

diluting their bloodline, eventually devolving into feral beasts with the bare minimum of intelligence.

Bai Lin was of the crane lineage, an avian borne from a mixture of Fire Phoenix and tons of other beasts, a desperate attempt made to maintain their existence. It had failed—Fire Phoenix, Vermilion Birds, Dragons, Garudas, and other beasts that were once flourishing went extinct. They became myths.

They became lesser birds, lizards, and horses.

Unlike beasts, human cultivators thrived under adversity, and they survived through the decline using various methods. Eventually, throughout the Ancient Era, the Mystic Enlightenment Era, the Heaven-Bound Imperial Era, the Dark Stars Era, and the Aeternal Sky Era, they developed from the ground up and entered the Way of Mysticism. It perfectly displayed human cultivators' extreme resilience and will to survive.

The Secret Realm, the Blazing Graveyard of Blessed Vermilions, was the designated ancestral grounds of Vermilion Birds to house their deceased bodies, a burial place respected and secured by profound means. Unless one was a Vermilion Bird or cultivated the method to emulate their blazing aura, it was impossible to enter through this Void Gate.

Wei Wuyin calmly observed the Void Gate as he was told all this by Matriarch Vermilion. The history lesson was things he had already known. Xiao Bing and Tuo Bihan's expressions, however, were full of unconcealed marvel.

The Traceless Emptiness Void Queen's eyes flashed beneath her veil, and her emotions grew unstable. She glanced at Wei Wuyin's tall figure; her mind stuffed with the imagery of his eyes as she was helpless, at his complete mercy, and still unable to comprehend what had happened. Without being prompted, she began: "Those who try to peek into the Vermilion Graveyard

without permission are considered the vilest criminals. Being exiled by the clan was the best outcome while suffering immediate execution was not only the worst outcome but also the most likely to happen."

"..." Matriarch Vermilion glanced at her sister, her eyes narrowed. "To trespass deserves such punishment," she icily said. "It is an insult to our ancestors. A violation of the greatest degree to the Tang Clan and our origins."

"Go to hell!" The Traceless Emptiness Void Queen gnashed her teeth, her fists tightly clenched, and murderous light erupted fiercely within her eyes. If Wei Wuyin wasn't present, she would wring this obnoxiously self-righteous bitch's neck until all the puss spewed out of her skin.

"Hmph!" Matriarch Vermilion sneered.

The atmosphere grew tense, and the passively released aura of an enraged Earthly Saint was oppressive. Tuo Bihan and Xiao Bing winced, their hearts starting to race and sweat beginning to form on their foreheads.

"Enough," Wei Wuyin softly said. The atmosphere instantly settled into serenity. They both obediently obeyed, no longer speaking to each other. Instead, they focused their gaze on Wei Wuyin as he began to walk forward. When he reached the Void Gate, Wei Wuyin was genuinely impressed.

This Void Gate was forged using the Minor Spatial Law. The profundities inside perfectly conjoined Fixed, Stable, and Chaotic Spatial Energies. It was a self-contained Secret Realm, a realm surrounded by chaos—a Chaos Realm.

The Battlefield was also a Chaos Realm, and even though the scale of this Secret Realm was considerably smaller and less profound, it was equally as terrifying. To enter or exit, a cultivator didn't need a basic Void Gate or Void

Point but Stellar Transit Light, an amalgamation of Chaotic and Fixed Spatial Forces. Stellar Transit Light was Chaotic Spatial Shifting.

However, there were additional layers that were independently established on the Void Gate itself. It would actively restrict those without Vermilion Bird's Aura from entering. This type of semi-permeable formation was well-crafted and a sign of an expert.

This was a product of a unified effort among beasts and cultivators. Wei Wuyin was able to determine this much with his knowledge of two lives, grasping principles of the World Beyond the Fold. In some areas, the development of the Sealed Regions exceeded the ancient civilization prior to the Sealing Array, but in others, there was still a stark contrast of knowledge and understanding, so it made sense that the Tang Clan still referred to this realm as a Secret Realm.

"Both of your preconceptions of limitations need to be shattered," Wei Wuyin indifferently stated. Then, he tapped against the Void Gate three times, and each time infused a different aspect of Spatial Force—Fixed, Stable, and Chaotic.

Then, he sensed it.

A wave of cool relief swept his mind; he sensed Hong Ru's Spatial Ring. He instantly felt the feedback of her lifeforce; it was lively and vibrant.

"Alchemic Sovereign Wei..." Matriarch Vermilion grew a little anxious. She feared that Wei Wuyin would destroy the Void Gate by trying to do something reckless. She instinctively wanted to warn him to be careful. After all, the Void Gate was a product of an ancient civilization.

However, before she could put her anxiety into words, the Void Gate activated, and a surging wave of light erupted outwards. When it calmed down, a vortex was multicolored light twisted and churned—a portal!

"Bypass the restriction, touch upon the essence of space, and pierce through; the pathway has been opened to all. Shall we?" Wei Wuyin turned to see the agape Matriarch Vermilion and Traceless Emptiness Void Queen. They were twins, and at this moment, their likeness was eerily the same, down to the wide eyes to the extent their jaws had dropped.

Wei Wuyin reached out to Xiao Bing, and the latter was stunned. "Let's go see Hong Ru," Wei Wuyin's words caused Xiao Bing's eyes to alight with joy, and she smiled beautifully, reaching out to grab Wei Wuyin's hand. The two sauntered into the portal side-by-side. Tuo Bihan chuckled softly after catching a glimpse of their shock, entering soon after.

The Highlord and Earthly Saint were unable to believe what had just happened. The two exchanged gazes as if asking if this was reality.

" ..."

Suddenly, Matriarch Vermilion's eyes constricted. She realized her current situation, but it was too late. Before she could move, the Traceless Emptiness Void Queen blocked her way, her eyes as cold as a blizzard of icy death.

" "

The two stared at each other. Matriarch Vermilion clenched her teeth, "Do you think Alchemic Sovereign Wei will agree to you acting recklessly a second time? Should I die, you may as well follow me by ending it yourself. Or do you think you can run? Run from him?" She fully leveraged Wei Wuyin's name here, clutching at all straws.

"..." The Traceless Emptiness Void Queen icily observed the squirming-for-life sister of hers. The urge to end her life here and now was raging in her soul, but she held back in the end. "Step down as the Tang Clan's Matriarch," she said.

"What?!"

"Your life is hanging by a thread, but you and your ilk have already driven the Tang Clan near its demise. Do you think I acted now because it was convenient? Do you think I had the means and designs to infiltrate the Aeternal Sky Starfield with countless foreign allies because I'm invincible or something? Think Tang Heihei, think."

"..." Tang Heihei's eyes flickered.

The Traceless Emptiness Void Queen, Tang Baibai, heaved a soft, exhausted sigh. "I was sent to save the Tang Clan, and while I hate it, my blood runs through these lands as much as yours. Even if I was stripped of my lineage, I still possess the Mark of the Vermilion in my heart."

"Save?" Tang Heihei was unable to process Tang Baibai's words.

"Not accounting for the fact you offended Alchemic Sovereign Wei, the Tang Clan has been strangled from all sides, being alienated by the Golden Life Pavilion and all its allies, especially since the Imperial Clan has long since severed their relationship with us. We no longer have allies anywhere, and within our territory are traitors waiting to seize the opportunity to betray us; my actions today were not plans made over many decades or centuries of a bitterly contained need for vengeance, little sister, but by someone else's design. I'm simply riding the wave." Tang Baibai's words caused Tang Heihei's heart to race.

"I don't understand. Even if that is true...we can and will survive." She refused to believe that eventual outcome. Just like now, they could overturn the situation by getting in Wei Wuyin's good graces, even if they had to grovel, and the issue with the Golden Life Pavilion would resolve itself shortly thereafter.

A flash of pity flickered through Tang Baibai's eyes, "It's not so simple. You really don't know, do you?"

"Know what?!" It was hard not to get emotional, given the discussion. The Tang Clan was her life, and she refused to believe she'd drive it to the edge of collapse and push it off. Momentary suffering and decline were common among all clans; without this attempted coup, the Tang Clan would be perfectly fine with the Mythical Oaths established and the Vermilion Domain.

Tang Baibai stared into her sister's eyes. Then, she removed her veil to display a similar likeness and her eyes. "Your daughter is no longer a virgin."

"...what?" Tang Heihei started, she took a few steps back, her eyes roaming in thought, and then she shook her head. "Wh-what are you talking about? Tang Xingyun isn't so reckless. Even if she were, this would only strengthen the relationship with the Imperial Clan. While it's a little early...it's fine. Yeah, this is an investment." At this moment, the Traceless Emptiness Void Queen could only watch as her sister stumbled into a secured sequence of logic, half-accepting those words, and from this...it was clear that the outcome of the truth was lingering in her subconscious.

She didn't deny that it was false—she just refused to believe that it was with someone other than Tian Yinwu.

"Tang Xingyun has debased and ruined herself, and while she has avoided suspicion publicly, the Imperial Clan already knows this. You should understand why this isn't publicly disclosed. This is your lifeline. Your only lifeline. So take it," Tang Baibai indifferently said before she began to walk toward the portal.

"Wa-WAIT!" Tang Heihei anxiously called out. Shockingly, her sister stopped. She mustered the strength to ask, "Why?"

"..." Tang Baibai halfway turned her head, "I met my niece. She reminded me of myself when I was younger—foolish and thoughtless of consequences. I don't want the Tang Clan to vanish because of such idiocy."

The response that Tang Heihei expected was not that, causing her heart to shake. She could only be stumped as she watched her sister enter the portal. She clenched her fists tightly, her body trembling fiercely, and her mind spiraling from the implications.

And then...

An idea formed.

A face of unearthly countenance belonging to a man of unfathomable power. Her eyes looked into the portal, and they brightened considerably, and she deeply inhaled before exhaling every turbid thought. With a firm will, she marched into the portal too.

### PARAGON OF SIN



The Vermilion Graveyard was a unique Chaos Realm—a realm of harmony, flames, and life. Unlike its name, there was a vibrant flow of life coursing throughout the realm. The geographical layout was that of a continent, flat and earthen. The earthy soil glowed a searing gold, resembling molten metal. It was a strange, extraordinary sight. There was no Solar Star in the sky; the radiance originated from the ground and painted the realm.

Spread throughout the realm were glowing mountains, emanating a vermilion light. These weren't mountains but burial mounds, each holding the corpse of a now-extinct beast. At the base of these mounds were ten-meter-sized doors made of Terra-Mystic Steel. The sheer value of these doors was monumental,

capable of stunning the entire world, yet they stayed firmly at the base of each mound, acting as gateways to the burial grounds of Vermilion Birds.

A portal formed at the center of this realm. Wei Wuyin, Xiao Bing, and Tuo Bihan walked out. The trio was immediately besieged by the sight of glowing radiance, and Xiao Bing exclaimed in astonishment. There was an enriched fire energy within the air, and it wasn't Mortal or Mystic. This fire energy was something special, abnormally pure, and containing vigorous physical vigor.

"Vermilion Flames?" Tuo Bihan's eyes widened in awe, breathing in the heat and fire energy. His heart pounded fiercely as his physical cells felt refreshed. As his body tingled, he was unable to hold his excitement as he exclaimed. "Young Prince, this place doesn't seem like a graveyard."

This was the same thought that Xiao Bing had. Unfortunately, she also felt a tinge of discomfort as her cultivation base and physique began to resist the fire energy within the air. Her breath became an icy white mist as her body naturally decreased its internal temperature as a defensive mechanism. In some ways, this was her homeostasis in effect. This went against her cultivation method's attribute, so this wasn't suitable for her to be in.

"Consciously suppress your cultivation base," Wei Wuyin held Xiao Bing's hand and instructed. She was taken aback but swiftly decided to listen. She suppressed her cultivation base, and her physique—the Everlasting Ice Essence Physique—began to take center point in this environment. Shockingly, her natural physiological response of homeostasis began to calm down, and the discomfort in her body started to decrease gradually.

"This..." Xiao Bing soon found that the unique fire energy was entering her in minute amounts, and it seemed to be interacting perfectly with her physical cells. This nearly overturned her understanding of Elemental energy. She looked toward Wei Wuyin for answers.

"Vermilion Flames are equally as unique as Nirvanic Flames. It isn't true 'fire' but a type of power in the form of 'fire'. Nirvanic Flames are a manifestation of incineration, absorption, rejuvenation, life, death, and rebirth in flame form. Unlike Nirvanic Flames, however, Vermilion Flames are the manifestation of incineration, physical vigor, life, and annihilation.

"Fire is merely its medium of existence, not its defined state. Have you ever heard of Ice Phoenixes?" Wei Wuyin asked as he located Hong Ru, finding her with ease through the Spatial Ring.

"Ice Phoenixes? They exist?" Tuo Bihan had just heard the history, but in the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region's recorded history, while Fire Phoenixes have existed and roamed the world, Ice Phoenixes were unseen.

"They do; Ice Phoenixes have a similar power: Nirvanic Ice. It carries the same principles as Nirvanic Flames, but its manifested form is Ice." Wei Wuyin explained as he took a few deep breaths.

"Ice? If they're the same thing, why the differentiation?" Tuo Bihan asked curiously. The urge to cultivate swelled within his heart.

"That's a question for the progenitor of phoenixes," Wei Wuyin chuckled lightly. After grasping Nirvanic Flames through Originfire, Wei Wuyin thoroughly understood the concept of 'manifested material state'. It was impossible to call Hellfire real 'fire'. It wasn't under the Law of Fire. The same could be said of Nirvanic Flames, a Unique Intent.

The best answer to explain the distinction would be that anything that can interact with the physical world must originate from the Material Dao.

Xiao Bing's eyes lit with keen brilliance, "So the fire energy I'm absorbing doesn't have any resistance toward my physique! Is my Astral Soul reacting instinctually to resist the Vermilion Flames because it can't differentiate it?"

She instantly found the crux of the issue; her knowledge from centuries of studying cultivation had not been wasted.

The Spirit of Cultivation could be largely considered a brain-like organ for cultivation, handling functions that didn't need active control, and it would fight against both good and bad things instinctively if deemed a threat. Since Xiao Bing's Astral Soul was an Ice Astral Soul, it would naturally reject all forms of 'fire' from integrating so thoroughly into the body's cells. However, when it was suppressed, her body naturally absorbed it without resistance.

Soon, two figures exited the portal. They were the twin sisters. Tang Baibai's eyes brightened as brightly as Xiao Bing had. The astonishment in her heart and mind boomed, and she held back the emotional wave threatening to erupt.

"Vermilion Energy!" Tang Baibai softly exclaimed. She breathed deeply, her cultivation base circulating intensely and her bloodline boiling. While she was a human, she originated from a long lineage of cultivators that refined and cultivated Vermilion Energy.

"Vermilion Energy?" Tuo Bihan was taken aback.

Tang Heihei walked beside Wei Wuyin, waving her hands as the bright red strands of Energy beautifully danced between her fingers. She was its master. Her Cultivation Method was synonymous with Vermilion Energy, and she cultivated a Vermilion Fire Soul, just as everyone else.

The Vermilion Modifier was unique to the Blazing Unity of Twin Flames, and it required the absorption of Vermilion Essence Blood to cultivate, granting them exceptionally powerful physical bodies and flames that could obliterate other flames. It allowed them to forge bodies so terrifyingly powerful that the Third Ascension was far easier for them than others.

"Vermilion Energy is the quintessential energy of Vermilion Birds. It contains vigorous life, physical presence, and destructive power." Tang Heihei explained proudly.

"It's not anything amazing. It's too flawed to be considered good," Tang Baibai mocked. She had cultivated a different method and entered the Earthly Saint Phase.

However, this modifier was restricted and incomplete, unable to accommodate complete Mystic Runes due to an inherent imbalance of Yin-Yang. It was this balance that built the foundation of cultivators during their path within the Realm of Accumulation, the Qi Condensation Realm. While unseen, it was extremely important.

Every Tang Clan expert who had started their Earthly Ascension failed, but they didn't fail the Earthly Ascension; they 'failed' after the Earthly Ascension. Their Mystic Cores would explode.

### BOOM!

#### Death.

They would undergo Mystic Deviation, an advanced form of Qi Deviation, and it was impossible to stop by any means.

"Flawed?" Xiao Bing was taken aback. She heard rumors, but she wasn't knowledgeable about the Tang Clan's Cultivation Method.

"Inherently so, yes. Vermilion Energy is too Yang-leaning. This is why women have the greatest chances of success when cultivating it; their Yin Sources are larger than men and assist in balancing out this imbalance. Unfortunately, it can only push it so far." Wei Wuyin's words caused both sisters to be shaken. Wei Wuyin had pinpointed the critical point of their issue.

"Then, can't they enhance their Yin Energy to balance it further?" Tuo Bihan knew a little more, so he asked this question.

But Wei Wuyin shook his head, "It's not the quality of Yin Energy that's the issue—It's the resilience of Yin Source."

### Yin Source?

Tuo Bihan knew this was the metaphysical storage of Yin Energy, also housing the Primal Yin and tethered to the body and soul. If a cultivator had a unique Yin Physique, their Yin Source would reflect it.

"Mystic Runes require a delicate balance of Yin-Yang Energy balance to form stably. After all, the principles of Creation are bound in Yin-Yang." Wei Wuyin only explained it to this point and didn't elaborate further. There was a solution in regards to Alchemy—enhancing the Yin Source. Wei Wuyin's Neo-Dawn Soul-Sea Elixir enhanced the Primary Light Source, but there wasn't a single product within the Mortal Ranks that could do the same. At least, not in the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region.

Just this was enough to understand the difficulties of affecting a cultivator's source, any type of source. These sources all were connected to the soul in some way, and if a cultivator lost their bodies, if their Primal Yin was untouched, then if they were given an Ever-Rebirth Pill, they would be reborn as virgins.

If they lost their Primal Yin, they would never be virgins again. Unless, of course, alchemy was used to regain their Primal Yin.

"Let's go," Wei Wuyin had decided to bring Bai Lin here in the future and brought Xiao Bing away while holding hands.

Tuo Bihan was contemplating when he looked at the Matriarch Vermilion and asked, "I heard that a Fire Phoenix's Essence Blood could solve your cultivation method's flaw. How?" His curiosity was too wild to stay silent.

"..." Tang Heihei lowered her eyes and followed Wei Wuyin without answering. This was clearly a sore point in her heart.

Tang Baibai had little reservation in saying the truth, answering with a faint smile: "The true cultivation method is a Fire and Ice Method, but due to the absence of the Luan Bird, the polar opposite of the Vermilion Birds, our ancestors found a divergent path by relying on the Fire Phoenix's similarities and true power to balance Yin-Yang to rein in the vigorous Yang of Vermilion Energy. It works, of course. The heavens never leave only one path to cultivate, but fate is cruel as the Fire Phoenixes Graveyard is inaccessible."

She moved to follow.

"Luan Bird? Tuo Bihan grew curious about this creature. A method of Ice and Fire...

----

Near the burial mounds were circular clearings inscribed with formations that gathered Vermilion Energy for cultivation. These areas had the densest concentrations of Vermilion Energy, so cultivating here was considerably faster. A group of young cultivators diligently cultivated the energy, circulating the Dual Unity of Twin Flames Method with startling efficiency.

The Chosen King Competition neared with each passing moment, so they had to cultivate fiercely to differentiate themselves from the others and claim the title of Chosen.

This group had a single figure surrounded by a dozen others. This figure was a gorgeous red-haired woman with a proud chest, sharp chin, and phoenix eyes. There was an edge of unconcealable pride within her bearing as she led the others.

"Focus your Inner Fire; Emulate the Vigor of the Stars; Rampant and Stir; Flow and Energize!" She spoke out a mnemonic of their Cultivation Method,

demonstrating the ancestors' insights regarding the profundities of Vermilion Energy and Vermilion Flames.

The words were profoundly effective as the bodies of these youths all erupted with stirring physical energy with traces of vermilion energy.

Suddenly, the woman opened her eyes, and two figures reflected within the depths of her pupils. They were as vivid as a fresh dream, reminiscent of memories that could only carry her hope and long-held desire.

There was little that needed to be said; the young woman rose, her scarlet robes tightly hugged her feisty figure, and her crimson eyes were tinged with wetness. How long had it been?

"Xiao Bing...Wei Wuyin..." Her tone was soft, yet to her ears, it was as loud as thunder, her heart and mind working in unison to make her believe that this was true. Not a dream.

It was not a dream.

"Xiao Bing! Wei Wuyin!" Hong Ru shouted.

"Hong Ru!" Xiao Bing matched her energy perfectly, her words equally as loud and emotional. They both had different paths, likely due to their respective struggles, but they met again after being separated by vast distances and countless celestial bodies.

Wei Wuyin calmly smiled; the joy in his eyes was evident for all to see.

#### Woosh!

"You're both here!" The feisty redhead, that was outspoken and sassy, rushed forward at unprecedented speeds. The juniors she had been instructing were blasted away, tumbling and rolling aside. She didn't mind them in the slightest as she rushed forward, and Xiao Bing held out her arms.

In a blink, the two women of nation-toppling beauties and top-class bodies hugged each other so tightly that breathing seemed difficult for both. Wei Wuyin was standing to the side, watching it all unfold with interest.

Then, Hong Ru's crimson eyes turned to him, and there was an unspoken wish in her eyes. Wei Wuyin was taken aback but not inexperienced, so he decided to join in. As he did, about to wrap his arms around them both and join the fun and excitement, Hong Ru reached out to grab him by the neck, her grip strong, and she pulled him close.

She was as brazen as he recalled; her lips were already pressed against his own fearlessly. The passion was overflowing. Even Xiao Bing was shaken, and when Hong Ru and Wei Wuyin finally separated, she noted the untold grievance in Hong Ru's eyes.

Hong Ru didn't hesitate to say: "You took me as your woman and didn't visit me all this time! I demand compensation!"

"..." Wei Wuyin was speechless.

Xiao Bing was similarly taken aback, but the urge to smile at how unchanged Hong Ru was erupted in her heart. Unfortunately, she didn't get the chance. She found lips pressed against her own, soft and forceful.

Hong Ru gave her one too!

#### Fearless!

Only after a long time did they separate, and the eyes of the rattled juniors and seniors were wide.

"I missed you," Hong Ru gently said.

"Well, might as well finish the triangle, no?" Wei Wuyin boisterously laughed as he moved, lifting Xiao Bing's chin lightly and giving her an equally passionate kiss even longer than Hong Ru's.

With this, the world would know their relationship.

# **PARAGON OF SIN**

**Chapter 1204 1198: Seizing The Graveyard** 

"They deserve death!" Hong Ru gnashed her teeth as she spat. The trio had given the juniors and seniors of the Tang Clan an astonishing show, and they began to walk the Vermilion Graveyard together, leaving the twins trailing a far distance behind. It was an odd sight to see a Highlord and Earthly Saint following obediently behind three mortals.

"..." Xiao Bing remained silent; she had just given Hong Ru a rough account of her life after their separation. She faintly described her circumstances, such as being lured by Bing Tian on the promise of excellent treatment, then being arranged a marriage, her imprisonment after the young master's death, and their change of attitude after a while. At times, she would glance at Wei Wuyin, whose handsome expression was a little icy at certain points, but she would soon receive a slight comforting smile.

Hong Ru, however, was absolutely livid and did little to hide it. She had always been outspoken and rarely hid her inner thoughts, wearing her heart on her sleeve, so she quickly said what she thought: the Bing Clan deserved total eradication. Shockingly, she hadn't placed the slightest blame on Wei Wuyin.

Like Xiao Bing, Hong Ru had deeply experienced the greater world, grasped the high level of this society, understood the peril that remained hidden, and learned of all the exceptional and godlike feats that Wei Wuyin had accomplished throughout these years. Just like the Alchemic Association of

their home starfield, the current Everlore Association was scheming and competing against Wei Wuyin, but on top of that, this association had also already made an attempt on his life.

She hadn't misunderstood in the slightest Wei Wuyin's two decades of being in strategic hiding, especially as he kept performing increasingly impressive feats and directed the future of the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region. She always knew that Wei Wuyin was of a different breed of cultivator. The silver-eyed youth initiated the beginnings of a new era before he was fifty in their home starfield! And now, he had essentially done the same on a greater stage.

She couldn't help but recall her naive thoughts when she first arrived here. When Bai Lin was nearly captured, she decided that her induction into the Tang Clan would become an act of espionage. She would infiltrate the Tang Clan's hierarchy, learn all about its operations and infrastructures, and then assist Wei Wuyin in bringing it down completely.

Hong Ru now realized that Wei Wuyin was growing to the point where he could eliminate the Tang Clan on his own, but she wasn't depressed. Instead, she was very impressed!

There was a heavy degree of pride and happiness growing in her heart every time she learned of Wei Wuyin's antics. She also grew terrified and anxious about Wei Wuyin's life and death, fearing the worst at times. When she heard the news that Wei Wuyin had attacked a recently established starfield, the Born True Starfield, and was besieged by thirty Earthly Saints, she was horrified.

Yet the turn of that story left her laughing heartedly.

She knew that her only goal was to live by the standards and hopes of Wei Wuyin, to become a Valkyrie worthy of following him, so she focused solely on cultivation. Given the immense amount of resources she received from Wei

Wuyin that were never late, never lacking, and never low or high grade, she felt all of Wei Wuyin's intentions.

In her heart, she hadn't expected to see him or Xiao Bing until she became an Ascended being and a prominent character within the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region. Seeing them so soon felt a little premature but was nevertheless a joyful event worth celebrating.

"So, did you come here to dual cultivate with us? Or, I guess it'd probably be a cultivation threesome. Hehe," Hong Ru snickered mischievously, and Xiao Bing's complexion turned a shade pinker from ear to ear. The ice princess of the Myriad Monarch Sect was fiercely blushing!

Wei Wuyin didn't shrink back at the suggestion, "I wouldn't mind."

"..." Xiao Bing.

"Oh? Here I thought you were waiting for us to ascend, gain the greatest benefit for yourself, and not hinder our cultivation." Hong Ru eyed Wei Wuyin suspiciously, unable to comprehend his intentions. The Primal Yin of talented female cultivators was essential in fueling their cultivation. This was even more so given how Wei Wuyin had recently given her a variety of Yin Energy refining products, which had explosively increased her cultivation toward an exceedingly grand foundation.

Her initial thoughts were that the products were in preparation for their dual cultivation life in the future. She was unaware that her cultivation method was too yang-focused, so bolstering her Yin had created a type of balance that allowed her to cultivate at a far faster pace than most. While it wouldn't solve the overarching issue of the Earthly Ascension, the assistance was not to be understated. In these recent years, she had become the most likely to seize a Chosen spot among the Tang Clan.

Xiao Bing then described what happened after the Bing Clan changed their tune, the near-destruction of Ice Jade, and how she was attacked by the perpetrator. Wei Wuyin had timely swooped in and saved her life, sending her away, and then settled the issue before meeting her. She leaked a little bit of her thoughts as well, allowing Hong Ru to understand that her feelings toward Wei Wuyin had changed.

"Thank you," Hong Ru didn't say any superfluous words as she earnestly thanked Wei Wuyin for saving Xiao Bing's life. She was like a wife giving thanks, and Wei Wuyin was stunned at the change of demeanor.

"You never have to say those words again; you're both precious women in my life, those who've chosen to stay by my side; even if the sky collapsed, I'd be there holding it until you become strong enough to shatter it." Wei Wuyin's words sent lightning through their minds, allowing them to realize that his thoughts weren't that of a typical man. He wanted them to succeed the most, establish their power, and grow to shatter all calamities they faced themselves!

"Okay," Hong Ru brightly smiled alongside Xiao Bing. The two created a color-siphoning scene of picturesque and enviable beauty. They had both always been beauties, famous figures even in the Myriad Monarch Sect, and now they were far more outstanding than ever before.

The trio talked for over an hour, discussing various matters, laughing, snickering, or reminiscing about past events. There was a unique harmony, and the dynamic of Hong Ru and Xiao Bing was perfectly balanced, truly a match made in heaven.

"Can I stay in the Tang Clan?" Soon, the matters of the future came about, and Hong Ru curiously asked. She knew that Wei Wuyin's arrival meant a change, but she was unsure of what that change meant. She wasn't against following his arrangements, but she did have some emotional attachments to

some of the people here. Unlike Xiao Bing whose experience was littered with discomforting experiences, her experiences were mostly mild and filled with challenges to become Chosen.

She had juniors and seniors who were both annoying and great, so it was hard for her to simply leave. At the very least, she wanted to say goodbye.

"In the Tang Clan? No. The Tang Clan is on the verge of collapse. But here, sure. I'll establish a separate Void Gate tethered to the Endless Prosperity Domain's Worldly Equilibrium Moon. You can choose where you wish to cultivate at any time." Wei Wuyin didn't want to hinder Hong Ru's cultivation by shifting her from an ideal cultivation environment.

"Y-you can do that?" Hong Ru was stunned.

Wei Wuyin merely smiled, continuing: "This realm is extremely isolated. Unless an exceptional expert who grasped the Minor Space Law came, entering without the Vermilion Bird's Aura is nigh-impossible, so your safety is more or less secured. This will also allow me to deliver resources to you without you needing to exit. Moreover, I can gather some of this Vermilion Energy to concoct a few products beneficial to your physique establishment, Astral Core refinement, and general cultivation."

"Oh!" Hong Ru was deeply astonished that her heart began to race wildly.

Xiao Bing was happy for Hong Ru.

Wei Wuyin grabbed Xiao Bing's hand, "Also, you should stay here too. The Vermilion Energy here can help balance and improve your Everlasting Ice Essence Physique, tempering it with every breath."

"Temper?" Xiao Bing was taken aback.

Wei Wuyin nodded, "Your Everlasting Ice Essence Physique has flaws as well. I noticed after we kissed, but it seems to be lacking a strong Yang

component. However, the Yang Energy can't be too overpowering, and the Vermilion Energy here can be refined gently to help solve some of these issues. It might not be a complete solution, but it'll allow your cultivation foundation to rise by leaps and bounds."

"...!" They were both shaken by this new information. But then, a surge of unbridled joy flashed in both of their eyes simultaneously. They could cultivate together?! When they looked at each other and saw the same elation, they both blushed fiercely.

Wei Wuyin laughed at how cute they were. But within his mind, he was slightly solemn. The Heavenly Daos was meticulous, and this connection between Xiao Bing and Hong Ru was genuinely a match made in heaven. He could already pierce into the Heavenly Daos' original intentions for these two Blessed-companions.

From henceforth, it was best that they cultivated together, and when they ascended, he would certainly gain an explosive benefit through dual cultivation.

----

Wei Wuyin established a Void Anchor in the Vermilion Graveyard, leaving behind Xiao Bing and Hong Ru for now. He promised to return after he finished his cultivation, but they seemed unbothered by the abrupt separation as if they expected it. Wei Wuyin could only bitterly smile at their attitudes, but he understood that their breadth of knowledge was no longer restrained, and they were extremely happy to be together again.

"I'll have the Golden Life Pavilion construct a Void Gate here," Wei Wuyin calmly informed the twins. His tone left no room for arguments. Your graveyard? No, my graveyard.

"..." Tang Baibai silently watched all this unfold. She felt heart-pulsating emotions stirring in her soul; Wei Wuyin had single-handedly opened one of the most restrictive locations in the Aeternal Sky Starfield with absolute ease. He didn't just enter but allowed her, Xiao Bing, and Tuo Bihan to enter without any issue.

Moreover, he was directly seizing the Vermilion Graveyard and connecting a separate Void Gate within. She had only heard rumors and second-hand gossip of his feats, power, and means, but the actual truth was even more insane to witness!

"I have no objections to this, Alchemic Sovereign Wei. However, may I ask...what do you intend to do about the chaos outside?" Tang Heihei probed Wei Wuyin's intentions, especially considering he hadn't stated any official position yet.

"Hm? You want me to take the lead on that?" Wei Wuyin revealed a hint of surprise in his tone. For the Tang Clan's Matriarch to say this, her situation was certainly a desperate one. After all, she had ordered the capture of Bai Lin, which left her severely injured. It was already lucky Wei Wuyin wasn't assisting her enemies, especially since Hong Ru's original intention of becoming a high-level figure in the Tang Clan was to act as a spy to bring about its demise.

"If you want," Tang Heihei knew that the conspiracy of this coup d'état was greater than the Tang Clan, likely tacitly agreed upon by the Imperial Clan and who knows what other organizations, and while risky, this was her best option. The earlier words of Tang Baibai only confirmed her suspicions, and given the knowledge of Tang Xingyun's infidelity being revealed, this only exacerbated the situation. The only way to survive...

Tang Baibai glanced at this stubborn sister of hers. What was she scheming in that conniving mind of hers? Despite knowing the truth of the situation, she

was still taking the initiative to plot away. How foolish! A flash of killing intent flickered in her eyes.

"I don't," Wei Wuyin indifferently replied. He had no love for the Tang Clan, and while Hong Ru had made some friendly acquaintances, taking them in wouldn't be an issue if they were in danger. It was unlikely, however, because Tang Baibai wanted to overthrow the current regime of leadership, not the outstanding young talents. They could simply stay in the reformed Tang Clan.

"Deal with it yourself," Wei Wuyin's voice was glacially indifferent. He signaled for Tuo Bihan to get ready to leave, causing the old man to feel a little forlorn. The Vermilion Graveyard was a cultivation holy land.

Tang Heihei lightly clenched her fists, "I wish to conduct a trade with you, Alchemic Sovereign Wei."

Wei Wuyin was astonished. In this situation? A trade? He couldn't fathom what this Matriarch of a Noble Clan was trying to achieve. As for trading the Vermilion Graveyard for assistance, Wei Wuyin had already laid claim to it, and there was no wiggle room there.

This was 'his' graveyard now.

However, he was curious. "A trade? Go on."

Tang Baibai was unable to understand what her sister was thinking.

Tang Heihei took a deep breath and said: "Throughout the countless years, a secret has been passed on from Vermilion to Vermilion and no one else."

"Oh?" Wei Wuyin was intrigued.

She continued solemnly: "For a period of respite and safety under your protection, I'll tell you the location of the Fire Phoenix's Nirvanic World of Eternal Rest and everything I know about it."

The Nirvanic World of Eternal Rest was the Fire Phoenix's graveyard!

# **PARAGON OF SIN**

Chapter 1205 1199: Origin Of Hatred

"Oh?" Wei Wuyin's interest was piqued at the mention of the Fire Phoenix graveyard. However, he faintly smiled as he glanced at the seemingly desperate and resolved Matriarch Vermilion. The Tang Clan's leader truly seemed as if she was going to divulge some astonishing secret.

As for her twin, the silent and subtly enraged Traceless Emptiness Void Queen, her pupils shrank as her heart was racing wildly. It was clear that she had an inkling of its existence, likely formulated by rumors, ancient records, or personally-crafted theories. Since the Vermilion Birds of ancient history had a special location for their deceased, then Fire Phoenixes should have one too due to their close resemblance, right?

"...!" Tang Baibai's pupils constricted from disbelief, shock, uncertainty, and confusion. A thought suddenly flashed through her mind: if Tang Heihei gained Wei Wuyin's protection, wouldn't their plans fail?! Just a single move of his had rendered her helpless, the fear of being under complete control, where her life and death were no longer hers, still lingered within her like a ghastly wisp.

"Ridicu-" She instinctively wanted to refute the possibility of its existence but was interrupted by a cold, indifferent sensation that seized her heart and mind with frightening force. She peeled her eyes away, finding the source, and saw those silver eyes of Wei Wuyin staring at her with the utmost calm. She could only silently gulp and clench her fists tightly in her agitation.

When she glanced at her sister, her eyes widened. The sister she thought would be leaping with joy was also pale in the face, her hands trembling, and her chest heaving up and down—she was terrified! Looking at her sister's fear-ridden expression, a flash of pity surfaced within her thoughts, and she couldn't help but wonder if that was how she looked just now.

Wei Wuyin eventually broke the developing tension with a sigh, "Firstly, true Fire Phoenixes don't have graveyards." Wei Wuyin shook his head, causing both sisters to reel with shock. Indeed! Fire Phoenixes don't have a 'resting' place. When Fire Phoenixes experience true death, they start to burn so bright and hot that space itself melts, and then they merge into the Void as their souls traverse through samsara.

Their 'graveyard' was the location where every member of the phoenix species would go during their Nirvanic Rebirth. In a way, they had a 'graveyard', but it wasn't something normal cultivators could step into by just knowing about it. This was information that he'd obtained from the Sacred Library, and it was validated by several renowned scholars and Heavenly Seers.

They did, however, have birthing grounds. These were locations where adult phoenixes would give birth to their young. It wasn't a place of death and finality but a place of life and beginning.

"Secondly, I roughly know where this place you call the Nirvanic World of Eternal Rest is located." Wei Wuyin recalled Huoyan Liulan's phoenix feather that was refined into a treasure. If his thoughts were correct, the Hexaflame Starfield was the location of the secret realm, or at least one of them. He had already decided to search for it after his Solar Star project was finished. It wasn't exactly the safest place to enter, even if he brought Bai Lin with him.

"And lastly, why would you tell me this? I have an actual Fire Phoenix at my disposal, one that could easily sense others of its kind, so finding it is an easy

feat for me. It'll just take a little time and effort. If I was unaware of its existence, you informing me that it's real was the same as throwing away your rights of negotiation from the very beginning. Such pure, uncalculated idiocy on your part. Shouldn't you allude to something beneficial to me? Swear upon it with fool-proof and perfectly structured oaths? After luring me in, baiting that unknown piece of great benefit, you could then obtain my assistance for the information?" Wei Wuyin faintly smiled, the amusement in his tone was not lost on anyone's ears.

"..." Both sisters were stunned outright, especially the Vermilion Matriarch. Her eyes were bulging and her heart was racing. It seemed she only realized it after Wei Wuyin brought it forward. It wasn't that she was lacking in the brains department, as a Clan Leader she had a great degree of intelligence, foresight, and skills in scheming, but she was simply too desperate and made a critical mistake in her haste.

"Or did you forget that I'm only sixty-nine years old? That I have the wealth to have the entire world of cultivation act as my dogs for me to find anything I wish in the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region or beyond? That I'm not in a rush to find this area of yours, and my Fire Phoenix is extremely young, needing more time to learn her abilities before she seeks a greater level. I can spend decades, centuries, or even millennia idle and still have the freedom to search for it at any point I wish. Haha, it must've slipped your mind."

"I-I..." Tang Heihei was tongue-tied, her body was violently quivering as her mistake dawned on her. A grave, grave, grave mistake. Her plans were shattered by her own mouth and carelessness and the considerations she had were proven to be useless.

Tuo Bihan glanced at her disheveled appearance, feeling pity for the Tang Clan's Seventh Matriarch. Wei Wuyin was not the typical person that could be measured with any degree of common sense. He was an enigma that went

against the grain of expectation, and it was easy to forget who or what he was. A mere mortal youth, not even a hundred, that could bring fear to Earthly Saints!

In the end, Wei Wuyin didn't continue to crush Matriarch Vermilion's mind through words. "But I am interested in a few things, tell me this and I'll consider giving you a lifeline."

As if a dehydrated person had found an oasis, Tang Heihei's eyes brightly lit. She had just been driven into despair as her plan fell apart before it could even move an inch, and her mind was already thinking of how to survive after Wei Wuyin left, so this was like a gift from the heavens. "Al-Alchemic Sovereign Wei, please tell me."

Tang Baibai remained extremely silent. She wanted to act so badly, to silence her sister, to run away, but while standing before Wei Wuyin, she, an Earthly Saint held in the highest regard in the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region as a powerhouse of the ages, was obediently listening at the side. The level of stifling suppression she was facing despite Wei Wuyin being a mere mortal youth was humiliating to the utmost, yet she couldn't push herself to muster any resistance.

Seeing how polite and nervous her sister was, a sight she'd never seen before in her entire lifetime, Tang Heihei realized that Wei Wuyin was not an ordinary man by any means. Furthermore, he was only sixty-nine?! Sixty-nine!

Wei Wuyin nodded, "My first question: Why do you two have so much hatred between you two?" This was a question born from simple idle curiosity that was born from ignorance of two sets of memories.

"..." The twins looked at each other almost instinctively. A flash of complex emotions surged through both of their eyes, and the flash told a story of a

thousand tragedies. Yet the light in Tang Baibai's eyes quickly grew into rage and hatred, her expression scowling with killing intent.

"A long story..." Tang Heihei said with distant indifference. She clearly didn't wish to speak about it.

"Long? It's pretty simple really." Tang Baibai gained her voice at this moment, and she spoke with viscerally palpable disgust. "If you don't want, I will."

"..." Tang Heihei.

Then, Tuo Bihan and Wei Wuyin enjoyed a vividly described story from Tang Baibai's perspective. While it might be skewed and tainted by her hatred here and there, it was likely ninety percent true given her raw emotions.

#### It went like this:

Long ago, the Tang Clan's Sixth Matriarch was announced as pregnant, and the pregnancy was announced by the Grand Seer of the Golden Gate Pavilion as a very rare event through her divination, a Demi-Mortal Lord carrying triple fetuses—triplets. Moreover, the father was none other than the Burning Abyss Alchemic Sovereign, a renowned figure throughout the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region, originating from the Aeternal Sky Starfield's Imperial Clan.

Interest explosively and unpredictably boomed and began when the arrival of Alchemic Sovereigns from all over came over to offer their well-wishes and alchemical products designed to be taken prenatally. What was originally a mindless show of kindness became a trend and then a rabid competition among Alchemists regarding who can offer the best prenatal products. A storm of wealth and riches ravaged the Tang Clan that day and all sorts of expensive, curated products were laid on their doorstep by happenstance. They hired Earthly Saints and Highlords for a variety of pre-birth infusions, a competitive show of outstanding and disgusting wealth, with each Alchemic Sovereign trying to outdo the other.

Even the pre-Alchemic Saint Evergod and Ennea Hall participated alongside their respective forces. During this, the Divine Emperor personally agreed with the Sixth Matriarch that the Seventh Matriarch's firstborn will officially be wed to his 'officially recognized' Seventh Son.

The cause for all this was a figure that no one could forget—the King of Everlore! This was one of the first incidents that the legendary and unforgettable existence had caused, generating countless storms throughout the world, and it heavily defined the Tang Clan's future.

During the nine months gestation period, it wouldn't be an understatement that the Tang Clan's Sixth Matriarch experienced a greater degree of care and resources than any of the Aeternal Sky Divine Emperor's wives during their pregnancies. It was a stupendous event that was extremely difficult to be replicated.

Shockingly, when the pregnancy was completed, only two young girls were born! As for the third, there was none! This baffled the world as questions raged and even the Grand Seer had to make a statement. Supposedly, the third fetus had likely been devoured!

This instilled a wave of forlorn silence throughout the world. Shortly after, the Tang Clan's Sixth Matriarch went crazy. Despite the Grand Seer's announcement, she was vehemently insistent that her third child was alive, and that someone had taken her child!

As an Ascended being, how could she not be aware if her little girls were devouring each other in the womb? She wasn't a pathetic mortal, but after inspecting both infants, there were signs of a foreign third aura that tainted theirs. It heavily resembled a rare condition of Fetus Assimilation that mortals often experienced.

When various skilled Alchemists, Medical Sages, and even Imperial Monarchs had determined that the infants had indeed devoured the third, the Sixth Matriarch had gone absolutely mad. She shouted and screamed out conspiracy, and began her search for her third child...

She soon vanished without a trace.

However, before her disappearance, her distrust for the Imperial Clan was made public and she accused her husband of colluding with others to steal her child. Shortly after, the King of Everlore visited the Tian Clan. Later, the Tang Clan was no longer under any obligation to marry a member of the Imperial Clan. They were free.

An event that shook the entire world ended in an unsolved mystery, a tragedy, and a strange ending. However, the two remaining children were still alive. They were declared as twins, not triplets, and they were groomed to be the Seventh Matriarch of the Tang Clan and its future leader.

Tang Heihei wasn't very talented. Given the same amount of resources, she kept coming up short in every category against her sister. From an outsider's perspective, Tang Baibai was destined to be the next Tang Clan's Matriarch. It was even believed that she obtained the greatest benefit during their prenatal showing of fortune or rumors that she 'devoured' most of her unborn sibling.

The stigma of Tang Baibai's talent was synonymous with the blame for her mother's descent into madness by most, even her father. While Tang Heihei was largely ignored. But with the stigma set on one, the other one, Tang Heihei, experienced care and love from her father, something that Tang Baibai never experienced.

Tang Baibai wasn't very ambitious, but a curious girl with an adventurous streak, and one who already believed she would become the Tang Clan Seventh Matriarch.

Eventually, Tang Baibai voiced her curiosity to enter the Vermilion Graveyard. At the time, the location was considerably extremely sacred and only Chosen, Matriarchs, or Grand Elders could enter. To gain entry, she would have to either prove herself as a Chosen after entering the Third Stage of the Astral Core Realm or wait until she became the Seventh Matriarch by birthright.

At the time, she had tried a few times to enter, but her strength was never sufficient to so much as budge the protections against intruders, and she was often joked about and found cute for her repeated futile attempts by her Elders. Since she was going to become the Seventh Matriarch, few thought much of it.

Until...she was found in the Vermilion Graveyard.

A crime.

A grave, unforgivable crime.

By law, she was stripped of her lineage and exiled. This wasn't publicized, and it was reported that she had suffered Cultivation Deviation and died while trying to absorb an extremely rare Mystic-World grade material. She was unable to be revived.

But shortly after being exiled, Tang Baibai was hunted down by other cultivators. If it wasn't for a few loyal members of her mother's direct lineage assisting her, she would've died. One of those cultivators used a strange spell to shatter her life talisman by connecting it with their soul and ending their own life.

This gave her a chance to survive, and she escaped tearfully. Tang Heihei always wanted vengeance as a youth, but later came to accept her situation and grew content with her life. She even became faintly thankful for the events that happened. If it wasn't for that, she wouldn't have become an Earthly Saint with a legion of loyal followers and freedom to explore the vast Dark Void.

While she knew it was her father and sister who schemed against her, placing her in the Vermilion Graveyard after stoking her interest repeatedly, slyly giving her more tactics to try and enter as a curious youth, she decided to put all that behind her.

Until 'they' came knocking. All to save her former Clan and protect the descendants and legacy of those who gave their lives for hers.

"..." Wei Wuyin and Tuo Bihan were quite invigorated by the story.

As for Wei Wuyin, his eyes were fixated on Tang Heihei. Her story carried traces of the initial beginnings of what he would look for in a Blessed. Her following story as the Traceless Emptiness Void Queen felt as if it was heavily assisted by the Heavenly Daos.

But...

'You're not one...' Wei Wuyin felt a little confused. Could it simply be a matter of coincidence? He pondered the matter deeply, trying to find the reason for this feeling of incongruity.

"What happened to the Burning Abyss Alchemic Sovereign?" Tuo Bihan was more interested in the story instead.

"..." Tang Baibai looked at Tang Heihei with a side-eye.

"Dead," Tang Heihei answered in a deadpan manner.

"Dead?" Tuo Bihan frowned.

"He deserved death; he was nothing more than a perverse man that wanted the Tang Clan's legacy, secrets, and fortunes for himself." There was an extremely cold chill to her voice, likely indicative of a greater story.

"Then...was he the one who plotted against the stronger and more talented sister to get her out of the way? Is that why all that happened?" Tuo Bihan was extremely invested in this, and it was slightly abnormal.

Tang Baibai clenched her fists.

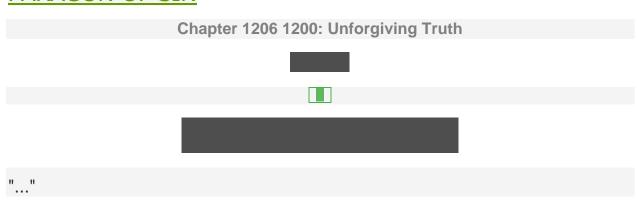
"No. I was the one who lured that man to act against his own daughter with promises of the Tang Clan's wealth and then planned to have her subdued and placed into the Vermilion Graveyard to face clan punishment. And I ensured the fact was publicly known among the clan so those in power couldn't hide it for the 'sake of the clan'. I wanted the seat, and I obtained it." There was an unapologetic shamelessness in Tang Heihei's tone, and she was fearless in her admittance.

She was already the Seventh Matriarch, and she did not need to hide her deed any longer. Her plan worked and she acquired resources sufficient to become a Demi-Mortal Lord and representative of a Noble Clan. She had even brought in her little sister-in-law from the Volcanic Fist True King's lineage—Highlord Scarletflame into her clan, strengthening it to new heights, capable of somewhat standing on its own.

"I see. My next question then." Wei Wuyin decided to move on after understanding the source of their hatred. Even if Tang Baibai had decided to stay away from the Tang Clan, it made sense she was unable to contain herself when facing her twin sister. As for the mother's situation, that was thousands of years ago, and Wei Wuyin didn't want to delve into that mystery.

"Tell me what prompted this coup d'etat."

# PARAGON OF SIN



The atmosphere instantly descended into an awkward state; the silence was palpable and stifling. Tuo Bihan immediately sensed this change; his aged eyes flashed with uncontained curiosity as he shifted between both sisters' varied expressions. The story behind this conflict seemed to have multiple layers! What a twisted drama! Certainly more creative than some books written by famous scholars, and he had the feeling that the situation was about to get increasingly juicy.

He had the urge to press for an answer, but their latent Mystic Ascendant Realm auras beat that urge back.

Wei Wuyin folded his hands behind his back; his piercing gaze burrowed into the two's mental fluctuations with acute powers of discernment. His seemingly simple and direct inquiry had created notable conflict within their thoughts. At first, he half-expected a boring answer as well, such as an opportunity was born and hatred instigated a long-expected rebellion, but the situation seemed to be more complicated than just that.

"Speak." Wei Wuyin's patience ran a little thin after several moments of silence. Tang Heihei was trying to solicit his assistance, and she was being so slow-footed with her response. He had very little stake in their situation either way, and perhaps justice would be served if Tang Baibai got vengeance for her past.

Tang Heihei's heart quivered; she had this strange feeling that she would face a calamity of epic proportions if she didn't speak now. The Seventh Matriarch hadn't expected Wei Wuyin to ask this question, especially given how their history was deeply explored. She had deliberately held nothing back to shift away from the reason, but Wei Wuyin had sensed an abnormality in the situation. Why else would he ask this targeted question?

She gnashed her teeth in her heart. Her original plan was to gain Wei Wuyin's support and then enact a misinformation campaign about his and Tang

Xingyun's relationship. Unless the Imperial Clan personally interrogated Wei Wuyin regarding whether her situation was his fault, this would buy her additional time. After all, Wei Wuyin had attacked Xun Yicao before the Empress and left unscathed. Clearly, the Imperial Clan had concerns about confronting Wei Wuyin, an unfathomable enigma that forced Trueborn to back down.

The rope she wanted to create would all vanish into smoke the moment Wei Wuyin learned the truth. After all, thousands of rumors about Wei Wuyin were spreading, and it was extremely difficult to confirm whether they were true or not. Not to mention time-consuming and bothersome for the young alchemist to handle. This was how Lin Xianxei's rumor went largely unnoticed yet was extremely effective in overturning the Lin Clan's situation.

She simply had to orchestrate a proper setting for their relationship to have formed, add a plausible reasoning for them, and construct a credible timeline. However, all her schemes went down the drain before they could even be enacted. Tang Heihei knew that if she didn't answer now, or if Tang Baibai decided to tell the truth after she lied or held back, chances were that Wei Wuyin would simply leave without the slightest interest.

Tang Baibai also had her own thoughts; Tang Xingyun's situation was incredibly sensitive, and she actually liked this niece of hers. She had a talent for cultivation, a will for adventure, and a daringness to live as she wanted.

It reminded her of herself when she was younger.

However, telling Wei Wuyin and Tuo Bihan, who weren't under any oaths, was a deeply unstable variable to keeping it a secret. While she also wasn't under any oath, she had been confident that Tang Heihei wouldn't tell anyone else. Now, however, she was going to. Tang Baibai had half a mind to take several steps back, informing her sister to keep it a secret, and at most, she'll have her imprisoned. Of course, she would be crippled as well.

But knowing how desperate her sister thirsted for power and status, this was extremely unlikely. Moreover, when she looked at Wei Wuyin, her heart was telling her that doing so was no different than offending this figure and would lead to a life-and-death crisis. She smartly decided to remain silent, leaving the choice to her sister.

Tang Heihei's eyes closed as she took several breaths, and when she reopened them, a decision was made!

"My daughter lost her virginity," she calmly and flatly said with little emotion.

"WHAT?!" Tuo Bihan was shocked to the limit! He was fully aware of Tang Xingyun, the Saintess of the Tang Clan and the fiancée of Tian Yinwu, the most explosive figure beside Wei Wuyin! This was...this was...THIS WAS!!!

With bulging eyes and quivering fingers, Tuo Bihan was sent mentally flying at the mere implications of such a statement. Tian Yinwu! Imperial Clan! Prebirth engagement! Divine Emperor's lineage! Pride! Honor! Cuckold! SCANDAL!!

For a solid minute, he was rummaging through his mind as all sorts of exciting and insane possibilities flowed. After hitting a state of peak excitement, with a needy and urgent smile infused with rampant interest, he asked: "To who?!"

The question that would be on anyone's lips was directly asked!

Wei Wuyin's outward reaction wasn't very intense, but his inward reaction was quite something! And this prompted a series of exceptional connections to generate within his mind, and the follow-up conclusions were astonishing. It was as if a crucial piece of information had been brought forth, assisting in completing the puzzle thus far.

"I don't know," Tang Heihei answered honestly. She had guesses, of course, but they weren't concrete with any evidence. After all, she had just been told about it by her sister a little while ago, and this was already a difficult pill to

swallow. Tang Xingyun's carelessness led to her being schemed against and nearly killed! Despite Tang Xingyun being her beloved daughter, she had a wisp of disapproval and anger in her heart. Who wouldn't?

Moreover, Tang Xingyun was still a mortal. This would ruin her future prospects as a cultivator. And for what? So a man could enjoy her body? It was stupidity at its highest!

Tang Heihei looked at her sister, her eyes also inquiring about the identity of the culprit. However, Tang Baibai shrugged. She said without any lies, "I was only told of her condition and that it was consensual. I confirmed it myself as well. But I've never sensed the yang aura intermixed into her yin aura, so I don't know."

"..." Tang Heihei felt a tad bit relieved at hearing this. She could still spin this and salvage the situation with time. A well-placed lie suggesting that it was a forceful incident by a greedy, lustful Ascended being, finding a proper patsy and slaughter...

#### Wait...

As someone born with a scheming mind filled with ambition and a distorted sense of morality, she recognized that her sister's words weren't very consistent with the outcome. The Imperial Clan knew that Tang Xingyun wasn't a virgin, and they had kept her in the Aeternal Sky Domain's capital, during which they instigated a coup d'état that would replace her as the Tang Matriarch and likely strip her of her title, labeling her as a vile figure unworthy of the Seventh Matriarch title postmortem. This would push forth a replacement for the Seventh Matriarch, being her more talented sister, and then invalidate the engagement between Tang Xingyun and Tian Yinwu. In with the good, out with the bad; In with the purity of white, erasing the turbidity of black.

Suddenly, her heart began to race rapidly, and fear flitted through her extremities and spine with a ghastly chill.

Tang Xingyun was never going to leave the Imperial Clan's territory, regardless of the outcome. This was what she realized!

"Interesting," Wei Wuyin rubbed his chin thoughtfully. Those silver eyes of his were exceptionally bright and lit with calculation. "So this is how it is. Beings with free will must be a hassle to deal with," Wei Wuyin jokingly commented with a light chuckle, thinking about how hard it must be for the Heavenly Daos to salvage the situation of a Blessed, especially when they court their own calamities.

He almost immediately knew that the culprit could only be Lin Ming, the Archaic Chosen of the True Element Sect! He also determined that Tang Xingyun and her mother were finished. The Imperial Clan decided to take this route, supplanting the Tang Clan's position, and salvaging Tang Xingyun's infidelity to secure Tian Yinwu's reputation.

But they were currently being affected by the Heavenly Daos' attempt to hide Lin Ming's involvement. If he had to guess, the two likely swore a Mythical Oath never to reveal the truth of their affair to those they didn't trust. Because of this, even being violently interrogated wouldn't work, and Tang Xingyun would likely never willingly give up Lin Ming's name.

"Al-Alchemic Sovereign Wei!" Tang Heihei's desperation reached its peak. Wei Wuyin could see that she had realized the situation and its inevitable outcomes. Regardless of what, the Imperial Clan was going to kill both of them and rid the world of any evidence of infidelity.

If he were in their situation, he would too. But they were bound by the Seventh Matriarch's Firstborn Marriage Agreement, so they had to go with this

roundabout and hasty manner of erasing Tang Heihei from the Tang Clan's registry—a loophole, so to speak.

If he had to guess, Heavenly Seers had a heavy hand in devising this strategy. He even suspected the involvement of the Golden Gate Pavilion, but he wasn't sure if the Imperial Clan was willing to allow them to grasp such an important secret.

"..." When he thought of this unfathomable power, he couldn't help but think of how out-of-place and atypical everything felt earlier, especially given Tang Baibai's history. Could the Golden Gate Pavilion have a hand in this from the beginning? As the strongest known faction of Heavenly Seers, they could easily grasp the truth regarding Tang Xingyun's infidelity.

There was something critical missing...

Regardless of what it was, he knew that this situation was an incredibly messy one from every angle. Tang Heihei's only choice was to rely on something else. The Imperial Clan wouldn't let her live, and they'll move to have her removed to salvage the situation, alive or dead. As for Tang Xingyun, the Imperial Clan will definitely either have her suffer a horrible 'self-inflicted' death or seal her indefinitely to 'judge' her for her mother's crimes. Perhaps both!

From Tang Heihei's shaky eyes, she knew this unforgiving truth.

Tang Baibai understood this too. While she liked her niece, she couldn't save her from her fate unless she made concessions and unsavory agreements AFTER becoming the Tang Matriarch. Such as returning to becoming Yin Cauldrons of the Imperial Clan...

"This is wild. If the world knew of this, the Imperial Clan would be a joke for thousands of years, even more so for Tian Yinwu." Tuo Bihan was like a

seated spectator watching a play, eating popcorn, and desiring to see how it all unfolded. He had no stakes here, so it was simply entertaining.

"Well, unless his luck has run out, Tang Xingyun should survive." Wei Wuyin thought and nodded in his heart. Everything thus far was a sign of the Heavenly Daos in action, trying to desperately preserve Lin Ming. He couldn't imagine how much Karmic Luck Value was exhausted with this.

Wei Wuyin faintly smiled, saying to the twins: "I shouldn't interfere. I dislike Tang Xingyun. No, I despise her. To be perfectly frank, just the sheer fact she was willing to condemn her entire clan for a man's momentary pleasure reaffirms my entire belief of her unreasonable selfishness that doesn't consider truth or facts. She's a loathsome woman through and through. One that could sacrifice her servant's life and abuse her status in a fair competition at her own convenience, completely at odds with my principles.

"Additionally, your Tang Clan hunted down Bai Lin, my Fire Phoenix, and injured her severely. She still intends to ravage your entire world with her flames, erasing the Tang Clan from existence one day. The sole reason you're still breathing the same air as us is because of the Imperial Clan's protection, which don't seem to truly exist anymore. To be perfectly honest, it would be reasonable for me to leave you in the lurch to squirm and die."

Those words were extremely shocking! Tuo Bihan agreed with Wei Wuyin, just the fact that Tang Heihei had issued an order that injured Bai Lin was sufficient for her to die many times over. This Highlord was only alive by the grace of Wei Wuyin's cautiousness toward the Imperial Clan.

"..." The twin sisters had varying reactions! Tang Baibai, who one would think would be happy, had a deeply furrowed frown, and Tang Heihei, who one would think would be terrified and fall into the abyss of despair, had hope in her eyes!

They were both intelligent individuals and knew that for Wei Wuyin to speak so much already was a sign of a heavy and important 'BUT' incoming!

"But..." and as they expected, it had come: "Bai Lin could use some lowly servants to tend to her needs."

Wei Wuyin's smile deepened, a dark light suffusing his eyes with each passing second.

### PARAGON OF SIN



"How unexpected!" Tuo Bihan blurted out thoughtlessly, wearing his true emotions on his sleeves. After a series of enviable reunions, astonishing revelations, and discoveries of past sins, they had returned to the small Voidship provided by the Golden Life Pavilion at the outskirts of the Vermilion Domain.

Hong Ru and Xiao Bing had gladly decided to stay within the Vermilion Graveyard to cultivate together; before taking his leave, Wei Wuyin gave them spatial rings, which left Tuo Bihan extremely curious after seeing how riled their expressions became. Moreover, the way they looked at Wei Wuyin as he smilingly gifted them was fiercely stimulating to witness. Tuo Bihan did not doubt that if it wasn't for Wei Wuyin's own decision, they might have already extracted his yang essence in all sorts of ways.

As for the Tang Clan and the insurgency within the Vermilion Domain, it fizzled out instantly after Wei Wuyin intervened. It wasn't much of an intervention as Tang Baibai had directly given the orders to stay their hands

and await further orders. And these orders were none other than the takeover of the Tang Clan!

Tuo Bihan couldn't help but recall the conclusion of such sudden events; Wei Wuyin had taken the reins and decided to remove the Seventh Matriarch from her position without any room for debate. Moreover, he hadn't directly erased her position, so she was still classified as the Seventh Matriarch as she stepped down, allowing her sister to take over her seat but as an Interim Matriarch until various discussions took place.

The main objective of this coup d'état was to supplant the current leadership, 'officially' erasing the title of the Seventh Matriarch and Tang Baibai taking the title after the sordid past and the truth of Tang Heihei's sins were exposed. This would inadvertently free Tian Yinwu from his engagement while also vilifying Tang Heihei's direct lineage. Then, Tang Xingyun might either be relegated to a Yin Cauldron with little status, killed off, or imprisoned for her mother's crimes. Either way, she would suffer an irrevocable fall from grace.

At least until Lin Ming matured into his future as the True Elemental Emperor, thereby saving her. Maybe.

However, the process of erasing a 'living' Matriarch was more convoluted than a 'dead' Matriarch, and this was what Wei Wuyin orchestrated. Tang Baibai would be removed, but an extended process would be performed to delay the eventual erasure. By doing this, Wei Wuyin had not only secured Tang Heihei's life, but Tang Baibai's objective was more or less completed, so those who assisted her wouldn't cause her trouble as long as their plan was in the process of being completed, and Tang Xingyun would be in a blurry grey area of being Tian Yinwu's fiancée and not.

As for the Tang Clan members part of Tang Heihei's loyalist camp, at least those still alive, which wasn't as much as anyone could've expected, they were evacuating and being exiled until their fates were decided by the new Vermilion Lineage Council alongside Tang Baibai. They were essentially being removed from their luxurious lives and cushy locations, sent off, and spared.

Their fate?

They'll be Bai Lin's most dedicated servants.

Tang Heihei grimly and glumly stood at the edge of the Voidship as she stared at the calm Vermilion Domain. It was hard for emotions not to leak.

Unfortunately, her daughter had more or less caused the downfall of her reign, and this wouldn't change unless the rulers of the Aeternal Sky Starfield changed in the next hour.

She couldn't help but feel extremely bitter that her life's work was reduced to dust by her own blood for such a ridiculous reason, and from both sides too. Her entire life collapsed, and after seeing how little of her faithfully devoted and cultivated subordinates remained, she knew that this was her only choice. The sole reason they had resisted for so long despite the traitors and unexpected assault was mostly due to the Volcanic Fist True King's assistance, and even then, her infuriating twin was dominating them in a lopsided match.

It was a hard pill to swallow; her fall was all but determined, and she would've been killed off for the sins of her past and her daughter's reckless decision. Was this what they meant when people said karma exists? Her long-thought-deceased sister returned from the dead as a stronger cultivator. Then, she was plotted against from all angles, while her daughter would likely experience the Liu Clan's Earthly Saint treatment for the rest of her mortal life or be executed and forgotten in the corner of history.

Her entire legacy would be reviled by countless living souls, and she would be a lesson learned of greed, ambition, shamelessness, and idiocy for others.

"Haaa..." She sighed emotionally. If it wasn't for Wei Wuyin...

Her heart sped up slightly when she thought up to here, recalling Wei Wuyin's rescue and how he grabbed her waist and saved her from certain death. How could it not?

Tuo Bihan glanced at the former Tang Matriarch. "Little Boss, why intervene?" Similar to early Wu Yu's attitude, Tuo Bihan was free-spirited in having questions and voicing them. He didn't have the same obediently silent aura as others, curiosity as heavy as a planet. It wasn't an unwarranted question either because the act of intervening had minimal benefits in the eyes of an ordinary spectator.

Wei Wuyin didn't mind this side of him; Tuo Bihan had always been quite honest with his words and actively inquisitive. He couldn't help but warmly smile when he recalled their relationship in the Myriad Monarch Sect.

"The reason?" Wei Wuyin eyed Tuo Bihan, who repeatedly nodded his head without the slightest shame. "Because living servants are more useful than dead enemies."

"..." Tang Heihei.

Tuo Bihan's eyes widened slightly, and then he frowned while in contemplation. If one heard this single sentence, they might take it at face value, accepting it as truth, but Wei Wuyin was never a figure that could be taken so simply. It took a while before Tuo Bihan's eyes were brightly lit with the light of realization.

"I see!"

"..." Tang Heihei.

Wei Wuyin grinned. He soon caught sight of an incoming Voidship. It was the Volcanic Fist True King's maroon-colored vessel that carried the last vestiges

of Tang Heihei's loyalists, including her husband. They anchored near, communicating as they shared an atmosphere.

"What about Xing'er?" Soon, the grandson of the Volcanic Fist True King and Husband of Tang Heihei, Huoshan Yun, strode over. He was middle-aged, slender-built, and quite handsome, his red hair was tied into a ponytail, and his eyes blazed with a fiery light. While he was unaware of Tang Xingyun's infidelity, he was concerned about how she'd fare given the takeover and the likelihood of Tang Heihei losing her position as the Seventh Matriarch.

He couldn't help but be concerned as a father. Since this entire event had happened without any interference from others, it was clear that the attitude of the Imperial Clan was more-or-less indifferent toward their lineage.

"She'll be fine," the Volcanic Fist True King calmly stated. He was an Earthly Saint, and while he might not be a part of the true elites like Wu Yu, the Soul Saint King, or the Boundless Martial High King, or even a part of the upper-class such as Starfield Leaders or the Ever-Knights, he was still an Earthly Saint, so he had the dignity of one. Tang Xingyun was his great granddaughter-in-law, and as long as he was breathing well, the Imperial Clan should give him face.

"Alchemic Sovereign Wei!" The Volcanic Fist True King brightly greeted the silver-eyed era-defining, extremely talented, disgustingly wealthy youth of this generation. The others followed suit, respectfully greeting without the slightest sign of discomfort while bowing to a mortal.

The Volcanic Fist True King had a hidden, throbbing excitement pounding within his chest. How many elites, even among the ranks of Earthly Saints, wanted to receive Wei Wuyin's favor? From what he'd shown thus far, he had the potential to become the next Alchemic Saint! Moreover, his title of Saintmaker was spreading further as Wu Yu, Ma Zheng, the Armored Saint, and Bai Lin were used as ample evidence supporting his capabilities.

Especially Bai Lin—the ancient Fire Phoenix thought to be extinct showed a level of power that was absolutely terrifying! By her lonesome, she besieged a multi-starfield-sized array to near collapse. This was a feat that brought indescribable fear to everyone's hearts, especially given his status as an Oathless Calamity. There were rumors of a coalition forming to establish a preventive group in case Wei Wuyin decided to attack other starfields, but he didn't think such a thing would be reliable and would only elicit offense and traitors informing on others for a chance to seek Wei Wuyin's favor.

"It's good that most of you are fire-attributed cultivators; it'll make serving Bai Lin easier to adjust to. You won't instantly be burnt to a smoldering husk when she feels the sudden urge to torture any of you." Wei Wuyin nodded to himself, a hint of satisfaction in his eyes. The fact he used 'when' and not 'if' was heart-chilling.

"..." Everyone.

----

The heart-palpitating sounds of painful screams echoed out in the Original Dawn Palace...

\_\_\_\_

Several hours later...

Endless Prosperity Realm, Golden Council's Meeting Room.

"You're finally here," Ma Zheng smilingly said after seeing the figure arrive suddenly, sitting perfectly composed in his designated chair.

Wei Wuyin finally decided to handle the Evil Blessed's situation after sending the Tang Clan's remnants to his newly established Original Dawn Palace within the Absolute Void Region, formerly known as the Desolate Dragnet Stellar Region. The environment was extremely hazardous, so much so that even Earthly Saints wouldn't dare venture into it carelessly. However, it served as the best protection because of this quality. Not even Spiritual Sense could effectively search the area.

Given Bai Lin's constitution as a Genesis Beast, she cultivated faster and felt more comfortable within the Absolute Void Region than anywhere else.

Wei Wuyin nodded to Ma Zheng and the other Incarnations of the Golden Council, but his thoughts were elsewhere. Before returning, he visited Yue Songli in the Ninestar Starfield. But after going through several Void Gates, he was told that she was in secluded cultivation digesting a Mystic-Earth-graded pill gifted to her by the Ennea-Hall Alchemic Saint. After verifying the truth of this statement, he decided against disturbing her. However, while there, he sensed a familiar aura.

## PARAGON OF SIN

his gaze increasingly growing distant.

Chapter 1208 1202: Yun Che's Lnterrogation

'Did she visit Yue Songli due to our public connection? But...if what Trueborn said is true, their descent should herald a greater, more obvious change.' Wei Wuyin thoughtfully pondered as he comfortably sat in his Golden Council-exclusive chair with his right leg crossed, his right arm propping his chin, and

"You!" Someone gnashed their teeth and faintly growled. It was Yun Che! After arriving here under the possibility of an explanation and returning his Heretical Berserk Godsword, Ma Zheng, a dignified and powerful Earthly Saint, had forcefully ordered him to sit and wait. Now, a young mortal alchemist emerged from thin air and sat calmly without saying any words.

Where is that featureless face-masked, black-robed cultivator?! Or was he supposed to just wait endlessly?

His anger clouded his senses for a brief moment, but Yun Che had been alive for too long, experienced many things, and knew that in situations where one's control and understanding were lacking, the best course of action was remaining calm, cool, and alert. After his initial anger flashed, he regained his inner peace with a breath, inspected this new arrival, and observed the reactions of the others.

Ma Zheng, the Pavilion Master of the Golden Life Pavilion, and the other Incarnations of the Golden Council had respectful, reverential, and reserved attitudes while facing this white-robed Alchemist.

"..." a distinct silence and order were forming in the room, all the attention and flow were being dictated by a single presence, and Yun Che felt that, undoubtedly, this mortal...was different. Suddenly, his eyes constricted slightly! White-robed mortal Alchemist with a connection with the Golden Life Pavilion, who possessed unbelievably good looks and strength that could touch upon the Mystic Ascendant Realm despite his Mortal Realm cultivation base!

There was only one!

Wei Wuyin!

The Neo-Dawn Alchemic Sovereign!

Yun Che's eyes brightened considerably, his interest unconcealed by his eager expression. The Neo-Dawn Alchemic Sovereign was an existence of unpredictable greatness, forging a legacy and independent power that could rival top-tier organizations after emerging twenty years ago! He was referred to as Saintmaker!

After recovering his Mystic Energy, Yun Che had made it a priority to learn about the recent news, and there was nowhere within the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region where the name 'Wei Wuyin' wasn't being avidly discussed by all generations. Even ordinary farmers and miners had heard about him through various channels. He was 'THE' hot topic of the century, only rivaled by Tian Yinwu.

This Tian Yinwu was continuously escalating the feats of his younger years, displaying outstanding talent and combat prowess. Years ago, the Seventh Prince had defeated a Realmlord at the Sky Lord Phase using his ingenuity and methods generated by his own effort, and now he'd defeated a Demi-Mortal Lord while handicapped and at the Timelord Phase.

There was a tinge of envy toward Tian Yinwu in Yun Che's heart, but when he faced Wei Wuyin, there was only respect. Wei Wuyin was the definition of an Alchemist exerting the greatest powers of one, and Yun Che wasn't an alchemist, so it was hard to be jealous. As for slaying a Venerable-level Incarnation or cultivator in the Mortal Realms, Yun Che had done the same with his Heretical Berserk Godsword when he temporarily unleashed its true strength. It wasn't impossible with the proper armaments, tools, or talismans.

"You're Alchemic Sovereign Wei!" Yun Che might have been forced to sit, but he could speak. His voice brought Wei Wuyin out of his thoughts, his focus shifting to Yun Che.

'Right. The Evil Blessed,' Wei Wuyin kept his other thoughts and focused on what was in front of him—the Evil Blessed. This figure had operated as a member of Trueborn, escaping Bai Lin's wrath prematurely, and then went missing. Wei Wuyin had tried to gather some information regarding his identity through spies and intelligence agents, but he hadn't found any success. Now that he realized that this Evil Blessed could alter his existence through a

unique tool, this made him understand why there wasn't the slightest clue about his identity.

"I am," Wei Wuyin nodded. Since he had worn his concealment mask and used Draconic Transformation, Yun Che was unaware that Wei Wuyin and the black-robed cultivator were one and the same. Well, even if he knew, it didn't matter to Wei Wuyin.

"All except Pavilion Master Ma, take your leave." Wei Wuyin's words were calm, absolute, and resonant. The entire room was met with Incarnations silently gesturing respectfully while acknowledging Wei Wuyin before dissipating elsewhere. Within three seconds, only three figures remained here.

Yun Che's heart throbbed slightly. Some of those figures were Earthly Saints, Branch Managers, or World-Class Creationists, yet a single sentence sent them away without deferring to Ma Zheng, their Pavilion Master! It was clear that Wei Wuyin wielded an unimaginable authority over the Golden Life Pavilion, and not a single person dared to resist it.

Yun Che took a deep breath. It seemed that the black-robed cultivator was part of Wei Wuyin's hidden force, and he was sent here to meet the Alchemic Sovereign to determine his fate. Suddenly, his eyes became gloomy. He hadn't assumed the identity of the Bing Clan's upper echelon, and the memories of Bing Jialun were extremely limited due to not taking part in the Bing Clan's internal affairs, so he was ignorant of Xiao Bing's backing.

However, looking back, she had an Earthly Saint-level Protection Rune and a hidden guardian that could hide and go toe-to-toe against He Bojing, a dignified Earthly Saint, and exerted a degree of Spatial Arts that baffled him. Xiao Bing was sent out of He Bojing's World Prison! Taking all this in, he felt an increasingly pressing panic emerge in his mind.

"May I ask if lady Xiao Bing is related to Alchemic Sovereign Wei?" Yun Che calmly asked, his tone a little deep and solemn.

Wei Wuyin keenly noticed that Yun Che was unaware of their connection, so Xiao Bing must not have been his intended target, only Bing Tian or Bing Jingru. Despite that, he was ravenous in his pursuit, no? With a faint smile, he replied honestly: "Yes, she's important to me." Wei Wuyin didn't label her as a lover, his woman, or a critical part of his Valkyries, but that she was important to him.

"..." Yun Che once again deeply inhaled and exhaled, his eyes quickly regaining their calm. Yun Che realized that he was brought here by the black-robed figure for his transgression of trying to aim for Xiao Bing. But considering that his cultivation base wasn't restrained and he wasn't placed in shackles to await trial, this might still be an opportunity for him.

"Then, I'll have to ask the Alchemic Sovereign for forgiveness. If I had known, I wouldn't have made any moves." Yun Che was smart and also keenly aware of who he could and could not offend, and this list wasn't very long. It included: the Aeternal Sky Divine Emperor, the Soul Saint King, the Boundless Martial High King, the Imperial Advisor, the Golden Gate Pavilion, the Everlore Association, the three Alchemic Saints, Trueborn, the Starfield Rulers of the top six ranks, and Wei Wuyin!

These were figures or organizations that had profound depths and exceptional power, either personal or external. Regardless, they were genuinely terrifying to face.

And this was why.

"I know," Wei Wuyin confidently acknowledged Yun Che's intellect as well as his own fiercely intimidating reputation. "Why else do you think you're still alive?" A faint smile infused with amusement surfaced on his expression.

"...!" Yun Che's heart violently throbbed. A mere mortal had brought him an indescribable fear. What type of person was Wei Wuyin?

"As for forgiveness, that'll be determined by your next actions. Let's see if you can earn it." Wei Wuyin unfurled his legs and leaned forward; his silver eyes glinted with spiritual light as he observed Yun Che. This Evil Blessed was the first he had ever encountered. A Blessed with a predominantly vile Aura. It felt contradictory, but the 3,000 Commandments of the Heavenly Daos were convoluted and easy to navigate or avoid breaking if one was assisted by the Heavenly Daos itself.

While not all Evil Cultivators were sinners, there was a fine line between them that could be easily crossed. It was much easier than non-Evil Cultivators and extremely tempting to do so. After all, Evil Methods were designed to plunder others ruthlessly and viciously.

Huangfu Jinwei used an Evil Spell that plundered conscious control by affecting the soul, causing dissipation, and thereby accruing sin. His carelessness labeled him an irredeemable sinner that Long Chen would've harvested for Karmic Luck Value if Wei Wuyin hadn't interfered. It was easy to see how things classified as 'Evil' could push the boundary.

One of those many strange laws stipulated that killing those without the slightest karmic ties could incur grave sin, and Evil Methods often needed to indiscriminately slaughter innocents without the slightest relation. However, if a King of a country threw you a dirty, condescending look and you felt humiliated, you had the right to slaughter all the country's citizens without accumulating the slightest sin. You could slaughter children, infants, pregnant mothers, and the elderly indiscriminately.

Wei Wuyin always felt indescribable emotions recalling these laws.

Regardless of his opinions, this Evil Blessed had a vile aura but not the slightest trace of sin in his body—a sign of following the laws despite practicing Evil Methods to this level. In fact, the Sanguine Demon Evil King was an abnormality as well.

Wei Wuyin had intended to use him and then kill him, but the Earthly Saint didn't have the slightest Sinful Aura despite his absurdly high cultivation. So it was entirely reasonable for a Blessed to take this path as well and find amazing success.

Yun Che digested Wei Wuyin's words and decided to navigate this situation the best he could. He had a feeling that, should he fail, his life might end here. "I will do what I can to earn your forgiveness." Yun Che wasn't a meek person, especially not one who would obediently let his fate be decided by others, but he was in an extremely disadvantageous situation, and he saw no way out but through.

"Good," Wei Wuyin smiled. "Then, tell me..." He brought out the Heavenly World Core, "Where did you find this? And why did Bing Tian have it?"

"..." Yun Che stared at the Heavenly World Core. That was an item of exceptional value, capable of moving any Earthly Saint or Worldly Saint of ancient times into madness, especially if they knew what it could accomplish. Yun Che decided not to hide the information or try to negotiate, unwilling to risk his life by dangling upon a thread of hope and truthfully answered.

"It came from the phenomenon that occurred outside the Aeternal Sky Starfield's border about a decade ago."

"The Chaosnova," Wei Wuyin said.

Yun Che firmly nodded, not shaken by Wei Wuyin's knowledge after hearing him go up against Trueborn, "the Chaosnova. It was a planned attack by Trueborn against one of the Void Voyage Sect's hidden bases. I..."

Yun Che began to describe what he knew, and Wei Wuyin realized that this Evil Blessed was unaware of the Sealed Regions and the World Between the Fold or Nodes that Trueborn targeted. Instead, it was described as a targeted attack against the Void Voyage Sect, the greatest enemy of Trueborn. According to Shun Bao's memories, they had been fighting for millennia.

"Your concealment artifact..." Wei Wuyin inquired.

"It's called the Thousand Faces of Man. It's uniquely tied to my soul, so it can't..." Yun Che revealed his greatest fortune without hesitating, especially since it was useless without him. Unfortunately for him, his knowledge of the soul was vastly inferior to Wei Wuyin's.

"Your large sword..."

"A remnant of an ancient era..."

The two exchanged a series of back-and-forth questions and answers, and Wei Wuyin grasped Yun Che's identity and means. A wisp of admiration emerged in his pupils, especially given how fearless he was to infiltrate Trueborn. Although Wei Wuyin had also forged a network of spies of Trueborn and presumed Trueborn members. It was quite disconcerting how traitors could emerge in a clandestine organization, even with Mythical Oaths. It merely showed that oaths weren't an invincible defense.

Wei Wuyin even believed that oaths would eventually be phased out of any advanced civilization societies, and only societies such as the restricted Sealed Regions would formulate and maintain such reliant precautions and protections. If the King of Everlore's product was ever released, the Sealed Regions would collapse instantly as no one could trust oaths anymore.

But there were many different methods to achieve anything under the heavens. There were bound to be Cultivation Methods that could fool, erase,

temporarily seal, or transfer Mythical Oaths to another. The cultivator who had been able to deceive Tang Baibai's life talisman was a sign of this possibility.

In fact, Wei Wuyin felt that just the Alchemic Dao's aspect of Containment might have methods that could be used.

"If you want, Alchemic Sovereign Wei, I can find out where to find the other two Heavenly World Cores." Yun Che's eyes lit with a blazing brilliance of greed.

## PARAGON OF SIN



"..." Ma Zheng's attention shifted as soon as Yun Che spoke about finding the other two Heavenly Cores. When Wei Wuyin had brought it out, his heart had experienced great, crushing waves of shock. If it wasn't for his long-lived life and numerous unexpected experiences throughout it, he might've exclaimed an embarrassing sound.

Ma Zheng had instantly identified the object as a Heaven Relic, an ancient device described in records of eras long past. It was often said by scholars and prominent historians to contain the secrets of the heavens hidden beyond the world, a cryptic description that alludes to a cultivation level beyond Earthly Saint. It was highly sought after, and his Mystic Soul had only confirmed its existence by throbbing fiercely in response, the urge to absorb it ravaging his Sea of Consciousness. If it wasn't for his respect for Wei Wuyin, he might have rushed forward to seize the Heaven Relic at all costs.

To think its true name was the Heavenly World Core.

"How?" Wei Wuyin inquired.

Yun Che was waiting for this exact question. "My sword is how. As long as I have it, I can find out the location of the other two cores, or at the very least, what happened to them." Since the black-robed cultivator had told him to follow if he wanted his sword back, he knew that the fate of regaining his weapon was dependent on Wei Wuyin's will.

"I see," Wei Wuyin thoughtfully said. His assumptions were right; the sword had a similar function as the Nexus War Flag's Spoils of War ability granted by the Law of War. The warning from the Heavenly Daos was critical, and for a split second, he was thankful for its alert.

Unfortunately for Yun Che, Wei Wuyin didn't need to return the sword or get his assistance. Fortunately, however, Wei Wuyin might have a use for him. Yun Che was the personification of a rogue cultivator, existing solely for his agenda and fighting for opportunities using whatever means available to him.

°My Bloodline of Sin seems to draw me into conflict with Blessed, extracting fortunes or influencing their paths without any clear signs of doing so. But what if I obtained a Blessed under my direct control? Will a change happen?° Wei Wuyin's eyes glinted with a calculating light, trying to foresee the possibilities. Neither he nor his alternative self had experience reigning over a Blessed that was notable.

While there were countless low-leveled Blessed, such as his past self before meeting the Black Skeleton and inheriting the Bloodline of Sin, they were utterly insignificant. Their fortunes were too minor or their standings, existences, and strength were irrelevant at his current stage. They simply went under the radar.

However, Blessed that notable auras such as Long Chen, Lin Ming, Yuan Longshi, Jing Jiu, and Tian Xiaolu were beloved by the Heavenly Daos, their

Karmic Luck Value clearly beyond a thousand. As for the Temporal Reincarnator, whoever they were, their Karmic Luck Value was certainly absurd enough to affect the entire timeline.

Yun Che fit into that category; if left alone to mature, he would certainly impact the world in a great, astonishing manner.

"With my sword, I can guide you to wherever it is. As for the Heavenly World Cores, you can have them all. It would be my honor to assist you, Alchemic Sovereign Wei." Yun Che was growing anxious despite his outwardly calm appearance which contained signs of fervent worship. It was a mask, of course.

Yun Che was smart enough to know when he was at an absolute disadvantage, and he was willing to suffer a loss for the sake of greater benefits in the future. To gain Wei Wuyin's favor, as well as his forgiveness, was his only way out.

Wei Wuyin smiled a smile that wasn't one, a very rare expression of his. At that very moment, he realized that Yun Che wasn't a good candidate for a Blessed subordinate. If he had to choose a Blessed for this test, he would choose Tian Xiaolu.

Yun Che's emotions were too hidden. He lived as a rogue cultivator and only trusted in himself while he had a penchant for taking revenge after suffering any loss. Just the horrible fate of Bing Tian, Bing Jingru, and Ice Jade was enough to display proof of this devious behavior. He was unscrupulous in his methods, capable of biding his time and planning, and then launching his schemes with perfect precision and determination.

While this gave birth to a little bit of excessive greed, as a rogue cultivator who thrived off seizing opportunities despite the wanton dangers present, it was a

necessary personality quality to be greedy. Wei Wuyin, as an Exploitative Blessed, also sympathized with the mentality.

In truth, he wasn't greedy for opportunities, but his inner pride in himself pushed him to seize opportunities within his capabilities. It was a slight difference, but they still shared this trait.

"I recommend you kill this guy, he has strange eyes that make me uncomfortable. It's like...I can't tell who he is." The Heavenly War Spirit advised from his Sea of Consciousness. This was the first time the Heavenly War Spirit had suggested killing someone out of weariness. Moreover, she was a Heavenly War Spirit, Wei Wuyin assumed she would be influenced by the Heavenly Daos to spare Yun Che. Was his Bloodline of Sin affecting her too?

"I don't like him either," Bai Xiu jumped in. "Just refine him; I know a few methods to generate some unique materials."

"..." Wei Wuyin.

"..." Heavenly War Spirit.

Bai Xiu's violent suggestion had taken both of them by surprise! Refine him! While this world had many methods of refining other people to generate resources, they were all considered Evil Methods. For example, the Primal Yin Dark Pearl was an astral-graded material formed by refining about a hundred thousand virgin women. It was also the core material for the Absolute Yin-Creation Pill that Na Xinyi used to elevate her physique.

Wei Wuyin has no issue using these materials, but he had never thought of actively making them. After all, the deed had already been done, those hundred thousand virgins weren't coming back to life, and the Primal Yin Dark Pearl or materials like it can't simply remain unused forever.

"I'll shelve those suggestions for now," Wei Wuyin said with a wary tone. If people heard two young girls speaking of killing and refining so calmly, who knew how many would find this soul-chilling? Wei Wuyin didn't shy away from the darkness of the cultivation world, as he was no saint himself, but there were certain things he wouldn't do unless necessary.

"Pavilion Master Ma will assist you in consolidating your cultivation base. I'll be holding onto this mask in the meantime," he said, rising from his seat. Wei Wuyin felt no further need to interrogate this Evil Blessed, not even interested in his name. If those two in his Sea of Consciousness were against keeping Yun Che alive, it would be foolish to use him as a test without additional planning anyhow.

More importantly, Wei Wuyin didn't have any uses for him yet. The recently ascended Demi-Mortal Lord was stronger than the average Demi-Mortal Lord, but his strengths seemed to stem from his unique sword and mask, not his cultivation base.

However, Wei Wuyin had ideas for his mask and for this Sword, ideas that no longer needed Yun Che. Still, that doesn't mean he wouldn't find a purpose for an Evil Blessed. Regardless of his thoughts or those who stayed comfortably in his Sea of Consciousness, Wei Wuyin couldn't kill Yun Che due to his pressing need for time. He couldn't afford to lose precious time to prepare for the Fourth Calamity for a scant amount of Karmic Luck Value.

It was clear from Yun Che's Blessed Aura that he was beneath Tian Xiaolu. It simply wasn't worth it.

"What?" Yun Che was extremely stunned. When he heard Wei Wuyin mention a mask, his thoughts subconsciously floated into his Spatial Ring that housed his Thousand Faces of Man. He made a strange yelp of disbelief. It was no longer in his spatial ring!

Before Yun Che could launch a series of hectic and frantic questions filled with panic, Wei Wuyin walked off and vanished into a nearby wall as if it was a portal. Along with his mysterious disappearance was Yun Che's hope of ever regaining his sword or mask.

They both were heavily flawed in their refinement, mostly because they tethered to the Soul, but Yun Che had not given birth to Primary Soul Light. He had to rely on an external method and his Seed of Law to forcefully connect to two, a shoddy method with many issues. It was clear that his early years of fortune were insignificant, and his current cultivation foundation was a sign of this unfortunate fact.

Left baffled, Yun Che stared at the wall. Ma Zheng walked toward Yun Che and lightly touched his shoulder, placing a tracking spell on his body openly. "Come," he ordered emotionlessly.

----

In the beautiful picturesque courtyard within the Worldly Equilibrium Moon, Wei Wuyin's designated residence, a shimmer of fixed space formed. Wei Wuyin walked out with a hulking sword by his side, exuding a vile, rampant aura while holding onto a featureless black mask.

"So you know how to refine this sword?" Wei Wuyin asked the Heavenly War Spirit.

"It has a slumbering Evil Spirit, not too difficult for you. But you shouldn't," the Heavenly War Spirit suggested.

"Oh?"

"The Evil Spirit's influence isn't a threat to someone like you, but you already have two Spirits of Dao already occupying your Sea of Consciousness, tethered to you by irrevocable ties. If you continue to add more, when you face certain tribulations in the future, it'll lead to a great, irresistible calamity.

Additionally, the Evil Dao isn't suited for you." The Heavenly War Spirit advised once again, the concern in her voice was hard to miss.

She had once given Wei Wuyin a cryptic warning about Bai Xiu and the consequences of giving her a name. He didn't underestimate the severity of her warning but it had come too late, so he could only face what came.

"Not suited for me? That's a lie," Wei Wuyin grinned as he glanced at the Heretical Berserk Godsword.

"So what if it's a lie?! You don't need it anyway; you cultivate the saber, not the sword." The Heavenly War Spirit shamelessly admitted and refused to yield. It was clear she had her reasons for trying to pull Wei Wuyin away from the sword, likely reasons she couldn't properly articulate.

Wei Wuyin shrugged, "I never intended to refine it fully. Hm, you didn't notice?"

"Notice what?" The Heavenly War Spirit's vehement resistance fell to her curiosity.

"Haha. This sword urgently wanted someone, and it wasn't me," Wei Wuyin commented while rubbing his chin. To think the slumbering Evil Spirit would react so strongly despite being sealed by layers of the Void. It didn't even react like that when he was talking to Yun Che, and while there was a strong resonance, it was incomparable to when he met that person.

Before the Heavenly War Spirit could inquire more, Wei Wuyin touched the Heretical Berserk Godsword, infusing copious amounts of Seven Source Soul Light into it. It absorbed the soul light like a sponge to water. In a blink, Wei Wuyin had exhausted half of Eden's Primary Light Source. He was used to throttling most of his Soul Light in one go due to the Nexus War Flag, so he was extremely practiced.

Suddenly, the sword shone with beautifully icy light!

A closed-eyed, cross-armed figure of light was projected from the sword as if they were deceased. The figure floated mid-air with similar toned flawless skin, her nude figure exposed to the world. She exuded an exuberant Yin Aura that felt extremely stimulating.

Wei Wuyin was taken aback by Bing Tian's countenance; she was incredibly gorgeous! Clearly, her attempts to reduce her physical appearance hadn't been imprinted into her soul. Was this the result of an untouched Primal Yin for thousands of years cultivated to the Demi-Mortal Lord Phase with a Cultivation Method possessing a beautification effect?

#### Astonishing.

Slowly, the eyes of Bing Tian's soul fluttered as she seemed to be regaining her consciousness. When she opened her eyes, and revealed a pair of crystal-like irises with icy, alluring, soul-stirring light, Wei Wuyin was once again taken aback. Would Xiao Bing become like this? Or even better? In terms of body, Xiao Bing was certainly more well-endowed in every area that mattered. This boded well for his future.

"Where...am I?" Bing Tian's soul voice shook the courtyard, and the pond instantly became solid ice.

# **PARAGON OF SIN**



"Interesting," Wei Wuyin observed Bing Tian's riveting figure and spirit-like form. While she had sensual curves, an enchanting countenance, and an

attractive aura that could stimulate any able-bodied male, Wei Wuyin was fixated on her current state of existence rather than any of those beguiling features.

"She's been distorted and altered," Bai Xiu softly whispered with a ripple of sadness in her voice. The explosive surge of icy power was evidence of her change—Bing Tian was no longer human.

At the level of her Existential Framework, she was transformed into a different type of entity by melding her soul, Mystic Soul, Sea of Consciousness, and Primal Yin into one. This was an entity that Wei Wuyin was all too familiar with—a Spiritform. However, she resembled Wang Yutian more than Bai Xiu or the Spirits of War. The former was a living organism transformed into a Spiritform, while the latter two were born as a Spirit of Dao and Spirits of Law, respectively; there were fundamental differences between the three. If Spiritforms had different races, they would be of three different ones.

"Who...are you?" Bing Tian soon discovered Wei Wuyin standing before her, calmly gazing at her. Her icy aura was moving rhythmically as if it was breathing. Each of her aura's breaths caused a layer of frost to form on the ground. At this point, early signs of snow were beginning to manifest.

"I'm Wei Wuyin of Red Dove City. Do you remember what happened to you?" Wei Wuyin properly introduced himself as his Celestial Eyes inspected every inch of Bing Tian. His eyes caused her to feel a little uncomfortable as her breathing aura became hectic, sending bursts of billowing frost throughout the courtyard.

Wei Wuyin's immediate area was untouched by the frost, a stark contrast formed with him as the center of the snowy world.

"What...what happened to me?" She moved her hands to touch her head as if she was suffering a form of headache. She no longer had a physical brain, but her Sea of Consciousness had melded and imprinted in her manifested form's glabella. "What happened to me? What happened to me! WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?!"

She shrieked as her memories came rushing back. Wei Wuyin's eyes flashed with Alchemic Eden Force as he assisted the process. The Heretical Berserk Godsword had sealed her memories. If she had been handled by Yun Che, she would've become a shadow of her former self. As for her memories, they would be freely accessed by the sword at will.

This was a fate worse than death.

"She's a perfect Yin Cauldron for you," the Heavenly War Spirit pointed out. Bing Tian's current spirit-like body was forged from her Mystic Soul and Mystic Core, she was a Spirit of Cultivation, and her Primal Yin Source was intact alongside her other foundations of cultivation. In the Heavenly War Spirit's eyes, Bing Tian was the perfect Yin Cauldron!

In her current state, her entire cultivation base was perfectly consolidated. One of the ways for an Ascended female to Dual Cultivate with a mortal was by consolidating their entire cultivation and funneling it into the mortal's body, thereby crippling their cultivation, but all of their gains and insights would be the mortal male's.

Some elite clans and organizations in the World Beyond often cultivated Yin Cauldrons at the Ascended level for their future male descendants. Guan Yin had once envied Wei Wuyin with how a Demi-Mortal Lord virgin had so easily offered herself to him.

Now, Bing Tian was the perfect Yin Cauldron for which powerful forces would fight.

"Don't hesitate!" The Heavenly War Spirit urged. She knew the extreme value of a Demi-Mortal Lord like Bing Tian, especially given that she cultivated a unique Cultivation Method that enhanced her Primal Yin. She was perfect.

Wei Wuyin ignored the Heavenly War Spirit, continuing to assist Bing Tian in regaining her memories slowly, trickling them in so that she wouldn't become overwhelmed by her thousands of years of life. It took an hour before her turbulent breathing aura settled down, and her eyes which were once simply effusing an icy chill, revealed a wisp of intelligence, sorrow, and shock.

"I...was killed," Bing Tian softly muttered. She slowly lifted her gaze to find Wei Wuyin once again looking at her, his gaze extremely calm, and she now realized who he was. How could she not? That handsome face was unforgettable! Moreover, his bearing was impeccable, exerting a unique presence that felt as if he was the center of the world. "Wei Wuyin..."

"Seems like you remember. I'll first say this: I did not kill you. But I also don't have the means to undo your current state." Wei Wuyin honestly started the conversation with the truth. Not even the alternative version of himself knew much about Spiritforms, and while there were ways to create them, the method to undo their transformation wasn't so simple.

Right now, Bing Tian could no longer be considered human. She was more of a sentient Spirit of Cultivation than a human, and she couldn't cultivate either. She was, however, practically immortal as long as she wasn't destroyed.

"I..." Bing Tian looked at her sky-blue skin and hands, touching her body, and realized she could no longer discern her body heat. She no longer felt as if she had lungs, she lacked a physical brain, and her heart no longer existed. "I...I..." Her pupils shrunk and began to shake violently as she held her head and swayed back and forth.

Wei Wuyin's eyes once again surged with seven-colored lights. While he could help settle her emotions, preventing a complete breakdown, she had to overcome her current mental dilemma herself. If she couldn't, he might have to reseal her emotions. It wasn't easy to reconcile with your mind that you were not only killed, but you were no longer a living entity anymore.

Shockingly, Bing Tian's mental energies stabilized faster than Wei Wuyin expected, roughly taking ten or so minutes. Her eyes blazed with seething killing intent as she focused on Wei Wuyin. But the killing intent wasn't directed at the silver-eyed alchemist but at the one who killed her! Who turned her into this...THIS MONSTROSITY!!

"You're not his match in your current state. More importantly, I have a few questions for you." Wei Wuyin decided to get down to business, not wanting to delay his return to the Solar Star project for much longer. Every passing minute drastically cost him, so he didn't wish to tarry here.

"Questions?" Bing Tian's eyebrows lifted. "Why should I answer your questions?!" There was a latent rage, undirected but present. She was angry, and she should be. She was killed.

"..." Wei Wuyin stared at Bing Tian. The two exchanged a long look, and the aura grew gradually tense and stifling. Bing Tian felt her mind stir as a growing sensation of deadly crisis began to permeate her current existence. Wei Wuyin's gaze was telling, and there was an undercurrent of killing intent within.

Eventually, Bing Tian exhaled an icy mist. "You saved me, I can answer a few questions. I'm not ungrateful." Despite saying this, her tone was rife with a lingering fear. While facing this mortal, she felt unimaginable pressure. She couldn't describe it. Moreover, she felt contradictory in her heart. Why should she believe that Wei Wuyin saved her? That he didn't kill her?

But her mind had branded the memory of the hulking sword that claimed her life. She knew that her killer was that Evil Cultivator at the edge of the Chaosnova. That person was different from Wei Wuyin, and while it could be an agent of his, it didn't seem too likely, given that he had no reason to lie. She considered herself intelligent enough to realize and take into consideration her circumstance.

If Wei Wuyin simply wanted to interrogate her, he could've dangled her resurrection in front of her or told her a lie that would make her desperate for salvation. However, he was honest and upfront with his identity and purpose from the very beginning.

He wasn't negotiating for her salvation, simply seeking repayment for saving her from whatever that person intended to do with her, especially given she was transformed into this strange...state.

Wei Wuyin gradually receded his pressuring aura and smiled. If Bing Tian remained obstinate, he would unhesitatingly move toward unsavory information extraction methods. However brutal they would be. "It seems I didn't misjudge you. The Heavenly World Cores that you obtained at the site of the Chaosnova, where are the other two?"

"..." Bing Tian silently clenched her jaws. "I can't. I'm under a Mythical Oath that forbids me from telling others."

"You've been refined. You're no longer the same Bing Tian as before, and you possess no Mythical Oath seeds within you. None." Wei Wuyin's Celestial Eyes inspected Bing Tian thoroughly, and she was a fresh existence, completely absent of seeds or marks. Her life talisman would've shattered due to this.

The outside world would think that she was completely dead. The Heretical Berserk Godsword's unique refinement of her caused everything not of her to be filtered out entirely.

"What?" Bing Tian was shaken into speechlessness. Then, her eyes grew emotional as a spiritual liquid formed at the edge of her eyes. She was subconsciously emulating herself on the verge of crying. Eventually, she closed her eyes, and those tears receded.

It was a reality that she had to accept. "Is there no way for me to return? Temporal Reversion?" Bing Tian asked quiveringly.

"Cultivation is endless, and the Dao of Alchemy is limitless; there's always a way. However, your current state is due to a unique power called an Authority of Law. I don't know the exact Law used, but it makes everything more difficult, if not outright impossible, for conventional methods. At least, for those in this sealed world." Wei Wuyin answered truthfully, not trying to give Bing Tian false hope.

However, his words inspired a glimmer of hope regardless. "So there is a way!" She resolved herself to believe this, the only consolation she could find to prevent herself from breaking down.

"I was killed because of this Heavenly World Core, so I don't care what happens to those two." A trace of vindictiveness that made women horrifying leaked out, and Bing Tian held nothing back: "I was recruited by San Yongli of the San Clan, adopted daughter of San Luoyang, the Grand Secretariat of the Everlore Association, alongside Highlord Spiritwalker for a task. Should we succeed, we could quietly obtain the Heaven Relic, owning a tenth of it, and use it to pursue greater heights in cultivation.

"I knew it had massive risks, but I accepted it regardless. San Yongli's initial payment was simply impossible to refuse. Moreover, we had the right to

retreat if we deemed it too dangerous. Given this, we both accepted her conditions and arrived at the location of the Chaosnova."

"It was premeditated?" Wei Wuyin's brows furrowed slightly.

"Yes, San Yongli knew that the Chaosnova would explode, and leave those Heavenly World Cores behind. At first, however, she only mentioned one. Instead, a black-robed cultivator had extracted three."

"Wait," Wei Wuyin halted Bing Tian here. He realized there were various oddities throughout this detailed recounting. "San Yongli was there on the eve of the Chaosnova? And the black-robed figure, he was the same one who killed you?"

Bing Tian hatefully nodded, "Yes."

"You said she expected one? Not three?" Wei Wuyin probed a little more.

"Mhm. Miss Yong-I mean, San Yongli was quite panicked after seeing the black-robed figure with three. She didn't seem to expect him to have them. Because of that, she ordered us to attack him and stop the black-robed figure from leaving."

"Was that always part of the plan?" Wei Wuyin's eyes brightened considerably.

Bing Tian shook her head, "Our objective was to enter into the spatial chaos of Chaosnova using a unique tool that San Yongli provided us to extract the Heavenly World Core. But the black-robed figure clearly took all the Heavenly World Cores inside the spatial chaos, so San Yongli used the muscle she hired. We nearly died there, but the black-robed figure ran out of energy after using that strange, terrifying sword of his and fled while leaving the Heavenly World Cores behind."

"..." Wei Wuyin's eyes continued to grow increasingly bright.

"Actually, the entire operation felt strange." Bing Tian recalled with ample suspicion in her tone.

"Strange?" Wei Wuyin's ears perked.

"Yeah. San Yongli was aware of the item the black-robed figure used and seemed to be keenly aware of his presence. She had us wait until the black-robed figure left. No, actually, she explicitly said to wait until he left before we went in, now that I recall. It was as if she knew he was going to enter and who he was, but she didn't expect him to take the three.

"ALSO! She was extremely familiar with his weapon, but when we tried probing her, she merely said that she had been tracking him, but she didn't know who he was or where we could find him. It was a contradiction that I ignored because we gained far more than what she originally offered, as if she was protecting him." Bing Tian began to highlight the suspicious points. The more she thought, the greater her hate for San Yongli.

"..." Wei Wuyin's hands were slightly quivering, and his Astral Souls were riled up while throbbing fiercely.

"Hao Meifen, Long Gua, Yi Mingxa, Yi Yun, Wan Lanying, San Yongli, Lin Tian, and Yang Yongzheng."

One of them was...!

"You now have a choice, Inheritor of Sin! Affecting time is a form of self-mutilation by the Heavenly Daos; it is wounded! An opportunity and misfortune for us sinners! Those reincarnated are Blessed and protected with massive amounts of karmic luck, but their foreknowledge of events leaves you in a vulnerable state. You can kill the reincarnated, taking their karmic luck value and the piece of damaged Heavenly Dao for yourself, or allow them to live!

"However, be warned! Even with all the Karmic Luck stolen or gained from the Calamities of Hell, they can kill you! You will not be warned nor helped by the

Heavenly Daos, but they will know of you, of your 'possible' future, of your 'possible' opportunities! And they will be able to claim your luck as their own; even those similarly favored will be at risk! Do not become a victim."

ONE OF THEM WAS...!

Yun Che, this Evil Blessed, was a victim.

"We found her," Wei Wuyin smiled.

...the Temporal Reincarnator.