

Chapter 251 - 248: What If I Tried?

Considering Tuo Bihan couldn't answer, he didn't question it. Regardless of whether Wei Wuyin was the reincarnation of the King of Everlore or not, he was alive and young. If the King of Everlore could be birthed, then another could as well, no?

In the end, it didn't matter. For now, Wei Wuyin was Wei Wuyin.

"Will my smokescreen hold?" Wei Wuyin ate a grape, asking Tuo Bihan. He was uncertain that others wouldn't notice his manifestation. If the Alchemy Association and other hegemony learned of his potential, he feared they might launch an attack on the Myriad Monarch Sect in an attempt to slay him. This was because he represented the Myriad Monarch Sect.

This was quite different from the Princess of Everlore's existence. The Alchemy Association's stance on matters was similar to the King of Everlore, aloof and detached. It was unlikely they would dominate the starfield. But the Myriad Monarch Sect was different.

They were dealt a severely punishing blow by the other three hegemony and bore a heavy grudge. If they became rulers, developed a few Realm Lords, he had no doubt the Myriad Monarch Sect would once attempt to rule the starfield as they had done once before. Their mantra and modus operandi aligned with such ambitions.

If they rose to power, the other three forces would definitely be eliminated. In fact, Tuo Bihan knew this was the case in his heart. Which of the Grand Imperial Sages today hadn't lost family, children, and friends due to the war hundreds of years ago?

Yao Zhen lost his father to the Sacred Light Palace. He was trapped in a formation and exhausted to death.

Qin Rui's parents were captured and refined by the Demonic Abyss Mountain.

Zen's budding clan that was slowly rising to prominence had been exterminated by the Elemental Heaven Pavilion.

Ji Changkong's wife was directly slain in front of him.

These were the casualties of the war. They bore grudges that ran deep, and even Tuo Bihan experienced losses. When the fighting had begun, he was a top-tier elite with intricate and emotional relationships. He watched his comrades die in gruesome ways. How could he not hold hatred? In fact, he was in love with Qin Rui's mother. It was this very reason that he treated her differently than others, wasting half a decade to ensure she had a smooth path into the ranks of an expert.

It was this very reason that Ji Changkong, Qin Rui, and Yao Zhen demanded war at the first offense. They wanted to kill to their hearts' content now that they've gained strength. For rivers of blood to run and the wailings of their enemies to resound!

Wei Wuyin had always known about this grudge and the documented war and its final result. It was this reason why he purposefully concealed his true talents when he fully arrived. He wanted to even conceal his combat strength, but Xue Yifei's existence had changed his intentions.

Tuo Bihan frowned deeply, "Absolutely not. It won't hold."

"..." Wei Wuyin's eyes became dark. This was indeed troublesome.

"Not as it is now. There are ways to do so, however. We'll get out in front of this, explaining the worldly disturbance away as a result of a method that drew in the entire world's innate energies to support your pill concoction. As for the manifestation, I don't think many would realize its significance immediately, not even the Alchemist Association. Eighth-grade products have a manifestation, but not like this. Fortunately, not many can tell the difference or explain it in person.

"We can say it was a manifestation produced by the world's formation as it drew energies from the stars, moon, and planet. I don't know if it'll hold forever, but considering your age and cultivation base, as well as the short time since you've started practicing alchemy, we'll have to rely on others' disbelief. Furthermore, rascally babe, you've kept yourself hidden quite well so there's an argument we can throw to muddle things."

"Hm?" Wei Wuyin's left eyebrow raised slightly. He ignored the fact Tuo Bihan had referred to him as 'babe', slowly becoming accustomed to his odd addressing. After all, he called him a lass once before.

Tuo Bihan smiled with a hint of cunning, "It's a fact that all alchemists know. It's absolutely impossible to concoct a ninth-grade product without an Alchemic Astral Soul. And..." He didn't finish as his eyes brightly shone with brilliance.

Ah!

Alchemic Souls were universally renowned for having no combat abilities. Since his strength was verifiable and his cultivation lacked evidence of an Alchemic Astral Soul, it was the perfect counterargument. Anyone who tried to peddle his true abilities as a Mortal Sovereign Alchemist would be laughed at.

Wei Wuyin grinned.

Good.

The uproar over the next few days was absolutely massive! Especially after consecutive news was released. Wei Wuyin had drawn upon the innate energies of the Myriad Monarch Planet's core to strengthen his concoction abilities to strive to produce an eighth-grade pill! Furthermore, he succeeded!

He had displayed that, with a sufficient cultivation base, he could succeed in concocting an eighth-grade product! This was evidence that he was an Emperor Alchemist that will soon come to fruition in a hundred or two hundred years! This excited everyone as they realized that Wei Wuyin's potential was grand beyond belief.

The Prince of Everlore was living up to his name, establishing legend after legend before fifty years of age! While some were concerned about the planet's innate energies being used, considering the pill that was created was the Spatial Spirit Pill, all could be forgiven.

Who didn't know about Qin Rui? The Grand Imperial Sage of the Extreme Origin Mountain? Didn't she use this very pill to establish a solid enough foundation to become a Grand Imperial Sage? This was the

same as selecting another expert to reach their level. In fact, the following news revealed that the Grand Imperial Sages decided to host a trial to find the one worthy to obtain the Spatial Spirit Pill!

Even if the innate energies of the planet were damaged slightly, a new Grand Imperial Sage easily balanced out this offense. In fact, it was greatly appreciated that many wanted Wei Wuyin to concoct another pill regardless of the damage! This was especially so for those Sky Nobles and Heavenly Kings that desired this pill!

They scrambled to prepare for the trial in hopes of obtaining the pill and ascending into the highest limits of the sky! Literally and figuratively!

In Long Chen's Earthly Elite Palace, the group was discussing various matters, especially the recent news. They were filled with disbelief at the announcements, but the room was filled with tension. This was because of what Long Chen had said before; the Stellar Manifestation of the Mortal Sovereign meant the birth of a Mortal Sovereign Alchemist.

When Lu Feng had exclaimed how awesome Wei Wuyin was, they froze as an unwillingness crept into a few of their hearts. These few were particularly Wu Baozhai and Lian Yu, and especially Long Chen.

He didn't divulge the true meaning of the manifestation, keeping its truth to himself. According to Wu Yu, the Stellar Manifestation of the Mortal Sovereign will only appear with the successful concoction of a ninth-grade pill. As for using the innate energies of the planet, three suns, and moon to support his concoction process, it was absolute bullshit.

This only depressed him further. In a blink of an eye, Wei Wuyin had gone from someone at the same level as him, with merely five years older than him, to heights that rival a figure that even Wu Yu could only look up to.

In his heart, he had always considered Wei Wuyin as having a slight advantage. What genius or elite didn't have decades or centuries on him? He inevitably overcame them all in victorious glory. This birthed boundless confidence in himself. As for seeing Wei Wuyin as a rival? He did, but he was an alchemist! He, Long Chen, focused on the Martial Dao! He comprehended Sword and Slaughter Intent, merged two Astral Souls, and cultivated the profound Imperial Heaven Qi Method.

He was set to become a Grand Monarch of the sect, taking control over the Myriad Monarch Canon, and ushering the Myriad Monarch Sect to new heights. He merely needed time and he would one day exceed even Wu Yu with his foundation. Wei Wuyin's win was temporary, and he felt confident that he could triumph against him now that he ascended to the Astral Core Realm.

But Wei Wuyin's reported combat strength exceeded his own by a level!

Furthermore, his title of Prince of Everlore was rightfully given! If one compared his achievements with the King of Everlore, it would be an insult to Wei Wuyin! The King of Everlore was trash before him. Moreover, with each passing year, Wei Wuyin would have the support of alchemical products like the Spatial Spirit Pill and other eighth-grade and ninth-grade products to establish the purest foundation imaginable.

He would have a near-limitless amount of wealth and access to the sect's resources. The support of all its experts and full authority within the sect. Even if he became the Grand Monarch, he would be forced

to bow before a Mortal Sovereign Alchemist lest Wei Wuyin supported a competitor and created endless trouble for him. If he was like the King of Everlore, a figure that remained neutral and supported every race equally without allegiances, then that would be best. After all, the King of Everlore had no practical combat ability due to his Astral Soul.

But Wei Wuyin had true combat strength.

He witnessed this when he was suppressed by him in the Myriad Yore Continent. This was not false.

"At least...he's not a Mortal Sovereign Alchemist," Lu Feng said with a depressed expression. He was just informed of the 'rivalry' between Long Chen and Wei Wuyin. His big brother was facing this giant with endless talent. It was hard to muster a confident heart.

Those words caused Long Chen's heart to tense. Not a Mortal Sovereign Alchemist?

Wu Yu spoke to him telepathically, "It's best you settle your grudge in your heart. He's not an existence that you can consider overcoming. At least not now."

But Long Chen remained reluctant. He wanted to return the humiliation that was given to him in the Myriad Yore Continent. He wanted to prove to Na Xinyi that her love for him was justified, and she didn't need Wei Wuyin; he would ensure her the greatest happiness! He wanted to prove to himself that he had no limits, simply needed time.

"I refuse!" Long Chen stubbornly resisted accepting this. In the depths of his heart, Wei Wuyin was a demonic wall that he had to overcome. There had to be a way to do so. The cultivation world was boundless and limitless. There had to be some way!

Wu Yu remained silent for a period as he felt the seething emotions within Long Chen. He sighed and felt sympathetic towards Long Chen. His path thus far had been met with countless obstacles, but with the support of himself and others, he always thrived and overcame them all with his tenacious will and honest emotions. For someone like him to accept inferiority after being referred to as trash during his childhood, it was highly unlikely. He had something to prove to himself, and he wouldn't accept anything less than the best.

Wu Yu said suddenly, "There might be a path you can take. But it's rather...uncertain." These words were like cool, refreshing water to a dehydrated man in the desert. Long Chen's eyes brightened. Wu Yu had never steered him wrongly, so he believed him wholeheartedly.

"It's difficult but possible."

"I'm willing!" Long Chen internally shouted. He wasn't willing to admit his inferiority.

"If it was my era, it might not be possible, but in this era it is...you have to gain the full support of the Princess of Everlore," Wu Yu explained. If Long Chen could obtain the Princess of Everlore full support, then he would essentially have a future King of Everlore supporting him. Regardless of how impressive Wei Wuyin was, he could only rival her achievements in his eyes. This was because she had the support of the Alchemist Association and an Alchemic Astral Soul.

Even to Wu Yu, he never noticed Wei Wuyin's Alchemic Astral Soul. He simply believed Wei Wuyin had found a workaround, likely by refining alchemical energies until they reached the appropriate point and

using conversion methods. His thoughts weren't wrong because it was how the Alchemist Association had created the Princess of Everlore!

Furthermore, Wei Wuyin still had to provide for the sect. If the Princess of Everlore dedicated herself completely to and for Long Chen, then his cultivation would explode without end!

Those words embedded a seed within Long Chen's mind. Since he was young, he had unusually great luck with females. Especially talented beauties. He had never intentionally pursued them, trying to focus on his cultivation, but a relationship would naturally develop and their relationship would become intimate.

This was so for Na Xinyi, Lin Ziyang, Qing Qiumu, Wu Baozhai, Lian Yu, Hong Ru, and Xiao Bing! There were also other women he hadn't accepted that he knew how crushes towards him.

But...what if he purposefully tried?

The idea deeply entrenched into his thoughts, permeating his sea of consciousness, and became hopelessly infectious. He could do it! He had the charisma, talent, and potential! Would any woman be able to resist if he tried to court them?

If Wei Wuyin was privy to his thoughts at this very moment, he might laugh for three days and two nights. Regardless, he would feel that the ensuing events would be incredibly interesting.

Chapter 252 - 249: A Month

A month passed.

Wei Wuyin cultivated quietly within his chambers, his thoughts clear as he comprehended the cultivation manual named Saber. Surrounding his body was saber light that flashed endlessly, created out of the world's essence. While his normal cultivation was hijacked and driven by his Astral Souls, he still required to train in various spiritual spells, formations, arrays, and arts.

Since his talk with Tuo Bihan, he had a lot of free time under the guise of recovery. Despite the tsunami-like surging wave of news that swept the starfield of his potential Emperor Alchemist level abilities, he wasn't bothered by anyone. Even Tuo Bihan was quite accepting, merely verifying the truth of his abilities and acting on his own. There was no urgent ushering of Wei Wuyin to delve into concocting products that could help the production of Realm Lords or anything of that nature.

He was quite surprised as Tuo Bihan seemed entirely unconcerned, merely handling the concealment work regarding the Stellar Manifestation of the Mortal Sovereign. That old man seemed more focused on that particular activity than anything else. It seemed that his suspicion regarding the outcome if his true abilities were ever revealed was far more catastrophic than he had originally calculated.

This inevitably brought forth an invisible pressure upon his shoulders.

"It's a little unfortunate that I can't concoct ninth-grade products freely. Numerous ninth-grade products are unimaginably beneficial to lower-phase experts." Wei Wuyin couldn't help but pout his lips slightly at the thought. For example, the Spiritual-God Ascension Elixir that can enhance a Soul Idol beyond the nine-ring at the peak-quality or enhance all aspects of the Spirit to insane limits. If taken at the lowest-

quality, it would allow a cultivator to have enough spiritual strength to establish an eight-ring Soul Idol at minimum.

Qi Fang merely had a three-ring Soul Idol despite being a purist. Even Tuo Bihan was endlessly praised and renowned for having a six-ring Soul Idol. With both a six-ring Soul Idol and six-ripple Spatial Resonance, Tuo Bihan undoubtedly claimed the strongest foundation of a human cultivator. It was this reason why he was considered the strongest human expert throughout the entire starfield.

"According to Tuo Bihan, the Stellar Manifestation of the Mortal Sovereign emerges each time a product is successful. If I tried to act as I normally do, concoct in practice a wide variety of products, the manifestations would be numerous and unable to be hidden away." The phenomenon was accompanied by the vigorous reaction of an entire planet's ambient mana, it was impossible to hide.

Tuo Bihan spat a theory that a formation at the highest level within the Astral Core Realm 'might' be able to halt its influence. While the Myriad Monarch Sect had one, it was truly linked to the innate energies of the planet. Using it would drain its strength and weaken the sect as a whole. Furthermore, it was only a possibility, not a certainty.

He would have to settle on waiting until he could solve this issue.

Luckily, he had found a possible solution: Heart of the World, World of the Saber Intent! It was merely a wild idea at the moment, but the Saber Heart Intent allowed him to exert his will upon the world's essence to convert it into saber essence. His idea was: if he ascended the Second Stage of the Astral Core Realm, attaining the Sky Ruler Phase, then he might be able to exert his Saber Heart Intent upon the ambient mana.

The entire phase was defined by one's ability to innately control ambient mana. By doing so, he might, in theory, be able to sever the manifestation's influence with a Saber-type Formation. The idea might sound simple, but it was intricately complex and difficult to conceive.

Even King, the haughty and proud Astral Soul, was unsure if it was possible. While it would never admit it, Wei Wuyin felt its hesitance. This was the same as dominating a portion of the world's ambient mana and controlling what went in and out with sheer Intent. It was not an easy feat to imagine.

If he could do so, finding a secluded location and concocting ninth-grade products would naturally follow. With the support of ninth-grade products, his cultivation base would erupt into an inconceivable level by today's standards.

"All that's left would be to ascend," his words were accompanied by the halting of his cultivation. During this month, he wholeheartedly focused on honing his Saber Heart Intent and constructing an Astral Formation to accomplish this goal. Swiftly succeeding, the only thing left was to allow his Astral Souls to initiate and overcome the Second Astral Tribulation, the Sky-World Lightning Tribulation. While the second tribulation had another name, this was the one recognized by experts and elites who've undergone it.

This was a stage he could've attempted to assail long ago, his understanding of mana was phenomenally expansive and in-depth. With his Celestial Eyes, he could visibly observe mana in motion and undergoing its numerous and infinite variations. Merely comprehending a surface understanding was enough for his

Astral Soul to link with the ambient mana of this world, forcefully calling upon the Sky-World Lightning Tribulation.

It was these Astral Souls of his that were unwilling to ascend without fully refining their Astral Core and expanding their World Sea to its utmost limits. This might've been nearly impossible to achieve through standard cultivation, and if it wasn't for his excellent near-endless supply of Astral Sea Pills, it would've been.

Thankfully, his Astral Cores were now thoroughly maximized. They were all four millimeters in size and contained enough astral force to drown a continent, likely even a planet. Due to its size, the innate quality of his astral force had touched upon the absolute limits of the First Stage of the Astral Core Realm.

He now needed to undergo the next step, refine his Astral Cores further, and then he could expand them to an even greater size.

Just as he was about to take this step, his three-layered ring glowed. His eyes lit up as a light of excitement flashed within. During this month, he hadn't stepped outside or allowed anyone in as he focused fully on this pressing problem. Because of this, he could only communicate with a few individuals. Amongst these individuals were Xue Yifei, his concubine.

Since he was restricted here to find a solution and upkeep appearances as to the difficulties of concocting an eighth-grade pill, he exchanged numerous messages with her to occupy his mind. When she learned he was on the Myriad Monarch Planet, she was startled. While Wei Wuyin couldn't deduce 'tone' from transmitted messages very well, he somewhat felt her disappointment.

Unfortunately, his Bloodline Source was still exhausted. Moreover, even if it wasn't, he couldn't bring her over. If he couldn't find a way to negate the Void Portal effects when traversing them, such as the lag, flash photo of information regarding all things in the present, and determine if non-Void Creatures could freely travel in that environment, he wouldn't dare bring her along.

That meant he had to wait for a new Void Gate to be established. Until then, they were restricted to this form of communication. He knew that in her heart she felt waves of disappointment. But as he sent over cultivation resources, methods, and a Heavenly Commander to guide her in cultivation, she felt the gratitude and happiness. Despite breaking the Bloodforge Continent's rules, no one objected considering his recent achievements.

It was just unfortunate that he couldn't have her next to him. As his only official concubine and publicly accepted female partner in the starfield, he could freely allow her in and out at this time.

In the end, he settled for witty exchanges and casual conversation. The more he talked to her, the more impressed he was about her intelligence and thoughts. She truly held some intriguing outlooks on certain matters and even had a down-to-earth vibe to her. Perhaps it was her background, her childhood, or her experiences as an adult, but he resonated with her on more than one level.

After reading her message, he replied with his own. It's only been a month and a half since he left, and she had already reestablished her cultivation and reached the Third Stage of the Qi Condensation Realm, the Elemental Birth Phase. Her goal was to birth all nine elements. He had even suggested that she cultivate the Haven Heart Qi Method.

This suggestion shocked her as she heard the numerous ill things surrounding it, including its immense difficulties. But he felt that she could segregate the connections of her cultivation base, her Yin Dragon Soul connected with her dantian—a normal Heart of Qi, while her True Dragon Transmutation Art and Yang Dragon Soul connected with her heart, a Heart of Blood(line). They would both be Draconic Hearts, and she might find the opportunity to merge them both while assailing the Mortal Star Formation Tribulation.

If it was anyone else, he didn't feel it would be possible, but he felt she had all the pieces of the puzzle. In the end, she might be able to cultivate a Draconic Astral Soul that embodies Astral Force and Bloodline. Even if she failed, he had the means to allow her to restart.

This idea was actually formulated because of the very same difficulties poised to everyone by the Haven Heart Qi Method and the Sacred Elven Queen's success. When he first thought about Long Chen's success in merging his Natal Souls, he found it rare that no other elf or person succeeded after so many years had passed. Even though it was highly likely that the complete Haven Heart Qi Method was within the Sacred Light Palace.

It seemed too unlikely, unless there was a specific reason or thing that required success. A reason or thing that was impossible to obtain in this era. Making an educated guess, he felt that it was the Myriad Monarch Canon or something similar, an item revered for its ability to help cultivation that exceeded the Astral-Grade, that facilitated and allowed Long Chen's eventual success.

And he would be right.

Taking this into account, he felt that the Sacred Elven Queen, who was raised in the King of Everlore's era, had devised this method but used a complete Everlore Ascension Pill to facilitate her merging process. Due to its innate effects, the normal dangers or hindrances that would normally affect those with split Natal Souls in the Mortal Star Formation Tribulation would be reduced or negated entirely.

Again, he would be right.

Since he had an Everlore Ascension Pill, couldn't he ensure Xue Yifei's success as well? The thought of two Natal Souls, both Draconic in nature, one embodying Metaphysical Energy, another embodying Bloodline Powers, merging into a single entity felt unprecedented.

While in his heart of hearts, he kind of wanted to simply experiment with the possibility. He was still really looking forward to it while hoping for Xue Yifei's success. What unique creation would be birthed from this?

She inevitably was convinced and agreed with a hint of hesitation in her heart. At first, even with Wei Wuyin's assurances that he would allow her to restart her cultivation once more in the case of failure, she was against it. It was only when he off-handedly mentioned that the merged creation might be the apex form of a Draconic Astral Soul, birthing endless potential and establishing a boundless future, did she agree.

After all, her dream in life was to be renowned throughout the ages with her name. She wanted to live at the forefront of her life, not relegated as a foil for others. She was entirely reluctant to be that silent voice that supported, only mattering to her gloriously dominant partner as a trophy to parade, a source of emotional comfort, or when she was on her knees, back, or stomach.

Wasn't this why she agreed to become a concubine? The concubine of a talented alchemist with a title like the Prince of Everlore? To have his support in reaching that dream. Becoming the next Sacred Elven Queen with a twist was a very good start.

Wei Wuyin was waiting for her reply as he pondered on these matters. "If she reaches the Astral Core Realm, merging her Yin and Yang Dragon Souls within her, and establishes an unprecedented Draconic Astral Soul...would her Primal Yin Energies be effective to my bloodline?" This thought was out of the blue but caused him to dwell for several minutes as he became engrossed with the image of their future dual cultivation.

"Tch," he clicked his tongue as the imagery of Xue Yifei's perfectly-shaped and supple body melding with his own and her various lewd and orgasmic expressions elicited a natural male reaction. "No wonder that demonic dragon couldn't stop pleasing himself to these thoughts."

Chapter 253 - 250: Sky-World Lightning Tribulation

Standing in the expansive courtyard of his sky palace, Wei Wuyin was dressed in loose shorts and a white shirt. He had learned his lesson from the previous set of tribulations, allowing enough space for ease of movement of his...little buddy. Furthermore, he was fully ready to experience whatever came. Be it him or some other odd experience.

"..." He could hear the hopelessly failing sound of stifled laughter from Kratos and the openly uproarious laughter of Ori. King was characteristically silent, alongside Eden, but he felt their mocking thoughts. For a moment, he felt as if he was being pranked and his expression darkened. They couldn't have done that on purpose, right?

As he continued thinking about it, his suspicions grew.

Unfortunately, the four didn't allow him to ruminate on the circumstances too deeply as Orianna took the first step. He felt the subtle rumbling of his Divine Elemental Astral Core. This rumbling quickly escalated until it became exceptionally prominent.

The Sky-World Lightning Tribulation was unlike the Mortal Star Formation Tribulation as it was exceptionally swift by normal standards. In fact, it was the quickest Astral Tribulation amongst the nine. It was accompanied by a single lightning bolt.

Normally, this lightning bolt was unavoidable. You can either withstand it with your physical body as it coursed through your meridians, flesh, and blood, and survive or perish in the midst of it. There were no other options.

But he knew now that the Astral Tribulations were mostly beneficial to a cultivator. Likely, only the Realm World, Temporal Eye, and Star Core Astral Tribulations were purely destructive. According to the records recorded during the King of Everlore's era, only by unquestionably conquering these trials could one ascend. Withstanding it merely led to an endless bombardment that would lead to inevitable death.

It was this very reason why the Realm World Phase was considered an obstacle no expert wished to face. Even during the Mortal Star Formation Tribulation, you can escape. If you did, you'd keep your life but remain unable to fully advance. As for the other Astral Tribulations, withstanding it to your limits was acceptable as long as you survived.

This was especially so for the Soul Idol and Spatial Resonance Astral Tribulations. They were divided into nine levels, and a cultivator could cancel them at any time after the first level's success. Of course, they had to withstand the tribulation entirely if they chose to face the next level. But it was a choice of their own making. Whether they lived or died was dependent on whether they had a solid understanding of their innate potential and strength.

In fact, each set of dual tribulations from one and two, three and four, five and six, as well as seven, eight, and nine might have calculated themes. He found it interesting how the Third and Fourth Astral Tribulations were reflections of one's Spiritual Potential and Innate Compatibility with Spatial Energies.

There was no such thing for any other tribulation, so it was quite out of the ordinary. It was probably these two tribulations results that were the most crucial when conquering the Seventh Astral Tribulation. Regardless, he now faced the Sky-World Lightning Tribulation!

Instantly, he was once again graced with a familiar feeling. It was as if he had returned to the Myriad Yore Continent, at the strange coup d'état event that was also a supposedly forced wedding. There, the world went silent and everyone could feel this looming pressure and force exert on their thoughts and bodies. They would forcibly have their attention dragged away and lifted to the skies.

Even now, his head lifted. But before he saw nothing, now he saw the ambient mana twist into a cloud-like existence. It was dense and chaotically surged about as if it was brewing an unfathomable existence. The color of this cloud was black, jet-black like night, eye-snatching to behold, and the size of a continental flat earth. It was still growing but never infringed on the planet's atmospheric layer. It remained within the Dark Void.

It loomed at the edges of the outermost Sky Layer, seemingly intending to crash down and crush everything. The sound of its continuous and endless growth was heart-palpitating.

Wei Wuyin's eyes narrowed as he heard the sounds of crackling and golden lightning bolts moving within the cloud, like slithering serpents. The overwhelming pressure facing this trial was fundamentally different than being an unassuming spectator of an unseen event.

"Why is it growing?" Wei Wuyin had met the Mortal Star Formation Tribulation and its size was unimaginably inconsistent. It seemed as if it was far, far, far away, and then as close as possible. It confused him and even overtook his visual perception entirely at one point.

When he grasped the coinciding Intent relating to the Mortal Star that formed, he could manipulate its size freely and even itself. But this cloud seemed to be composed of mana from the Dark Void, condensing into a jet-black mass that would horrify children.

"I'm controlling it! Yeah! Yeah!" Ori was energetic, fearless before the trial as it excitedly exclaimed. Wei Wuyin instantly started. Controlling it? It could control the tribulation?

"What are you controlling? Its size? Why?" Wei Wuyin bombarded it with three questions, his heart filled with curiosity. He looked up and found that the size of the mass had already expanded to the size of two average continental flat earths. It was still growing.

"Bigger the cloud, bigger the benefits! Benefits! Benefits!" Ori's Astral Core was constantly rumbling, obviously an action to prod the tribulation.

'Benefits?' Wei Wuyin's eyes brightened. He recalled the records mentioned of the Astral Core Realm's Second Stage, the Sky Ruler Phase. He didn't know what that meant. He knew that the Astral Core would be refined by the resulting lightning, and so would the innate energies within, but he didn't know that the Second Astral Tribulation varied in difficulty.

While he pondered, he hadn't realized that this wasn't a solo effort. The other three Astral Core's were connected and played a faint trick on the tribulation to up its difficulties. There were no differences in difficulty between cultivators or additional benefits normally within the Second Astral Tribulation, but that didn't mean it couldn't be manipulated.

Before he could find out an answer, the cloud had grown to four times the size of an average continental flat earth. When he observed the cloud, there wasn't a hint of fear in his heart, but he felt as if this manipulation or so-called 'benefits' was about to change his identity as a cultivator. That he was about to break the fundamental conventions of cultivation with this.

These Astral Souls of his...they were taking their cultivation path with incomparable seriousness.

When the jet-black mana cloud stopped growing, the sound of lightning crackling ceased as the lightning that was as thick as mountains started to uniformly gather at the center. Just as he was about to externalize, Ori immediately responded with: "No need! No need!" As if reading his mind.

He stayed still and remained quiet, curiosity and interest seething within his heart. Looking towards the center of this unfathomably large cloud that seemed to be gathering and concentrating a bolt of lightning, he still felt no fear.

Then, it happened.

BOOM!

Without prior indication, without any form of warning, a lightning bolt as thin as a man descended from the cloud and traversed the vast space between them before he could blink. No, before he could process a hint of movement. He was struck.

But he didn't feel numb or pain from this lightning bolt. He found that the lightning bolt that was as golden and gave off a mystical feeling as if it contained the quintessence of the world itself was condensed into a golden pellet by a seven-colored light and halted at his glabella.

It was merely a millimeter away from touching his forehead.

When he finally caught up, all he saw was the golden pellet that seemed to contain endless lightning within it. It was surrounded by alchemical force, having been instantly contained and transformed into a pellet.

"Huh?" The looming cloud above dissipated as if it expended all its energies. "What is that?" He questioned Ori, but he got no response. As he asked again, he felt a rumbling once more from his dantian, but it wasn't Ori. It was King.

He had immediately started his Astral Tribulation at this moment. He lifted his eyes and once more saw the jet-black cloud seemingly reappear, slowly growing until it became as large as three times an

average continental flat earth. It was one size smaller than before. He came to realize that Ori had gone completely silent, entirely unresponsive.

He frowned, questioning King.

"Tch." Was his only reply.

In the end, he just decided to let them do whatever they wanted. While they needed him for comprehension, execution, and as a host, they were sentient existences that had their own thoughts; he had to accept this fact.

For now, he simply wanted to survive the Calamities of Hell. They could handle their own cultivation.

As expected, they did.

King's tribulation acted the same, and the golden lightning that descended was gathered into a pellet and absorbed by the other, becoming a larger pellet with what seemed to be seven times the Astral Tribulation's Sky-World Lightning. King soon became quiet too, then Kratos acted. A cloud two times the size of an average continental flat earth was created. It was followed by the same event.

Wei Wuyin couldn't even react or see the lightning descend. He imagined this was the case for everyone else at his cultivation level. They likely had to withstand the lightning within their bodies as their Astral Core slowly absorbed it, allowing it to refine them. If they survived the lightning and refinement, they would ascend into the Second Stage of the Astral Core Realm, becoming a Sky Ruler.

The last to initiate their tribulation was Eden, who kept the lightning pellet that contained nine times the normal lightning within. This time it was a normal-sized cloud, and its lightning flashed at the same speed as before. Ten times the golden Sky-World Lightning was contained and transformed into a pellet.

Eden seemed to be undergoing the same unresponsive situation as the rest. Before it did, it said: "This will hurt." Then the golden pellet smashed into his glabella before he could react. His entire sky palace flared with endless golden light that others couldn't see or perceive with any of their senses. It was as if he was drowned in, his figure vanishing within.

The lightning coursed through his meridians, blood, bones, flesh, and muscles. All of his vital organs, his sea of consciousness, and even his teeth were infused with this lightning. There wasn't an inch on his body that wasn't touched by this lightning. It affected his nerves and caused what should've been mind-destroying pain.

The pain, if given to man hardened by war, death, and battles, might cause them to surrender their lives for the peacefulness of death. They would beg for its sweet embrace.

But Wei Wuyin...

He stood quietly, engulfed in this lightning, and feeling the pain coursing through his body. Lifting his trembling arms and hands, he felt the pain stab into every aspect of his existence. He casually shrugged his shoulders, "Not even a tenth as painful as I thought."

He's suffered Heaven-stabbing pain before, for nearly an entire day, and was burned alive. He felt the pain of the entire world's information penetrate his thoughts. This pain? It felt like a tickle by a pickle.

As he waited, his Astral Cores finally started to revolve and evenly absorb the golden lightning into them, refining themselves. As Wei Wuyin saw the lightning retreat away from his body, his silver eyes were brightly lit as he noticed that his fleshy body could freely interact with the world's ambient mana at will. With a push of his arm, the world's ambient mana similarly moved alongside it. It was as if he had finally jumped into a pool on the other side.

This was the lightning granted the physical body, an unprecedented connection with the world's ambient mana. This was a Sky Ruler. With a thought, the world's ambient mana moved alongside him. This wasn't an exertion of his astral force, spiritual force, or any type of force, but purely his mental thoughts. Clenching his hand into a fist, he felt the ambient mana harden around it.

"If I wanted, I could use Sky Pressure and crush someone to death with a thought." He now fully knew why Wu Jiao could cause Long Chen's allies to explode with a wave and a glance. How exceptional!

While it wasn't strong to the point of invincibility, Wei Wuyin felt that ordinary Qi Condensation realm cultivators, regardless of their stage, could be killed with a single thought. If he pushed his limits, even Astral Core Realm experts at the First Stage might be turned into bloody mush.

He inspected his Astral Cores. They were golden, and their four-millimeter sizes hadn't changed. "Why did you guys need lightning equivalent to ten tribulations?" This meant they were experiencing at least two and a half tribulations each of refinement. This was obviously beneficial to him, so he had no disagreements with their path.

"Wait..." It wasn't that simple. As he looked closer, he realized they were linked and constantly sharing their energies.

"What are you guys trying to do?" The more he asked himself this, the more he felt that his cultivation path was about to defy common sense. After a full hour, he found out why!

Chapter 254 - 251: Mana!

Mana.

A single word, yet it was infinitely profound. To cultivators who've stepped into the Qi Condensation Realms, their steps on the path of cultivation relied on it heavily. It had many other names, but amongst cultivators, the word 'Mana' had a unique Dao charm of truth.

What did it mean? What was mana?

It starts at the Sixth Stage of Qi Condensation, the False Reality Phase. To ascend to that level, one needed to sense mana, absorb mana, and use it to facilitate the fusion of yin and yang energies. This bestowed cultivators the ability of 'Creation'. The Metaphysical Qi they produce can interact with the world with it, sustain itself for long periods of time, and much more.

Some call it World Qi, as Wei Wuyin originally did. Long Chen had called it Essence. Not the Essence of Heaven and Earth that's used to cultivate, but the Essence of the World. It acted as the agent to bind energies, allowing all things to interact, bind, transform, change, and exist.

Others referred to it as a unique vibration that exists perpetually in the world, impacting all things, allowing a subtle resonance between yin, yang, and all energies in existence.

Without mana within an object, that object will inevitably vanish into nothing, having no true effect on the world itself. This was the case for those below the Sixth Stage of the Qi Condensation Realm.

By absorbing a minute amount of mana, a cultivator starts their truest path of cultivation. They turn the world's mana into their own personalized mana via refinement. The Spirit within the Heart of Qi absorbs the world's mana, refines it, and the Spirit transforms. With this mana, it can now merge with the energies of the world.

This opened the path to the Eighth Stage of the Qi Condensation, the Infused Spirituality Phase, where Spirit merges with the Heart of Qi, becoming a Natal Soul. It can be considered a legitimate existence to the world.

The very next step of cultivation from this point is to reinforce the Natal Soul, Qi Essence. Qi Essence required the intermixing of the Natal Soul's core energies and the world's mana refined continuously, and then the Natal Soul would birth a mote of it. By reabsorbing this Qi Essence changes the compositional state of the Natal Soul.

The strength and potential of which is defined by Mortal States, from 1st to 9th. If Qi Essence's composition can be determined as 99.9% Natal Soul's energies and 0.01% of the World's Mana, then the final Essence that produces a Zenith Mortal State is the exact opposite. The extreme concentration of mana initiates an evolution of unimaginable proportions.

The resulting Metaphysical Qi & Astral Force reaches a similar extreme degree of quality and potential. The more connected the Natal Soul was connected to the World, the more benefits received from the Mortal Star Formation Tribulation.

Wei Wuyin experienced this first hand as he received the design for Elemental Origin Intent, Saber Intent, Elemental Heart Intent, and Saber Heart Intent. While he hadn't been able to comprehend Elemental Heart Intent due to lacking three Intents for fire, water, and wind, he received the full overview and was enlightened towards Saber Heart Intent and Elemental Origin Intent.

He knew that those of the lower Mortal State would receive less clarity and likely lack a full overview of the designs to comprehend these Intents, but not the Zenith Mortal State.

Mana was too essential for cultivators, and it existed in everything. Mana wasn't just there to hold together the world, it was much more profound than simply that. Wei Wuyin felt that each independent Dao had its own 'mana'. The Dao's mana stabilizes itself in this world, but they didn't act against the world's. In fact, it might even allow its existence with glee.

This was primarily because of the Heavenly Daos. When he absorbed the punishment of the Heavenly Daos after killing Yuan Longshi, turning karmic sin for killing a Blessed into karmic luck, his Celestial Eyes observed another type of 'unique substance' that was constructing the punishment together. It hadn't controlled the world's mana; it 'rode' it.

This was further substantiated when his Mortal Stars during the tribulations for Kratos and Eden. The moment they initiated their tribulations, they experienced vastly different changes. Firstly, the Alchemic Eden Astral Soul's, or Eden, tribulation had directly descended into his mind.

As for Kratos, it took him on a trip through time and space. He still didn't know if it was real or not, but his memories were divided into two different lives. While these lives weren't massively different, what he experienced had subtle effects in his past the more he inspected these memories. The only issue was he couldn't verify if he was in his timeline or the other one currently.

They both led to the same ends.

Now, as he observed his Astral Souls, he realized their action of accumulating the golden lightning was the same as gathering a uniquely high-quality concentration of the world's mana. The golden lightning baptized his body and mind, allowing him to control the ambient mana. This was the Sky Pressure those in the Sky Ruler Phase was renowned for.

He could, at will, walk on the ambient mana like the golden. He could touch it, twist it, gather it, and disperse it. He became a ruler of the world's mana, and it was a feeling that felt as if he ruled the entire world. The phase's name was aptly termed, and he felt divine.

As for Astral Souls, they were using the golden lightning and the core energies of each other to refine it, over, and over, and over. It was constant and a four-man effort.

"They're trying to create Qi Essence?" As he noted their actions, he realized that the golden lightning was just high-quality mana that exceeds the ambient mana of the world, concentrated and transformed. They were refining this golden lightning mana using the same process of creating Essence. But he had never heard of such a thing.

While he knew there were Alchemical Products that can enhance a Natal/Astral Soul's Mortal State, he'd never once seen a recipe that refined mana with Astral Core Realm level of energies. In fact, it was possible to do so, but the result would be pointless. Practically speaking, how could cultivators not try?

After all, no one wished to remain with a weak foundation if there was an alternative, but it simply wasn't useful. It wasn't that an Astral Soul's state can't change, but the Principle of Mana Phasing existed. This principle states that when Qi or Astral Force lacks sufficient quality of mana, below the world's mana, the world's mana slowly ebbs away the personalized mana. This causes the Qi and Astral Force's compositional energies, physical, spiritual, mental, and essence to slowly deteriorate at their seams and disperse.

This was a principle even Wu Jiao understood. It's the very reason cultivators find it difficult to obtain permanence in their ability to create. When Qi or Astral Force, supported by personalized refined mana at the Zenith level, equates to the same level of strength as the world's mana, it negates the Principle of Mana Erosion.

The world's mana could no longer eat away at and reclaim the personally refined mana of others.

But the problem lies in the energy of the Astral Core Realm level, even the weakest. It exceeds the limits that the world's mana can withstand. Trying to refine it was going to cause it to disperse. Furthermore, Qi Essence was like trying to change the body constitution of a seven-meter giant with a drop of water. There simply wasn't any point. An Astral Soul has been transformed by the unique energies of the Mortal Star Formation Tribulation, and this makes it difficult to change.

Only the Dao of Alchemy can interact and create unique existences like the Everlore Ascension Pills can alter an Astral Soul's constitution post-transformation. The energies within are compatible and influence the Astral Soul in ways cultivators can barely conceive. To replicate this effect with their own power?

Impossible.

At least, impossible for those at the Astral Core Realm. Above? He didn't know.

"The golden lightning mana is a stronger version of the world's mana! You four want to change your Astral Soul's Mortal State?!" He deduced their intentions immediately, trying to create personalized mana that exceeded the normal world's mana limits!

No wonder they needed so much golden lightning and even tricked it using their auras. If it wasn't for their forced dormant state after initiating their Astral Tribulation, he had no doubt these four would be more brazen!

They might stack thousands or hundreds of thousands if they could! The thought caused him to shiver slightly. While ten of these things hurt little, he couldn't imagine so many entering his body.

"It's here!" His Celestial Eyes brightened as he observed their final efforts. This...what was going to happen?

Chapter 255 - 252: New State, Zenith Origin State!

Boom!

Wei Wuyin's arms sprayed and his body felt light. Endless colorful lights were erupting from his every orifice, causing his figure to become immersed in light. His four Astral Souls had simultaneously completed their refinement, their speed and actions were synchronized as if pre-planned.

He felt the newfound power that they refined invigorate his fleshy body! It was...it was awesome! For a moment, he felt free.

Free from all burdens.

Free from life.

Free from death.

He felt enlightened, an existence no longer a part of this world. It was as if he was his own world, the beginning of a new world. His Astral Souls were brightly lit, emitting this powerful light as they absorbed the golden lightning mana they refined.

This wasn't what Wei Wuyin was feeling. It was what they were feeling! For a moment, all his senses, thoughts, and aura vanished. They vanished from this world and were remade anew. It seemed to last for an eternity as he floated in the world without a sense of self.

Then...

Split!

BOOM!

He felt himself created, four different times in four different ways. In one of these creations, he embodied the truest source of a Saber. It was domineering, tyrannical, endlessly sharp, and creates rules, laws, and existences that conformed with its existence. Everything in this created world matched its qualities. There weren't any abnormalities.

Wei Wuyin could feel himself travel through this world, going to any location with a mere thought. He held a saber in his hand, and it seemed to dominate the world. Casually, he waved his hand, and a sun composed of fiery saber light was created. With another wave, he created a river that controlled the souls of deceased sabers.

As he continued, he felt like a god. However, he knew this power originated from the saber in his hand. It was the true god of this world, and it created everything to its desire. Everything was a saber and a saber was everything.

"Is this the Saber Dao? Or something else..." He felt odd, and his first instinctual thought was to call this ability, the way the world conforms, a Dao. Slowly, he started to regain his sense of self. The saber in his hand was facilitating his immersive awakening, bringing him back to himself.

He glanced at the saber that created suns, planets, a river for deceased sabers, and more. "...King?"

"Tch!" The sound was explosive and world-crumbling. Wei Wuyin felt his entire body zoom past this newly created world and shot out of bounds. He entered a dark void that contained absolute nothingness, but where he came from, he saw a spherical object. At the center of this spherical object was a single saber.

'Astral Core? World Sea?' Just as he came to this conclusion, he abruptly experienced a burning, chilling, searing, electrifying, heavy, soft, hard, and fragrant-filled light. He turned his head and realized he was directly approaching a white spherical object. Before he could react, he pierced into it.

When he arrived, he observed an entire world of elements. The nine elements raged, and even unique elements were shifting about. He saw verdant green lightning that struck the earth, creating endless trees in its wake. These trees emitted lightning that shot upwards from time to time.

There was a storm of fire that instantly froze anything it came across, consuming all heat it came in contact with instantly.

There were countless other variations, each weirder than the next.

Now, he felt more certain. He had entered the world of his Astral Cores.

However, this world was already created. Above was a white sun that contained all nine elements, shifting endlessly above without constant form, and it ruled over everything within this world. It was this world's god.

'Is this what an Astral Soul sees? Is this their lives? To act as gods for their own created worlds?' He was astonished to the extreme by this. Even with his connection, he never knew this. He merely drew energies from these worlds, creating astral force and manipulating it. No wonder it's called the World Sea Phase.

After his amazement, he pouted slightly. "No wonder they were unsatisfied with not reaching the limits of their worlds. How selfish." The moment he thought this, he felt the brilliant rays of light from the white, ever-shifting sun.

"Out! Out! Out!" Wei Wuyin heard this voice and smiled. King kicked him out after a while, but only after showing him what he was capable of. After that, he was sent out. It seemed these Astral Souls of his were quite territorial.

And King was a show-boater.

And quite rude.

Wei Wuyin bitterly smiled as he got the message from Ori. He willed his current form away, exiting out of the world. But when he did, staying at the edge of this world, he realized there were only these two worlds here. He couldn't sense or connect with Eden or Kratos.

Well, even if he could, he didn't want to enter Kratos's world. He didn't know if he'll be sent to some ungodly journey through time once again. Moreover, he realized that in the Divine Elemental Astral Core, there was an outline of his body there.

He felt connected to it entirely. If he wanted, he could shift back into it with a mere exertion of his will. His eyes brightened as he turned to the Divine Saber Astral Core, noting the same feeling. It seemed that when he 'felt' himself split into four different pieces, these pieces were like shells for which his mind could enter.

As for now, he was merely a wad of indistinguishable light. This was the basic form of his thoughts, the truest shape of one's thoughts.

That being said, while he didn't understand exactly how or what was happening, he did know what King and Ori were experiencing at the moment.

Within their bodies was a newfound power, and it seemed capable of birthing worlds. Whatever it was, it allowed him to visit these worlds. Perhaps it was an unintended side-effect, but he soon connected with his actual body and felt it. He was currently standing completely absent-minded, his mind had been condensed in its entirety somehow and brought into his dantian.

This was his Mental Incarnation. He had performed these before, but only in his sea of consciousness. Now, he felt as if his mental energies can exist anywhere and solidify into anything. He might even be able to project his consciousness beyond his body.

While he felt it was possible, he had no intention to test this out. After all, that didn't have any purpose besides causing his body to become completely useless.

Wait...

He closed his eyes and connected with his second mind. Immediately, his second mind awakened. As if feeling an abruptly vacant void, it instantly took over his mind. He felt the connection and felt surreal.

He now had dual vision. He had the vision of his dantian and the outside world. With a little experimentation, he could control his second mind with utter ease. After a while, he sealed his second mind once more and returned to his sea of consciousness.

When he fully returned, he felt a distinctive difference. This difference wasn't simply body-based, but the nearby ambient mana was quivering slightly to his presence. It wasn't out of fear, but excitement. It reminded him of how he felt after completing his ninth-grade pill, producing the Stellar Manifestation of the Mortal Sovereign.

He stretched his body, and even without thought, the mana of the world moved alongside him. He was startled. Ambient mana, normally, didn't move. It was still and constant. The only time it shifted or changed was due to those at the Sky Ruler Phase executing their Sky Pressure, something like Long Chen's Imperial Astral Soul's unique powers, when cultivator's absorbed it, or an Astral Tribulation descended.

Besides an external force, it never reacted.

But his every movement seemed to become an external force, and this wasn't just movement, but excitement. He felt the ambient mana attempt to enter his pores, rubbing against his body as if begging to be let in. His left eyelids chaotically twitched. What was this?

The sensation was incomparably awkward. He felt as if he was being molested. While that sounded strange to hear, it truly was the case! He used his Sky Pressure, exerting his will and pushing it away a little.

WOOSH!!!

BOOOOOOOOSH!!!

His action produced an unexpected reaction that was incomparably volatile and violently explosive. The ambient mana shook and left actively into every direction away from him, violently crashing against his sky palace. The protective formations and arrays activated, but it was useless as it toppled. In seconds, the gushing cascade of ambient mana caused his entire sky palace to be reduced to rubble.

Both his eyelids twitched chaotically and uncontrollably. He looked around him, realizing the devastation that was brought by a single desire. These arrays and formations would make it difficult for Third Stage Astral Core Realm cultivators to destroy his Sky Palace. But now...

He felt like crying but had no tears.

'This is abnormal!' The ambient mana came rushing back as if ignoring his previous desire, filling the space he occupied. When it reached two inches away from him, it once more became excited and started its very uncomfortable rubs once more. Despite this sensation, he realized his control over the world's mana was far, far greater than before.

Furthermore, the ambient mana seemed to be attracted to him as if wanting to return home. He hurriedly sought an explanation from his Astral Souls, but they were still undergoing their transformations. He sighed softly, but a voice resounded.

"Origin Essence! Zenith Origin State!" It was Eden. After this, it went back to slumbering as if trying very hard to achieve the best possible transformation.

"..." Wei Wuyin's heart raced uncontrollably. Did they...just❖❖

Since he started his tribulation, he felt that his cultivation base was going to veer away from the norm, likely jumping beyond his current limits. Was this it? And if so, what will this transformation lead to?

A constant bombardment of endless, thunderous, and explosive excitement erupted within his heart, mind, and soul. He was thrilled to find out.

Chapter 256 - 253: Eye Of Truth, World's Trend

The destruction of his sky palace was quite detrimental to him. In this unintentional act of destruction, he had leveled everything from his alchemy room to his bedroom, and even his study. He had kept quite a few notes, scrolls, and books there with his ideas and thoughts on various methods.

Essentially, he placed his legacy here. In the off-chance he died abruptly, those of the sect would find and immortalize these written documents in the Martial King's Dao Palace and other libraries for the future generation. As such, while he was excited about his newfound power over the ambient mana, he was bitter in his heart.

With the utmost haste, he tried to salvage what he could. The entire sky palace collapsed, but there was barely any damage to his records. They were merely dusty and a little worse for wear but intact. After a quick sweep, he was met with the arrival of several members of the sect. They were Prime Imperial Sages and Heavenly Commanders.

They watched the destruction with shock in their eyes, unsure of what to make of this. A figure amongst them, a middle-aged beastman with turquoise gills and scales, called out to Wei Wuyin. "Heavenly King Wei, what...happened?"

His name was Blu, and he was a Heavenly Commander of the Extreme Creation Mountain. He was particularly skilled in the Dao of Design, possessing influence and status as an Architect of formations and arrays surrounding water energies and forces.

When the others landed and saw Wei Wuyin dressed in loose shorts and a t-shirt, they were confused and concerned. This young Heavenly King of theirs, this Prince of Everlore, always had various events happening around him. These events ranged from impressive to catastrophic. Regardless, they were always intense.

Wei Wuyin glanced at Blu, an awkward look on his face. He couldn't explain that he flexed a little and caused this accidentally, right? In the end, it was best to cover this up. "I've grown tired of this Sky Palace. I want a new one built, sturdier, and more impressive." His expression changed as he released an imposing and dissatisfied aura.

Blu started. Sturdier? More impressive? This sky palace took three decades of non-stop effort to create! He wanted to cry but no tears came. If it was anyone else of Wei Wuyin's age, he might've slapped him silly for purposefully destroying decades of work. But it was Wei Wuyin, the Prince of Everlore, a Heavenly King, and favored of the Grand Imperial Sages.

He blew a hole in the sky, used the innate energies of the world for concoction, and had already concocted an eighth-grade pill before fifty years old. It was best if he restrained his thoughts and cater to his desires. Who knows, in the future, he might benefit from this decision.

With a nod, he said solemnly: "I agree. This sky palace was poorly constructed and is unworthy of being in the eighth-grade. I'll personally have someone construct a better replacement immediately."

Wei Wuyin was a little startled inwardly. He wasn't ignorant of the work put into the sky palace, but it was for the best to admit intentional action than an unintentional fault in his eyes. Why? He didn't know, but he knew it'll lead to better results.

He nodded, about to head to that old man's Sky Palace when his footsteps halted. He glanced at his right arm, feeling shocked in his heart. Was he just influenced? Lifting his arm, he noted there was no deduction of Karmic Luck Value. However, he was certainly influenced.

To act without a stable reason in a certain direction, purely based on instinct. This was the basis of influence, right? His silver eyes darkened considerably, a hint of uncertainty within his eyes.

"Is it possible?" He looked up from his arm, his Celestial Eyes observing the ambient mana that was faintly excited. It had calmed down somewhat, his will keeping it away with the gentlest of a push. "There's no way, right?" The confusion in his eyes became even greater, the degree of uncertainty nearly becoming solid.

He turned back and saw Blu inspecting the damage, his spiritual sense diligently observing the scene. Wei Wuyin knew he was seeing if any of the formation or array foundations could be salvaged. Noticing his gaze, Blu lifted his eyes to see Wei Wuyin's stare.

With a smile, he nodded. As if saying, "I'll handle this matter. Don't worry."

Wei Wuyin kept his expression unchanged, but his heart shook. *'The Celestial Eyes of Spiritual Divinity's Eye of Truth was described as being able to view the trend of the world, origin of all things, and unseen divinities. At first, I thought it meant becoming a Seer, like Ming Shufeng, but the wording in the manual was very oddly structured.'*

The trend of the world. What did that mean exactly? Fate? Destiny? Heavenly Daos' Will? Originally, it seemed to be about those three things, but as he learned and comprehended Mana to a greater extent, it might be simpler yet more profound. Could mana be used to read the trend of the world? Or was it the spy of the world, allowing a guesstimate of what could happen?

When he saw the excited mana surrounding him, wanting to rub against and enter his pores, he realized that it might've allowed him to subconsciously perceive a trend of certain actions. If it wasn't for his deep understanding of how it feels to be influenced subtly to the point of near non-existence, he would've missed it.

With the Bloodline of Sin, whenever the Heavenly Daos affected him, it would jolt him with a surge of pain and lead him to a conclusion to introspect his thoughts, beliefs, and memories to gauge what was not his own, had been twisted, or removed. *'The Bloodline of Sin only works for Heavenly Daos? Then, the Eye of Truth has to be a force that it can't sense.'*

It might be because the Eye of Truth had already become a part of him, but the true question in his heart was...why now? Was it the Zenith Origin State of his Astral Souls? Was it his Sky Pressure strength or compatibility with the world's mana? Did he finally meet some needed qualifications to view the trend of the world? And why was it so unclear? Why did it come as a subconscious feeling as if he was influenced?

He pondered for an hour on the spot, not moving an inch. His eyes were bright at times and dim others. Only after an hour did his mind seem to click with a eureka moment.

It was information.

When he crossed the Void, he received a vast amount of information that encapsulated to the entire world. He knew it was merely a moment and was essentially a photo, but he couldn't process it. How could he? He was merely a mortal. His computational skills and processing limits couldn't grasp everything in the world, even if it was for a single moment. Matter of fact, a single air particle was so complex his head felt as if it was going to explode.

'The Eye of Truth is the processor, and it simplifies things for me to understand, sending it to my mind. I don't know the how, when, where, what, or who, but I do know that it'll lead to something beneficial to me. This is what I feel with the utmost clarity of my sanity. It's definitely different from the forced interference of the Heavenly Daos. It's more natural. No one is influenced, simply the world's trend that should 'A' happen then 'B' would be its end result.' He felt as if a stifled wad of turbid air had left his chest.

This was fantastical and needed to be further explored. He looked at Blu, who was currently surrounded by subordinates who he had called. It had already been an hour, and he was still diligently working. Wei Wuyin decided to reward him.

His eyes brightened momentarily. He had felt the sensation again. It was subtle, near unnoticeable, but it was a feeling that this action was 'good' for him or his sect. This feeling was mystical, and while it wasn't the ability to view the future, and it wasn't certain that worldly trend might be interfered with by an equal or greater power, the Heavenly Daos for example, but it was beneficial for now.

He soon left. When he soared in the skies without wind astral force, those inspecting or making various calculations regarding building a new palace were violently startled. "Sky Ruler!" Blu noticed this immediately, his eyes bulging slightly.

No way!

A Sky Ruler at less than fifty years of age! He's also a future Emperor Alchemist! How much of a monster must you be?! In his heart, he decided to call in all his favors accumulated over the hundreds of years to establish the best Sky Palace in the shortest amount of time. He had to make a good impression.

Chapter 257 - 254: Da Shan

Like the passing of time, the change of seasons was unstoppable, causing fifteen months and come and go. These fifteen months were eventful, merely due to the preparation of the Monarch Spirit Trials that was announced.

These trials were a series of contests that challenged resourceful, cultivation, and innate talent. It was devised as a way to select the one who will receive Wei Wuyin's Spatial Spirit Pill. This pill had caused a storm amongst the young geniuses, especially since it was an eighth-grade product.

It was highly possible that despite living for a thousand years, they might never personally see one. After all, there were so little Alchemic Emperors in this world. In fact, there were less than twenty. Moreover, the only one that belonged to the Myriad Monarch Sect exclusively was Tuo Bihan, the Grand Imperial Sage of the Extreme Creation Mountain, and widely considered as the strongest human cultivator of his level.

The possibility that they could gain his notice was far too impossible. Even if it was so, the chances of them obtaining an eighth-grade product for their cultivation from him was incredibly unlikely. This Monarch Spirit Trials was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that couldn't be ignored. They cultivated to the extreme after the announcements, using their families' resources to train to their limits while obtaining various trump cards.

Today was the Monarch Spirit Trials, and it was held on the planet Junia. It was named after the wife of the Grand Monarch Wu Yu, the Founder of the Myriad Monarch Sect. In the Myriad Monarch Astral Territory, only three planets existed, and two of them were named to give Grand Monarch Wu Yu a lasting and honored reminder.

The Myriad Monarch Planet, Junia, and Wuyu. These were the three planets within their astral territory, and one can easily tell that when it came to paying respects to the founder, they didn't hesitate. That being said, the Myriad Monarch Sect originally dominated the entire starfield before, and the starfield was named the Imperial Heaven Starfield.

Those in the know regarding the special lineage of the Grand Monarchs would understand its significance.

That name was changed after their eventual decline and the San Clan's rise. It was later renamed to the Tri-Vision Starfield.

While various Sky Nobles, Heavenly Kings, even Earthly Elites were gearing up to participate in these trials that will most certainly push these youths to their limits, Wei Wuyin was elsewhere. His thoughts, desire, and current mindset had never touched the Monarch Spirit Trials. In fact, he was touching something else with more impassioned actions.

"Haah...Nnnf...Aaahh...YEH! Mmhf!" The sounds of moaning and groaning resounded ceaselessly from within a particular sky palace on the seventh level, within one of its many bedrooms.

"So...soo deep...yeh...Right there! YES!! AAAAAAAH!!!" A feminine voice seemed to have reached a climax and voiced it to the world with deep energy. It shook the sky palace, the sounds kept concealed by various formations within, but the disturbance was notable to those with keen senses on the Extreme Demonic Mountain.

In this bedroom were two individuals who had just engaged in rough tango, their naked bodies covered in sweat, and the room was an absolute mess. They cuddled, and despite their difference in size and stature, it seemed to create a sensual picture for the sights.

Wei Wuyin stared at this gorgeous demon in his arms who snuggled on his chest with soft movements. Her light-violet skin glistened thanks to her beads of fragrant sweat, and long violet hair cascaded down her back with a shimmer of faint light. Her soft long legs intertwined crossed his own, brushing it a little. Those gorgeous legs allowed her to stand beyond his, nearly eight feet tall.

His silver eyes flashed with a wisp of a smile as he lightly called out her name: "Da Shan." When she lifted her head to meet his eyes, revealing her exquisitely gorgeous jawline, golden irises, and full lips, he couldn't help but reach his hand over to grasp a handful of her. And it was a handful he couldn't fully contain.

"Again?" Her eyes revealed a hint of arousal, expectant desire, and an unyielding to reveal weakness. When Wei Wuyin saw that faint competitiveness within her eyes, he moved his hand away and laughed. They had already been at it for four days and three nights, her exceptional stamina and endless desire to conquer him was a little too much.

"Soon. But, are you sure you don't want to participate in the Monarch Spirit Trials?" He asked. Da Shan was a Sky Noble of the Extreme Demonic Mountain, and a demon-hybrid born from a human with a titan bloodline. Her demon lineage originated from a Violet Mountain Demon. It was a small mountain that had received Soul Impartation and later cultivated to gain human form.

Her innate strength was impressive, and many were deeply terrified of her every action or her tendencies to go berserk at the first provocation. However, to Wei Wuyin, she was quite different. She was a gorgeous, headstrong, and competitive beauty that had an unyielding will.

They met two years ago when he visited the Extreme Demonic Mountain after Eden expressed its interest. When he got there, he realized that Eden could absorb demonic energies with ease, even use it to cultivate. But the benefits weren't that great. In fact, since his alchemy talents had been revealed, they had barely used the ambient energies and essence to cultivate as it wasn't as refined, pure, and enriched as his products.

So besides the recovery of energies, they didn't use it.

However, this supported the idea that Eden's original form might've been close to becoming a demon. He knew that the Tree of Eden had a mind, but it wasn't a legitimate demon. Demons are imparted souls in one way or another, born, and then have the ability to cultivate.

The Tree of Eden had existed for who knows how many years yet it never cultivated a single day in its life; it wasn't able to. So having sentient thought and memories did not give one the ability to cultivate, which meant the Tree of Eden had likely received demonic traits after becoming his Spirit, and later Natal Soul.

It might've been an indirect Soul Impartation. Regardless, this ability didn't offer many benefits to Wei Wuyin besides being able to live in the Extreme Demon Mountain where it was engulfed with demonic energies. These energies were highly volatile to non-demons.

Demonic energy was different from other energies, and it seemed to be rather unique. It could negatively influence the spirit, body, and mind. It can even drive one to become insane. There was speculation that it was a hybrid-type of energy, different from elemental energies which originate from

the Material Dao, or Eden Energies which stems from the Mind Dao, or sword, battle, or slaughter energies as they matched the Ethereal Dao.

Because it can affect all three simultaneously and be used to execute attacks on all three.

In locations where the concentration of demonic energies are dense, it's known for being able to alter DNA, bloodline, and instigate changes in one's psyche. These would be random and impossible to predict mutations. The most fearful thing is that one doesn't become a demon due to these mutations.

This has caused countless demons and other races to speculate that demonic energies don't stem from demons, but it simply suited them for cultivation easier. The vast majority of demons form Demonic Hearts of Qi when they cultivate, and it has led to their exceptional combat strength beyond the norm. After all, Demonic Qi influences all aspects of cultivation just the same.

Da Shan had met him exploring the mountain. She hadn't expected a human to arrive in the homeland of demons within the Myriad Monarch Sect. At this time, his identity wasn't that well-known and not everyone knew how he looked. Regardless, she challenged him to a fight.

At the time, she was a mere Earthly Elite Disciple, her cultivation base at the Second Stage of the Astral Core Realm. She directly questioned Wei Wuyin. One thing led to another and they fought, but they merely used their physical bodies. While Wei Wuyin hadn't wanted to, this woman was forceful beyond belief.

In the end, he had to draconify, and only then did he exceed her slightly in pure physical strength. After clinching a triumphant and narrow victory, she was unwilling to quit. Of course, if she used her demonic force or Sky Pressure, Wei Wuyin would be facing an undefeatable enemy. But she didn't, and she challenged him again.

In a week, he accepted and they fought again, but he won easier this time. Her shock was apparent, but Wei Wuyin was a cheater. He consumed all sorts of seventh-grade physical energies and physique-enhancing products beforehand, doubling his strength instantly.

But she was relentless. In the end, their fists turned into talks which turned into...well...what they are now.

He later helped her establish a seven-ring Soul Idol, and she became a Soul Idol cultivator, rising in the ranks as a Sky Noble. She was soon scheduled to attempt the Heavenly King's Trial. If she succeeded, proving a superior combat strength in her cultivation, she would become a Heavenly King of the Extreme Demon Mountain.

Da Shan's golden eyes looked into Wei Wuyin's silver eyes that shone brilliantly with the faint rays of light entering their room. She said, "Do I need to participate? Will you not make me a Spatial Spirit Pill?"

Wei Wuyin chuckled, using his hand to cup her face. She was quite beautiful, especially when she was direct like this. "Of course I will, but the Monarch Spirit Trials will have some good competition. You don't want to?"

Da Shan pouted, laying her head on his chest and softly shook her head. "If I participate, I'll win, and then I'll be taking the opportunity to improve away from others."

Wei Wuyin was speechless for a moment. Such confidence! But when he thought about the pills and elixirs she refined over the course of these two years, perhaps it was a little bit cheating. In terms of her innate energies, physical body, and cultivation base...she was quite ahead of others. Just a seven-ring Soul Idol exceeded Tuo Bihan and was the only one in the entire sect.

He knew that she wasn't being entirely truthful, however. It was likely she had decided to stay behind for another reason. He didn't probe. Instead, he pulled her closer and kissed her forehead. "Again?"

Her golden eyes sparkled, energy fueling her bright gaze. Unfortunately, just as they were about to continue their series of several day-long battles, Wei Wuyin's three-layered ring glowed. A little frustrated at the timing, he still decided to see what the message was. When he did, his eyes widened.

Chapter 258 - 255: They Arrive

The message he received spoiled his mood, his eyebrows furrowed and the light within his silver eyes flashed intermittently. Various thoughts circulated within, and this caused Da Shan to notice. She held her thoughts of straddling Wei Wuyin aside as she asked, "Something's wrong?"

Those two words caused Wei Wuyin to be brought back to reality, his expression a little confused first before smiling at the gorgeous demon beside him. He lightly shook his head, caressing her violet hair, and responded: "I have to go." Those words were said gently and caused Da Shan to realize the situation was likely an urgent one. She lifted her upper body and nodded. She wasn't the type of woman that needed a man's undivided attention, so she rose and readied to wash off the sweat that glistened her body.

Wei Wuyin sighed in his heart as he got a full view of her bountiful assets. He clicked his tongue and closed his eyes. In the message, it was Tuo Bihan who had just informed him about the abrupt and eventful interruption that had occurred on Junia, directly before the Monarch Spirit Trials began.

According to him, the Elemental Heaven Pavilion had arrived. They weren't alone. With the Alchemist Association alongside them, they brought up two matters that couldn't be ignored. Thus, he lifted his body off his bed and hurriedly cleaned his body with water energies infused with an alchemical elixir's fragrance. In a matter of seconds, he was thoroughly cleansed with an exquisite smell.

With a set of clothes, donning his Heavenly King's robe, he left. The Extreme Demon Mountain was infused with demonic energies year-round. These energies would induce all sorts of ill-effects on humans, beastmen, and elves without a demonic lineage, but with a single breath, the demonic energies were absorbed by his meridians and thoroughly absorbed and directed into Eden.

Eden processed these energies and converted them into supplements for his sea of consciousness, improving his mental abilities with every second—literally. While minute in increment, as time passed, he could double his mental abilities. Wei Wuyin enjoyed staying with Da Shan in this environment, especially as a means to relax and de-stress. It was a suitable hideaway, and even demons in the Extreme Demon Mountain were reclusive cultivation maniacs.

Only someone like Da Shan, outgoing, fierce, and competitive would be seen traveling often throughout the sect, planet, or continents. Turning his head back towards her palace, he couldn't help but let reveal a soft smile.

Unfortunately...

When a step, he soared through the sky like a black streak. His speed was exceptional, exceeding any Sky Ruler known in the starfield. The control, exertion levels, and Sky Pressure he possessed since his four Astral Souls reached the Zenith Origin State was stupendous.

When he arrived at the first level of the Extreme Monarch Mountain, Li Ling, a peak-Mortal Captain Elder and overseer of the Myriad Void Gate, was already there waiting. She had recently received Wei Wuyin's transmission and hurriedly prepared the Myriad Void Gate.

She saw him, clearly aware of the events happening on Junia, she said: "Heavenly King Wei, they..." Her words were interrupted.

"Open the Void Portal to Junia." Wei Wuyin didn't need an explanation. He already understood how the Elemental Heaven Pavilion had arrived on Junia. It was clearly with the permission of the Grand Imperial Sages that they arrived. If not, how was it possible?

But the Grand Imperial Sages would never allow the Elemental Heaven Pavilion to step foot on Junia, Wuyu, or the Myriad Monarch Planet. The only way was for them to be tricked. While it was a little embarrassing, it was the truth. He didn't need her to explain. He already knew.

She nodded, her actions swift as she started to make preparations, extracting a Void Disk. Wei Wuyin watched her as he pondered to himself, *'The Elemental Heaven Pavilion's purpose for this is definitely around the Gateway. The only question is...did they reveal its existence to them?'*

Roommmvvvvv!

Weeeeengg!

Wei Wuyin heard the various internal spinning gears and formations within the Void Gate start to initiate. His eyes refocused, seeing the black void before him. He didn't hesitate to walk directly through.

Planet Junia.

It was a planet enveloped in lush green plains, forests, and grassy mountain ranges. It was eighty percent solid landmass with only twenty being bodies of water. Furthermore, these bodies of water had been thoroughly infected by the extreme wood essence of the planet, causing the water and rain to be bright green. It was a holy ground for Wood Cultivators.

It was the smallest of the three planets that were situated within the current Myriad Monarch Astral Territory and the least populated. Due to its environment, the planet was a natural breeding ground for terrestrial beasts. A majority of the Astral Territory's mounts can be traced back to this planet.

It was even titled the Green Mother of Beasts. While merely a title, it truly gave one an understanding of how prominent beasts were within the territory. Because of this, a large majority of the territory was treated as wildlands and allowed beasts to cultivate naturally. This led to it inadvertently being used as a tempering grounds for disciples.

There were numerous disciples of the Mortal Common and Earthly Elite who set up their base here to develop their lower-ranked disciples. With the high population of beasts, including some lower-leveled Star Beasts, they were hunted with vigor.

The Monarch Spirit Trials was determined to occur in one of these hunting locations. The sect collected wild beasts of the Star Beast level and gathered them within a restricted area. Of course, the total area of this location exceeded the entire Myriad Monarch Continent. Therefore, it was still expansive enough to have Sky Rulers and Soul Idol fight to their fullest.

As for destroying the planet? A planet was far, far harder, and more durable than a continental flat earth. To even damage the normal ground of a planet required a Soul Idol cultivator to strike at their fullest, so to think they could cause massive devastation was a delusion dream.

The only ones who have been noted to have the potential to destroy planets with a little bit of time were those at the Realm Lord level and beyond. This was mostly because they could refine a planet if they were freely acting with their External Realm Territory.

On the planet, in this location, there was a platform that floated high within the first Sky Layer that expanded a hundred kilometers. This platform was translucent, and it allowed light to permeate through without casting a shadow below. On this planet was Qin Rui, Tuo Bihan, and Ji Changkong. Beside them were other Imperial Sages, Prime Imperial Sages, Earthly Captains, and Heavenly Commanders who were here to observe the promising disciples below.

They were invested in who would take first place within the Monarch Spirit Trials and obtain the eighth-grade Spatial Spirit Pill, forging a potential path to the Grand Imperial Sage.

However, they weren't calm and acting as spectators, nor was the competition started. Below, there were two groups of young elites gathered together. The first group was dressed in the Myriad Monarch Sect's signature attire, but the second group was divided into two factions. The first had all white with a Nine-Colored Swirl embroidered at their shoulders, back, or chest. They sported this symbol with pride.

They belonged to the Elemental Heaven Pavilion. They were lesser in number when compared to the Myriad Monarch Sect, but their auras and cultivations couldn't be underestimated. As for the other faction, they had a cauldron with glittering stars exiting out of it embroidered on them.

There wasn't a single person in the Tri-Vision Starfield who would be ignorant of these two symbols, especially not the latter. It belonged to the prominent and highly renowned Alchemist Association!

Above the platform, the Myriad Monarch Sect elites were watching another group with tense, cool, cold, or indifferent expressions. This group belonged to the Elemental Heaven Pavilion and Alchemist Association, and their auras didn't lack when compared to the Myriad Monarch Sect despite having far fewer individuals.

Qin Rui's concealed expression was the pinnacle of icy-cold, her eyes blazing with murderous intent, but her aura was restrained. If it was just the Elemental Heaven Pavilion, it was all too likely that Qin Rui would strike without holding back. But because the Alchemist Association was present, she restrained herself.

Ji Changkong spoke, his eyes piercing and sharp. "Qingye Yun, I never thought you would use your invitation to bring...uninvited trash here." His words were direct, sharp, and clear. However, the expressions of those elders on the other side, belonging to the Elemental Heaven Pavilion remained unfazed. They knew that Ji Changkong was like a Sword and Saber, his sharpness was unable to be contained.

Seeing his insult being treated like hot air, Ji Changkong's hands simmered with traces of sword force. The sword light emitted was quite blinding, seeming ready to pierce into the eyes of these nonchalant Elemental Heaven Pavilion Elders.

Qingye Yun replied with a calming voice, "Ji Changkong, there's no need to be hostile. I've brought them here to help settle an issue you have with them." He was an elf, his bright cyan eyes and milky skin gave him a sense of aesthetic beauty often praised amongst elves. With a hair of gold, he was like a god of tranquility and beauty.

Qingye Yun was the Grand Association Master of the Alchemist Association. Not only was he a prestigious Alchemic Emperor, but he was also a cultivator at the Sixth Stage of the Astral Core Realm, the only expert solely belonging to the Alchemist Association.

Ji Changkong frowned, his sword-light remained. "Issue?"

Qingye Yun smiled and explained, "Regarding the...Door."

The eyes of all those in the know had their eyes shrink slightly.

Chapter 259 - 256: Mediate Into A Wager

Tuo Bihan remained quiet, his expression was the only one that was calm. *'Idiots!'* Despite his internal curses, he decided to take the lead to speak with Qingye Yun. "Qingye Yun, you wish to mediate our dispute?"

Qingye Yun lightly nodded, turning towards a woman of the Elemental Heaven Pavilion. She was a beautiful human with a sharp chin, limpid eyes, and a shapely figure. When she stepped forth, her short white hair and blue eyes were dazzling and attention-grabbing. This was the one and only Elemental Heaven Pavilion's Pavilion Master, Lin Ruyan.

This was beyond shocking, her actions of arriving on the Junia was tantamount of an act of aggression. But with the Alchemist Association acting as the in-between, this could be mildly dismissed as long as they didn't act too impudently. This was the face that must be given to the Alchemist Association.

While they weren't individually powerful, they controlled the market for sixth-grade and seventh-grade products. If there was a force that had the most wealth, it was the Alchemist Association. While their tributes to the San Clan were far more massive than the four hegemonic forces, they still can be said to contain the most wealth and second most influence.

The San Clan only exceeded them due to their two Realm Lords, purely through strength. If they wanted, they could gather the experts of the starfield into an impressive line-up to assault any single force. They could, in theory, do what Wei Wuyin had done to the Grand Axis Faction on a much larger scale.

While the Alchemist Association's strength wasn't centralized, focused, they had connections with nearly every force on the starfield, remaining neutral and active. There wasn't a single force that wanted to have them as enemies.

Tuo Bihan's eyes shifted between Lin Ruyan and Qingye Yun. As he did, he couldn't help but think about Wei Wuyin. In a moment of impulse, he sent a message via transmission crystal. He didn't know why he did so, but he felt that this matter wasn't simple.

The Alchemist Association had requested to observe the Monarch Spirit Trials. Not expecting them to pull a stunt like this, the Grand Imperial Sages unanimously permitted them to open a small-sized Void Gate within Junia. This temporary authorization led to them bringing along the youths and elders of the Elemental Heaven Pavilion.

As for acting as meditators, they clearly wanted to settle the allocation of spots for the Gateway to the realm they located. It was located on their borders but had been discovered also by the Elemental Heaven Pavilion's subordinates. Due to this, a fierce debate had ensued which was still ongoing. After all, the Myriad Monarch Sect didn't have to share, but if they did, they didn't want to share too much.

The Elemental Heaven Pavilion was quite demanding, wanting half the spots. Their unyielding tact led to unending arguments.

The Alchemist Association's presence and their willingness to act as a mediator might be good to come to an immediate conclusion between both parties, but it was overall better for the Elemental Heaven Pavilion if a third-party wasn't involved. Furthermore, the Alchemist Association was simply not a force that could be underestimated nor were they humble eaters when it came to benefits. Their knowledge of the Gateway and the realm it leads to will definitely cause them to want a piece of this fallen sky-pie. It would be forcefully split three-ways.

This was why Tuo Bihan considered the Elemental Heaven Pavilion idiots. The Alchemist Association would want a slice, but there's no way the Myriad Monarch Sect will allow the Elemental Heaven Pavilion to receive an equal number of spots. They will definitely suffer a loss.

This confused Tuo Bihan. Lin Ruyan was considered relatively intelligent and cunning. Why would she make this clearly disadvantageous move?

Lin Ruyan said with a smile, "I think any further argument would lead to an unnecessary delay in visiting the Door. Since you've established a trial for the younger generation, and I've brought a few untalented youths from my sect with me, I suggest a wager to settle it all." Her first series of sentences were direct, not beating around the bush.

From Qingye Yun's calm eyes, he clearly agreed with this line of resolution. He even added, "I agree. I've similarly brought a few youths from my little association. I hope you won't mind us participating in this too." His words were indicative of their firm stance. They were quite direct, which left the elders of the Myriad Monarch Sect rather speechless.

"Hahaha!" Ji Changkong laughed wildly, his sword-light receded as he launched a leveled gaze towards these powerhouses of the starfield. They wish to test the mettle of their talents against theirs? This was not a fight he was afraid of.

This wasn't just him. Even Qin Rui had a look of disdain behind her concealment, clearly she viewed the upbringing and innate talents of the Myriad Monarch Sect's juniors as superior to the others. This wasn't without justification.

These youths were forced to navigate through schemes, stronger opponents, and cultivate with the utmost diligence in a highly competitive and deadly environment that was the Myriad Monarch Sect. The vast majority of resources they received were earned by their own effort, intelligence, and strength.

Other sects were knee-deep in nepotism, choosing their descendants over talent. But the Myriad Monarch Sect treated everyone equal, and while backing can help you in certain manners, it wasn't a reliance. However they wanted to decide the allocation of spots, if it was to compare their younger elites, they would take the vast majority with relative ease—at least in their eyes.

Tuo Bihan, however, shook his head. "The Monarch Spirit Trials is to decide the chosen member of our Heavenly King Wei's Spatial Spirit Pill. The purpose and sanctity of the event isn't something we can disturb simply for our dispute." His words caused Ji Changkong to stop laughing.

It was only with this reminder did he recall their purpose. He had nearly lost himself in their provocation. This trial was important, likely the next Grand Imperial Sage will come about from these young talents. They ranged from the first stage to the third stage, but they were all under three hundred years old and exceptionally talented.

Qingye Yun seemed entirely unbothered, but the slight moment when 'Heavenly King Wei' was mentioned, his eyes slightly twitched unnaturally. He said, "You're right. It wouldn't be fair. So, how about we place something also as the first place prize? If we do, then the winner will take all prizes and there should be no unfairness."

The eyes of Qin Rui brightened. "All prizes?" If they wanted to add their own prizes into the trial, it would have to be equal or greater than a Spatial Spirit Pill.

Lin Ruyan seemed to have expected Qingye Yun, clearly they had coordinated previously as she hadn't skipped a beat before she responded: "Grand Association Master Qingye is right. It would be a little unfair to intrude abruptly, so how about my Elemental Heaven Pavilion places a drop of Spiritual Mana."

"What?!" The elders of the Myriad Monarch Sect were in shock. Spiritual Mana? A single drop of Spiritual Mana was beyond rare! That was because it was man-made. Liquid Mana can be produced by refining mana through unique formations over decades or by a natural process through various special circumstances. Liquid Mana can help enhance a Natal or Astral Soul's Mortal State, even produce Mana Essence to reach the Zenith Mortal State.

But Spiritual Mana was different, far, far more special, and endlessly beneficial to all cultivators. The difficulty was in the time to produce and the man-made component. It required liquid mana to be refined constantly for at least a century in spiritual energies of a dozen Soul Idol cultivators. After it was produced, it was said that it can increase the Soul Rings around an Astral Soul by at least a ring, at most two rings.

While this might seem small for such a sacrifice, if someone like Tuo Bihan could obtain it, he could retroactively increase his Soul Idol from six to eight-ring, the resulting strength might give him sufficient confidence to ascend the Seventh Astral Tribulation. Each ring of a Soul Idol essentially doubles the

innate spiritual qualities of a cultivator and having a higher quality of spiritual energies also enhances the quality of one's Astral Force.

It was boundlessly useful.

If someone at the Sky Ruler Phase were to obtain it, they could amplify their innate spiritual qualities to attempt to obtain a seventh, eighth, or even ninth-ring Soul Idol!

While the shock of this gamble hadn't left their faces, Qingye Yun added with a calm voice: "Since a Spatial Spirit Pill was the first place prize, I'll add a Soul-Spirit Pill."

"...!"

A Soul-Spirit Pill was similarly an eighth-grade pill, but it can increase the spiritual qualities of one's Astral Soul. Be it strength, aura, sense, or energies, it was beneficial to those at all phases. This was especially so for Sky Rulers, giving them the confidence to assail the Soul Idol Phase and reach the five-ring Soul Idol at minimum.

Given to a talented genius, even a six-ring Soul Idol could form! If these three treasures were used by one talent, if they were properly nurtured, their chances of ascending to the Realm Lord level would be the highest in the starfield!

Tuo Bihan frowned, even his heart was moved by this!

Just as he was about to deliberate with the other Grand Imperial Sages, after all...this was a matter of utmost importance. But a voice resounded, cool and calm as the vast blue sky, "We accept."

Everyone turned to see a figure flying over!

Chapter 260 - 257: Increasing The Wager

When the voice resounded, it reached the ears of everyone present as if it was riding the wave of ambient mana. There wasn't a corner of the world that hadn't heard, creating an imposingly dominating presence. The experts on the platform that floated above the sky layer were instantly alerted, alarmed by this voice. When they turned their eyes that held wisps of vigilance and uncertainty, their pupils shrunk slightly as the figure soared near.

Those below were the elites of all three forces, each lower than three hundred years in age, having a cultivation base at the Astral Core Realm at the very minimum. They were proud figures, renowned and established as one of the five million experts throughout the starfield.

They hadn't heard the discussions that were taking place above, so when the voice carried into their ears, their eyes shifted to the approaching figure. Amongst the groups, there were a few geniuses who recognized this figure instantly.

A young woman, her beauty heavenly and grand as mother nature itself, accompanied with full-set of emerald-colored eyes, hair, and a fair complexion. Her full lips that seemed as soft as water moved slightly as two words were spoken, "Wei Wuyin..."

This was Qing Qiumu! Since her secluded cultivation by her ancestor, her cultivation base had improved by leaps and bounds, and while she hadn't reached the Zenith Mortal State, she had accomplished a

rare and impressive feat of an 8th Mortal State. This coupled with her innate physique, talents, and high comprehension had allowed her to radiate an aura of Wood-type Intent.

This Intent aura didn't seem to contain simply one but multiple. At least three. From a single glance, one could tell she was an exceptional Wood Cultivator.

While her cultivation was merely at the First Stage of the Astral Core Realm, she still had the qualifications to participate in the Monarch Spirit Trials. After all, the Monarch Spirit Trials didn't include one versus one battle and had rules and principles set to give all cultivation bases at the Astral Core Realm a fair chance.

When she saw Wei Wuyin, her eyes subconsciously glanced nearby. There, a young man garbed in crimson robes, a black sword sheath on his back, and had an assuming black ring on his finger was staring up into the sky like the others. From his sharp gaze, one could see an intense light within. Long Chen had also decided to participate, and he intended to do his best despite facing cultivators two phases above him.

In his heart, he wanted Wei Wuyin to participate as well so that he could challenge him in a proper display of abilities. Since their arrival on the Myriad Monarch Sect, Wei Wuyin had stayed in his Sky Palace while being lavished in an environmentally extraordinary location for cultivation and had access to all sorts of resources unhesitantly provided by the sect. As for him? He struggled for every bit of resource and increment of cultivation, and he felt that his foundation and practical combat prowess was far greater due to this.

If he was given a chance to test his mettle against Wei Wuyin, he could prove to everyone that Wei Wuyin was merely an alchemist that relied on favoritism. Before a true warrior, he could only bow his head in inferiority. At the thought of this possibility coming true, his fist tightly clenched uncontrollably with anticipation.

Qing Qiumu's delicate eyebrows frowned. She wasn't sure if Long Chen would set aside his grudge against Wei Wuyin or not. This had caused her heart to worry. As someone who traveled with Long Chen for nearly a decade, she knew of his penchant to hold a grudge and the propensity of his innate nature. Furthermore, he was someone who had immense talent.

He wasn't yet forty years old. According to her ancestor, he had broken cultivation preconceptions and merged two Astral Souls, possessed two Intents, and had a stable foundation. Reaching the Astral Core Realm before forty with his own effort, he revealed to the world his unearthly talent.

"Is that the Prince of Everlore, Wei Wuyin?" A few members of the Elemental Heaven Pavilion exclaimed as they saw Wei Wuyin soar through the skies. Their eyes were bright, flickering with admiration and envy.

"He's flying without wind force?!" A young woman from the Alchemy Association pointed, her little mouth gaped. Her words caused a wave of interest to flash and clamor to begin, many realizing that Wei Wuyin had entered the Sky Ruler Phase. Those at this phase and those who surpassed it were thoroughly shocked in their hearts.

The Sky Ruler Phase might be the Second Stage of the Astral Core Realm, but it was the first true step on the road of the Astral Core Realm. Before this stage, a cultivator must comprehend the truths and

variations of mana, testing their ability to comprehend the generally unseen. It was only when they can completely sense the mana, understand its intricacies, can one infuse those insights into their Astral Soul and assail the Sky-World Lightning Tribulation.

This feat was by no means simple, with numerous experts going an entire thousand years of their Astral Core Realm given lifespan without any achievements. Only talents such as them, those who are blessed with resources and cultivation grounds, various cultivation methods, and teachings of their seniors have a chance to achieve this phase. It was incredibly difficult.

The vast majority of Astral Core Realm experts were at the first stage, unable to ascend. The average age of Sky Rulers was already two hundred years, and this was taken from talents who achieved this phase. For them to observe Wei Wuyin, who had been rumored to have broken through into the Astral Core Realm in a year or so, demonstrate his cultivation base with utter ease left them in disbelief.

Was this the benefit of Alchemical Products? While there were pills that can help one reach a state of enlightenment, such as the Sky World Pill, a seventh-grade, top-tier pill, it still required comprehension to support this achievement.

If these young elites were shocked, then those elders were even more startled by Wei Wuyin's actions. When he arrived, the mana exuded a faint sense of oppression, and they even felt as if their own Sky Pressure had been reduced by several notches.

Qin Rui and Ji Changkong were startled by Wei Wuyin's arrival. When he descended with his black robes fluttering elegantly in the wind, revealing a face with handsomeness that exceeded the Immortals of myths, and his innate aura rippling with an oppressive pressure, they truly were at a loss for words.

But Tuo Bihan faintly smiled. This little kid was quite decisive in his actions. With the arrival of the Alchemist Association and Elemental Heaven Pavilion, there was definitely something amiss. For him to notice and portal here after his brief message, he must've understood the situation wasn't as simple as it seemed.

Wei Wuyin's feet landed on the translucent platform. When his silver eyes roamed, he noticed the elders of the Alchemist Association and Elemental Heaven Pavilion. When he saw Qingye Yun and Lin Ruyan here, his heart shook slightly. For two of the leaders of top-tier forces to arrive, they can't be here for simple negotiations.

'*He's here!*' Qingye Yun's eyes brightened a little, but he hurriedly regained his composure, concealing his excitement and shock. Wei Wuyin had become a Sky Ruler? This was completely unexpected. This meant he wasn't just a genius of the Alchemic Dao but had a high comprehension ability and foundation towards cultivation. This only solidified the thoughts already prevalent in his heart.

Lin Ruyan had finally observed Wei Wuyin. Her blue eyes shrunk slightly. She had never seen such a handsome man before, and his aura, talent, and cultivation was not lacking for someone his age. She had never shown much interest in men before, but Wei Wuyin had struck a lonely chord within her heart. It was quite unfortunate...

Just as he thought, the two had originally thought he would be present even if he wasn't directly participating. When he had finally arrived, they all had subtle expressions that flashed with relief,

excitement, and shock. These three emotions were very telling, and his arrival had merely allowed them to proceed with their plans.

He calmly walked to Tuo Bihan and the other's side, "We'll accept your condition." When his words once more were said, none of his seniors spoke to admonish him or interfere. After all, his influence and importance had been thoroughly infused into their thoughts and hearts. Wei Wuyin was not a figure to publicly rebuke or question without sufficient reason, regardless of your kind intentions in doing so.

Quite a few wanted to advise him of this, not because they were scared to accept, but purely because they were unwilling to fall into their trap.

With the three Grand Imperial Sages remaining silent, they didn't have a right.

Qingye Yun smiled, but his heart shook. Wei Wuyin had already taken the lead, representing the entire Myriad Monarch Sect. It had only been five years yet each of these elders who cared about hierarchy and authority had already been cowed by his actions and reputation. This wasn't a simple matter.

"Do you have the qualifications to make such a declaration?" But Lin Ruyan was a little blind to this fact, immediately pointing out Wei Wuyin's inferior ranking and junior status. There were other Heavenly Kings below, participating in the trial, and before them, the leaders of a hegemonic force and first-tier power, they didn't even have a right to make this decision.

Wei Wuyin was unperturbed by her question. Instead, he silently waited with a smile and Tuo Bihan said: "Heavenly King Wei is fully capable of making this decision." That was all that needed to be said to shut her question down.

Wei Wuyin was startled. *'Did he just call me Heavenly King Wei? Not little boy? Lass? Kid? Fellow?'* It seems this old man understood when to let go of his strange matter of address when it mattered. Despite his shock, he added: "I've made the Spatial Spirit Pill with my own efforts. While this trial was set-up to find a worthy inheritor, I still reserve the right to decide on whether I wish to wager it or not. Furthermore..."

His eyes revealed a hint of playful confidence, "I don't believe you're our match." His words didn't just implicate the juniors but the elders, a light slap from the mouth of a junior. This caused the Elemental Heaven Pavilion Elders, which numbered four, to reveal expressions of anger. The Myriad Monarch Sect had been beaten down to the ground, proclaimed as the weakest hegemonic force within the starfield.

Furthermore, they lost a vast amount of their territory after the war, only keeping three planets near their central planet. If it wasn't for the San Clan's interference, perhaps this world wouldn't have a Myriad Monarch Sect. Such audacity ignited their desire to see Wei Wuyin eat his words.

"You're quite confident, young alchemist Wei." Qingye Yun spoke, his eyes filled with interest.

"I am," Wei Wuyin smilingly replied.

Qingye Yun seemed excited as he thought for a moment and then said, as if it was a just-conceived intention, "How about we make this wager more interesting, then?" His words caused those of the Myriad Monarch Sect to frown. A wager with the Alchemist Association was quite risky. They had sufficient wealth to break any hegemonic force alone, so they weren't willing to risk it all.

"I agree." Wei Wuyin said without hesitation but quickly added: "Let's increase the bet a little, this time between us. Let's include a hundred Astral Sea Pills, at least high-quality, a hundred Sky World Pills, and ten thousand Astral Dipper Fountain Pills. That shouldn't be too much, right?"

"..."

"..."

"..."

"WHAT?!" An elder of the Myriad Monarch Sect lost his composure, exclaiming in disbelief as everyone else was struck speechless. For a full minute, neither side responded.