

Chapter 281 - 278: G.S.T, Three Beasts

ROAR!!!

Wei Wuyin's every breath carried with it a devastatingly ferocious and lofty True Dragon's roar. While his Bloodline Source was exhausted, this merely limited his ability to activate the inherent potential within his bloodline, but its strength and benefits were still present. It manifested itself in his Draconic Force.

His centimeter-sized Astral Core throbbed with endless power, suffusing his fleshy body with draconic might. Similar to Eden Force that was concentrated on the Mind Dao, Draconic Force took to the extreme of physical force. It could amplify one's physical body to the utmost, even be used to execute rare Martial Arts.

The surrounding Gold Starred Beast felt the overwhelming dominating presence emitting from Wei Wuyin's body and responded with a fearless exertion of their own auras, causing the world to become a whirlwind of pressure. Qing Qiumu felt an unfathomably heavy strength press against her body, seeking to crush her into meat paste.

She grew ashen. Her strength was nothing but a loose-leaf against this hurricane. She could do nothing to resist. Fortunately, Wei Wuyin was mindful and his draconic force shrouded her, protecting her body from the immense clash of auras and pressure. This action had saved her from her dreadful fate, allowing her ragged breath to leave her chest and regain normalcy.

Qing Qiumu's emerald eyes were focused on Wei Wuyin. A light of thankfulness flashed across her eyes, but it was accompanied by still-incoming shock. Wei Wuyin's Astral Core was one centimeter in size! This size wasn't minor. In fact, it was vast beyond imagination.

The average size of Sky Ruler Astral Cores was about half a millimeter, and his current size was about twenty times that. Her heart was raging with boundless shock at this discovery. The Astral Core was the reflection of one's Astral Force quantity and quality, its size meant its World Sea's size within and the outer shell was a direct correlation to physical, mental, spiritual, and essence energies within.

To clarify, essence energies were the ambient energies of the world. This included elemental energies, jade-attributed energies, demonic energies, even sword energies. They were all classified as 'essence'. A cultivator absorbed these energies and refined their Astral Core, physical body, sea of consciousness, or other qualities through exquisite methods.

She had never heard of an Astral Core being a centimeter in size. In fact, the largest Astral Core known in this era was the legendary purist, a pure-blooded elf from the Sacred Light Palace was the best foundation in the Tri-Vision Era. He was seen as the one with the highest chance to advance to a Realmlord but fell short, his life extinguished by the ruthless and relentless Seventh Astral Tribulation.

The size of his Astral Core had been half a centimeter, and he was at the Sixth Stage of the Astral Core Realm, a purist on top of that which focused on their innate foundation, and a thousand years old. That was a thousand years of raw effort to achieve that size!

To see something twice that size on someone who just entered the Astral Core Realm a year or so ago felt insane. She couldn't even imagine how that was possible.

Wei Wuyin didn't care about his foundation being known, nor did he give it much thought. He had already reached a point in his cultivation where he could protect his life. That being said, if it wasn't for Kratos' pride, he would've kept his cultivation level a secret until it was absolutely required. Furthermore, it wasn't just Kratos who was one centimeter in size...they all were.

He had long since prepared enough eighth-grade Great Astral Sea Pills, the advanced version of an Astral Sea Pill, to cultivate after reaching the Sky Ruler. While his limit in the World Sea Phase had been four millimeters, when he ascended to the Sky Ruler, this limit had changed. It was now one centimeter and with six months of consuming a variety of eighth-grade products, they easily reached their newfound limits.

If it wasn't for him lacking a crucial understanding of the Soul Idol Phase, he would've already tackled the next phase. Unfortunately, cultivation wasn't that simple.

He didn't know the current limits of his strength, but if he added his highly unusual Sky Pressure and his Astral Force, he felt he could whittle down and drown even the toughest opponents in a battle of attrition. With Permanence, unless they obliterated his astral force until it unraveled entirely, they would truly have to deal with endless attacks.

But the three beasts didn't care about this. They were provoked, and they acted without care of his strength. The White-Blaze Tiger acted first. Its immense body was swift like a white flash. In the blink of an eye, it was already before Wei Wuyin and smashed its paw towards his head.

Wei Wuyin faintly smiled. If it came to raw strength, he would never shy away. While he wasn't very experienced in hand to hand combat, he had some knowledge towards it. With a firm stance, he outstretched his palm to meet the tiger's paw.

Boom!

The resulting impact caused the nearby trees in several miles to be uplifted and fly in the direction away from them. A clearing was formed in an instant. Qing Qiumu was the sole figure untouched, a ward of protective draconic force withstood the forceful wave of power.

Wei Wuyin, with his palm facing the sky, his right arm outstretched, held the White-Blaze Tiger's paw and halted its movement. Beneath his legs, cracks spread out endlessly and nearly caused its collapse. The sheer strength needed to damage a planet's surface was massive, but the White-Blaze Tiger didn't lack ferocious strength.

Alas, it met Wei Wuyin. His power was that of a True Dragon! In terms of the physical body, Wei Wuyin exceeded the White-Blaze Tiger by a few levels. This was greatly attributed to Kratos', his Draconic Void Soul, exceptionally powerful physical energies. Of course, the innate energies that flowed through and ceaselessly strengthened his body by the other three souls couldn't be underestimated.

"My turn," Wei Wuyin pushed slightly upwards. The White-Blaze Tiger's paw and body were lifted off the ground as waves of draconic force battered its body. Pain wreathed its entirety as it shrieked horribly. It clearly hadn't expected this counterattack.

Wei Wuyin's wave of draconic force was like endless oceanic waves that crushed against the tiger's body. It continued to lift into the air as its form twisted and fought against the overwhelming surging waves of pure draconic power. Even its bloodline was suppressed.

It tried to ignite its white fur in flames, the unique bloodline ability that allowed it to rival Spatial Resonance experts, but it kept getting snuffed before it could. Without it, it could only accept the power smashing it with merely its physical body.

CAW!

The Three-Eyed Tenebrous Crow was only idle for a moment. The plight of the tiger bore no importance to it, but it was an unconventional beast that attacked the opponent's sea of consciousness and influenced their combat strength before eliminating them, feeding on their eyes and brains.

Its three eyes turned into swirls of endless darkness as it shot rays of black light towards Wei Wuyin. This was a dual-fold attack, physical and mental. It twisted away from the surge of draconic power and hit Wei Wuyin nearly instantly. Wei Wuyin's sea of consciousness was currently defended, halting the black light at his glabella, but his skin seemed to have a living shadow within. It moved eerily.

The darkness power was attempting to affect his physical energies, infiltrating his cells, and insidiously infect them with its influence. This method of attack was strange and exceptionally difficult to defend against. The speed of it was incredible as well. Darkness, just like light energies, was at the top in terms of speed in the cultivation world.

Wei Wuyin clenched his dark fist, causing the draconic force to concentrate on it. A faint image of a dragon appeared behind him as he kicked off, punching towards the tiger's belly. He ignored the influence of the crow and decided to deal with the tiger first.

A harsh impact of flesh meeting flesh resounded followed by a heart-rending howling shriek from the tiger's throat. Wei Wuyin's fist met its stomach and sent it rocketing a kilometer upwards and away. The display of physical strength was incredible!

Wei Wuyin turned his eyes towards the crow that seemed to have three eyes of pure darkness swirling endlessly. It flapped its wings from a safe distance, nearly touching the first sky layer. While it seemed to be fearless, its current distance only proved its intelligence and fear.

Crack!

Wei Wuyin was just about to take to the skies, eliminating this crow, when the ground beneath his feet cracked even more. His eyes widened slightly as he jumped upwards. An explosive eruption occurred beneath his feet as a large swath of earth was consumed by the giant gaping maw of the Titanic Mudworm Snake!

It pierced towards the sky as it tried to consume Wei Wuyin's fleeting form. It snapped as it reached him, consuming him. When it had done the deed, it twisted its body and pulled its entire body from the earth. A wisp of pride and excitement as devouring its prey was within its reptilian pupils.

But when it tried to exert its unique digestive abilities, it realized there was nothing substantial within its body. Confusion followed within those recently excited pupils.

"I couldn't even sense you traveling through earth. You're quite sneaky," Wei Wuyin's voice resounded. The Titanic Mudworm Snake was even more confused as he realized the sound was above it. Lifting its head, it found nothing.

"I'm on you. You're a semi-decent mount. But I like the tiger a bit better." Wei Wuyin's voice resounded again, and the snake finally realized his location. Atop its head! That pesky human had settled itself directly on its head!

Wei Wuyin shook his head, "Sneaky, but a little slow." The snake had consumed his afterimage. The moment he moved, he had already left its range of attack. Seeing it experience the joy of its false triumph was quite interesting.

Anyways, he clenched his fist. The faint image of a true dragon, colored grey, flashed behind him as he exerted his full strength. It was about the same size as him, but it contained a spirituality that was fantastical and mystical. It was a primary Soul Idol, an indication of Wei Wuyin's close comprehension of spiritual strength and traits of a Soul Idol.

With his clenched fist, he drilled it downwards like a crushing meteor crashing into the earth. He was ruthless, holding nothing back. The snake couldn't react before it impacted its cranium. This power was immense and normally this would've killed any normal creature, but its scales glimmered with faint light as the power was redistributed and sent into the earth, its flexible body seemingly acting as a medium for it.

This startled him as the snake lost consciousness. While it didn't have its head explode into mush, it had survived this lethal strike. He was lucky as well. If the snake had died, his points would've been negative to the limit.

BOOSH!!

The descending body of the White-Blaze Tiger now met the hard ground, causing catastrophic earthquakes to ravage the surrounding greenery and trees. An outline of its body was etched into the ground. It, too, was unconscious.

Wei Wuyin floated in the sky as two of his foes had lost all battle potential. He lifted his eyes and saw the Three-Eyed Tenebrous Crow. It shrieked at his fierce gaze. Instinctively, it realized it was in deep shit and booked it. With a flap of its wings, it retracted its darkness power and shot off into the distance.

Wei Wuyin felt the connection of the eerie shadows beneath his flesh weaken and, with a little push of his draconic force, depart from his body. It was as if he had temporarily become a ghastly ghost of black mist as it did. This darkness power was quite insidious.

"Impressive ability. I can't imagine many defeating it. Even I couldn't extricate it from my body with just Kratos' strength. You must be amongst the strongest of the star beasts in this trial." His eyes brightened as this came to his realization. Furthermore, as he spoke, the crow displayed exceptional talent in fleeing as it crossed a hundred miles in a moment. Within three, it was near the horizon.

He swept his gaze at the two unconscious Gold Starred Beasts. An excited gleam emerged within his eyes. With a flick of his finger, two Spiritual Seals were embedded into their sea of consciousnesses. With that, he turned to Qing Qiumu and said lightly, "I'll be right back."

The ambient mana in the world cheered as he removed the subtle barrier he kept between it and him. It swarmed towards him like a greedy child needing attention and affirmation. It still felt somewhat weird to him, but he fully utilized this and took flight. In this state, he could fly numerous times faster.

He vanished before Qing Qiumu's eyes.

She was barely capable of following the swift actions and sequences of the fight with her cultivation base. While it took a long time to describe, the events had happened in a few consecutive blinks of a mortal eye. It was simply too fast to follow.

"How..." As a self-imposed question was about to leave her mouth, an avian cry filled with despair and unwillingness screeched through the air. She turned her head and saw a black shadow approaching at a swift speed. In a few blinks, a large body violently crashed to the ground with a contorted and odd posture.

It was clear this body belonged to a creature that recently lost its consciousness. Wei Wuyin floated above the three beasts, slowly descending with a faint smile plastered on his face. Towards Qing Qiumu, his mood was always warm and good.

Furthermore, he had just obtained three pets. How could he not be?

"Sorry, that took a little longer than I expected. The little birdie was quite slippery." Wei Wuyin chuckled as he dusted himself off, walking towards Qing Qiumu and releasing his protective ward. With her movements unhindered, she couldn't help but stare at Wei Wuyin with those emerald eyes of hers.

"You're...strong." Qing Qiumu's words trailed with layers of disbelief.

Wei Wuyin had already reached a few feet from her, a good distance to hold a casual chat. "Of course I am! Look at these mountains! Bigger than Mount Tai!" His eyebrows lifted several times with playfulness. He pumped up his two arms in a flexing posture, revealing the exceptional contours of his arm muscles. He kissed both arms with an exaggerated smooching sound.

Qing Qiumu's shock and disbelief were eaten away by an unintended laugh. The pressure she felt and the layers of shock and disbelief dissipated as she did.

Wei Wuyin laughed along. In a matter of moments, a battle of titans had devolved into a casual exchange between a joker and a lovely lady.

Chapter 282 - 279: G.S.T, Trial Of Beasts

Spectators of the trial had just witnessed an unprecedented reveal. With their jaws dropped, minds tumbling, the world outside the trial was about to explode onto an exciting and vibrant mess. Wei Wuyin had consecutively caused the starfield to leap with shock, disbelief, and expectations, but this reveal had changed everything.

If before Wei Wuyin was just the Prince of Everlore, now...

He had displayed a talent befitting of the number one genius of the entire starfield. With barely half a century of cultivation time, his skill in alchemy had reached pseudo-Alchemic Emperor levels, but his cultivation level entered the Sky Ruler alongside an outstandingly superior combat strength of a Spatial Resonance Beast!

Furthermore, his next actions elicited endless gawks.

Wei Wuyin was unaware of the immense chaos he had unleashed. While he had some idea of the possibility, he hadn't realized the intensity that it would have. Currently, he chatted with Qing Qiumu. They were sitting on a large patch of white fur that glistened with a faint luster. This patch of fur belonged to the White-Blaze Tiger, who was currently resting with folded paws as it obediently allowed Wei Wuyin and Qing Qiumu to lay on its expansive back.

The two sat down as if on a field of grass, looking at the gorgeous scenery that Junia offered. The Three-Eyed Tenebrous Crow was circling their location above. It was silent as it inspected the area around the two like a sentry. The Titanic Mudworm Snake was unseen, but those with exceptional awareness might find the seismic events beneath the ground to be odd and shifting.

Wei Wuyin had subdued the three beasts and while they were unconscious, utilized a Beast Taming Spell on their sea of consciousness and bodies. Suppressing their feral instincts amplified by the Myriad Monarch Sect's spells, he then linked his will to theirs allowing ease of communication. This was a very domineering method to control beasts, and he hadn't used it before.

Bai Lin had no such thing within her body, sea of consciousness, or soul, nor did she need it. Xiao Bai had a spell integrated into its soul at birth. When Wei Wuyin had received Xiao Bai, he received an item that gave him complete control over this spell and allowed him to decide its life and death with a mere thought. The spell was more humane as it didn't restrict the beast's thought or developments, allowing it to retain its natural cognizant way of life.

In truth, this type of method also worked on other living beings and was often deployed to nurture death warriors meant to protect or serve a certain group or person. If the owner died, so did these warriors, and their thoughts and wills were suppressed and restrained to benefit the controllers.

Wei Wuyin had temporarily deployed this method to subdue their wills. But he didn't restrain their ability to think or form thoughts nor alter their thoughts like puppets. They still had their independent capabilities, but their fates were now fully within Wei Wuyin's control and they knew this. A mere thought and the spell would be able to kill them. It was similar to Xiao Bai.

He hadn't set-up several layers of protection, merely communicated with them their newfound circumstances. Shockingly, they adapted rather quickly. Considering they weren't free beasts to begin with, they simply went from one master to another.

From what he could gather, these beasts were nurtured by the Golden Coin Pavilion as guardian beasts or combat beasts for top-tier Beast Tamers, giving exceptional strength to sects and forces if needed. According to them, there were seven of them that had arrived here and were placed in random locations.

None of them were unrestrained, and they could only act when provoked. This was the innate restriction placed on their seas of consciousness, and if they disobeyed this, the spells would detonate and obliterate their minds in an instant. Wei Wuyin had removed this restriction and replaced it with his own, giving them freedom in some regards.

Now, they belonged to him.

Myriad Monarch Participant.

Sky Ruler Cultivation.

Spirit Points: 1500.

Qualification for Next Round: Met.

"So using taming spells on the beasts also counted as capturing them?" Qing Qiumu asked as she held Wei Wuyin's jade tablet, seeing the fifteen hundred Spirit Points brightly lit on its surface. It seemed the formation had recognized Wei Wuyin's action as capturing the beasts.

Wei Wuyin was laying on his back, his hands behind his head, and his eyes staring straight at the encapsulating platform above that acted as an artificial Sky Layer. "It seems that way. This Trial of Beasts has too many hidden intricacies. While it was explained vaguely in the rules, it is more that it was open for interpretation to begin with to test the contestants' intelligence."

Qing Qiumu pondered for a moment, sighing lightly. The Myriad Monarch Sect truly didn't explain everything in detail, but it wasn't as if they didn't imply this possibility. She just couldn't figure out why.

Wei Wuyin closed his eyes and inhaled softly. "It's likely the goal of this Trial isn't about accumulation of spiritual points or establishing extra time to cultivate, but survival and gathering forces."

"What do you mean?" Qing Qiumu considered herself as intelligent, but the idea of the Trial of Beasts being used for this way eluded her. Whether it was due to the rules of the future conflicting with that possibility or simply the trial itself was too mystifying, she didn't know.

"There are restrained beasts and unrestrained beasts here. This is something explained, but who knows the actual ratio. Furthermore, taming beasts equated to capturing them. It was never said that the beasts captured can't be used in the next trial. All we really know is that the second round is about a contest between us.

"But gathering forces with other geniuses is not the way to victory, it's the same as conceding your opportunity to become first. With the rules that state killing beasts led to a penalty, taming beasts and developing your forces with them held the most benefit to your objective," Wei Wuyin explained.

Qing Qiumu thought for a moment, her emerald eyes soon became brightly lit with realization. "The rules state that killing beasts has a penalty, but what if beasts killed beasts?" She had understood a faint bit of truth within the hidden layers of the trial. If one can use beasts to kill other beasts without a penalty, then it was the only way to fight each other without losing anything.

"There's something else you're forgetting," Wei Wuyin faintly smiled.

Qing Qiumu frowned briefly. Her light furrowing of her brows that gave off a sense of ponderance was gorgeous as an Immortal Painting of a fairy in contemplation. Few could resist her allure, their thoughts would unintentionally wander from that look. But this beautiful picture was removed a moment later as she smacked her delicate fist into her palm with an enlightened exclamation.

"The rules also state that you can't actively act against those of a lower cultivation base, but the beasts here aren't under the same rule!" Qing Qiumu had finally grasped it. The central idea of the Trial of Beasts was to open the field of contest amongst all forces.

Wei Wuyin nodded his head, "That's right. If I wanted, I could have these Gold Starred Beasts slaughter all the contestants." While his words were casually spoken, any who heard it would experience a chill down their spines.

From this, the various mysteries of the trial would be easily deduced. For example, there was a spell that acted as a gate to these beasts. Unless one had sufficient spiritual strength or ability, forget about taming these beasts, even getting them to act according to your will was difficult. It could be guessed that each class of beast had varying degrees of strengthened restrictive spells.

"The feral beasts..." Qing Qiumu slowly spoke. The feral beasts had no restriction so anyone with any understanding in taming spells could easily deploy these spells into their sea of consciousness, adding them to their forces.

They sat there peacefully, deducing the mysteries of the trial while chatting. The two would go back and forth with logical deductions and soon mapped out the entire Trial of Beasts.

"If that's the case, wouldn't this mean...you'll win?" At the end of this conversation, Qing Qiumu asked Wei Wuyin. Wei Wuyin's eyes finally opened as he met the brilliant gaze of Qing Qiumu. She was truly as gorgeous as a painting, and with the backdrop of a forest-dominated planet like Junia, she was even more so.

"The moment I entered the trial, there was no other outcome," Wei Wuyin lifted his body with a light push as he stated plainly. Originally, he didn't want to participate. It was only after Su Mei's tribulation that he decided to do so. He had left the goal of claiming victory to Zuhei, who had attained a Nine-Ringed Soul Idol.

He knew that each ring was doubling the pre-existing strength of one's physical, mental, and essence energy quality, producing a frighteningly powerful spiritual strength. This would translate to a level of Astral Force that would exceed everyone currently in the trials. While he can't be certain that he would succeed, he felt it would be a good opportunity to sharpen his fangs and claws.

Qing Qiumu exclaimed lightly. The confidence Wei Wuyin exuded was incredibly heart-racing, slightly intoxicating. She couldn't help but feel a faint sense of admiration within her heart. From the moment he decided to enter, the outcome was decided? Others might think it was arrogance, but she could feel the absolute truth within his words.

Just from his dominance and taming of three Gold Starred Beasts, he revealed a strength that wasn't possible to be matched. In her mind, even the image of Long Chen overcoming all obstacles faded somewhat as Wei Wuyin's figure entered her thoughts.

She couldn't help but wonder: What if she had his strength?

Wei Wuyin turned to Qing Qiumu with a smile. He asked, "Do you want to cultivate together?"

His abrupt question caused Qing Qiumu to enter a brief lag. "Cultivate together?" These two words...they could have many meanings.

Her thoughts soon caught up as she started a little. A faint pink blush appeared on her expression, revealing an alluring look that could throw a man's thoughts into the flames of insanity and desire. This moment could test any man's willpower.

But Wei Wuyin merely laughed, chuckling as he explained: "I'm an alchemist, remember? Since this trial is already decided, why don't we cultivate? You're a little...lacking." At the end of his words, he revealed a solemn expression as he 'thoroughly' inspected Qing Qiumu's curvy, delicate figure that was seemingly blessed by the gods.

Qing Qiumu swiftly noticed that Wei Wuyin's eyes lacked that lust that men typically had despite his inspective gaze. It was inherently pure, and this caused her heart to calm down slightly after the clarification. But...a tinge of a strange emotion entered her heart. Was it...disap...no...it couldn't be.

"You sure? I'm not a cheap girl," Qing Qiumu shrugged her thoughts aside and jokingly said. To which Wei Wuyin replied, "Damn, what's it going to cost me?"

"An arm and a leg."

"Pfft. Just that? thought you said you weren't cheap?"

"I meant your third leg!"

"...!"

The two went tit for tat as three beasts that could dominate the planet protected this moment.

Chapter 283 - 280: G.S.T, A Month

Despite the commotion above, the Trial of Beasts was still underway and continued as normal. Some participants formed groups amongst each other, capturing beasts in a concerted effort to earn points. Quite a few geniuses were met with tragedy. They either died overestimating their abilities, thrown into unfortunate circumstances, or forced to leave via the jade tablet's spatial formation.

While they were sent upwards, they could only lower their heads with their seniors and masters as they spectated the remaining contestants with envious and regretful eyes. The news of Wei Wuyin's cultivation base spread amongst these youths as waves of shock and reverence entered their eyes.

Wei Wuyin's actions hadn't produced a negative effect. In fact, his reputation had increased to a pinnacle. The fact his foundation was double the legendary and renowned purist of the Sacred Light Palace that had the highest chance of becoming a Realmlord meant his chances of reaching that level was certain.

Furthermore, he had exhibited a talent in Alchemy that hadn't been produced by anyone since the King of Everlore. Whatmore, he didn't have an Alchemic Astral Soul, so his combat abilities were intact and outrageously dominant. Not only did he have the potential to become the second King of Everlore, but he could reach heights comparable to the Sacred Elven Queen, Grand Monarch Wu Yu, and Divine King Han Xei.

These figures dominated their era. If it wasn't for their difference in goals and faint friendship, perhaps the chaos of their era would've been a mythological fairytale of a clash of titans.

The Prince of Everlore had earned further renown more than ever, with an age of less than half a century, his talents were heaven-defying. If left untouched, the Tri-Vision Era would soon come to an end and be replaced by his. This belief was formulated in the thoughts of the vast majority of the world.

His name had reached untold heights that even the Realmlords weren't the same in the hearts of many. The feat of defeating Gold Starred Beasts, equivalent to lower-tier Spatial Resonance experts, at the Sky Ruler level had given him this. If before his name was regarded as a household name with endless potential, then now he was a legendary figure carving out his own path.

The recording of his dominant performance against the three beasts had also been spread widely amongst various continents, planets, and Astral Territories. No one could've guessed he was this terrifying of an existence, and the recording only highlighted his achievement to the utmost.

A month had soon passed, and numerous forces had attempted to connect themselves with the Myriad Monarch Sect. They sought partnerships and alliances. The Golden Coin Pavilion had even sent a representative. The purpose of the visit was unknown, but the guesses were like fireworks in the sky.

The Alchemist Association had remained silent, but everyone in the know could assume their current state of mind. With Wei Wuyin capturing and seemingly subduing three Gold Starred Beasts, he was in an invincible position already. Even if his own strength was discounted, it was unlikely the others could face these three beasts and survive.

This was no longer a contest in the eyes of the vast majority. An upset simply wasn't possible before absolute strength. The Alchemist Association had to accept their loss and the products for first place were likely already in someone else's hands. The Demonic Abyss Mountain and Sacred Light Palace had to be fuming at this situation. It was almost as if they were scammed.

Unfortunately, their tears would garnish no pity from the audience. Their haughty actions had caused them to willingly intervene in the Grand Spirit Trials knowing the risks of loss. Since a star that outshone the rest had appeared, they had to accept its brilliant rays shining on them.

There were a few that were unwilling to accept this. Wei Wuyin's participation was unfair, and they protested until their necks and cheeks were red as can be. How could someone of his level be allowed entry? This felt fixed!

But alas, their arguments were largely ignored, and most pitied them. It was only when these vocal people noticed a few experts openly recording them with excited smiles did they cease their actions and realize the consequences of it. Wasn't this the same as offending Wei Wuyin? Wasn't this the same as offending a future Realmlord and Alchemic Emperor? How stupid had they been, allowing their raging emotions to override their survival instincts?

They could only hide and find a moment to give an 'offering' to the Myriad Monarch Sect in hopes of quelling any retaliation.

A few wondered if Wei Wuyin would be in any danger. He was an outstanding talent, would the San Clan take action to preserve their rule over the starfield? However, the San Clan remained silent. Just like the time with the purist from the Sacred Light Palace, they seemed unbothered.

Well, to the true experts of the starfield, the San Clan's nepotistic practices and narrow talent pools would inevitably cause their era to end when the two Realmlords, produced by waste products, met their natural end. Any of the four hegemonies had legacies of ancient experts that exceeded the Astral Core Realm. The San Clan simply didn't have the practical strength or foundation to contest.

The only reason they were exceptional was their dominance as Realmlords. If any of these Realmlords attempted to assault a major planet of these four hegemonies, there was no way they could breach. These were locations fortified by Realmlords, Timelords, Starlords, and Mystic Ascendants of the past era.

As for the San Clan? They were merely...

They simply didn't have the same origins. As long as Wei Wuyin remained on a planet within the Myriad Astral Territory, the San Clan could only watch unless they gathered the strength of the other hegemonic forces and fought the Myriad Monarch Sect to the last man.

On the surface of Junia, a figure was flashing through the dense forest while surrounded by wisps of sword light. Every step was sharp and swift, taking them several hundred meters away each.

"You think you can run?!"

Every step he took was closely followed by numerous shadows. These shadows were hot on the figure's trail. At the lead of these shadows was a handsome young man with scarlet hair, exuding a lofty and arrogant aura. He wielded a halberd and kept pace, not losing the figure in front at all.

"Long Chen! Today will be the day you die!" The young man shouted, his dark eyes contained ferocious and heart-palpitating murderous intent. He added, "I want you to know! After I've taken your head, I'll bring it to Lian Yu and enjoy her while your head watches! While the world watches!! Hahaha! She'll enjoy every inch, trust me!" A layer of pure evil was over his voice, filled with malicious intent.

The figure wreathed in sword light paused for a moment, but after a very short delay, it sped up. The sword light grew vigorous as an aura of slaughter emanated from it.

Wei Wuyin and Qing Qiumu were cultivating in his Astral Force constructed Sky Palace. Since Qing Qiumu was present, he decided to add an additional layer of protection from the outside world to prevent disturbances. She was currently refining an elixir, eighth-grade, and was experiencing a fantastic change in her Mortal State. Every second was a sharp increase to her foundation, strength, and innate energies.

Wei Wuyin was quietly observing her. He found that her cultivation base was somewhat rushed. Her Astral Core was barely above the average size. With her innate talent, this shouldn't be the case. But he realized that she might've done this due to the Execution Platform. A moment like that, a moment where your fate was decided by others' whim, would produce a subconscious desire for immediate strength.

To be honest, Qing Qiumu's talent was truly underestimated. When it came to refining certain types of alchemical products, she faintly surpassed Su Mei's abnormal talent. These products were mostly foundational and wood-type products. Her uniquely wood-attributed physique, sea of consciousness, and meridians enabled this.

If it wasn't for their relationship, he would want her to be a part of the Ascendants. She would make an exceptional healer with her Wood Force properties. As a wielder of the Life Meadow Wood Intent, he knew its boundless benefits when it came to recovery. More, she had eight other equally powerful high-level Intents.

Her Nine Meadow Wood Intent wasn't any weaker than his Elemental Origin Intent. It was startling.

Zst!

"Hm?" Wei Wuyin's heart throbbed without warning. His eyes shifted as he turned towards a certain direction. He could 'see' the worldly trend. He felt an intense, abnormal desire to kill and that killing would benefit him. The first feeling came from the Heavenly Daos, its influence subtle and faint. It was clearly trying to pull him away. If it wasn't for the Bloodline of Sin, he might've left Qing Qiumu as he investigated.

As for the worldly trend, he 'saw' an abhorrent existence within. It was being targeted by external forces. If he hadn't had both of these feelings, he would be completely ignorant that the 'external forces' were the Heavenly Daos, and the abhorrent existence was...

"...?" He frowned. His instincts screamed at him as he recalled the Scripture of Sin. A bright light soon entered his silver eyes, "Investigate."

Beneath his sky palace, the Titanic Mudworm Snake's eyes shone with a silver light, nearly becoming the same color as Wei Wuyin's as it moved. After a moment, it dug into the earth and slithered through it effortlessly, its speed frightening.

Wei Wuyin held his chin, a light of contemplation in his eyes, "Is even this possible?" He knew an event that would shine some light on Blessed was about to be witnessed.

Exactly at this moment, Qing Qiumu's emerald eyes opened as they effused bright spiritual light. Her spiritual strength had taken a step forward. A calm, graceful, and lovely smile formed on her lips. It was breathtaking.

"Congratulations."

Chapter 284 - 281: G.S.T, Hunted

"That bastard! Senior, how is this fair?!" Long Chen cursed, questioning Wu Yu as he dashed through the environment surrounded by sword force. His movement art was exquisite, pushing his speed to an extreme. Unfortunately, his limited cultivation base at the World Sea Phase also limited his speed. Unable to take to the skies, he could only blaze his path on the ground.

The constant impediment of trees forced him to delay as he maneuvered left and right, over and under, and sometimes through. While the snarling shadows behind him never lost his tail. These shadows were

led by a young man with scarlet hair and malevolent aura, emanating dense and fathomless murderous intent.

Those snarling shadows reflected the same. With their dark-colored fur-covered bodies, sharp fangs, and piercing claws, they painted a bloodthirsty picture. They were all Shadow Moon Wolves. Numbering three, they had Silver Stars on their foreheads. The trio had relative combat strength at the Soul Idol Phase! As a group, they hunted mercilessly under the explicit orders of the young man.

"...Long Chen..." Wu Yu transmitted his voice through the unassuming black ring that kept his spiritual form. Seeing Long Chen run for his life, spouting about unfairness, he couldn't help but feel inwardly disappointed. Was this the demeanor of the future Grand Monarch? Where had his against-the-world attitude he had before?

Long Chen clenched his teeth as he pushed his speed to the limits. If it wasn't for his robust foundation, fleeing from three Silver Starred Beasts would be an impossible feat. That being said, if it was a one versus one fight, he would be fearless and fight with his all.

While Silver Starred Beasts had the practical combat strength of a Soul Idol, this only related to physical attributes and some unique bloodline abilities. When compared to legitimate Soul Idol cultivators, they couldn't match. These beasts didn't have control over ambient mana, disallowing flight, or a Soul Idol that amplified one's spiritual strength when summoned.

"The Trial of Beasts was designed to be used in exactly this manner; there is no unfairness present. The pretense of capture is merely that, a pretense. This is a stage of accumulation, and it's not just towards Spirit Points, but one's own force." Wu Yu could only explain this principle. Originally, he wanted Long Chen to come to this conclusion himself, but he was too focused on the surface layer that he missed the world beneath.

Personally, he felt it was insulting when Long Chen spouted unfairness towards the Grand Spirit Trials' rules. After all, he was the one who had conceived, designed, and refined the Monarch Spirit Trials rules all those years ago.

Long Chen was stunned for a moment, "What? Isn't joining forces with others just an admission of defeat?" He became confused because of Wu Yu's non-direct explanation. It wasn't that he lacked intelligence, merely he remained unwilling to delve further. It was somewhat an unconscious reaction. He was being hunted by his enemy that had perceived the truth earlier than him, so he held some resistance to this.

"...It is. But gathering the Beasts of the trial as your force will only open up new paths, such as a wider breadth of thought towards subordinates. For example..." Wu Yu said. He didn't need to further explain. Long Chen was being hunted by three Silver Starred Beasts under the command of another. This was a clear example of the possibilities.

If Long Chen turned around and attacked the young man hunting him, he would be eliminated from the trial as a rule breaker. If he attacked and killed the Silver Starred Beasts, he would receive negative points and likely lose qualifications to proceed to the next trial. However, if the Silver Starred Beast killed him, the young man would suffer no penalties whatsoever.

Furthermore, the rule of restricted conflict lightened up in the next trial. Those of a stronger cultivation base could not attack those of lesser cultivation, but beasts were not subjected to this rule. One could eliminate competitors and obtain abundant Spirit Points by targeting weaker individuals using beasts or gaining an advantage against those of a higher or equal cultivation base via numbers. That being said, the advantage was only possible for those with the capabilities.

One had to first suppress and tame the beast to achieve this, otherwise it would never listen due to the Spiritual Spell embedded in the Seas of Consciousness of the various beasts by the Myriad Monarch Sect. The stronger the beast, the harder it was to subdue.

Long Chen finally understood, a wisp of frustration and unwillingness emerged in his heart. If he had known this sooner, he would've found some beasts to subjugate. With time, he felt that he could slowly gather a unit of Silver Starred Beasts. In truth, he wasn't to blame for wasting this much time.

Wei Wuyin, and even Zuhei, hadn't immediately understood the principles behind the Trial of Beasts. The former only discovered the possibilities after crushing three Golden Starred Beasts and subjugating them on a whim. The rest of the trial's profundities came naturally after some thought. Before then, most had made the same assumption that this trial was a segway to the next, a mere trial of accumulation of Spirit Points and extra time.

"You'll exhaust yourself soon! When that time comes, I'll enjoy watching your corpse be ripped apart!" The young man amplified his voice with spiritual force and sent it outwards. In his heart, he cursed at how swift Long Chen was at running despite his weak cultivation level, but the chase only increased his desire for blood.

The young man was Huangfu Jinwei, the most talented genius of the Huangfu Clan, a clan with the support of Huangfu Wenghu, an Alchemic King and Prime Imperial Sage of the Extreme Creation Mountain. They were a prominent and domineering bunch, having birthed numerous elites and had very deep connections within the sect. Huangfu Jinwei was Huangfu Wenghu's nephew and the most cherished and talented member of the clan. He was the one who had the highest chance of becoming a Grand Imperial Sage in the future with direct relation to a sitting Grand Imperial Sage.

Despite being only two hundred years old, he was already at the Soul Idol and had formed five rings. With the full support of an Alchemic King and the resources he could provide, Huangfu Jinwei's talent was thoroughly nurtured to a high peak amongst the geniuses of this era.

A few years back, Long Chen had gotten into a conflict with the Huangfu Clan's younger generation that spiraled out of control until it caused their most elite genius to take action, building immense enmity that wouldn't end until one of them was dead. In truth, Huangfu Jinwei didn't consider Long Chen's conflict with his clan with any importance. The enmity between them had formed due to the two Earthly Elites, Hong Ru and Xiao Bing, these two beautiful ladies.

For decades, Huangfu Jinwei had pursued them but was met with unclear responses. All of a sudden, Long Chen entered the picture and gained their affection, and this ignited a seed of jealousy that burned until thoughts of murder and hate was formed. Furthermore, all his sneaky attempts to remove Long Chen from the equation had caused him to lose an immense amount of face within his clan.

In the end, the two girls had openly turned against him and even went as far as to declare their disgust towards him and his abhorrent actions under the guise of aloofness and indifference. His inner rage was infinite and without limit, and he could only place all of it onto Long Chen.

If it wasn't for the restrictive rules against abuse of authority and relative power within the sect, he would've long since slain this insignificant insect that was Long Chen. Fortunately, the heavens seemed to have given him a chance. He had found three feral, unrestricted Shadow Moon Wolves while they were resting. Thanks to his preparation and advice from Huangfu Wenghu, he used a sleeping pellet and a beast-taming spell to obtain these beasts with relative ease.

Then, he met Long Chen, and the curtains seemed to be calling for a close as he hunted him down.

While they chased for three hours, within the depths of the earth they traveled was a Titanic Mudworm Snake that had eyes emitting silver brilliance. Far away, nearly an entire hemisphere away, Wei Wuyin was quietly gazing at Junia's horizon from within his Sky Palace.

"A Sinful Soul?" Wei Wuyin couldn't help but feel intrigued by this discovery. A Sinful Soul was a term used to describe a person that had committed immense sin against the Three Thousand Commandments of the Heavenly Daos, sin that could not be redeemed. While most sins merely produced a negative luck value that slightly affected their current life towards non-Blessed, this was mostly minor. It was very difficult to accumulate karmic sin while alive unless one purposeful went against it.

The rules were too random and vague, making it very difficult to act against it with any self-conceived rubric of right or wrong. Considering most would be ignorant of it their entire lives, it was only natural. But there were some who sinned an amount that was irredeemable, enough that it caused their very souls to be imbued with karmic sin.

When they died, it would be them who underwent the cruelest punishments of Hell. While most souls would merely experience a light surface cleansing by the means of Hell, those of the Sinful Soul required an intense cleansing that could be likened to the true hellish torture.

"The Soul of True Sin..." Wei Wuyin frowned as he softly mumbled out these five words. The Soul of True Sin was a cultivation method that the Black Skeleton had left him, and it involved using Karmic Sin to cultivate the soul. But Sinful Souls didn't use sin to cultivate; it simply festered and grew. Furthermore, he could only cultivate this method after attaining the Realm of Sages.

Through the eyes of the Titanic Mudworm Snake, he could see through the world trend that Huangfu Jinwei was an existence the Heavenly Daos wanted. It wanted to punish him. As for why? He could only imagine that his actions weren't accepted. Perhaps it was his actions of hunting a Blessed or something else entirely?

The only conundrum he had was that he hadn't felt this sensation before. It was as if he had just performed an action that produced an immense amount of sin. Furthermore, this was getting stronger and stronger as time passed. That was peculiar.

As he continued having the snake follow the two, he noted the three Shadow Moon Wolves. After a brief inspection, his expression turned solemn. They were being subjugated in the strictest way imaginable. "He's using a taming spell that targets their souls?" He could feel that, while the wolves

seemed normal, their souls were dissipating due to a continuously revolving spell. They were like zombies forced to follow his every order.

The dissipation of a soul was an abhorrent offense against the Heavenly Daos, and an affront to its dignity. But this only mattered towards certain souls. It was termed as 'Mortal Souls' in the commandments within the Scripture of Sin.

"Mortal Souls...could it be souls not in the Mystic Ascendant Realm?" When he thought about the implications of cultivation, the separation of Mortal and Mystic by the Alchemic Dao, and his own comprehension that the Astral Core Realm was the limit of Mortal powers, a literal star, he felt enlightened. The Heavenly Daos protected the souls of the weak.

He felt somewhat conflicted by this. "Where did he obtain such a malicious spell?" The only spell he had come across that affected souls was the Fixed Soul Spell he obtained from Anu, an existence that obviously lived during the height of the King of Everlore's era, and he still couldn't execute it yet.

This meant his cultivation base simply wasn't fundamentally capable. How did Haungfu Jinwei do it?

"It likely has to do with the Soul Idol's unique abilities," he determined. As for how he obtained this spell, considering Wei Wuyin had come across the True Dragon Transmutation Method and Bloodforging Mystic Method, which had several spells and arts within, he didn't think it was unlikely. After all, this starfield had Mystic Ascendants of varying races and specialties.

"Oh?" The Titanic Mudworm Snake had paused, noticing that Long Chen and Huangfu Jinwei had ceased their chase above.

After a long-drawn-out chase, Long Chen had met three figures. They were Hong Ru, Xiao Bing, and another female. This female was a beastwoman with feathers, claws, and a lithe figure. She looked like a harpie from legends, and with her sharp ears alluded to her descent from the elven race.

They were startled as they met an exhausted Long Chen being chased by a bloodthirsty Haungfu Jinwei. They seemed to be engaging in conversation.

Wei Wuyin quietly felt a sense of desire to send Huangfu Jinwei along the path of reincarnation, and before that, Hell's vicious and ruthless punishment. This didn't originate from his Bloodline of Sin, but the whispers of the Heavenly Daos. If he acted, he felt as if the Heavenly Daos would reward him as a result.

But the whispers of the Heavenly Daos were met with a reaction from the Bloodline of Sin, curving the Heavenly Daos aggression-instilling whispers. While it didn't directly inform him of its desire, from the depths of his Bloodline of Sin, he felt that Haungfu Jinwei was vital to it.

A Sinful Soul.

An irredeemable Soul infused with Karmic Sin.

Wei Wuyin's eyes brightened. He knew what he needed to do. Just as he was about to act, he felt an imposing, tyrannical, imperialistic, and invincible aura manifest within the world.

Chapter 285 - 282: G.S.T, Hong Ru & Xiao Bing

Before this aura was conjured into the world, a heart-riveting scene played out.

Long Chen was exhausted. The continuous running from Huangfu Jinwei had led to his astral force being thoroughly consumed. While he had lasted for hours, in the end, his cultivation base was merely at the World Sea and his cultivation efforts had been too short. Without sufficient time, even with the Imperial Heaven Qi Method, a merged Astral Soul, and the support of Wu Yu, his Astral Core was a millimeter in size. While massive in its own right, it was still dependent on what it was being used for.

Beside him were three female cultivators. Hong Ru and Xiao Bing, two Earthly Elite disciples of the Myriad Monarch Sect. They were absolute beauties with their own unique charm, one fiery and radiant like the sun and the other chilly and forceful like a blizzard. Their looks were top-tier, and they even belonged to top-tier clans supported by high-ranking elders.

The last was a beastwoman. She was a disciple of an independent cultivator. Her cultivation base wasn't inferior to the other two girls, at the Second Stage of the Astral Core Realm, but her aura was definitely not as robust as the other two. She was quiet as she observed the situation, a hint of vigilance within her eyes as she regarded Huangfu Jinwei.

Hong Ru was the one with an energetic and explosive personality. When she saw Long Chen in desperate straits being chased by Huangfu Jinwei, she yelled at the other party. "What do you think you're doing?!" She loudly questioned fearlessly as she stared at Huangfu Jinwei with a fiery gaze.

Unlike Hong Ru, Xiao Bing wasn't as fiery, but her eyes were icy and cold as she saw Long Chen's current state. A flash of rage flickered within her eyes as she glared at Huangfu Jinwei. While she didn't speak, her expression spoke volumes.

Huangfu Jinwei was momentarily stunned. He hadn't expected to meet these two in his chase against Long Chen. This was a very vast planet, and the trials took place all over. While they were traveling for several hours, they hadn't gotten too far from their initial location. The coincidence caused him pause.

Long Chen didn't relax. He withdrew a sixth-grade pill and immediately popped it into his mouth. This pill was meant to replenish his depleted astral force. He tried his hardest to refine it with the quickest speed. He remained vigilant, but he was also calmer now. He tried to find the three Shadow Moon Wolves, but they seemed to be in hiding. This caused him to become calmer and assured about Huangfu Jinwei's restraint.

Huangfu Jinwei would surely hesitate with these two here. They weren't nobodies and had clans backing them. High-level members of the clan were likely watching them now, and any action against them would surely be met with consequence.

However, he overestimated Huangfu Jinwei's fear towards these clans and underestimated his hatred towards Long Chen. Even more with the display of their apparent disgust and the core of his immense hatred before him. Being shielded by them only stoked the flames of rage within his heart, and his eyes revealed a bloodshot look after his hesitation had ended.

"Ru'er, Bing'er, just step aside. This is between him and me," despite his mentality teetering on the brink of collapse, he still attempted to speak cordially and plead with the two women. If it wasn't for his decades of memories attempting to woo, wow, and please them, he might've not done this.

Xiao Bing's eyes grew colder. Her eyes revealed a flash of disgust. She obviously disliked Huangfu Jinwei's attempt at being so familiar with them, and her stance remained unchanged. In fact, she stepped forward and directly unleashed her Sky Pressure. She wasn't doing this to gear for a fight, as she didn't think it would come to that, but to express her side. After all, fighting was prohibited in the Trial of Beasts.

Hong Ru, however, had a looser and more ferocious mouth on her. "Don't call me that, you piece of trash! You're fellow disciples and yet you do this? Aren't you embarrassed? He's only at the World Sea Phase while you're at the Soul Idol Phase, is this supposed to be fair? Is this a 'between him and me'?" She called him out on his bullying without any filter. She too unleashed her Sky Pressure.

But her words ignited a trigger in Huangfu Jinwei's mind. His mental image of these two girls shattered, as it was replaced with images of Long Chen and them. They laughed. They kissed. They shared a bed.

At the end, they tormented him with mocking gazes and laughed at him. Humiliating him for his efforts for the past decades, taunting him for being forced to wear a green hat. Those images seared into his mind and those bloodshot eyes became more prominent. Each crimson line became thick and pumping.

"You cheating sluts!" He felt used. All those days, those times of assistance to their factions, those expensive gifts, and more. They all crumbled into his mind and set his world ablaze. At this point, he didn't hear anything else that Long Chen, Hong Ru, or the other girl had said. While they had spoken, they just seemed like jeering laughs in his ears.

"AHHHH! KILL THEM ALL! ALL OF THEM!!!" His Sky Pressure exploded, canceling out the others in a non-confrontational manner. While he couldn't act against them directly, he could weaken their ability with interference. This would be considered an unintentional effect of unleashing one's Sky Pressure. If it was considered acting against others, the two girls would've been eliminated by now.

His roar shook the four. They hadn't expected him to go from his startled and pleading expression into erupting with murderous rage.

"As if!" Hong Ru shouted.

Long Chen's face paled instantly. It seemed they didn't know about the rules regarding beasts. Well, he hadn't either. "He can control three Shadow Moon Wolves!" He cried out, but it was too late. The wolves took orders from Huangfu Jinwei, their souls forcefully restrained and their wills controlled. A single order and they acted without hesitation.

They exited from Huangfu Jinwei's shadow. Shadow Moon Wolves had unique bloodline powers linked with the Dao of Shadows. They could merge in foreign shadows and vanish from senses, even shift between shadows. They hunted at night, essentially becoming shadows in the night. Unlike darkness, they became reflections of the world and had no substance in their shadow forms. They were assassins in its purest form.

When the three ten-meter tall wolves emerged with snarling maws and vicious eyes, the three girls were immediately startled. The wolves didn't hesitate and acted. They chose a target and swarmed, twisting into dark shadows that flickered.

Hong Ru, Xiao Bing, and the other girl gasped. The speed of these wolves was insanely fast! They couldn't react. Fortunately, Long Chen had regained a trace of astral force and immediately executed his movement art. In a flash, he brought the two beauties away.

As for the other girl...

A blood-curdling scream filled with fear and despair penetrated the air. The smell of blood tainted the air as the wolves pounced, each focused on ripping a limb from the beastwoman. They pressed her to the ground and viciously bit and pulled at her body. She struggled, her astral force and spiritual force attempted to resist, but the sheer strength of the wolves surpassed her hasty attempts.

Despite their sizes, they were very thorough in eating into her. In the end of this bloody and stomach-churning event, one of the wolves opened their maws and directly snapped it against her soft neck.

A horrific, mind-crushing crunch of bone brought silence to the world.

It was over.

It swallowed her head with a gush of blood, brain matter, and bits of white bone squeezing out of its teeth.

The two girls' faces had become as ashen as physically possible. It had happened so quickly, but they saw it all. "She..." Hong Ru felt her stomach churn as the rest of the girl's body was split and fought over by the wolves. They seemed to have turned into brainless bloodthirsty creatures that ate flesh. It was a brutal sight.

Long Chen's breathing was labored and strained. He didn't have much astral force left, and the three wolves were beyond the two girls' capabilities. If he departed by himself, he might have a straw chance at survival, but taking the two would only cause them to fall into the jaws of these beasts.

"HAHAHAHA! YES!" Huangfu Jinwei had seemingly gone insane, his eyes exuded the essence of delightful murder. The very thought of seeing these adulterous trio meet the same fate had nearly caused him orgasmic levels of pleasure. But it was just a thought, it would be best to witness it with his own two eyes.

He pointed at the three of them, his smile malicious and maniacal, "Kill them!" His voice wasn't as loud, but it contained a chilling to the bone feeling to it. The wolves stopped their wrestling, their silver eyes moved to the trio. They spread out, their forms ready to pounce.

"We...stop! Huangfu Jinwei, stop!" Hong Ru cried. She didn't know why Huangfu Jinwei had lost his mind and cared not about the consequences or how he gained control of three Silver Starred Beasts, but she was truly terrified.

Xiao Bing was also scared, but she withdrew an icy-blue longsword at this dangerous moment. It emitted a frightening frost as she readied to protect herself. She wasn't as direct and ignorant as Hong Ru. She knew why Huangfu Jinwei started to act like this, or at least a bit of the whole reason. If she was to die today, she wouldn't do so without fighting.

"Senior!" Long Chen called out to Wu Yu. They were in desperate straits. But Wu Yu was momentarily silent. When he did respond, it caused Long Chen to be confused.

"It's best that you and the other two activate your jade tablets. You'll lose this opportunity, but retain your lives," was his advice. This wasn't his opponent dominating him from his cultivation base. If it was entirely unfair, then Wu Yu would intervene. But Huangfu Jinwei had prepared and spent months gaining what he had. If Long Chen had been smarter, would he be at this disadvantage?

Wu Yu had created this trial. If he intervened, wouldn't that sully its purpose? To him, Long Chen's failure just meant he needed more tempering.

Unfortunately, Long Chen didn't think the same. He was obstinate. This was his only chance to fight Wei Wuyin fairly, as well as to obtain top-tier benefits by claiming first place. He shouted to the two, "Use your jade tablets! Leave!"

His words snapped the two out of their thoughts, and Huangfu Jinwei was startled. His expression became urgent as he urged the spiritual spell and sent orders to kill! Kill faster! Act faster! The Shadow Moon Wolves did not disappoint. They flashed like fleeting shadows and unified their assault onto Xiao Bing.

「Slicing Blizzard Art: Storm of Frost」

Xiao Bing was startled, but she expected this somewhat. Her ice force bloomed from her sword as she stabbed towards the shadows. A conical-shaped torrential blizzard was conjured before her that froze even the air and objects it touched. Within this blizzard was slicing sword light.

Long Chen acted on impulse. He grabbed Hong Ru and hastily retreated. He couldn't grab Xiao Bing as frost had emerged around her, protecting her in an icy ward. If he touched that, he could experience frosty feedback that could infect his already tiny traces of astral force.

Hong Ru exclaimed, clutching onto Long Chen as she closed her eyes in fear.

Xiao Bing's fearless efforts were admirable but met little success. The Shadow Moon Wolves erupted with a coat of flashing shadows that blocked the blizzard. It couldn't even affect their movements as they pierced through and chomped towards her.

She was shocked. How could these beasts be so powerful?! She tried to retreat with a movement art, her sword waving as she constantly released raging ice force to fend off their attacks. Fortunately, she escaped their concerted strike with her life intact, retreating to Long Chen's side. Unfortunately, her sword-wielding arm and sword had been ripped apart at the shoulder.

She didn't scream nor utter a single sound of pain. Her eyes were chilly and cold, but her aura noticeably dropped. Without her right arm, her combat strength had dropped several levels. She didn't hesitate to activate her jade tablet and the spatial formation within. Her eyes flashed with the images of icy hell as they reflected Huangfu Jinwei's figure.

While she didn't speak, her eyes said everything.

In a flash, she was encased by spatial energies, an area of twenty meters was pushed away by a formless barrier and she shot upwards.

Hong Ru withdrew her jade tablet, her eyes looked towards Huangfu Jinwei as she spat viciously, "I'll kill you! Just you wait, Huangfu Jinwei! Just you wait!" Her words were piercing and filled with enmity.

Long Chen felt relieved at her display. He stepped away from Hong Ru so as to not be affected by the pushing force of the jade tablet. It was a defensive function to ensure that those who activated the formation on time would survive with a near guarantee chance. But his action had caused Hong Ru to wait as well.

This caused an abrupt, unexpected, and sad moment to occur.

From her shadow, a silver moon's image was reflected in it. Her body felt cold, as if an immense and dreadful power had seized her mind. Her sea of consciousness had a silver moon in it, and its light reflected a shadow that enveloped it all. Frozen, she couldn't even activate her jade tablet.

Long Chen was confused in this decisive moment. Why had Hong Ru stopped? Was she waiting for him to get further away. He could see her gaze on him, still as water. Was...something wrong?

"Her mind!" Wu Yu shouted from the ring, but it was too late.

A shadow had emerged from the silver moon and with a gaping jaw of crimson blood, hovered over Hong Ru ready to snap on that delicate torso of hers.

"NO!"

A splash of blood painted the world!

Chapter 286 - 283: G.S.T, Vengeance

A deathly eerie silence enshrouded the world. Unfortunately, it was presided by an unearthly crunch and splash of crimson. Long Chen's right hand was outstretched as he bore witness to an event that would be seared into his memory until death, likely even after.

A delicate figure, gorgeous and fiery as the sun, with a feisty personality to match had met her untimely end. The bloody maw that bit into her torso and its razor teeth shredded flesh and bone until a forceful wrenching motion revealed a segregated half of upper torso and bottom torso.

"No..." Long Chen's voice descended into the depths of a chill abyss alongside his heart. Those legs of Hong Ru barely stood on its own power as it spasmed while gushing blood that drenched it. The thud sound as the frail, petite forearms landed on the ground could send chills down one's spine.

Long Chen could see the fingers on her hand with immaculately trimmed nails twitch and grasp as if alive. It was as if she was trying to grasp at hope. A last, futile effort at life. But it was already over.

His normally black eyes had become unfathomably bloodshot. It was as if bulging rivers of blood had formed within and the intensity of his pupils was extremely horrific to witness. Memories of the past flashed in his mind. These memories of Hong Ru's brash, direct, and fiery personality impacted his heart and mind.

When he arrived in the Myriad Monarch Sect, he was merely a Nascent Dust Disciple with no backing or foundation. He had to forge out a path of his own, performing missions and exploring this world. When he met Hong Ru, it was after his victory over Ji Yu. He had gained some reputation and recognition, and she grew interested in him.

This interest was fatal to both as they met numerous times later. She had even protected him from his enemies, shielding him with her superior cultivation base while he was weak. Of course, this was alongside Xiao Bing. The two, fire and ice, had formed an inexplicable relationship off her mild interest. It was her who drew Xiao Bing to him, and soon their relationship unknowingly evolved into an intimate state.

He took step after step and improved by leaps and bounds, his reputation and potential slowly revealing itself. During this, she and Xiao Bing used their respective backings to shield him. If it wasn't for them, he might've met the same or worse fate as Lin Ziyan.

Before long, his eyes became wet with tears and nearly overflowed. The insanity hidden beneath was slowly being uncovered as he dwelled on these memories. She was important to him, yet she was killed without him being able to do anything about it. Furthermore, it was his fault.

If he had run a different route...

If he was stronger...

If he had just activated his jade tablet earlier...

Regret. There was a saying that this world had no medicine for regret, and he hated this truth. Those eyes filled with endless, manic rage turned to Huangfu Jinwei who had a smile of ferocious ecstasy. He was looking from Hong Ru's half-corpse and Long Chen's shocked expression and felt an orgasmic pleasure within his heart, and the trembling of his legs betrayed his current state of mind. To him, this fate was best for that cheating slut. If it wasn't for Xiao Bing being a little quicker, he could do away with both of them.

To hell with the decades of his efforts. In fact, this moment felt better than ever because of his efforts. Their lack of response and pulling him along had pushed his mentality to the limit. Regardless as to why they didn't express their desire from the beginning or opinion of him, regardless if it was because of his future, his backing, or his always present kind smile as he met them, their lack of directness had pushed him to this moment.

This sight of Huangfu Jinwei's smile infuriated Long Chen. Just as Long Chen was about to lose his mind, his black ring flashed with vibrant light. While none present bore witness to what happened, Wu Yu had sighed.

"I was careless. This is the best I can do," As those words were said by him, he acted. A ray of spiritual light entered the gullet of Shadow Moon Wolf that had devoured Hong Ru's top half. It found the slightly crushed remains of Hong Ru's head and entered her glabella. In a flash, it retrieved her sea of consciousness that included her Mind's Eye, or the central doorway for her Soul, and brought it out. The spiritual light returned to the ring.

Before Wu Yu could inform Long Chen of his actions, Long Chen clenched his fist and yelled with madness: "Senior! I need your help. HE HAS TO DIE!" His words shook Huangfu Jinwei from his moment, turning over to see the maddened eyes of Long Chen. A smile that could be described as malevolent and perverted was revealed from his handsome face, his scarlet hair dancing in the wind.

"You're next," Huangfu Jinwei coldly stated. "I'll make sure it isn't swift or easy. Also, your head must be intact...otherwise, how would Lian Yu recognize you?" He had already thrown consequences to the wolves, his thoughts focused on satisfying his desire for revenge, his belief of revenge.

Wu Yu sighed once more. If it was before, he wouldn't interfere. But since his hesitation had caused the almost permanent death of Long Chen's woman, he couldn't hold back. After all, he cared about Long Chen. He was his successor. Regardless of his disappointing display thus far, he had revealed the potential to exceed even him. With this thought, he hardened his heart.

"If I infuse my power into you, you might be able to kill him, but the Myriad Monarch Sect will kill you in return for breaking the rules, especially against a fellow disciple." He explained to Long Chen. While Huangfu Jinwei had killed a fellow disciple, he had acted according to the 'rules' of the contest. It was acceptable.

But Long Chen's vengeance will result in his immediate termination, especially with the eyes of countless watching. He could only help in other ways.

"I don't care! Just kill him!" A dense aura of slaughter was unleashed from his body, effusing from his eyes in chaotic light. His mental state was nearly broken. He needed to kill. He needed to get revenge for Hong Ru. He owed her that much, regardless of the cost.

But he was too weak. He could only rely on external help. With three Shadow Moon Wolves staring at him like a piece of meat, he didn't feel any pressure. He had the greatest assurance in this starfield: Grand Monarch Wu Yu!

Wu Yu sighed for the third time. With a flick of dim light from the ring, a ray of spiritual light once more left it, but this time, it was in full view and capable of being witnessed by everyone. Its speed wasn't fast and it entered one of the Shadow Moon Wolves' glabella. When it penetrated its head, it howled ferociously in resistance as the Spiritual Spell that restricted and was gradually dispersing its soul was shattered.

This caused its sea of consciousness to collapse, its soul returning to the normal cycle of reincarnation as its death was swift. Wu Yu claimed its vacant location, and the Shadow Moon Wolf went silent. Then, without warning, an aura of imperialistic majesty and an invincible will erupted into the world.

Huangfu Jinwei spouted out a mouthful of blood as the Spiritual Spell had shattered, causing a fierce backlash of his Astral Soul. He was shocked as he felt the boundless and godly aura overtake his senses, the Shadow Moon Wolf's eyes had changed from being feral and vicious to gaining a unique awareness that carried sharp intelligence.

From his jade tablet, he lost Spirit Points. But Long Chen's jade tablet glowed, earning him even greater spirit points. By the formation and overseers, it seemed they realized that Long Chen had taken control of the wolf via an unexpected method. This only showed these individuals were swift and understood what had happened, at least a bit of it.

The Shadow Moon Wolf that Wu Yu had inhabited had its bloodline pressure evolve, and on its Silver Star was an ancient runic character that roughly translated to 'Imperial'. It was bright and brilliant, containing a majestic and endless will.

The two other Shadow Moon Wolves were temporarily cowed, but the Spiritual Spell within their seas of consciousness activated and they lost their feral intensity and became dull-eyed. That being said, they were still within Huangfu Jinwei's control.

Noticing the change in his jade tablet, Jinwei Huangfu roared. "Kill it! Kill it NOW!" He ordered. A strong sense of crisis and danger enveloped his heart as the lofty eyes of the Shadow Moon Wolf turned to him. He unleashed his Sky Pressure for support. The two Shadow Moon Wolves acted in tandem, pouncing towards the wolf they once called brother.

Wu Yu acted. In the Shadow Moon Wolf, he adjusted to adapt to this body before he pushed off. His speed and power were far sharper than the others, and he dodged their assault with ease. Unlike the Shadow Moon Wolves under control, he had full access to its potential and strength. If Xiao Bing or Long Chen had met these Shadow Moon Wolves in battle, neither would be able to escape from their claws. The only reason he could run was due to the Spiritual Spell that restricted them also limited their strength.

It was a trade-off for perfect slaves.

But Wu Yu had no disadvantage. Besides needing to adjust to the body's state, he could unleash a vast majority of its strength and bloodline power. He instantly shrouded himself in moving and chaotic shadows as he vanished from the world.

This was one of the Shadow Moon Wolves abilities, and how Hong Ru had been killed.

「Shifting Shadow of the Lunar Moon」

The other wolves couldn't respond. Wu Yu abruptly sprouted from the shadow of one of the wolves, and as it turned its neck, he clawed at its softest area. In a single move, its head flew from its body.

Huangfu Jinwei's eyes widened at this sight. He had barely been able to notice the Shadow Moon Wolves movements. Wouldn't that mean it could instantly kill him without him noticing?! He soared into the skies instinctively, ready to run. Fortunately, this action meant the Shadow Moon Wolf's ability was ineffective.

After all, shadows existed on the ground. If one soared and flew, how could it reach you? If it wasn't for this vital weakness, the Shadow Moon Wolves might've been a dominating force of the world. But Sky Rulers negated their strongest ability with relative ease: flight.

But this didn't save the other Shadow Moon Wolf. Wu Yu vanished again and reappeared behind the other. In a similar movement, he killed the other Shadow Moon Wolf. This wolf had Hong Ru's upper corpse in its stomach, and her blood and guts were mixed with its own.

Long Chen's eyes brightened. In his heart, he cheered. His composure was regained as he looked towards Huangfu Jinwei who floated in the sky. He said with a faint smile, "You're next." He sent his words back at him. A quiver of triumph within.

Wu Yu, in his Shadow Moon Wolf body, frowned as he glanced at Long Chen. In the end, he remained silent. He turned his eyes towards the floating Huangfu Jinwei. To him, this was nothing more than a distorted child. It was beneath him to end his life. But to make-up for his indecision, he had to.

His four legs bent, his eyes sharpened, and his claws clung to the ground.

Huangfu Jinwei paled. This Shadow Moon Wolf gave him a feeling of an undefeatable imposing existence that could take his life with ease. While he had a Soul Idol cultivation base, a strength that rivaled or even exceeded Shadow Moon Wolves, he didn't feel any chance of victory.

「Silver Moon of the Shadow Star」

Wu Yu executed another of Shadow Moon Wolf's abilities. It was the same move used to ensnare Hong Ru's mind, leading to a lapse of concentration. Furthermore, it was enhanced by his own spiritual strength. If it was an ordinary Shadow Moon Wolf, affecting a Soul Idol cultivator would be a dream and a half, but now...

From the shadow beneath Huangfu Jinwei, a silver moon emerged and his sea of consciousness was invaded by that image. Shadows from all over sought to consume his thoughts. They were invasive and invincible. His mind was ensnared as his Astral Soul and its Soul Idol's form were attempting to resist. Alas, it did him no good. He started to fall as he could no longer control the ambient mana to support him.

This was it!

Wu Yu shot off and dashed towards his descending body. Long Chen looked on expectantly. While it was unfortunate he couldn't kill him with his own hands, he'll have to settle for this. For Hong Ru.

Wu Yu was about to launch the fatal strike with optimal timing, ending this boy's life with a swiftness. Just as he was about to, his expression changed.

BOOSH!

The earth split and a figure emerged, separating Huangfu Jinwei's falling figure and Wu Yu's dashing approach.

A titanic figure appeared, its serpentine eyes revealing a silver brilliance. A voice echoed from it via spiritual force, "You want to kill a member of my Extreme Creation Mountain? Have you asked for my permission?"

Chapter 287 - 284: G.S.T, Pride

Due to Hong Ru, Xiao Bing, Huangfu Jinwei, and Long Chen's status and potential within the sect, numerous individuals within the Myriad Monarch Sect were watching them. This included both above the platform that encapsulated Junia and the Myriad Monarch Planet's factions, forces, and experts. They were invested within them, interested in how well they would do or if they'd survive, but they didn't expect this outcome.

Huangfu Jinwei had hunted Long Chen for several hours after gaining control of three Silver Starred Shadow Moon Wolves. Then, Long Chen had inadvertently met Hong Ru and Xiao Bing. They thought this would be the end of it. After all, there was no way these two who've protected Long Chen numerous times before would allow this hunt to continue.

Furthermore, everyone knew Huangfu Jinwei had a massive interest in these two talented beauties, so he should exercise some restraint until a better opportunity displayed itself. But alas, that didn't happen.

Huangfu Jinwei went mad. He ordered his Shadow Moon Wolves to kill, taking down an unintentional causality first before maiming Xiao Bing and forcing her to exit the trial prematurely. This shocked them, but the next event caused jaws to drop, hearts to sink, tears to flow in some, and rage to build in others.

Hong Ru was killed.

"How DARE he?! Ru'er!!" A red-headed middle-aged man with an aura of fierce flames exclaimed with heartfelt pain. A woman beside him cried loudly, her eyes red like a sea of blood. She fainted almost immediately after shouting at the top of her lungs. This happened on the Myriad Monarch Planet.

While in the Myriad Monarch Sect's abode above Junia, Huangfu Wenghu's expression was indifferent throughout. Even after the gazes of others turned his way, he hadn't revealed an ounce of emotion. Huangfu Wenghu was a young-looking man with a luxurious robe and a lofty light within his eyes. As a Prime Imperial Sage and an Alchemic King, he cared little about these events. In fact, it was their own fault for getting in Huangfu Jinwei's way of killing Long Chen; they courted death.

Yao Zhen's expression was conflicted. His son had a slight conflict with Long Chen due to Long Tingyu, but Long Chen was the fated successor of the Grand Monarch Lineage. While they wouldn't directly interfere in his development, they couldn't just watch him die. If it came to it, he knew Qin Rui would take action. Likely forcefully activating Long Chen's jade tablet remotely.

It was only the conflict with his son that had him conflicted. Furthermore, he didn't really like Long Chen as a person. And if he did ascend onto the throne of Grand Monarch, it was likely they'd have to choose between Wei Wuyin or Long Chen in the near future. After all, how could they not know about Long Chen's grudge with Wei Wuyin?

Back in the Myriad Yore Continent, Xiang Ling had to interfere to prevent Long Chen's death. He could only ruefully sigh. If Wei Wuyin left the sect, their chances of reaching higher phases or nurturing their descendants would vanish. There was no way Wei Wuyin would support potential enemies. Who would?

This was one of the major reasons why they kept Long Chen's identity a secret. One could see how Tuo Bihan had immediately suggested that Wei Wuyin immediately leave the sect once he found out he knew about Long Chen and that Wu Yu was with him.

But if Long Chen died here, wouldn't all these problems vanish? In the future, Wei Wuyin would reach untold heights with his foundation and talent that defied logic and could bring them with him. He didn't mind being a subordinate to a Grand Monarch, so why would he care if Wei Wuyin was declared the new Grand Monarch even against tradition?

These thoughts weren't just limited to Yao Zhen.

While these thoughts and reactions unfolded, the scene had changed.

A wave of exclamations and unexpected gasps resounded as the Titanic Mudworm Snake had appeared!

"What?!" Long Chen was stunned. Was that Wei Wuyin's voice?! The appearance of the Titanic Mudworm Snake had sent him into shock, but then the voice that emanated from it had caused his heart to race. Why would Wei Wuyin be here?!

Furthermore! His eyes saw the Gold Star on the serpent's forehead. When he did, he spread out his spiritual sense in an attempt to find Wei Wuyin's figure, but he couldn't locate him.

Wu Yu calmly gazed at the Titanic Mudworm Snake that towered it by several times. Its scaled body was imposing and emanated a unique seismic force that disturbed the ambient mana. He wasn't surprised by the Titanic Mudworm Snake's appearance. But he was shocked by its eyes that revealed a silver gleam and spiritual light.

He believed the Titanic Mudworm Snake was a restricted creature that would only act when provoked. It had followed them idly, observing out of interest. After all, it had been following them for several hours without taking action. He believed it was a non-threat. Only now did he realize his mistake.

Long Chen couldn't find Wei Wuyin. He turned his eyes to the snake and shouted, "Are you going to hide?!" He didn't know why he shouted antagonistically, but the bright thought of Wu Yu taking action and eliminating Wei Wuyin once and for all had lit within his mind. Given Wu Yu's personality, when he took action, he would never allow his plans or desires to be prevented. This was the way of the Grand Monarch.

It was the mantra that Wu Yu taught him endlessly: Follow through every action thoroughly; never relent to any obstacle. He had an innate pride and majesty that could not be insulted. Interfering with his plans was an affront to a monarch, and only death was left.

While he hadn't adopted this mantra entirely, retaining his original heart, he had learned greatly about eliminating enemies thoroughly and following through with your object against all odds, even in the face of death. While it was obstinate, it was the true bearing of a Grand Monarch.

Wu Yu transmitted a message to Long Chen: "He's not here. The snake is being remotely controlled by him." With his senses, he could trace the spiritual link between Wei Wuyin and the snake, realizing he was an incredible distance away. But it still shocked him. This distance was massive, and to do that required an incredible amount of spiritual strength and reserves of spiritual energies.

Even a Soul Idol expert with nine-rings would find this feat incredibly difficult to near-impossible. Yet...

Long Chen quickly realized the situation. He turned his gaze to the snake. Did he subdue a Gold Star beast? *'He had to have used methods beyond his means, just like Huangfu Jinwei! There's no way either of them could control beasts of this level so perfectly. This might've even been prepared for him. I heard he likes bribing others...who knows who he bribed for this snake.'*

He coldly snorted. "Your Extreme Creation Mountain?! He killed members of the Extreme Origin Mountain! Who gave him permission!? As for you? Wei Wuyin! Don't think just because you have a Gold Star Beast you can act however you wish!" With Wu Yu behind him, he lacked fear. With a confrontational tone, he immediately questioned Wei Wuyin with open contempt.

In some cases, his fearlessness would be praised. But those watching knew of Wei Wuyin's horrific strength. They felt he was incredibly idiotic. Even if Wei Wuyin didn't have his strength, he was a

potential Alchemic Emperor and a Heavenly King with the favor of the Grand Imperial Sages. This was plain reckless.

Wu Yu kept quiet. He was observing the Titanic Mudworm Snake. It used its tail to wrap Huangfu Jinwei's body protectively. It seemed it was ready to retreat.

Long Chen saw this and shouted fiercely, "He KILLED Hong Ru!! You want to protect that scum?! I knew you were trash! Well, I won't allow it." His heart was burning with rage. Well, he couldn't be blamed after witnessing his potential lover being killed in front of him and Wei Wuyin protecting him openly.

The Titanic Mudworm Snake didn't even glance Long Chen's way, its eyes that radiated a silver radiance was fixated on the Shadow Moon Wolf that Wu Yu inhabited. Wu Yu was staring at Wei Wuyin too, but the loftiness and imposing demeanor of his will was fully revealed. His will could be seen in his eyes: Today, Huangfu Jinwei must die.

Wei Wuyin didn't need to exchange words to see that.

Wu Yu was calmer than Long Chen, as he directly transmitted to Wei Wuyin: "Your actions today are pointless. Leave him and go." His words weren't laced with a question but a seemingly factual statement and a full-blown order. Even if Wei Wuyin was already at the King of Everlore level, he couldn't allow Huangfu Jinwei to leave today. This was a matter of pride and face.

Even if he had to burn all the bridges. Since he decided to take action, he would never leave loose-ends. It wasn't his manner of doing things. If Wei Wuyin interfered, he would take action against him too. It wasn't as if they needed Wei Wuyin to cultivate. The Princess of Everlore existed, and the Alchemist Association was neutral. There would be other means to support Long Chen's cultivation.

In the Sky Palace far away, Wei Wuyin's brows were slightly furrowed in contemplation. He calculated some matters, weighing the importance versus the potential consequences, and made a decision in his heart.

He replied to Wu Yu, his spiritual force was open and could be heard and interpreted by all: "Let's see."

A challenge!

To those who were observing, these words were a direct reply to Long Chen, but to Wu Yu, he knew the true meaning was directed towards him: "Let's see if you can stop me! Let's see if my actions are actually pointless! Come. At. Me. Grand Monarch Wu Yu!"

Chapter 288 - 285: G.S.T, Void Force

The atmospheric tension became incomparably dense as wolf and serpent stared at each other. Wu Yu's Shadow Moon Wolf emanated a boundless pressure that seemed innate, capable of subduing ten thousand with merely its presence. Wei Wuyin's Titanic Mudworm Snake was more natural, but its eyes were radiating a high degree of spirituality and intelligence.

Normally, Wei Wuyin wouldn't have decided to clash with Wu Yu, the founder of the Myriad Monarch Sect. This would hold true if they remained on the Myriad Monarch Planet, but Junia's formations were not the original ones devised by Wu Yu. He felt somewhat confident that in Junia, Wu Yu had little trump cards to act. Furthermore, he might not be able to act freely.

Considering Huangfu Jinwei's current state as a Sinful Soul, he couldn't simply miss this opportunity. He decided to make a slight wager.

Wu Yu was not an individual that wasted time convincing others after his initial efforts. Wei Wuyin's reply had challenged him and his prestige. If he didn't teach him a lesson, how could he retain his dignity? While his current state wasn't particularly exemplary, he was still unwilling to allow such a thing to occur.

Woosh!

Wu Yu flashed with astonishing speed. In a moment, he had arrived behind the snake, his eyes staring at the tail that wrapped Huangfu Jinwei's form. His actions were incomparably decisive as he leapt towards it, claws fully unleashed and ready to slice into even astral steel.

Wei Wuyin did not have full control over the Titanic Mudworm Snake like Wu Yu did for his Shadow Moon Wolf, but it retained its natural instincts and senses. It replied with a twist of its body, its bundled tail sweeping away from Wu Yu's claws, and its body sought to dive into the ground. It was seeking to flee!

Wu Yu snarled lightly. After swiping air with his life ending assault, he landed and saw the actions of this little earthly snake. *'You think you can escape?'* If he had a true body, he would coldly snort and unleash imperialistic might. Alas, he was left with this wolf. He howled.

From its feet, endless shadows formed and spread throughout the world. For an inconceivable distance, the entire world was consumed by living shadows that seemed like crazed wraiths. They had wolf-like forms and constantly released howls similar to his. It was chilling and they emitted a power that seemed to influence the spirit. They bit and clawed at the snake's scales!

"Hm?" Wei Wuyin was startled by this event. The Titanic Mudworm Snake was instantly oppressed, and the ground had become infused with odd shadow power. It tried to utilize its ability to dig into the earth but was continuously halted and attacked by these wolf-like shadows. Surrounded by these creatures, he couldn't help but find this incredibly odd.

What was this?

The mental foundation of the snake was under assault, and even his connection grew unstable and uncertain. He needed to reinforce his spiritual force to remain tethered to the serpent's senses.

While he questioned, Wu Yu didn't hesitate to follow-up. With the world engulfed by these shadows, he vanished. In a blink of an eye, he arrived beside the bundled tail and clawed at the scales of the serpent. Blood splashed and scales fragmented as the attack hit! But this single strike couldn't reach Huangfu Jinwei's body.

The Titanic Mudworm Snake had a tough body with physical attributes of a peak Soul Idol. While Wu Yu had taken over the body of the Shadow Moon Wolf, its offensive power wasn't augmented by his possession. A single swipe merely caused surface damage.

Wu Yu hadn't stopped with simply one attack. With a ferocious intensity, he sent several claw strikes towards the same area but the damage wasn't anything significant.

Observing this, Wu Yu slightly frowned. The world of shadows immediately dissipated, clearly unable to be sustained for long. When the world returned to normal, the snake had already twisted its body into a ball, protecting Huangfu Jinwei and its own head. This formed a shell of flesh and scales, making penetrating it harder than before.

Wei Wuyin was looking at the horizon, the quick exchange had revealed that Wu Yu had limitations in the Shadow Moon Wolf's body. That being said, he could execute bloodline powers far beyond the Shadow Moon Wolf's capabilities. That domain of wolf shadows was incredibly terrifying and had been instantly conjured. It easily suppressed the snake despite its innate strength and abilities.

He frowned slightly.

Wu Yu was also in a conundrum. While he wanted to kill, in the face of the serpent's protective efforts, he couldn't penetrate its scales and dense flesh. As for unleashing a spiritual attack, that likely wouldn't work. He could feel the vibrant and vigorous spiritual force integrating into the Titanic Mudworm Snake constantly. Furthermore, the snake could simply remain in a ball state while restrained. It solved nothing.

'Is he trying to wait me out?' It felt strange and disappointing that Wei Wuyin had challenged him yet resorted to such cowardly actions. Unfortunately, his current thoughts were jinxing his situation. Wei Wuyin simply hadn't taken action yet. The actions of the snake had been its own, an expression of its free will based on Wei Wuyin's initial orders.

After all, the Titanic Mudworm Snake was not a direct fighter. Similar to the Shadow Moon Wolves, it relied on sneak attacks and explosive moments of sheer power. If it sought to protect a living existence, it was best to tunnel into the earth. This was its decision and belief.

As for Wei Wuyin, he wanted to see if Wu Yu could unleash powers of the Mystic Ascendant Realm or if he was truly limited. If it was the former, it didn't matter what he desired or planned, Huangfu Jinwei was not leaving here alive. He would likely lose his snake and be forced to suffer this loss. But if Wu Yu was restricted in the first exchange, then he had options.

And from observing what had happened, while Wu Yu could unleash powers beyond the Shadow Moon Wolf, it seemed it wasn't very great, lasting, or invincible. He knew what he had to do.

From his Sky Palace, Wei Wuyin's silver eyes shone with a distinct brilliance that foretold the unleashing of incredible forces. He sent a spiritual force transmission: "Step down. If I take action, I won't stop." He warned, his voice laced with a heart-chilling tone. This was him giving Wu Yu the appropriate respect as a senior.

During that time in the Myriad Monarch Sect, he had decided to hold himself back due to the possible trump cards Wu Yu might possess on the Myriad Monarch Planet. While his instincts were correct, he still felt frustrated about that moment. No longer were they on the Myriad Monarch Planet.

Wu Yu calmly heard this and revealed a faint hint of a smile. To think he had fallen so low that he would be threatened by a junior, demanded to step down or else. How embarrassing. Even if he was the next King of Everlore, the other old foxes would still laugh at him, no?

He didn't deign to reply. His eyes that revealed a calm and arrogant light said it all.

Wei Wuyin gave a brief nod. His strong hand pressed towards the empty void, his palm facing the direction of the serpent. Endless ripples were emitted from his fingertips. A distinct power of void was being exuded, and it seemed to stretch an infinite distance.

This was void force and Wei Wuyin was currently deploying a fragment of its powers. When Wei Wuyin was trying to study Void Force, he realized it didn't have much offensive strength and it wasn't very useful in executing the spatial arts of the sect. In fact, he was befuddled by this development. According to Kratos, the Dao of Void incorporated space and time, but it didn't work for basic spatial arts.

He didn't know the cause, but Kratos had one response: It felt like trying to use liquid gold for hydration, it just wasn't possible. Even now he did not understand what that meant. He could only take it that the spatial arts were too simplistic to be fueled by void force.

Fortunately, he found one use: transmission. The innate strength of Void Force was its ability to carry all forms of power and send it towards a location at speeds surpassing imagination across the void. It was nearly instant, and distance was mostly irrelevant. In fact, he was using it now to stay connected in real-time with the Titanic Mudworm Snake.

With void force, he could transmit spiritual force with little to no delay. Of course, this needed a pre-existing spell formation to connect with or at least be in a range he could sense. In terms of the profoundness of Void Force's uses, it was its only power that Wei Wuyin had discovered. He called it:

「Instant Void Transmission」

He closed his eyes. From his dantian, a one centimeter Astral Core brightened. It released gushes of boundless astral force that vanished instantly.

Wu Yu was ready to strike and persist, seeking to cleave through the scales and flesh. Even if it took him several minutes, he would simply have to do so. Just as he was about to pounce and unleash consecutive attacks without end, Wu Yu halted. His eyes widened.

'What is this? This is astral force?!' Without warning, the Titanic Mudworm Snake was releasing wisps of elemental origin force from its scales, and the damaged flesh and scales started to rapidly recover as earth, wood, and water force was being conjured and infused into its body.

Long Chen sensed this change and was immediately startled into confusion. "How can a beast emit astral force?! Is Huangfu Jinwei acting?" He, just like Wu Yu, didn't understand what was happening.

However, Wu Yu had a bad premonition.

Chapter 289 - 286: G.S.T, Forced?

Through the void, Wei Wuyin transmitted a ceaseless flow of elemental force into the Titanic Mudworm Snake. Its body started to expand, infused with highly refined power that caused all its injuries to heal and its body to shimmer with white light. From its body, wisps of elemental force were inadvertently integrating into the world.

The scene sent Wu Yu, Long Chen, and even the spectators into a state of confusion. They all simultaneously believed that Huangfu Jinwei had awoken and was attempting to escape, but this

thought was temporary for Wu Yu. He felt that the astral force was simply appearing without rhyme or reason.

But the innate spiritual aura within the wisps was rather distinct. His eyes narrowed as he noticed Wei Wuyin's aura from these wisps, and they were being actively controlled. How was this possible? His eyes shot towards the horizon. From his senses, he knew that Wei Wuyin was an incomparably vast distance away. He was nearly on the other side of the planet.

This was truly incomprehensible.

Then, the Titanic Mudworm Snake acted. It unwrapped its body, revealing the source of the wisps of elemental power was from a white spherical construct. The surface of this sphere was fantastical. At times it would seem as solid as metal, as fluid as water, as shifting as fire, as chaotic as lightning, as vibrant as wood, as ethereal as wind, as malleable as earth, as viscous as magma, and as frosty as ice. These states even merged at odd periods, bringing even more mystical sights. Its variable form made one experience a sense of surrealism.

Wu Yu trembled! '*Elemental Origin Force?!*' His mind shook, nostalgic and ancient memories flashed within his thoughts. He recalled a young man with a forceful temperament that held the power of the nine elements at his fingertips. With a thought, all the elemental forces revered him as its king.

Its Divine King.

He hadn't expected to observe this power that was insidiously difficult to comprehend and produce. While normal Elemental Force was common, Elemental Origin Force required Elemental Origin Intent. This was insanely difficult, requiring the base merging and unified synchronization of the nine elements. It was not an easy energy source to produce nor an easy Intent to develop.

It was dozens of times more difficult to comprehend than Sword Intent, Saber Intent, Slaughter Intent, or Battle Intent. He simply was stunned by the sight, unable to believe it appeared. A trace of vigilance entered his eyes for the very first time. Elemental Origin Force could not be underestimated, he learned that long ago...

His pause was met with a slip-up. The sphere contained Huangfu Jinwei's unconscious body. With a spinning twist of its lengthy body, the Titanic Mudworm Snake threw with its tail into the distance. In the blink of an eye, it shot into the far-off horizon. The sphere of condensed Elemental Origin Force completely protected the body within.

CAW!!

A jet-black crow with three eyes had arrived at this time, and with its sharp talons, it grabbed the sphere perfectly before shooting off. It was wreathed by abundant wind force that amplified its flight speed to higher limits. The entire scene was abrupt, unexpected, and was met with widened eyes. Even Wu Yu hadn't expected this.

For several seconds, silence descended.

Long Chen was visibly confused. "Was...was that Huangfu Jinwei in that sphere?"

His words caused Wu Yu's expression to darken. He was just about to pursue when the Titanic Mudworm Snake flashed into his path with an open maw. It sought to consume his body whole.

Wu Yu had to halt his pursuit and dodge hastily. A flash of rage flickered within its eyes. He couldn't dally, so he used the innate abilities of the Shadow Moon Wolf and merged with the shadows. He couldn't be stopped using this, so Wei Wuyin would be helpless to stop him. But in a split second, his senses tingled as he flashed through the shadows and arrived by Long Chen's side.

In an instant, the world was invaded by wolf-like shadows that surged forward. They targeted the crushing tail of the serpent that was attempting to turn Long Chen into meat paste. The immense strength it carried dispersed the wolf shadows by a large amount, causing the unique shadow world to vanish abruptly.

The Titanic Mudworm Snake was staring at Long Chen with killing intent. This caused Wu Yu to grind his sharp teeth, a light snarl left his mouth. From its eyes, fatigue and exhaustion were clearly revealed. It seemed possessing a body wasn't an easy feat nor was using that ability to summon a great number of wolf shadows for Wu Yu or the Shadow Moon Wolf's body.

Even if Wu Yu contained infinite strength in his spirit form, the same can't be said for the Shadow Moon Wolves reserves of bloodline energies. From the quivering of its legs, one could see the physical weakness gradually settling in. If he continued to press forward, this body might collapse.

Wu Yu didn't find it despicable that Wei Wuyin had sent his beast to attack Long Chen, forcing him to remain here. It seemed from the onset, he had already lost this brief exchange. His pride took a slight hit. If it wasn't for his current state, how could he end up like this? While unwilling, he decided to finally transmit a message to Wei Wuyin:

"Considering the circumstances, I'll allow this. You may leave." While he was admitting defeat, he certainly didn't speak like it. In truth, he thought that since the situation had developed to this point, it was best if Long Chen got revenge with his own hands. This could serve as a source of motivation for him to cultivate.

However, while he was the Grand Monarch Wu Yu of legend, wasn't his thoughts too simplistic and naive? Wei Wuyin didn't leave. He coldly replied: "Considering the circumstances, I'll allow your actions against me with merely a light punishment: Cripple yourself, then leave." His tone was domineering and arrogant to the extreme, and it was directed towards Long Chen.

Wu Yu felt as if Wei Wuyin's words were a slap to the face, a nearly identical set of words with a more imposing and ferocious demand at the end. While the world didn't hear his spiritual transmission, all the spectators could clearly hear Wei Wuyin's.

Long Chen stood there stunned. His eyes were wide, suffused with shock and disbelief. He hadn't expected Wei Wuyin to demand him to cripple himself and then leave, which could be presumed to be leaving the Grand Spirit Trials. But it could also mean leaving the Myriad Monarch Sect. After all, if he was crippled, what use would he be in a sect that defined authority and importance with strength?

If he was crippled, what would happen to those he cherished? What would happen to his future? His eyes reddened instantly while his teeth were being grounded audibly. Those normally pure black eyes were emitting endless killing intent, unable to exist beneath the same sky as Wei Wuyin.

"Senior, kill him!" He transmitted to Wu Yu. If the world were to hear him, they would see a similar madness that Huangfu Jinwei had when he sent Shadow Moon Wolves to claim his and the girls' lives.

Wu Yu ignored Long Chen and stared at the spiritual light within the serpent's eyes. He couldn't understand what Wei Wuyin was thinking. Others might not know, but Wei Wuyin knew that Long Chen was the future leader of the Myriad Monarch Sect. He was the only one present with the rightful lineage and legacy. Furthermore, he was being guided by him personally, the first Grand Monarch and Founder of the sect.

Wasn't he being too wishful thinking this would go his way? Or was he seeking another goal?

Wu Yu didn't dwell on this. Since this was said, then Wei Wuyin definitely wouldn't allow them to leave just like that. This would be an affront to his status and dignity, and Long Chen didn't have the status to resist against it. As a Heavenly King and an Alchemic King, at least seen by the sect, he had boundless more importance than an Earthly Elite Disciple.

"If you do this, I'll be left with no choice." Wu Yu transmitted with a faint sigh, it was as if he didn't wish for it to come to this. Wei Wuyin had seemingly given birth to Elemental Origin Intent, had fantastical strength, and was a Mortal Sovereign Alchemist at such a young age. He much rather avoid conflict with him, especially to the point where there was no alternative. He couldn't imagine that that was what Wei Wuyin wanted either.

But Wei Wuyin merely smiled back at his Sky Palace, a light of interest and calculation within.

Wu Yu realized that the spiritual light within the serpent's eyes was steady, unaffected by his words. He couldn't help but recall that brilliant youth with silver eyes that had determined his existence, identity, and revealed a high level of intelligence. Considering his words and personality, this must be well within his plans.

Did he want to force Long Chen and himself into a point of no retreat? Or...did he want to...

Wait...

When his thoughts reached a certain point, his canine mouth released an odd chuckle highly unusual for a wolf.

'Is that what you want? If so, well played.' When he turned to see Long Chen, he could only feel a hint of sadness, pity, disappointment, and a wisp of excitement within. He didn't hold back any longer and directly sent Long Chen a transmitted message.

"...What?!" Long Chen's expression drastically changed!

Chapter 290 - 287: G.S.T, Leaving Again

The spiritual transmission sent by Wu Yu to Long Chen was swift, brief, but from Long Chen's ever-changing expression, it was shocking. Those originally bright, pure, and unyielding pupils were in a state of perpetual shaking. His hands clenched, mouth ajar, and body trembling was very telling.

Wu Yu's wolf's eyes flashed with an emotional light. It was unbecoming to a Grand Monarch, as if he was making a difficult choice that must be made. But seeing Long Chen's reaction, his heart that had been softened and influenced by this young man's presence had clearly affected him.

He sent another spiritual transmission, causing Long Chen's head to abruptly jerk as his eyes widened. "Y-you...Senior..." Long Chen's current state was almost indescribable, his emotions were going haywire without any support, and he felt as if his world was collapsing.

He had just lost Hong Ru.

'Why did this have to happen?'

That single sentence lingered within his thoughts as those eyes of his finally lifted to meet the silver radiance of the Titanic Mudworm Snake's eye. For a moment, he saw a flash of a figure that had been a blight on his life since the beginning. From his oath to Na Xinyi, to their fight on the Myriad Yore Continent, to his name being in the mouth of everyone, and more. Now, he stood beforehand a creature that wasn't him, yet his heart felt a sensation of being stifled to the extreme.

Thud!

Wu Yu's Shadow Moon Wolf collapsed. It was merely a corpse without his spiritual influence. The act of possession was a very rare, evil method that forced out an individual's sea of consciousness and claimed their body. This effectively killed them, sending them into heaven's embrace.

It was an act that only those who've obtained the realm beyond Astral Core, a realm beyond the Mortal, could achieve. Their mystical powers were boundless, limited by talent, time, and strength.

Wu Yu's spiritual light left the glabella of the wolf's corpse and entered his black ring. For a moment, it flickered with dim light as if making arrangements.

Wei Wuyin's eyes were still closed in his Sky Palace. He halted the funneling of his elemental origin force into the serpent. There was a little disappointment within his eyes; Wu Yu was an exceptionally intelligent fellow. He was primed for a fight. He wanted to see how far Wu Yu could push a Star Beast with a Soul Idol's strength.

For example, the Shadow Domain that was conjured was terrifyingly strong. While it seemed to consume a vast amount of energy to use, it could block the Titanic Mudworm Snake's elemental force empowered strike. This strike easily entered a level of strength that exceeded the ordinary Spatial Resonance Phase expert.

To block it and do so instantly, it fascinated him without end. It didn't seem to be an innate bloodline ability of the Shadow Moon Wolf, as even he had never heard of it unleashing such power. If that was used in an abrupt assassination attempt, where one goes from a sneaky attack to summoning endless shadows from every direction that each had strength barely inferior to the original body, there would be no one in the Soul Idol Phase that could defend.

He felt even Zuhei would meet an unexpected demise. It was simply too fast, without warning, and influenced the spirit and mind. It was a true territory to establish an area of absolute death. If it wasn't for his serpent's terrifying physical defenses, it would've been shredded by their fangs and claws.

Before he healed it, its state was horrific. Terrifying to witness as flesh, scales, and blood was splashed everywhere. It was the only reason he decided to send his elemental origin force within and not his saber force. But he was also a little hesitant because his saber was meant to kill. If he were to bring it out, a life must be taken.

While killing Wu Yu's Shadow Moon Wolf could be accepted, his heart didn't feel right. From the beginning, since he first learned how to wield a saber from his older brother, he had never taken out his saber unless to claim a life or save his own. This was a life teaching he held dear to his heart, a principle of the Saber Dao.

Perhaps it was this form of belief that formed his Saber Intent.

As for killing Long Chen? This wasn't the time, place, or opportunity to do so. The consequences of it might lead to his eight years to dwindle to zero. If his theory is correct, he might be forced to deal with two or even three calamities at the same time for his actions. He was prepared for the second, not the third.

This wasn't based on factual evidence or observing the worldly trend, but completely based on instinct. He had a similar feeling when he learned of Wu Yu's existence, a feeling that his action would lead to an insurmountable complication that could or will lead to an untimely and unjust demise.

"Is everything okay?" Soft footsteps echoed behind Wei Wuyin. A figure emerged, basking in the sun's light. A gorgeous countenance was revealed that could be envied by an entire generation of women, and desired by all generations of men, appeared beside him.

Her emerald eyes that sparkled with a natural and warm feeling met his face. Wei Wuyin opened his eyes to see this, an unintentional warm curve lifted on both sides of his lips. Qing Qiumu had made incredible advancements from a month ago.

While he had to keep the grade of products a secret, her foundation had improved a considerable degree. While she couldn't be considered at Zuhei or Su Mei level of foundation, whose cultivations were supported by him thoroughly for five and nearly seven years, in a mere month, she wasn't far off from being top-tier in this era.

"Of course," he responded with a slight chuckle. Was his expression earlier somewhat unnatural? Well, whenever he thought about the Calamities of Hell, his mood typically shifted into a downpour of emotions. While he kept his Heart of Cultivation strong with an intent to challenge all obstacles for the sake of life and continued survival on the path of cultivation, his mentality was still affected by the possibility of failure.

In eight years, if his plans were useless, his soul would be cleansed and his body obliterated.

There would be no Wei Wuyin in this world.

None.

The thought only caused him to keep making plans to establish himself here, contingency plans ensuring the safety of those he cared for, and for his name to continue to flow in the mouth of others for eras to come.

Qing Qiumu lifted her brow, clearly uncertain by his answer. In the end, she didn't press. Everyone had their internal thoughts and worries, and if they wished to share it, they would. She only said, "Thank you."

Wei Wuyin was somewhat taken aback, responding without delay: "For what?"

Qing Qiumu saw the genuine surprise on Wei Wuyin's face, as if he was trying to think about why he deserved her thanks. This caused her smile to become even more brilliant. She had long since understood the importance of having an Alchemist's support in cultivation, and how it could rocket one's cultivation or improve one's innate talent.

But the amount of alchemists in this world was too lacking. The number of high-level products was incredibly low and hard to obtain. Despite having an entire mountain dedicated to the Creationist, which included Alchemists, Forgers, and Architects, it was still too rare.

In an astral territory of trillions, there were less than three hundred Alchemic Kings. These were the individuals with a minimum of five percent success rate with adequate concoction times. This meant out of a hundred products, they would succeed five times! Considering the notorious time to concoct products, this was hard to swallow.

Many Alchemists spend centuries yet never capable of becoming an Alchemic King.

Wei Wuyin, however, had provided her with three products of high quality. While she couldn't determine what they were, the fact her spiritual qualities tripled, her innate energies were further refined, her Astral Core was expanded, and her Mortal State had improved, she knew that these products were exceptionally rare and expensive. In a month, she had improved more than an entire lifetime of cultivation.

Yet, when she said thanks, his response was confusion. Her eyes grew misty for a moment. Wei Wuyin saw this and was startled, "Is something wrong?" Seeing his flustered expression, she only smiled and shook her head.

She recalled a phrase that her mother had once told her: "In a true relationship, the most unnatural thing to say is 'thank you'." It seems her words were true.

While Wei Wuyin panicked slightly at Qing Qiumu's misty eyes, truly shocked by her reaction, Wu Yu had finished making his arrangements.

Long Chen had his eyes fixated on the Titanic Mudworm Snake. The whites of his eyes had been tainted by faint lines of crimson. From the light within his pupils, he seemed to be teetering on the edge. This state only came to an end when the ring that had adorned his finger since young had left his hand for the second time since he obtained it, both seemingly caused by the same person.

Wu Yu floated beside Long Chen. He said, "Remember: You're the next Grand Monarch of the Myriad Monarch Astral Territory. You don't need a crutch like this old man, giving you a sense of protection and safety. This era is primed for you to obtain, you must work hard, cultivate well, and never lose your sense of self." Those words were tinged with a warm, fatherly tone.

Long Chen's eyelids drooped, wetness suffused the corners of his eyes, and he wanted to...he didn't know what he wanted to do. While he understood the reasoning, while Wu Yu had explained that his interference here in the trial was telling that he was becoming overly reliant on his power, and that prevented him from making decisive actions, he didn't want to accept it.

But didn't he just order Wu Yu to kill his enemies? What type of Grand Monarch, a supreme Hegemon of an era, cried to his senior to handle his problems? Since he was young, there were only others who

relied on their seniors to bombard him, to attack him shamelessly. To think he would fall into the same pattern of thinking.

He had no argument.

He wanted to push forward into the Martial Dao and ascend into a realm that exceeded the Mortal limits. If he relied on Wu Yu, how could he accomplish this? Wouldn't he just become another arrogant young master complacent at having better cultivation, talent, and strength than those weaker than him?

With clenched fists, he could only remain silent.

Wu Yu, on the other hand, could only sigh. Long Chen's recent display had been unbefitting of a Grand Monarch. This was a truth he had ignored because he had witnessed Long Chen grow from a young boy to a man, from a struggling youngster seen by all as trash to an elite of the cultivation world.

But he wasn't making this decision based on that. He was pushed into a corner, but this corner was like an Immortal Palace filled with endless benefits, enough gourmet food to eat for a lifetime, and a future. He had only seen this palace once before: It was the King of Everlore.

He couldn't bank on the unlikely chance that Long Chen will conquer the heart of the Princess of Everlore, nor did he have the time to wait. Wei Wuyin was the right and only choice.

He didn't speak. He had already told Long Chen what he needed to know. As for Hong Ru's death, he had informed him that if his cultivation base reached a high enough level, she might be able to be revived. But he didn't tell him about his actions of retrieving her mind and soul, this was to provide him with ample motivation.

Wu Yu slowly moved away. Long Chen jumped, a hollow feeling left in his heart. He spurted incoherently for a moment before gathering himself. A look of pure decisiveness entered his eyes, "I will obtain your mantle, becoming a Grand Monarch. Then, I'll take you back."

Wu Yu had decided to leave with Wei Wuyin a second time, ensuring his safety and continued participation in this event. But this time, it was likely for longer than a few months.

Wu Yu formed an intangible and nearly transparent silhouette reflecting himself. Long Chen saw this grand, imposing figure and felt his heart burn ever brighter with determination.

Wu Yu said, "I'll be waiting."

In his heart, however, he knew that it was unlikely that Wei Wuyin would simply allow this. In fact, he knew what Wei Wuyin's intentions were. The moment he decided to threaten Long Chen with crippling, he recalled Wei Wuyin's desire from before. Now that he was a Mortal Sovereign, that desire...

Wu Yu's figure vanished, and his ring flashed. The Titanic Mudworm Snake opened its maw, allowing the ring to enter its mouth before Wei Wuyin's spiritual force resounded.

"...On account of Na Xinyi, I'll forgive your insolence and offense. This time. " The voice caused the world to slightly tremble, and the Titanic Mudworm Snake tunneled into the earth, vanishing from sight.

While those words were merely said as a throwaway excuse, back on the Myriad Monarch Sect, there was a pale-faced woman whose skin and beauty seemingly lost its shine, that was crying. Even after reaching his height, he still gave her face and considered her.