

Chapter 291 - 288: G.S.T, Wu Yu's Desire

To the eyes of the spectators, who were unable to come to the truth with incomplete information, it seemed that Long Chen had made a deal with Wei Wuyin. He had given him his spatial ring as an effort for forgiveness and then Wei Wuyin had taken into consideration Na Xinyi's favor. With these two things, Wei Wuyin decided to forget the incident and not press the issue.

Those in the know, those who followed the spiraling and epic events surrounding Wei Wuyin, were aware that Na Xinyi was the name of a young woman from his days on the Myriad Monarch Continent. She had called forth Wei Wuyin from his Sky Palace, and he descended in grand fashion. With his name, the world stopped and the inevitable downfall of the Ji Clan was the end result.

To hear it once more, many were filled with curiosity regarding how this female 'friend' of Wei Wuyin had such an important position in his thoughts. In their eyes, Long Chen had exhibited an intense desire to kill Wei Wuyin, and to allow an insignificant character like him to live was a grand, magnanimous decision. Considering Wei Wuyin was an Alchemist, the only Heavenly King of the Extreme Creation Mountain, and had the full support of the Myriad Monarch Sect, it was unlikely that that storage ring was anything more than a formality offering.

To them, Na Xinyi was the name to focus on.

Quite a few in the Myriad Monarch Sect who were watching Wei Wuyin, Haungfu Jinwei, or the twin fiery and frost beauties, were already making plans on finding and forming a relationship with Na Xinyi. This ranged from disciples to elders, and even outsiders.

After all, Wei Wuyin wasn't just 'some talented alchemist' any longer. He was a genius cultivator. While the title of an Alchemist can gain respect, most saw them as opportunities to support their own rise, and their actual practical importance wasn't very high. But a talented cultivator, not only was respect given but fear and reverence. He was a threat and a future leader of the cultivation world of the starfield.

Even the King of Everlore never had the ability to claim the starfield as his own, whether he wanted to or not wasn't something they knew, but history showed he didn't.

While these members decided in their hearts to find and cozy up to Na Xinyi, Wei Wuyin was on the surface of Junia, beneath his Sky Palace, surrounded by three Golden Starred Beasts. The White-Blaze Tiger was laying down, its large head used as a seat by Wei Wuyin.

The Three-Eyed Tenebrous Crow had a white sphere beside it. It played with it somewhat, pecking at it with its beak like a curious child. Wei Wuyin ignored it, focusing on the Titanic Mudworm Snake. Its body still contained traces of his elemental origin force. He couldn't feel or see the immense healing effects it had on the creature, but he was startled by how it was undergoing a slight change.

Not only had its scales and flesh completely regrew, but its originally dark-brown scales were also turning white. It seemed its bloodline was being unintentionally modified by his elemental origin force. Even its aura was becoming purer, and its eyes seemed to be changing slightly.

It felt...

Draconic?

Wei Wuyin sat with furrowed brows, a light of interest and contemplation within. His astral force, regardless of which, stemmed from his innate energies, and these energies contained all the energies within his body. This meant void, eden, alchemical, saber, elemental origin, and draconic. The only difference between astral force and draconic astral force was the ratio, with draconic energies occupying the vast majority of its composition.

The Titanic Mudworm Snake was slowly exhibiting a draconic aura with its natural earthen energies being affected and influenced by his Elemental Origin Intent. The fact it could absorb his Intent, exude traces of a draconic aura, made him feel somewhat baffled.

It opened its mouth and Wu Yu's black ring shot out, arriving next to him. Wei Wuyin didn't even bother looking, his silver eyes fixated on the snake. Wu Yu remained silent for a minute, noticing Wei Wuyin's focus and decided to interject:

"It's transforming," Wu Yu said.

"That's obvious," Wei Wuyin replied with an indifferent tone. Wu Yu was an ancient expert from an era thousands of years ago, and he was the founder of the Myriad Monarch Sect. When Wei Wuyin first met him, he had respect towards him. While he still had some, he no longer felt the need to lower himself.

Wu Yu understood Wei Wuyin's attitude and didn't mind. He had set himself as an enemy, nurturing a disciple that would likely force him to leave the Myriad Monarch Sect. While it could be regarded as an unfortunate circumstance, Wei Wuyin had already made a concession and spared Long Chen twice already on his account.

"From what I can sense, its Bloodline Source is refining your Elemental Origin Intent. Furthermore, your astral force has an intrinsic quality within, allowing it to integrate into its fleshy body. If I had to wager a guess, it's the 'transformation' quality of alchemical energies." Wu Yu explained, but his voice contained a hint of doubtfulness.

He knew that Wei Wuyin had an Alchemic Astral Soul. If he didn't, it was impossible for the Stellar Manifestation of the Mortal Sovereign to manifest at his cultivation level. After all, to concoct Ninth-Grade Pills, the unique power of Mystic Ascendant-level Alchemic Energies was required.

Only an Alchemic Soul can produce energies beyond its cultivation realm. There wasn't any other soul that had such high-level leaps, at least to his knowledge. But even now he couldn't find out why Wei Wuyin can have innate alchemical energies that allowed combat prowess to remain.

Conventional Alchemists refined alchemical energies using methods and only enough for the concoction process. Most of the time, their body was entirely void of this type of energy, allowing them to retain their combat prowess.

The reason they do this is because of an alchemical energy trait that transformed the energies and forces it connected with incomparably and unimaginably gentle. Since Alchemic Souls fused all their innate energies with it at all times, the Qi, Astral Force, or raw energies refined by a Natal Soul or Astral Soul was rendered into the same state.

This led to the notorious situation of them lacking combat strength.

Wu Yu had an innate sense that, while wasn't currently at his original peak in terms of distance, was still exceptional in terms of clarity. Yet he still couldn't determine where or how Wei Wuyin had these energies within his body. In fact, besides the two Astral Souls in his dantian, he couldn't sense anything else of detail. It was mysterious.

Wei Wuyin's eyes brightened after Wu Yu's explanation. He had never come across a situation like this. A beast refining Intent into its Bloodline Source? Alchemic Energies inducing a transformation? These discoveries opened new roads to what was possible.

He kept this in mind before finally turning to Wu Yu. "I didn't think you would comprehend my intent so quickly."

If Wei Wuyin could see Wu Yu's appearance, he would be revealing a wry smile. "It was only because my own interest and thoughts had long since aligned with it." If he knew this would happen, he wouldn't have wasted two years and directly made an agreement with Wei Wuyin when they first met.

But how was he supposed to know he would become a Mortal Sovereign Alchemist so quickly? Furthermore, he was obviously far, far more talented than the King of Everlore. Well, perhaps only a little more talented. After all, the King of Everlore had acted as the trailblazer of the Alchemic Dao in the starfield, forming his own path without help.

Wei Wuyin was essentially reaping the benefits he left behind by him, and the knowledge and comprehension of seniors after thousands of years of discovery, invention, and hardship. If the King of Everlore was given the same circumstance, perhaps he would've taken less time or the same amount as Wei Wuyin.

Wei Wuyin nodded. Since he learned about the Oath regarding the Grand Monarch from Tuo Bihan, he's wanted to find a way to bypass this. He could concoct Spirit Cleansing Elixirs for everyone and rid them of their oaths, but that wasn't in his favor. The oath was merely a formality anyhow. No one believed the Grand Monarch Lineage would rise again.

He didn't want the oaths removed. No, he wanted to use it. He wanted the Myriad Monarch Sect to remain the same. What he wanted was simple: to choose his own heir to the Grand Monarch Throne. This was a desire he had expressed to Wu Yu before, but he was denied; Wu Yu had chosen Long Chen. Due to this, he didn't dwell.

But the thought had never left his mind. And it seemed that Wu Yu had the same thoughts. If it was before, perhaps he wouldn't entertain the thought, but Wei Wuyin was a Mortal Sovereign Alchemist. It simply wouldn't matter if Long Chen was nurtured, considering his killing intent, Wei Wuyin was very unlikely to allow his continued existence.

But an alchemist could be overcome, even a Mortal Sovereign. The issue was Wei Wuyin's cultivation base, strength, and talent. They all exceeded Long Chen by several levels, and he was merely five years older. Give another five years, and Long Chen would never be able to catch up.

Even if, EVEN IF, Long Chen were to obtain the Grand Monarch title, he would forever be beneath Wei Wuyin. In fact, he might be far below his subordinates. The heart devil that was Wei Wuyin would fester and sooner or later, only one would survive. In that situation, Long Chen would be faced with going against the entire starfield.

He had no path of survival.

Wu Yu sighed, "It can be considered ill-fate that the two of you clashed at the beginning. The contrast..." As someone who stayed with Long Chen since he was nothing, since he had everything to prove and nothing to lose, he could easily realize his current state of heart and mind.

In the end, Wu Yu had decided to cooperate with Wei Wuyin.

"You need a Mortal Sovereign Alchemist to revive?" Wei Wuyin directly pierced the veil and threw out his assumption. There had to be a greater reason why Wu Yu's thoughts had aligned with his own interest. When he first heard from Wu Yu about his purpose, he felt that he was using Long Chen to revive. While it didn't seem like he had malicious intent, it seemed he had bet all his chips on him.

"..." Wu Yu remained silent for a long moment. After that long moment, he sighed. He had sighed more today than he had ever in his life. Wei Wuyin was a terrifying youth. At least the King of Everlore was eccentric and lacked such frightening intelligence. He was easier to manipulate and lacked ambition. This was proper for an alchemist without strength, acting as Sage to the starfield with selfless desires.

He decided to explain it all. "All those years ago, I had reached an unfathomable peak, breaking mortal limits and touching mystical laws. After attaining the Mystic Ascendant Realm, and following his departure for greater pastures, I grew ambitious. I claimed the starfield as my own, and fought against my peers. I felt invincible. Even 'she' couldn't match me.

"My confidence got the better of me, and I decided to assail the next phase of the Mystic Ascendant Realm...I inevitably failed. My body was destroyed and I was forced to house my Mystic Soul and Sea of Consciousness within this ring." Wu Yu's voice contained a long-forgotten pride and tone of a majestic tale. He went into depth on how he claimed this starfield.

How, with their power, they fought across the Dark Void like gods in legends. They were at the height of their potential, unleashing strength beyond the mortal limits. In their hands, stars were formed. In their hands, worlds were crafted.

The three suns that exist in this starfield? The ones revolving across the world with brilliance and worshipped by all? Only one originally existed thousands of years ago. He had created one. It was his most wonderful achievement.

But alas, his confidence was ballooned by his rise. Without the King of Everlore to support his cultivation beyond the Mystic Ascendant Realm, how could he do so? In fact, how could anyone? He had only reached the Realmlord, Timelord, and Starlord level with his selfless and loving assistance.

They all did.

Evident by his departure, the starfield rapidly declined.

"The King of Everlore left?" Wei Wuyin was startled. He had thought he had died. While it was never verified one way or another, there were all sorts of misleading records that state he died or left, and no one could be solid in their assumption. However, Wu Yu lived during that time.

"He came across the same obstacle as before," Wu Yu was slightly emotional. If the King of Everlore had overcome this obstacle, he would've reached untold levels. As for his failure facing the next phase of the Mystic Ascendant Realm? It wouldn't have happened.

Wei Wuyin frowned, "He couldn't exceed the Mortal Sovereign level? Because..." When Wei Wuyin came to this conclusion, he knew why the King of Everlore left.

He didn't have the means to tackle the Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth Tribulations with an Alchemic Astral Soul. They were the only other tribulations outside of the Mortal Star Formation Tribulation that was fully and completely lethal. The other tribulations can kill, but only if one is unable to meet the basic requirements to overcome.

For example, Wei Wuyin suspected that a certain level of Soul Idol, Spatial Resonance, Intent, and Mortal State was required to assail the Seventh Tribulation. This was true for all the other tribulations too. For the Soul Idol Tribulation, one needed to have a certain level of spiritual strength. For the Spatial Resonance, one needed to have a certain degree of compatibility with spatial energies. The others similarly had their requirements.

This was only to succeed. As for how far one went and benefits reaped, that similarly was determined by their foundation and talents. But these requirements weren't truly determined by raw combat ability. The last three tribulations were.

Without the ability to resist these tribulations, he must've been trapped in the Sixth Stage of the Astral Core Realm, the Gravity Emission Phase, up to his departure.

"Because he lacked the strength. He tried to devise a way to overcome it, a better Everlore Ascension Pill, or some fantastical pellet, but he couldn't. Near the end of his natural lifespan that had been lengthened by various products to the extreme, he left the starfield in search of a way," Wu Yu explained with emotions unbecoming of a monarch. The amount of respect he had for the King of Everlore was endless.

'No wonder the thoughts on whether he died or not was so divisive. No one knew if he succeeded or not, and since his lifespan was nearly over...' Wei Wuyin's thoughts turned melancholic. To think a legend could die out in the Dark Void without a proper and deserving ceremony, it saddened him to no end.

Considering it's been thousands of years, he's likely dead.

Wu Yu finally got to telling Wei Wuyin his true intentions, "My Mystic Soul and Sea of Consciousness is within this ring. It was given to me by the King of Everlore. He called it the Celestial Ring of Immortality. It placed me in a state of protective stasis to prevent my lifespan from running out. The only ways for me to reconstruct my body is with the support of a Mystic Ascendant Realm expert that cultivates the same Cultivation Method I do. Otherwise, that body would reject me. It would either degrade at a rapid pace or my cultivation would stagnate forever.

"Or, I need a pill the King of Everlore had devised for this exact situation. A subordinate of his had ascended the Mystic Ascendant Realm and failed, his body destroyed, but with the help of 'her,' that person survived. To remedy this situation, the King of Everlore had funneled two decades of his life devising the ninth-grade pill-"

Wei Wuyin interrupted with a tinge of shock, "Ever-Rebirth Pill." He knew it was the third product at the ninth-grade that the King of Everlore had devised. It could, without issue, replicate the physical imprint on a Natal Soul, Astral Soul, or Mystic Soul and reconstruct its body according to it perfectly. This meant...a complete bodily resurrection.

According to the details, this body was a full reset. There would be no need to recultivate or anything, the pill itself would simply reconstruct an exact copy of the cultivator's body.

If Wu Yu obtained this pill, wouldn't he regain his complete strength?!

Chapter 292 - 289: G.S.T, Next Act

The Trial of Beasts became a challenge that many young and talented geniuses had not expected. It tested more than simply combat ability, but one's means, methods, and intelligence. It relied on the basic principles by which the Myriad Monarch Sect thrived on.

The ability to adapt.

Other forces, sects, and masters were often unable to teach this principle and crucial trait, so they were met with difficulties beyond their means. The unlucky ones breathed their last. Those a little more fortunate walked away with their loves intact. As for their pride? That was another matter altogether.

But those who could adapt, who could perceive the underlying qualities of the trial thrived without end. A few formed factions with others, hunting beasts and capturing them, taming them, and earning spirit points. Some worked independently, using their astonishing combat prowess to carve their own paths. Most had to simply survive, hoping the next trial will be the period that will allow them to exhibit their full potential.

The Trial of Light. Unlike the first trial, this trial tested an individual's combat prowess, allowing others to contest those of the same cultivation or even higher without restraint. If before, these talented youths with exceptional strength were restrained, now they were fully unleashed.

As the end of the trial approached, various individuals readied themselves for the next round of intense competition.

Zuhei sat cross-legged upon a boulder. Beneath him were dozens of bodies with various sizes. They sported colorful sets of furs and emitted a subdued aura. But the aura of blood, the sign of predators, emitted from each of them. These were all canine beasts, four-legged, and strong. They each had stars imprinted on their glabella, ranging from white to silver.

They were quiet, not daring to even snarl. They remained obedient and waiting, waiting for the order of their leader.

Zuhei swept his scarlet eyes over these wolves, coyotes, and jackals. A faint smile suffused his lips. This smile caused his already handsome features to gain a hint of feral beauty.

"I wonder if Master has decided to participate fully or spend his time concocting..." He thought for a moment as he recalled that silver-eyed, outrageously handsome, and charismatic man that stepped into

his life at its lowest moment. That hour they spoke had redefined his life, and he wanted nothing more than to truly meet that man's expectations.

His fangs. His claws.

A valiant and stable figure, garbed in black battle armor, and kept a saber at her hip, was quietly cultivating atop an azure-colored snake that rippled like water. On its forehead was a golden star, and its lengthy body was currently coiled around her.

If Fu Linhua was still of this world, she would recognize this beast. Even if it was burned into ash and spread across the starfield, she would recognize it! As the one who took her life, consumed her body, digested her essence, how could she not?

If she knew that Su Mei had tamed it and it was being exceptionally obedient to her, perhaps she would've spurted out her soul and died again.

Su Mei opened her eyes, revealing a set of glistening black eyes. After four months, her cultivation had improved once again. A faint spiritual light pulsed from within her pupils, reflecting a cascade of glowing light resembling an everlasting and repeating state of twilight.

From behind her, a faint silhouette of a black star was behind her. This black star emitted boundless darklight that seemed to devour the senses and permeate throughout the world. If Zuhei was here, he would be startled into a state of intense shock. That was a Soul Idol!

Furthermore...

There were nine sets of rings circling it.

Su Mei lifted her bright eyes, peering into the horizon. It seemed that she was speaking an oath that could only be heard by her.

Atop the crown of a large tree, a nearly eight-foot tall, violet-skinned demon stood upright with a halberd in hand. She wore a set of tight-fitting armor that accentuated her figure, but was absent of protection at her joints, revealing what others might consider weak points. But to her, they were unnecessary.

She exuded an intense will for battle, unyielding, and competitive. Her golden-colored eyes swept the world before her. She had no subordinates or any beasts tamed. But beneath the tree, a Silver-Starred beast was tied by her vigorous demonic force.

She had thoroughly captured it.

This was also her ticket to entering the next trial. When she stared at the horizon, like many others, she couldn't help but think of a figure in her mind. "You must pass this test alive," she mumbled slightly.

"Consider this as a way to hone yourself, she says. What honing? These beasts are useless." A handsome young man with grey-colored eyes, short black hair, and a nine-colored dot between his brows said in frustration. He was twirling his spear around while standing atop an elephant-like beast with three trunks. It had a gold star on its forehead and was completely unconscious.

There were battle scars tattering its entire body, and it seemed to be in a state of near-death. It was only being kept alive by a continuous strand of elemental origin force within its body.

The youth stopped his twirling, "I wonder if there will be anyone among the five sects that could offer a hint of a challenge. Haaa...considering the age restriction, likely not. Perhaps that Wei Wuyin fellow, whose strength is said to be able to contest the Soul Idol phase at the World Sea level, will provide some entertainment. Too bad he's older than me, and his cultivation level is lesser."

The young man gave off a wry smile as if finding an opponent was too difficult a challenge for this starfield. His confidence was brimming, but this confidence had been forged with continuous challenges. Furthermore, he had witnessed a grander horizon, knowing that the state of the Tri-Vision Starfield was horrible when compared to the true elites beyond this region.

These so-called 'talented' youths were nothing much. And to him, whose sight exceeds this starfield, how could he give them a worthy evaluation?

The curtain to the Trial of Beasts came to a close with many in tears, filled with hatred, unable to satisfy their want for a challenge, and numerous untimely deaths.

As one act ends, another begins.

Trial of Light!

Chapter 293 - 290: G.S.T, Pillar Of Light

With the end of the Trial of Beasts having arrived, the Grand Spirit Trials as a whole continued into the next stage, the Trial of Light. Participants and spectators alike were gearing up for the ultimate clash of geniuses where they would see the mettle of these youthful elites in its fullest. The first trial had been rather eye-opening to some, even downright brutal and unfortunate, but it highlighted the fairness and ability that these trials tested.

Intelligence, means, courage, and strength.

The intelligence to analyze rules, the situation, and the devise plans. The means to take advantage of the rules and situation while surviving. The courage to meet unexpected challenges and the willingness to overcome. Last but certainly not least, the strength of one's cultivation. It was essential that not a single one was lacking lest they be met with misfortunate, which many had.

While quite a few knew they weren't capable of claiming the crown in the end, quite a few had their own agendas, intentions, or felt that this was a good trial by fire that could stimulate their potential and allow further breakthroughs of their cultivation. Perhaps a few merely wanted to join the liveliness. And it was quite lively.

The Trial of Light was very different from the first trial. It initiated abruptly, there was no relocation of individuals. Furthermore, the general rule that prevented cultivators from fighting each other had been thoroughly removed, with a lighter rule taking its place: Those of a higher cultivation was forbidden from assaulting those of a lower cultivation intentionally.

But as a few had already learned, some at the cost of their lives, they could utilize the beasts they've tamed from the Trial of Beasts to assault without restraint or restriction. And they were not subjected to penalty if beasts killed other beasts, which still carried over to this trial.

Spirit Points were the unified goal of all participants, so losing even a single point was damning for many, especially those who were seeking that crown. Across the entire planet, ten thousand locations were deliberately designed to host the purpose of the Trial of Light—Pillars of Light. In each of these ten thousand locations were pillars constructed from very faint, nearly indiscernible light that pierced into the clouds, and each pillar was an opportunity to claim Spirit Points. They all contained their own unique trials divided into three categories:

Sealing Formations, Combat Arrays, or Mystifying Tribulations.

Each category was divided into two types, and upon successfully overcoming a trial, the individual would be rewarded with a certain amount of Spirit Points. These ranged from 1 to 1000 Spirit Points, and the two types were Fixed and Varied. Fixed Locations had a set difficulty and rewarded a set amount of points regardless of who completed it. Therefore, those of higher cultivation that met these locations of weaker difficulty might be able to easily claim Spirit Points.

As for Varied Locations, they too had a set difficulty, but the higher one's cultivation base, the lower the awarded Spirit Points, and vice versa. As an example, if a cultivator at the First Stage of the Astral Core Realm completed a trial that was set at a difficulty level of the Spatial Resonance Phase, the Fourth Stage, they would earn roughly a thousand points.

To put this into comparison, it had the same reward as if they had captured or tamed a Gold-Starred Beast in the Trial of Beasts. If the opposite situation were to happen, they might be awarded a single point at most. Fortunately, this was more talent-based as Formations, Arrays, and the variety of tests might not require a strong cultivation base, but knowledge, discernment, and skill.

If a skilled Architect that focused on the study of formations was met with a Sealing Formation, it was more possible to overcome and had a less lethal threat to their lives.

That being said, the lethal components of the trial were not the pillars of light, but the other opponents. Without the protection of the rules, those of the same cultivation could viciously engage in battle without restraint, claiming lives and even Spirit Points of others.

The true battle had yet to begin.

Near a crystalline lake that had a verdant green color effusing a unique combination of water and wood energies, Wei Wuyin quietly laid on the lakeside with his hands upon his head, his closed eyes facing the sky. Several months had passed since Wu Yu had come into his possession, and the Trial of Beasts had concluded, but he was incredibly relaxed.

If one were to take ten thousand steps back, they would notice a body that seemed like a minor white mountain. The surface was furry and it seemed to be breathing. In the sky, an black winged creature soared in circles. Within the crystalline lake, in its depths, a shadow flitted about.

Around Wei Wuyin's neck were two objects that hung elegantly, a crescent moon and an unassuming black ring. The ring flashed briefly. Wei Wuyin had long since become accustomed to Wu Yu's method of exchange. Unlike normal spiritual transmissions others, it was a mental transmission that went directly into the mind. It was very difficult to discern or discover lest you had a keen awareness towards pure mental energies.

This was why Wei Wuyin was the only one who noticed Wu Yu's existence, his Alchemic Eden Spirit belonged to the Mind Dao, its Qi at the time harnessed profound mental strength, subsequently allowing him to be sensitive to its fluctuations.

At first, it was slightly jarring. It was as if someone had invaded one's mind and planted a thought. It took a little while to get used to.

"I've been meaning to ask this, but why are you participating in this trial?" Wu Yu's voice resonated. The Grand Spirit Trials, a rename from the Monarch Spirit Trials, was designed as a trial by fire, but Wei Wuyin's strength and innate abilities were far, far too great. Furthermore, the rewards were offered by him. As for the other rewards? If Wei Wuyin wanted, a single eighth-grade product would easily obtain them.

If Wei Wuyin were to say it was to ensure victory in the trial, he found it unlikely that Wei Wuyin cared. Whether win or lose, it wouldn't matter much to him. If he hadn't known that Wei Wuyin was a Mortal Sovereign Alchemist and knew of their boundless abilities, he would somewhat accept this. In fact, he felt it was a massive waste of time.

During this period, besides testing his Intent with his little snake pet, Wei Wuyin had accompanied Qing Qiumu for a period and then just did mostly nothing. Besides some idle concocting that shocked even him, he rested and slept. It bewildered him. Of course, he was unaware that Wei Wuyin had a clock over his head that was ticking down. But if he did, he might be even more confused.

Wei Wuyin kept his eyes closed as he moved, taking a light breath. "For the future," was all he said.

"..." Wu Yu couldn't understand it.

Wei Wuyin didn't mind Wu Yu. After learning about his desire to resurrect, he wasn't hasty or rash. While he had the means to concoct an Ever-Rebirth Pill to some success, he still had some misgivings. However, a Mystic Ascendant could be the ultimate assurance in case his demise was...

In the end, he decided to put it off until his plans for the Grand Monarch Lineage was settled. Considering Wu Yu had already agreed to his conditions without restraint, he simply needed to handle all of this before moving forward.

At this moment, the Trial of Light began!

Woosh! Woosh! Woosh!

Wei Wuyin's jade tablet began to emit light. Then, he was enshrouded in a faint glow as the light from the jade tablet started to intensify.

BOOSH!

Wei Wuyin finally opened his eyes as he saw the planetary formation start to revolve, and in the matter of seconds, lights of four different colors and varying intensity shot into the sky and formed pillars of light. There were black, grey, silver, and gold lights.

Wei Wuyin's own was grey, denoting his status as a Sky Ruler Cultivator. This light was incredibly bright, and could be seen from tens of thousands of miles away. Furthermore, its intensity was great, a representation of his Spirit Points.

Myriad Monarch Participant.

Sky Ruler Cultivation.

Spirit Points: 1500.

In fact, his light was the most intense out of all, like a light bulb to fireflies. This meant that he had the most Spirit Points at the moment, so his pillar was incredibly glaring to the eye.

"The ten thousand locations are difficult to locate, but us participants, heh." Wei Wuyin shook his head, his eyes turned to the far off horizon. It seemed his days of relaxation might be coming to an end.

Chapter 294 - 291: G.S.T, Converging

"So it begins." Within the Myriad Monarch Sect's spectators abode, they, and all the others, watched as the world below changed. The peaceful scenery of lush green had become a spectacular light show of grey, white, silver, and gold. They shot into the sky like heaven-rising pillars. They continued until they touched the platform that surrounded the planet.

Each pillar of light was a young participant that had survived, meeting the requirement of earning Spirit Points to proceed to the next trial. They earned their spot and now was the time for them to showcase their truest of talents before the world. Even the spectators, regardless if they were experienced old foxes, those other talents ineligible to enter due to varying reasons, or ancient monsters of the cultivation world, they all watched with bated breath.

The Trial of Beasts were merely a light prelude to what will likely be a display of violence unlike anything else. The fighting of beasts versus other cultivators were fundamentally different, and that had to do with the numerous dimensions of fighting. Furthermore, it was hard to test your cultivation against those who cultivate an entirely different system.

Qin Rui, Yao Zhen, and Ji Changkong were paying extra attention to one particular light, one particular person: Wei Wuyin. His light was absolutely monstrous, glaring and unsurpassed.

"He tamed three Gold-Starred Beasts. His points are fifteen hundred. Quite ridiculous," Ji Changkong couldn't help but say with a breath of disbelief. Wei Wuyin had revealed a truth that many hadn't expected, his exceptional talent for cultivation. While his cultivation base had improved swiftly, far beyond his average peers in terms of speed, it wasn't too suspect. After all, he was an Alchemic King.

Seventh-Grade products were designed to help propel those at the lower-phases of the Astral Core Realm. It wasn't much in their eyes, especially if they factored in the legend of the King of Everlore. One of these legends was about how the King of Everlore found a servant, this servant was actually the San Clan Ancestor, and with his support, the untalented peasant at the time had become a Realmlord in a year's worth of time.

This was but one of many legends that further highlighted the outrageous benefits of alchemy in the cultivation world. It helped establish its importance and built a foundation of reverence within the hearts of future generations. While there were likely all sorts of factors contributing to this feat, it was spectacular nevertheless.

Yao Zhen couldn't help but feel a sense of loss. As for where it came from, he wasn't sure. His eye sockets that contained violet flames dimmed and swirled as he said, "Even Yao Wei, that little brat, had only tamed a few silver-starred beasts. Yet...he barely reached a hundred points." A slight sigh could be heard in his voice. There wasn't a hint of happiness that was to be expected from a normally praise-worthy feat..

After all, Yao Wei had cultivated for over a hundred years, reaching the Sky Ruler Phase. Despite that, he was still considerably lacking compared to Wei Wuyin, someone who hadn't even reached fifty years of age yet. While his case was special, it still caused him as a father to suffer some mental loss.

Usually, Ji Changkong would leap at the chance to denounce Yao Wei and prop his Shudao up in turn, but Shudao was in a similar situation and he felt similar feelings in his heart. He could stay silent.

"The worst thing in this world is comparing oneself to others, similarly comparing your disciples or your children to others. If we take the whole picture in, they're already in the top twenty of participants," Qin Rui comforted. But even she was startled by the huge difference.

The Monarch Spirit Trials was designed in a way that allowed a balance based on the conventional belief of cultivation and limitations. Those at the World Sea, Sky Ruler, and Soul Idol Phases should have similar scores based on their relative talent and strength. The disparity should not be this amazing. If this was taken at face value, Wei Wuyin was not just a little ahead of the others.

Furthermore, ten years ago, was he not stuck within a lacking continental flat earth? To reach this level so quickly, it was truly heart-shaking and heaven-defying.

If Qin Rui, Ji Changkong, and Yao Zhen knew that there were monsters like Yuan Longshi and Lin Ming present in the starfield, they might feel differently and see how unfair the world truly was. Even with all their love and effort into developing their selected inheritor, be it disciple or family member, a single moment can allow these figures to bypass it all. Soon, they would reach levels that they, who cultivated for nearly a thousand years, could only look up to.

While they felt all sorts of emotions, a Prime Imperial Sage unwittingly said aloud a few words: "Wouldn't this paint a huge target on Heavenly King Wei's back?" This question caused a few to become solemn. That was right. This trial was designed to allow others to know of the tallest tree and conjure up enough wind to knock it over. Their eyes flashed with worry.

Would Wei Wuyin suffer from his brilliance?

"With three tamed Gold-Starred Beasts and his own prowess, shouldn't we be worried about what would happen if...Wei Wuyin goes on a unrestrained slaughter?" A more astute individual asked.

"..."

The solemnness and worry for Wei Wuyin slowly, very slowly, changed to horror.

The image of Wei Wuyin fighting and dominating three Gold-Starred Beasts remained fresh in the spectators' minds. As for those who unknowingly missed it live, they were immediately given various recordings of the event. It was a horrific representation of strength that caused endless exclams of awe and a subversion of conventional belief. They had thought that Heavenly King Wei, a potential Alchemic Emperor, was a carbon copy of the King of Everlore.

The title Prince of Everlore had unwittingly overlapped the legends and stories of the King of Everlore with his own. Furthermore, the Princess of Everlore had exacerbated this issue. She had a confirmed Alchemic Astral Soul. This meant, just like the King of Everlore, she had little to no combat abilities.

But watching the awesome scene of Wei Wuyin devastating the beasts until one fled far in an attempt to escape with its life had overturned this image. Wei Wuyin wasn't a carbon copy of a legend, no...he was far, far more terrifying.

When those with keen minds and ample foresight witnessed his light shot into the sky and act as a sign on the same grand level as the North Star, they realized this wasn't going according to the normal script. Furthermore, the various pillars of lights, which represented these hot-headed and youthful elites, were already converging. Whether out of curiosity of what such a blaring light meant or a desire to test oneself against a heavenly genius, it attracted a majority of those present.

When these lights started to converge with purpose, the expressions of those watching turned pale from fear. Not for Wei Wuyin, but those rushing forward in the maw of uncertainty.

A young woman with black hair and pure black eyes directed her gaze towards the grey-colored light that pierced into the sky. There was no other light that matched it. In fact, its intensity was so great that the immediate hue of the sky in the range of tens of thousands of miles had turned greyish.

Her valiant beauty was highlighted as a slight curve of her lip revealed a smile, an expression that had rarely surfaced before. As a rare sight, those who missed it were merely out of luck.

"Lord Wei," beneath Su Mei was an azure-colored serpent with scales that rippled like water. She lightly used her index finger to tap it and its gigantic head lifted. Without hesitation, it started to slither through the forestry and fields, its destination: Wei Wuyin's light.

"AH-WOO!" A cacophony of howls erupted. Hundreds of various beasts of canine lineage faced the grey light that pierced through the sky. Zuhei stood at the center of this impromptu pack, clearly the alpha that commanded the rest. His scarlet eyes lifted and met the brilliant grey light that outshone the rest.

"Master." Zuhei's expression similarly lifted into a smile, but it contained a hint of vicious and combative intent. From where he stood, he took a step. His figure vanished and the pack of wolves numbering hundreds howled in a unified manner before dashing off, causing the rumbling of the earth with their powerful legs.

"Yawn!" A handsome young man was riding an elephant through the forest with a casual and carefree manner. A spear in hand, he was rather laid back. When his jade tablet shot into the sky and colored the immediate sky silver, he sighed.

He had two hundred and fifty points, having tamed a Gold-Starred Beast with his own power. If Wei Wuyin was the most dazzling pillar of light that painted the sky, then he was definitely the second or third most. Yet most hadn't even realized his brilliance and feat, their eyes focused on Wei Wuyin instead.

"Oh?" His eyes widened slightly as he noticed a grey-colored pillar of light shot into the sky. The intensity was nearly eight times greater than his own, shocking him slightly. A trace of seriousness emerged between his brows for the first time in years.

"Did this person gather an army of Silver-Starred Beasts? I wonder who..." Considering the purpose of the Trial of Beasts, it made sense that some beast-tamers who focused their cultivation towards that direction would be able to achieve such feats. Furthermore, beastmen had a slight advantage when facing and subduing those of a similar species.

For example, Zuhei was someone from the canine lineage as a whole and his bloodline pressure could easily subdue those of that nature. To further this thought, canines usually traveled in groups and packs, so it would be easier to develop or grow their forces. If an aquarian or avian beastman appeared, it wasn't entirely impossible to gather a school of fish or flock of birds as an army.

"Well, whatever. I want to see who has this ability." The elephant-like beast trumpeted its three trunks and made way towards the light. In the wake of its path was crushed ground and fragments of trees.

Wei Wuyin realized from this development rather quickly that he wouldn't have a moment of rest unless he demonstrated an invincible ability, leveraged his status, or hid. Unfortunately...the last two weren't his style.

'Whatever.' The light shrug of his shoulders carried a sign of apathy but the glint of excitement that flickered at the edge of his eyes betrayed his expectations.

It wasn't long before the ground started to rumble as numerous figures started to make their way towards his directions. From the distance...he heard...howls?

Chapter 295 - 292: G.S.T, Combined

The cascade of earth-rumbling steps was a prelude to the arrival of feral howls and raspy snarls. The large group of canine beasts gathered by the Myriad Monarch Sect was responsible. Their crushing rush was led by a handsome figure. This figure emanated a dense aura of ferocity and fighting intent.

Wei Wuyin observed this figure and a faint smile surfaced on his lips. Accompanied by this smile was a slight headache. While Zuhei wasn't the first to arrive in the area, he had the grandest of entrance and utter lack of hesitation to appear. While the other participants were already observing from afar with caution, steering away from the group of beasts and Wei Wuyin.

After all, Wei Wuyin couldn't possibly be alone. Those with a bit of intelligence would expect him to have an army of beasts or top-tier beasts at his beck and call. The only means to obtain Spirit Points were to capture or tame the marked beasts. Their thinking wasn't wrong, but it also revealed a lack of confidence.

Zuhei, however, lacked such cautious thoughts. His scarlet eyes were focused and his aura was dense and primed for action. The faint Sky Pressure and Bloodline Pressure he exuded was daunting, and caused an unnatural feeling of inferiority and fear to emerge in the more inadequate cultivators' hearts.

Wei Wuyin walked forward in greeting. In the matter of seconds, Zuhei was within five feet of Wei Wuyin. He seemed calm, but if everyone was aware of the thoughts in his mind, as well as the pace of his heartbeat, they would realize he was anything but.

"Master," his voice was low. His handsome visage and fierce aura was subdued and it revealed a sense of reverence and respect that couldn't be ignored. Considering that his life had been reborn by Wei Wuyin's efforts and mercy, it was hard for someone like him to not display this.

Those in the surroundings who were expecting to patiently wait for things to play out, to fish in troubled waters, were startled by Zuhei's action and tone.

Wei Wuyin inspected the rampage of beasts that were behind Zuhei. They weren't expertly unified or in formation, but they were a force that couldn't be ignored. While they lacked a Gold Star Beast, their advantage in numbers were absolute. Even if Wei Wuyin sent the White-Blaze Tiger against this horde of canines, it would be an epic battle without a clear result.

Wei Wuyin gave a nod of approval. Zuhei was his chosen and expected challenger for the title of first in the Grand Spirit Trials. If it wasn't for various reasons, he wouldn't have participated and relied on only Zuhei's ability to claim victory. Having received his carefully curated menu of alchemical products and a regime for cultivation, he was at an unfathomably terrifying state in comparison to this era's geniuses.

Just his Soul Idol alone was beyond the reach of these top geniuses. Even Tuo Bihan, someone who's a purist and top-class alchemist, was only able to accomplish the sixth-ring with his fullest efforts. If this didn't define the limitations of this era there was nothing that could.

Within Zuhei's scarlet pupils were surging waves of battle intent. It was unfathomably pure, and while reflected in his calm expression, Wei Wuyin could tell that he was holding back.

Wei Wuyin's smile widened. "Zuhei, did you come to challenge me?" While this question was shocking to hear, Zuhei didn't hesitate to nod. To him, Wei Wuyin was his master and savior. But he was also something more: his goal.

Wei Wuyin had come to him, his words and purpose clear. He wanted fangs, he wanted claws, and to dutifully be such things, wouldn't he have to be stronger? As someone who comprehended Battle and

Slaughter Intent with the Bloodline of the Silver Wolf, he was a natural alpha predator, but he was an even greater loyal soul who unhesitantly puts his all into everything. Be it killing, fighting, or protecting.

"Haaa..." Wei Wuyin lightly sighed. He didn't need Zuhei to be his shield, but fangs and claws. This meant weapons used to gouge his enemies eyes, hearts, and souls out. He never had the intention of acting as a full-time fighter nor a person who acted himself in small matters. For example, if Wei Wuyin wanted Wu Jiao dead, Zuhei's purpose was to accomplish that feat.

In the end, he didn't immediately decline Zuhei's interest to fight. He too was interested in his current level of strength and Zuhei's. Zuhei had a cultivation stage beyond him, a nine-ringed Soul Idol, and a foundation built with seventh and eighth-grade products. Despite merely a few years having been invested into his cultivation, he was curious about Zuhei's upper limits.

It would be best to understand this so that he could assign appropriate assignments. After all, it would be ridiculous if he sent Zuhei to fight a Grand Imperial Sage-level figure and be utterly crushed due to his presumptions of this era's weakness.

Unfortunately for Zuhei, the trial prevented those of mismatched cultivation from directly fighting. If he broke this rule, his jade tablet would be forcefully activated and the world-sized formation would send him away. As for fighting after the trial? While sound, Zuhei was always on assignments.

In fact, Wei Wuyin had never given him a moment of break, be it in cultivation or assignments to be performed since his recovery. Furthermore, it was an order that Wei Wuyin gave, so he would never question or act on his own selfishness. Moreover, what does it say about him that he was desirous of fighting his master and savior in a standard setting? Would he not be labeled as a violent dog wanting to bite the hand that saved, cared, and fed him?

But the trial was different.

It was within the rules. Even though the logic was a little lacking, Wei Wuyin didn't believe someone who had comprehended the Battle and Slaughter Intent, willing to lay waste to members of the Myriad Monarch Sect while in the sect, breaking every single rule and almost ensuring his death, was filled with patience and logical decisions.

If Zuhei was that type of intelligent and crafty figure, it would be impossible for him to act as Wei Wuyin's fangs and claws. He saw things as they were. Since the trial allowed it, he wasn't busy with his duties, then it was within his means to act. Perhaps if it wasn't for the rule of mismatched cultivation battles being prohibited without acceptance of both sides, then Zuhei might've already attacked.

"I guess if you claimed my Spirit Points, it would be a huge benefit in obtaining victory," Wei Wuyin ruefully smiled. To think the first cultivator that wanted to act against him was his own subordinate. How hilarious was this? However, he didn't disrespect Zuhei nor decline him. Just as he was about to agree and Zuhei's scarlet eyes brightened with a flicker of happiness, a ray of saber light penetrated through the void.

The ray was thin but dangerous and it was piercing towards Zuhei at a remarkable speed. Zuhei's expression changed slightly, a sensation of crisis blared within his mind as he took action. With a twist of his hip, his hand turned claw as he swiftly swiped towards the ray of saber light.

Boosh!

The two forces, claw and saber, clashed with unrelenting might and caused an explosion of air and dirt. But whether it was the force within the claw or power of the light, neither was directed towards Wei Wuyin, so the resulting explosion was oddly sent in a very incomplete manner.

Wei Wuyin was startled as he eyed the direction of the light. A tinge of shock suffused his silver eyes. "She's already achieved the Soul Idol Phase?!" He couldn't help but be shocked as he observed this attacker.

From afar, a young woman stood atop the head of an azure-colored snake. Its scales rippled like oceanic waves and emanated an unfathomably dense level of water energies. She stood on the Gold Star symbol and valiantly held a saber before her body. Within her pure black eyes was a flash of anger.

"..." She didn't speak, but her actions spoke volumes. Zuhei's handsome face slowly frowned as he regarded the young woman that rode upon a Gold Starred Beast with utter ease, her aura wasn't concealed as it revealed her Soul Idol Phase cultivation. He couldn't help but be somewhat startled by Su Mei's pace of development. But only for a moment, because Su Mei was cultivating her foundation with Wei Wuyin's support long before him.

It wasn't shocking after some thought. He had to spend much time restoring his original cultivation, repairing his body, and then firming up his foundations. To him, Su Mei was Wei Wuyin's most loyal subordinate and had been with him since his time in the Myriad Yore Continent, so she was unlikely to be inferior to him.

Su Mei jumped off the snake, arriving between Zuhei and Wei Wuyin. There was only five feet of space before, but with Su Mei occupying this limited space, she was directly facing Zuhei with little space between. Her eyes were firm and affixed on Zuhei. It seemed as if a twitch from Zuhei would receive her most aggressive response. They faced off against each other in silence, their firm gazes revealing their emotions.

"Are you trying to protect me? From Zuhei?" Wei Wuyin didn't know whether he should laugh or cry.

Zuhei scoffed. A tinge of frustration in his heart, but with Su Mei here, he was unwilling to push the issue. That being said, while he wouldn't push it with Wei Wuyin, that didn't mean Su Mei, who was his cultivation equal, wasn't a good opponent. This thought caused his Battle Intent to effuse from his pupils. Even his lips lifted into a feral smile that seemed as if a beast had found fresh meat.

However, Su Mei's next words shook him. "No, Lord Wei. I'm protecting him from you."

"..." Zuhei.

"..." Wei Wuyin.

A moment of silence later, and Wei Wuyin couldn't help but chuckle. That being said, Su Mei and Zuhei didn't consider it a joke. Especially Zuhei. His eyebrows furrowed as he regarded Su Mei, and then Wei Wuyin who was like a lighthouse. But his trepidation only lasted for a moment before his desire for challenge overwhelmed his heart. He wanted to fight.

"If you want to fight, then my saber will accompany you. As for fighting Lord Wei, you're a few cultivation levels too low." She spoke earnestly and honestly. While she said this, the army of wolves stood in one direction and the azure-scaled snake in the other.

Between them, the three figures stood in a semi-oddly devastated area.

ROAR!!

The roar of a tiger resounded, accompanied by a faint rising of the ambient temperature. The white mountain of fur unfurled and revealed a ferocious head with a gold star. Its feline eyes directed towards the gathering and yawned out a roar.

RUMBLE!!

The ground and lake quaked slightly, nearly causing an earthquake and inducing immense ripples.

CAW!!

From the sky, a black crow with three eyes cried and seemed to emit a dusky and dark aura. Its humongous body seemed capable of blotting out the suns in the sky.

The cascade of sounds caused a descent of bloodline pressure that caused the canine army to snarl and growl, their legs bent and their eyes sharp. They were fearless. The azure-scaled serpent hissed and opened its mouth towards the sky as if wanting to gulp the figure in the sky whole.

Four Gold Starred Beasts and an army of canine was roused and ready. It was terrifying and those in the surroundings gave the area a wide berth, observing from even further away and unwilling to fall into conflict with the group.

Wei Wuyin swept his eyes around and shook his head slightly. "If it continues like this, wouldn't the trial become pointless?" Wei Wuyin remarked as he realized that if they combined their forces, slaughtering all competitors wouldn't be impossible. It wasn't just him who came to this realization.

The Myriad Monarch Sect and various sects who had done immensely thorough research into Wei Wuyin knew of Zuhei and Su Mei's background as well. They were his subordinates and they were all conveniently gathered. Furthermore, they all had respective forces that weren't remotely weak. Who could contest their combined might?

If before they had some hope for others in this tournament, this removed all their thoughts.

"Fine. Let's fight," Wei Wuyin finally said.

Chapter 296 - 293: G.S.T, Formless Clash

Wei Wuyin's words caused both Zuhei and Su Mei to stiffen. After a moment, Su Mei softly sighed and sheathed her saber. She stepped away, no longer barring Zuhei's path. To her, this battle wasn't ideal. It wasn't due to the trial itself, but as a form of protection towards Wei Wuyin.

She knew that his strength was currently unknown by the general populace, none of the juniors today were likely able to force out any of his power, but Zuhei was different. Wei Wuyin had specifically nurtured him so that his combat ability was to the extreme limits, capable of establishing a nine-ringed

Soul Idol. If Zuhei thrust out all of his trump cards, then if there were hidden threats that sought him harm, wouldn't they have an advantage?

However, her worries weren't ignored by Wei Wuyin. With a slight smile, Wei Wuyin lifted his hand and retracted his thumb and pinky. "Three moves," Wei Wuyin declared.

Zuhei's excitement was doused slightly, but then he nodded. He wasn't going to receive an inch and demand a mile.

"This is only the second trial, not suitable to have a full-on clash. But I understand what you desire, so I'll act as your sparring partner," Wei Wuyin explained. The Trial of Light had just begun, if their comprehensive combat abilities were similar and the fight too long-lasting then others might be able to profit. While he was unafraid of such acts, he didn't want to deal with such an event.

"If we make it to the third stage and is matched up by fate, then we'll have no issues unleashing all of our strength," Wei Wuyin comforted Zuhei after witnessing the light in his eyes dwindle slightly. He didn't want to outright deny Zuhei, so this was the best alternative. An exchange of three moves.

"Yes, Master." Zuhei wholeheartedly accepted the conditions and explanation. It was only due to Wei Wuyin's words that he realized that his actions were essentially jumping the gun. The current trial was set to accumulate points and eliminate participants, and there was still a trial after where combat was the only and most important detail.

The cacophony of sounds that originated from the beasts within the background started to slowly grow silent. An invisible, palpable aura started to permeate throughout the surroundings. The wolves clenched their teeth and retreated in unison. Zuhei hadn't given them any form of orders, but they instinctively felt a chill down their spines that instilled fear. They retreated off this instinct.

As for the Gold Star Beasts, they quieted down instantly. Their instincts were even sharper, and they had a premonition of something dangerous. Their hairs, feathers, and scales rose from this invisible aura.

Wei Wuyin and Zuhei stood with a small distance between them, their cultivation bases circulating without any impressive display, but a surge of boundless intent emanated from both of them. Zuhei's Intent was filled with an innate savagery, bloody and ferocious. Wei Wuyin's Intent was all-encompassing, seeping into the air, moisture, earth, and plantlife.

They hadn't exchanged a single physical blow yet but their intent had already integrated within the world in an invisible clash.

In the distance, Lin Ming stood atop his elephant-like beast with a solemn gaze. He had arrived a short while ago, and he had just bore witness to Wei Wuyin and Zuhei's invisible clash. He frowned, "Battle...Slaughter...Elemental?!" He tried to determine the various intents within the ambient air, and he felt as if the world, a bloody battlefield, and the essence of savagery was distilled within.

He was quite familiar with Elemental Intent. As someone who comprehended Elemental Origin Intent, combining all nine elements into one, he couldn't be anymore familiar. But this intent was slightly different than his own. It felt segregated and as if it were numerous intents instead of simply one. It was divided yet together.

He felt fire, water, earth, and wood. He didn't feel directly Elemental Origin Intent but he felt its essence. He couldn't help but be confused. "Is this a haphazardly formed Elemental Origin Intent? Or is he combining several intents forcefully via an art?" As he delved deeper into the intricacies in this intent, he became increasingly befuddled.

This wasn't an indicator that he lacked talent or intelligence, but simply the qualities exceeded his preconceived notions and knowledge. While both he and Wei Wuyin had comprehended Elemental Origin Intent, Wei Wuyin had obtained the blueprint to the Heart of Elements Intent. While he couldn't exhibit its truest power, he had means to mimic its qualities.

Furthermore, his intent was perfectly merged with the world's mana, giving it an even more elusive feeling. The Zenith Origin State was beyond the realm of the Astral Core Realm, exceeding the knowledge of experts at this level, regardless of how far they've reached.

The innumerable spectators above and beyond were enlivened by this invisible clash. While they couldn't see or comprehend what was going on, there was a faint distortion on their screens due to the various intents interfering with the world's spiritual transmission arrays. This, to them, was a prelude to a grand battle.

Not everyone was aware of Zuhei's identity or his connection with Wei Wuyin, so they felt that a grand and chaotic battle to claim the most Spirit Points were about to erupt in dazzling glory.

Zuhei, on the other hand, was internally feeling an unfathomably pervasive pressure unlike any before. His entire body, down to his cells, were stimulated and roaring in reaction to withstand it. Even his Slaughter and Battle Intent was slowly being shaven away, dwindling with each passing moment. A tinge of apprehension emerged in his heart.

A battle, unseen, had already commenced. The first move was unleashed and it was a battle of intent and mana, attacking the mentality of the opponent. Zuhei, as an apex predator, excelled at this type of contest to a point of unfairness. He could instill fear through his savage and feral aura, promoting chaos and hesitation in one's heart. At that prime moment, he would lunge for the throat and aim for the kill. Unfortunately, Wei Wuyin's momentum and intent was unshakeable. It kept building without end.

"...!" After several breaths, Zuhei felt as if the world was enclosing around his body. He felt the particles in the air, be it oxygen, the moisture, the ambient gaseous, and even the heat, was acting against him under the orders of an elite commander. This commander brokored no mercy.

Zuhei's lips twitched as the pressure soon became unbearable. He opened his mouth to reveal a set of sharp canine teeth, his scarlet eyes seemingly became wild and unrestrained.

Boosh!

He fiercely roared, his hands formed claws, but he didn't strike out as his bloodline powers invigorated his physical body. He shot back like lightning, as if he had escaped the confines of a cage with sheer force. His posture shifted from standing to that resembling a four-legged beast as he dragged his feet and claws across ground for hundreds of meters.

The sudden retreat startled everyone, except Su Mei and Wei Wuyin. The former's lips lifted into a slight smile while softly shaking her head. The latter lifted two fingers and said with a clear tone, "Two moves left."

Wei Wuyin's Elemental Origin Intent was the combination of nine intents merged together into a singular whole. While each independent Intent pales in comparison to Zuhei's Slaughter or Battle Intent, together they were endlessly superior. They were unbreakable and unshakable.

Zuhei bared his fangs as his scarlet eyes met the calm expression of Wei Wuyin. He knew he had lost the first exchange. With a calm breath, he fixed his posture and stood upright, regaining his handsome appearance. But within those scarlet pupils, there was no longer a fierce and confident light. There was only the light of severity.

He now knew that Wei Wuyin's strength truly was unfathomable. Just that brief moment of clashing in intents, he felt the difference in profoundness and quality between the two.

Wei Wuyin abruptly said, "If you could merge your Intents, then use your Soul Idol as a medium, I would have no way to challenge that with this Intent. You still have much room to grow."

Zuhei's mind relaxed. These words comforted his thoughts, and once more reignited his desire for battle. But while Zuhei missed the subtleties within Wei Wuyin's words, Su Mei and a few other intelligent individuals had not.

"I would have no way to challenge that with 'this' Intent." The usage of the word 'this' meant untold volumes.

Despite missing this, Zuhei had decided in his heart to make the most of the next two moves. His scarlet eyes sharpened to an extreme, his aura started to rise as a turbulent wind seemingly sprung up from nowhere and started to wildly thrash about. An explosive set of heartbeats erupted, originating from his body like a wardrum.

As his heart started to react, so did the Astral Soul that resided within it. A being of nearly divine quality started to manifest behind his back.

This exchange of three moves was far from over.

Chapter 297 - 294: G.S.T, Two Moves

"...!" Instantly, shock and silence pervaded the world and its inhabitants. Those watching had gaped maws large enough to fit eggs, their eyes bulging out, and their hearts beating with disbelieving music. They didn't dare to accept what their eyes were witnessing as true.

It wasn't just the watchers from above, but those who were observing this from within the planet. These young talented geniuses with all sorts of hopeful aspirations, arrogant mentalities, and overconfident beliefs were frozen in this moment. One particular genius was floored by events, finding what he saw to be impossible.

"N-no way! Senior Sister Lin said...she said this desolate starfield lacks the means to give birth to..." Lin Ming was clenching his hand around his spear, his aura turbulent due to his turbulent emotions.

Zuhei stood imposingly. Behind his back was a great silver wolf that seemed to have undergone deification, being bestowed a divine grace. If its domain was guessed upon, one would guess slaughter and blood. It was the truest form of an apex predator.

Its silver hair glistened as if starlight had drenched them in their purest of essence, its scarlet eyes contained the reflection of violence in its truest form, and it walked upon a sanguine river that seemed to act as a royal carpet beneath its feat. From this river were howls, snarls, growls, and roars of the canine species. It embodied the savagery of all canines.

But what exemplified its quality, what sent everyone into disbelief and a stupor of uncertainty, was nine circular rings that encircled its nine hundred meter tall impeccable body. This was the manifestation of Zuhei's bloodline and Astral Soul cultivation, the Silver Wolf! Fenrir!!

Wei Wuyin's eyes narrowed slightly. This was his first time witnessing Zuhei's Soul Idol since it manifested. The aura it emanated was unbelievable. The sheer imposing and divine momentum it seemed to exhibit was unmatched. Unlike normal humans, beastmen had their cultivation base within their beating hearts. With their hearts acting as a dantian, their Astral Souls oftentimes absorbed and reflected the source of their bloodline.

Clearly Zuhei had taken this to its maximum potential. He had the Sirius Soul of Bloodforce. Its characteristics were similar to his own, his Draconic Void Soul.

"Master," Zuhei called out. From behind him, sporting nine spiritual rings, his Soul Idol glared at Wei Wuyin with an innate majesty. An ethereal pressure radiated outwards that caused every beast, canine or otherwise, to cease all action. They went silent and watched the figure that walked upon a sanguine river with eyes filled with reverence.

"Careful," Zuhei exclaimed. The innate energies within his body erupted viciously. The resulting explosive force produced a crater beneath his feet. He floated a few inches from the ground, his robes fluttered violently from his surging power.

Wei Wuyin nodded. He hadn't stepped into the level of a Soul Idol Phase yet, but he understood that the manifestation of one's Soul Idol was the truest revealment of a cultivator's power. Zuhei was at his strongest state, his spiritual force and astral force reaching an extreme limit. This was more so for him than anyone else, a cultivator at the nine-rings.

Each ring signified a multiplicative enhancement of spiritual strength. The strength of the spirit was derived from mental, physical, and essence energies. Therefore, when the Soul Idol formed, these energies received an unbelievable increase.

Furthermore, Wei Wuyin hadn't neglected delivering top-tier products to refine these foundational energies within Zuhei's body. His starting foundation was already impeccable, so when he evoked his Soul Idol, how could it not be terrifying? But Wei Wuyin wasn't afraid.

He readied himself.

Lin Ming's heart couldn't help but wildly beat within his chest. He hadn't expected to see a nine-ringed Soul Idol. His senior sister had informed him with confidence that this starfield lacked the quintessential

ability to produce such peerless experts. Even during the King of Everlore Era, this starfield's most glorious time, very few were capable of touching upon this sacred level.

According to his senior sister, this usually required the undivided and fullest investment of a Mortal Sovereign Alchemist. Moreover, the inherent talent and comprehension of the individual must not be lacking in the slightest. It was a sign of an extreme genius with a limitless future.

So...how?!

Of course, this feat could be achieved without the effort of an alchemist, but that required fortuitous encounters, a deep and unfathomable legacy, and talent that was almost heaven-supported.

While he remained in disbelief, Zuhei made his move.

Woosh!

His levitating form vanished instantly. A silver streak of lightning that was like an illusion flashed through the short distance that was between Wei Wuyin and himself.

Wei Wuyin's pupils shrunk abruptly. '*Fast!*' Zuhei's speed was incredible, but Wei Wuyin's reaction was not slow. Even if he relied solely on his physical senses, he could clearly see the daunting and savage form of Zuhei that rushed through the void.

Not retreating, Wei Wuyin stood his ground and lowered his posture. He remained calm and clenched his fist. A glow of white surged within his fist. It seemed to contain the heaviness of earth, density of metal, and explosiveness of fire. It was merely a fist but it contained a concentration of extreme elemental force.

"Ha!" Wei Wuyin exclaimed softly as he thrust his fist forward with exquisite form. The white glow flashed and the world became a white sheet for a split second.

Zuhei arrived at this moment, but his eyes flashed with shock. He felt a force so heavy, so dense, so explosive that he was locked down and forced to face it. But he didn't want to do anything else, so he welcomed this power, this challenge. His hand became a claw as he swiped towards Wei Wuyin's incoming fist. From behind him, his Soul Idol swiped as well.

For a moment, it seemed the claw of his Soul Idol and himself had merged into one despite the vast size difference.

Claw met fist.

Fist met claw.

The world watched.

The world cried.

BOOM!!!

Their impact immediately induced world-rending changes. The wolves howled and whimpered as a gust of explosive and savage power swept past them. In an instant, in a distance that was several miles away, it rained dogs and dogs.

Su Mei's eyes shrunk as she unsheathed her saber. Holding it in front of her, she met the explosive surging force with the edge of her saber, slicing it apart and remaining largely unaffected. The same couldn't be said for others.

"Ahhhh!" Those who were watching closely with curiosity was the first met with the immediate calamity. Fortunately, as this was an unintended consequence of a battle, the Grand Spirit Trial's protective formations erupted in full force and encircled those participants caught unaware in a protective shell. Despite that, the shell only protected them.

In moments, numerous of these elite geniuses were sent hundreds of miles uncontrollably away.

Lin Ming's generated a ward of astral force, easily protecting him from the resulting force of their clash. A flicker of surprise in his expression. He frowned as he measured the force within and felt that it wasn't too intimidating. His concerned heart slowly settled as he inspected the two.

Back at the epicenter of the explosion, Wei Wuyin and Zuhei were unmoving. Zuhei's claw had met Wei Wuyin's fist and the ground beneath their feet was obliterated. A huge chasm had been formed.

Their eyes, silver and scarlet, met for a moment before they simultaneously retreated backwards for several miles. Wei Wuyin stayed levitating via the world's mana, his eyes flashing as his clenched fist remained clenched.

Zuhei's claw was seemingly unfazed, but there was a faint trembling there. If one paid exceptional attention to the sounds emitting from his hand, they would hear sounds of bones moving oddly. *'His fist broke all the bones in my hand. How monstrous is this?!'* His thoughts swirled as he looked at his hand that was currently repairing itself.

The clash just now was incredibly intense. While it seemed to have been simple, it was anything but. Their forces and physical strength was compared. In terms of forces, he lost. His Bloodforce lasted for a microsecond before it shattered. Then, Wei Wuyin retrieved his elemental force and fought with his physical body.

Despite being a beastman who's cultivation was derived essentially from his heart, the quintessential representation of his physical energies, he had lost.

In Intent, he lost.

In astral force, he lost.

In physical strength, he lost.

While it seemed to have been a single clash, it was in fact two.

"Master," Zuhei's eyes regained a calm. His battle intent had stabilized and it grew sharper, not weakening but distilling into a pure competitive force. The moment he felt the bones in his hands shatter into tiny bits, he felt even more desirous of improving himself.

Wei Wuyin finally unclenched his fist. A terrible series of cracks resounded from his joints and bones. These cracks started from his hand but continued into his arm, shoulder, and even his chest had to expand as if to relieve pressure.

This sight caused Su Mei and Zuhei to still.

He...

Wei Wuyin wryly smiled. "I can't believe I lost," his words were said with a hint of discontent. His bones from his hands to his arm and even a portion of his ribs had shattered from the force of Zuhei's claw. In fact, the claw had eviscerated many of his muscles and ligaments in his right arm. He hadn't expected Zuhei's physical body to be so domineering.

How could he not reveal a wry smile?

From the corner of his lips, a trace of grey blood leaked.

"Lord Wei!" Su Mei's heart thumped. She was swift as she arrived before Wei Wuyin in a panic. She had never seen Wei Wuyin injured before, not once. Even during their time in the Scarlet Solaris Sect, he stood invincible and unmatched. The image had formed a layer of invincibility within her mind, so seeing him bleed was disconcerting.

Wei Wuyin waved her to a halt as he wiped the blood clean. His injuries had immediately healed by his wood elemental force, the grey blood wasn't caused by damage. When he explained this to her, her heart was relieved. His bloodline source had been damaged and exhausted after traversing the void and this injury relapsed. The grey blood was actually a trace of contaminated blood that was expelled after he was injured and healed just now.

Zuhei arrived. When he did, he was met by Su Mei's calm and intimidating glare. But she didn't act out nor did he exhibit any response to it.

Wei Wuyin felt comforted at her attitude. He looked at Zuhei who was seemingly confused and in shock. Wei Wuyin explained, "It's due to a pre-existing condition. It's not your fault."

Zuhei thought for a moment, then he nodded. He couldn't help but ask, "How did you lose, Master?"

Wei Wuyin sighed. "Your astral force isn't my match, but your physical body is several times stronger than mine. When I retrieved my astral force and met you in a direct clash, the right side of my body was nearly crushed by your power. In the end, you dealt more damage to me." Honestly answering, he stretched a little.

In terms of Astral Force quality or quantity, Zuhei was far from his match. But if they compared the strength of their physical bodies, he lost out by quite a bit. This likely had to do with his physique and bloodline being low-grade. Considering Zuhei had a Soul Idol that amplified his physical energies even further, how could he match this?

He could only sigh, so that's what he did.

Zuhei finally understood. A hint of a gleeful smile surfaced on his face for a moment before Su Mei turned her impassive gaze towards him, and it was wiped off the face of this existence in a hurry. Strictly speaking, Zuhei's score was 1-2, but the end result had proven his abilities.

"Considering you're my fangs and claws, if you didn't have a stronger physical body, that would be somewhat disappointing." Wei Wuyin jokingly said, but this joke had warmed Zuhei's heart and renewed his sense of purpose. He felt that his future path was set. He wanted to refine his physical body to the

extreme and maintain his racial advantage as a beastman to the maximum. In a situation where astral force might be invalidated or unreliable, he would be able to be Wei Wuyin's physical flesh and weapon.

If Wei Wuyin understood his thoughts, he would agree with him in this manner. He had similar thoughts to focus on refining and tempering Zuhei's body and bloodline qualities. If he could obtain an invincible physical strength, then feats that astral force was weak in would be his time to shine. That being said, he can't neglect his other energies. Those energies formed the foundation of his cultivation base.

"Three moves, yes?" Wei Wuyin eyed Zuhei.

With a nod, Zuhei accepted that three moves had been met. He was content. While they hadn't unleashed their killing moves and attacks, the fact is that their foundations had been tested. Considering Wei Wuyin and his own background wasn't much different, it was unlikely that the arts and spells they cultivated were very different in terms of quality. Since their foundations would determine the resulting power of these arts and spells, he knew that his current self wasn't Wei Wuyin's match.

Su Mei saw the relief and excitement and felt somewhat irritated. She said in a careless voice, "Lord Wei's core strength is in his saber."

Like a splash of cold water on the face, Zuhei finally realized a truth: Wei Wuyin's true foundation hadn't revealed itself.

Wei Wuyin laughed with a lighthearted air. Why did she have to rain on his excitement? But he knew the truth, and that was his true strength truly laid in his saber. Unfortunately, Zuhei would likely never meet such power on the battlefield. He only used his saber against his enemies. If unsheathed, he must kill.

This was the way of the Saber that his brother had taught him, that he respected to the utmost.

A voice suddenly resounded, "A nine-ringed Soul Idol? Quite impressive."

Chapter 298 - 295: G.S.T, First Meeting

"A nine-ringed Soul Idol? Quite impressive." This calm voice that resounded attracted the trio's attention. A young man slowly walked forward with a slightly solemn and intrigued pair of eyes that inspected Zuhei. From within his grey-colored gaze, a sense of battle intent was forged and emitted.

Zuhei's eyes narrowed. Who was this? From his strong and exquisite senses, he felt a dangerous aura emitting from this young man's body. It caused his hairs to stand, his muscles to tense slightly, and his heart to race just a step faster.

Wei Wuyin was surprised as he recognized this youngster. He was heroically handsome, his grey eyes, short-length black hair, and sported a nine-colored dot at his glabella. This was the young man that accompanied that mysterious woman of untold beauty within the Myriad Yore Continent. Furthermore, he was also someone he was certain as a Blessed.

To add to his assumptions, this young man had to have found the Divine King Han Xei's inheritance and embarked on his own heaven-ascending path. If his assumptions were correct, this young man had a potential that matched or even exceeded Yuan Longshi or Long Chen.

"This young man..." Wu Yu, who had remained silent thus far had sent Wei Wuyin a spiritual message from his ring. He seemed to wish to spew out a few words of caution to Wei Wuyin, especially considering that he had invested his eggs into the basket that was Wei Wuyin.

"I already know: he has Divine King Han Xei's Inheritance." But Wei Wuyin instantly halted his words. He wasn't Long Chen. He didn't need to be babysat or warned of every little danger. He had his own mind and thoughts, and he likely knew far more than Wu Yu regarding the peculiarities of this young man. As for the past of Divine King Han Xei? He didn't want to invest too much thought into it.

Regardless, his current path of cultivation was already exceptional and decided upon, a path forged by himself and no one else.

"..." Wu Yu was clearly shocked by Wei Wuyin's words.

Lin Ming stopped a distance away, sufficient enough to carry out a conversation. "You must be Wei Wuyin, the so-called Prince of Everlore," he smiled slightly. This smile wasn't ill-intended. In fact, it was rather amiable, but the tone of his voice carried a subtle underlying reverb. It felt like...

Mockery of ignorance.

Wei Wuyin didn't frown or show any outward expression. Instead, he nodded in reply.

Lin Ming's heart was truly lacking in terms of ill-intent, not wanting to mock, but his heart also contained what he believed to be the truth. This was the knowledge of a grander world. The truth about the King of Everlore's accomplishments, the Inheritance of Divine King Han Xei, an existence that has left this barren land for pastures, revealing a dazzling talent that couldn't be stopped. He was influenced by this and felt the title that was the 'Prince of Everlore' was quite interesting.

Lin Ming eyed Zuhei, "A nine-ringed Soul Idol; to reach such levels, it isn't something just anyone can accomplish." His comment was true, but if he knew that Wei Wuyin was a Mortal Sovereign Alchemist that even faintly eclipsed the King of Everlore, his words might not be directed towards Zuhei.

In fact, he didn't even feel that Zuhei had used a tenth of his strength against Wei Wuyin. From afar, he merely noted their cultivation bases and Wei Wuyin's declaration of his loss in the exchange. To him, Zuhei was merely testing Wei Wuyin.

"..." Zuhei didn't respond to Ling Ming. He looked outwards and found his army of canines were making their way back after their abrupt trip through the sky. He turned towards Wei Wuyin, "Master, shall I sweep everyone away?"

Su Mei's hand was already on her hilt. Her eyes similarly swept through the crowd and noticed the figures that were hobbling back to observe the result. A faint spiritual fluctuation emitted from her eyes and the azure-scaled serpent slithered its way over from nearby. A single order and she was ready to unleash untold levels of hell.

Wei Wuyin gave off a wry smile. This was what he was unwilling to see, if the trial was rendered useless because of their cooperation, then wouldn't it be unfair? But when was he a soft-hearted individual? In the end, he nodded. "If you see Qing Qiumu, don't act against her. It's best not to kill." After saying this, he whistled softly.

The three Gold-Starred Beasts started to grow restless. Their eyes became suffused with a bestial ferocity.

He was a leader, and this competition was originally meant to temper Su Mei and Zuhei, as well as accomplish his plans with the Alchemist Association. The wagers were secondary. Moreover, he had obtained Wu Yu from Long Chen. While not originally planned, it caused his priorities to change somewhat. It was best to end this competition.

Being ignored, Lin Ming lightly frowned. He wanted to talk to Zuhei, to get more familiar with this genius, but he was clearly not their priority. If Lin Ming knew that the trio had just decided to eliminate everyone and their pets from this competition, perhaps his expression might be more lively.

"Him?" Su Mei was already about to step out. She was intent on finding other Soul Idol cultivators and eliminating them, and Lin Ming was directly before them. His pillar of light was bright and powerful, likely only below theirs.

Wei Wuyin gave Lin Ming a look, "You can ignore him for now." His words caused Lin Ming to frown, a hint of displeasure between his brows. But his self-confidence was astonishing so he dismissed Wei Wuyin's words with a mere smile.

"En," Zuhei and Su Mei nodded simultaneously. In a flourish of energies, the two shot off in two different directions. Their bodies became comets of light with the crushing steps of the beasts under them following along. The three Gold-Starred Beasts in Wei Wuyin's command exclaimed in their unique ways before turning their gazes towards the surrounding competitors.

Their eyes revealed a single intent: Eliminate!

Lin Ming watched all this silently, particularly watching Zuhei. Despite wanting to fight Zuhei, this was not the best platform to do so. The final trial was. There, combat was singularly focused and being ganged up on or having the support of beast companions were disallowed. It would be a fair battle between geniuses, so he didn't particularly care if they decided to not fight here.

To him, this was also his thoughts. This was just not the right time.

"He's your subordinate?" Lin Ming asked Wei Wuyin, his stance and expression relatively calm despite the hyperactive movements in the background. The sounds of unwilling wails filled with anguish, pain, and fear resounded. In the matter of seconds, several individuals had already been directly eliminated by beasts. Even Wei Wuyin's pillar of light started to become brighter, bigger, and more noticeable thanks to his beasts.

Wei Wuyin nodded, "If you want to fight him, you can wait until the third trial." His words carried his intent. As for personally fighting Lin Ming? He didn't have that intention at all. It gave him no benefits, and even if he sought to claim his karmic luck from his corpse, it would inevitably speed up his own calamity. He wouldn't do something so reckless, even if he was already prepared.

He still had numerous plans he had to set-up to rest his mind before tackling that nightmare. And if he miscalculated, who knew if he'd face the second and third calamity simultaneously or directly after each other. The very thought gave him goosebumps.

Lin Ming's attitude was casual, "I wouldn't mind fighting you too." The confidence he had was brimming to a peak. Earlier, when Zuhei and Wei Wuyin exchanged three moves, he felt the power within and knew it wasn't at a level that threatened him. But Wei Wuyin still exchanged three foundational moves with a nine-ringed Soul Idol, that was quite incredible even if he lost.

The fact he's still standing was likely, to him, Zuhei holding back to prevent harming this so-called 'Master' of his. Considering Wei Wuyin's rumored potential and Zuhei insane talent for cultivation, this pair was definitely to be given caution.

However, when he thought about Wei Wuyin's lack of an Alchemic Astral Soul and his Senior Sister's words about its absolute requirement to reach the greater limits in the Dao of Alchemy, he felt that Wei Wuyin wasn't that important.

He stretched slightly, ignoring the chaos behind him. "Then, I'll see you later." He left, arriving atop his Gold-Starred elephant, and they departed with an aura of ease.

"He's a weird one," Wei Wuyin remarked. Lin Ming's journey must've been filled with challenges, all of which he had overcome, likely thanks to the Heavenly Daos. But it was this continuous degree of success that gave him apex levels of self-confidence in his own ability and sturdiness of his life.

Yuan Longshi must've been the same, just a tad more bloodthirsty.

"If he obtained Han Xei's inheritance, he definitely deserves his attitude." Wu Yu commented, eliciting an eye-roll from Wei Wuyin.

"Was he stronger than you?" Wei Wuyin asked as he decided to find a spot to sit.

"No. But he was definitely more talented, more determined, more intelligent, and more vicious than I was. While I used absolute strength, he used other means. Unfortunately for him, the King of Everlore favored me and others more than him. I eclipsed him easily during our time, reigning over the top." Wu Yu's words carried a hint of pride and also nostalgia.

Wei Wuyin felt that the King of Everlore truly defined his era, the next, and the next(which is the current). His brushstrokes in life left an unerasable mark on history and the future.

"I suffered a calamity, while he remained. He should've left the starfield and improved even further. Knowing him, his caution and abilities, he's probably alive and well today." A soft sigh of resignation and defeat emerged in his voice. When he attempted to tackle the next stage of the Mystic Ascendant Realm, he failed due to the King of Everlore's departure. Without his support, his lack of talent started to show itself.

But Divine King Han Xei was talented to begin with, relying more on himself than others.

Wei Wuyin felt this. As an Alchemist, those he nurtured needed a strong foundation, but foundational products were the most difficult to concoct. Furthermore, unlike a single pill that would allow someone to enter the Gravity Emission Phase of the Astral Core Realm, foundational products needed numerous products, dozens, hundreds, or even thousands to accumulate a sufficient base to ascend at the peak.

It wouldn't be hard for him to pick a random nobody off the street and develop them into a current era Grand Sage level character with a few products, but that character would be weaker than Zuhei at his

current level. They would even be weaker than Tuo Bihan. Forget about nine-rings, they might not even reach five rings.

"Foundation and innate talent is important," this once more reaffirmed his decision to decide on people who've developed their own Intents, such as Ying and Zuhei. They reeked of innate talent, lacking merely the foundation. With it, their growth and ascension through cultivation stages would be natural and perfect.

This was why he never once gave his subordinates products that can directly increase their cultivation levels.

But the King of Everlore was different from him. He didn't have the luxury, time, or ability to refine products with such extreme speed. If he wanted to wholeheartedly invest in a single individual, to produce a Zuhei during his Mortal Sovereign Alchemist days, he would've needed to spend decades of his life.

Wu Yu precisely lacked that foundation. Even if he reached the Mystic Ascendant Realm, even if he created a star in the sky, his lack of talent and foundation gated his cultivation without the appropriate support.

While he was thinking about these things, the world above was in utter chaos.

Chapter 299 - 296: G.S.T, Decided

The world above, that layer of sky that acted as a platform, and the world beyond, the numerous continents and planets observing the situation, went into an uproarious clamour. The events below were first interesting to them as Zuhei and Wei Wuyin came to a clash, but it ended abruptly and then left many in despair.

As Zuhei and Su Mei acted in concert to systematically use their advantage of beasts to lay waste to many participants. While they withheld killing outright, numerous pillars of lights were shattered as these participants of talent, prestige, and backing were taken out without much consideration.

There were even Myriad Monarch Sect members amongst them. Their speed and efficiency was frightening, with four Gold-Starred Beasts and an army of canines at their beck and call, this was a feat that was as easy as popping some grapes in the mouth and chewing.

In the Alchemist Association's abode, the expressions of the numerous members were dark and fallen. Was this the development they expected?

The member they nurtured for this event, the one they invested numerous resources for and pushed into the Soul Idol Phase with a six-ringed Soul Idol hadn't even met any actual contestants or combat before this. He was simply unfortunate to have met the Three-Eyed Tenebrous Crow and White-Blaze Tiger and was swiftly and shockingly eliminated.

Their mouths were wide in shock and horror, their hearts pounding with disbelief. Their best shot was eliminated before they could even react.

Furthermore, how were these Gold-Starred Beasts so freaking strong? Did the Myriad Monarch Sect infuse them with performance enhancing drugs to make them this terrifying? But the truth was not far from that, as Wei Wuyin had invested some minor effort to propel their strength.

He intended to take these three beasts away and have them act as guardians of his Sky Palace. If it suited him, he could use them as gifts to his lovers for protection. He was interested in what would happen if a beast entered the Realm Lord level of strength.

This meant that, despite their wholehearted investment into their greatest talent, it vastly paled in comparison to Wei Wuyin's casual act. If the world knew the truth, who knew where the Alchemist Association's reputation would be or what face they would have.

The Association's Master, Qingye Yun, had a dark expression even more terrifying than night without the slightest light. Over 90% of the entire association were currently watching, and many of them saw their most praised genius eliminated in terror by two beasts. For his life, he crushed his tablet without hesitation.

The gorgeously veiled young girl beside Qingye Yun had eyes flashing with shock that was unconcealed.

An elder behind them trembled like a vibrator on high, "H-he...we lost?!" The despair, confusion, and fear was leaking through his eyes and lips. It was infectious as others couldn't help but feel a rush of emotions in their hearts. A cold hard fact of this trial was laid before them.

Even if they lost, they thought it would be under some epic clash or climax of the top Myriad Monarch Sect versus their elite, where their elite nourishing was contested against elite talent. But alas, the world was full of woe and surprises. Without his name even getting much traction, he was directly eliminated.

Truthfully, there were very few amongst the outside world who even knew of this genius of theirs. This was the only solace that let their cold hearts slightly relaxed.

"We...but we still have a chance!" After recalling the humongous bet, another old elder, a woman with grey hair yet youthful skin, cried out with hope. Her voice instantly enlightened these members of the association. But a cold water was soon poured over their heads.

"You think that someone else will claim victory in this event, leading to a nullification of the wager? Did you not see that subordinate of his? Even if we eliminate Wei Wuyin himself from this event, who amongst the various forces can possibly rival a nine-ringed Soul Idol?" This voice came from someone they never expected! The Alchemist Association Master himself, Qingye Yun!

His voice truly was cold as he added, "Even if we take another ten thousand steps back from the reality of the situation, do you all not see that young woman who's eliminating others like reaping cabbages on the field?" The main screen changed to Su Mei, focusing on her clashing with a Soul Idol genius of the Sacred Light Palace.

It was her versus a five-ringed Soul Idol with merely a saber and Darklight Force. She hadn't even unleashed her own Soul Idol, yet that Sacred Light Palace elite was beaten back continuously until they bled from their eyes and ears. It wouldn't be long before they were eliminated.

To fight another Soul Idol elite without their own was a feat few could accomplish in this era, but she was doing so with utter ease. Just as their fight popped on the screen, a few exchanges later caused the

Sacred Light Palace member to scream out words of indignation and threats before vanishing like the others: eliminated.

A soft gasp resounded that resonated with the hearts of everyone.

Hopeless.

They had lost to Wei Wuyin's subordinates, and this revealed a frightening truth: the geniuses of the Myriad Monarch Sect, whether it be Wei Wuyin terrifying foundation and strength or those beneath him, were leagues beyond the current era. This was undisputed proof of the second coming of the King of Everlore.

Even more, the original King of Everlore had zero combat ability outside of pellets and arrays, so it was even less frightening than this. The King of Everlore could only nourish experts and rise alongside them, but Wei Wuyin had combat prowess and a genius level talent that eclipsed the world several times over.

At the Sky Ruler Phase, his Astral Core was a centimeter in diameter, a size that was beyond many, many, perhaps even all of the Grand Sage-level figures of this world, those four phases above his own. After all, the average size of a Sky Ruler's Astral Core was half a millimeter, two hundred times less.

While many hadn't seen Zuhei's size, with his nine-ringed Soul Idol that hadn't appeared for who knows how many centuries and millennia, this was frightening enough.

Qingye Yun's eyes flickered with defeat. But a moment later, he regained his composure. He was the Alchemist Association's Association Master, so while others could wallow in defeat and loss, he absolutely couldn't.

"We'll lose this bet, but that's fine. It's just unfortunate that we'll have to resort to other means," his words forced many to accept the reality before them. They had underestimated the Myriad Monarch talents, underestimated Wei Wuyin, but that's fine.

The young girl beside him turned her pretty head towards Qingye Yun. Beneath her veil, an expression that was indeterminate flashed alongside a little self-pity. If others were allowed to witness that look, perhaps they would feel the need to hug her tightly in comfort.

Qingye Yun felt the gaze, his expression like tempered steel. He didn't turn to face it but said, "Don't worry. As long as you're confident in your skills, your life and fate will still be your own. Always remember that. Furthermore, you have something he lacks."

When those words were said, the self-pity beneath the veil vanished, replaced by a renewed confidence. That was right...

Even if Wei Wuyin was an astonishing alchemist and genius, she was a true Alchemist! She was the first since the King of Everlore to possess an Alchemic Astral Soul!

Her eyes turned to the screen that displayed Wei Wuyin's nonchalant figure that sat down as he watched the ensuing chaos. She whispered to herself words only she could hear and only she knew.

The Myriad Monarch Sect's abode was in utter shock, wry smiles on their faces. Many of the elders who knew of Wei Wuyin's style of doing things couldn't help but reveal that type of smile. It had merely been a few years but this youngster was domineering and shocking in everything he did.

Now, he watched while casually sitting as his subordinates eliminated all around, even other Myriad Monarch Sect participants. Wasn't this a little too vicious? A little too casual?

Ji Changkong's expression was dark as he saw Shudao besieged by wolves, his sword and saber flashed about with various lights as he dual-wielded valiantly. But in the end, a serpent shot out from underground like a ghost in the night and encapsulated his figure in a blink of an eye. He was left with no choice but to crush his tablet.

If it wasn't for the serpent's unwillingness to kill, perhaps Shudao's momentary hesitation and reluctance to depart while entrapped would've led to him becoming a bloody stain on its scales.

When he saw Shudao eliminated thus, his heart cried out. But what could he do? He might be a Grand Imperial Sage respected throughout the generations, but if this trial had revealed one thing, even if that thing hadn't been revealed before, it was that Wei Wuyin was an existence no one can offend.

If he was the next King of Everlore, he was all their hopes in extending their lives and becoming like the Myriad Monarch Grand Monarch in legends, to become an existence that exceeded the Astral Core Realm! Even if he wanted to cry out his woes, who would listen? Who would dare?

Qin Rui and Yao Zhen were already calm. That was because their hopes were either already safe or eliminated already. Yao Zhen, who was known as irritable to an extreme limit rather easily, only calmly laughed at his own descendant being eliminated by the forces of beasts.

"Well, this competition has been decided," Qin Rui remarked. The elders watching agreed with a nearly unconscious nod. In truth, when Wei Wuyin revealed his one centimeter-sized Astral Core, they knew the outcome.

This was because even if the Alchemist Association somehow produced a Spatial Resonance Phase expert, just Wei Wuyin's sheer foundation would be able to drown him. After all, his Astral Core Foundation exceeded Tuo Bihan by double, which meant he had double the Astral Force quality as their strongest Grand Imperial Sage.

While it lacked the quintessential benefits of cultivation stages, it couldn't be something these youths with very little combat experience could overcome, especially some newly ascended Spatial Resonance expert with less than six months to familiarize themselves with their cultivation base.

This was further reinforced when Zuhei revealed the fabled nine-ringed Soul Idol. The trial lost its point after that. After all, each ring was a multiplicative increase to one's energies. Who could match this? Even though they saw the six-ringed hidden expert of the Alchemist Association, was that even a comparison?

Perhaps there would be some excitement if Zuhei and Wei Wuyin were enemies, but the fact of reality was that they weren't. One was clearly a wholehearted subordinate of the other...

To these elders, how could they not know Zuhei's background? His fate? His destiny that had been overturned by Wei Wuyin's whim? Once set to rot in a cold, bleak cell, he was now free displaying a foundation, talent, and ability that left them in utter awe.

Let's not even think about that black-haired young woman with the saber, eliminating Soul Idols of the elite forces like she was reaping cabbages. Terrifying!

"Haha..." An elder who supported Wei Wuyin, even having done many things for him, couldn't help but laugh lightly. This laugh was low but unnaturally contagious as a phenomena emerged.

"Hahaha..."

"Hahahahaha..."

"HAHAHAHA!!"

A cascade of brilliant laughter resounded, cascading into a cacophony of excitement and relief. These old elders and those of elite status were laughing at the situation, whether at the absurdity or something else, no one really knew.

Even Ji Changkong started to laugh alongside them.

One abode filled with dark expressions, one abode filled with laughter, while the rest of the spectators were filled with shock, disbelief, and a tinge of horror.

The world was about to undergo a brilliant shift.

Chapter 300 - 297: G.S.T, Eyes Elsewhere

The chaos on the planet continued, and while those above had mostly understood the outcome, not every participant had the same observation opportunity and knowledge. There were some who didn't allow their curiosity to overwhelm them. Instead, they found and challenged the pillars of light in hopes of earning sufficient spirit points to enter the next trial.

Therefore, while those who spectated Wei Wuyin and Zuhei's clash wasn't small, it also wasn't everyone.

Several hours after Wei Wuyin confirmed the order to sweep away everyone nearby, Su Mei and Zuhei had finished their tasks. When they returned, there was barely any hint of exhaustion or injuries on them. This was a clear revealment that their foundation and strength eclipsed the others too much.

Wei Wuyin eyed them both, eating some dried fruits while sitting on a rock. "How many?" He inquired as he chewed.

"Roughly sixty percent of all participants," Su Mei answered. She took a soft breath, her saber hilt gripped slightly, a hint of restlessness within her eyes. It was clear that her battles had invigorated her spirit, and she was somewhat dissatisfied by her opponents. Regardless of what, Su Mei had a warrior's spirit. The amount of battles she participated in during her enrollment in the Scarlet Solaris Sect was many.

After all, the Scarlet Solaris Sect was not all that peaceful.

Zuhei snorted, "Too weak." There weren't many Soul Idols within the experts, so he could only reinforce and order his canine army to sweep their way through all enemies. He didn't have a Gold-Starred Beast in his army, but the sheer numbers and coordination made them horrific to fight against. Furthermore, each canine had their own respective abilities that, if used in tandem with their fellow brethren, was very difficult to defend against.

He had tried to hunt some Soul Idol experts, but Su Mei was frighteningly quick. She was like a ray of light as she arrived and finished most of them in the matter of ten or so moves. It was quite a humiliating sight, because she didn't even need to manifest her Soul Idol.

This once more reaffirmed her belief of Wei Wuyin's astounding capabilities as a nurturer. He had only been invested in for a few years, but many of these talented youths had decades or centuries of top-tier nurturing from their so-called elite forces. It was quite embarrassing that their cultivation base was pathetic, their foundation lacking to a horrendous extent.

Su Mei didn't disagree. Her dissatisfaction stemmed from this very fact. Her opponent's were far too weak, unable to match her standards. Quite a few of these so-called talents hadn't even birthed Intent. Considering the Mortal Star Formation Trial gives a slight blueprint of Intent to the cultivator's mind, this was quite embarrassing.

Wei Wuyin noted their pillars were far brighter than before. Even if he didn't take action, he would still be able to earn his way into the third trial. That being said, he still intended to enter some challenges and test the Myriad Monarch Sect methods.

Wei Wuyin said, "You two can find pillars and take their challenges. If you're lucky, you might find a true challenge amongst them worth overcoming." He pouted for a moment, then added: "This trial was meant to temper you both, but since we've colluded to this extent, the trial has been decided. The only variable is that youngster that had arrived before."

Wei Wuyin briefly recalled that he didn't know the name of this youngster, simply his status and inheritance. This included his mysterious relationship with that gorgeous woman that even shook his heart to this day. If he met her again, if she wasn't taken by another, he might make a move.

Considering his status, abilities, and wealth, he had very little self-doubt when it came to courting others. Even if her standards were a little high, it can't be beyond a Mortal Sovereign Alchemist, no? Moreover, he can be considered a cultivation genius.

When he thought to this point, he gave off a light smile. Understanding one's own identity was important, and if it wasn't for the looming calamities that sought to obliterate his soul and body, then perhaps he would've made different moves. His desire to establish his own business, have a harem of over ten world-toppling women, and more near its completion.

"Understood," Su Mei nodded. She didn't delay any further and shot off to her azure-scaled snake, already slithering off somewhere. Zuhei gave Wei Wuyin a bow, about to leave, but he halted for a moment and looked at Wei Wuyin's pondering face.

"Master, in the third trial, if we meet, will you use your full strength?" He wasn't an idiot, and Su Mei's words were definitely not for nothing. Wei Wuyin's true strength lay in his saber, and if that's the case, then his Saber Intent and Saber Force must be several times stronger, even foundation-wise.

Wei Wuyin was disturbed out of his nonsensical thoughts, looking at the solemn expression of Zuhei. He could only shake his head, "Unlikely." His words left Zuhei somewhat dismayed, but the next words enlightened him.

"I haven't used my full strength before, but it is divided into many different components. While my saber contains my highest killing strength, it's not my highest combat strength. Also, if I used everything, you as you are...you couldn't withstand half a move. To be honest, I suffered heavily from the incident before, and my full strength isn't even able to be brought fully forth." Wei Wuyin didn't hide the truth. His current bodily state had an exhausted Bloodline Source, this limited his abilities heavily to begin with.

He had the mysterious Zenith Origin State, a four centimeter-sized Astral Cores, Elemental Origin Intent, Heart of Saber Intent, Alchemic Eden Force, and Draconification. If his cultivation methods, arts, and spells were excluded, his cultivation strength might exceed even a Grand Imperial Sage-level character. While the intricate cultivation level benefits might instantly defeat him, unable to be underestimated, in terms of sheer foundational strength, he was unmatched.

Zuhei went silent for a moment. In the end, he decided to wholeheartedly accept the situation, change his way of thinking. Wei Wuyin wouldn't lie to him, his manner of speaking and actions always forthright and clear. If Wei Wuyin said that he wouldn't last half a move, it meant he definitely could not withstand 51% of his strength. Moreover, it was only his current self. If he cultivated his body to the extreme, his bloodline strength reaching heights beyond his imagination, would he still be unable to match Wei Wuyin?

Who knew.

Nodding, he whistled and shot off with his army of canines.

Wei Wuyin sighed. If he wasn't confident in his strength, he would never reveal it in this challenge. Thinking of this, he looked at the sky and pierced through until he located the Myriad Monarch Planet floating within the Dark Void.

"Old man, with all eyes located here, you should be using this time well. Don't disappoint me," his words were softly said, but it would shock many as the underlying meaning seemed to contain heaven-shaking implications.

While Wei Wuyin's words were said wistfully, they coincidentally coincided perfectly with another event. On the Myriad Monarch Planet, a grey-haired old man with grey robes floated above the eighth level of the Sky Layer. He looked at the last layer of sky and outwards to the Dark Void, his aura surging and powerful.

"Little Owner, let's see if these old bones could overturn this era. Who knows, perhaps it'll be my era next." As those words escaped his lips, a hearty laughter echoed, but his aura continued to rise and produced devastating wind storms within the folds of the Sky Layer.

This was Tuo Bihan.

And this was his Astral Tribulation, the legendary Seventh Astral Tribulation that had ended numerous lives: the World Genesis Star Tribulation!!