

Chapter 351 - 347: All-Alchemic Clash, Refraction World-Light Elixir

With the explanation from these casters, the crowd was further enthralled with excitement, not realizing that the All-Alchemic Clash had begun on a deeper level before it had even started. They were curious how this newfound development that shocked even the judges were going to direct this clash.

While they wondered this, Qingye Ying was biting her soft, delicate lips in agitation. Her eyes were staringly unblinkingly at Wei Wuyin, her heart speeding up a few paces. While confident in her abilities, why did it feel as if she was being cornered and outsmarted? She hadn't even considered the possibility that Wei Wuyin would plan a surefire draw, stripping her of the ability to do so.

In most, if not all, All-Alchemic Clashes, the most vital category was typically Pellet, with Paste being second. Due to the nature of All-Alchemic Alchemist being a challenge amongst equally-ranked alchemists, they would usually ensure that their specialty product, the one they had the most confidence in, were chosen by them. This would lead to the third and fourth picks having the highest chance of deciding the victors.

She bit her lips a tad bit harder, even her cheeks reddening a little. It was far too unfortunate that her veil perfectly covered her cute appearance from the crowd. It was quite a sight. Fortunately, Wei Wuyin could see all of it, including the unknowing tension that was swelling within her eyes.

'When an event that is unexpected occurs, many descend into panic. It can whittle away confidence, rattle the mind, allowing an opening to strike.' As he recalled this fact, a principle of battle learned from his older brother, he couldn't help but gently smile with a trace of warmth. Regardless, this was mere child's play.

'Even if this is the case, absolute strength destroys all plans, both made by yourself and others.' As he recalled another lesson, his expression became stern, more focused. Yuan Longshi was a perfect example of absolute strength destroying plans of both sides, with the humanoid demonic dragon being crushed by him with utter ease. All his contingencies, his plans, were rendered useless.

Furthermore, strength wasn't just raw power.

Qingye Ying couldn't help but trudge onwards, the feeling of facing a tough opponent now residing within her heart. She swore to herself that she wouldn't underestimate Wei Wuyin. In her mind, she had the absolute advantage with an Alchemic Astral Soul. There was no challenge that she, the most advanced alchemist in terms of cultivation base, couldn't overcome—even Wei Wuyin.

"Pill," she could only announce her last pick, and the only pick she could choose. With this, the initial beginning of the selection phase of the All-Alchemic Clash was completed, and now there was the last portion: Selecting Recipes.

This was the most vital aspect of the competition, and many were very curious on what the two would choose. But the first selector was the challenger, so Qingye had the advantage. Her first selection was crucial, and it would set the tone of the entire competition.

Yi Yun enthusiastically commented with a lift in his voice, "This is a critical moment, and a moment that everyone with any experience in All-Alchemic Clashes is the most intrigued in! Furthermore, the initiative is with the Princess of Everlore!"

Lin Ruyan, with her gorgeous elven appearance, asked: "What's so critical?" While she was the leader of a hegemonic force, thoroughly knowledgeable in All-Alchemic Clash, she wasn't an alchemist herself and sought clarification on anything that might differentiate from her understandings. Considering Wei Wuyin had already derailed the standard of a clash, she didn't hesitate to inquire.

A few amongst the crowd felt that she was doing so for the crowd's sake, so many fans of her beautifully exquisite figure and countenance were enamoured due to her actions. They shouted out loudly to proclaim their intentions without holding back, some even asking to be her slave.

Of course, Li Che ignored it all. He liked to chime in whenever Yi Yun was asked questions, stripping away a bit of spotlight. He smilingly replied to Lin Ruyan, "Pavilion Master Lin, you see: No one is certain the 'level of standard' amongst these two competitors. Typically, an All-Alchemic Clash is performed between two 'officially' ranked and tested alchemists, giving us an understanding of their specialties and skill.

"But Ascendant Emperor Wei and Princess Ying are extremely different. While the former had never been tested, his skills and specialties an absolute mystery amongst the world, the Princess of Everlore had similarly not taken any tests since taking the mantle of the King of Everlore's successor. Will they face each other using Seventh-Grade Products or Eighth-Grade Products?!" When he said this explanation, the vast majority of the crowd was enlightened, numerous gasps of realization echoing about.

That was right!

Wei Wuyin, their Ascendant Emperor of Neo-Dawn, had never taken an official test of skill or aptitude. Even still, it didn't stop his sixth and seventh-grade products from spreading like wildfire. There were even a few elite experts that had supposedly 'purchased' or 'received' products personally concocted by him. Since their quality was beyond reproach, no one really questioned this.

It was also these products finding their way into the mouths of these outsiders that Wei Wuyin's reputation exploded in such fierce intensity. The landscape of the Myriad Monarch Astral Territory had changed as numerous individuals had made considerable progress with these products, only increasing their desire to stick near the Myriad Monarch Sect.

Lin Ruyan released a soft 'ah'. It drove many men crazy as they foamed at the mouth. Every sound, no matter how soft, was being shuttled to every member of the crowd. Even that soft 'ah' was sent, causing the manly bones of many to go soft. If Lin Ruyan was merely a beauty, this reaction was far too unimaginable, but she was a beauty at the peak of this world, accentuating her value and beauty in the eyes of every cultivator.

If they could dual cultivate with her, even with her Primal Yin already plundered, just her Yin Source energies alone would allow them to become experts.

Gao Zi spoke heavily, his voice like mountains on the chest. "So this will decide the level of their clash." He stated the now extremely obvious observation, but no one mockingly commented on it. No one dared.

Yi Yun nodded, "If Princess Ying chooses an eighth-grade recipe, then this entire clash would be elevated to an Alchemic Emperor-level."

Li Che jumped in, "It's also possible that she chooses a seventh-grade recipe with extremely stringent requirements, allowing her to claim victory in that manner. After all, to win a round, you just have to be better than your opponent."

Qingye Yun watched with calm, focused eyes. In his mind, he knew that Qingye Ying must achieve victory. He just wasn't certain what was more important, especially considering the information they'd gathered of Wei Wuyin as of late. Was Alchemic Talent or an Alchemic Astral Soul better?

Today, the world might very well find out.

Qingye Ying didn't let anything hinder her thoughts any longer, calmly selecting her recipe: "Eighth-Grade, High-Tier Refraction World-Light Elixir!"

"..." The crowd went silent.

"..." The judges' went silent.

"..." The numerous observers totalling over a trillion went silent.

"!!!" Then, a wave of cataclysmic-level uproar of shock, surprise, excitement, disbelief, and a myriad of raving emotions hit like a tsunami!

"WHAT?!" It was Li Che who shouted out, slamming his armrests while standing up. His eyes were bulging with disbelief, staring at Qingye Ying's delicate figure with the utmost shock, seemingly extremely exaggerated.

The crowd burst into a clamor, their voices too loud and too many things being said that made it almost intelligible.

An eighth-grade recipe?! Furthermore, High-Tier? FURTHERMORE, the Refraction World-Light Elixir?! Not only was this elixir notoriously difficult to concoct, it was one of the greatest products, if not THE greatest product, for one to ensure their rise into the Fifth Stage of the Astral Core Realm, the Light Reflection Phase!

While the Fifth Phase wasn't as known, being directly below the true powerhouses of the starfield, it was extremely particular. In fact, the Gravity Emission Phase, the Sixth Stage, was far, far easier to ascend to, relatively speaking. This had to do with a specific aspect of cultivation and innate compatibility.

It had to do with light.

In this world, light was ever-present, emitted by the three suns. But it did little to increase one's ability to interact with the ambient light energies. That was because they were often too fast to accurately pinpoint, far too fast. Even if you tried to lock down a strand, it would vanish in the blink of an eye. Only those with the ability to interact with ambient light energies, a type of innate compatibility, were capable of drawing in light to them, interacting with it.

The Refraction World-Light Elixir could change the fundamentals of one's spiritual sense, allowing one to draw light in as a medium, slowly extracting light energies in the process for cultivation. These light energies originate from the extremely fast rays of light emitted by the stars, so they were the purest.

The majority of cultivators who sought to absorb light energies would have to slowly extract them using formations and arrays to absorb ambient light energies alongside ambient essence, producing light-attributed essences of numerous varieties. This was how Su Mei cultivated her Darklight Qi.

But that wasn't the purest form of light, nor the strongest state of light energies. It was like how rain still falling from the sky was far more purer than when it lands on the ground.

Unlike the Sky Ruler, Soul Idol, or Spatial Resonance, one didn't require a lick of comprehension to tackle the Fifth Phase Astral Tribulation. They merely needed to fill their Astral Souls with light energies to a certain point. When that point was reached, they could ascend at any time. But quality mattered, and much like the Soul Idol and Spatial Resonance Phase, there was a distinctive difference in the grade of light energies.

The most common Light Reflection Expert wasn't much stronger than those at the Spatial Resonance Phase due to this very fact. While the strongest Light Reflection Expert could easily dispatch an ordinary Gravity Emission Phase expert, purely on the grounds of the cultivation state benefits received due to the powerful Light-Attributed Astral Force they would possess.

The Refraction World-Light Elixir when refined allowed one to act as a medium of worldly light, directly absorbing light energies from the purest source. If one broke through in this fashion, they would be extremely powerful. The shock that the judges, the alchemists of all levels, experienced was not an exaggerated response.

Yi Yun's breathing was audible, "This product hadn't been seen in over six hundred years."

Li Che couldn't help but glance at the Sacred Light Palace's Palace Master, Jiang Feilan. While she hadn't spoken a word, keeping the aloof appearance of a noble elf, her usually cold gaze had widened with a hint of disbelief.

It wasn't just Li Che, but soon the other three judges glanced at her. Similarly to how Qin Rui used a Spatial Spirit Pill to reach her current level, Jiang Feilan, this extremely gorgeous member of the elven race and leader of a hegemonic force, had used a Refraction World-Light Elixir.

She was unbeatable in her cultivation phase at the time, making an extremely notable footprint on history. It was due to her strength at that point that she had been able to aggressively take the leadership role in the Sacred Light Palace. She was the one who had taken it six hundred years ago. Therefore, they were incredibly interested in her reaction.

"..." She remained silent, but her normally wintry gaze and tense fingers betrayed her emotions and thoughts.

Yi Yun couldn't help but sigh, "If this product is successfully concocted, the next era is truly going to be decided by these two." Those words resonated with everyone present.

But while all of this took place, no one noticed Wei Wuyin's silver gaze. It was emanating a feeling of immeasurable disappointment, and if they knew his thoughts, an even bigger uproar would rise. After all, he had already concocted a few of these already. In fact, he had several vials in his storage ring at the moment.

Chapter 352 - 348: All-Alchemic Clash, Utmost Purity Mist

'She didn't choose a ninth-grade elixir...'

Wei Wuyin had wanted her to choose a ninth-grade product, because he had long since reached a point of perfection in the lesser grades. It was only ninth-grade products that gave him difficulty, instilling excitement within his heart. Regardless of his disappointment, this was still a clash.

Now, they would test their skill in quality, speed, and success rates. If he triumphed against her in these categories, then he'll know of his skill level.

Qingye Ying was somewhat lost as she saw Wei Wuyin's crestfallen gaze. A strange emotion welled within her heart, uncertain of its origin or meaning. She could only feel that lost sensation.

Yi Yun continued commenting, "To those unaware, the Refraction World-Light Elixir is well-known by Alchemic Emperors of the past and present to be notoriously difficult to concoct. The core reason is due to quality. The quality is innately dependent on the relative purity of light energies extracted, how well it is contained, and mixed with the other ingredients. For many alchemists, it is impossible to concoct this elixir, merely due to that."

Li Che once more jumped in, "Impure quality products aren't officially recognized as 'true products' because they don't contain a '100%' of a product's effect and possess impurities that can affect one's lifespan, bodily condition, mental state, or even soul. This can become extremely gruesome as the grade of product gets higher, with those beneath the Astral Core Realm being unable to refine impure-quality seventh-grade products of a high-tier without experiencing severe complications, likely even death.

"Low-tier products of that grade are okay, however. As for the quality of the Refraction World-Light Elixir, it needs light essence and light energies of a specific purity level to remotely reach low-grade, achieving '100%' of its effect."

Yi Yun didn't mind Li Che constantly butting in, only adding: "But the purity of light energies within light essences are extremely low to begin with, filled with taint, so us alchemists have to extract sufficient light energies and refine out the impurities within which is EXTREMELY difficult, especially without being at the Fifth Stage themselves." It was hard to explain how difficult, so Yi Yun only emphasised the point to the crowd.

Many of the crowd was thankful for the educating commentary, allowing them to grasp a little of the sheer complexity and difficulty this product brought to the table. One of the reasons these two were selected was due to their generous and talkative nature.

Wei Wuyin and Qingye Ying gave each other a final look. Due to them already knowing the recipe, there was no more need to exchange words. From the sky, almost magically, two spatial rings fell. The rings contained the exact materials needed for the Refraction World-Light Elixir, provided by the Myriad Monarch Sect. There were only three sets of materials, the maximum an alchemist can use during the competition.

Their quality and quantity had been approved by the five judges, viewed by their Spiritual Senses, and then sent downwards. This was to ensure there was no cheating of any kind or providing one side with a better set of materials. Furthermore, everyone was inclined to keep the competition absolutely fair.

Qingye Ying found her designated area, immediately looking at the isolation formation inlaid on the floor. The formation lacked any form of external supporting mechanisms or means that would help increase success rate, concocting quality, or refinement speed. These were three things the majority of alchemists were used to, so this All-Alchemic Clash truly tested their developed skills, not their background.

The only factor that can be considered as a legitimate contrasting difference between both parties from the on-set was the cauldrons used. The cauldron of an alchemist was like the sword of a swordsman. Just because one had a better sword than you, sharper, more durable, did not mean it was unfair. It simply meant you lacked sufficient means and your skills were lacking, your skill in generating connections and wealth.

Therefore, it was the only externally differentiating factor amongst alchemists in All-Alchemic Clashes.

Qingye Ying withdrew her cauldron. It was golden-colored, with black etchings and markings littering it in a mystic manner. If one stared at these markings, they would sense an extremely oppressive nature from them, extremely overbearing. Despite the feeling, it was quite small, merely the size of a standard wash bin.

Li Che exclaimed as he turned to Qingye Yun, "Absolute Overlord Cauldron? You gave her the peak Astral-grade Cauldron of your founder?!" These words triggered numerous changes of expression from those aware of the origins of this cauldron.

Yi Yun glanced at Qingye Yun, but he didn't say anything. The quality of one's cauldron was a display of connections and wealth, essentials of an alchemist.

The Absolute Overlord Cauldron was a peak-rank Astral-tier Cauldron used by the founder of the Alchemist Association. It was said that he was a Alchemic Soul Alchemist, someone who religiously followed the King of Everlore's teachings and devoted his life to alchemy. While this was difficult to confirm due to the elusiveness of his existence, they knew from the Absolute Overlord Cauldron's aura that an extremely powerful Alchemic Soul wielder had to have refined it at one point.

Qingye Yun's expression remained calm, almost indifferent.

Wei Wuyin was somewhat shocked after feeling the oppressive nature of the Absolute Overlord Cauldron. He couldn't help but give it a few looks before marveling at its exquisiteness. When he thought about his Nine Element Eclipse Cauldron, a high-rank Astral-tier, he couldn't help but compare.

He was more satisfied with his Nine Element Eclipse Cauldron. It suited his Elemental Origin Intent very well, while the Absolute Overlord Cauldron was just overall impressive. Furthermore, his Nine Element Eclipse Cauldron was originally low-rank, but jumped after experiencing the refinement of numerous ninth-grade products.

This was the most natural way to upgrade a cauldron, not forcefully refining it like the Absolute Overlord Cauldron. In fact, when he thought about it, the innate compatibility that his Nine Element Eclipse Cauldron had with alchemical energies was definitely far, far, far greater than the Absolute Overlord Cauldron because of this.

He felt more and more gratified by the comparison.

Then, he retrieved his cauldron.

When it emerged, a rainbow light erupted, surfing on a wave of nine-colored air. In an instant, an area of ten meters around Wei Wuyin was clouded in multi-colored mist that was so dazzlingly attractive that everyone was unable to focus on anything else.

"This..." Qingye Yun's mouth was agape.

Li Che's eyes nearly exploded from their sockets.

Yi Yun was rubbing his beard so intensely that a clump of hair had fallen off, before reattaching almost instantly.

"Utmost Purity Mist!" All Alchemic Emperors simultaneously exclaimed in shock.

"...?" The crowd wasn't in the know, being severely shocked by their reaction. If it wasn't because their status was so great, they might've assumed this reaction was staged.

Yi Yun couldn't help but rub his beard a little harder, staring intently at the cloud of mist that enshrouded Wei Wuyin. "Utmost Purity Mist! Utmost Purity Mist! To think I'd see the day, to think!"

Li Che slowly said, his need to jump in triggered, "Utmost Purity Mist is a byproduct of extreme success of seventh-grade or higher products. It can only be generated when a cauldron had undergone natural refinement of ten thousand successfully concocted low-grade or higher products! Consecutively!"

Qingye Yun spoke this time, seemingly absentminded as he informed the crowd, temporarily becoming a caster. "But each meter of mist is a result of ten thousand successes. There's at least ten meters of Utmost Purity Mist! Which meant..."

One hundred thousand consecutive successes!

The crowd understood the implication without its explicit mention. A wave of endless gasps resounded, nearly producing a whale inhaling effect on the space like water.

A hundred thousand successful concoctions of seventh-grade or higher products consecutively!!

Yi Yun couldn't help but be extremely skeptical, "Is this the cauldron of the King of Everlore himself?" This question ignited much speculation!

Wei Wuyin was keenly aware of the Utmost Purity Mist, but he wasn't hiding his abilities or skills in this match or any longer, so he brought out his real cauldron. This cauldron had been with him since he became a Sky Noble, bestowed as a gift. It was extremely suitable for him. There were times he would even cuddle it during his studies.

Of course...no one knew this.

An alchemist's cauldron was like a swordsman's sword, or a general's saber, it was a part of them.

Qingye Ying was thoroughly stunned, unable to speak as she observed the mist around Wei Wuyin. While the mist shrouded him, it didn't obscure his figure or his actions, being relatively transparent, merely a glow of numerous colors.

'He couldn't have made that mist...himself, right? ...No way, impossible. It must be the foremost cauldron of the greatest alchemist in Myriad Monarch Sect history. That's right. Don't let yourself get overwhelmed or distracted.' She rationalized. A cauldron just needed to be refined continuously to reach that state, and it didn't have to be recent or even without a failure. As long as you achieve ten thousand successes, it'll grow by one meter endlessly.

If she knew that Wei Wuyin had accomplished this himself in less than a decade, she might've lost her mind then and there. But continuous success did not mean overall skill.

It was entirely possible to concoct the same pill ten thousand times at the low-grade and achieve the Utmost Purity Mist. It did not mean they can concoct a higher grade pill, just that they had a remarkable success rate with one pill.

They both, almost simultaneously, officially began.

The Dao of Alchemy was divided into seven traits: Extraction, Growth, Containment, Refinement, Creation, Transformation, and Fusion. Each of these traits embodied various phases in every concoction process. This was regardless if it was Pills, Pellets, Paste, or Elixirs, or from the first to ninth-grade, they all required these phases.

It was also these seven traits that embodied the abilities of alchemical energies, qi, or force. The higher the quality, the stronger the effect they have towards these seven traits. It's due to this that Alchemic Souls had a severe advantage over those of equal cultivation, and why those of higher cultivation realms can rival those with Alchemic Souls.

For example, Alchemic Force of an Astral Core Realm alchemist refined through a specific method had equal if not greater quality than Qi Condensation Realm Alchemic Soul alchemists. It was why there have been numerous Emperor Alchemists throughout history, all of which had imposingly fierce cultivation bases. Tuo Bihan was the best example of this.

It was stated by the King of Everlore once that Alchemic Astral Souls had the innate quality level of alchemical energies that those in the Mystic Ascendant Realm could produce, hence why Ninth-Grade Products can be created by them, products at the very peak of the Mortal-tier.

This statement also insinuated that Mystic Ascendant Realm alchemists can concoct ninth-grade products! Unfortunately, no alchemist had the ability to succeed after devoting the majority of their

lives to the Alchemic Dao, at least in this starfield. And those who reached the Mystic Ascendant Realm, for one reason or another, refused to delve into the art.

But whatever the reason, it meant the qualities of an Alchemic Soul exceeded realms!

In a few seconds, a full set of material was brought out by both sides! The crowd held their breath, feeling a distinctive tense atmosphere as the true display of skill was about to begin.

Chapter 353 - 349: All-Alchemic Clash, Freestyle Alchemist

"..."

There was a sudden silence as both Qingye Ying and Wei Wuyin quietly observed the full set of materials to concoct the Refraction World-Light Elixir. The two weren't performing any other movements, merely inspecting the details of each material.

Wei Wuyin was quite familiar with the Refraction World-Light Elixir, already concocting a few before. Despite this, he wasn't negligent or careless with his methods and observations. He noted that the materials were all top-notch, clearly the best that could be gathered.

With his eyes roaming about, his hand softly rubbing his chin, he began to run simulations within his mind. This was a pre-game method used by alchemists very often, mentally replicating their process beforehand. Each material had its own distinct qualities, qualities that could be better brought out by specific methods.

The Dao of Alchemy was vast, governing the seven traits, and each trait had specific methods and a variety of ways to tackle an obstacle. Most cultivators become well-known for mastering a single alchemical method, such as Yi Yun and Li Che. They both were renowned for their usage of specific methods.

Yi Yun was referred to by the alchemic world as the World Swirling Pill Emperor due to his mastery of the Swirling Transformation Pill Method, a method that was incredibly effective during the Transformation Stage of Pill Concoction. It had its unique properties, having a few products that it could elevate in quality due to it, and some products that could never be used with it.

There were numerous alchemical methods, both specific and general. For example, the Eden Earth Sect specialized in the Eden Creation Method. It was a generalized concoction method useful for all four-types of alchemical concoction during the Creation Stage.

But the Eden Creation Method was extremely useless on certain products, for example: Miasmatic Pellets, Toxic Pills, or Poisonous Elixirs. If used on these specific types of products, the method would certainly produce impure quality products at best, completely fail at worst.

Therefore, when assessing an alchemical recipe, the methods used were largely up to the alchemist. This was a display of utmost skill, trying to find seven specific methods that can conjoin together to create the best possible product. As for the recipe, it mostly included the materials and quantity. Some detailed and legacy recipes might advise for or against specific methods.

The King of Everlore had the most detailed legacy with numerous annotations for the future generation to avoid. The Refraction World-Light Elixir was developed by a subordinate of his, which he further

improved on and perfected with his experience and skill, so it was a well-accepted recipe with few errors.

Despite that, it could always be improved upon with alchemical methods devised later.

Wei Wuyin, for example, was aware of over a hundred different methods for each Stage of the Concoction Process. This was largely due to his mental prowess being exceptionally high, further supported by two minds and the energies of four Astral Souls. With Eden, he had rarely ever felt exhausted during concoction of any graded product.

It was embedded within his sea of consciousness, expanding it with each passing second, and with the support of numerous alchemical products that increased his mental capabilities, his mind was beyond the concept of Eidetic Memory, forever retaining everything he perceived. Of course, to prevent himself from being thoroughly overloaded, Eden regulated his memories thoroughly, ensuring a stable sea of consciousness and Mind's Eye.

But whenever he sought to recall anything, it was an instant recall of the most perfect quality. That being said, memory and skill was still a separate matter. He still needed to comprehend each method and apply them correctly.

The moment of silence that Wei Wuyin and Qingye Ying had was a process every alchemist had to deal with, and that's deciding which methods to use. Even though Qingye Ying had planned to choose this pill for months, studied it and likely concocted it before successfully, she still took the time to analyze each individual material. Despite being the same set of materials, a slight difference in age, quality, or size might allow for another specific method to produce a better result or the exact opposite.

The silence continued for several minutes, when Wei Wuyin made the first move.

Yi Yun was ready to jump at this moment, breaking the silence. "The first one to make a move is Ascendant Emperor Wei! This is shocking to say the least, and I wonder if he'd already determined what he'll use or will he apply a freestyle process!"

Li Che added, "The alchemical process has two main processes that alchemists can take: the Predetermined Process and Freestyle Process. The Predetermined Process involves selecting seven methods from the on-set of the concoction process and following along without any deviation. Usually, its used with seven tried-and-true methods that have the greatest synergistic effect without any conflict with the recipe in question.

"The Freestyle Process is to select an Extraction Method first, see how that goes, then select a suitable Growth Method, then Containment, Refinement, Creation, Transformation, and lastly Fusion Method while adjusting to any changes in a free and unobstructed manner."

Yi Yun nodded, "Both alchemical processes have their own advantages and disadvantages. The majority of alchemists prefer the Predetermined Method, adding stability, less mental strain, generating expected concoction times, ensuring a greater sense of familiarity of connective reactions, and higher success rate. But the highest level alchemist, those who've mastered dozens of methods, would choose the Freestyle Method, especially for lower-graded products beneath their rank as it can ensure high-quality or even peak-quality products."

This commentary allowed many to be enlightened to alchemy like never before.

Qingye Yun stared intently at Qingye Ying. *'Ying'er is a Predetermined Alchemist, so her success rate and refinement speed should be high. But what about Wei Wuyin?'* No one knew about Wei Wuyin really, simply that he was an extremely talented alchemist that subverted all expectations despite his age.

Wei Wuyin, from the beginning, had never been a Predetermined Alchemist. He had always used a freestyle approach, ensuring a faster and higher quality product. It was mainly this style of his that caused him to fail many of his products the first time, but it also allowed him to develop a wealth of experience extremely quickly.

There were four core materials before him, with seventeen secondary materials. The seventeen secondary materials were mostly irrelevant, only adding certain stability, qualities, and inducing reactions from the four core materials. The first core material was a Light-Attributed Astral Stone. This astral stone was different from normal, being far larger than the standard. If one considered its size, it would be roughly the combination of ten astral stones.

This contained the light essence that needed to be extracted, a core component of the recipe. The other three materials were the Refractory Grass, Brilliant Jade Milk, and a World Pearl. The first was a grass with unique qualities that can act as a medium for light, absorbing and reacting to it. It was one of the core most materials, and its qualities were mainly replicated by the Elixir. The Brilliant Jade Milk contained a radiant spiritual quality formed naturally and the World Pearl contained a set of unique mana.

They each had qualities needed to produce the final product.

He chose an Extraction Method.

The Radiant Flame Extraction Method.

It was an exquisite method very compatible with light-based materials, and used fire energies to supplement alchemic qi or alchemic force to ensure a greater degree of extraction. With a thought, he started to interact with Eden. It grew lively, starting to pulsate with power.

Wei Wuyin didn't bother inspecting Qingye Ying, lost since losing himself in the process. He started by using his Elemental Origin Intent, gathering the ambient fire energies, while simultaneously interfacing with his Nine Element Eclipse Cauldron, drawing fire energies from within it. In a split second, the area around him became a miniature firestorm before entering the cauldron in full. With both external and internal support, he placed the materials within the cauldron one by one.

The first was the light-attributed Astral Stone. With it inside, he immediately used his alchemic force, drawing further support from the fire energies, and imbued his power into the stone. The aspect of extraction was taking prominent effect as the stone burst into flames, instantly being incinerated.

He hadn't held back, using his immense alchemic force to press heavily upon the stone. In moments, all that existed within the cauldron was simmering flames with radiance within, glimmering endlessly! The bits within the tiny firestorm were light essence.

With a faint nod, Wei Wuyin calmly retracted the fire energies, leaving nothing but tiny stars that radiated with bright light. They flickered, sometimes visible, sometimes invisible.

Without hesitation, the refractory grass met the same fate. A tiny firestorm formed as it was instantly incinerated. What was soon left were bits of what seemed like a glass-like substance the size of sand. One by one each material met the same blazing fate until the cauldron became filled with a multitude of different substances. These were the purest essences and innate energies of each material in their most stable form.

Wei Wuyin wasn't negligent, keeping his alchemic force instilled into every bit to ensure stability, preventing them from collapsing or going berserk, exploding fiercely.

The next step was growth. The quantities of these materials might be suitable, but their quality might be too inferior to be a match. Despite each material being carefully selected, when stripped from their normal containers, the difference in quality truly showed itself and their levels were oftentimes too low.

Alchemists were often met with this problem. So they were left with the Growth Stage of the Concoction Process. While it might not always be needed, this was not one of those times.

Wei Wuyin carefully used his Celestial Eyes to observe each material, not using his spiritual sense. This was one of the benefits he had over alchemists. There were numerous materials such as the Brilliance Jade Milk that had a spiritual quality, and if they were met with spiritual sense, this quality could collapse or be corrupted, eliminating its purity and dropping the end product's quality.

With his Celestial Eyes, he can observe all the intricate details of essences and energies. Therefore, he could accurately determine the best way without interfering or infusing his spiritual sense within. After a proper gauge, he chose the Growth Method: Heatwave Burst Growth Method.

Each material already had fine traces of fire energies within due to the Radiant Flame Extraction Method, so it felt most suitable. When he considered the amount of growth required, he knew this was correct. So, he used his Elemental Origin Intent, interacting with the remnant fire energies while quietly integrating his alchemic force into the structure of each piece.

Then...

BOOM!

With exact measurement and force, each essence and energies were further supplemented, growing in size and radiance. With a long breath, Wei Wuyin faintly smiled in satisfaction. The main factor of this instantaneous growth was the power of his Alchemic Force. With Eden, an Alchemic Astral Soul, the quality of it was absurdly high, further accentuated by its outstanding cultivation foundation.

Growth was one of Alchemic Force's core abilities. It was the act of nurturing via infusion.

He moved on after eyeing each piece of essence and energy left behind. With satisfaction, he chose his Containment Method.

While he was mindlessly going through a process he felt most comfortable with, the King and Emperor Alchemists were all observing.

Their reddened eyes were bulging.

Their mouths were like gaping caves.

Their bodies trembled ceaselessly.

"...!"

Li Che, as if chiming in on the inner thoughts of everyone, exclaimed with the most shrill-like voice imaginable, "OH MY GOD!"

Chapter 354 - 350: All-Alchemic Clash, So Fast!

A few minutes prior, Li Che and Yi Yun were acting out their commentary, informing the audience of notable methods suitable for extracting certain materials and why, trying to predict which Wei Wuyin and Qingye Ying would use. The crowd was enthralled by their every word.

This helped numerous lesser ranked alchemists comprehend things they hadn't even realized, breaking through certain bottlenecks of the mind and skill. This enlivened the crowd, even if they had no alchemist-background to speak of. Just the information had broadened their horizons, allowing them to understand the difficulty of these products.

It formed newfound respect for alchemists on top of what was already there.

Then, Wei Wuyin moved first.

Yi Yun said, "It seems Ascendant Alchemist Wei will indeed start first. Due to the grade of this product, I'm going to assume he'll try a freestyle approach. Since he has three tries."

"I agree. While freestyle approaches have a tendency to produce lower success rates, they had a higher form of adaptability and quality rates. With three sets of materials, Ascendant Emperor Wei's unfamiliarity with concocting this product might lead him to seeking an understanding of the general process." Li Che was excited. He was renowned for his elixirs, so he was truly interested in the developments of this particular segment.

But they could never guess what would happen next.

Wei Wuyin used the Radiant Flame Extraction Method.

Yi Yun wasn't too disturbed by this, explaining: "Ascendant Emperor Wei is rumored to have comprehended Elemental Origin Intent, having an Elemental Origin Astral Soul. It seems that rumor is true. What you see folks is an expression of Intent, galvanizing the ambient energies of the world by his will. He's using it to bring pure fire energies from the world into his cauldron.

"It seems he's using the Radiant Flame Extraction Method. A suitable choice. It is a very useful means of extraction for light-based materials. With the firestorm generated, he'll be able to carefully extract the essential essences and energies from each material."

Yi Yuh commentary was spot-on, pointing out the exact method while in use. He found this decision for a freestyler to be quite appropriate, praising Wei Wuyin internally. Afterwards, he looked towards Qingye Ying to see if he could find something interesting to say or contrast from the two. Perhaps mention that she's the more sturdy type, likely making mental preparations before beginning.

"The Prin-" But before he could get out two words, Wei Wuyin seemingly threw the materials into the firestorm one by one seemingly without care. The firestorm would react momentarily before simmering down within the cauldron, indicating that the mass of whatever was thrown in had been instantly incinerated.

Li Che's eyes bulged!

"Reckless!" He shouted without being able to control himself. Fire-type extraction methods required a greater degree of delicateness and control due to its inherent violent and burning nature, but Wei Wuyin was simply throwing materials in one by one causing them to be instantly incinerated! There wasn't a single sign of him stopping!!

If this was his disciple, he would've saved the material had flogged that disciple with burning rage. The utter disrespect! The sheer recklessness! The waste!

He was always an emotive individual. He was almost in tears.

But this was Wei Wuyin, and he couldn't even interfere!

In the matter of thirty seconds, an entire full-set of materials were thrown in and burned into ashes. It wasn't just Li Che who reacted in such a way, many alchemists internally groaned as they witnessed what they've experienced using fire-attributed methods all too many times. The burp of the flames were like a mocking sneer, telling them thanks for the meal.

Yi Yun, "...I-I, maybe Ascendant Emperor Wei is..." Before he could speak, the screen above that magnified each contestant had changed. A controller of this formation intended to get a close look at the ash left behind by the material, thinking it'll be somewhat hilarious to see, but he revealed something else entirely as the firestorm abated.

The resplendent glow of extracted essences and energies! There were twenty-one different types, each belonging to the different core and secondary materials used. They were completely fine and thoroughly extracted without a hint of flaw.

"I..." Li Che was unimaginably sent into bewilderment. He felt as if he was dreaming the most fantastical dream. What type of development was this?! The Extraction Stage usually required days, sometimes weeks, or even months! Regardless of the method, the most delicate and careful touch had to be used to extract the most while losing the least. But these essences and energies of the purest form had been extracted in thirty seconds?

Thirty Seconds?!

THIRTY FUCKING SECONDS?!?!

He felt as if his understanding of the world was about to collapse. His vision darkened, his breathing became short and harsh, and he felt light-headed. This simply wasn't possible.

The Radiant Flame Extraction Method was a very slow process to begin with!

Yi Yun was more stable, inspecting the essences and energies left behind to find a flaw. But he couldn't. Furthermore, the amount of essence and energies left behind was over forty times the amount he'd ever extracted from materials.

Ever!

His fingers trembled as he gripped his headrest in agitation.

The non-chemists didn't react as much, not understanding the process.

But if they did, they would note that the amount left behind was enough to concoct over forty vials of Refraction World-Light Elixir! The full-set of materials given was merely the expected amount needed for a single product, but that didn't mean it was only capable of producing a single product.

For example, the Thirty-Three Earthly Concoction Method delved into the concept of extracting enough for thirty-three quantities of essence and energies and simultaneously concocting them. Usually, this would require multiple sets of materials and a long drawn out process.

But Wei Wuyin practiced it almost religiously, producing thirty-three sets of products successfully most of the time. Except for first time tries, he would use this concoction method to its fullest. It was one of the main reasons why he had ten meters of Utmost Purity Mist.

"The essences and energies are clearly within the cauldron. It seems the method was a success. Why is that, Alchemic Emperor Yi? Lin Ruyan noticed the silence and quietly added her own commentary, trying to seek an explanation.

But Yi Yun felt his heart start to race. He was too focused, too expectant to speak. Just as he thought, Wei Wuyin didn't waste any time and started the next stage. He saw the fire energies move once more as Wei Wuyin calmly infused his Alchemic Force within.

"...Heatwave Burst Growth Method?" Li Che couldn't help but exclaim, seeing the pulsating distortions of heat from each individual essence and energy present. The ambient fire energies seemed to be burning, feeding the essences and energies in the most exquisite fashion.

BOOM!

Before anyone could react, numerous explosions erupted at the same time and the screen noted the dispersal of heat and flames, revealing essences and energies of unique qualities to be thicker, more radiant than before.

This left every alchemist at the King level and above in abject horror. A shock that couldn't be described stabbed at their minds ruthlessly as their worldly beliefs had been twisted and eviscerated. They were rendered utterly speechless.

But Wei Wuyin hadn't stopped.

He moved on.

The Containment Stage was swiftly performed, with each being drawn together in a perfect ratio. The excess was removed, isolated, and the balance was thoroughly maintained as they slowly intermixed into the cauldron as a single whole. The essences and energies soon became indistinguishable, merely a mesh of glistening light.

Before they could even comment on the method, Wei Wuyin proceeded to start the Refinement Stage with a series of handseals. They were well-timed, like a conductor handling his musicians into a perfect symphony.

The essences that had yet to become energies were being melded together with pre-existing energies, slowly making their transition. In a flash, the essences had been thoroughly refined into energies, becoming a single mass of reflective substance.

"...H-how is he so FAST?!" Qingye Yun seemingly lost his mind, leaping from his seat and almost screaming. The calm bearing he once had, the absolute confidence, had instantly been destroyed. Wei Wuyin had jumped from method to method in a freestyle fashion with seemingly utter ease!

If one calculated the time, only four minutes had passed!

FOUR MINUTES!

Wei Wuyin had already finished with the Refinement Stage, notoriously known as one of the most difficult stages of the Seven Traits!

"OH MY GOD!" Li Che cried out, "He's starting the Creation Stage!" Losing his bearing as a commentator, he focused his entire attention on the screen projecting Wei Wuyin's cauldron. It was as if he was looking at the most unbelievable thing in the world. His eyes were wide, bloodshot, and seemingly deranged.

Yi Yun could no longer offer anything to say, his mind thoroughly snatched by Wei Wuyin's concoction process.

The Creation Stage was where a product was determined to be a Pill, Pellet, Paste, or Elixir. It was to 'create' a foundation for which the energies can exist as. For example, Pellets added spirituality and additional containment. This gave them their talisman-like solid nature, structuring a temporary body to contain and control the various energies.

As for elixirs, the energies undergo a liquefying refinement period, turning energy into liquid. Elixirs also received several other mana-based refinements to enable consumption by cultivators. This allowed the Natal Soul, Astral Soul, and Body to easily refine the materials given into their own power, even replicating its qualities.

When Wei Wuyin started to 'create' its foundation, he drew in ambient mana and the mana from the World Pearl, further modifying its state from the norm. This type of mana-infusion can only be done by Sky Rulers, and it can decrease refinement time and even uplift quality. For several dozen seconds, the mana of the world was pulled over to Wei Wuyin for usage like a raging flood.

It all entered into his cauldron like it was a heaven-devouring beast. When he was done, he started to formulate more handseals and the energies started to shift and twist until its state became gaseous, and then with a clench of his fist, they became liquid.

In the most practiced manner, Wei Wuyin had completed the process. With a bigger smile than before, he was even more satisfied.

After this process, he was much more relaxed. The Transformation and Fusion Stages could be handled simultaneously and bulldozed over, using the strength of his alchemical force. This step was usually handled by alchemists with the utmost caution and diligence, ensuring no mistakes after several hard-fought successes, but Wei Wuyin didn't have such issues. Since he started cultivating, the Transformation and Fusion Stages were always the easiest for him.

In fact, the most difficult stage was Growth until he cultivated his Celestial Eyes, then it became relatively easy all-round. Well, as long as the materials weren't too volatile and violent. He'd suffered a few explosions before.

With a few handseals, directing the liquid energy, he started to infuse his alchemic force once more. This time, as liquid energy, he slowly modified the connective bonds and subatomic structure, transforming its state into a complete and newly developed substance. With a clasp of his hands, all this fused into a perfect whole.

It was like merging numerous fluids into one, creating a new liquid with a different taste and function.

The last step of the Alchemic Dao was referred to as the Alchemical Step, which were referring to four steps: Solidification Step(Pellets), Liquidize Step(Elixirs), Cycling Step(Pills), and Compression Step(Paste).

They each had their own processes, but it finalizes the process thoroughly. Wei Wuyin started to perform the Liquidize Step, and while the liquid energy had long since fused, it was still liquid energies transformed and fused into one. The final step made it an Elixir, a legitimate liquid substance.

It was both extremely complicated and extremely simple! This contradiction would always be argued by high level alchemists, but they could and would never decide. For some, it was simple, for others, it was difficult.

Many believed it linked to one's alchemic talent, but it was merely a suspected theory.

As for Wei Wuyin, he performed it with a soft pat with both hands onto the fused liquid energy. The liquid energy seemingly relaxed, and flushed into the cauldron like water. The radiant shimmer of light it released was beautiful, but it had become a liquid in the truest of sense.

Wei Wuyin inspected it, realizing thirty-three vials worth of elixir were created. He felt elated as the remnant alchemical energies seemingly was drawn into the Utmost Purity Mist. But when he saw the quality of the elixir, his eyes widened slightly.

Chapter 355 - 351: All-Alchemic Clash, Peak Quality

Wei Wuyin discovered the end result of the Refraction World-Light Elixir was somewhat different than what he had expected. Peering into the liquid, he saw a semi-perfect reflection of himself as if staring at a liquid mirror. The only faint difference was the glimmer of white brilliance that emanated from its surface, changing the contrast of his image.

"This is a peak-quality elixir..." He was indeed surprised by the quality of the product. When one used the Thirty-Three Earthly Concoction Method, the end result typically was of a lesser grade, ending at the low-quality level.

When a product was impure-quality, it contained unhealthy impurities and its primary effect reduced considerably. But when a product reaches the low-quality, as known as the lowest state of perfection, it has absolutely no impurities, no drawbacks, and achieves 100% of its intended effect. This was known as the Alchemic Standard.

But if a product exceeds the low-quality level, entering the high-quality level, then it evolves into a greater substance, typically unlocking an additional effect. The Refraction World-Light Elixir's secondary effect was refinement of one's meridians, physical essence, and innate compatibility with or towards light energies.

As for peak-quality products, the secondary effect is at a 100% effectiveness, while some unique products produce a tertiary effect that typically entered the most heaven-defying limits. Those at this quality often exceeded similar primary effects of products that were of a higher grade.

This wasn't the first time he'd concocted a peak-quality product, but it was the first time he'd succeeded one a product that possessed a heaven-defying tertiary effect.

"The Refraction World-Light Elixir contains an innate light-based quality that can convert light energies to a higher level—the highest level." His words were quietly murmured as he realized this development exceeded his prediction.

To explain in detail, much like the Soul Idol Phase, Spatial Resonance Phase, the Light Reflection Phase had nine stages as well. From lowest to highest, they were: Black, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet, and White. They signified the spectrum of light, with white signifying the containment of all colors.

But that was merely the limit of the known cultivation world, decreed by the Heavenly Daos. But cultivation, from the on-set, had no limits. This contradiction allowed unique occurrences to happen in the world. For example, possessing one Heart of Qi. These contradictions can be a byproduct of strenuous effort, unique mutations(such as Lin Ziyang's Bloodline), or fortuitous encounters.

The Alchemic Dao broke these limits. The Refraction World-Light Elixir's peak-quality effect allows one's light energies to ascend beyond normality, becoming: True.

True Light.

When Wei Wuyin first heard it, he thought it sounded far too philosophical. To his surprise, it meant light in its origin form, permeating throughout all levels of existence on a wavelength imperceivable by standards. There wasn't much information known about True Light besides that. There were rumors it was inherently invisible to all senses or that it absorbed all other wavelengths of light. There were even those that state that light, all light, required a source and True Light originated from the Heavenly Daos themselves, the origin source of light, allowing it to exist at a higher level that can transcend space, time, matter, and energy.

It was a wild and unverifiable theory as of now.

But the Refraction World-Light Elixir's primary effect was to modify the body's innate characteristics, allowing it to act as a medium to channel and refine light energies into themselves. The peak-quality

elixir's reported effect was to transform into the highest level of medium, capable of channeling True Light and refining it, evolving their light energies to an exquisitely mystical level.

Wei Wuyin was thrown into the depths of his mind as he thought of the impact this elixir could have. Furthermore, there were thirty-three available vials. There was a faint thought to destroy it, refine it at a later date, but he wasn't sure if he could ever achieve it again.

After all, peak-quality products with heaven-defying tertiary effects were more a product of luck rather than skill.

He could feel the presence of observation, clearly his movements were being witnessed by the formation, broadcasted to the starfield. The issue was if there were others who could immediately identify the result of this elixir.

"Haaa..." After a long white of contemplation, he shook his head. He hadn't intended to hide his level of skill or success from the moment he accepted this challenge, so why bother? His purpose was to propagate his reputation that had already reached mystical levels into a reality everyone had to accept. That being said, he didn't intend to use all the elixir as a display. This elixir will be very useful for the Ascendants.

With careful movements, he brought out thirty-three empty vials and drew the contents into each one. When he completed this, he kept thirty-two in his storage ring and left one for display. When he glanced at the mirror-like liquid that reflected light, he couldn't help but turn to observe Qingye Ying.

She was still focused on deciding the right approach.

She hadn't even started the Extraction Stage yet...

But he didn't feel too shocked by this nor did he disturb her. When he first started his path of alchemy, he had often spent hours trying to figure out the right approach. If it wasn't for his abundant experience with Freestyle Alchemy and previous experience of concocting this product, he might've taken an hour or two to concoct it as well. So this wasn't indicative of any lack of skill, merely a show of focus and will.

He deduced that Qingye Ying was likely a Predetermined Alchemist. She should be undergoing the mental simulation process, trying to visually perceive and predict the best approach with her already decided upon method. This was a common approach that he had also deployed before, using it on products he had zero experience with.

He had used this simulation process on the Bloodforge Continent. Of course, he spent far less time on it due to the level of recipe. As for Freestyle Alchemy, it was more a perform and adapt tactic in real-time.

And he was right. Qingye Ying was indeed undergoing mental simulations to determine the best approach, anticipate any predictably foreseeable errors, and prepare herself mentally for the unexpected. It showed her praise-worthy level of focus and exceptional diligence in her performing alchemy.

While he respected her process, he didn't want to just stand. So he slowly sat down with folded legs and quietly appreciated the gorgeous view of her face with his Celestial Eyes. As for the crowd, a large portion of them were sent into a stupor of absolute silence, extreme shock, and uncertainty.

This was especially so for these top alchemists of the starfield, their hearts quivering ceaselessly as they hadn't spoken or even formulated any clear thoughts since Wei Wuyin had begun the Transformation and Fusion Stages. But fortunately, Yi Yun broke the silence as it shook the hearts of everyone.

"What...what did we just witness?" Yi Yun's words were as if his heart was erupting from his throat. He heavily gulped a wad of saliva, looking at Wei Wuyin's calm figure, unearthly handsome expression, and extremely stable aura. It was as if the event hadn't shook him the slightest, as if expected.

"Uhga..." Li Che made the strangest sound with his throat as he bowed forward. The embarrassing sound escaped his notice as he forced out hoarse words with his greatest strength, "He! He! Is it over?!" He turned to Yi Yun and asked woodenly, unable to find the strength to say the words he wanted to say in the end. His greatest strength was still lacking.

Yi Yun gulped loudly once more. He didn't know what to say. He was thoroughly speechless! While they were sent into shock, their reactions influenced the crowd to also be shocked, but many weren't exactly aware of what was happening. Not everyone witnessed All-Alchemic Clashes too often, understood how it typically went, or were thoroughly aware of the standards of alchemy.

Some hadn't even known about the Seven Traits of Alchemy nor how it corresponded with the Seven Stages of Concoction. They were newbies, here for the result not the process. They wanted to witness history! They wanted to observe who would grasp the new era!

Will it be the rising Myriad Monarch Sect and their Ascendant Emperor of Neo-Dawn or will it be the Alchemist Association and their King of Everlore's Successor! The victor of this contest will likely prove to the world their superiority and claim the figurehead position of the Alchemic World!

Lin Ruyan was an extremely intelligent, knowledgeable, and astute individual, but even she wasn't exactly certain what was happening. As the Elemental Heaven Pavilion's Pavilion Master, she was familiar with the processes of Alchemy, but what she observed of Wei Wuyin felt like a rushed failure to her.

The speed at which he completed the stages was like a reckless child bulldozing their way through with a mighty hammer. She was familiar with the typical concept that most sixth-grade products took months on average to concoct, with seventh-grade products taking years, and eighth-grade products could take a decade. She understood that the greater the grade, the increased difficulty in handling greater essence, the harsher the conditions there were, and the higher focus it required to have any form of success.

The consequences of failure could mean losing an enormous time of one's life in vain. It promoted a culture of stability and safety, producing these extremely long concoction times.

So when she saw Wei Wuyin act in a seemingly careless manner, performing things within seconds of each other, minutes at most, and completing the entire process in under five minutes, her mind had automatically concluded it as a failure.

This wasn't merely her, but almost every expert, besides the elite alchemists of the world, had that similar idea and belief in their minds. Some even scorned Wei Wuyin for his youthful recklessness, some praised Qingye Ying for her patience, and some were waiting for an explanation from the commentary team so they can appropriately react.

"Is there something we're missing, Emperor Yi, Emperor Li?" Lin Ruyan asked. Her words prompted the crowd's focus to shift to these two Alchemic Emperors of great renown.

Gao Zi softly snorted with displeasure at their silence. He wasn't familiar in the slightest with alchemy besides the end result. As a demon, there weren't many products suitable for demonic physiology and their cultivation paths. While there were some variations of pre-existing products, most would be corroded and rendered ineffective due to their demonic energies within their bodies. Of course, this didn't include any of the products invented by the King of Everlore.

They were universally accepted, which shook the continent at the time, and allowed the Demonic Abyss Mountain's Abyss Master to exist on the same level as the Divine King Han Xei, Sacred Elven Queen, and Grand Monarch Wu Yu. The majority of products, however, weren't produced by the King of Everlore. So they had an increasingly lesser amount of products to choose in comparison to the rest of the races, especially humans.

Beasts and Beastmen had an even greater problem with this.

Even during the King of Everlore Era, there wasn't a single beastman or beastwoman on the same level as any of the top figures.

In the end, Yi Yun took several breaths before regaining some semblance of his calm and former demeanor. He slowly explained in a slightly strained voice, "What you all have witnessed from Ascendant Emperor Wei...just now...was the complete Seven Stages of Concoction...to success!"

Li Che was triggered, his impulse to interfere with Yi Yun's words seemingly overtook his brain and mouth. He added, "In this extremely short period of time! Not only did Ascendant Emperor Wei concoct the Refraction World-Light Elixir, a high-tier eighth-grade Elixir, but it has reached at least the lowest state of perfection, lacking any and all impurities!!"

Everyone, "..."

Qingye Yun, "What we just witnessed, gulp, was the fastest successful concoction that's ever been seen in history."

Everyone, "..."

...WHAT?!

Having learned the truth, the crowd's voice, in the colosseum, on the planet, in every place where the event was broadcasted within the starfield, EXPLODED!

Chapter 356 - 352: All-Alchemic Clash, Qingye Ying's Performance

Having learned the truth, the crowd's voice, in the colosseum, on the planet, in every place where the event was broadcasted within the starfield, EXPLODED!

"WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!" Gao Zi's heavy and deep voice resounded. His horns trembled and his large eyes bulged irregularly. He wasn't too familiar with the process of alchemy, except the results, but Yi Yun, Li Che, and Qingye Yun had just announced the results!

A success?

Fastest in history?

HOW?!

They had just watched Wei Wuyin start and complete the entire process in less time than it took to brew tea! This shouldn't be enough to walk one's dog let alone concoct a high-tier eighth-grade elixir to perfection! This didn't conform with their beliefs and understanding of the world!!

It wasn't just him. The entire colosseum went into an uproar, their mouths slinging questions and demands for clarification. There were even curses of being deceived, someone had even questioned their qualifications for some reason. But what was there to clarify?

Li Che's eyebrows twitched ceaselessly. The shattering of their realities had little to do with them! They only spoke facts. Could they change the truth before them?! A wisp of anger emerged in his aged gaze.

"SILENCE!" A fierce, explosive shout silenced the raging crowd. An oppressively chilly spiritual pressure erupted, engulfing the entire crowd as they choked on their words! The crowd of nearly a billion was immediately silenced!

They turned towards the origin of the voice, finding an extremely wintry looking elf. Her gorgeous countenance was covered in fierce coldness, and her silky black hair swayed without a hint of wind. Even the tips of her hair had an icy sheen of frost on them.

The silent leader of the Sacred Light Palace had finally spoken. Simply her cold aura revealed an extremely dominating presence which brokored no arguments. She was like an Ice Empress from another world.

She swiftly swept her gaze across the entire colosseum from up high, making everyone feel an extremely pervasive chill crawl through their spines and bones. They were fearful that she might direct those eyes at them for a moment longer.

After this, she sat back down and remained quiet. When everyone was expecting her to say a few words, she simply didn't. This made the crowd feel somewhat stifled. Were they supposed to accept this ridiculous explanation? How could they?

While they revered Wei Wuyin, while they respected him, while they had the highest of hopes, they were supposed to believe that he just completed the product with the fastest speed in history?! Didn't that mean the King of Everlore was slower?! Wei Wuyin was less than fifty. It was just too unbelievable.

Despite witnessing it themselves, they, for some ungodly reason, simply couldn't accept it. This phenomenon was quite strange, almost too strange.

In the end, even Yi Yun, someone who witnessed the process from beginning to end, understood the details of how and why, couldn't fully believe it. He was questioning his reality right now, thinking that maybe he was dreaming this all up in a fantastical fantasy. Could that be it?

Pinch!

Crack!

He pinched his arm so hard that it fractured, the pain causing him to stifle a groan but he didn't wake up. He could see Qingye Ying and Wei Wuyin on the platform, seemingly unaware of everything else around them.

He went back into commentary mode, "Since Ascendant Emperor Wei had completed this feat with utmost speed, then Princess Ying will certainly display her fullest abilities." This was a competition, and these words had awakened the crowd a little.

That was right!

This was a clash!

If Wei Wuyin could break history, their very realities, then Qingye Ying will definitely do even more! Thinking of what she might do, her now elevated abilities in their imagination, Wei Wuyin's feat was easier to swallow somehow.

Li Che added, "This is a new era, and these are the era-defining figures of our world." He sighed, but a seemingly heavy weight left his chest as he uttered those words. Instead, anticipation and excitement at the prospect of what this meant started to reinvigorate him.

It wasn't just him either, but everyone's hearts started to pound with anticipation. They were even rooting for Qingye Ying, this Princess of Everlore, to give them a greater shock! This considerably lessened their own emotions, only drumming up more excitement and cheers.

There were even members of the crowd who were cheering Qingye Ying on!

"Princess Ying! Princess Ying! Princess Ying!"

"YOU CAN DO THIS! SHOW THIS POSER WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A SUCCESSOR OF THE KING OF EVERLORE! Wait, WAIT!!!" That figure was soon lost in the crowd, likely never to be seen or heard from again.

While they frantically rooted for Qingye Ying, there was no way anyone would accept an insult towards Wei Wuyin. He was still their idol and his feat had changed their realities. With the rising excitement, it started to reinforce his status in their hearts.

Then...

Ten minutes passed.

Qingye Ying remained still in thought.

This only heightened their anticipation as the commentary started to explain Wei Wuyin's process, and what various methods Qingye Ying might deploy.

An hour passed.

The crowd was still hyped, being informed about the Predetermined Alchemist process known as Mental Simulation. This only raised the expectations in the crowd and spectators' hearts. After all, Wei Wuyin just jumped right into it. If he could succeed with barely any preparation, then Qingye Ying, the one who chose the recipe, should perform incredible wonders!

Three hours!

Finally, Qingye Ying broke out of her thoughts. She briefly glanced at Wei Wuyin, seeing him staring at her with a faint smile. He waved casually, causing her expression to change and her heart to thump irregularly for a moment. She steeled her heart, ignored him, and started her extraction method.

Slowly, she started to extract each essence and unique energy of the materials one by one.

Seeing her start, the crowd cheered like maniacs. They raged and roared with exhilarating positive reinforcement and discussions!

Ten hours.

She was now extracting the seventh sub material with her method.

"..."

Three days.

She finally started to extract the essence, unique energies, and mana from the main materials. A faint smile was hidden behind her veil.

"She's just being careful!" Yi Yun speculated. He proceeded to explain that not every method was as violent and widely polarizing like flame-type extraction methods. After all, they could incinerate everything, including the essences, unique energies, and mana.

Nine days.

She finally extracted the unique qualities from every material! With all this finished, the screen zoomed into her cauldron.

Li Che's eyelids twitched, "That's enough for eight attempts!" When he thought of Wei Wuyin's over forty sets of extracted essences, he couldn't help but feel shocked. But what happened next shook the crowd!

Qingye Ying threw away seven of the sets, choosing only the best of the bunch and started to concoct. She was working on only a single product! As for the disposed of sets of extracted essences, they vanished into the world and dispersed naturally. She wasn't even bothering with them.

This was a standard and normal process for an alchemist, but after observing Wei Wuyin, this felt extremely harsh and foolish.

Yi Yun tried to explain, remaining impartial, "The Growth Stage requires one to bring the various extracted essence, unique energies, and mana into an acceptable concoction range for the grade of the recipe. By discarding the weaker portions, choosing merely the best, she can decrease the potential

error of overshooting the Growth Stage while simultaneously reducing concoction...time." The last bit came out rough.

While it was the truth, it felt insulting to say for some reason.

Then, Qingye Ying began the Growth Stage.

Twenty days.

She had carefully brought the materials with her alchemic force into an acceptable range. Her brow was wet with sweat, but she was fully focused. With her Alchemic Force, she had it much easier than other alchemists, capable of accomplishing this task with relative ease. A smile of excitement emerged on her lips!

She started to work on the other stages.

The crowd just watched. The loud cheers went silent.

Thirty days.

Sixty days.

Seventy-three days!

She was finally brought to the Fusion Stage. She was performing exquisite sets of intense handseals, focusing her alchemic force with extreme precision. The liquid energies were being merged into one, slowly but certainly. At times, she would release faint bursts of power, releasing soft and cute grunts like a tennis player.

Throughout the entire starfield, for those moments, everyone just watched on in silence.

When she succeeded, displaying the greatness of alchemic force, she was left with the last step: Liquidize Step. She would transform the liquid energies into an elixir. This step was absolutely crucial, so she devoted her entire focus to it. She even used the inherent formations on her cauldron to support her.

It took three full days! But then a swish of liquid surrounded as it splashed inside her cauldron. This sound to her was the most beautiful sound. The sound of success! She did a faint pump of her fist, trying to keep it discreet from viewers.

When she withdrew a vial and slowly sucked in the liquid, she observed the radiant liquid that flashed with various colors of light reminiscent of a rainbow. It was beautiful. It lacked any form of impurities, her alchemic force displaying its powerful effects!

When she held it as if it was the most precious object, she turned to see Wei Wuyin.

Her eyes widened in disbelief!

Wei Wuyin was laying down on what seemed like a bed! Where did he even get the bed? And he was sleeping! While the others couldn't hear, she could faintly hear the sounds of snoring! The audacity!

She pouted her lips. "Wake up!" She blasted a spiritual transmission to Wei Wuyin in the most direct manner, causing Wei Wuyin to jump slightly. His eyes were drowsy as he looked around, noticing Qingye Ying hold a vial of rainbow liquid triumphantly within her hand.

He smacked his lips slightly, "Oh. You're done."

Chapter 357 - 353: All-Alchemic Clash, Judges

He lazily stretched his limbs about, feeling the extremely pleasurable relief shimmer through and down his body. Lifting from the king-sized bed, he determined the amount of time that had eclipsed so far, feeling a slight amazement at seventy-six days since his concoction had completed. This answered a question of his: Was the Alchemic Astral Soul the reason his concoction times were extremely small?

Now he knew the truth.

No.

At least, it wasn't the sole reason.

Fortunately, during this long period of time, he hadn't just been idling around without doing much. Instead, he was delving into his own cultivation, focusing on the insights he'd gleaned from watching Zuhei and Lin Ming's fight all those months ago. With all this available time, he could fully focus only on this.

After all, an All-Alchemic Clash was notorious for being extremely long. The typical runtime standard for one of these things was classified by years, not months. Now witnessing Qingye Ying's patience and slow-speed, he knew this was going to go the distance.

In regards to his advancements in cultivation, after that brief moment of inspiration followed by insightful rumination, he had discovered the essential missing piece to form a Soul Idol. This excited him to no end.

Unfortunately, he couldn't ascend to the next phase yet due to Qingye Ying's ongoing concoction and the audience of trillions likely watching his every move lest he foolishly reveals his true cultivation state. While he had decided to lay bare most of his Alchemist abilities for comparison's sake, his cultivation state was still his greatest secret.

So he could only silently study his various arts and spells, improving his understanding of their various applications.

Subsequently, he had made leaps and bounds in his understanding of force control, which includes both astral and spiritual. He finally realized that he'd been too busy to cultivate his combat strength, merely relying on his extremely oppressive cultivation foundation. This break of seventy-six days was quite beneficial. He could even get a good rest. He was quite satisfied.

While this was his thought, Qingye Ying was extremely frustrated at the sight of Wei Wuyin's seemingly lazy appearance. She didn't know why, but she felt insulted and infuriated. This feeling pierced further into her heart when she heard his words: "Oh. You're done."

It was as if he was waiting for her! FOR HER?!

She couldn't help but shout out a powerful spiritual transmission to him. But after that, she realized that her mental state had become chaotic and disorientated. She was exhausted. The natural energies within her, both mental and spiritual, were being thoroughly drained as she applied her greatest degree of focus to this task.

Underneath her veil, she bit her lips softly as her cheeks became a ruddy red. Her breathing was a little heavy, causing her ample chest to heave up and down in an alluringly rhythmic manner.

Wei Wuyin was currently shaking his limbs lightly when his Celestial Eyes caught a glimpse of her current blushing appearance. *'This girl truly is gorgeous.'* Not only was her face exquisite but her body was generously well-endowed. This coupled with her Alchemic Astral Soul, she was truly a perfect woman for any male cultivator.

As he thought about this, he couldn't help but think about the Everlore Ascension Pill. According to the records, this was the only known pill that could enable an Alchemic Soul to naturally overcome the Mortal Star Astral Tribulation, allowing for further growth. But when his thoughts brought him to this point, a question he hadn't considered emerged in his mind:

'I've concocted Everlore Ascension Pills before, they aren't that difficult, and I can't imagine the King of Everlore never concocted one after his ascension, so why aren't there more Alchemic Astral Souls in history?' This thought was like a snapping whip, causing Wei Wuyin to realize there was an inconsistency in this.

In actuality, Wei Wuyin didn't use an Everlore Ascension Pill to ascend. So did the King of Everlore actually do so as the legends say or...?

While the King of Everlore could've simply been a stingy fellow, he didn't come off as such in history. There had to be a reason.

He pondered for a moment, unable to determine anything. Just as he took further note to inquire deeper into the subject, Yi Yun's voice echoed throughout the stadium. It was the first voice that he'd heard besides Qingye Ying in seventy-six days. A faint arc formed on his lips.

"All-Alchemic Clash, Elixir Segment: Have all participants finished their concoction?" Yi Yun was quite official, sounding a little robotic even. But the faint emotion in his voice betrayed his curiosity and shock.

Qingye Ying hadn't even gotten the chance to rest to stabilize her various energies and forces before Yi Yun's voice sounded out. This caused her to be somewhat startled, turning towards Wei Wuyin with her golden irises effusing rays of disbelief. *'He finished? Before me?!'* A faint wisp of unease emerged in her heart, unable to accept that the Alchemic Astral Soul was slower than others.

Due to her wholehearted focus, she had removed all other distractions, not even noticing that Wei Wuyin had completed his concoction long ago. This only served to highlight her utmost serious attitude in regards to the competition.

"I have," Wei Wuyin responded, standing upright and regaining the demeanor of a Heavenly King. Just his voice that had echoed out of the formation had caused the crowd to erupt in cheers, chanting his name and throwing out flattering praises. While some were still skeptical, based on what they heard

over two months ago, Wei Wuyin should've completed his refinement in the quickest time in recorded history.

"I have," Qingye Ying responded as well.

Therefore, they couldn't hold back in joining in with the explosive cheers. Shockingly, there were considerably less cheers for Qingye Ying.

Most of those present weren't too familiar with the standards of All-Alchemic Clashes. While the vast majority present had long since known that this was a clash that could take years even, they weren't too familiar with that patient concept. When Wei Wuyin finished his concoction in five minutes, they assumed Qingye Ying would take seven at most.

This belief, while fundamentally a wrong assumption, had brought about a deep dissatisfaction as they felt like they had to wait in line for a slow order. It was extremely frustrating to the average individual.

It was like watching a race between a tortoise and a hare, with the hare having completed the one meter run in a second while the turtle took two hours. They nearly turned hostile for a moment, their thoughts fuming at the mere thought that they had to be 'waiting' for her. While extremely unreasonable, it was the stark comparison that brought about these emotions.

It subsequently ended many of their willingness to cheer for the Princess of Everlore, with some even feeling like she wasn't even worth comparing any longer. That this entire competition had already been determined quite clearly in the first hour. It left them bitter.

Fortunately, Yi Yun diffused the crowd and said that quality mattered and taking a longer time would likely produce a better quality of product. Only this, reinforced by Li Che, had restrained their thoughts and emotions. If Qingye Ying revealed a high-quality product and Wei Wuyin produced merely a low-quality product, then it would support their words and alter their thoughts instantly.

The phrase 'haste makes waste' would then fill their minds and reinvigorate their opinions of Qingye Ying.

There was an air of anticipation due to this.

Wei Wuyin was unaware of these mental gymnastics of the crowd, but his Celestial Eyes could 'see' the trend of the world, how it shifts about, and this was heavily influenced by the Mortal Dao, by the people. He could already perceive that an ill-shadow was slowly encroaching on Qingye Ying's figure, threatening to strangle her, while radiance was extremely prominent around him.

He wasn't slow, realizing the situation in an instant. But there was little he could do about this development. With a helpless smile, he waved his hand to bring out the vial of Refraction World-Light Elixir.

When he did, Qingye Ying looked over subconsciously. She saw a mirror-like liquid within the vial. This confused her. Wasn't the Refraction World-Light Elixir multi-colored? For example, hers was filled with colorful lights reminiscent of a rainbow. She had never heard of a Refraction World-Light Elixir that was like a liquid mirror, reflecting the image of everything present. Not even peak-quality elixirs.

Her unease started to swell, from a wisp to a cloud in her heart.

Before she could further consider the oddity of this matter, the sight of the five judges' seats came into view. They revealed the prestigious figures of the three leaders of hegemonic forces and two Alchemic Emperors. At the lead, Yi Yun was smiling.

When Wei Wuyin saw that smile, he couldn't help but inwardly chuckle. It was ingratiating, a smile he was quite familiar with. He turned to see Gao Zi's hulking demonic figure as he sported his two horns, exuding an extremely oppressive aura. Jiang Feilan's icy gaze was staring at him, and he frowned.

Within that icy gaze was something he was also familiar with. Still, he thought about the Bloodforge Continent and her daughter who had devastated the lives of countless bystanders for the sake of jealousy, and his opinion of her mother sank. As for Lin Ruyan, she similarly looked at Wei Wuyin with a familiar glint, but it was curiosity and uncertainty.

He smiled.

Yi Yun said, "We'll judge each product to determine its quality. If the quality is equal, we'll move to the number of attempts made. If this too is equal, we'll move to the time it took to complete the two products. This will determine the winner of this segment. Do you two understand?"

Wei Wuyin and Qingye Yun nodded, both thoroughly understanding these rules of victory. His words were merely for the audience, to refresh their memories.

Yi Yun nodded, "Then, since the challenger chose this segment, they'll go first in presenting."

Step.

Qingye Ying took a solid step forward, facing these peak figures without hesitation. With a lift of her hands, she revealed the vial in her palm. It lifted into mid-air, floating upwards until it was directly before the five judges. They all gathered around it, not coming into direct contact. Instead, their spiritual sense carefully interacted with the vial.

Li Che's eyes brightened. There was a light of excitement flickering within, while the three hegemonic leaders' eyes flashed with greed and desire. This was especially so for Gao Zi. He wasn't one to hide his desires.

Yi Yun conferred with them spiritually. Numerous messages were transmitted as they deliberated, coming to a conclusion on the product's quality and validity. After a while, Yi Yun excitedly turned towards Qingye Ying and announced, "Princess Ying has successfully concocted the High-Tier, Eighth-Grade Refraction World-Light Elixir! It has been judged, after careful inspection by the five of us, to be of the high-quality!"

While not everyone understood the exact significance of it, the experts did, and their reaction was colorful to say the least.

Jiang Feilan had reached a point of cultivation phase invincibility thanks to the low-quality elixir, and the high-quality elixir had a special effect of refining the body to achieve a much better effect. This thrilled them, with many even thinking of ways to acquire this elixir. In some ways, this elixir was worth planets. This was especially so in today's cultivation climate.

Wei Wuyin couldn't help but be slightly awed. While the speed of his concoction wasn't linked to the Alchemic Astral Soul, it still held similar advantages when it came to quality and success rate. It seemed he couldn't underestimate it. After all, this was the quality of elixir he expected to concoct himself.

Yi Yun turned to Wei Wuyin, "Are you ready?"

Chapter 358 - 354: All-Alchemic Clash, Transcendent?

Wei Wuyin didn't hesitate either, lifting his vial and sending it to them. He didn't try to swap it out for an older or lesser quality elixir to hide anything. This was nearly impossible to accomplish without prior preparation. Therefore, without any qualms, he sent forward the peak-quality elixir.

When it floated to Yi Yun and the others, they inspected it just like before, but after some discussions, Li Che and Yi Yun had awkward expressions. This only became more awkward as the other three continued to exchange their thoughts on the matter.

In the end, Yi Yun produced a bitter smile, which gave the watching crowd a strange feeling. Was something wrong? Did Wei Wuyin generate an impure-quality product? These thoughts swirled endlessly as doubts started to emerge. Due to Qingye Ying's display of patience and carefulness, there were expectations in their hearts.

To some, Qingye Ying having a higher quality product was expected. The strange expressions of Yi Yun and Li Che seemed to reinforce this point in their imagination. But if they truly knew what was being transmitted, they might fall out of their chair.

Yi Yun transmitted to the other four, "I don't know what quality this elixir is." His helpless admission left the others lost.

Li Che echoed his words, "Neither do I. I've never heard of mirror-like liquid before when describing the Refraction World-Light Elixir. At least, I've never heard of an elixir that looked like this."

To these experienced alchemists, they were extremely familiar with the appearances of elixirs. But as they inspected this elixir, they were uncertain.

Gao Zi snorted in disbelief, "How could you two not know? What about its grade? Is it even the right elixir?"

"We all saw the process," Yi Yun said with a pause, "We all saw the end result. Ascendant Emperor Wei used the exact same materials and standard process to produce this elixir. While it is certainly the eighth-grade Refraction World-Light Elixir, we can't determine its quality."

Lin Ruyan asked, "Is it impure-quality?"

Li Che shook his head, "It lacks any hint of impurities, so no."

Gao Zi added, "But it's not low-quality?"

Yi Yun nodded, "It's not. Low-quality elixir gives off shifting light of the spectrum while high-quality elixir gives off simultaneous light of the spectrum. We can see that from Princess Ying's. And I'm sure Jiang Feilan can vouch for the low-quality elixir."

"..." Jiang Feilan nodded.

"...Then is it peak-quality?" Lin Ruyan asked, uncertainty in her voice. If it was so easily determined as such, then why the need to deliberate?

Yi Yun and Li Che looked at each other in dismay, a hint of uncertainty within their eyes as well. A peak-quality elixir wasn't mirror-like but completely white, absorbing all the colors of the spectrum into a single source. This was what was recorded and determined by ancient alchemists. When they looked at the glass-like liquid once more, their expressions became slightly unsightly.

This was an issue.

If they couldn't determine the quality, then what was even next?

In truth, Wei Wuyin hadn't known about this either. He believed that it was peak-quality by default, attributing his conflicting knowledge to inconsistent reports. But what he hadn't realized was that the elixir had a unique quality to it.

For minutes, they tried to determine what this was. In the end, they were helpless, turning to Wei Wuyin. When Yi Yun's expression revealed his helplessness, Wei Wuyin and Qingye Ying were shocked. Why the long face?

Yi Yun announced, more like speaking to Wei Wuyin: "After discussion, we are unable to come to a conclusive decision on the product quality."

Everyone, "..."

WHAT?!

Even Wei Wuyin was taken aback, his eyes slightly widening. After a brief moment, he thought about this and his silver eyes gleamed with light. He realized the issue. The records never specifically mentioned the mirror-like vial of liquid before. This caused him to wryly smile.

But, why?

He was sent into a silence as he pondered on this matter.

Qingye Ying couldn't help but ask, "What do you mean? Did he fail?" She was confused, as confused as the audience. How could two renowned Emperor Alchemists and three hegemonic leaders come to no conclusion on the results?

Yi Yun helpless smile became even more helpless, "While Ascendant Emperor Wei certainly concocted the Refraction World-Light Elixir, a fact that everyone here bore witness to, but the visual appearance of the elixir doesn't match any of the inherent qualities listed on any records. Be it impure to peak-quality."

"...!"

A confused yet shocked collective gasp resounded.

While the crowd was stunned, Wei Wuyin finally recalled the process of his concoction. His eyes brightened.

...is it possible?

When he concocted the elixir, he had used his Zenith Origin State Mana Control to bring forth boundless mana into the elixir. During that time, a bit of his personalized mana leaked into the essences and energies. It was so extremely brief, so extremely small, that he hadn't even registered it.

He directly contacted Wu Yu, "Was there a quality beyond the peak?" Wu Yu was an existence that exceeded the Astral Core Realm, surpassing the Mortal Dao, entering into the Realm of Mystics, so his knowledge was beyond his own. Furthermore, he lived in the era of the King of Everlore himself. Regardless of how they were compared, the King of Everlore's experience and journey far surpassed his own.

"..." Wu Yu had remained silent since the incident with Long Chen. He was somewhat sullen at how Long Chen was becoming. It was concerning, but he similarly knew that it wasn't something he could help with. But the more he thought about it, the more he realized that Long Chen was becoming less like a Grand Monarch and more like a deranged and paranoid ruler-to-be.

After hearing what Wei Wuyin said, he broke out of his thoughts. "Beyond? Uhm...No. Well..." He paused for a moment as a particular memory was brought to the forefront of his mind.

"There was something he mentioned before he left," he recalled that distinctive memory. It was so incredibly brief that it took him a bit. "He once mentioned that Intent heavily defined the upper limits of the Mortal Dao and Laws heavily defined the upper limits of the Mystic Dao, but Mystic Intent allowed the Mortal Dao to exceed its limits, to transcend beyond normality."

"..." Wei Wuyin was immediately confused. What?! Laws? What the hell were Laws?! While he understood Intent, he didn't understand Laws. Was that a higher form of it? Also, Mystic Dao?! What was Mystic Intent?!

"Hahaha," Wu Yu uncharacteristically laughed with a hint of joy.

"What's so funny?" Wei Wuyin felt a wisp of displeasure and a hint of annoyance.

Wu Yu didn't stop for a while, but when he did, he became unprecedentedly serious. "To break the limits of the Mortal Dao isn't an easy feat. One has to first comprehend Mystic Intent. As for Laws, I'm even confused about what they are. After all, it defined the 'upper' limits of the Mystic Dao. If one considers it carefully, the Mortal Star Astral Tribulation, the first tribulation of the Astral Core Realm, is the true gateway to Intent.

"And the Astral Core Realm could be considered the upper limits of the Mortal Dao, preceded by two other Mortal Realms. Who knows what laws are, but I do know what Mystic Intent is. It is not something I can describe. In a similar way as it's nearly impossible to describe the False Reality Phase of Qi Condensation to anyone effectively."

Wei Wuyin frowned heavily. This was useless.

"But," Wu Yu continued, "At the time, he also said the reason he sought to leave was due to the scarce quantities of Mysticism inhabiting the starfield. If he had this, he could transcend the limits of the Mortal Dao, bring higher quality to his products and reach the Mystic-Rank as an Alchemist."

Wei Wuyin's eyes brightened. This wasn't useless. In fact, it answered his question.

Since he underwent the Zenith Origin State, he was always curious about how it differed. Was the leaking of his personalized mana carried traces of Mystic Intent or something similar? Something that could evolve a product beyond the peak?! Regardless, he felt the likely scenario was chance.

The scarce quantities of this Mysticism might've been drawn in by chance! It was the only answer!

When he considered this, his eyes looked to the vial of mirror-like liquid. With a confident smile, he stepped forward. "Judges, I'll have to apologize."

"...Hm?" The five turned their eyes to Wei Wuyin, including the screens of the starfield. He was magnified, his unearthly handsome face revealed clearly to all. Many were curious what he would say.

"The elixir I concocted is not peak-quality," he stated.

A slight clamor started to surge, slowly intensifying upwards to an eventual uproar. But before that uproar could be reached, Wei Wuyin continued.

"Nor is it high. Or low. Or even impure." Wei Wuyin revealed a faint grin, and this grin shook the hearts of everyone watching. Qingye Ying's heart started to pound, unable to calm herself down for some reason.

"It is of a quality beyond anything else, it is Transcendent-Quality!" He announced with explosive excitement. He would be the first to usher in this quality into the history books, so how could he not be incredibly excited to reveal it!

Everyone, "...?"

There was a silence after, a clear silence filled with uncertainty and skepticism.

For tens of thousands of years, there were only ever four qualities, and this was determined by grand sages and seers of old, fortifying the belief that only these four qualities existed. To suddenly declare that there was a fifth was like a random person on the street declaring that the starfield was just a large ocean, how could they believe it?

This was even before the King of Everlore ever made his appearance, so how could this be?

Wei Wuyin frowned.

He sighed.

Fortunately for him, he didn't need to have them randomly believe him. He instead adopted a bright smile, "Give me a few minutes. I'll prove it." When he said that, he turned back to his alchemical table and brought out his cauldron.

The best way to prove it?

Well, didn't he just need to make the other qualities and compare?!

Chapter 359 - 355: All-Alchemic Clash, Chanting Throughout

The five judges, the audience, and the spectators were immediately sent into a sudden bout of silence. It was produced by their uncertainty, shock, and a rising feeling of unprecedented hype. While it was hard to change a person's belief of pre-existing facts, everyone had an innate desire to observe miracles or contradictions.

At times, it can be surreal. Other times, it can be enlightening.

Furthermore, when Wei Wuyin acted, there wasn't the slightest lack of confidence within those gorgeously silver eyes of his. His very body, from posture to facial expressions, revealed a sort of domineering degree of charismatic confidence that they became allured by the prospect of success. His success in 'proving' a heaven-defying existence!

Transcendent-Quality!

Wei Wuyin didn't have them wait for long, keeping true to his earlier words. He used a mere few minutes, seven in fact, to use the leftover materials to concoct several elixirs. These were Refraction World-Light Elixirs! To add, they were all deliberately made of different qualities!

In that seemingly brief period of time, under the gawking eyes of the crowd, of the judges, of Qingye Ying, he brought forth three vials of elixirs. Since he was only seeking to create a single portion, it wasn't hard to manipulate. The only difficulty was producing a peak-quality elixir. He was confident in making high-quality, but peak-quality was typically a lucky event produced by primed circumstances.

When he actually accomplished this, he was excited! After testing it out, he came to realize that using a wisp of his own personalized mana from within the Zenith Origin State Eden had enhanced the quality of the elixir, easily breaking into the peak-quality. As he held the white-colored elixir that seemed to permeate the endless vastness of all colors, he couldn't help but marvel at his discovery.

How did he mistake his other elixir for this one? Looking back at the mirror-like elixir, thinking of the rumored abilities of peak-quality elixirs, he wasn't certain what effects a transcendent-quality Refraction World-Light Elixir would have.

Moreover, he had tested and verified a theory of his. It wasn't simply a leak of his personalized mana during the process that had elevated his elixir to such a hidden quality, but likely this so-called Mystic Intent that was scattered and scarce, carried into the elixir invisibly during the concoction process. He wasn't certain when or if it was due to his Elemental Origin Intent or Mana that brought it into the cauldron. He was unable to sense or see it, even with his Celestial Eyes. It could've even been unknowingly contained within one of the materials.

This was likely a result of his inadequate cultivation base. It was also due to this very reason that he couldn't use certain abilities of his Celestial Eyes of Spiritual Divinity. It was only when his cultivation exceeded a certain level that he could use the Eye of Truth, observing the intricacies of the world and its events in a simplified manner.

Perhaps he'd need to reach a certain level before being able to view the existence of this so-called Mystic Intent. Regardless, he knew it wasn't a process he could replicate at will with his current abilities.

After finishing up the vials, he brought them out and before the judges. They were all extremely focused, especially Jiang Feilan. Her cold eyes never left Wei Wuyin's body for a single picosecond of time, not even blinking. The intensity was noticeable even when Wei Wuyin was concocting.

But since he already decided to reveal his alchemic chops, he held no reservations by allowing everyone to bear witness to his extremely fast concoction times. Unfortunately, none of them could determine his Alchemic Eden Soul, which shook him slightly. He hadn't deliberately hidden it. In fact, the entire process from beginning to end was clearly seen, but he knew they hadn't determined his true abilities.

When he asked Eden about it, even it wasn't certain. But after thinking about it, he came to the conclusion that it must be extremely difficult to determine the quality of alchemic force from its aura if it originates from a higher ranked alchemist.

Unfortunately, he was incorrect.

The actual reason had to do with Eden. Specifically, the Mind Dao. The quintessential aspect of his Alchemic Force was embedded with the Mind Dao, Eden Energies, and it made observing it with spiritual sense incredibly, almost impossibly, difficult. While they could 'sense it' they couldn't 'observe it'. It was like an elusive and camouflaged chameleon in a misty forest. It was there but they couldn't recognize it. They couldn't even determine his alchemic force level or even cultivation state from it, and they could only attribute it to unique cultivation methods deployed.

To them, Wei Wuyin was simply hiding his arts and means to prevent unwarranted duplication. It was perfectly natural to desire protections of one's intellectual process and means.

To Wei Wuyin, however, it was just an unintentional layer of concealment.

Yi Yun was the first to act, observing the three vials concocted by Wei Wuyin in an exceedingly swift and thorough fashion. His heart was endlessly thumping as he tried to retain his cool. In the most casual fashion, Wei Wuyin had just reinforced his belief that the thousand years of studying had been laughable. A despondent emotion swelled within his heart, but there wasn't a hint of jealousy or ill-intent.

The new generation will always bypass the old. Wei Wuyin was simply the next era-defining generation, much like the King of Everlore. He was even a little excited, exhilarated by the fact he could live in the same generation as such an alchemic genius. While he couldn't experience the King of Everlore's Era, the height of developing alchemy, he could see the Ascendant Emperor of Neo-Dawn's Era.

That was far better.

When he inspected the three vials, his expression changed. "These are low, high, and peak quality elixirs." He stated, using his power to bring the vials closer to him and the others. They all started to send their spiritual senses into the vials, various degrees of shock radiated from their eyes.

He indeed made all three qualities of elixirs! Furthermore, they were deliberately performed!

What type of MONSTER was he?!

Lin Ruyan felt her mouth go dry. She had previously witnessed Wei Wuyin finishing his elixir in five minutes, but this was a fundamental difference. This showed that he wasn't simply an Alchemic

Emperor below the age of fifty, he had the fastest concoction speed in history and could deliberately alter the quality of his concoctions at will!

Gao Zi's horns trembled with a demonic sheen, his large eyes shifting back and forth like an uncertain child as he regarded the elixirs and Wei Wuyin.

The three elixirs before them had the distinctively recorded visual appearances of their respective qualities. The low-quality elixir was possessed by an ever-shifting radiance of the light spectrum, jumping from red to violet. The high-quality elixir contained all the colors at once. The peak-quality elixir was white and seemingly snatched the light from the surroundings.

If this was the case, then the mirror-like elixir was...

"..."

There was a world-wide silence as Yi Yun explained and displayed the elixirs to the world. Some weren't even breathing.

Wei Wuyin smilingly stepped forward, "As you've all bore witness to, I've used the same process for each elixir, including my first. The reason why its surface is fundamentally different isn't because its grade is too low, but that it exceeds the Mortal Standard of Alchemy. It's reached the Transcendent level!

"As for its effects, I'm unsure. But it matters not: Even if this vial is disqualified, I've concocted a peak-grade elixir on my third attempt. I'll use it as a replacement for my first submission." Wei Wuyin calmly stated before the audience.

"No need," Li Che immediately interjected after taking a deep, heavy breath. There was absolutely no need to continue this segment, and this thought was shared by the rest of the judges. In fact, there might not be a point in continuing this clash.

While Qingye Ying's expression was concealed behind a veil they could all sense her extremely chaotic mental state at the moment. She had just bore witness to an unbelievable event, and had challenged someone who had just REDEFINED HISTORY! They felt her pain.

It was hopeless...

Yi Yun echoed Li Che, "Your first elixir shows a considerable difference from the other three despite possessing the same recipe. While we can't be absolutely certain that what you said is real, that this transcendent-quality Refraction World Elixir exists or why it occurred, we can still determine that it is a Refraction World Elixir. Even if it isn't at transcendent-quality, I'm willing to use my reputation to state this elixir of at least at the very apex of the peak quality."

Li Che nodded in agreement once more, feeling this judgement was fair. There was no legitimate way to test the effects of the elixir without refining it. They lacked those means nor dared to try to refine it.

Gao Zi breathed heavily outwards, producing a faint booming sound. "I agree."

Lin Ruyan realized this was the officiating process, so she too agreed. While what she witnessed had shaken her world, she was still a leader of this starfield. Her ability to retain her calm and assess the situation was first-class.

Jiang Feilan nodded, her eyes still fixated on Wei Wuyin.

Yi Yun turned to Qingye Ying, "Objections?"

Those words jolted Qingye Ying back to reality, completely allowing her to realize that the current developments meant her loss of this segment. She bit her soft lower lip, looking at Wei Wuyin with a hint of a blazing grudge.

She was the Princess of Everlore, the true Successor of the King of Everlore's legacy! The one who had an Alchemic Astral Soul! Yet Wei Wuyin blew her out of the water, accomplishing feats near impossible to her while being younger, studying alchemy for less, and having a weaker alchemic background!

How could she not feel disgruntled?!

Her emotions were riled up and she wanted to bark out her inner heartfelt thoughts, to shout out her unwillingness! But an incoming spiritual transmission shook her. It was from Qingye Yun.

"Ying'er, this is the product of Overlord-level Alchemic Talent. That's the only difference."

Those words seemed scathing, informing her of their difference, but it instead calmed her mind. She looked to Wei Wuyin once more, recalling her innate inadequacies, and she realized that she was still too young.

Qingye Yun added, "If the King of Everlore had to be described, then it's you and him combined into one. You're both lacking one of the things the others have, but you have an Alchemic Astral Soul, and your potential can be changed! Not his. Remember that."

Qingye Ying fully calmed down, her expression easing up and her eyes brimming with hope. Qingye Yun's timely reminder had soothed her heart and allowed her to regain a light of spirit and vigor. She faced the judges, "I have none."

Yi Yun nodded, *'At least she can admit her defeat with grace.'*

"Winner of Elixir Segment: Wei Wuyin!" Yi Yun announced the world, causing another explosive uproar. To them, this was far, far different than just a victory. It was just revealed that Wei Wuyin might've just broken the tens of thousands of knowledge and beliefs they had! He had exceeded peak-quality!!

He had transcended history! Subverted beliefs!

He had ushered the world into accepting a new reality, a new possibility!

The Ascendant Emperor of Neo-Dawn! The title was never more fitting than now. If this era wasn't his, then whose was it?!

"ASCENDANT EMPEROR WEI! ASCENDANT EMPEROR WEI! ASCENDANT EMPEROR WEI!" The Neo-Dawn Colosseum.

"ASCENDANT EMPEROR WEI! ASCENDANT EMPEROR WEI! ASCENDANT EMPEROR WEI!" The Myriad Monarch Planet.

"ASCENDANT EMPEROR WEI! ASCENDANT EMPEROR WEI! ASCENDANT EMPEROR WEI!" The Starfield.

The entire world, pushed by some mystical force, started to chant. They started to chant the name of this unstoppable force! Not simply to announce his victory, but to announce his presence to the future!

He was coming to claim it.

Chapter 360 - 356: All-Alchemic Clash, Surrender

"We'll proceed with the next segment: the Pellet Segment." Yi Yun announced as the judges started to retreat. Jiang Feilan was the last to retreat, her eyes still fixated on Wei Wuyin. Wei Wuyin didn't hide from her gaze, meeting those pair of wintry orbs with a slight smile. It was only after a long moment that she followed the others, exiting the barrier and sealing the two up once more.

Wei Wuyin couldn't help but inwardly shake his head. But Wu Yu scoffed, speaking his thoughts on this matter without any qualms or sensitivities.

"Such a slut. Just like her Ancestor." His words were extremely blunt and scathing, clearly stating Jiang Feilan's intentions.

Wei Wuyin could only bitterly smile. He wasn't a fool, so he didn't feel the need to comment on what he already knew. But Wu Yu was relentless, completely ignoring his status as a Grand Monarch, "She wants to ride the dragon just like the so-called Sacred Elven Queen. Unfortunately, this youngster is not nearly as top-shelf quality as her."

According to Wu Yu, the Sacred Elven Queen had used her looks to enter into the King of Everlore good graces. It was sufficient enough for him to study for twenty-years to make-up for her mistake, nearly forcing his subordinate into death, and still hadn't shown her any anger after.

Amongst the various elites brought to great heights during the King of Everlore's era, the Sacred Elven Queen was the only female that exceeded the Astral Core Realm, entering the Mystic Ascendant Realm. While there were women that were extremely close, none could take that final step, not even Wu Yu's wife.

Wu Yu continued his rant, "The only reason she even reached her current heights was by climbing the cultivation ladder of men until she came into contact with him, using only her beauty to do so. It's so pathetic!"

Wei Wuyin slightly furrowed his brows. He didn't believe she was in the wrong nor would he refer to her as a slut. In fact, it was perfectly normal to use your talents, whatever that may be, to climb higher in the cultivation world. After all: Cultivation is difficult. This worldly recognized mantra of all cultivators existed for a reason.

Even the Divine King Han Xei was little more than nothing before the King of Everlore showed up, same for Wu Yu. It seemed very hypocritical to say these words when it was very likely they had similarly whored themselves out to the King of Everlore, performing to the best of their abilities to please him like little rat servants wanting cheese.

Considering he'd claimed extremely high influence in the Myriad Monarch Sect, Wei Wuyin wasn't unfamiliar with the lengths others would go to for a longer lifespan, greater power, and higher status. There were people pimping out their daughters and granddaughters, even their unborn children.

When he thought about this, a bolt of realization struck him. "Did you and the Sacred Elven Queen have an intimate relationship?" He asked out of idle curiosity, but the response was...

...Brilliant.

"..." Wu Yu.

Then, he lost contact with Wu Yu.

"..." Wei Wuyin was silent for a long moment before he chuckled. You got climbed on top of and now you're mad at her? Why aren't you mad at the King of Everlore? Oh right, you were also his little whore!

Wei Wuyin couldn't help but hold his stomach, feeling an unbearable desire to laugh. He could only say in a laughter-stifled message, "You were all a part of the King of Everlore's harem, and you're mad he had a favorite?!"

While he was simply joking, he hadn't expected his words to hit very close to reality. This caused Wu Yu's spiritual aura to fluctuate in an abnormal manner. If Wei Wuyin wasn't looking at the unassuming black ring in his laughter, he would've missed it.

"Wait..." Wei Wuyin abruptly halted himself unnaturally. A strange light flitted through his eyes. Was it possible?! When he thought about it, it was extremely strange that the King of Everlore was so generous in the first place, especially when he had dedicated subordinates. It would be like him giving out top-tier products to others, something he wouldn't do for anyone besides those a part of his faction.

Or his...women...

"Don't tell me you..." Wei Wuyin had so, so many questions. And as if sensing these questions, Wu Yu's heavy sigh resounded. There were no words said, but Wei Wuyin felt that in his soul.

"...Wow." Wei Wuyin just stayed silent for the longest moment. Just processing it all.

That...

...actually made so much sense.

"Are you going to pick?!" He heard a womanly voice, bringing his attention to the present. He was still a little rattled by the discovery. But he soon regulated his mental state. There was nothing wrong with Wu Yu's choices. After all, he reached his current height because of it.

After accepting this, he turned to see Qingye Ying who was unhappily pouting beneath her veil. He couldn't for the life of him understand why all her expressions were so cute. Maybe it was because she thought no one could see her, allowing her to freely express her emotions without restraint.

"Right. I'll choose the Ninth-Grade, Low-Tier Hell Flame Inferno Pellet." He simply shot off what his intentions were, but when those words were said, Qingye Ying's expression revealed extreme shock.

Before she could even respond, the judges revealed themselves by entering the platform in an instant.

"SHE SURRENDERS!" Qingye Yun shouted instantly, entering alongside the judges. His emotions were vividly displayed in his eyes as he looked at Wei Wuyin in abject horror. He didn't expect such deliberate viciousness from Wei Wuyin.

Qingye Ying was startled by their appearance, and even Yi Yun and Li Che had very solemn expressions. They hadn't even waited a few seconds before interfering! As for surrendering on her behalf, Qingye Ying was taken even more aback by the act. She looked to Qingye Yun who was staring at her with a steel-like gaze.

Wei Wuyin smiled, understanding this outcome. The Ninth-Grade, Low-Tier Hellflame Inferno could bring harm to careless Realmlords, and involves manipulating fire-attribute energies far beyond the acceptable limits for lower-phased cultivators like themselves. After all, offensive pellets, especially fire-based pellets, had the greatest violent nature and were the hardest to succeed with.

Qingye Ying was only at the First Stage of the Astral Core Realm, the World Sea Phase, so she was utterly incapable of manipulating such violent energies, and she didn't possess Fire Intent to alleviate that issue. The slightest mistake and not just her but the Absolute Overlord Cauldron could be destroyed in a fiery blaze.

There was no way Qingye Yun would allow this to happen.

But this type of tactic was actually another means to claim victory, often used in All-Alchemic Clashes, especially using pellets. It was a suicidal tactic. And this had to do with a rule within clashes. If both parties were unable to succeed in concocting after three attempts or unwilling to continue, then it's a draw, but if neither party attempts to concoct the product, then the victory belongs to the segment's selector.

Qingye Yun feared Qingye Ying would actually attempt it, so did the other judges. But they were more here to question the validity and certainty of Wei Wuyin's selection, not surrender in his stead. They weren't expecting Qingye Yun to do so either.

This caused Yi Yun and Li Che's expressions to ease up. To them, Wei Wuyin mustn't suffer the slightest bit of harm, not even to the edges of his robes.

Qingye Ying was silent for a long while, staring at Qingye Yun. If she surrendered her, if she lost, then she likely lost the entire clash. She had already suffered a loss in her own segment, and that was already a fatal wound, but this would be the final nail to her coffin. If Wei Wuyin chose a paste that Yang-possessing men had a better chance of concocting of a higher quality, then she would lose 3-1, even if she won her next segment.

She bit her lower lip once more, truly wanting to try it. But considering this was a ninth-grade pellet, she had no certainty to do so. And all Wei Wuyin had to do was not even try. Simply watch her as she failed or hurt herself, claiming victory anyways.

How vicious!

But All-Alchemic Clashes weren't designed to be gentle, and losing in your own category gave a hellish disadvantage. Even if she lost this segment, if Wei Wuyin entered a draw with her in the remaining two, she'd lose. He could, theoretically ensure her loss, by selecting an extremely easy paste to make at peak

quality and succeed in the first attempt. They both would perform equally, but she had no hope to match Wei Wuyin's concoction times.

Considering his willingness to use this strategy of a ninth-grade fiery pellet, he certainly wasn't beneath this in her eyes.

Qingye Yun's words meant surrendering not just this segment, but this entire competition. A feeling of helplessness overtook her heart.

Wei Wuyin, however, remained absolutely calm in the face of the pitiful beauty. He had no mercy for her, and always intended to test her upper limits. While she wasn't willing to select ninth-grade products, he was. As for choosing a free and easy win? He never planned on doing that. But his actions caused a cascade of emotions and events he hadn't anticipated.

Qingye Ying's heart had already produced a seed of inferiority, and this event caused it to grow rapidly. When she looked at Wei Wuyin's unearthly handsome face, a feeling of invincibility was felt from him. In her mind, she was no longer his match.

She was flawed.

So how could she be?

While others couldn't see behind the veil, Wei Wuyin saw the signs of wetness on the corner of her eyes. Her emotions were spiraling and they threatened to spew out. This only caused him to inwardly sigh. While unbeknownst to him her struggles, he couldn't help but want to comfort her.

It was definitely his natural male instincts kicking in. This was especially so due to her exquisitely beautiful looks and shapely figure.

Qingye Ying gave one last look at Qingye Yun, and spoke softly: "I surrender."

This caused Yi Yun and Li Che to nod, accepting this as the best result. It's to be expected that Wei Wuyin would win his segment, so they should move on. It's not like her hopes were completely dashed. After all, she could still strive for a tie with the easier paste segment coming up.

But Qingye Ying's next words shook the audience and judges: "I admit my defeat to you, Wei Wuyin. As I am now, I'm not your match. You win."

"...!"

She clarified, "You win this All-Alchemic Clash; I surrender."