

Chapter 421 - 417: Changing One's Actions

The old man licked his lips, staring at Ai Juling's exquisite face and slender body with a surge of heated interest. His body even shivered in delight. It was quite disturbing to watch.

Even Ai Juling subconsciously buried herself deeper into Wei Wuyin's arms, hiding her face in his neck. Her soft skin rubbing against Wei Wuyin was quite a pleasant experience. But he noticed her fluttering eyelash, a faint sense of discomfort flowing through her body, making it stiff.

Chu Leitao wanted to say something, but Li Wang interfered. "Yes, it is a Grey Sands Elf. You have a keen eye." His words sounded as if he was praising the old man, but his eyes revealed a chaotic gleam that betrayed other intentions.

Wei Wuyin glanced at Li Wang, realizing the situation instantly. But before he could speak, Li Wang continued to speak uncharacteristically: "The Void Gate's entrance fee is paid after one uses it, not before."

When he said that, Haung Yu and Chu Leitao's expressions changed. He was clearly hinting at Wei Wuyin that the man intended to extort them unfairly for an astral diamond, just like that other fellow. He likely had to pay twice, then pay again to stay per hour, and then pay again to leave.

When Wei Wuyin realized his implicative words, his expression couldn't help but twist slightly. They were true extortionists! Who knew what else they charged for?

The old man seemed to not care, after scanning their cultivation bases, he sneered. He was at the Fourth Stage of the Astral Core Realm, the Spatial Resonance Phase, so he wouldn't care about the schemes of this group with the highest being a Soul Idol Phase cultivator. The old man sneered, he looked at Ai Juling, realizing her light-bronze skin signified her status as a Ai Clan member, and his body trembled with excitement.

"I have to oversee any suspicious individuals; let me inspect this Grey Sands Elf." He didn't even bother trying to give a proper reason, only half-hearted and half-assed. He reached out with his armored hand towards Wei Wuyin, circulating his astral force to form a gigantic palm that reached to engulf the group of five.

He intended to take Ai Juling away, then kill the rest. That way, he could enjoy this Grey Sands Elf of the Ai Clan himself without any witnesses or troubles coming his way. If his enemies knew he defiled an Ai Clan member, they would certainly snitch and his life would be forfeit. So he couldn't have anyone live.

As if expecting this, Li Wang hid behind Wei Wuyin with a cold smile. Huang Yu and Chu Leitao were startled, but they also smiled, but with pity.

The old man found that something felt wrong, but he couldn't place his finger on it. Still, he didn't intend to stay his hand, his groins already hot and hard at the thought.

Wei Wuyin frowned slightly. He didn't bother showing restraint, his eyes flickering with a saber light.

Suddenly, the astral hand vanished. The old man was still smiling with expectations. The three were uncertain what happened, but what occurred next caused their spines to nearly jump out of their bodies.

The old man's armor started to turn into glistening dust, then his clothes underneath vanished, then his skin, leaving his muscle fibers visible. He was flayed! But he didn't react, his smile still apparent with his lipless mouth. Then his flesh disintegrated, leaving a skeleton with organs that were still pumping and functioning.

The skull of the man still had quivering and heated eyes filled with emotions, and his throbbing brain was faintly visible. Then, a soft saber howl resounded and the rest of his body vanished as if it was never there. There was no blood, no flesh, no aura of life! Everything was brought to an end.

Li Wang and the others felt his heart sink into the depths of unfathomable fear, their eyes widened until they nearly popped out of their skulls!

They gulped, silent for several seconds. But those several seconds felt like days. Was that how someone should die? Did he even die?

Wei Wuyin was startled. What the hell just happened? He was the one who should be the least surprised, but he was the most surprised! He felt as if that man was lagging out of existence, dying after being eviscerated by his saber force in the slowest fashion possible.

Wei Wuyin recalled the stories of legendary swordsmen striking and only allowing the cut to manifest after their swords had been sheathed.

He intended to obliterate the man in a direct fashion, but he didn't think he'd be cut in layers...and lag as well in his death. It felt like the opposite of what he experienced when he traveled through the void. His eyelids twitched.

"..." Everyone was unnaturally silent.

Wei Wuyin had to break this awkward silence. "Well, shall we move on?" His words broke them out of their stupor, and even Ai Juling stealthily lifted her eyelids and twisted her head a little to see what happened. Unfortunately or fortunately, she didn't see anything.

Huang Yu gulped, "Yes! Let's!"

As if to add, to calm his racing heart, Chu Leitao reminded: "The fee to enter is three astral diamonds per person. Do you have the fee or shall I pay it for you?" He realized that Wei Wuyin was somewhat ignorant of the matters of The Desolate Lands with all his questions, so he wasn't certain if he carried astral diamonds or not.

Wei Wuyin thought for a moment, then he looked at the cracked wall. "I don't intend to pay any fee," he stated casually but his words caused the trio to be taken aback. What did he mean by that?

Wei Wuyin didn't bother elaborating, merely inspecting the prism as he held Ai Juling. This was a Void Gate? When he examined it, he realized it truly had similarities to a Void Gate, but it was short-ranged and individualistic. It formed a portal around the individual, not a permanent connection between two

spaces. This severely reduced consumption, but limited range. Moreover, there were set coordinates installed within it, so it could only send a traveler to one location.

He looked at Ai Juling's closed eyes and gentle expression.

"You guys take this Void Gate, I'll find you inside." Wei Wuyin didn't wait for them to speak, but started to circulate his astral force as he slowly levitated upwards. As he ascended, he calmly stared at the top of the wall, his intentions clear.

The trio gawked, their eyes exploding with disbelief! He was going to scale the wall?! But...but!

Chu Leitao was the first to regain himself, touching the prism and vanishing in a flash of light. Huang Yu realized things weren't going to go peacefully and easily with Wei Wuyin, so he followed along with a touch, sending his spiritual strength through the prism and activating it. He, too, vanished.

Li Wang was the most dazed, gazing at Wei Wuyin's ascending figure. A glimmer of admiration and deep respect flashed through his eyes. He felt that a true expert should live according to their desires, acting as they pleased, killing who they disliked, and taking what they wanted. And Wei Wuyin currently embodied his ideology of an fearless expert. Whether Wei Wuyin would agree that he matched that image, that was another matter altogether.

Getting another eyeful of Wei Wuyin's extraordinary figure, Li Wang touched the prism and vanished with a bright smile.

At this moment, Ai Juling noticed their ascent and her eyes broke open a little. Seeing them rising against the city wall, her eyes opened wildly. She couldn't help but shout, "What are you doing?!" The concept of scaling the city walls of a human city had been banged into her hard since young as an action to never attempt. This triggered her memories of those lessons, and her heart raced endlessly.

But Wei Wuyin merely grinned at her, "Awake now? You had a good nap?" With a chuckle, he kept rising.

Ai Juling wanted to retort, but when she looked directly at Wei Wuyin's unearthly handsome face up-close, her words were caught within her throat, and her expression reddened. She wasn't normally disturbed by appearances, not attaching much importance to them, but she couldn't help but consider Wei Wuyin far too attractive for a human, especially when he exuded that unrestrained aura of his.

"We'll talk later. I need answers to questions, and the best way to ensure the most thorough and complete answer is to ask those with power." Wei Wuyin's words held some truth that even Ai Juling couldn't deny, but what type of questions? And why scale the wall?

And then it hit her, and her expression turned ash pale. They soon hit the top of the wall, and Wei Wuyin started to fly even higher in an imposing fashion, his silver eyes observing the city within the walls. He wanted to appreciate the architecture and unique civilization traditions within, but a voice resounded that quaked throughout the world.

"Who dares?!"

Wei Wuyin's eyes narrowed. The best way to gain reputation and prestige, to reach the important individuals of the world, was either to have importance to them, such as an alchemist, or have greater

strength. If it was normal times, he might slowly work his way through the world and handle matters quietly and with various elaborate schemes, but it wasn't.

There was a lurking variable that had foreknowledge of all his typical decisions, likely details about all his fortuitous encounters or events. To flip that on its head, he decided to act as he would when he was once without any care, unrestrained and free.

He decided to use his fist to carve his new future path.

With a grin, he amplified his voice with spiritual force: "I do!"

Chapter 422 - 418: Overbearing

"...!" Ai Juling panicked, her eyes wildly roamed as her body trembled with lifelong instilled fear. Despite being held by Wei Wuyin, she felt no comfort at this moment. Because while Wei Wuyin might be talented, outrageously strong enough to kill Ai Shanyuan, a talented expert, this was simply far too different and dangerous.

The twelve cities were fortresses of the highest order, designed to protect and defend against the world's most dangerous existences, and they had been incredibly successful in their efforts. But what really caused her heart to race in terror was the owner of that enraged voice.

This voice didn't belong to an ordinary cultivator! It belonged to an existence amongst humans that terrified the elven race, someone that Ai Shanyuan could never compare to!

The Grandquake City's residents were stirred up as they looked upwards, those with keen vision and high cultivations noticed a figure of a man holding onto a woman in a bridal carry. They had curiosity in their faces, with some even having amusement and schadenfreude written across their expressions.

It seems the event of an expert coming imposingly to the city to act aggressively hadn't just happened once or twice.

Within the city, an old man sat on a chair, a table with an active board game before him, while smoking out of a tobacco pipe. After taking a heavy puff, he commented with a faint smile and smoke escaping his mouth: "Another one."

A pleasant-sounding laughter resounded across from him, originating from a pretty young woman. Her bright eyes were fixated on the game board, not even giving the external situation any of her attention. "Don't think you can escape defeat this time, old man! I won't be distracted."

Most of the other native residents halted their actions, looking up with interest and pity in their eyes. Some of the more concerned young mothers brought their children away into their homes, not wanting them to bear witness to a horrible act of violence. It seemed they were familiar with the consequences of those who dared to act arrogantly towards the city, experts or not.

The Seekers, especially those who weren't natives, used all sorts of ocular-enhancing spells to bear witness to the events. Amongst these individuals were Li Wang, Chu Leitao, and Huang Yu who had paid the fee of entry. They stood next to each other, each having different expressions.

Huang Yu was panicking, similar to Ai Juling, "What is he doing?!" He didn't want to see his savior, a young talented expert, meet his untimely demise. He was almost on the verge of going hysterical, but his low cultivation at the Sky Ruler Phase made his actions and worries inconsequential.

Li Wang was silent, grinning with anticipation. He was heavily invested in what was going to happen.

But Chu Leitao felt a surge of desire to inform the City Lord, feeling different than most residents. Wei Wuyin might be at the Soul Idol Phase, but his cultivation foundation was immaculate and fierce, capable of trampling a Gravity Emission Phase expert and utterly annihilating a Spatial Resonance Phase with a single glare. He didn't seem like an idiot.

But he knew his intent would be disregarded, laughed at and likely even implicated. He didn't know whether to laugh or cry, feeling as if some people were about to be given a fright and a half.

The voice that had resounded, questioning Wei Wuyin's actions went silent as a powerful spiritual sense descended towards Wei Wuyin, lingering on his exuded aura with focused observation.

Wei Wuyin merely smiled, urging his powers to bring him to the wall's top, landing on the flat surface that could hold roughly forty people back to back. The walls weren't just tall, but they were quite thick. When his shoes touched the wall, an extremely tiny amount of grey and seven-colored mist integrated with the wall's surface.

With his Celestial Eyes, he could observe the formations laid within the walls, connecting with the city, and locate the main formation core that maintained all the others. The moment his pervasive void force and eden force touched the core, Wei Wuyin's eyes brightened considerably. There were faint ripples forming beneath his feet, discreet and nigh unnoticeable!

He executed Instant Transmission!

Since he started his path of cultivating the Void Dao, he had discovered quite a few uses with it. When he was in the Grand Spirit Trials, he had tested out the Void Forces unique properties of transmitting forces and energies instantly over a vast distance as long as there was a connection of his spiritual strength. He had used this to empower his Mudworm Titanic Serpent in his battle with Wu Yu's possessed Shadow Moon Wolf while halfway across the planet.

As for this distance?

It was but a simple matter.

Instantly, he sent over vast quantities of alchemic force, interacting with and influencing the complicated and complex formations inscribed through the walls and beneath the city's foundation. He had exhausted roughly thirty percent of his Alchemic Eden Astral Core, but he had isolated its properties and restrained its connectivity.

This was the same tactic he used against the underground city. He wasn't a fool; the innate formations of a city were incredibly powerful, terrifying after being invested and refined by numerous experts and likely centuries of effort. Even a Soul Idol Phase expert could kill a Realm Lord with the Myriad Monarch Sect's protective formations of the sect.

Fortunately, the Alchemic Dao was extremely skilled with interacting with various energies, forces, and powers that existed in this world. Using its powers of Containment, one of its seven traits, he could isolate and restrict the spiritual qualities of the formation, making it impossible to connect to via remote means.

If given enough time, he could even transform it, gaining control over its powers. While Alchemic Soul Alchemists were said to have very little combat ability in relation to normal cultivators of the same level, this didn't mean they were completely helpless. Not counting pellets, their wealth to buy talismans and tools, their reputation to gather support or experts, they had the profound abilities of alchemic force.

That being said, without void force's invasive and concealed abilities, it would be utterly impossible for him to breach the defenses of the wall, the formations, and the city to make contact with the core. He would be helpless facing a prepared formation, so ordinary Alchemic Soul Alchemists like Qingye Ying would find it even more impossible. The only option left would be through using pure force, a far more frustrating method.

After the spiritual sense that had descended thoroughly inspected Wei Wuyin, there was a distinct silence in the air. Wei Wuyin could feel the bewilderment from the spiritual fluctuations, trying to grasp what was happening. After all, Wei Wuyin was outwardly just a Third Stage Astral Core Realm expert, not some elite expert at a profound stage of cultivation.

After several seconds of silence, the spiritual sense seemed disinclined to act. It retracted and was replaced by a weaker spiritual sense, but it was still powerful.

Woosh!

A figure flew through the air using astral force, piercing through the air with rapid speed. They soon arrived on the edge of the wall, revealing themselves clearly to Wei Wuyin. It was a man dressed in grey-colored heavy armor. He wore the full set of knight attire, and the steel that forged the armor was quite unordinary. It exuded a faint desolate aura.

As for the man, he wore a helmet that covered his face, but his dark eyes that flashed with a sinister indifference revealed itself between the gaps. This man's cultivation was not concealed, revealing himself as an expert at the Fifth Stage of the Astral Core Realm, the Light Reflection Phase.

From time to time, his dark eyes would flicker with yellow primary light. In the Light Reflection Phase, the level of one's light energies were determined and revealed by their primary light, ranging from the light spectrum, with black being the lowest, having no light, and white as the highest, containing all the spectrums of colors that inhabit the world.

From lowest to greatest was: black, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet, and white.

The yellow primary light could be considered the fourth light level, similar to a four-ringed Soul Idol or four-ripple Spatial Resonance. Ai Shanyuan had the same level of primary light.

Wei Wuyin noted the youthful aura of this armored figure, and then he disregarded him entirely. Not sparing the man another glance, he said with an amplified voice: "My name's Wei Wuyin; I seek an audience with the City Lord. Either you can come out yourself, or I'll drag you out!" Wei Wuyin's words caused the crowd below to grow restless and stirring up, but not with panic but excitement.

Some of these individuals wanted to see blood!

There were even a few that jumped atop building's roofs for a better view, thinking if Wei Wuyin would be turned into bloody mist instantly or violently tortured to set an example. Some even were making bets amongst themselves

While Wei Wuyin's words were extremely domineering, to them, it was extremely foolish and ignorant. Furthermore, when his aura was revealed, especially the utter lack of gravitational powers within his spiritual aura and voice, they felt like grabbing a bucket of entertainment food.

The armored man darkly chuckled to himself, feeling it ridiculous that Wei Wuyin ignored him AND threatened the City Lord while being at the Soul Idol Phase. He had never seen someone court death so heavily, so this experience considerably broadened his horizons in what it meant to be an idiot.

The armored man didn't care about Wei Wuyin ignoring him, already having his orders. His aura erupted with an explosive ripple that shook the world, causing the expressions of numerous individuals to grow startled. They discussed this man, as if he was someone famous and widely known. They were quite animated too.

The man's aura flared and he took action. With his armored hand, he threw out a punch infused with his astral force. It was sufficient enough to shatter a continental flat earth of the starfield, and it was concentrated and condensed, likely capable of piercing straight through a planet with its power.

And all this was shot towards Wei Wuyin and Ai Juling! Some held their breaths, wondering if Wei Wuyin would transform into blood mist in one second or less. But Wei Wuyin still didn't glance at the armored man again. With their relatively close range, the surge of astral force was in front of him instantly.

Ai Juling, however, wasn't panicked at this sight. Her eyes too were ignoring the armored man, her gaze a little worried as she stared into the city. To her, this man wasn't worth a finger of Ai Shanyuan, so his actions before Wei Wuyin were truly a little laughable.

Wei Wuyin didn't move a single bit, simply released a white-colored astral ward around himself and Ai Juling.

The surge of astral force crashed heavily against the ward! The world shook once again and the air raged ceaselessly, even torrents of wind formed above and below them, swiftly sweeping across the entire city.

After a brief moment, the armored man's pupils constricted. Wei Wuyin was unharmed! In fact, he hadn't moved a single step! Nor did he even give him another glance! His expression beneath his helmet became slightly ugly. He was befuddled, uncertain what had happened.

Inspecting the white astral ward, he believed it must be a product of an extremely powerful defensive tool. With a roar of killing intent, he shot forth and unleashed his astral force, executing fist-based arts to strike the ward!

Boosh! Boosh! Boosh!

He threw fist after fist with frightening speed and power, causing the air to roil endlessly with every movement. The crushing power of his fists smashed against the ward without mercy! Unfortunately, the ward remained completely unharmed.

...It didn't even ripple.

Ai Juling, this Grey Sands Elf commander, looked at this Ganshu that was relentlessly striking at them, feeling a little pity and disdain. She didn't bother concealing it in her gaze, even revealing some contempt.

This didn't escape the armored man's perception, and he felt that he was being looked down upon by a lowly elf that could only be captured or hide away like rats in their underground cities. His burning anger exploded in his chest, and his armor started to brightly shine with grey-colored light as Desolate Power infused into his strikes, making his fists capable of extracting all things from the living and lively.

But alas, his heavy and powerful fists were met with an unmoving astral ward that nullified his desolate power with utter ease.

The natives and foreigners below were shocked by the waves of wind produced, twisting their clothes and hair wildly about, and they conjured wards to isolate themselves from the shockwaves. But their expressions were quite interesting...

Wei Wuyin finally decided to act, "Enough!" He shouted, causing a ripple of his spiritual strength to erupt and batter the grey armored man. The fists stopped.

Then...

Thud!

Chapter 423 - 419: Takeover

The armored man's knees heavily hit the floor, his arms grew limp by his sides and those dark eyes of his faintly revealed through his helmet grew dazed and unfocused. His head oddly leaned to the side, as if he had lost control of a portion of his neck's strength.

Wei Wuyin had released a burst of spiritual strength to impact the armored man's Sea of Consciousness and Astral Soul, instantly causing him to be subdued and incapacitated. Wei Wuyin's spiritual strength was not a product of a single Astral Soul, but four! Each of them absorbed his maxed out mental, physical, and essence energies to form the greatest spiritual energy mixture! Their foundation was at their highest!

Moreover, three were at the Nine-Ringed Soul Idol level while Ori, his oldest Astral Soul, was at the Ten-Ringed heaven-defying Soul Idol level! These Soul Idol Rings were an expression of a multiplicative leap of his spiritual strength based on their foundation, which was already at their highest limits!

A simple shout of his spiritual strength was an innate spell in and of itself!

The armored man kneeled there like a puppet cut of its strings. Wei Wuyin still didn't offer him a single glance, merely floating upwards and towards the city, passing his collapsed form like it was trash by the side of the road. He rose higher and higher, causing the people below to lift their gazes up to see his figure.

As he did, he glanced at the awed expressions of those below. His silver eyes indifferently swept across the world, swiftly inspecting the faces of all those present and watching. Unfortunately, he didn't find any familiar faces or auras. None of the three thousand entrants of this trial, excluding himself, was present. At least, none of those he saw.

There could be San Clan members present, so he tried to inspect their surprise and shock to see if any recognized him of his name, but to no avail. Considering this world was so vast, it made sense it'll be extremely difficult to discover others. To depressingly add, some might've already died or been captured in this world with stronger cultivators.

When he thought of this, his Celestial Eyes flared with mysterious and ethereal light. He thought of Qing Qiumu and Da Shan. He couldn't glimpse into anything concrete, but he felt an ominous chill flow down his spine. He frowned, realizing that they might actually be in trouble somewhere. But he didn't feel a non-specific trend of dread and death, so it was unlikely they met their demise.

With this in mind, he decided to amp it up. He had to push his agenda with absolute power, alter any and every event through his actions. The greater the uncertainty, the better his protection from being schemed against by that Temporal Reincarnator!

His voice was infused with a mighty tone, domineering and imperious, "I said I seek an audience. I don't have time to handle your insignificant dogs. Either you come out yourself or I WILL drag you out!" His eyes swept the city until it reached a magnificent tower that was rather wide, but similarly tall. It was nearly a hundred meters tall, and it gave off a very refined aura.

Clearly, this was the headquarters of the City Lord. When his eyes pierced into that direction, he released a flow of spiritual aura that penetrated into the tower and wildly erupted. A boom was heard, and a vicious and powerful snort resounded.

The snort was like thunder to the ears of the weak, making them cower in fear and horror. It originated from the tower, and then a vast, world-sundering aura exploded from the tower. But the figures inside didn't reveal themselves.

Instead, they calmly ordered: "Restrain this fool; Activate the Desolate Ninth Mountain Astral Formation!" It seemed the voice was cautious. They likely assumed that this was a trap set by a powerful cultivator to lure them out, likely sniping them from afar before the city formation could activate.

The one inside the tower sneered to themselves. They weren't fools that would fall for such a simple ploy. They intended to activate the formation and capture Wei Wuyin, then deal with any attacks or plots after under its protection.

A few seconds after.

"..."

The residents and Seekers felt that something was wrong. They thought the formation should activate, especially after the City Lord had ordered its activation. Quite a few were intrigued at the prospects of witnessing the activation and usage of the legendary formation that defended against top-tier experts and Desolate Devils alike.

Alas, there was no response.

Wei Wuyin felt the attempts to activate it, a faint smile surfaced on his face. He had already thoroughly isolated the formation. In fact, he was currently investing more astral force in an attempt to thoroughly refine the formation core and gain complete control of it. He had consumed fifty percent of his Alchemic Eden Astral Core's World Sea already, taking his time to ensure that he properly and completely grasped control of it.

He quietly waited, funneling more and more astral force via Instant Transmission. While he was acting imposing, he still felt that taking control of the formation first would be easier. The reason he allowed the grey armored man to attack him for so long was because he was reaching a crucial point. He just needed a little more time...

He had already taken over ninety percent of the city formations, and he could activate them at will unlike others who needed a formation flag to direct it. He had enough astral force to drive it entirely by himself, possessing eighty times the reserves of an ordinary Gravity Emission Phase expert.

"..."

Several more seconds later, the existence in the tower was sending out his spiritual sense to investigate. After a short period, an exclamation echoed out from the tower. It was filled with uncertainty and confusion. Then, another figure inside the tower did something that revealed an unfathomable strength!

They unfurled a Worldly Domain!

A translucent and intangible sphere expanded!

It wasn't large, engulfing an area of roughly a hundred meters, mostly the area around the tower, and it ventured down below as the ambient energies, mana, and astronomical forces of the world were taken under their control. But the restrained mana due to the Season of Regression caused it to have very little influence on the ambient mana, preventing them from converting it into their own power.

Wei Wuyin's eyes constricted after witnessing this. A Reamlord!! Moreover, this wasn't a False Worldly Domain that the San Clan Reamlords acquired due to a pill, but a genuine Worldly Domain! This person cultivated to this point, overcoming the astral tribulation for it with their own strength!

His heart started to throb intensely, feeling a wisp of shock in his heart. Fortunately, the Worldly Domain was extremely small. Tuo Bihan's Worldly Domain could cover tens of times that size, enough to engulf the entire main hall of Myriad Monarch Sect's Throne Room and all its inhabitants.

He realized the size of one's Worldly Domain differed considerably based on their foundation, and Tuo Bihan had been retroactively enhanced to the Nine-Ringed and Nine-Ripple state with numerous physical, mental, essence, and astral force amplifying resources, be it quantity or quality-based.

He frowned as the Reamlord ventured downwards, traveling to the center of the formation that handled the regulated the others. There was a momentary pause, and then Wei Wuyin brightly smiled.

His silver eyes shone with light that was vast and heavy as he interacted with the Desolate Ninth Mountain Astral Formation! A yelp of unexpected shock resounded, followed by harsh rumbling and then an abrupt and complete silence.

"..."

The Worldly Domain manifested had vanished, the aura of the Realmlord along with it. Wei Wuyin turned to the tower, his eyes piercing into it and noticing that the individual who snorted and called him a fool, the City Lord, was there with a messy and distraught aura.

Wei Wuyin grinned, not expecting it to be this easy! Furthermore, the City Lord wasn't a Realmlord. It was a guardian of the city, and this guardian was foolish enough to investigate the formation core, entering both its most vulnerable yet strongest location. In moments, they were sealed and restricted.

Even Wei Wuyin was startled by the sheer power of the formations when activated, realizing that his foresight and caution to take preventive measures was still the best, and brawns are best paired with brains. While it felt good to act with overwhelming strength, there were many things in this world that allowed the weak to suppress the reckless and strong, not just numbers.

With the Realmlord trapped, the formations under his control, he turned his hand over and created a small ball of flickering white lightning within his palm. It had the heat and volatility of Violet Lightning, possessing its inherent Intent.

"Then, I'll drag you out." His words were more leveled, not as explosively, but it caused a chill to resound through everyone's spines. With a screeching sound of lightning, the ball shot forth and arrived at the tower instantly.

BOOM!!

The tower was impacted, the long-since placed defensive formations on it didn't activate, already within Wei Wuyin's control. A large hole was produced in the tower from the explosion, revealing a figure that was seated in a throne-like chair, their appearance finally being revealed. Their aura was quite a mess.

A middle-aged man with black hair with greyed temples, giving him a uniquely attractive quality. He was slender-looking within his luxurious robes but still contained an imposing presence, revealing a pair of dark brown eyes.

Those eyes looked at Wei Wuyin, a trace of fear reflected within them. Despite being at the Sixth Stage of the Astral Core Realm, the Gravity Emission Phase, he couldn't help but clenched his hands around the armrest of his throne as he regarded Wei Wuyin through the giant hole in his once invincible tower.

Wei Wuyin nodded as if his emotions were only right and proper, "Good. Now, allow me to inform you: This city is now MINE!" As he said this, he stomped his foot in the air, and eight thick pillars of grey light erupted, surrounding the city. These thick pillars of desolate light concentrated directly above the city, producing a mirage of a grand mountain.

The mountain shone light that highlighted Wei Wuyin's figure, making his already handsome figure even more so.

The City Lord gawked, looking at the mountain image above with a thunderstruck expression!!

The residents, the foreign and domestic Seekers, the young woman and old man playing a casual board game, and even Ai Juling were wide-eyed, open-mouthed, and clutching at their beating chests in incredulous shock!

WHAT?!

Chapter 424 - 420: Blaze It With The Old & Young

Wei Wuyin's incredibly domineering words and frightening display of his unfathomable control of the Desolate Ninth Mountain Astral Formation had thoroughly shaken the hearts and minds of everyone present. He had somehow hijacked Grandquake City! Furthermore, no one noticed!

The lingering sensations of disbelief, uncertainty, and confusion stayed within their thoughts as everyone below observed Wei Wuyin's floating figure. They also noticed the Grey Sands Elf female that he carried in his arms, their expressions even more confused.

Who was this unfathomably handsome-looking man? Why would he act against Grandquake City? How did he take over Grandquake City? And will this last or was it just a fading event, with the schemes of the powerful experts of Grandquake City behind it?

These questions blared through the minds of most, with a few thinking of some absurd questions or thoughts. But the most pressing question within the minds of those smarter and farsighted, such as Chu Leitao was: "What now?"

Fortunately, they didn't have to wait for long.

Wei Wuyin swept his gaze across the city's inhabitants, gauging the size and population. He was quite shocked by the average cultivation level within this city of roughly fifty million, and the size of this circular-shaped city was 700 miles in diameter. It was large, but relatively compact.

"I'll introduce myself: I am Wei Wuyin. From henceforth, Grandquake City will be under my control. But, I have no intent of changing daily structure or uplifting certain traditions. The city will function as it always has, simply with me replaced as the City Lord. If you wish to leave, you may do so—I won't stop you.

"The city's fees, costs, and day-to-day operations will remain unchanged within the city, but I'll be overseeing the financial details. Until I give an order otherwise, all inhabitants of Grandquake City, foreign and native, may act as you have always done so. As long as you display no hostility or scheme against me, you'll be unbothered by this transition."

Wei Wuyin hadn't spoken these words, but used his eden force to erupt, sending these words directly into the minds of everyone within the city. Those experts who had never been spoken to directly via their minds panicked, fear apparent in their eyes, but those weaker were just startled by how clear and loud Wei Wuyin was.

After speaking those words, Wei Wuyin hefted Ai Juling into a firmer carrying position before flying through the hole he exploded and melted through the 'former' City Lord's tower. He vanished into the hole before the eyes of everyone and the tower soon repaired itself, concealing the events of what was happening inside.

"..." A few individuals of the less brave sort released heavy sighs of relief. Some looked to their immediate neighbor, uncertain if they should act as Wei Wuyin said, or panic and run in hopes of avoiding some unfortunate event befalling them. The ones in the most awkward position were the previous members of authority within the city, thinking if they should resist. But when they saw the Desolate Ninth Mountain Astral Formation was still active, their hearts quickly cooled down.

If they acted rashly, wouldn't they be courting death? With that formation active, this city has been impregnable and resisted numerous vengeful experts from the Central Regions for millennia, so why risk that when they couldn't even compare to those experts?

There were two individuals who were frowning amongst the millions of inhabitants. They were sitting across from each other, an on-going board game still in the process of being played. This duo of young woman and old man had a faint glow of similar spiritual light emitting from their eyes, with the young woman's focus on Wei Wuyin's exit and the old man observing the grand mountain that stayed lingering in the sky.

"Grandpa, who is that person? Is he actually in the Soul Idol Phase or is it a concealment method?" She was shocked by Wei Wuyin's cultivation base, asking these questions to the old man across from her.

"Hm," the old man rubbed his beard with a little hum of interest and intrigue.

"Hey! Old man!" The girl shouted and slammed the table, displaying a pretty pout of aggravation. Any man would find her unbearably cute, wanting to hug and hold her at this moment.

The old man shook as he nearly fell off his chair, barely catching his balance with strained effort. He coughed a few times, feeling that his granddaughter's temper was truly something else. If only she was more gentle, less competitive, how easy would it be for her to find a nice husband? With a sigh of depression at this difficult problem, he soon lost himself in his own sorrows.

The young woman seemed to be familiar with the old man's tendencies and said, "If you don't tell me; I'll tell Grandma about you sneaking into the bathhouse of the city."

The old man's expression changed drastically as if he was a man being told he was about to enter death row, quite ugly and twisted. With a shift of expression, he became unfathomably calm and serene.

"What bathhouse? I have no idea what you're talking about—None at all."

The young woman snorted while folding her arms, revealing her exquisite curves, "Let's see if she believes me or you, Mr. Thick Skinned Pervert."

"..." The facade on the old man's thick-skinned face was slowly crumbling as he looked as if he was about to cry, as if he was about to beg for mercy.

"Enough! Tell me already!" The young woman had long since learned of the old man's practiced antics to stir pity, so she thoroughly wanted to skip it.

The old man sighed to himself, "How did that sweet little gentle dollop of mine raise such a fierce woman? The woes of the old is always due to the young. Haaa..."

The young woman's eyelids twitched, and she was about to threaten further when the old man spoke. "He is indeed at the Soul Idol Phase. Furthermore, he's absolutely terrifying. I've never seen a youngster like him."

"..." The young woman's expression grew serious, her gaze returning to the City Lord's tower. She had more questions, but she knew that once the old man began to speak, he was a flood unleashed by a shattered dam, there was no need to urge him further.

As expected, the old man continued, "Just his foundation is heaven-defying. He doesn't have one Astral Core, but two independent Astral Cores with fully developed World Seas. And their sizes are quite massive. So massive that I've never seen any match it at his cultivation level."

"Two? Massive? How massive is it?" The young woman curiously inquired.

"Not as massive as his third leg, but massive nevertheless." The old man said with the utmost serious expression, expertly concealing his perverted intent. The young woman's expression darkened, a faint blush on her face as she fiercely glared at the old man for his untimely perverted mind. Moreover, why was he inspecting that?!

The old man seemed to be entirely innocent, "His Astral Cores are both ten centimeters in size." When he said those words, the young woman's hands trembled and her body shook.

"...What?!" She strained her voice out, sounding hoarse and losing a little of its pleasant-sounding pitch.

The old man nodded, "He has two of equal size. Mind you, they are independent—fully independent. Unlike those strange humans with unique bloodlines, his Astral Cores aren't linked. I've never seen anything like it before."

The young woman was still trying to process the size when the old man elaborated, her eyes flitted with disbelief. "He's not of that lineage?" She had carelessly assumed that was the case when she heard her Grandpa mention his two Astral Cores, feeling that it wasn't that amazing considering the strange lineage of humans that she knew of.

The old man shook his head with a contemplative frown, "He's cultivated a unique method it seems, one that mimics those bloodline abilities. But to see a method that exceeds their lineage in terms of quality, not quantity, that's a shocker. They were already heaven-defying, and there's someone who made them obsolete. The woes of the old being pushed out by the new."

A trace of greed surfaced within the young woman's eyes when she heard about this unique method, because that meant it could be cultivated. If she obtained it, wouldn't she be able to have multiple astral souls? Multiple astral cores?! How could she not desire it?

"A method like this can only be cultivated by those who've never overcome an Astral Tribulation, so only the Qi Condensation Realm." The old man added some words, whether it was intentional or unintentional, it deflated the woman's enthusiasm. She knew the Astral Tribulation solidified one's path, making it very difficult to veer off without completely restarting one's cultivation.

Of course, the old man merely lied. His eyes shifted to the young woman. *'If you think a youngster not even fifty created that method, you must be delusional. If he has such a foundation and exquisite methods, his master or clan must be extremely terrifying, and the protective means he has must be beyond your imagination. Don't blame me for lying little girl, your life might've just been saved by this lie.'* The old man's thoughts were clear and guilt-free.

"How did someone like that end up here? Isn't this the True Element Sect's World Realm?" The young woman asked, feeling it strange that someone like this existed here. He was clearly a foreigner, as this incomplete World Realm lacked the necessary means to develop such a character.

The old man frowned slightly at her words, "He's a participant of the trial embedded here; he's developed Elemental Origin Intent. You recall that white lightning? It was infused with Violet Lightning Intent, a high-level Lightning Intent. I'm shocked he had comprehended such a powerful Lightning Intent. In terms of speed and searing strength, its in the top three."

"What? He comprehended Elemental Origin Intent as well?! Isn't that too much?" The young woman felt shocked, realizing that Wei Wuyin was anything but ordinary. Then a thought occurred to her, "He's a Chosen Candidate of the True Element Sect?!" She exclaimed in disbelief.

Just as the old man was about to speak, his eyes faintly constricted. A bitter smile then revealed itself on his face, shocking the young woman, and with a tone of being caught with his hands in the cookie jar, he scratched his head and said: "It seems I've been discovered, haha."

The young woman was rather confused by his words.

"Yes, you have." A voice erupted from behind her, causing her to snap her head back, her eyes flashing with spiritual light. Those same eyes tightened into needlepoints, shocked by the person who showed up.

It was a man of otherworldly, unearthly handsome looks that seemed to originate from immortal legends, dressed in black and standing quite tall. With silver eyes that were quite radiant, he had a faint smile on his face. It was that young man from before!

It was Wei Wuyin!

Chapter 425 - 421: Outside Visitors

The young woman was startled, not afraid. She observed Wei Wuyin with a spiritual glint within her eyes, clearly inspecting his cultivation base and other aspects with a unique ocular-based spiritual spell. Unfortunately, she couldn't gather as much information as her grandfather.

But she did verify that he was indeed a Soul Idol Phase cultivator, and she felt a little bit of unintentional disdain within her heart, but she soon recalled her grandfather's words and her expression became solemn. Unintentionally, she shifted her gaze to between his legs, and then as if catching herself, snapped her eyes away, returning to Wei Wuyin's face.

Wei Wuyin didn't bother about the young girl's inspection or looking him up-and-down with disregard. He focused his attention to the old man that sat calmly in his seat, looking a little guilty but not fearful or overly shocked. While Wei Wuyin was outwardly calm, he was inwardly shocked to the utmost. This old man gave him an unfathomable feeling that he'd only discovered from Wu Yu, and it was far stronger.

"How did you discover me? A treasure, perhaps?" The old man asked, curious how a Soul Idol cultivator noticed his presence. Was his Spiritual Spell flawed? Considering how many years he'd refined it, that would be quite the disappointment and a hit to his pride.

"..." Wei Wuyin remained silent. If it was normal circumstances, he would've never revealed himself to this old man and young woman. He would've acted as he did with that young woman that stood by Lin Ming's side on the Myriad Yore Continent, remaining outwardly ignorant but inwardly vigilant.

"You don't want to say?" The old man asked, feeling a little amused by Wei Wuyin's presence. His eyes swept the surroundings playfully before returning to Wei Wuyin's figure. But his mind was quite heavy.

Wei Wuyin wasn't bothered by the implications of his tone, explaining: "You were the only one who triggered my hidden mechanism in my mental transmission. It was meant to lure out and discover any experts in hiding. I have no intention of getting sneak attacked by a hidden Realmlord within the city concealing themselves."

"Oh?" The old man's eyes brightened. He had fallen for a trap? When he considered Wei Wuyin's message that was sent directly to the mind, he seemed to have come to a realization. When he received the message, he had scanned it to ensure no negative effects before receiving it. But when he thought about it, only those who've comprehended a Worldly Domain would be able to inspect mental energies so thoroughly, likely for the same reason: to hide or prevent a hidden assault.

It was highly unlikely for a Realmlord or higher to not inspect a mental transmission out of instinct or fear, not wanting their secrets to be preyed upon. After all, he had done so instinctively. As for a Spiritual Transmission? Every expert and their mother's would've inspected that, at least they would have the means to.

The old man chuckled, he felt that this young man was quite interesting. As for the young woman, she was bewildered and surprised by Wei Wuyin actually tracking them down, discovering who they were in a city of tens of millions, and moreover, his courage to approach them.

"Who are you?" Both Wei Wuyin and the young woman asked at the same time, coincidentally with the same calm cadence. This caused them to exchange stares, feeling that the moment was quite peculiar.

The old man broke this moment with a laugh, "She's a fierce one. If you want to lock her down, be ready for a Dao Companion Ceremony." When he said this, the young woman broke away from their stare and glared at the old man, feeling that his thoughts were always inappropriate and indecent.

Wei Wuyin faintly smiled, "I see. Well, my name's Wei Wuyin. I'm not a native of this World Realm. I originate from an outside starfield, arriving via a Gateway Door." He didn't hold back his response, speaking the truth.

This shocked the old man and young woman, especially with Wei Wuyin's direct explanation and holding little back. But when the old man heard this, he faintly smiled after correcting his expression.

"You're reading our responses? Quite fierce and intelligent." As if exposing Wei Wuyin, the old man spoke while rubbing his beard.

Wei Wuyin didn't answer, merely smiled. But the young woman was thoroughly confused, uncertain about what the old man meant.

The old man decided to explain, "It's a tactic to gather information or answers to questions without asking any. You simply say certain information or details about things and view your target's reaction. When he said those words, he was watching to see if we revealed any markers of disbelief or surprise in our body language or facial expressions. Which we obviously didn't. So he answered a question of his: 'Are we also natives from this world?'"

The young man was still confused. "How does that verify if we're from this world?"

The old man moved within his seat a little, getting a little more comfortable. "You'll have to ask him. But we aren't, and we told him as much. Furthermore, he answered honestly which would lower our guard, allowing us to trust him more as a result. It's hard not to be honest to the honest. There's more you learned, right? Such a tactic is only learned by those who have been schemed against or have schemed against others, quite thoroughly in fact."

Wei Wuyin didn't respond, there was utterly no need. Since the old man noticed his intentions, he didn't need to confirm nor deny, and he knew the old man was cut from a similar cloth as himself.

The old man continued, "We're from a starfield away from where you've entered; just a couple of visitors from the outside admiring the sights of someone's creation. You can't be thinking of acting against us lowly tourists, right?"

Wei Wuyin calmly looked at the old man, "Wouldn't think of it. Senior, if you have any questions for me, please don't hesitate to ask. Enjoy your stay." With his intelligence, he knew the old man's intentions from those words. Furthermore, the old man's cultivation was unfathomably high, and he had already verified his own guesses. After making himself openly available, he didn't bother with anything else.

After clasping his hands in a respectful farewell, his figure distorted into a misty light and vanished entirely.

The young woman was horrified, taken aback by Wei Wuyin's disappearance. She asked with a tinge of panic, "You killed him?!" Her words were directed to the old man, thinking he was the only one who could vanish someone so thoroughly.

But the old man frowned, and that frown was extremely deep and his eyes held a contemplative light that was heavy. This caused the young woman's heart to shake instantly as if an earthquake was born within its depths. She had never seen the old man so serious, so solemn. She realized there was far too much she missed through this short exchange.

The old man's expression soon softened, "Haha! Kill him? He was never even here." When the old man said that, the young woman's expression was filled with surprise.

What?!

Never here?!

He was right there!

The old man sighed, despite his granddaughter's unfathomably high cultivation base despite her age and exquisite legacy from a lineage of experts, such as himself, she was still too wet behind the ears. "Did you not notice that no one else in our surroundings reacted to him suddenly arriving? When others turned to look at us, they didn't react as if they just saw the man who just overtook their city?"

When the old man pointed that out, she looked around and realized that his words were true. No one reacted to their conversation or his appearance. "But...how?"

The old man didn't smile, frown, sigh, laugh, or reveal any expression after hearing this question. He merely stated in a flat tone: "We were in an illusion."

"An illusion? Illusions don't work like that! They bring one's mind into a false environment that affects the five senses, distorting their perception. But this is real, and only he was fake? That's against the principles of an illusion, more in line with a hallucination, afterimage, or a conjured decoy. If you told me he was an incarnation, then maybe, but we were in an illusion? I scanned him and saw his cultivation base! He was real!" The young woman rejected such an outlandish statement. She knew the current world was real, and they were never brought into an illusionary world, so it shouldn't be possible.

The old man didn't explain this time, but his heart was quivering despite his cultivation. He had noticed they were in an illusion early on, the moment it happened in fact, but he found that the only aspect of that illusion was Wei Wuyin. Everything else in this world was real, he was the sole product of their imagination and mind.

Otherwise, how could he approach without him noticing until he was directly behind his granddaughter? He wasn't that old and muddleheaded. He knew that Wei Wuyin was far, far more terrifying than he originally estimated. When he thought about Wei Wuyin's Elemental Origin Intent, two Astral Souls, and ten centimeter-sized Astral Cores, he knew that Wei Wuyin was...

In the City Lord's Tower, Wei Wuyin's eyes finally opened, being blessed by Ai Juling's inspective expression. When she noticed him open his eyes, she looked away and just rested herself in his arms once more. The City Lord was fixed into his chair, gripping his armrest as he stared at Wei Wuyin with fear. He was sweating bullets, clearly under some extreme pressure.

Wei Wuyin furrowed his brows, his Celestial Eyes of Spiritual Divinity's Eye of Illusion deactivated, alongside the eden energies that it carried via void force. He felt somewhat exhausted as he used eden energies and void force to bypass the need for visual connection of the eyes using his Eye of Illusion.

The mechanism he had left in his mental transmission wasn't an unprepared one, causing him to instantly utilize Instant Transmission to project his eden energies stealthily with the powers of his Eye of Illusion to construct a mental link with the one who triggered the mechanism. The only reason the young woman was also affected was due to the old man simultaneously triggering his and her mental transmission trap.

The exquisite usage of his trio of powers left him a little exhausted, as he hadn't projected an entire illusory world with the Eye of Illusion, but merely projected his image connected to their five senses, which was far, far more advanced and less intrusive. He wouldn't have done this if he hadn't felt a feeling of unfathomableness from the old man. Instead, he would've caused a brief lapse of attention via mental burst and then ensnare them using the astral formation of the city.

And he definitely wouldn't meet that person directly. What if he was instantly killed? Who would he cry to?

°Others from outside...are they here due to the Temporal Reincarnator or for something else entirely?° His thoughts stirred as he contemplated the numerous possibilities, but he couldn't determine it. But now he had a glimpse of more variables, causing him to reassess his plans once more.

After a brief moment, he turned to the 'former' City Lord. With a faint smile, he asked: "Now, will you answer my questions peacefully or will I have to..."

As his voice trailed off, the 'former' City Lord heavily gulped, fear effusing from his normally imposing eyes.

Chapter 426 - 422: The Hunting Of Da Shan

"DON'T LET HER ESCAPE!" A deep, thunderous voice exploded throughout the world, causing the earth to quake and the sky to roil.

"Yes sir!" Several synchronized voices responded in unity, their shout followed by sonic booms. Several figures swished through the air, engulfed in astral wards, fueled by astral force, and they flew with extreme purpose. These figures dodged the following gigantic snowflakes that fell from the skies, flickering from one area to another with practiced movements.

Ahead of them by several miles was a figure that stood at nearly eight-feet tall, with a pair of mountainous breasts, and a voluptuous figure. Garbed in tight-fitting leather battle armor that accentuated its bodily figure yet gave optimal defenses while not restricting motion, the figure shot through the gigantic snowflake-filled world like a bulldozer.

It was a figure that Wei Wuyin was distinctively familiar with, body and all! Da Shan! Her golden irises were flickering with intermittent light of bright and dim radiance. At the corner of her lips was a stream of violet-colored blood. She was injured!

With her violet-colored ward enshrouding her body, she kept crashing into those sharp gigantic snowflakes that cluttered the world, unable to adjust to dodging them like those who pursued her. She didn't have such luxuries as making indirect adjustments might consume less astral force and bodily strength, but it would slow her down considerably.

Da Shan turned her head around to see nearly a dozen figures blaze their way through the skies, and they exuded ill-intent and the vicious aura of predators after prey, causing her heart to quiver. She bit her lips, feeling angered at their actions of fiercely hunting her down.

Clenching her pearly white teeth stained with violet blood, she urged her astral force further as she exploded with speed, gaining some distance between her pursuers and herself. Unfortunately, she continued to crash heavily into the falling snowflakes and her astral ward was being filled with a unique frost power that was stagnating the flow of her innate energies. She even felt cold, her lips had a faint icy-blue sheen to them. Even the demonic blood that leaked out of her lips contained an icy shimmer.

Seeing her separating further from them, the nearly dozen figures pursuing released whistles, and they kept following at a steady pace. Their actions were clear that they have a lock on her, waiting for her astral force and innate energies to run dry before sweeping in for an easy capture.

Da Shan wasn't an idiot. She knew that she had been marked by an expert at the Spatial Resonance Phase. Their Spatial Marks weren't something that she could dissipate without enough time and breathing room. It was unfortunate that they wouldn't give her that time.

If this continued, she would be affected by the icy power in the world and her astral force and innate energies would stagnate. Then, she would be helpless to resist. She bit her lips harshly, turning her head back as she cursed within her heart.

In the end, she decided to stop. With a stomp of her powerful feet, she condensed her astral force around her and stared at the incoming shadows flickering through the sea of falling snowflakes. The figures didn't halt, continuing at the same pace until they arrived, and they instantly split, surrounding her in a circle.

They released their astral force cautiously, watching Da Shan with eyes filled with ridicule, disdain, and a little fear. To them, Da Shan was not a creature that could be underestimated. Several of their companions had fallen to her monstrous strength and unique demonic force that could infect others.

Therefore, they only surrounded her and waited for their leader, a cultivator with a much higher cultivation, to arrive. When they arrived on scene, her capture attempt wouldn't cause further casualties. Their job was simply to ensure she didn't escape.

Da Shan gritted her teeth. She had entered this World Realm and found herself in this icy environment with blade-like gigantic-sized snowflakes that released icy power that seemed to stagnate energies and astral force alike. It was rather horrible, especially considering the lack of demonic energies present in the air.

This meant this environment hadn't given birth to even the slightest demonic existence, causing her to grow wary. When she explored this icy world, she discovered it was called The Snowfall Lands from traveling human cultivators. These cultivators were startled by her demon-like appearance, seemingly ignorant of her race's existence.

But they were too weak in comparison, so they had to answer all her questions, unable to act on their curiosity and ill-intent to examine her thoroughly. In the end, she learned a lot and left. But these humans had spread word of a 'unique' creature traveling. Somehow or another, a group of human cultivators started to hunt her down like a wild beast.

She had mercilessly killed most, but a few escaped, but that didn't deter any attempts at capturing her! They kept sending more and more, stronger and stronger, until three Spatial Resonance Phase experts gathered together and launched a combined assault on her. If it wasn't for her unique bloodline, the armaments Wei Wuyin had forged for her, and her strong foundation, she would've long since been captured and experimented on like a marvel.

Da Shan was helpless, feeling extremely indignant and aggrieved. When had she ever experienced such a feeling before?

While she escaped those experts, even killing one and heavily injuring the other two after detonating her warhammer, they had subordinates that continued to track her down with relentless effort.

As she waited, her golden gaze swept around these human cultivators. She breathed out heavily with a ferocious bark, "Despicable trash!" But her words were met with no change of their expressions, their astral force still erected and ready for her to escape once more.

She had to take several breaths to regulate her energies, slowly expelling the icy power that had insidiously infiltrated her meridians and dantian, threatening to stagnate her entire cultivation.

Two different-colored comets speckled with silver dots shot out of the horizon, arriving on scene. These were the two Spatial Resonance Phase cultivators who had been heavily injured by her Astral

Armament's detonation. They were garbed in white attire like the rest, seemed very suited to resist the icy power that lingered in the air. They had strange masks that covered the lower-half of their face, preventing the icy power from entering through their mouth into their lungs.

She couldn't determine how they looked or what gender they were from their outward appearance, but from their voices and screams, she knew they were both males. She stared at these two figures with blazing hatred and severe killing intent. If looks could kill, this white snowy land would become a sea of red stained by blood.

"Why?!" She questioned in anger. They had been hunting her down for nearly four days, giving her very little time to rest or relax.

"Hahaha! You'll go for a good price on the market!" A male voice with similarly hate-filled emotions shouted, originating from one of the Spatial Resonance Phase experts. When the male laughed, the subordinates they surrounded her similarly chuckled, sounding quite wicked and evil.

"Market?" Da Shan thought they were going to interrogate her, try to determine her origins. But they wanted to sell her? This caused her to feel immense disgust.

The other male expert interjected, "If you're lucky, you might be bought by someone who likes your odd appearance. Maybe they'll treat you delicately! If not, and I hope you're not, you'll experience how it feels to suffer!" Clearly this person hated Da Shan, and if one looked at his right arm, seeing its absence and recently wrapped stumped still bloody, they would fully understand why.

Da Shan's expression changed. She shouted fiercely, "Do you know who I am?!"

"..." The men went quiet. They glanced at each other, seeing the confusion in each other's eyes. In truth, they believed she was just a mutant human who cultivated a strange method, hence the violet-skin and tall stature. But she was abnormally strong with high-quality armaments. Her strange astral force was definitely rare and would sell for a high price, especially if she cultivated a unique energy source.

She would be a high-value Energy Converter.

That being said, they didn't know who she was. Considering they've been hunting her down for several days, not just them but other groups, they didn't know if she had any backing. Wouldn't they already come if she did?

Da Shan sneered, "I am the Ascendant Emperor's woman!" Her words were tinged with pride. While she didn't want to use Wei Wuyin's name to escape a lethal crisis, she didn't reject it!

"...!" The two were instantly shocked! Their expressions beneath their masks became ugly and twisted, horrifying fear flickering in their eyes. But then when they looked at each other, sending transmissions to gather information, they were confused and bewildered.

Who was this Ascendant Emperor? He sounded incredibly impressive, but they've never heard of him. They were scared for some reason, though. It was as if a sudden shock of dread circulated throughout their minds when they heard this name.

Da Shan's smile froze when she remembered this was another world realm. If she said this in her starfield, even Grand Imperial Sages would halt, likely begging her for mercy by now. But these people were ignorant of Wei Wuyin's existence. How could they beg?

The two soon calmed down after some discussion, turning to Da Shan with blazing anger. They had actually felt fear for someone they didn't know by some mutant? How embarrassing! Their prestige as Spatial Resonance Phase cultivators would be called into question if this leaked.

Feeling the situation turn for the worse, Da Shan decided to use her last trump card. With a wave of her hand, a crimson-colored pellet appeared in her palm. When it emerged, the surroundings became hotter, and the icy power in the surroundings started to disperse rapidly, like ice meeting the sun.

In seconds, the area of ten feet around the pellet became dry! Not even the falling snowflakes dispersed upon reaching a certain distance within its influence.

The two experts' expressions changed, so did the subordinates. One of the leaders shouted in abject fear, "A fire-attributed Alchemic Pellet?!" With a screech of horror, the leader didn't hesitate to turn into a comet, flying away.

The other leader shouted, "ARE YOU MAD?!" And erupted with explosive astral force, shooting off in the opposite direction. The subordinates all exclaimed with fear! They, too, erupted with their greatest strength and left in fear.

"..." Da Shan was extremely shocked. This was an eighth-grade fire-attributed pellet that Wei Wuyin had left her, and she intended to use it to escape from this crisis, but...

Just as she was curious why they had run off so suddenly, the sky above started to roil. She looked up and her golden eyes constricted into needlepoints! Without any hesitation, she sent the pellet upwards and shot off as well!

Unfortunately, she only got a few steps in before her figure froze, then became encased in ice!! As for the pellet? It was frozen in the air! It and her were soon pulled into the sky, vanishing into the roiling clouds!

In Grandquake City, Wei Wuyin was interrogating the 'former' City Lord when he felt a pinch of pain. He moved his arm slightly, lifting up his sleeve with astral force, and his eyes narrowed.

Karmic Luck Value: 982.0 → 944.6.

First Calamity: Survived - 7/7.

Second Calamity: Suppressed - 7 Years.

Chapter 427 - 423: Ai Juling's Honesty

Karmic Luck Value: 982.0 → 944.6.

First Calamity: Survived - 7/7.

Second Calamity: Suppressed - 7 Years.

"..." Wei Wuyin observed this change, trying to pinpoint where this source of Karmic Luck would manifest as, but he didn't receive any indication or clues regarding it in his mind. Typically, the deduction of karmic luck would be followed by the Heavenly Daos' attempt to influence his thoughts, leaning him towards a certain direction. The Bloodline of Sin alerted him of this, even revealing the details.

As for now? He felt none of that, but the reduction of karmic luck was clearly there. It took a few seconds of recollection before he recalled something, and it was regarding Bai Lin. That magnificent white crane that had eaten a golden fruit that later instigated its evolution into a phoenix.

Recalling Bai Lin, he temporarily grew melancholic, missing her presence in his life. Fortunately, he knew she'd be back soon after completing her evolution, and refocused his mind. He knew it was possible that this karmic luck event had something to do with someone connected to him.

He always speculated that Long Chen had used his Karmic Luck to obtain his harem, and then used more karmic luck to benefit them, leading to rapid exhaustion. This was a thought of his when he first saw them, as if it originated instinctively from the Bloodline of Sin. He had many intuitions about karmic luck that seemed to feel natural, as if he was right just from thinking about it.

The Karmic Luck being consumed by others linked to him or other Blessed was definitely a possibility, and he'd experienced it before. He might've experienced it numerous times actually. He couldn't be certain due to his consciousness being trapped in his Mind's Eye, but it was likely his karmic luck was taken for Du Ling and Su Mei while he was in the Eden Earth Sect.

It seemed to be a rare occurrence, but one that occurred nevertheless. After frowning with contemplation, he activated his Celestial Eyes of Spiritual Divinity's Eye of Truth, glimpsing into the waves of worldly flow and trend, seeing if he could gather a bit of information.

Then, he knew. The ominous ripples he had observed before had been reduced. Somewhere, somehow, Da Shan or Qing Qiumu, one of them, had just stumbled upon a lucky chance that might be connected to him in some way. He didn't know the exact details, but one of them was no longer in any danger. In fact, they might greatly benefit from this.

With a breath of relief, he returned to his interrogation. Regardless of what they experienced or how they'd benefit, at least they were safe. He knew the inherent dangers of this world was much greater than he'd expected, with experts in this world that exceeded the limits of their starfield. He had met a Realmlord in one of the twelve cities!

He couldn't imagine how strong those top forces in this world were. Timelords? Starlords? There were even mysterious outsiders with profound strength, definitely exceeding the Astral Core Realm, lingering in this world realm for some reason.

The more he learned of this, the more he felt the ruination of the starfield, the trend of the world, likely had a deep and inseparable connection to this World Realm. He had a few theories, but he felt there was no need to indulge idle thoughts until he grasped the situation a little more.

He turned his attention to the 'former' City Lord, "Tell me about the twelve cities. Everything you know."

Several hours later, Wei Wuyin was situated in the former bedroom of the City Lord inside the tower. It was extremely minimalistic, bringing a shock to Wei Wuyin. The room only had some windows, a large-sized bed, a chair and table for sitting and reading. It lacked the taste of a wealthy ruler, causing Wei Wuyin to realize the City Lord likely hated fancy ornaments or designs.

He respected that preference. It reminded him of his bedroom in the Scarlet Solaris Sect. Besides a bed, an area for his cauldron, and a chair and reading table, there was nothing else. He had changed his own preference when he was bestowed the title of Inheritor of Sin, feeling like he should enjoy life more.

But he still enjoyed this type of environment, nonetheless.

He was still carrying Ai Juling in his arms. She seemed to remain quiet and comfortably observed everything from his arms. He didn't know whether to laugh or cry, because she had hung onto him while 'fully awake' for hours, simply watching his questioning of the City Lord. He had even tried to place her down, but she tightly held onto his neck in defiance.

He really didn't know what to do. Now that they were alone, isolated in the bedroom, he felt an urge to throw her to the bed. He turned to her, who was using her light-brown eyes to observe the bedroom, seemingly judging it as lacking from her expression.

"Are you planning to stay in my arms forever?" Wei Wuyin asked with a teasing smile.

Ai Juling was jolted out of her inspection, turning her head to look at Wei Wuyin's bright smile. She pouted indignantly, "You've held me like this for a week, so what if I am?"

Despite her words, Wei Wuyin found that she was unbearably cute, possessing a unique charm that lit his inner flame. He responded with an ambiguous glint in his eyes, "Then, we'll have to take it to the next level."

Witnessing Wei Wuyin's insinuating light flickering within his eyes, she didn't turn away or blush as one would expect from a girl who's been teased. Instead, she wrapped her arm around his neck.

This shocked Wei Wuyin for a moment, but before he could react, Ai Juling leaned in and placed her soft, delicate lips against his own. Her mouth was brazen as she pressed herself against him, moving animatedly, clearly taking the lead.

Wei Wuyin wasn't one to reject such an invitation, he replied in kind. They spent the next minute enthralled by the others' touch, kissing without restraint. When Ai Juling finally separated, a lingering trace of wetness was still connected to the two's lips. She licked it off, making her extremely enchanting as her eyes were misty.

Wei Wuyin felt his inner fire ignite, immediately placing her on the bed large enough to fit five men, and pressed his lips against hers again. He tasted her flavor, smelled her fragrant scent, and without waiting a moment longer, his hands roamed around her body in a rough caress. When he touched a certain area, he heard a heart-quaking moan escape her lips.

"W-wait...!" She breathily called out, her entire body already extremely hot.

Wei Wuyin was already invested, but he wasn't selfish nor completely bullish after engaging in some minor foreplay. Lifting his head, he looked at this beauty beneath him.

Ai Juling's reddened blush on her bronze-colored skin was extremely gorgeous. She puckered her lips, matching his gaze with her own. She asked with a quiver in her voice, "Did you kill my parents?"

"..."

That...

That almost killed the mood, but Wei Wuyin merely laughed and shook his head. "Of course not." He had made it his mission not to harm anyone tainted with her aura, and even left the city to prevent a clash that might cause her parents to be casualties.

When Ai Juling heard this, she breathed out a sigh of relief.

Wei Wuyin was quite curious, "You took the initiative, but you suspected I killed your parents? Why?" He lifted himself up and sat beside her on the bed.

Ai Juling felt somewhat awkward when Wei Wuyin asked this, causing her eyes to roam and see that frightening tent protruding from his pants. She gasped for a moment, reddened even more, but couldn't turn her eyes away.

Seeing this, Wei Wuyin chuckled with amusement.

Ai Juling snapped out of her idle thoughts, but the faint quivering of her legs betrayed her excited and indecent thoughts. She pouted with a tinge of anger, "You kidnapped me! You clearly did it because you wanted me, and if you were an ordinary Ganshu at your cultivation level, I'd rather die than be with you.

"I can't resist you, that's clear. But I can also see that you're not an indecent, sex-craven man who merely intended to take my body and kill me after you're finished with it. If you were, it would've been easy to get away from those three stooges and awaken me, indulging yourself until satisfied and kill me off, no one would have spoken against it. You have the strength to do so, and it's not uncommon amongst Elves or Ganshu. Desires are desires.

"Since you have the strength, talent, looks, and your intent isn't vicious, and you want me for more than just a single night, why would I reject you? And if you did kill my parents, then I could only accept it, but I'd hate you with my entire being." At the end of her rant, she seemed to have conceded to a certain reality while rationalizing the situation.

Wei Wuyin felt intrigued by her thought process. Was that why she pretended to be asleep? To see if he could control his urges? Was she observing him? Testing him?

She continued, "I just hope you don't restrict my cultivation or keep me by your side like a pet. I can become yours, but I want my own life! I also have no intention of marrying a Ganshu! But, I won't be with anyone lesser than you; I can promise you that."

Ai Juling seemed to still have her own pride, and was quite a realist. She used words like 'hope' and 'want', clearly knowing that Wei Wuyin was the true deciding factor of those decisions.

Wei Wuyin gently smiled, "I knew I'd like you."

Ai Juling rolled her eyes, but in her heart, she was incredibly startled by Wei Wuyin. While she was knocked unconscious by him, taken away, she felt it extremely strange after witnessing his feats after.

Why would such an outstanding Ganshu want a simple talent like her? She wasn't the most beautiful elf in the city nor the most talented. Why would Wei Wuyin, someone with ungodly looks, talent that went against the heavens, strength that defied common sense, and means that shook the world, want her?

He could have any female in this city, likely in this entire world. Who would reject a young Soul Idol cultivator that could slay a Gravity Emission expert? Who could take over an entire city? Trap a Realmlord? He was a catch and a half multiplied by ten thousand!

But he wanted her?

HER?!

She felt like this was a dream, an epic story about an ordinary girl taken away by an evil king with a soft heart. She had read stories of this nature before, even fantasized about it, but to think something extremely similar could happen in real life?!

Just as she was lost in her thoughts, she felt a pair of hands lifting her body, bringing her into a certain someone's lap with her legs spread around his torso. She felt the heaven piercing-like protrusion hidden in his pants pressing against her bottom, her expression became even hotter after.

When he leaned forward to kiss her, she didn't resist.

She knew today was the day she was made into a woman.

Chapter 428 - 424: How?!

A full night of rambunctious under-the-sheet rumbling left the young and pragmatic elf exhausted, drifting off to dream. She laid there, clutching at the sheets with a sweet smile as if the activities were continuing even in her dreams. Her aura was quite vibrant, even elevated from its previous state.

Wei Wuyin sat at the edge of the bed, glancing at the beautiful elf that had taken multiple shots of his yang essence in roaring ecstasy. His gaze roamed over her soft body, noticing a distinctly radiant luster on her light bronze-colored skin. Her body and Astral Soul was quite lively, with every cell and meridian of her body being energized.

Wei Wuyin's yang essence was miraculously extraordinary, being enhanced by his exceptional cultivation base supported by four Astral Souls, high-quality innate energies, and True Dragon bloodline. He could feel that her cultivation base was strengthening every moment. From his present estimation, she was roughly eighty percent stronger overall in all aspects, and her Astral Core had even enlarged from a little over a millimeter in size to 1.5 millimeters. It was still growing!

He gently smiled as he felt somewhat exhausted. Dual Cultivation was typically beneficial to both parties, but if one side was outrageously higher in all aspects, they would receive negligible benefits. This was why he hadn't refined her Primal Yin energies, recycling it and sending it back into her for fuel for her to use.

It was an extremely delicate process, and if he didn't have his Alchemic Astral Soul, this was an impossible task without an extraordinarily heaven-defying method. Furthermore, it's a method that no one would ever create. It was utterly useless and disadvantageous to the cultivator of the method.

He didn't consider himself a saint, and if her Primal Yin energies were useful to him, he wouldn't have performed such a thankless task, directly refining what he could. But her cultivation base was too low, too unrefined, and she lacked any special qualities. In all manner of speaking, Ai Juling was an ordinary Soul Idol Phase cultivator who was propped up by long-term resource refinement from her high-level parents.

It made her overall foundation extremely ordinary and her comprehension of Intent non-existent.

"Whatever. I'm not so shallow that I only desire high-level cultivators or those with vast innate talent. Why be an alchemist if I can't make grand experts? Why strive to cultivate if I can't grasp my own fate and the fates of others in my hand?" Wei Wuyin's smile became warmer as he caressed Ai Juling's face. She reached out to touch his hand and let out a contentful sound.

Ai Juling's pragmatic view of events left him feeling admiration, appreciating her straightforward personality with a touch of realism. Wei Wuyin never had any intent to force her into anything, and if she was completely against him, he would've sent her back safely. He felt like she realized this, and from her taking the initiative, he liked her attitude.

With a slight breath, he removed his hand and rose from the bed. With a wave of his hand, his nude body was completely covered by his black martial artist outfit. He silently left the room. A ward formed around the door, with several miniature saber formations established to protect it.

Regardless of his current status as the City Lord, he didn't trust anyone in this tower. He had already restricted access to the upper and underground areas of the tower. He started to walk down the hall and touched a certain wall. The wall opened up discreetly without a hint of sound to reveal a dark gap.

It was a secret entrance. When he entered, he was welcomed by a set of spiraling stairs that went down. He traversed downwards until he reached the very bottom.

"The lowest floor of the tower, a few hundred meters beneath the floor entrance, and the location of the Desolate Ninth Mountain Astral Formation's Core, including the Grandquake Array." Wei Wuyin muttered to himself, recalling the information he obtained from the City Lord. In fact, the City Lord was incredibly tight-lipped and unwilling. Even with the threat of his life, he refused to spew any vital information about the city.

He then realized this was because of a Spirit Oath that all City Lords of Grandquake City have taken since the inception of the city. After that, he decided to simply pry his way into the City Lord's mind and take all the information he needed. He didn't particularly like doing this, but it was a necessity.

He obtained it all.

Including the secret pathway to the main controlling formation, the Desolate Ninth Mountain Astral Formation, and the overall array that handled the various other minor and greater formations, such as repairing locations, oversight of various locations, and control of Void Gate activities. It was called the Grandquake Array, and it encompassed the entire city.

The Desolate Ninth Mountain Astral Formation also doubled as the control key to the Grandquake Array. Therefore, whoever controls the Astral Formation's core similarly controls the entire city. It wasn't a matter of flawed design, and in fact eliminated one of the crucial issues of an array and a formation, and that was destroying their control key and destabilizing the controller's power over it.

If the core doubled as a formation, and the formation was embedded into the array, then it made it extremely difficult to deal with, and this was demonstrated by the successful capture of a Realmlord who ventured there.

The design was quite ingenious in fact, except if someone infiltrated the city without being noticed and refined the formation's core. If that happened, well...they were essentially trapped in a cage of their own making without recourse, essentially losing the key to their house.

Wei Wuyin learned that this wasn't the only array designed in this fashion, and nine out of the twelve cities had similar formations, with the Grandquake City being the newest city built over the centuries.

As Wei Wuyin entered the main room that housed the formation core, he was met with a gushing surge of desolate power. The desolate power immediately rushed him like a fierce tidal wave, threatening to engulf him whole and absorb his lively attributes. If this desolate power hit an ordinary cultivator, they would instantly be reduced to a desiccated corpse.

But not Wei Wuyin.

Wei Wuyin's silver eyes were engulfed by a white light that effused desolation, an absence of life and filled with decay and degradation. The desolate power was instantly parted, crushing against the walls. The walls were constructed from unique materials that resisted desolate power, so it was mostly unharmed.

Wei Wuyin lifted his right hand and clenched! A fist formed, and the wild desolate power twisted and turned like a twister until it condensed into the openings of his fist. It was as if he held a vacuum of immense power! In the blink of an eye, all the desolate power vanished.

He opened his hand and was left with a greyish crystal that contained the vast, devastating desolate power.

"...Desolate Intent. I see." A voice sounded from within the room, revealing the identity of the individual as female. The voice was somewhat dry and scratchy, even a little hoarse.

Wei Wuyin wasn't shocked as he snapped his fingers. The room became lit with warm light from strange rocks embedded in the wall. With the room fully lit, Wei Wuyin spotted a woman at the center of the room with two dried, extremely dusty hands that were almost skin and bones.

The woman was ordinary-looking, human, and dressed in a set of light-brown and black robes. Her eyes were the most attractive part of her body, not because of any feminine charm, but because of the innate ruthlessness and indifference that it radiated. It contained the essence of a cultivator that had crushed innumerable lives, fought their share of vicious wars, and lost a good number of allies.

She was engulfed by a cylindrical wall of grey light. The wall was thick yet transparent, but it seemed extremely sturdy. Above her was the small image of a mountain, and the mountain seemed to hover up

and down at various intervals. Whenever it moved down, the woman's breathing would become rougher.

She was enshrouded in a strange barrier that kept the light of the grey light away, protecting her from it. It was her Worldly Domain!

"To gather the ambient desolate power forcefully, inject it into your body in its unrefined state and then propel it outwards in an attack that can escape the semi-permeable layer of the formation undetected. Impressive!" Wei Wuyin commented with earnest emotions.

If it wasn't for his Desolate Intent, he would've been met with a ferocious attack that could've claimed his life. While he had other defenses, the speed at which the desolate power erupted wasn't something a cultivator beneath the Light Reflection Phase could react to, their astral force circulation being far too slow.

Unfortunately...

The woman didn't say anything, merely looked at Wei Wuyin as she kept her Worldly Domain active. It was currently being restrained by the mountain, restricting its area-of-effect. Moreover, it was the only layer of protection she had to prevent a crushing death.

"Realmlords..." Wei Wuyin whispered to himself as he inspected the Worldly Domain of the female Realmlord. He deeply understood the inherent advantages of cultivation couldn't simply be ignored, and he was quite aware that his current cultivation base might be able to eclipse some Realmlords in terms of quantity of Astral Force, but in terms of quality and inherent cultivation powers, he wasn't their match.

He would be left with no choice but to run for his life. If the Realmlord hadn't entered the lion's den and came out to fight him directly, he would've left without hesitation. He was confident to have them suffer some losses, but if he entered their Worldly Domain, especially a genuine Worldly Domain, his fate might no longer be his to decide.

As for killing a Realmlord?

He wasn't that foolish to think so highly of himself. Well, unless they were foolish enough to enter a trap and face him regardless of what trump cards he decided to pull out. If that happened, he was roughly ninety percent certain of killing one. But if even the notion to flee entered their minds? It was an impossible endeavor.

The woman noticed Wei Wuyin's thoughtful gaze and her expression grew colder. "You won't be able to keep this city, even if you gained control of the Grandquake Array. Your time in this life is limited." Her tone was matter-of-fact, and Wei Wuyin merely smiled in response.

He thought for a moment, and then his silver eyes brightened with excitement. "You misunderstood my intent. I don't want this city. In fact, this city is rather useless to me."

The woman frowned, finding Wei Wuyin's words somewhat confusing. But she refused to get swept into his pace, remaining silent.

Wei Wuyin didn't mind. He typically wasn't one to monologue his plans, but he felt excited at the thought of the future. He stored the desolate crystal away and turned over his palm. "I just want the wealth accumulated by it thus far," Wei Wuyin smilingly said.

The woman was shocked by his declaration, and then she coldly smiled. "Sure, allow me out and I'll give it to you." Her words contained a trace of mockery as the spatial ring that contained the decades of wealth accumulated from Grandquake City was on her finger. While protected by her Worldly Domain, she wasn't in any real danger.

The only damage she suffered thus far was self-inflicted by her absorption of desolate power. If Wei Wuyin wanted the ring on her finger, he'd have to enter her Worldly Domain and take it, but he surely wasn't enough to kill her! She even wanted to coldly chuckle, about to spit out some mocking words before Wei Wuyin interrupted her.

Wei Wuyin chuckled, "Thanks." He turned his palm over, then clasped his hands and gave her a bow of thanks. With that, he turned around and left while waving his right hand, and between his index and middle finger was a spatial ring inscribed with a unique insignia.

The woman was stupefied, looking at the ring and back to her own hand. She realized the ring on her finger was gone!!

How?!

Her head snapped to the entrance, looking at Wei Wuyin's departing figure with the utmost confusion, extreme fear, and abject horror reflected in her eyes.

How?!

HOW?!?!

Chapter 429 - 425: Benefits Of Thievery

Wei Wuyin exited the room, closing the entrance, and then he halted his movements. Then, without warning, his nose, eyes, and mouth leaked grey blood. It was horrific looking, almost as if his blood was being squeezed out of his head, pushing through any orifice that was open.

He grasped his chest with his left hand, clutching tightly enough to rend his flesh. When he tried to lift his head, his body tittered and tottered about with imbalance. He could barely stand upright!

The radiant silver light of his eyes dimmed considerably, clearly signifying the immense depletion of his mental energies. Still, he kept his mouth shut and didn't reveal a single sound.

Within his Sea of Consciousness, Eden's Astral Soul that was embedded within it was quivering non-stop. Its roots that penetrated throughout his Sea of Consciousness, fusing it and expanding it, were withered. This was a sign of all its astral force being expanded. Those withered roots were surrounding the formation he had inscribed when he cultivated the Celestial Eyes of Spiritual Divinity.

Wei Wuyin glanced at the ring within his hand, feeling a little gratified that it all worked out. *'Such a heavy risk. If it didn't work out, if it didn't last a single millisecond longer, perhaps I would've been completely drained, losing consciousness.'* Thinking thus, he recalled his plan to take the ring.

There were only two options: take it by force or take it beneath their notice.

To be a thug or a thief.

The former option wasn't very likely. A single miscalculation and the Reamlord would be freed, and he would be forced to deal with those consequences. The latter didn't seem possible at first as it was worn by the Reamlord, and taking it from beneath their notice shouldn't be possible.

Fortunately, he had a method! His Celestial Eyes of Spiritual Divinity's Eye of Illusion. It could bring a subject into an illusory world of his making, and as long as he could replicate the room in a split second, ensuring no gap in the transition, he could drag the Reamlord into his illusion.

This was the only reason he spoke to the Reamlord, trying to draw away their attention. That being said, he couldn't use it to kill the Reamlord. With their Worldly Domain erected, a faint sense of overt danger would be noticed and his illusion would collapse. The issue was the power required to establish a powerful enough illusion to fool a Reamlord.

He had invested all his mental energies, empowering it with eden force until its utmost limits, and even then, he could only keep such a realistic replication for less than a minute. The crucial aspect was fooling the Worldly Domain, taking the ring from her finger.

To achieve that, he couldn't use an ounce of his own power, energies, or means to infiltrate. It also had to come from within the Worldly Domain, giving the Reamlord a false sense of security!

Zenith Origin State!

It had the unique ability to manipulate ambient mana to an extremely high degree, exceeding anything he'd seen thus far, and he used it to lift the ring in a similar manner as he'd establish mana flight, keeping up the illusion to dull the Reamlord's senses while it slowly left her finger.

But the illusion still remained the most difficult aspect of the plan, and his Sea of Consciousness suffered immensely as a result. A single mistake and he could've over exhausted himself, subsequently losing control of the formation, and then meeting a violent death by the hands of the newly freed Reamlord.

He took several breaths to relax himself, invigorating his mind a little. Afterwhich, he took out a vial of elixir, imbibed it with a single gulp, and felt Eden instantly absorb it. His mental energies started to rapidly replenish itself and the withered roots were growing thick and full.

If it wasn't for the need of continuous exertion and utter lack of distractions required, he wouldn't have been pushed to this limit. He had numerous elixirs and pills to support his exhaustion of mental energies. He wasn't a Mortal Sovereign Alchemist for nothing!

After several minutes, he had thoroughly regained his original state, cleaning up his bloody appearance. With a heavy breath, he brightly grinned as he regarded the ring in his hand. The Eye of Illusion and Eye of Truth were far too incredible and profound, being core components of his strength thus far, but he hadn't put much emphasis on the former.

The Eye of Illusion was exquisite and versatile, but it, just like the Eye of Truth and the Celestial Gaze, was very much dependent on his cultivation base and level of innate energies that fueled them. The stronger he became, the stronger they became.

Perhaps one day he would be able to engulf an entire world in an illusion or see the trend of the myriad starfields with a single glance, seeing unseen divinities!

Wei Wuyin left after recovering, returning to his room as he saw Ai Juling nuzzled with the sheets in her embrace, sleeping peacefully. He laid next to her, still clothed, and quietly contemplated matters.

He couldn't hold the city.

This was the first thought that entered his mind. At first, he believed he could with the Desolate Ninth Mountain Astral Formation at his beck and call, capable of suppressing Realmlords, but he discovered from the memories of the City Lord that the formation could be deactivated regardless of who controlled it using a special method. Unless he changed the aspects of the formation, redesigning it entirely, it was impossible to change this.

He couldn't. While he knew he was skilled in formations and arrays, he wasn't at that level yet. At most, he could resist the deactivation for a few moments, giving him some leeway, but that was it.

Furthermore, that wasn't the only issue. He learned of the terrifying strength of the twelve cities and the forces that oversee them in conjunction. To clarify, the twelve cities were each overseen by a Guardian, a single expert at the Realmlord level, and a City Lord that oversees the various technical matters of the city. But each city was controlled by not one but multiple forces that existed in The Desolate Lands and Central Region.

They were a complex web of integrated connections and relations. The city was something that concerned their interests, so they would certainly interfere and retrieve the city eventually. The Grandquake City was jointly owned by three forces, two clans and one sect.

The two clans originate from the Central Region while the sect was native to The Desolate Lands, and just the sect had a Timelord! Considering partnership in the cultivation world required equal or greater strength, it could be easily concluded that there were at least three Timelords with vested interest in the city.

Even if he wanted to control the city, he couldn't resist them! A Realmlord was widely considered as matchless to all beneath their cultivation phase, their Worldly Domain capable of dominating everyone, but Timelords had a similar consideration.

They were at the Eighth Stage of the Astral Core Realm, the Temporal Eye Phase, and they harnessed the elusive and nigh-inscrutable time energy! He didn't wish to be at the receiving end of that power, even with Kratos at his side.

Unless...

Wei Wuyin wasn't the short-sighted type. He knew that operating as he intended would force him to face those at that level sooner or later, and he had to have the means to do so.

Wei Wuyin held the ring in his hand, his eyes gleaming with an excited and meaningful light. He could've spent countless hours and days trying to obtain sufficient desolate pearls, but this direct and aggressive manner of action had solved his problem in a flash. If he had decided to act his standard way, through careful trade and peaceful negotiation, he might've never obtained this amount of wealth.

After all, if he revealed to the world high-level alchemical products, others might even hunt him down. Even Realmlords! And it won't just be from three forces. He had little desire to deal with all that. But now, he had obtained decades of an entire city's wealth in the blink of an eye!

Wei Wuyin sent a message to Kratos, "It's time to recover!"

His heart throbbed intensely, racing with each beat accompanied by a faint draconic roar!

Chapter 430 - 426: It's Not Goodbye

Wei Wuyin and Ai Juling hastily left the city soon after obtaining a decent rest. This lasted shorter than a day, and their movements were stealthily and swift, leaving no evidence of their abrupt departure.

Having obtained the information he required and the wealth of the city, he had little reason to remain. He never intended to rule over a foreign city by force. Moreover, the female Realmlord was right! His time in Grandquake City was extremely limited. Unable to restrict others from arriving nearby using a Void Gate, he was at the mercy of new arrivals. Once news fully spread to those elite experts, reinforcements would eventually arrive with the deactivation method in tow.

Wei Wuyin would be left helpless and surrounded!

Even the city would be useless.

Unwilling to endure such a fate, he observed the worldly trend and discovered their retaliatory arrival was coming far swifter than he originally estimated. He escaped with sufficient time left, intending to return to the underground city that Ai Juling originated from.

He wanted to send her home, focusing on cultivating and escaping any pursuit of those three forces. He had robbed them blind, so it was unlikely they would simply accept this heavy loss with a sigh and a bitter smile. He just hoped that the evidence of internal collusion he had deliberately left behind was enough to delay them and bring sufficient questioning to the City Lord and female Realmlord.

They would also try to discover his origins, so he had sent Li Wang, Chu Leitao, and Huang Yu specific orders to depart. They were startled for a moment, but he gave them resources and told them to leave the city for another one. After a period, Huang Yu could return. As for Chu Leitao and Huang Yu, they weren't natives of Grandquake City, with the latter originating from the Central Region.

He didn't know if they had aura trackers, so sending them away was the best—the further, the better. A more cautious man would simply end their lives to prevent any unnecessary developments, but Wei Wuyin wasn't that vicious. Well, perhaps he was, but his instincts told him that doing so was rather detrimental. This wasn't the Eye of Truth or the Heavenly Daos influence, merely his own thoughts on the matter. If he was willing to do this, then his mind would be overly paranoid and violent, resorting to violence to solve every issue.

Fortunately for them, when they saw the resources filled with high-level alchemical products, they joyfully accepted his order with bright smiles and racing hearts. They had even left before he had. Since the city was still operating as normal, no one suspected a thing. After all, the only individual that could link them was eviscerated.

When Ai Juling learned of his intent to depart, she pouted with a little disgruntled emotion. She had thought they would enter a honeymoon phase, indulging in each other's bodies for several days and intimately learning about each other, but they had to quickly leave. She wanted to know more about Wei Wuyin.

Of course, when he told her about the circumstances, her expression fixed instantly and betrayed the deep fear she felt. They had slept together in a location that could've been besieged by numerous experts at any time? Her heart raced of knowledge treading the line of inevitable lethal danger. But it was also somewhat...stimulating.

Wei Wuyin found her reaction quite cute, stealing a few kisses en route to the underground city. As for his background? It was best she remained ignorant. That would make it more difficult for others to act against her if they located her. But if he revealed his true identity, perhaps the other party might piss themselves in fear and panic.

Not even his starfield knew of his true abilities as a Mortal Sovereign Alchemist nor his strength to fight and kill a Gravity Emission Phase expert. That coupled with Wei Wuyin's incredibly young age, they might be terrified and unable to sleep at night as long as he lived.

While they flew, Ai Juling was watching Wei Wuyin's side profile as they flew, feeling that his existence was extremely mysterious. He went against common sense, using his Soul Idol Phase cultivation to defeat a Gravity Emission Phase expert, taking a city over, and leaving with a radiant smile.

She felt as if this was truly all a hazy dream. To add to the unfathomable mysteries, their...session...had left her feeling energized and empowered. She felt at least twice as powerful as before, and that was an unbelievable feat. She understood the principles of Dual Cultivation, so how vast was the difference between them for her to experience such a sharp jump?

Moreover, why her?!

She bit her lower lip slightly, still unsure how to properly process these events. While lost in her own thoughts, they soon arrived at the location of Ai Shanyuan and Wei Wuyin's battle. The durable and dense ground was uplifted in certain areas, depressed in others, and had dragon-shaped drag marks littering it. There was white mist lingering about, clearly remnant elemental energies.

"We're here," Wei Wuyin announced while softly landing. He swiftly inspected the area, thinking about a few things at remarkable speeds, he waved his hand and brought out a small box.

Ai Juling stepped out of his control, moving about with her own two feet. When she felt the earth beneath her, she became somewhat emotional. As a Grey Sands Elf, flight was a luxury she hadn't experienced much in her life. During the Season of Regression, the mana was too thin and the energy expenditure was too high for long sustained flights. As for during the Season of Devils, there was no possibility to fly in the outside world without fighting hordes of them.

Before she could gather her emotions, she saw a small jade box enter her vision and her eyes sparkled. She thought it was quite incredibly beautiful, reaching out and touching its soft and cold surface. Turning to Wei Wuyin, she grew curious. "What's this?"

"Resources. Its sealed, so only your aura will be able to unlock it. It contains alchemical products of the seventh and eighth-grade. There's labels and descriptions of each, use them wisely. Whether you decide to use them for yourself or share, that's your decision." Wei Wuyin explained with a warm smile. He wouldn't be able to attend to her cultivation needs for a while, and he might not see her again for a long while, so he decided to leave behind her some cultivation resources.

Startled, Ai Juling stammered. "...E...eighth-grade?" Her heart was racing, her first instinct was to call Wei Wuyin a liar, but when the thought emerged in her mind, she halted and looked at Wei Wuyin's warm and handsome smile. She knew in her heart that he wouldn't lie to her nor was there any reason to.

She didn't hesitate. She dived into his embrace, kissing him with her full weight.

It was Wei Wuyin's turn to be startled for a brief moment, but he didn't let the opportunity slip. He thoroughly enjoyed the feeling of her touch, using his hands to roam about her soft body with excited movements.

She quickly grew redder and hotter, but her eyes flashed with a faint burst of abrupt light. She jumped, leaving Wei Wuyin's embrace and looking away. Her parents' aura was approaching, and she felt them.

"It's not goodbye..." She heard Wei Wuyin's voice and turned back, but his figure had vanished. She hastily scanned the world, but she couldn't sense any trace of him. After failing repeatedly, she stared at the jade box that was seemingly left in her hands and felt like crying. The past week was a hurricane of events and emotions, causing her to be unable to react.

A short distance from her, two figures burrowed out from underground and appeared atop lizard-like creatures. They were Ai Juling's mother and father! An emotional light flashed from Ai Juling's mother's eyes as tears formed at the edge of her eyes. She flashed over to Ai Juling, hugging her fiercely.

Ai Juling could barely react before she was smothered by those familiar mounds of flesh. She felt a warmth and comfort only a mother could give a child. Her father appeared too, inspecting the world vigilantly. Then, he turned to Ai Juling and hastily asked her what happened to her and Ai Shanyuan.

While this reunion was happening, Wei Wuyin was already gone, flying away with a contemplative expression. If he was sufficient to handle any and all future threats, he wouldn't have returned Ai Juling back to her parents so hastily. He would've used this time to explore the world and enjoy her company more, but after learning about the extent of this world's strength, he understood that protecting her would add an additional burden to himself.

That's if he even had the ability to protect her.

"According to the City Lord, those tokens were referred to as the Badges of Divinity by the natives of this world, signifying the six religious deities of this world. There were two that were passed down by inheritance, and these heirs were called Holy Sons and Daughters of the Elemental Truth. They harnessed the great power of Metal and Lightning, and they belonged to the Central Region.

"There wasn't much information about who they were or their cultivation base, but that they were always amongst the younger generation. They belonged to two of the strongest forces in this world,

already putting everyone else at a disadvantage. As for the other four, the City Lord only knew their sacred locations and not much else.

"Whatever these trials are, whoever guards them, this might prove to be quite difficult. Furthermore, I have to face these so-called Holy Sons and Daughters who are supported by top-tier forces. Whether they intend to interfere or not will determine if that part of the trial will be easy or extremely difficult." Wei Wuyin sighed in his heart, recalling the location of the suspected trial within The Desolate Lands.

Wei Wuyin soon found a lone mountain nearby, burrowing a hole inside and fashioning a makeshift cavern within. After hewing out a suitable area to cultivate, he sat down and inspected his spatial ring.

He had long since emptied out the other ring, placing all the items inside his own, and then sent the ring elsewhere. If they had a method to locate the ring, this would delay them even further. When he inspected it, his eyes gleamed with a solemn brilliance.

He needed to collect Desolate Pearls, objects that contained draconic blood energies within, and use them to restore his Bloodline Source. His estimation based on the desolate pearl that he obtained from Huang Yu left him needing roughly twenty thousand.

But when he looked at the ring, there weren't just twenty thousand, there were over six million...