

Paragon Of Sin

#Chapter 965: SCR Summit,Whisperings of Death –

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Lin Xianxei's eyes furrowed slightly, and then her heart shook as realization dawned on her. With frightening swiftness, her eyes widened. She began to move! But, just as she took her first step, an unfathomable, irresistible power descended on her body and restrained her. A voice echoed in their area, "Due to special circumstances, no allied support will be allowed in this challenge. Please refrain from disturbing the scene."

Lin Xianxei's eyes shook violently as she tried to muster a little bit of resistance. She wanted to shout out to Lin Ming: "It's a trap!" But her voice was suppressed, her spiritual fluctuations would be blocked to prevent outside interferences during the challenge, and she was unable to fly towards Lin Ming; she couldn't give him any alerting expressions.

Why would they give you a choice?!

Lin Xianxian realized this peculiarity and caught on after seeing an unfathomable force envelop her daughter. Alas, she wasn't able to do anything.

Lin Ming frowned. He was pondering which he should choose. It was clear that the Ever-Domain Pill was weaker, and likely easier to overcome, while the Neo-Dawn Eclipse Pill will certainly be more difficult. It would be best to choose the former. However, doing so equated to admitting to his inferiority to Wei Wuyin.

Lin Ming couldn't help but recall the Grand Seer's words from all those years ago. It was like a haunting ghost's claw, tugging against his heart with an icy touch. If he took a step back here, wouldn't that mean he would agree that he was only worthy of the lowest level of Chosen?

As he thought more on it, his aura began to transform, emitting a valiant air befitting the fearless. With bright grey eyes, he refused to back down and

admit his inferiority to Wei Wuyin, not even his pills. For a moment, to the audience, he felt like a peerless hero willing to face titans.

"I choose the Neo-Dawn Eclipse Pill."

"So be it."

"Archaic Chosen of True Element Sect Age: 46. Cultivation Realm: Astral Core. Cultivation Stage: Sixth. Entity Level: Mortal, Lesser Starlord."

"Do you wish to continue?"

In the Main Hall, Wu Baozhai and Xue Yifei were watching a massive, multi-view spiritual projection that revealed every detail of what was happening in the other area. They sat on golden mats, wisps of multicolored energy seeped into their pores without them actively doing so.

They saw Lin Ming accept the newly revised version, and the two looked at each other. This might seem like a play on Lin Ming, but it was a targeted move against Wei Wuyin and the Ninestar Starfield! Lin Ming simply got caught in the crossfire. Their expressions gradually grew solemn.

Wei Wuyin sat within his alchemy lab with a feverish expression, his silver eyes inspecting the brewing cauldron with eight alchemic stars in each eye! After several minutes, a burst of alchemic power surged, attempting to manifest an illusory phenomenon of the Alchemic Dao.

In the end, it was suppressed by a powerful formation. Wei Wuyin heaved a heavy sigh of relief, reaching in and pulling out a seven-colored pill that heavily resembled a Solar Star.

A Ninth-Grade Pill!

"Finally, I did it." After over a month, Wei Wuyin finally succeeded in reaching his goal. The Echoing Stars of the Vastness Pill here wasn't just lacking impurities, Wei Wuyin succeeded in concocting that on day four, nor was it just peak-quality, Wei Wuyin achieved that on day nine, but had been changed to grant it an Infinite Variations form!

That took nearly a month to complete, finally using the conjoined power of a modified Solar Star by the Eye of Creation, and the Infinite Dao Soul Ash introduced into the concoction method. The change to the method was a truly difficult step, needing a different ratio of certain materials to accommodate. Regardless, he had succeeded!

The Echoing Stars of the Alchemic Vastness Pill. And it was at the peak-grade!

Without being able to revel in his success, an illusory root directly manifested from his glabella and brought it into his Sea of Consciousness. Then, Eden began to ravenously refine the pill. It was at least four times more effective to an Alchemic Soul's Domain Seed than a normal soul. Due to its alchemical properties, it was harmless and could be devoured directly in the Sea of Consciousness without externalizing.

Wei Wuyin sighed a little.

He inspected his Domain Seeds with rapt focus, a glint of burning excitement in his eyes. After an entire month, his Domains had consumed dozens of peak-quality Echoing Stars of the Vastness Pills. They still refused to refine anything less than peak-quality, causing him to have an excess of these pills at low and high qualities.

The growth of his Domain Seeds was monumental, truly justifying the pill's imaginary tier as 'pinnacle-tier'. The Domain Seed was the eventual 'core' of a Star Core, so it greatly benefited from its effects. Furthermore, the primary effect of the pill elevated all his energy sources, including the four essential and light, spatial, and gravitational forces, thereby causing his foundation to thoroughly rise.

Wei Wuyin began to meditate after his success, feeling the strange power flowing through his meridians, Sea of Consciousness, and Dantian. It was loose, free, and without a tether. It was time energy! Wei Wuyin realized that if it wasn't for his True Void Dragon Bloodline, the time energy might ravage his body without the necessary cultivation base.

He realized he couldn't give this to those beneath the Temporal Eye Phase, the eighth stage of the Astral Core Realm, lest they suffer consequences from the uncontrolled time energy that might rapidly siphon their lifeforce or slow down their circulation of energies.

"I'll just make an accompanying paste that can expel or extract the time energy from their bodies during refinement. Refine the pill; soak one's body; cultivate without worry," Wei Wuyin decided in his heart, not allowing conventional cultivation limitations to halt his ability to rapidly develop his forces. He hadn't noticed but he was showing the true signs of an Alchemist, deciding to devise specific products to overcome specific obstacles. Almost all of his created products were due to sudden inspiration.

Wei Wuyin stood and stretched his tense bones. While his concoction speed was heaven-defying, it still drained a lot out of him to do so. It was just fortunate that his mental and physical energies were absurd. The slight movement of his body caused space to distort.

"Hm?" Wei Wuyin finally noticed the drastic changes in his physical body. The peak-quality effect of the Echoing Stars of the Vastness Pill was purifying the body and refining it with the unique energy within a Solar Star's core. This heavily resembled a Star Core, so it greatly benefited one's attempt to manifest or elevate Astral Physiques.

Wei Wuyin was at the Realm World Phase, so he was two stages from using starforce to refine his body, manifesting his Astral Physique, yet the pill had greatly strengthened his body's foundations. This wasn't related to physical energies, but the constitution of each cell, from muscle to blood, to bone, to brain cells. All of them had increased.

Wei Wuyin's facial expression grew odd. He realized the capacity of energy that his Sea of Consciousness and body could contain had roughly doubled. This was extremely excessive considering his previous limitations, and it was still growing.

"The limits of my foundation are increasing again..." Wei Wuyin softly muttered. He could only pray that by the time he reached his limits, he wasn't rendered blind again. How irritating would that be?

After another thorough inspection of his entirety, Wei Wuyin nodded approvingly. His Celestial Eyes held steady and firm despite the secondary effect of the pill increasing his spiritual strength, and there were no ill-adverse changes to his increased quantities of energies.

Suddenly, Wei Wuyin's saint ring glowed with the spiritual light of a transmitted message. He inspected it, and as he did, his expression grew darker by the second.

"Bai Lin."

Kree?

Wei Wuyin vanished. He appeared in another room, his eyes focusing on Bai Lin who was lazing around foolishly. Her golden eyes instantly honed onto Wei Wuyin's figure with a happy expression. While she hadn't grown an inch, a limitation of her racial features, her aura was completely different. She had finished refining the feather.

"We got a summit to go to," Wei Wuyin grinned.

"Finally!" Bai Lin felt exultant.

Back at the stage, Lin Ming was in the middle of facing this new challenge, his heroic air faded slightly as his expression grew uglier by the second.

The entity-level was Lesser Starlord? What type of bullshit was this?! Yet he chose this himself, so how could he back down? But as he was about to bravely, or foolishly, accept, a strong feeling of deadly crisis emerged in his mind, as if a guardian angel was whispering in his ear that something was amiss.

It was clear, causing his heart to shake violently. It was as if the voice was telling him that agreeing meant certain death! He clenched his fists tightly, defiance burning wildly in his eyes.

San Luoyang's voice resounded yet again, "Do you wish to continue?"

Special courtesy for a special circumstance!

Chapter 966: SCR Summit, Unyielding Pride

"Do you wish to continue?"

Those five words resounded like thunder in Lin Ming's mind, his heart racing as the light whisperings of deadly crisis rang heavily in his thoughts, subtly giving him the urge to reject, to formulate a rebuke towards this newly elevated difficulty. While his inner pride had refused to allow him to consciously choose the easier path, a consequence that might have severe

implications on his self-confidence and willpower, he also was fully aware of his limitations.

An entity at the Star Core Phase was far, far beyond his current strength. Even if he considered all his trump cards, every single desperation-type art, spell, maneuver, and method that he could deploy, he found himself unable to give himself a chance of victory. If it was an entity at the Temporal Eye Phase, while his chances might be low, it wasn't non-existent

He felt stuck, his throat sealed by words that he wanted to say, but his instincts begged him not to.

While Lin Ming suffered internal conflicts regarding his answer, San Luoyang's voice remained silent, and Lin Xianxian noticed her daughter's restrictions. She reached out, touching Lin Xianxian's shoulder, wanting to free her daughter. Just as Lin Xianxian's hand touched Lin Xianxian's robe, a strong repulsive sensation emerged that threatened to repel that hand.

Lin Xianxian's expression slightly changed as her mystic power began to act defensively against this power out of instinct, but her power hadn't circulated for long before the pressure instantly dissipated, like snow in heat. Lin Xianxian stumbled slightly, freed from the suppression.

Her breathing was heavy and rapid as a light of helplessness and concern flickered in her eyes, observing Lin Ming's lone figure on the stage above. She tightly clenched her fists.

Lin Xianxian was relieved when the power halted its influence over Lin Xianxian but inwardly sighed soon after seeing her beloved daughter's reaction. It wasn't that serious. Lin Ming could simply surrender, right? It would be foolish to throw away his life here—no one would do such a thing.

But that was exactly what Lin Xianxian was worried about; Lin Ming's pride and self-confidence were one of his greatest aspects, carrying a natural charm to challenge and act against the impossible. Over the years she observed him, his most attractive feature was his unwillingness to bend a knee, lower his head, and surrender due to circumstances.

"Why is there a distinction?" Zhang Yin asked. She couldn't wrap her head around why the Everlore Association would openly establish this and announce those segregating conditions. While she didn't know the exact

differences, she knew this meant accepting that one of these pills was wildly inferior in comparison to the other.

"Are they acting against our Chosen?" The timing of this could be misunderstood as targeting them. As such, a few elders were concerned that this was specifically against their sect. Moreover, those who knew of the 'Archaic Chosen' name of Lin Ming were aware of the derogatory sentiment behind it, and as such, felt that Lin Ming was likely targeted due to his connection with us. After all, he was an insignificant mortal junior, it would be too much for those powerhouses to act against him.

However, Lin Xianxian shook her head: "It's needed—that distinction. The two pills clearly can't be judged based on the same merit, but one is the cheaper, available, and less exclusive product while the other is an exclusive and superior product. The vast majority of Chosen here beneath the Gravity Emission Phase have taken the Ever-Domain Pill, while those who have succeeded thus far have taken the Neo-Dawn Eclipse Pill.

"If the ongoing discussions about Chosen standards changed the setting based on how easy they achieved this or their age, the difficulty would rise, making it utterly impossible for those who took the Ever-Domain Pill to pass. This is the only acceptable method, especially with the summit's fluid changes of standards in effect. This was purely just unluckiness. A bad case of wrong timing."

After Lin Xianxian finished her explanation, a few felt they understood a little better, and pitying gazes turned to Lin Ming. This might be an open admittance to being inferior by the Everlore Association, but it was also a play by those with a voice. They wanted to segregate the two, lending them a greater chance of their talents rising.

How embarrassing would it be if those three girls from earlier defined the minimum standards going forward? As they all belonged to vastly inferior forces, it would be absurdly difficult to justify lower standards to, let's say, a Noble Clan of the Aeternal Sky Starfield at a similar age. After all, the Noble Clan's Chosen would have been invested with more resources since birth, giving better environments, a higher degree of education, powerful armaments, and all sorts of arts, spells, and cultivation methods of greater quality and strength. All of these contributed to a cultivator's strength, not just a single pill.

The distinction allowed them to hit the reset button! The Everlore Association could only accept it, but it'll also serve as a stone that hit two birds! To hinder those with the Neo-Dawn Eclipse Pill from all passing, they elevated the standards to greater levels, simultaneously hitting the Ninestar Starfield and Wei Wuyin's allies. This was why the elders had felt they were being acted against.

"Won't this harm those who took the Neo-Dawn Eclipse Pill? Or even prevent them from entering entirely? Also, why the high entity level? How can a Gravity Emission junior face a Starlord?" Zhang Yang asked with a heavy frown.

"It's only this high because Lin Ming represents a World Sect; they're using the first three women from before as the minimum baseline until they feel the need or obtain the justification to lower it. Long Chen could be considered at the peak of his range in terms of cultivation base, backing, and age, so his level is entirely reasonable. It's just impossible. Should he fail, die, or refuse to face it, the standard should be lowered for future challenges in the name of fairness. This is the benefit of fluid changes but also what I meant before—a base case of timing." Lin Xianxian heaved a sigh.

"But how is that fair?" Zhang Yin couldn't help but feel aggrieved for Lin Ming.

Lin Xianxian gave her a sidelong glance. She was still too immature. All those who died earlier suffered the same thing Lin Ming was currently subjected to—being a guinea pig for the summit. In fact, he was lucky to face this challenge, as no one would blame him for refusing to take it and throwing his life away.

However, Lin Xianxian didn't know Lin Ming as Lin Xianxian did. While he might be overly arrogant and haughty like some geniuses, he had a stronger sense of pride and fighting spirit than most. After descending with the air of a hero, all eyes focused on him, and making that verbal promise, it was very unlikely that he could set it down and bow out!

And she would be right.

Despite the whisperings of death in Lin Ming's mind, the turmoil of emotions, those grey eyes of his was growing brighter with an intense will. His entire life had forged him to become who he was today, and being in the spotlight, being a voice that determined the future of the next era, how could he ever choose to give that up?!

While he's suffered losses before, he never was demoralized by them. There were always uncontrollable circumstances that caused him to lose out, such as Wei Wuyin's self-damaging methods or his enemies using numbers to force him to retreat. But this was entirely different. To walk away now, he would have to willingly give up all his pride and accept no longer being an impactful character in the upcoming era. He refused to allow that to happen!

Clenching his spear that has accompanied him for decades, his mind was set. With a firm gaze, he stared at his goal: the Void Gate.

"Ye-"

As his words were about the form, the entire world underwent a silent change as a flowing surge swept it.

Chapter 967: SCR Summit, Mysteries of the Rune

A few minutes prior, Wei Wuyin was discussing with Wu Yu and Ma Zheng while traveling through the Dark Void. They sat atop Bai Lin, who was flying at high speeds, stretching her wings. Nearby, Star-Hex flew at similar speeds. Star-Hex housed a resting Huoyang Liulan, the first time she decided to leave Ma Zheng to act alone. That said, the old man wore a scarlet-red bracelet on his right wrist with six different colored Solar Stars blazed in flames, clearly an item of the Inferno Solaris Church.

Wei Wuyin was pondering on Wu Yu's cultivation discoveries, involving Ma Zheng as well. After successfully cultivating the Blood Origin Method to its final stage, the World-Heart Stage, Wu Yu developed a strange rune in his Secondary Dantian, his flesh and blood heart, and it emanated a feeling resembling World Heart Intent.

Wu Yu was well aware that Wei Wuyin wasn't very knowledgeable about the Ways of Mysticism or the Mystic Ascendant Realm; however, he had access to the cultivation method, so maybe he had some clue about its existence.

Wei Wuyin's first instinct was to ask the Heavenly War Spirit for information. Unfortunately, when it tried to explain, whether deliberate or not, it spoke in the language of Mysticism. Once again, he was stonewalled by this language of an Ascended being. When he asked the spirit to write it down like the methods, it merely said it couldn't!

Why?.

Because it was an egg! Before this, it had a complete body, possessing grand powers, and autonomy that could freely inscribe mystic characters. Now? It was restrained to solely communicating with Wei Wuyin and nothing else. As for trying to mimic the sounds of Mysticism, Wei Wuyin's mental, spiritual, or vocal cords lacked the necessary components to do so.

Left without a solution, Wei Wuyin called Ma Zheng over in the hopes of brainstorming an idea. Ma Zheng was deeply awed by the profundity of the Blood Origin Method, an urge to cultivate it swelled within his heart instantly upon reading it. It took a while to pry the plate from his aged fingers.

"It is strange," Wei Wuyin commented again. It was unknown how many times he said this, but Wu Yu and Ma Zheng both seemed equally helpless. How could they be Earthly Saints and unable to figure out this detail of a cultivation method within their realms? Yet, that was the cruel reality of cultivation, and why it was extremely difficult. Unless you had an experienced senior to guide your way of thinking through their success, you'd be lost scrambling for answers.

"I've come up with two possible conclusions," Wei Wuyin said with a solemn expression.

"Two?" Wu Yu's eyes lit with amazement. He couldn't even come up with one! He had tried accessing its power, extracting it from his heart, and all sorts of other things to no avail. It seemed as useless as an ornament.

Wei Wuyin nodded, "Two. First: It's acting as a pseudo-Spirit of Cultivation, stabilizing your heart. Second: It's a key."

The first conclusion was instantly rejected by both Wu Yu and Ma Zheng. As beings extremely familiar with Spirits of Cultivations, especially Wu Yu who was acutely aware of his own heart's situation, they knew there was no way that it was stabilizing his Secondary Dantian. Moreover, Wu Yu had even extracted it with no issues, and there were no destabilizing effects to doing so.

The second, however, was intriguing.

"A key?" They both asked in unison.

Wei Wuyin nodded again, his silver eyes blazing with mental energies. "I learned a while ago that there are certain cultivation methods dedicated to preparing certain aspects of cultivation to act as a key to greater stages," Wei

Wuyin said, recalling the Forsaken Zenith, Unto Origin Cultivation Method he acquired from Jing Jiu's memories. Using this method, Jing Jiu sacrificed two hundred years to manifest an Origin State for his Spirit of Cultivation. It acted as a crucial step to surpassing the Worldly Saint Phase and entering the Heavenly Saint Phase, according to Jing Jiu's memories.

It was a key.

Wei Wuyin continued, "Cultivation is difficult; this saying isn't something any of us would refute, but that doesn't make it impossible. I've learned in my expeditions that World Heart Intent is an essential requirement to reaching the Worldly Saint Phase." When Wei Wuyin said this, Wu Yu and Ma Zheng's expressions drastically changed!

Especially Ma Zheng. His facial expression was extremely unsightly, painted by surprise, disbelief, and unwillingness, and even his complexion grew slightly pale. It was clear that he fully believed Wei Wuyin's words.

Wei Wuyin noticed this, asking: "What is it?"

Ma Zheng's intense reaction was abnormal. After a long while, Ma Zheng finally responded: "World Heart Intent is the requirement? Are you sure?" While he fully believed Wei Wuyin, he also wanted Wei Wuyin to pedal back on his words from the bottom of his heart. However, Wei Wuyin confidently nodded, bringing a wisp of dejection to Ma Zheng's eyes.

Wei Wuyin had learned this from Guan Yu, who existed outside of the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region, and he was certain at the time. He was speaking as if it was common knowledge.

Ma Zheng sighed, nodding. "Heart of the World, World of the Intent is the next step after Awakened Intent, but do you know how many cultivators comprehend this level of Intent?"

Wei Wuyin was taken aback, but he genuinely didn't know. He only knew that besides Yao Houyi, he had never met anyone else who comprehended World Heart Intent. Even Long Chen, who developed a Seed of Law, hadn't reached that level.

Ma Zheng continued, "There are countless cultivators throughout the stellar region. However, in my entire lifetime, there's only been a recorded instance of 1,022 cultivators who comprehended World Heart Intent. Of course, these

are only those recorded and known. Some weren't very talented and lived in obscurity, even after comprehending World Heart Intent, they reached the end of their lifespan, dying in the Astral Core Realm. Those who made it to the Mystic Ascendant Realm met similar ends, dying either due to their enemies or lifespan depletion.

"Regardless, World Heart Intent was not indicative of extreme talent or intelligence as many originally believed, simply aligned fortune. So it hadn't been given much importance in our society, except special intents such as Elemental Heart Intent that can create natural Solar Stars, but that's solely due to how history unfolded and the relevance placed on it."

"..." Wei Wuyin's outward expression didn't change, but his heart was battered by turbulent waves. He already knew that some Earthly Saints could spend entire lifetimes seeking World Heart Intent and fail. This was from Guan Yu's lips. He still remembered how envious Guan Yu had been, and how that mysterious woman from the Nexus Battlefield considered him a genius worthy of conquering her.

It was clear that the standards of those in the Nexus Battlefield vastly exceeded the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region. To think it would be this exaggerated.

Wu Yu, however, fixated on Wei Wuyin's previous assumption. "You said it could be a key to cultivation? Are you saying that Mystic Rune might be the key to successfully reaching the Worldly Saint Phase? Becoming a Worldly Saint?"

It was only then that Ma Zheng's complexion grew healthier with surprise and interest, fully focused on hearing this possibility. After knowing that World Heart Intent was required, he'd given up in his heart, mind, and soul, contemplating how to help Ma Sujiang have a chance at it after his death.

Wei Wuyin thought for a long while and nodded solemnly, "Cultivation is difficult, but not impossible. There are bound to be other paths one could take to ascend to the next stage, either through cultivation methods or alchemical products. Since this is true for the Mortal Realms, why not beyond?"

As a cultivator of the 'Divine' spirit modifier, Wei Wuyin directly bypassed the Seventh Stage of the Qi Condensation, Infused Spirituality Phase, so he was extremely aware that cultivation methods can help one through certain stages.

Both Earthly Saints agreed with this.

"The Blood Origin Method is a Low-World graded method, right?" Wei Wuyin asked.

Both Earthly Saints nodded, having read the plate.

"What if 'world' is a substitute for World Heart Intent, and completely cultivating it creates a key, granting one a chance to succeed?" Of course, all of this was merely Wei Wuyin's assumptions based on loosely connected wordings and characters, but to the Earthly Saints, they felt his words could release an air of truth.

"So I could ascend to the Worldly Saint Phase?" Wu Yu's eyes brightened considerably at the prospect. At the same moment that the thought of ascending entering his Sea of Consciousness, his Mystic Soul shook slightly, and the mystic rune within his heart showed activity for the first time, vibrating every so slightly. If one looked closely, cracks were surfacing on the rune!

Instantly undulated by a sense of fear and danger, Wu Yu hastily calmed his growing thoughts. Only then did the sensation dissipate, the mystic rune began to repair itself using his unique Blood Origin Essence in a matter of milliseconds.

Ma Zheng turned to inspect Wu Yu's ever-changing aura, frowning deeply. "What was that? Are you okay?"

Wei Wuyin hadn't felt anything abnormal, unable to sense mystic auras, unlike Ma Zheng. Wu Yu gulped slightly, "I think you're right, Young Lord; I felt it. The Mystic Rune inside my heart should be a key to initiating my next ascension. This is something I've never felt before."

"..." The trio went silent immediately after Wu Yu finished explaining his experiences. His words carried a vastly different type of weight than Wei Wuyin's initial assumption. The 'Key' that Wei Wuyin described was the key to success, but in Wu Yu's words, it was a key to a chance. It was similar to how Wei Wuyin invoked Ma Zheng's Earthly Ascension as if he reached Awakened Mystic Intent, similar to how Wu Yu's Earthly Ascension. As such, Wu Yu felt a wave of different emotions, including trepidation and uncertainty.

What if he challenged it and failed? What if he wasn't prepared?

End up just like before...

Thinking about it, Wu Yu felt all sorts of negative emotions. While Wei Wuyin had helped him greatly alleviate his inner demons regarding challenging Ascensions of the Mystic Ascendant Realm, it wasn't enough to disperse it entirely or erase the thousands of years slumbering in a ring. Furthermore, he had just broken through; he didn't feel that he was remotely ready to succeed. And Wei Wuyin echoed those thoughts openly: "Good. You have the key, so all we have to do is ensure that you will succeed. That'll take some time, but having a future Worldly Saint by my side is comforting."

Those words pulled Wu Yu out of his mind, feeling as if there was a lot less pressure on his chest. He didn't need to rush it.

Ohn!

Within Wei Wuyin's mind, a familiar sensation resounded once again. It was extremely familiar! He looked at his right arm, thinking his Karmic Luck had been deducted, but when no change was there, he looked around and he sensed it.

'A Karmic Surge!' The Heavenly Daos was taking 1,000 or more Karmic Luck Value from a Blessed, trying to give them opportunities for amazing fortune. The last time he felt such intensity, it was Lin Ming's in the War Devil Realm during the Elementus Chosen Trial, and the aura here felt extremely similar.

Was it Lin Ming again? Was he experiencing a second Karmic Surge? Curiosity burned in his eyes as he stared in the direction of the Everlore Domain.

"Yes!"

On the main stage of the Saint Cyclic Renewal Summit's qualifications proving grounds, Lin Ming had just valiantly agreed to the Lesser Starlord level entity! The entire crowd was thunderstruck! Some were awed, others filled with boundless interest, and a sadistic few were excited to see another genius experience crushing death.

The nine-colored mark at the center of Lin Ming's head, the Aegis of Elements, began to release an indiscernible glow of elemental origin light infused with spirituality.

A voice resounded in Lin Ming's mind at this moment. "It seems that little girl knows how to pick them—foolish and brave. I admire it." The voice was husky and richly deep, carrying a level of prestige befitting monarchs, yet there was an innate kindness within that comforted the heart and spirit. It belonged to a male.

"...!" Lin Ming started. His eyes widened as he looked around, trying to discern where the voice originated from.

"I'm here," the voice said with a hint of a smile in his tone. "On your head."

Lin Ming touched his forehead with vigilance, feeling the Aegis of the Elements that Lin Xianxei had given him. It was a peak astral-graded defensive treasure that had helped him an untold number of times, surviving countless near-death experiences or overcoming heaven-defying challenges. It was one of the items that gave him the greatest sense of confidence. "...You are?"

"There's no time for introductions. You have a fight ahead of you, and the entire relevant world is watching. I wasn't planning on lending you assistance yet, but...let's say that I'm moved by your unyielding character. Ah, it reminds me of myself." As the voice spoke, the entity formed from the jet-black obelisk.

A gargantuan male figure standing at three meters tall with bulging muscles and a short battle-axe with two crescent moon sides, emitting a sharp light that felt as if it could cleave all of creation.

The voice was right! Lin Ming's eyes shrunk as he felt the passive aura from this entity. It was TOO strong! An urge to retreat swelled within his heart. Suddenly, a wave of cooling spiritual energy entered his body through the Aegis of the Elements, calming him down, and allowing him to resist the urge to shout in defeat.

"Since I've decided to help, there's no longer a need to retreat. Fight! Fight to your heart's content."

WOOSH!

The Lesser Starlord entity manifested their Worldly Domain!

Chapter 968: SCR Summit, Elemental Suppression of the Aegis

The Lesser Starlord entity waited for no sign of initiation. Like the rest, it directly acted by controlling the scene, unfurling its blazing red Worldly Domain without hesitation. In the blink of an eye, the entire stage was enveloped by a terrifying World Pressure! Accompanying this Worldly Domain was high, devastatingly melting levels of heat!

13,000 Kilometers!

Lin Ming's reaction wasn't slow despite the confusing existence of the voice inside his head, feeling a sensation of deadly crisis overwhelm his thoughts. As such, he instinctively tapped into his Domain Seed's power, invoking his False Worldly Domain! With World Power erupting from his pupils, he took the inspired defensive method of Su Mei, World Armor, and applied it to himself.

With shocking surprise, the repeated eruption force of his unleashed False Worldly Domain was enough to block the entity's World Power! The observers all opened their eyes in surprise, having expected a splash of crushed flesh, bones, and sprayed blood. Instead, they were welcomed by a resilient young man standing with a white spear in hand.

Unlike the Ever-Domain Pill, Lin Ming gained his Domain Seed through the method of the Engorging Foundation Evil Method, allowing his Domain Seed to undergo a careful and unique series of improvements through personal refinements, increasing its power and mastery. This was what set Lin Ming's Worldly Domain apart from the Ever-Domain Pill's external Domain Seed.

The others were unaware that Lin Ming's process of formation was extremely similar to Wei Wuyin's Neo-Dawn Eclipse Pill! In fact, without it, the Neo-Dawn Eclipse Pill would not exist. While it lacked the initial soul connection as Wei Wuyin's Worldly Domain, it had the 'potential' to reach that level!

And through these years of training, blood, sweat, tears, struggles, and fights, Lin Ming had refined out the three foreign soul auras, replacing them with his own, and possessed a higher degree of control. With this Domain Seed, he was barely inferior to a genuine Worldly Domain.

The Heavenly Daos' Karmic Surge did not simply end with his Archaic Chosen status by an exemption in the trial, but by many connected events that lay a path using this initial opportunity.

"He defended!" An expert commented in shock.

"But for how long? A few seconds? And so what? When the Entity takes action, he'll be obliterated in a single move! After all, he's just a Gravity Emission Phase expert." The sounds of denouncing discussions had already begun at high-speed spiritual exchanges.

Lin Xianxei was so tense that her nails stabbed into her fist, almost drawing out blood. Those golden-colored eyes of hers that could beguile the spirit and mind were all focused solely on the lone figure on the stage, accepting an impossible challenge, revealing unyielding pride and self-confidence.

Can he do it?

Or will he...die?

Lin Ming could feel the focus on his body, but he actively ignored them all as he faced the strongest enemy in his lifetime. Throughout his years in the True Element Sect, he faced countless challenges, even fighting against Timelords, but a Starlord was an existence that he had only been able to look up to, unable to match their starforce and tremendous power.

Fortunately, this Starlord wasn't genuine.

"Don't worry; this incarnation lacks an Astral Physique, and its energies aren't very cohesive. I will assist, even out the playing field for you," the voice said as Lin Ming was pressured by the searing heat and World Pressure from all directions.

Lin Ming's forehead was sweating, including his hands, chest, and armpits. He was startled at how hot it became. While he could resist the World Pressure of the Worldly Domain for a brief spell, he found that the fire energies it converted into its strength were seeping through his defenses. It was swiftly infusing into his body like an infectious mist, raising his body temperature to over 2,000°C.

If it wasn't for Lin Ming's refined body infused with Elemental Origin Energies, possessing Magma and Fire Energies, he would be suffering extreme physical

difficulties, perhaps even signs of melting. The spike in temperature was deadly, even for cultivators. Moreover, it was continuing to rise!

With a series of heavy breaths, he circulated his Elemental Ice Force and established an ice-attributed astral ward in an attempt to regulate his body temperature, generating steam from his body that flooded the area. However, his elemental ice force was unable to expel the heat, only delaying its rise. In a fragment of a second, he found his temperature had leaped another thousand degrees.

"The Entity is going to melt him!" Those with keen eyes realized the Entity was using strange wisps of fire energies to bypass Lin Ming's World Armor. These wisps began to enter his body. It was a Fire-Attributed Astral Art!

This was the first time that an Entity started out using their Worldly Domain alongside an Astral Art. When they saw this, their eyes widened. The Entity's approach was changing! They were adapting to World Armors! This added layer of difficulty was geared towards this new division of standards between both pills.

While Lin Ming's Domain Seed could generate sufficient World Power to resist the Entity's World Pressure, the False Worldly Domain of his was unable to defend against their starforce and various powers! It simply wasn't strong enough!

Without taking a single step forward, if this continued, Lin Ming would certainly end up melting!

Finally, the voice took action! The nine-colored Aegis of the Elements at Lin Ming's glabella began to release a red light. The incoming fire energies vested with fire force changed on a fundamental level, as if ordered by their monarch, and began to flow towards the nine-colored dot in a subdued manner. In the blink of a mortal's eye, Lin Ming's body temperature was lowered considerably and all the approaching fire-attributed astral force was sucked away into the nine-colored dot.

"Ah?" Lin Ming was startled by the Aegis of the Elements' domineering power. He didn't know that it could absorb fire force in such an overbearing manner. As for the engulfing World Pressure, it began to place less strain on his World Armor, weakened by auric power emanating from the nine-colored dot. While it seemed that Lin Ming could perfectly resist like the Neo-Dawn Eclipse Pill's Domain Seed, this resistance or those who took the pill wasn't unlimited, but

contingent on a time-limit. The strain on the Domain Seed was extremely high, threatening to shatter his Worldly Domain entirely should he resist without any change.

"Kid, just fight. As long as the enemy is an Elemental Cultivator, it's forced to bow its head before me. Have no fear," the voice urged. Lin Ming still had his doubts regarding the voice, but he decided to capitalize on this moment. If he didn't, he would be forced to surrender. With a flourish of his Origin Spear, he stomped his right foot and explosively shot towards the Entity!

BOOM!

Lin Ming was like a gust of thunderous wind. The stage rippled from his power! He knew that he would only have one chance. Whether it was his energy reserves or his cultivation foundation, it was unlikely that he could match this Entity in any extended battle. He had to finish this in a single exchange, capitalizing on the suppression the voice was unleashing.

Wu Baozhai and Xue Yifei had the right idea! He took from previous victors the key to success, knowing that if he shifted tactics, the chances of his success would decrease to an all-time low, if not become impossible.

"Good!" The voice resounded with resounding approval. This inspired somehow caused Lin Ming to feel inspired by his choice.

.

A single move. That was the right approach, and Lin Ming gathered his Elemental Origin Force as his eyes misted over with a whiteness—Elemental Origin Intent! He originally hadn't intended to use the Worldly Domain's conversion power to amplify his strength, contesting the Entity for control and exhausting his power in a futile struggle, but the Aegis of the Elements released a nine-colored glow alongside his utilization of Elemental Origin Intent!

The nine colors blended into a single color—white! Then, a spiritual manifestation emerged above him. It was a white-colored Solar Star that contained the radiance of elemental light!

It washed the entire stage in its light. Suddenly, the ambient elemental energies of the stage were seized under Lin Ming's will, infused with his Elemental Origin Intent, and with ease, he could gather their strength towards

him. The ambient energies on stage were not insignificant, containing astral-graded energies of all nine elements equally.

Originally, this was meant to remove make the battlefield as fair as possible for all elemental cultivators, but with Elemental Origin Intent, all nine energies were controlled by Lin Ming! The energies 'converted' into the Entity's strength by its Worldly Domain betrayed its owner as if planned.

The Worldly Domain of the Entity began to become shaky and unstable. From every inch of the Worldly Domain, energies of all nine elements roared to life, fighting against its World Pressure! Instantly, Lin Ming felt as if the World Pressure of the Entity vanished.

Shocked, Lin Ming didn't dare to let this opportunity go as the Entity was trying to adjust. If it didn't handle this, its Worldly Domain could shatter! He stomped once again, executing his movement art to its limits!

In the blink of a mortal's eye, he traversed the vast distance between the two, arriving a few hundred meters away from the Lesser Starlord Entity! However, it was still a Starlord! While its Worldly Domain was in chaos as the world's elemental energies rebelled, it still possessed terrifying spiritual force!

Its eyes unleashed a spell that manifested as a gushing maelstrom of spiritual flames, enveloping Lin Ming's figure in an instant. Half the stage was inundated in these light red flames!

"...!" Lin Xianxue and Bai Yuxi's hearts simultaneously skipped a beat.

Chapter 969: SCR Summit, External Blessing Claims Victory

"He killed himself?" A Star Core Phase cultivator blankly commented with a bewildered question. Lin Ming had rushed to his death right before their eyes! In their opinion, he should've just surrendered against such impossible odds. What a pity! Spiritual Flames were worse than typical flames, as they affected the mind, body, and spirit. It was a horrible way to go.

But just as everyone's heart accepted Lin Ming's foolish demise, ready to move on to the next challenge in hopes of success, a resplendent nine-colored light breached parts of the raging spiritual flames! Beams of light escaped from certain parts, forming brilliant pillars of light, and the Lesser Starlord Entity readied their battle-axe with a stance.

With a heavy swing of this axe, a world-ending wave of fire force was unleashed towards the spiritual flames! The stage showed faint signs of melting from the intense heat.

WOOSH!

The entire stage became the physical reflection of a burning hell! Yet, the nine-colored light kept exiting from every angle as endless pillars! They reached for miles, crashing against the thin transparent barrier protecting the inverted crowd.

"Look!"

「Divine Elemental Way: Strike of the Nine Worlds!」

A streak of nine-colored light violently pierced through the spiritual flames and astral flames, parting it like a legendary myth, revealing a figure emanating rays of white elemental light. With a calm expression, the figure arrived before the Entity within a mere few feet, and holding their spear, violently thrusting at the Entity's chest!

The Lesser Starlord Entity wasn't slow in reacting. It had dozens of counterattacks, but just as it was about to initiate its various moves, a burst of spiritual light shot from the Aegis of the Elements, and it was transfixed on spot for the briefest of moments!

If Wei Wuyin was here, he would instantly recognize this spell!

Fixed Soul Spell!

The delay was enough for the spear to run the Entity through. It wasn't a genuine Starlord; it lacked a genuine Astral Physique. As such, it lacked sufficient defensive power of its body. Furthermore, the erected fire-attributed astral ward forged by its tremendous power was doused on contact, allowing the spear to directly bypass its defenses! These series of circumstances allowed the white spear to pierce into the Entity without hindrance.

"Ha!" With a powerful shout containing all his strength, Lin Ming poured copious amounts of elemental origin force into the Origin Spear in an unrestrained manner, and then twisted its shaft, letting all that built-up power explode!

BOOM!!!

The spiritual flames and astral flames instantly dispersed to the edges of the stages, replaced by gushing white light of gorgeous radiance. The eyes of the audience were tethered to this event.

Did he...

Did he succeed?

It didn't take long for the stage to clear up of light and flames, revealing an unharmed Lin Ming with robes fluttering in the clearing chaos while surrounded by elemental light. For a moment, he resembled a hero of legends, a myth of the immortal world, and a talent of the utmost brilliance in the eyes of spectators. With his handsome appearance and eyes exuding exceptional self-confidence, his innate bearing and exceptional aura were witnessed by everyone! A wave of awe, disbelief, and surprise swept the crowd.

The sight of his grey eyes and upright posture was an image that was unlikely to ever disappear from their minds in a lifetime. The name 'Lin Ming' would be forever etched into their Sea of Consciousness.

A Gravity Emission Phase expert defeating a Lesser Starlord alone was a feat that was unprecedented in all of recorded history! Even Wu Baozhai and Xue Yifei's fight paled in comparison, while Na Xinyi's limelight diminished considerably.

For a moment, it was as if they were watching a Chosen of the heavens! Who was this kid? The Archaic Chosen?!

"Is this the true standard of an elite Chosen?" Awe swept the hearts of all these elderly figures, feeling abnormally emotional, and accepting that the next generation had surpassed them. Shockingly though, there were barely any bitter feelings, and mostly anticipatory thoughts of this new upcoming era defined by the next generation.

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What height will they reach?

Lin Ming lifted his gaze as the scattered remnants of the Entity lay around him. He saw Lin Xianxue and Bai Yuxi, his eyes extremely emotional. Then, with steady steps, he walked towards the Void Gate. The Main Hall awaited him. Moreover, he needed to learn more about the voice!

When he entered the Void Gate, the discussions grew animated and filled with passion.

"Didn't he say he used a different method to form his Domain Seed? I wonder what it was!"

"Find out everything about this True Element Sect's Archaic Chosen. We might have found the future top expert of the upcoming era."

"Archaic Chosen? How is that name remotely fitting? He's bound to leave the old in the dust! No, he already has!"

No one had predicted this would happen. A Gravity Emission junior defeating a Lesser Starlord Entity! Unbelievable!

In one particular corner of the audience, the grey-robed figure lifted his hood to reveal its scarlet eyes, staring at the Void Gate that Lin Ming entered. Those eyes of it contained a wisp of carnage that felt heart-shaking, infused with a savage intensity. With a low and cold voice, the figure whispered:

"Pathetic."

Then, as if knowing of Lin Ming's secret, lowered its eyes that flickered with pure disdain.

Within the Main Hall, Su Mei, Xue Yifei, Wu Baozhai, and Na Xinyi all observed Lin Ming's outstanding victory. Su Mei carried the lightest of frowns, "The Entity's powers were completely suppressed." This was her understanding of events. Somehow, Lin Ming had suppressed the Entity to the point its powers felt useless, an absolute disgrace for the Starlord name. There was no area of the battle where Lin Ming hadn't suppressed the Entity, and its Spiritual Spell was nullified by a strange power.

The fact Lin Ming remained unharmed and untouched despite being drowned by spiritual flames was enough to raise a few suspicious questions.

"A Spiritual Armament?" Na Xinyi's beautiful eyes flickered. A Spiritual Armament was an armament designed to resist or empower Spiritual Spells, increasing the effectiveness of one's Spiritual Strength or Spiritual Sense. It was absurdly rare.

Wu Baozhai chimed in, "I felt an aura resembling the Imperial Heaven Aura."

"Me too," Na Xinyi swiftly responded with Wu Baozhai's comment. They both were extremely familiar with Long Chen's Imperial Heaven Aura, and Wu Baozhai cultivated the Imperial Heaven Qi Method. The suppressive aura unleashed by Lin Ming reminded her of the Imperial Heaven Aura's power and effects. However, it was slightly different. The two all had strange expressions. As for Xue Yifei, she was merely a little interested in Lin Ming's power and existence. To her, a challenger for the upcoming era's supremacy had finally revealed themselves.

It was only Su Mei whose eyes were indifferent.

Soon, Lin Ming entered the Main Hall and felt the numerous unfathomable auras in the surroundings. His heart thumped fiercely in response. When he turned to see the four beautiful women seated on golden mats nearby, Lin Ming relaxed slightly. There was a fifth mat near them, clearly meant for him.

Suddenly, Wu Baozhai and Na Xinyi's eyes flickered with confusion as they turned their eyes away from Lin Ming and towards the screen!

"Sister Yu?"

SHATTER!

The excitement brewing induced a series of new inspired challengers. They were raring to go and prove themselves! And yet again, the Aeternal Sky Starfield was taking the lead! And it was one of the Noble Clans!

"Chosen of He Clan. Age: 104. Cultivation Realm: Astral Core. Cultivation Stage: Sixth. Format: Ever-Domain. Entity Level: Mortal, Lesser Timelord."

Chapter 970: SCR Summit, A Wisp of Draconic Aura

"Chosen of He Clan. Age: 104. Cultivation Realm: Astral Core. Cultivation Stage: Sixth. Format: Ever-Domain. Entity Level: Mortal, Lesser Timelord."

"The Noble Clans are finally taking action!" Those from the Aeternal Sky Starfield hollered with excitement. The challenges thus far have involved no-name organizations and characters, those sprouting out trying to establish themselves. Except for the four young women from earlier, the rest were duds that either died off or gave up in the face of overwhelming odds.

Those from the He Clan's box all felt the gazes on them, interest swelling by the passing second. They didn't think one of the top four Noble Clans would take action first, even bringing out their breakout Chosen, He Yanglei!

Above them, on the inverted stage, a handsome young man with pastel green hair and highlights of sapphire stood proudly, wearing the faintest of grins that exuded a natural sense of confidence. His eyes were a deep-sea blue that rippled as if they contained a great turbulent ocean. It lent him a feeling of vastness.

"He Yanglei! I didn't think it would be him," A pretty young woman commented with a strange expression. She was a Chosen of the Ming Clan, and if Wei Wuyin was here, he would instantly recognize her! She was Ming Yuling, the mysterious young woman from the Devil War Realm's Elementus Chosen Trial, and the charge of Venerable Higheater.

He Yanglei and Tang Xingyun had become Holy Children during the trial alongside Wei Wuyin and Lin Ming. If it wasn't for Wei Wuyin's overwhelming might, she would've used her Apex-level Intent to similarly reach Holy Daughter status.

The Ming Clan was also a Noble Clan, but they were amongst the bottom four, not possessing an Earthly Saint-level figure amongst their ranks. Unlike He Yanglei, she was unable to leap to promising heights after being expelled from it with the rest early on, only barely maintaining her position as a prospective Chosen by the old Chosen standards. She held the most complex expression imaginable.

"I can't believe it's He Yanglei! Oh my! He's so...scrumptious!" A young girl from the Ming Clan hollered with excitement. After the War Devil Realm, He Yanglei's rise was seemingly unstoppable. As someone who comprehended Transformative Water Intent, an Apex-level Intent, he was considered widely talented by his peers, but he was originally a cultivator of shallow foundations.

He Yanglei was considered a lowly existence, a cultivator that focused on using his comprehensive talents to compensate for his lack of bodily talent, jumping through cultivation stages with explosive swiftness. Despite reaching the Gravity Emission Phase before the age of a hundred, his combat strength was extremely poor.

However, due to his comprehensive talents and age, he was still given the title of a prospective Chosen. It was said that his family had paid an absurd amount to help strengthen his cultivation foundation, allowing him to possess Nine-Rings, Nine-Ripples, and White-colored Primary Light before sending him to the Golden Life Pavilion's Devil War Realm that was extremely suitable for elemental cultivators like himself. They used everything possible to ensure his success.

When he returned, He Yanglei's bodily talent had changed. He could absorb essences, especially water-attributed essences and energies, at a far greater speed than before, rapidly elevating his cultivation foundation. Moreover, it was said that he cultivated a powerful physique method that granted him outrageous strength and capability to water energies, further supplementing his strength.

It took three years before he was given the title of Chosen, and earned the attention of the Earthly Saint of the He Clan, becoming his disciple. He Yanglei went from an obscure joke of a talent, supported by a wealthy family, to one of the greatest talents in the He Clan. A rising reputation as great as a carp entering the dragon's gate.

With his rising reputation as a Chosen, he became the star in many young maidens' eyes. And as he stood proudly on the stage, the feeling of admiration and desire couldn't help but swell within the hearts of those wishing to ride the dragon's lap.

Unlike Lin Ming whose existence was relatively unknown, the few years since had brought He Yanglei to the forefront, so he was the most famous male character to challenge the stage thus far. A rising star seemingly destined for great things.

Within the Main Hall, Na Xinyi and Wu Baozhai had puzzled looks that betrayed that confusion. They looked at each other as if wanting to see if what they currently felt was an illusion of their imagination. From reading each other's expressions, they formed a resonance of understanding, realizing that they both felt Lian Yu's aura just now.

They lived with Lian Yu for a long time. It would be an understatement to say it was close; they bathed, played, and slept in the same bed together at times, sometimes left together worrying about Long Chen's adventures. They were incomparably familiar with each other's auras, as close as real sisters.

After Long Chen and Lian Yu ventured into that secret realm together, they never heard from her again. Wei Wuyin had only mentioned the death of Long Chen to Na Xinyi through a spiritual message while Wu Baozhai witnessed his death personally. However, neither of them was aware of Lian Yu's fate, especially since their line of communication with Wei Wuyin consisted of one-sided messages.

They, however, refused to look into it out of fear of finding out, especially Wu Baozhai who could've asked Wu Yu at any time. So when they felt her distinct aura, they both felt happiness and pleasant surprise. Unfortunately, it was just He Yanglei, not Lian Yu. That person's aura didn't perfectly match hers, so they probably cultivated similar methods, as they both were water cultivators.

However, unease kept growing in both their hearts and minds as they continued to stare at the screen. Without warning, both of their eyes glistened abnormally. Wu Baozhai and Na Xinyi believed themselves to be strong at heart, restrained with their outward show of emotions, and not ones to cry easily, yet they found the feeling uncontrollable.

Eventually, Xue Yifei noticed this abnormality and jolted in surprise. "Are you both okay?" She never thought her rival, Wu Baozhai, would be on the verge of tears. As for Na Xinyi, she didn't know her very well.

Wu Baozhai wiped out her almost spewing tears away before they fell, her nose sniffing lightly. "I don't know; I feel like my heart...my heart is...in pain." She didn't know why she was speaking out in this manner, but the feeling grew stronger as time passed.

They watched He Yanglei in action for longer, and the sadness grew to a hate-fueled animosity despite not knowing who he was. A desire to kill emerged in their hearts.

Na Xinyi's bright grey eyes became dark and violent, oozing unrestrained killing intent.

He Yanglei was a genuine genius. When he declared himself ready to fight this Lesser Timelord using the reduced standards of the Ever-Domain Pill, it

hadn't ended immediately as some might suspect. While his World Armor wasn't very stable, he had a strange Water Armor that rippled on top of the World Armor, infused with Transformative Water Intent and World Power.

With this together, he fixed the issues of the Ever-Domain Pill's World Armor, supplementing it with his cultivation base, innate energies, and water force. The fight was intense, with the Lesser Timelord fighting using a barrage of throwing knives infused with metal force.

He Yanglei's response used gentle water force to redirect and defend. The knives were unable to touch him. Then, he conjured ninety-nine water serpents that attacked fiercely and blocked effectively. Furthermore, when they were destroyed by the Entity's immense power, they would heal. The Lesser Timelord was forced to use far greater power to destroy the water serpents due to their Permanence and Transformative Water Intent imbued. Unless the water serpents were entirely obliterated all the way down to their core energies, they would all reform endlessly, besieging their opponents as long as the cultivator could control them.

This was the first battle that hadn't ended in the first few exchanges.

"Oh? His water force contains wisps of Draconic Aura," Xue Yifei commented as she resonated with He Yanglei's attacks. The Draconic Aura granted these water serpents a strong physical power that smashed against the enemy with heavy force.

The Lesser Timelord began to adapt. It charged towards He Yanglei, forcing an engagement of close combat, and with each of its blows, it could shatter continents! Yet He Yanglei was unaffected by the change, only unleashing a forceful aura that erupted into a nine-ringed Serpent-type Soul Idol!

It was of an aquatic serpent with a frightening appearance! With a hissing roar, it infused He Yanglei with increased power, elevating his power. Instantly, the two engaged in a fierce melee that shook the crowd! They were unable to look away as He Yanglei deployed a type of momentum shifting style, using Transformative Water Forces to redirect crushing attacks while launching countless of his own at the same spot.

It didn't stop long before the astral ward of the Lesser Timelord began to wear down, exhausting themselves. This development finally revealed that the

Lesser Timelord had a limited reserve of energy to use! It was the first time this characteristic was clearly visible to the crowd, allowing those who expected this for the sake of fairness to give sage nods and words of wisdom despite not knowing if this was the case or not before.

But no one sought to rebuke them. The fight raged on until the battle of attrition tipped into He Yanglei's favor!

"How can He Yanglei have such massive reserves of energy?" Quite a few talents, especially the genuine Chosen, were startled by He Yanglei's absurd reserves of energies that allowed him to persist against a Lesser Timelord, a being of two stages above!

"..." Wu Baozhai and Na Xinyi were similarly shocked, completely confused as to how He Yanglei could have a battle of attrition against an Entity above his cultivation. They had refused to do so because they knew it was a fool's errand. That was because a unit of the Entity's energy might be equivalent to a hundred of theirs. Even if their energies were a hundred times stronger, the aspects of cultivation made it extremely difficult to fight against them for an extended period.

After all, everything within the range of their Worldly Domain could be converted into 'their' power, reducing the exhaustion of their innate energies and forces while whittling down an opponent's. Despite this advantage, He Yanglei was exhausting the Lesser Timelord with relative ease, with no sign of weakening in his expression or aura.

"He's tapping into a vast reservoir of water energies inside his body to replenish his power," Su Mei pinpointed the cause with an indifferent expression. While she grasped the reason for his seemingly inexhaustible power, she couldn't determine its origins or how.

"Good eye; worthy of being the first victor," a loud, imposing voice resounded throughout the Main Hall. The Su Mei and the others all lifted their gazes to see the grandiose thrones above them, surrounding them in the air, moving freely as if observing all creation. These thrones were extremely high up, and they couldn't determine any of these figures' faces from their distance, and each throne belonged to an Earthly Saint or Mortal Sovereign Alchemist.

However, the Mortal Sovereign Alchemist's thrones were smaller, and their foundation was a cauldron replacing their thrones legs. Each throne had unique designs, symbols, colors, and auras that felt terrifying to observe.

Su Mei, Na Xinyi, Wu Baozhai, Xue Yifei, and Lin Ming lifted their eyes and their gazes were actively drawn to a single aquamarine throne with rings of water surrounding it. Atop these rings were various wine glasses, plates of mystic-graded fruits, and exquisite dishes. It was clear this figure was enjoying their lofty position in the event, watching the show without care.

At the top was a grand character that rippled endlessly with mystic power, it said: "He." It represented the He Clan, the Noble Clan of the Aeternal Sky Starfield, and its Earthly Saint!

"He Yanglei is a talented Chosen of this generation and certain to have a spot in the next era, haha." The He Clan's Earthly Saint had a relatively soft voice, but it didn't reduce the praise and excitement within.

"He's merely a lucky fellow, but who knows if his luck will last until the end." Another throne figure spoke with a wisp of displeasure, clearly at odds with the He Clan's Earthly Saint.

But it did little to stunt the He Clan's joy. "One must be lucky to ascend the Grand Path of Cultivation, no? Haha."

As they spoke, He Yanglei's fight soon concluded. When the Lesser Timelord Entity slipped in its attack, a result of insufficient power, He Yanglei struck at this weakness by merging his ninety-nine water serpents into a single water serpent. With a snapping chomp, the water serpent devoured the entity whole.

Boom. Boom. Boom!

It took a few more minutes of explosive resistance before it dissolved into liquid, melted by the ever-persistent water flow. A smirking He Yanglei absorbed the water serpent, his eyes filled with triumph, and he slowly walked into the Void Gate as the crowd basked him in awed gazes.

Who knew how many Saintesses were now available for him to choose from? How many would seek him out after this? His era was now.

Da-dum! Da-dum!

He touched his chest, feeling the beating of her heart.