

The Nameless 591

Chapter 591: Wasn't Worth

The shadow tilted its head as it watched the blood drip from Dyon's eyes. "Tut. Tut. That's no good. I thought you wanted to avoid this? You're not very intelligent if you didn't already understand."

Dyon didn't respond, and neither did Patriarch Ragnor nor Elder Daiyu dare to have any outward showing of emotion. Regardless of the way this shadow acted, there was a deep fear in their hearts, and it all revolved around it. People who were always so calm were truly the most unpredictable...

"You're quite odd. For people with such little intelligence and such a ridiculously small amount of talent, you should be following whatever martial path comes the easiest to you. Ai, maybe because it's because I've been in seclusion for so long, meditating on the laws of the universe and creating my own. I'd forgotten how much I like to talk. In fact, it would be a perfect world if everyone listened to my teachings. Unfortunately, there are too many beings with negligible amounts of intellect.

"For those who are truly talented in the martial way, emotions are completely unnecessary in comprehending laws. But, I acknowledge that of the trillions of souls I've come across, maybe only four truly fit into this category – not including myself, of course.

"Quite frankly, that number was a lot larger than I expected. It made me finally understand the there's a sky beyond a sky saying.

"However, for creatures of your stature, emotions are of benefit, although they limit the martial paths you can follow.

"This is why you're so odd. You have so much useless anger built up inside of you, and yet you suppress it. Then you build up this fake aura of arrogance and confidence that you don't truly have, and try to make that your martial path instead.

"If you acted like the scared child that you are. The child mad at the world for simply following its natural recourse, you probably would have traversed along the martial path much quicker."

Dyon didn't hear a word the entity said. Or rather, he couldn't be bothered to process it all... But that didn't mean he wasn't correct.

Simple unbridled and unfiltered anger had completely shattered the body cultivation bottle neck he had reached simply because it was perfectly in line with the affinity of the Demon Sage's blood.

However, Dyon continually tempered and pushed down his anger, trying to avoid becoming something he didn't want to be.

The martial world pressed him and prodded him. Continuously taking without giving, and hurting without healing. And yet, he endured. Again and again, because this was the final wish of his mother.

Had he not come here, would the mortal world be gone? Wouldn't their world be perfectly fine now?

When the world tournament ended, and they came to extract the seals, only Dyon would have died, and then the future generations of mortals would have a chance to build their own legacies and their own strength with him gone.

He wouldn't have to deal with this pain in his chest. He wouldn't have to worry about the life or death of his wives or friends. He wouldn't have to carry the burdens of the celestial deer sect and the demon sage on his shoulders. He wouldn't have to think about the war between the chaos path and array alchemy.

He would just be asleep. Drifting away in a sea of nothingness as his memory faded from the world permanently.

His soul would be erased from existence like his parents, but why should he care? It's not as though he'd be aware of it. He'd just be gone, and with him would go all his worries. His soul alone wasn't worth very much to begin with, what use was he? He had only ever made things worse, strutting around with a useless bravado that only got him into more trouble at every corner...

"See? Had you built your death one with heart on that despair, your erosion path would have been unmatched. Instead, you built it on something lofty and far beyond your station. Do you presume it to be easy to transcend the laws of the universe? Even I have yet to do so.

"Although, I am quite close now, that's not a goal you could reach.

"You had the accumulated talent of so many yet failed so miserably. Only proceeding to the Higher Saint soul stage with three years of practice and the peak divine level technique? Tsk tsk, your master must be rolling in her grave."

The entities tranquil voice continued to spread through the lush greenery around them as it softly chastised Dyon. In its words, even Dyon's astounding soul cultivation talent was nothing more than trash.

"Ah, now I understand. Not everyone can figure out the truths of things without a guide, and your teacher put a block on the memories she gave you.

"Hm. It would do you good to know the truth of my words before you die, and who better to inform you of that than your own master? I quite enjoy puzzles... It's too bad that this one is particularly low level."

Maybe if Dyon cared at the moment, he would be shocked by the shadow's statement.

The lock on his master's memories was something that stumped Dyon completely.

Dyon was a person who not only had access to all of his master's memories related to array alchemy, he had also personally studied the dao of array alchemy legacy he had received from dead kings valley. And despite all of his soul talent and intelligence, he couldn't make heads or tails of the seal at all. And yet, this entity said it was low level and fun?

Almost the instant the words left the entity's mouth, Dyon felt a rumbling and then a shatter sound off in his head.

A flood of memories invaded his senses. However, that wasn't the most fearful part... When the entity realized that Dyon wasn't bothering to filter through and incorporate the new memories like he wanted, a hand seemed to forcefully seize Dyon's mind before inserting the memories in without his consent.

The entity sighed. "That wasn't even worth being called a puzzle."

Chapter 592: None Other

Dyon's mind shuddered as a mass of memories he didn't want invaded his every sense.

"Oh?" The entity chuckled. "How clever. I can't do much about this in this form, might as well wait for him to come out."

The entity didn't seem to care too much about what was transpiring. It had only broken the seal for Dyon so that he could realize its teachings were right. It didn't only like to be right, it very much liked it when others realized it was correct too.

Interestingly enough, the seal placed on Dyon's master's memories was actually part of a concealment array that hid a treasure.

What amused the entity was the fact that this treasure was truly of no real help to Dyon, not now anyway. It only allowed his master to directly explain things to him.

The treasure was among the 33 heavenly weapons, part of the 11 of the soul category, and the third of its kind that Dyon had collected. The first was the tome that held his energy cultivation technique and the dao of array alchemy, as well as the death qi abyssal core. The second were the aurora steps that fully awakened Ri's aurora. And now this was the third, simply known as The Seal.

Regardless of what it was in the martial world, often, the simpler the name, the more powerful it was.

The Soul Tome.

The Aurora Steps.

The Seal.

All simple names, and yet with them came otherworldly power.

The Soul Tome was capable of cleansing the soul unlike anything else, washing away even the grievances of a True Empath. However, it was also capable of housing outstanding techniques. The energy cultivation [Inner World: Sanctuary] was first manifested within the tome when Dyon first formed his connection with it. This happened just after Dyon first manifested his soul. In fact, the tome had went out of its way to burst through its bindings to make its way to Dyon. Quite simply put, it was the wish of every soul weapon of the 33 heavens to be with a master of unprecedented soul strength. And who better than Dyon to fulfill that wish?

Over the years, the techniques that the Soul Tome housed had become numerous. In fact, there were many hidden in its pages right now that Dyon had yet to unlock. However, the scariest part about the Soul Tome was that it had the ability to convert everything into an array depending on the talent of its master. This meant that, theoretically, Dyon could learn techniques in an instant if his array alchemy was on a high enough level to do so. This was the same for wills and intents as well!

The reason the death qi was absorbed into the tome, and yet not turned into an array, was because Dyon's array alchemy wasn't on a high enough level to coax the tome into doing such a thing.

On the other hand, the reason why the dao of array alchemy and [inner world: sanctuary] were in the form of arrays, was because the previous master of the soul tome had had array alchemy abilities far beyond that of Dyon, and had thus been able to convert them.

However, Dyon was unable to absorb them, because again, his array alchemy level was too low!

The truth was, with a Peak Saint stage soul, Dyon could currently learn ANY earth level technique in an instant, let alone a common level technique. As long as he used the Soul Tome, it was within his abilities to do so.

Once he reached the Peak Celestial soul stage, he would be able to learn ANY heaven level technique in an instant, as long as his array alchemy matched up to his soul stage.

Once he reached the Peak Dao soul stage, even divine level techniques would become a joke to him.

Such was the power of the Soul Tome...

The aurora steps were a much simpler treasure, but just as ground breaking.

The ability to awaken auroras to 100% would be enough to build a kingdom from the ground up on the back of this single treasure, but that wasn't all it was capable of.

When anchored to a sufficient energy source, or an intricate enough array, it would awaken aurora. However, in battle, it was lethal.

The aurora steps had the ability to exert pressure directly onto the soul of an opponent, bypassing the need for its user to put his own soul in danger. This pressure would, of course, scale off of the personal soul strength of its user as well as the level of awakening its master had reached. This quite literally meant that anyone with soul strength below Dyon would be helpless against him, and anyone with soul strength above him would be slowed to a certain degree.

The only downfall of the aurora steps was the sheer amount of stamina needed to use them. For most, even using it for a few seconds was something to boast about.

Because of this downfall, this secondary use of the Aurora Steps is often forgotten. However, its use in battle as a defensive treasure still helped it to maintain its usefulness in such situations.

The last treasure Dyon had accumulated was something even he himself hadn't known he had had. However, it was clear that this was something his master had left with him since the very beginning. In fact, maybe the very reason Dyon's master's memories didn't have anything about seals within them was because of this treasure!

In the martial world, there were few feared more than seal masters. However, often what decided how good a seal master was, were their legacies. The Sigebryht were so powerful, because their very bloodline allowed them a manifestation that defied the heavens, causing them to be capable of sealing even death qi.

But, on the other side, there was Ulu, whose seal was so weak that even Dyon, with little experience with them, was able to tear it away with little effort before creating one from scratch that even Ulu's elders couldn't do anything about.

That said, there was no seal legacy in the cosmos more feared than The Seal. It allowed you the capability of sealing solely based on soul power, without having to master sealing at all. However, that wasn't all. Should you choose to understand array alchemy or sealing arts, you would be able to improve the efficiency of the treasure to seal even things far above your abilities to deal with, without it.

The reason why the entity could do nothing to Dyon right now even though his array alchemy clearly overshadowed the 25th White Mother's by leaps and bounds? Even to the point where he shattered her array in an instant, calling it child's play? It was because of The Seal!

There was nothing in existence that could escape the might of the seal... Even when it came to the consciousness of someone long dead...

Within a sealed world of nothing but endless white, Dyon knelt on the ground unmoving as a celestial beauty with long flowing white hair stood before him, a pained expression on her face.

The woman was none other than Dyon's master, The 25th White Mother.

Chapter 593: Disregard

The 25th White Mother's white eyes threatened to spill over with tears as she looked over her disciple.

All she had done for Dyon was hand him power, taking advantage of him while he was at his lowest point, before shoving endless responsibilities on his shoulders. And yet, Dyon didn't complain even a bit. In fact, he opened up his heart with ease, wanting to thank her for her kindness, although she knew quite well that it wasn't a kindness at all...

Dyon had often wondered and speculated on why his master had sealed his memories... Little did he know that she had done so because if he knew everything from the beginning... Maybe he wouldn't have been so eager to help...

"You've done me so proud..." She said in a soft voice. She sounded exactly like the first time Dyon had ever heard her. A voice that made even nature itself want to sing...

"You fight with the pride of our sect on your shoulders. You treat Little Zaire just like he was your own little brother. You sacrifice so much... And expect so little... To have a disciple like you in my lifetime may very well be my greatest accomplishment..."

The 25th White Mother's eyes reddened. She wanted to reach down and comfort Dyon, but she didn't feel like she had the right to. The person Dyon wanted right now more than anyone was his mother, but it was impossible for her to give him something like that.

"I'm so sorry..."

"All I've been able to give you back is pain. I can't even help you in the situation you're in right now... I'm nothing but a consciousness..."

"The only thing I have left to give you is the truth. What you decide to do with it, is something I won't ask. I've manipulated you enough. The decision that remains will be your own and without interference.

"I only ask that you don't die." She pleaded, her beautiful voice growing hoarse. "I never got to treat you as a master should, but I've watched you grow silently all of this time. I love you like I love my own son. I haven't earned the right to be a mother to you, but I can't watch you die.

"Whether you become a demon, or you become something else entirely, just please, fight. Struggle. Live. This is the last request that I'll ever make of you."

Dyon's heart pumped. His anger was overflowing, but he had yet to have an opportunity to vent it.

A faint thought entered his mind. This woman in front of him, was she his master? Or was she his enemy? If he tore her apart, would it make the pain in his chest stop? If he rampaged through the world, killing everything in his wake, would he be able to feel something again?

He wanted to know. He wanted to see if there was a reason to live. He wanted the beating of his heart to come with something other than a seething burn. No... He needed it...

The 25th White Mother could feel the changes coming from Dyon, and although they saddened her greatly, she could only nod her head.

'Live. Don't worry about your promises to me or anyone else. Just live.'

Her selfish request was what any mother would want. And although she wasn't who birthed Dyon, the place he had taken in her heart was no different than if he had been...

"You can choose to do with this consciousness what you will after you hear the truth..." The 25th White Mother took a deep breath.

"It is first important that I explain what started all of this, and why we betrayed your mortal realm..."

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Outside of the Belmont Holy Land, Ri and Lionel were streaking across the natural moat that surrounded it.

Lionel, having already broken into the essence gathering level, had flames of red and blue gliding along his feet, searing and freezing over portions of the water he traveled upon.

Ri had to make use of array footsteps. Although her array alchemy was much weaker and slower than Dyon's, it was still child's play to form common level arrays, and they were just strong enough to hold her weight before shattering, allowing her to move on to her next array.

Whenever she made a mistake or slipped up, she easily and comfortably used her ice will to freeze the water below, recovering expertly.

Soon, they had reached the outer island of the Belmont Holy Land, but they could immediately tell something was wrong.

Everything was much too quiet. Not to mention the fact that there were none of the signs of conflict you would expect in an area where battle had just taken place.

When they got close enough, the answer suddenly became obvious, there was a barrier!

Lionel's deadpan expression twitched. This was his home, and no matter how he acted, he didn't like the idea of it being trampled like this.

"We have to use a separate entrance. If we forcefully break the array, they'll detect it." Without another word, Lionel turned and dove into the lake behind them.

Ri frowned, but had no choice but to follow in the end, using water will to propel herself to catch up to Lionel quickly.

As martial artists, holding your breath for hours wasn't a problem. However, the depth to which Lionel was diving was starting to put untold pressure onto Ri. She couldn't help but wonder why a lake would be so deep, did that even make sense?

In order for water to affect a martial artist, let alone a half beast and elf like Ri – who obviously had a very powerful body – meant that it had to reach thousands of pounds of pressure at the very least.

Luckily, Lionel abruptly stopped before the pressure became too much for Ri. He faced a small inner cave, which he very quickly entered.

The cave was an inexplicable oddity. Despite swimming up for far less time than they swam downward, Ri and Lionel soon popped their heads out of the surface of a fountain.

Seeing that the surroundings were silent, they both jumped out. There was no need to actively dry their clothes. The water had never touched Ri because of her water will and Lionel had his flames.

"This is a passage within the castle itself. I do not know if they've occupied my home, or if they haven't, but we must be cautious." Lionel explained.

However, despite his worries, there was not a soul in the castle. In fact, they managed to navigate their way through the large maze the castle was and exit through a back channel, remaining out of sight as they inched their way forward.

There was no doubt in their minds that Dyon would be where the most people were gathered. At the very least, that was the best place to start their search considering they had come up with nothing in the castle. Plus, Lionel was here to specifically navigate through the catacombs. Unless he proved he could do so, he wouldn't receive Madeleine's faith seed.

Ri crushed another array plate, handily concealing the two of them as they silently made their way through the throngs of encampments and toward the entrance to the true Belmont Holy Land.

Ri's anger threatened to spill over as she looked over the Daiyu. These were the people who dared to harm her husband for their own personal gain. How could she not be angry?

In fact, when she recognized Chenglei's figure at the entrance of the cave, she nearly reached out and ended him where he stood. But, she knew that she had a higher purpose here. She couldn't afford to reveal herself now. There were too many Daiyu around, clearly ready to protect the cave entrance with their lives should their enemies arrive. Plus, Dyon's life was more important now.

Calming her breathing, Ri grit her teeth as passed by Chenglei, following closely behind Lionel.

Suddenly, in all her distraction, Ri slammed into something hard. When she looked up, she realized it was Lionel's back, so she quickly backed away.

"What are you doing?" Ri didn't have time for nonsense usually. And this was definitely not a time that she'd accept it.

Lionel didn't turn back and only shrugged. "I just thought that this was far enough."

Before Ri could react, violet flames burst out from Lionel, crashing into the concealment array and shattering it completely.

Ri stood there unharmed, blinking and processing what just happened.

The loud noise alerted the Daiyu, sending them into an uproar. The sound had clearly come from within their camp!

"Intruders!"

Chenglei turned back to find Ri stunned figure, completely still. First confusion played on his features, but when he saw Lionel standing in front of her, a sudden realization hit him.

In an instant, hundreds of Daiyu surrounded the cave entrance. Even after their battle with the Belmonts, it was clear that they had invested heavily into recovery medicines for this war, and very few showed any signs of fatigue whatsoever. In fact, it was likely that they had raided the Belmont's castle itself for the resources they needed.

Ri's blue-silver eyes turned a dark shade of black. Her canines lengthened, allowing a growl to escape from her lips.

However, whether she was angry or not didn't change the fact that she was completely surrounded, having clearly been betrayed.

"Hand over Madeleine, and you might leave this situation with your dignity and life." Lionel said calmly, turning around to meet Ri's angered gaze. "Choose to fight, and I promise that the punishment will completely disregard the fact you're a married woman."

Chapter 594: I'm Here

Ri silently stared at Lionel as a dark aura dripped off of her in waves.

Void will was never just about a simple upgrade in space will, it also came with it an abyssal chaos that sought to tear through everything. Nothing could escape it, nor did it want anything to escape to escape it.

It was an upgrade to space will, yes. But, it was also a step up in both destruction and darkness will. Unmatched and unfettered.

Seeing Ri's anger, Lionel hardly reacted, simply allowing violet flames to roll off of himself as he combatted Ri's stifling aura.

An amused expression surfaced on Chenglei's features. It was a shame that his black jade yang technique disallowed him from having too much fun, but with such a beauty in front of him, how could he keep such thoughts away? Even if he couldn't do the deed to its fullest, there were plenty of other ways to enjoy a such a perfect body.

His anger for Dyon clouded his noble air entirely. If anyone from Focus Academy saw him now, they would most likely be surprised by his sudden shift in personality. However, different people reacted differently to loss.

The Chenglei from then looked down on the world in its entirety. Although he took Akihiko as a friend, that was only to make use of him. The original plan was for Akihiko to steal Madeleine's talent, thus giving them more leverage with the Kami family. They didn't need this leverage for the Kami God Clan because they had long since placed the Clyte Royal God Clan in their allies – because they ruled the planet the Kami resided on, the Kami were as good as theirs.

No, the reason they needed Akihiko was to have a firm foot placed in the plan of the Storm family.

It hardly matters now, but the Daiyu didn't like the idea of splitting their spoils with the Ragnor family, so they had planned to undermine them with the Storm family. Unfortunately, because of Dyon, that plan fell through, and they were forced to move forward with the Ragnor, which put them in a disadvantageous situation.

For one, Patriarch Ragnor was far stronger than their leader, Elder Daiyu. In addition, the Ragnor main branch was on the level of an Emperor God Clan – something the Daiyu didn't have the power to face currently.

If it wasn't for the fact that Elder Daiyu was by far the oldest, and thus had the most understanding of the situation, the Ragnor's may have long since cut out the middle man.

Knowing all of this, it was clear that the Daiyu hated Dyon for more than just his celestial deer sect affiliation. He had ruined their plans for true autonomy.

But now, his wife had delivered herself to them. And, if Lionel's words were to be taken at face value, his second wife was also hiding somewhere around here as well!

Images of Dyon's piercing gaze flooded Chenglei's mind.

Just a few months ago, they had been even in all aspects. And now? Dyon had the audacity to look down on him with disdain?

Even after punching him hundreds of times, the humiliation of being forced to his knees with a mere gaze still hadn't been washed away from Chenglei's psyche. The worst thing to him was knowing that Dyon would die still thinking he was superior to him. That filled Chenglei with an irrational rage that he wanted to unleash upon Ri!

However, when he noticed that Ri hardly cared about the threat of him, his anger could only grow.

'You dare look down on me, too?! We'll see how long you can keep that up! I'd like to see you maintain that gaze with all of your dignity stripped from you!'

"To think you'd betray your own Planet... Your own clan... Your own father..." Ri let a breathless laugh escape her. "Pathetic."

Lionel's emotions didn't fluctuate. "My father spent all twenty plus years of my life in seclusion, training for some supposed higher purpose. And yet, he seemed perfectly content as a mediocre Royal God Clan – ruling mediocre clans – on a mediocre planet."

Lionel remembered his talks with his father. King Belmont had asked him where Lionel thought his strength fell when compared to the other Royal God Clan heads.

At the time, Lionel had feigned ignorance – claiming that he couldn't possibly know how to scale the power of celestials. However, the truth was that Lionel already had his own answer at the time. And from what he knew? The Belmonts had already fallen far behind whatever supposed protection his father could provide. And the potential of their universe? Was even worse.

Suddenly, another wave spread through the Daiyu.

"Someone is asking for permission to enter the barrier!"

Chenglei looked over at Lionel, only to receive a nod.

"Let them in." Chenglei said.

Ri's frown deepened. She knew quite well that none of her allies would be coming right now. Her father needed to tend to her mother and wasn't even aware of the mission Ri had undertaken. That was not to mention the fact that, if it had been someone who was here to help her, they wouldn't have been allowed in so easily.

The fiery gazes of the Daiyu males had been trained on Ri's body this whole time. The domineering white leather and silver armor she was wearing clung to her curves perfectly. Coupled that with her bestial aura, and she gave off an irresistible vibe.

But, when the skies of the Belmont Holy Land came to be filled with endless beauties, they lost where to focus their attention. None of them were as beautiful as Ri, but they couldn't very well all share one. The hundreds of beauties in the skies broadened their horizons and also at least doubled Ri's enemies...

When Ri realized which sect had arrived, her eyes couldn't help but narrow. She could only watch as a beauty with long white hair and eyes walked noiselessly to Lionel's side, almost gliding with her every step.

She wrapped her arms around his, smiling brightly and she looked toward Ri condescendingly.

"I'm here..." She said softly, emphasizing her next word to ensure Ri understood. "Husband."

The woman was none other than the first in line genius of the Niveus God Sect. A woman who held an endless and deep seeded hatred for Dyon...

Evelyn Niveus.

Chapter 595: Never

Within the world of white, Dyon remained kneeling as his master began to recount her story.

"There are many things within my memory that I've hidden from you. But, there are many things that I chose not to as well. One of those things is quite important to the lore of this universe... The concept you know as heat death." The 25th White Mother began.

Heat Death was a concept that Dyon had learned of from the mortal world, but it seemed to have a very strong place in the martial world as well.

Essentially, there were two main forms of energy. Energy that is capable of being used, and energy that has lost its use.

Over time, usable form of energy decreases, while unusable forms increase. The end result would be a world with no useful energy whatsoever... A catastrophe of a world.

Imagine no longer being able to make use of energy... Life would no longer exist because there would be nothing to power it. Even if you happened to be alive before this occurred, your death would be imminent, and there would be nothing you could do to stop it.

However, this Heat Death came with it another law of the world. With this ever-increasing useless energy, the cosmos would be constantly moving toward a more and more chaotic and lawless form. In the end, the laws that had formed the universe would cease meaning everything... There would be no life... No order... No beginning... There would only be destruction, death and ends.

"I know that you're aware of the story of the dark phoenixes, and how they traveled the universes, spreading their death qi. But, I want you to understand that the amount of universe the dark phoenixes destroyed pales in comparison to the number taken by heat death.

"The Cosmos is trillions upon trillions of years old. Life has existed for so long that there is no single record of everything from its beginning that I'm aware of. However, with such a long history, and with endless cycles in play... It must come to a conclusion...

"In the beginning, there was such an abundance of energy that universes sprung up spontaneously. Every day, thousands to even millions of new dimensions would spring into existence, gracing the cosmos with myriads of beautiful and unique species.

"This energy is something I'm sure you're familiar with by now. It's the very same energy used to temper your transplanted set of meridians. The very same set given to you by our grand teacher. Gama energy.

"It's the origin of everything that exists. It's the amalgamation of every law, will, intent, dao and energy in the world. Anything that has, is or will ever exist originates from this very energy. And because of that energy, a large portion of early existence was a paradise. There was no chaos energy contamination, there was no shortage, so there was a never any excessive need, and the path through life was smooth.

"However, nothing remains perfect forever..." Dyon's master sighed.

"Eventually, the first to ever die, passed on. And then a second... And then a third...

"It eventually became very obvious that this death was inevitable...

"Suddenly, there was a need. A need that everyone sought.... A need for life... To chase after it, to extend it, to grasp hold of it...

"Life became the first commodity in existence. It suddenly became clear that satisfactory resources wasn't enough.

"However, even as people fought for and began to split resources more and more unevenly, there was still balance in the universe. Gama energy continued to be abundant and universes continued to be created at an astounding rate.

"But, just like everything else, that changed as well.

"In all this time, Gama energy and the balance of the universe remained happy, because although the perfection of its world had been lost, the very basis of its laws had not been encroached upon...

"Until the first cultivator appeared."

Dyon remained silently kneeling as his master continued to speak.

"No one knows who this person was. There aren't any records on if this person was an unprecedented genius who learned to defy the universe, or if they were just a lucky individual who stumbled upon something they shouldn't have. Although... Lucky may not be the proper way to describe this person's life...

"The first cultivator broke mortal limits and became an emperor among living beings, ruling for hundreds of years.

"Many thought that their problems had finally been solved... That they could finally cheat death as long as they learned what this first cultivator did...

"However, it was impossible to pry secrets out of someone so powerful, and this first cultivator only shared their secrets with their closest family members, hoping that they would live forever by each other's sides...

"This led to many futile wars that only ended in death for their opponents. After all, how could mortals hope to match up to a martial expert?

"But, as you might have guessed, this first cultivator eventually noticed that after hundreds of years of health, that their life force was declining... Much like everyone else, they began to age, albeit much slower...

"It was clear that even as a cultivator, escaping death was impossible. However, the hope provided by cultivation was something no one could forget, and that hope began to fuel something else... What if

there were higher levels? Levels the first cultivator didn't reach? Levels that would help you live even longer? Maybe if you reached a high enough level, even death wouldn't be able to chase you anymore!

"With this new hope, the first cultivator began to spread their insights, realizing that they were too close to the end of their life to care about protecting a kingdom they wouldn't be able to enjoy the spoils of in death...

"Eventually, with so many minds working on the problem, people began to succeed. The first stage became known as the foundation stage, and the next became the meridian formation stage... And so on and so forth...

"Many variations of cultivation became recognized in the world...

"However, what people didn't understand was that this was not the will of the universe... The laws didn't want people to live forever, what they wanted was for everyone to live a short and greedless life – in complete peace.

"Then, when your time came, you would pass on. But, your life wouldn't end there! Using the seeds of karma, you would be able to reincarnate, and live another short and fulfilling life. Such was the true cycle...

"However, this was completely shattered by cultivators...

"And soon, the repercussions came to bear as the first universe collapsed into non-existence... Taking with it every soul ever tied to its existence... Never to reincarnate again..."

Chapter 596: Rightfully

"This was the very first case of Heat Death. The balance of the universe had been thrown into an imbalance with Gama energy being used in a way it shouldn't be... Because the life force of mortals were being forcefully extended, that usable energy wasn't being recycled into the reincarnation cycle like it should. As a result, it was very quickly becoming unusable as more and more cultivators came into being...

"Once energy becomes unusable, it's impossible to revert it back to its original form. As a result, the fate of a universe that accumulates too much of this energy is only death. It's doomed to collapse in on itself, erasing itself from existence.

"However, too few have the perspective to understand this... It takes trillions of years for a universe to collapse from accumulation of this energy. The number of generations that pass through in that time would be astronomical, even in cultivation families. In fact, your mortal realm is the first time I've ever heard of a population of people grasping this concept so quickly... Your... 'science'... Is truly remarkable although this observation was facilitated by the circumstances your universe has been put through..." The strange light shone in the 25th White Mother's eyes as she seemingly struggled with something.

"By the time cultivators began to understand that they were responsible for the collapsing of their universes, the culture of seeking immortality was too firmly entrenched to root out completely..

"If a single family took it upon themselves to cease cultivating, it would only be a window for another to take advantage, reaffirming themselves as rulers for the sake of short term benefits instead of long term prosperity...

"Too many adopted this nonchalant 'I don't care' philosophy... Too many believed that since their heat death was so far in the future, they shouldn't have to care for it...

"In the end, the spread of cultivation couldn't be stopped. Those who wanted to stop, couldn't for fear of being unable to protect themselves and their family. And those who didn't care from the beginning continued to push themselves to greater heights still...

"However, Heat Death was a problem we all have to face eventually. For those families successful enough to survive to the final days of their universe, this became the biggest problem imaginable...

"Would they simply resign to their fate? Allowing the legacies they had built over billions of years crumble in front of them as the last members of their families died to the collapsing of their universes?

"The answer was no, of course..." The 25th White Mother sighed.

"These families began searching for an answer to their questions. They covered everything from researching methods to restore unusable energy to disgusting cult methods of sacrifice and suffering.

"Unfortunately, the solution that these families eventually found was a mere patch on the hull of a ship... It didn't truly fix anything, it only delayed the problem... And that was of course conquering universes...

"At the time, the existence of universes other than your own wasn't entirely proven. However, the moment it was, there was influx of inter-dimensional travel and with that came universe shattering wars...

"Because this was the time before the gates, the investment necessary to attack another universe was heavy, and therefore, thankfully, rare.

"However, as cultivators became more and more efficient in their martial path, shattering inter-dimensional barriers became as easy as breathing for some, causing these wars to become more and more frequent...

"Eventually, it turned from these wars being fought merely for survival, to some of the most vile and wide spread empires...

"Unfortunately, I am not aware of the history of how the Gates came to be. Although I was aware of the Epistemic Tower, I was never lucky enough to have grand teacher speak directly to me. But, as you know, that's because he only recently split his mind to perform this task."

If Dyon was actively responding to his master, he would have nodded in acknowledgement.

Back in the Epistemic Tower, Dyon had asked his grand teacher why he hadn't warned the Demon Sage that the Timeless Library was nothing but a trap. At the time, his grand teacher told him that he only recently found it worth it to split his mind in such a way.

What Dyon didn't know was that this was because his grand teacher was aware that even the end of his illustrious life was coming to an end.

"Now that you understand how the martial world came to be... It's time I explain to you how your mortal realm became involved in such a thing...

"The truth of the matter is that the most valuable universes left in existence are ones with populations of people who have yet to comprehend the martial way...

"The Gama energy is the most pure. Cultivation resources are the most abundant.

"Because the universe has yet to be slighted, things like abyssal cores, as you call them, are as plentiful as stars in the sky. The purity of the wills is on a completely other level. Even the world itself is relatively at peace...

"Your universe used to be as such... A world unblemished by martial matters. A world pure in the strictest of sense – untouched by the anger of the universe...

"But also the object of greed for every martial expert...

"To conquer a universe like yours would not only be easy beyond belief, it would also give untold benefits for billions of years... Resulting prospering clans and generations for ages to come..."

Tears glistened in Dyon's master's eyes. The guilt weighing on her heart was as heavy as it came, it was difficult for her to speak these words, to admit the faults of her Ancestors and to lay herself bare in this way. But, compared to what Dyon was going through, it was nothing more than child's play. So, she persevered.

"This was our first betrayal of your people. Before even speaking of seals and the stealing of your talent...

"The first treacherous act against your people was coming to your universe in the first place. Taking away the decision that was rightfully yours..."

A deep guilt weeded its way into the 25th White Mother's heart. But, she grit her teeth and continued.

"This universe... Your universe... is the youngest left of the ten thousand remaining. The day it was born was a celebration for the martial world because it was the first of its kind so trillions of years. It was a sign of hope that maybe, the laws of the cosmos had not forsaken us...

"As you know, it takes time for a universe to be inhabitable, even for us martial artist. So, in the years it took, much debate took place on how to make use of this new universe...

"It was selfish and greedy... But, I'm ashamed to say that no one thought of you natives and how we would be encroaching on your rights. The hope of millions of populations rested on this one remaining universe because one knew how long it would take for the next universe to manifest...

"In the years leading up to the moment your universe would become habitable, many wars took place... Too many to name and much too many to remember... A cycle of endless strife over the right to take something that was never ours to begin with... We were fighting over the right to stifle the growth of yet another universe...

"...

"As grand teacher told you, there are two main paths in the martial world, both of which were spurred on by the destruction of the universes.

"There's the chaos path. The path that assumes that the destruction of the universes is simply the will of their laws. This path seeks to seep further into anarchy and accept this fate, assuming that a new rise to martial arts will come as a reward.

"This path is filled with power... Although they claim to be in line with the laws of the universe, the very fact they wield the power that they do protests to that facts...

"You yourself had felt the domineering nature of that entity's body. Even while being so far away and having will power as firm as yours, if it wasn't for your deep seeded anger, you would have succumb to your fear...

"The only way to reach such a height in the martial way is by transcending the laws of the universe itself. By definition, they never cared about the way of the universe, they only want to seek an easier path to immortality, even if that means everyone else dies!" This was the first time the 25th White Mother truly lost control of her emotions, but she quickly tried to rein them in again.

What Dyon's master had just said was the truth, but also not as clear cut as it seemed...

The truth was, even those who didn't co-sign to the chaos path were trying to transcend the laws of the universe as well. It was just that their approach was vastly different...

If Dyon saw the true body of his grand teacher in person, he wouldn't feel as though his one with heart was ready to crumble at any moment like he had when seeing the body of the entity for the first time...

In the path to cultivation, there were always those two choices... To destroy... Or to lift up...

The decision of the entity was clear. If you ever tried to go against him without a firm martial way, all of your cultivation would simply crumble in his presence... But, even worse, this didn't just go for living beings...

If the entity wasn't restricted as he was now... His simple presence would erode the all things as we know it...

"The path of chaos they take makes them vastly superior in the martial way... Through self-harm, debasing practices, and an overall lack of a moral code, they take the sanctity of cultivation and trash it completely.

"The create artificial wills. They experiment on their own people. They kill innocents for the sake of their own improvement... They ransack cultivation treasures, they horde legacies... They even set up fake worlds like the Timeless Library to stoke the hope of those who are selfless, simply to drain the universe of more and more of its resources...

"And they do this all in the name of Chaos. They pretend as though they're following the path the universe set for them, when really all they're doing is preying on the weak and stacking power in their favor."

This was the simple truth of the chaos path...

Even when the dark phoenixes rampaged through the universes spreading death, they were simply doing so because it increased their own power... There was no 'higher purpose' for anyone other than themselves and their own disgusting values... Even the lives of the people of a completely innocent universe was seen as nothing to them.

Dyon's master took a deep breath, calming herself. "I won't try to feed you some lie about my Ancestors coming here to protect your people. Nor will I say that it was better for us to have come than someone else... Because the truth of the matter is that we came in order to make use of your universe as well...

"The second path that martial artists take is one of balance... The hope of this path is to treat every avenue of cultivation as sacred and put in place for a reason. To see every path as just as necessary as the one before it...

"As grand teacher told you, the eventual goal of our path is to help the universe... We believe that the reason why universes are dying isn't simply because we are using the energy at all, but rather because we are using that energy incorrectly...

"We're taking this sacred energy and using it selfishly, only seeking to increase the length of our lives. But, what if this wasn't the true martial way?...

"The path we seek is one of perfection... A path that transcends all not by stomping out the rest, but by raising them all up and combining them...

"A path that transcends not by destroying the universes, but by creating them."

Chapter 598: Fruition

Dyon's master continued to look over him with grief in her eyes. She knew that no amount of shame or guilt she experienced would change things, but it was still breaking her heart to see her disciple like this.

"Because your universe was so young, it was a rare opportunity to study the laws of a universe being birthed in its infancy. If we ever wanted to reach a point where we could create universes ourselves, and transcend its laws in such a way, we needed an understanding of what universes were like in their youth... Unfortunately, your universe was the only option...

"By the time my ancestors fought their way here and established our sect, your people were already in their earliest stages of evolution and were quickly approaching a tipping point.

"From the history that we'd come to understand, this tipping point is usually where intelligent beings began to diverge onto paths of cultivation. By all rights, if your people were left to their own devices, they would soon begin to tease apart the mysteries of the martial world and eventually reach a point of standing on equal footing with the rest of the cosmos...

"However... They never got their chance...

"Your universe was more special than we had once assumed... Because it was the first of its kind in such a long time, we believe that it accumulated much more of heaven's blessings..

"The sheer amount of abyssal cores and cultivation resources far outweighed that of any other universe. As such, even after we celestial deer, and our kitsune allies, staked our claim to this universe, greed never ceased.

"Even worse, a series of events seemed to perfectly align against our wishes, causing a cascade of events that only seemed to multiply our enemies...

"By all rights, as the only Emperor God Clans willing to share a single universe as one, the celestial deer sect and kitsune alliance, later to add the Elves from their adjacent universe, we should have been nearly impossible to take down.

"However, we were naïve...

"The waterfall of terrible events started with my marriage to your martial father. The Drago-Qilin clans place strength above all and the truth was that your martial father never truly won based on his own merit. Although I once told you that he was shunned by his clan because he risked his life to help a

human clan, that was only part of the reason. Those events only served to solidify his moniker as a coward and shameless individual...

"As you've learned now, it was actually the Dragon King that technically earned the right to be my husband. But, by the time the events unfolded, the marriage was already completed, and my virginity was already taken. There was simply no reversing events, so my husband forever carried the label of shame his entire life and the dragon king's weapon became even more of a taboo...

"After that, the Daiyu took a stance of enmity against us, unwilling to forgive the slight on their dignity... Dragons have always been proud creatures, and these events pushed them to their edge... Maybe... Maybe had I not been so selfish in my love things wouldn't have evolved like this..."

The martial world was a cruel place. The most horrid of things from one's mortal realm were amplified by tens of times when strength became more important than anything else...

Dyon's master was one of the few cases where the girl got to love and live a long life with the weak man she chose... But, even that came with its own consequences...

Maybe this was why the Kitsune, having been allies with the celestial deer sect, were so set on their traditions. If these events had never happened, maybe Dyon's father in law wouldn't have had to go so far... Maybe he wouldn't have to go so far in the future...

Dyon's master shook her head. "The second event that shook us to our core was the destruction of the Elvin Kingdom... To this day, I have not a single clue what happened, or why only the Acacia family survived of the three ancient families, but, what I do know is that with the destruction of their kingdom, the flanks of our universe were exposed...

"As you know, currently, this universe is only connected to one other – the Uidah clan's universe. In the past, during these events, that universe was owned by us. However, during that time, there was another universe connected to this very universe – the current Chaos Universe. In fact, that connection is still there, although it is completely unused since it is now uninhabited – not to mention the fact the location is something we buried before our destruction.

"Because our ally in the Elves was now gone, there was suddenly an avenue to attack us at the heart of our alliance. Even more suspiciously, whoever it was that caused the swift destruction of the elves

forced them to flee in the direction opposite to our universe. This meant the Elves had to go a roundabout way, eventually having to enlist the aid of the Ragnors before finally making it back here...

"You may be thinking that it's obvious who destroyed the Elvin Kingdom, right? I too once thought that it had to be the entity... It had the most to gain. However, what you don't know is that the entity had long since transcended before these events. As you've seen by the measures it takes for the dragon king to remain in this world, and the strain it puts on grand teacher to help you from afar, transcended beings cannot easily come back to our plane of existence, let alone wipe out an entire Kingdom of people.

"All I know is that whoever destroyed the Elvin Kingdom is the same group of people who found a way to shatter the plane boundary and summon the entity back to this universe. Without them, the catastrophe would have never happened... and our second betrayal of your people wouldn't have come to fruition..."

Chapter 599: Second

Dyon's master sighed. "The third event that broke the fragile landscape and cast a shadow over our alliance was the war of the phoenixes..."

"Amethyst wanted nothing more than to wipe out the ice and fire phoenixes as revenge for her parents. But, the threat of the dark phoenixes couldn't be ignored either..."

"She was truly the most powerful being to ever exist under transcendence. Her ability to fight was unparalleled and her recovery abilities were nothing short of godly... Many speculate on the kind of power the combined dao of life and reincarnation could have... Theories ranged from true immortality to having more than nine nirvanas.

"However, because Amethyst was so overwhelmingly powerful, no one ever saw her nirvana. Nor was she ever truly close to death. Whether she truly had more than nine rebirths available to her was something maybe only she, herself, knew.

"With her rage fueling her, Amethyst battled the already depleting phoenix population alone, through the universes. Because the number of universes was continually shrinking, the number of life and reincarnation phoenixes had likewise decreased.

"That said, dark phoenixes were obviously different. However, because their reproductive rate was far inferior even compared to other supreme level beasts, they could only grow more powerful while their population remained stagnant.

"But, even then, they were nothing in the face of Amethyst."

Dyon had heard much of this story before. However, when Elwing had told it, he distinctly remember Little Lyla tugging on his arm, letting him know that Elwing was lying about something.

When he had later asked Little Lyla about it, she had simply said that the details of the story were murkier than Elwing was letting on. Which simply meant that he had embellished the details he had no clue about...

"There was a problem with Amethyst's revenge, though...

"Beasts are different from humanoids. We have a connection to the universe that's deeper than any humanoid can match. And, although we lack comprehension abilities, we make up for that in leaps and bounds by the legacies engrained into us.

"However, the true purpose for the existence of beasts was as a counter-balancing act by the universe. Because humanoids were constantly sapping more and more energy away, it became necessary to establish representations of laws to keep them firmly rooted in reality... This was how we beasts evolved from our savage natures to become intelligent creatures as well...

"So... With the representations for life... reincarnation... and death gone from the world, one can imagine the sheer chaos caused...

"Amethyst is a bad person. But, she wasn't stupid either. She knew fully well the consequences of her actions, but she did it anyway... And no one could stop her... In the end, power is all that matters in the martial world, and she had almost too much of it – even to the point where she could forcefully resist the universe's will to push her to transcendence until she was satisfied with the end of the phoenix clans...

"That said, the phoenixes were mere representations – fail safes, if you will. Just because they were gone, didn't mean life collapsed as we know it... But, that didn't mean there was no effect either...

"With the barriers between life, death and reincarnation blurred by their extinction, the plane between this world and transcendence suddenly became fragile. And it was because of that very thing that the entity you saw chained in our Earth was able to come here!"

The 25th White Mother released a long breath.

Three seemingly unrelated events, and yet they resulted in endless pain... She couldn't help but think this was all orchestrated...

"Because the entity isn't meant to be heard, it was constantly met with heavenly tribulations it had to forcefully fight against, which severely weakened his power. Because of that, it knew it wouldn't be able to execute things as it pleased alone. And clearly, it didn't want to reveal the group it used to wipe out the Elves so soon, so it began to enlist others... Namely the Daiyu...

"Do not be fooled by the current appearance of the Daiyu... At the time of this war, they were nearly unmatched through the universes. They had countless dao formation experts and a staggering amount of half-transcendents. That was not even including their ancestors, waiting in the wings. Couple that with the entity and its pet... And we were backed into a corner that was nearly impossible to get out of...

"In our moment of absolute despair, we turned to our celestial deer sect's holy treasure. A treasure among the 33 most powerful not just in this plane, but also the transcendent plane. You may not understand the full meaning of a 33 heavens weapon – especially since you've inexplicably stumbled upon 3 – but these are weapons that even your grand teacher would salivate over. The requirements for their use are harsh, but their utility is unmatched...

"It was because The Seal that we were able to survive... We used it to shatter the daos of the Daiyu and many of their beast forms... We used it to seal the pet of the entity within the gate's spatial realm... However, when it came to the entity, we were simply not powerful to do anything to it alone... If it wasn't for the constant heavenly tribulations he was enduring, we would have been wiped out long before we could do anything...

"The war continued for decades. Each day was another filled with despair...

"However, what we didn't know was the purpose this entity came for. Why would a transcendent come back? What was there in this plane that he could possibly want?...

"The answer was something horrifying...

"Using the universes as a sacrifice, the entity wanted to artificially boost its talent to unprecedented levels... The reason he chose to start with your universe was obvious... It had the most potential and would return the most for his investment...

"As I said before, the souls of the people birthed in a universe are forever tied to it. This is why when a universe is destroyed, reincarnation is no longer an option for those who were birthed there. However, this logic works in other ways too...

"Because your universe had the highest accumulation of energy ever seen in one, by logic it would also birth the most powerful cultivators ever seen... You would be blessed with talent never before seen through the cosmos... All you needed was time to grow... Time you were never given due to the selfishness of others...

"However, with your talent came an opportunity..." Dyon's master grit her teeth, trying to make it through the toughest part of the story for her... because she knew that what they had done was despicable and unfair... But it was a choice they had to make...

"In the martial world, the concept of give and take has always been prevalent. When you reach a new height in cultivation, there's a punishment given for it. When you are birthed with extraordinary talent, your punishment is adjusted for it. And the more you sacrifice... The more you gain...

"By sacrificing your talent and sealing it all away... We were able to accumulate enough power to chain the entity in this prison...

"However, the entity was too much for us, and its comprehension of array alchemy and seals far surpassed our own... In fact, I would dare to say that it is the number one expert in all of existence... it knew what we wanted to do before we even put it into action... and it inexplicably... Let it happen...

"In all likelihood, its only waiting for the right time to break free of its prison on its own... Taking your talent with it..."

"This was our second betrayal..."

Chapter 600: Until You

Dyon's master kneeled before him, taking his rough hands in her small and delicate palms. Dyon didn't seem to react to anything, remaining listlessly staring off at nothing.

He hadn't had a single coherent thought in as long as he could remember. All he felt was a torrent of emotions.

Rage had engulfed his mind and the boiling of his essence blood, balanced only by a woefully inadequate amount of celestial deer blood, was steadily overtaking his crumbling will power. His demonic intentions were overriding his rationality, and the grief in his heart seemed to be the only thing stopping him from doing something that fell in between ripping his master to shreds and ravaging her dignity – forever tainting their master-disciple relationship.

Dyon's master knew this. How could she not? But, she was willing to bear the consequences. If it meant even a sliver of a chance at saving Dyon's mind, she would allow it. As a consciousness, there was little she had left to offer Dyon. All that remained was the small bit of power she had left within, most of which she had had to use when saving Dyon from the demolition cube Chenglei had tried to use against him.

"After we sealed your people, our clan was already in ruins... Because of The Seal, this universe lost its desirability to many and was soon forgotten..."

"So many clans participated in the war under the coaxing of the entity that many of the most powerful clans of our quadrant were washed away completely, allowing the current Pakal and Ragnor clan to take root as the two ruling Emperor God Clans of this quadrant..."

"All we were able to do for your people was to ensure that our wars never effected them obviously... And because the route of cultivation was completely cut off to you mortals, you developed something never before seen in the cosmos: science.

"Although faint concepts of such a thing can be seen here and there, your people were the first to take it so far. Even the Sapientia pale in comparison to your methods. If our celestial deer sect could have survived, we would have loved to learn from your methods...

"Before you all, everyone believed the only way to comprehend the universe was through philosophy and understanding. To slowly tease apart the daos and truths of the universe. But, the mortal realm began to understand the universe at a far faster rate than any other population in history...

"Your modern history reaches back a mere 5000 years, and yet you've already comprehended something like heat death – a concept martial world populations take billions of years to grasp.

"You're all so physically weak, and yet your structures don't pale in comparison to martial world concepts at all.

"There are so few of you, and yet your accomplishments can be said to be otherworldly and almost magical...

"However, you've all paid a price that no one should have to pay... You carry the burden of having your future prospects chosen for you... Who's to say that with your superior talent that you wouldn't have even greater accomplishments had we not interfered?"

Dyon's master raised her small jade-like hand, gently wiping the tears of blood from Dyon's face. She worked slowly, as though Dyon was a fragile doll that could collapse at any moment. Many people forgot just how old Dyon was, but the 25th White Mother never would. She saw Dyon as her own son, she was more clear than almost anyone how brittle his mental state was.

She had thousands of years of life lived... But Dyon had only 19... Just 19 years...

"Dyon... I –"

Her words were immediately caught in her throat.

She hadn't noticed when Dyon moved, but when she looked up, she found a pair of dark red eyes staring into her soul. Even as a former dao formation expert... Even as someone who had stared the dragon king in the eyes... Even as someone who had fought bravely against the entity... Never had the 25th White Mother felt such pressure.

It was as though Dyon's soul was bearing down on her consciousness, threatening to stomp it out completely.

His eyes were like calm crystals, reflecting no emotion at all. And yet, she could feel the deep seeded rage within him. She could feel the sorrow and despair...

Dyon didn't move. He only looked. Scanning his master's eyes as though he was searching for a reason not to lash out.

In the next moment, the 25th White Mother did something that went against all of her instincts as a beast. Everything in her was yelling danger... Telling her to run away...

But she refused to abandon Dyon... Not again...

Tears sprinkled from her eyes as her soft lips planted a gentle kiss onto Dyon's forehead. Her arms wrapped around him tightly, cradling his head in her embrace.

"After everything was settled, the events were not a secret to the martial world. However, we soon found out why the entity allowed himself to be voluntarily sealed. He had placed his own seal on us, disallowing the harm and talk of what had transpired.

"That seal wasn't broken until 19 years ago, with your birth. However, people continued to follow it, not knowing that they were free of the burden."

What Dyon and his master didn't know is that Elder Daiyu and those under the rule of the entity were subject to a completely separate seal. One that acted on them to this day. This was why Elder Daiyu suffered a penalty for alluding to the truth of things when he spoke to Dyon just months prior.

Even now... He was under the power of the entity...

The 25th White Mother continued to hold Dyon, speaking softly.

"The mortal realm became a taboo. Nearly untouchable. If it wasn't for mortal realm technology becoming so powerful that they could threaten even weaker essence gathering martial artists, all ties would have been cut from the mortal realm entirely, so as not to anger the entity.

"However, you all continued to advance at such a rate that you could no longer be ignored. As such, so as to bend to the pressure left behind by the entity, weaker martial academies began to have yearly ceremonies in partnership with the mortal realm. This allowed friendly trade between us and your world, which allowed our cultures to mix to a certain extent.

"This was all meant to be for show, of course. Everyone knew that it should be impossible for a mortal to have enough talent to be accepted by the martial world. After all, your talent was sealed away.

"Until... You."