Heaven 281

Chapter 281: Truth Saint, Fu Jing Jing.

Angel was surprised, "You've been trapped here since this Secret Realm was created? How many years have you been here? It should be very boring..."

The woman's gentle laugh echoed in the crystal cave. "Don't worry, little girl. I'm half asleep until someone worthy appears here. So time goes on quite quickly."

Angel snorted and said, "W-Who is worried? I was just asking."

Angel heard the woman's gentle laughter again, making her fair cheeks blush. The woman said with a cheeky tone, "Moreover, I'm not so young to be bothered by time one or two hundreds of thousands of years." Angel choked on her saliva and entered a coughing fit.

As Angel coughed, the energy in the surroundings spun and rushed toward the mattress. Then, that whirlpool of energy slowly took shape. The voice of the woman was heard while these events happened. "I can only materialize myself two more times, but I think you are worthy to inherit my powers. Especially because of the peculiarities in your heart."

Angel gathered her bearings and observed the energy converging and taking the shape of an extremely beautiful woman. Even before she formed, Angel's eyes began to widen.

Her skin was as fair and glossy as pure marble, but it also gave a supple feeling. The word perfect skin could be applied to her, and no one would say it was exaggerated.

Her hair, as black as a moonless night, reached below her knees in a waterfall of glossy darkness. It waved even without air, giving her an ethereal feeling. Her long white robe fluttered about, following and seemingly coordinating with her hair in a surreal spectacle of feminine beauty.

Her aura was infinitely profound. For Angel, it felt boundless, something that not even Tatyana's aura made her feel.

This woman was clearly many levels above Tatyana cultivation-wise, even higher than the two Gods from Yasenia's inheritance.

Her facial features seemed the representation of gentleness. She had gently curved eyes and brows, a soft smile that could melt anyone's heart, and an oval face that gave tender feelings.

However, her eyes were somewhat creepy.

The iris and pupils were crystal white, you could differentiate them from the sclera, but it gave a strange feeling of discomfort. Her white eyes appeared as if they could see through everything past, present, and future.

An unmatched senior. That is what this woman was.

Angel was in awe as she looked at the woman. Yet, when she looked at those eyes, strangely, she didn't feel fear. Even the aura this senior gave felt like a refreshing breeze for her.

Curious about her white eyes, Angel asked, tilting her head. "Are your eyes okay? Did you hurt them in the past?"

The woman's smile deepened, making her facial features even more gentle than they already were. "They are fine, child. They've been like this since I had a memory. Thank you for caring about me."

Angel was flustered again, "Who would worry about a stranger!? I was just curious."

The woman laughed again and said, "Can you tell me your name, child? I'm named Fu Jing Jing, but the World knows me as one of the five Saints, the [Heaven's Truth Saint]."

Angel's entire being froze for a second as her eyes opened to the limits. Right, after, she fell to her knees and stuttered. "Venerable One! I'm deeply sorry for being disrespectful!!"

Angel reacted so exaggeratedly because the title of "Saint" wasn't gained lightly. Especially saying that "The world knows me as Saint" is something that can't be said without facing punishment from the Heavens.

Only those who did something revolutionary for the whole cultivation world could gain that title. A title that the Heavens themselves gave a cultivator for their unmatched merits, strength, or wisdom.

If someone dared to call themselves Saint that way, Heaven would strike that person until they are completely erased from existence. It was one of the few rules that the Heavens didn't allow to be breached.

That was a Saint. An individual recognized by the World.

Fu Jing Jing said with a gentle tone, "You can stand up. No need to be so formal. What is your name, cute child?"

Angel timidly got up and blushed slightly at her compliment. However, she answered honestly and nervously, "I'm Angel Glassheart, daughter of a Viscount from the Star Empire in the Sky Continent. It is an absolute honor to meet you, Venerable One."

Fu Jing Jing smiled and said, "A very appropriate name. Now I ask, do you want to receive my inheritance, Angel Glassheart?"

Angel instantly struggled. Even if this was a once-in-a-lifetime, no, a one in all lifetimes opportunity, she was still hesitant.

Yasenia had always told her that nothing was free in this World if it came from a stranger, and this was not a random stranger but a Saint! The price to pay must be enormous.

She decided to be honest with Fu Jing Jing and laid her worries in the open. "I-I don't know if I want to accept. Saint Fu Jing Jing is too powerful. I'm sure that after receiving your inheritance, something dangerous will happen to me and all those around me. I don't know if I can overcome it...."

Full Jing Jing was honestly surprised. Not because of what she denied her offer but because her denial was honest.

Very, very few would be able to resist the temptation of gaining the inheritance of a real Saint. It was like a ticket to becoming one of the strongest in the World.

Many hurdles and trouble would indeed come their way, but they would also gain strength to overcome those trials, so it wasn't as difficult.

Moreover, once those trials ended, becoming one of the strongest under the Heavens was guaranteed. All in existence would respect them.

Until now, only one person could honestly deny her offer, but that was more than 300,000 years ago. At that time, Fu Jing insisted because he was extremely talented, but the man turned around and left.

Besides that one person who denied her, the rest of the people couldn't overcome her trial and sadly perished.

Fu Jing Jing thought for a second and said, "Normally, my trial would be indeed extremely hard. Until now, no one was able to keep their life after challenging it. However, it should be much easier for you, Angel."

Fu Jing Jing sighed, "However, I won't insist if you don't want to do it. I respect people that are true to themselves."

Angel asked, confused, "Why would it be easier for me? I'm not that talented...."

Full Jing Jing nodded, "That's true. The method you used for raising your cultivation is not the natural way. However, the effects of it are even better than naturally cultivating. Your Dao Companion is a very interesting individual that can challenge this small truth of the cultivation world."

Angel puffed her chest with absolute pride, 'Even Saints praise Yasenia! Well, it is natural since she is the best~.'

Full Jing Jing read her mind and almost laughed aloud. She found Angel very cute. Then she said, "The reason you would have an easier time is because of your second constitution. What do you say, Angel? Do you want to try trusting me once?"

Angel looked at those white eyes and struggled. 'Second constitution, what is that?'

However, she had felt attracted to this place since the beginning, as if an instinct guided her. Therefore, she made up her mind and nodded. "I-I will accept, Saint Fu Jing Jing! I want to become strong too!"

Fu Jing Jing smiled gently and floated up above the mattress. "Good. Come, Angel. Sit on the [Heaven Refining Crystal Mattress]."

Angel walked forward with steady steps and, guided by Fu Jing Jing, sat cross-legged, her long ankle-length blonde hair scattering on the ground around her.

Above the precious item, Angel looked like a beautiful doll.

Fu Jing Jing landed in front of Angel and spoke, her tone changing to a formal one. "Now, I'm going to pass on to you my cultivation method, Angel Glassheart. Do you accept?"

Angel looked at her and nodded with resolute eyes. "I do!"

Fu Jing Jing commented, "The trial has two steps. The first one will force you to face your ugliest side. You have to accept it, Angel. But not everything it says is true. They are deceptive and can make you question truths about yourself. To complete the trial, you must accept your bad sides while knowing your strengths."

Fu Jing Jing warned, "However, never fight it. The use of strength in this trial will just make it harder. Although it is your ugliest side, it carries strength on par with your perfect self."

Angel nodded again. She wasn't suicidal enough to fight a perfect form of herself.

"Good. Close your eyes, Angel Glassheart."Fu Jing Jing commanded, and Angel followed.

Then, Fu Jing Jing took a step forward and pressed their foreheads together. When she opened her mouth, her voice was heavy as if it carried the truths of the World. "Face your demons, face your weakness, face your true self. [Heavens Mirror: Truth]."

Angel felt something blasting her body, and her soul flew away from her body, entering another place.

The feeling of losing her physical body was terrifying since her connection with the living was momentarily cut. It felt like dying after a blow. However, she regained her bearings rapidly as normal sensations returned toward her soul body.

Angel opened her eyes and looked around her. The place she appeared in was fantastic, to say the least. In this place, the Earth didn't exist.

It was as if the whole World was made by just the heavens.

However, below her feet, there was something solid.

When she looked down, she saw her reflection.

Angel frowned for a second until realization hit her. Her heart almost stopped when she understood what was below her feet.

She was standing on a mirror so big she couldn't see the end nor the beginning of it. A mirror so big that it could reflect the Heavens, effectively erasing the Earth from the World.

Her reflection suddenly smirked and separated from herself, dumbfounding Angel even more.

Then, as her reflection walked, she tilted out of the mirror and finally stood in front of Angel.

They were exactly the same, but their dispositions were the polar opposite.

Unlike the cute and sweet Angel, the other Angel was arrogant and despondent. Her face was mocking and filled with disdain. "Ready to hear about your true self? How ugly you really are under your cute shell?"

Angel snorted, "Bring it on!"

Chapter 282: Fu Jing Jing and the Heavenly Calamity.

The reflection snorted at Angel's declaration and began looking inside Angel's mind.

At that moment, the trial began. However, something unexpected happened. Angel's reflection suddenly frowned, clearly confused. 'What is this?'

Angel was prepared for whatever her reflection was about to say, but she realized that something was wrong when she saw a frown on its face. 'Did something happen?'

After waiting for some seconds and not hearing anything coming from the reflection, Angel felt that something was wrong, so she tilted her head and asked it. "What's wrong? Did I do something wrong?"

The reflection woke up from its thoughts and looked at Angel with a weirded-out face. "You... You don't have heart demons?"

Angel blinked, and she suddenly understood why it was frowning. 'Is my Spiritual Breakthrough affecting the trial?'

Thinking of that, Angel puffed her chest and said with a bragging tone, "Of course not! Yasenia smashed them all! I made a Spiritual Breakthrough long ago, thanks to her~."

The reflection was even more baffled, "Impossible. A Spiritual Breakthrough is not enough to erase all doubts about yourself. Everyone has something they fear. For example, your love for your mate is very deep. Don't you fear losing her?"

Angel asked, surprised, "Why would I fear that?"

The reflection, which had Angel's face, looked very cute because of her dazed face. She frowned and asked somewhat impatiently, "You don't fear that? What would you do if she died!? Don't you fear something like that happening!?"

Angel opened her eyes and yelled angrily, "Why do you say scary things!? That won't happen!"

The reflection smirked since denying possible truths would not only strengthen itself but make the trial more difficult. Still, when none of that happened, the smile on its face froze. 'Eh? Why am I not strengthening?'

It frowned again and was increasingly confused by the second, "So you do fear that happening, else you wouldn't have reacted so strongly. How could it not become a heart demon if you fear it so much!? This doesn't make any sense!"

Angel humped and looked sideways, "I'm not talking to you anymore. Saying such a bad thing, I don't like you."

The reflection's speechless levels reached an all-time high, "Are you a child!? You are doing a trial that could kill you! Why are you acting like a spoiled baby!?"

Angel humped again, "Not talking."

The reflection smirked smugly and said, "You talked! Ha!"

Angel blinked twice and argued back, "Who is being childish now? How could you trick me like that?"

The reflection was about to talk back with a smile and tease her but stopped. 'Wait, aren't I supposed to test her? What am I doing?'

Fu Jing Jing's voice interrupted with a gentle laugh, "So that's how it is. Indeed, it is like I thought."

Angel and the reflection stopped speaking. Angel tried finding Fu Jing Jing, but she couldn't see her.

She heard her ask, "Angel, did you have heart demons in the past?"

Angel nodded, "Yes! But they were all smashed by Yasenia~." She bragged again, afraid that miss Saint didn't hear her the first time.

Fu Jing Jing was amused but continued asking. "They completely disappeared after Yasenia took care of them, right?"

"En!" Angel nodded proudly.

"No matter how much you feared something, it didn't develop into a Heart demon again, right?" Fu Jing Jing asked again.

Angel nodded again. "That's right! And every time I fear something, I speak with Yasenia, and she always pampers me~."

Fu Jing Jing laughed and humored Angel, "Yasenia is really good. You are very lucky, Angel."

Angel's smile widened so much that her cheeks began to hurt.

Fu Jing Jing suddenly said, "Good, you've overcome the trial."

The reflection, in Truth, was the soul of the infinite Mirror under Angel's feet. It wasn't just a trial. It also had its own thoughts. After hearing Fu Jing Jing's verdict, it didn't like it. This was the second time failing to see through someone's heart, and it didn't like it. The Mirror felt like its pride was hurt. "How could that be possible for her not to have an ugly side? Jing Jing, you should be aware that it is completely impossible! Even The He-"

Fu Jing Jing interrupted. "I know. However, Angel has a special constitution. She has something called [True Heart Of Glass]. Although it seems like a big coincidence, you know it isn't. I've waited for this for too many years to call it a coincidence. I could even complain and sigh with a "finally," if I wanted to, fufu."

Angel's reflection, or the Mirror, was surprised, "She really has the same constitution you had?"

Fu Jing Jing appeared between them and nodded, "That's right. There isn't anyone more worthy of gaining my inheritance than Angel in this world."

Angel looked at Fu Jing Jing and spoke, confused, "But my constitution is called [Prismatic Constitution], not [True Heart of Glass]."

Fu Jing Jing smiled gently and patted Angel's head, "You are right, child. But a single body can have multiple physiques. Moreover, it isn't that uncommon to have a double constitution. I would say that one in every four cultivators has a double constitution. At least, back when I was alive, the proportion was like that."

Angel blinked, surprised. "But I've never heard anything like that. Not even the seniors have spoken about this once. Even the tests I've taken have never spotted this additional constitution, not on me or anybody I know."

Fu Jing Jing thought for a second, "Maybe something has changed? It is true that for a cultivator to manifest this secondary physique, the secondary one has to be compatible with the main one. Furthermore, if they don't awaken before you enter the Nascent Soul realm, the most dominant physique will end up erasing the other. However, even the most common of tests should reveal the extra physiques."

Angel was startled. Then she became somewhat fidgety. Fu Jing Jing asked, "Is there something wrong, Angel?"

Angel nodded and said with hastiness. "I have to tell Yasenia and the others about this! She might also have another hidden body constitution."

Fu Jing Jing shook her head, "It doesn't matter if they know or not. It isn't something that can be triggered after knowing about it. They must have a really big fortunate encounter to awaken it if they haven't until now."

"In your case, it was awakened by dual cultivating with Yasenia after overcoming your heart demons. Her powerful and cleansing Yang energy combined with your Yin perfectly and awakened [True Heart of Glass]. I find it somewhat ridiculous that someone's Yang energy can do that, but since it happened like that, I can't deny it."

Angel was surprised, "Yasenia did?"

Fu Jing Jing nodded with a rare interest in her white eyes, "Truly a mystical person. I would like to meet her."

The Mirror seemed to have its pride hurt because this only happened once in its extremely long life, that was with Fu Jing Jing, so he said. "I'm still not convinced. Although having that hidden constitution is quite normal. Once someone awakens the physique, it becomes a Unique Constitution. Are you telling me that this weak girl awakened it? Even you only got it after understanding your own law!"

It said indignantly, but somewhat cutely since it was still in Angel's form, "I don't accept that she awakened it by having sex!"

Fu Jing Jing shook her head, "I got it not because I was born with it, but because I managed to peer into the World Law of Truth. My [True Heart of Glass] was not innate but acquired. Therefore, little Angel is a better master since she was born with it naturally. That means that she was basically born to wield you. You will have a new master soon, [Mirror of Truth]."

The Mirror frowned, unhappy, but since it had Angel's face, it was giving Fu Jing Jing the itch to pinch those tender cheeks.

The Mirror sighed and turned toward Angel. "I will accept you as my master if you can maintain your determination to improve after seeing the scene that gave the nickname "Saint" to Jing Jing."

Before Angel could deny or agree, her world turned black, and she lost consciousness. Fu Jing Jing frowned after she saw Angel's soul sink into the Mirror's surface. "Truth Mirror, that scene is not something a mortal cultivator can withstand. Not even the so-called Transcendent Cultivators would remain sane after seeing it."

The Mirror snorted, "So what. Why would I accept her as a Master if she can't even withstand that?"

Fu Jing Jing looked at it with a complicated gaze, "You didn't even give her a chance to accept."

"Nonsense! Why wouldn't she accept possessing one of the strongest treasures of the Universe?"

Fu Jing Jing shook her head, "You've really changed. Did accomplishing that feat increase your arrogance? Her mate, Yasenia, doesn't seem like a normal cultivator. Pray that it doesn't go too

badly, or the consequences may be more than you can handle." With that, Fu Jing Jing entered the Mirror to see whether Angel could overcome it or not.

The Mirror frowned and then sighed, 'The backlash from that was making me absorb too much of human nature. Now, I've developed too many negative emotions and sometimes don't know how to handle them. Let's hope it doesn't kill her.' Then, it disappeared as its conscience returned inside itself.

When Angel opened her eyes, she was floating in a completely different place. It was somewhere up in the sky, and she could overlook most of the world from there. The sheer size of the world left Angel breathless.

The scenery was truly spectacular. The little girl could see the continents, oceans, clouds, and many different landscapes from above. What surprised Angel was that, although immense, Angel could somewhat discern a semblance of curvature in the horizon. Her thoughts wandered for a second, 'Is the world round? But wow, it is... Too big.'

Suddenly, Angel's attention was captured by a small aura fluctuation to her side. She turned her gaze, and a woman slowly stepped out of a spatial fissure.

She was an otherworldly beauty with white eyes and black hair. The aura she released was something Angel had never felt before. It was incomparable to the soul form of the same woman, like a firefly and the Sun.

It didn't just bend the world laws around her, but her own body seemed to be an amalgamation of truths as if everything that composed her existence was made of different laws and concepts.

Rumble!

This loud sound made Angel look up, and her eyes widened in fright.

Above her, a sky full of fearsome thunder rumbled. The clouds were made of black thunder. The thunder rolling on those "clouds" was constantly changing between every color in existence. And the size of even one lightning was as big as a World. The whole Tribulation was basically endless.

Angel couldn't see the end or the beginning of that Black Thunderstorm.

What was worse was that the strength of that lightning was strong enough to shatter stars, reform solar systems, and collapse black holes.

A strength that nothing was able to go against.

Gods? Immortals? A common Human? Everything was the same before the wrathful Heavens.

However, Fu Jing Jing was floating right below that World-ending Calamity, staring at that Heavenly Calamity. Her white eyes were without ripples, her bearing calm.

Angel felt like her heart would burst from the powerful emotions that this scene portrayed.

A single woman was facing the entirety of the Heavens.

Fu Jing Jing spoke calmly, yet her voice echoed everywhere worldwide. Not a single living creature could not hear her. "Heavens, you've already punished the Gods enough for their mistake. You are overreaching the scope of fairness. You are becoming biased!"

RRUUMBLE!!!

The sky roared wrathfully with world-ending lightning. Even if it didn't speak a word, all living creatures could instantly understand the meaning of that thunderous wrath.

"How dare an insignificant ant go against me!?"

However, even then, Fu Jing Jing was indifferent to the rage of the Heavens. She closed her eyes for a second and said, "Since you insist on carrying on the punishment, I will let you see your current true self, Heavens. I will show you your current Truth."

Angel opened her eyes to the limits at that statement, 'A single human wants to judge the heavens!? What is this but absolute insanity!?'

Chapter 283: Fu Jing Jing's Death. Angel's crumbling soul.

Fu Jing Jing waved her hand and unleashed her cultivation base.

Her presence spread like an all-encompassing blanket, and her aura extended across the whole world and even further beyond.

The air, water, and everything her aura encompassed seemed to come to a stop.

It was as if she had become the center of the Universe, an unrivaled existence.

If before Angel was claiming insanity, now her thoughts had completely changed. She realized; this woman had what it took to take the Whole Heavens. Her strength was far beyond what her imagination could even fantasize.

Then, her voice resounded everywhere in the world. "[Heaven's Mirror: Truth]"

The world changed.

Below Fu Jing Jing, an immeasurable mirror appeared.

The beginning and end of it were impossible to be perceived.

At that moment, the world became an identical copy to the place Angel was before, but now, instead of a clear blue sky, everything was surrounded by those black thunderclouds and fearsome lightning.

Angel almost collapsed as she felt her reality crashing down on her. Her thoughts tangled, her soul quivered, and she would have already fainted to escape this reality if she wasn't in her soul form. However, that would have been the best thing since, because she was in her soul form, Angel was unable to faint and had to experience everything forcefully.

Before Angel, a single woman summoned the Mirror she thought was a product of the Trial, an illusion.

A thing so immeasurable that it could reflect the Heavens itself.

However, Angel realized something that prevented her mental collapse for the moment.

The tips of Fu Jing Jing's fingers were cracking with white lines. She was like a vessel that was trying to fit something much bigger than itself.

Those lines crept up her hands and disappeared under the long white robe, clearly spreading through her whole body.

However, Fu Jing Jing's face remained calm as she spoke. "Face yourself, Heavens. Return to your previous self and continue overlooking everything with unbiased fairness. [Heaven's Mirror: Truth Tribulation]."

Then, the world turned white. From the Mirror below Fu Jing Jing, countless lightning made of the Truth laws, concepts, and realities shoot toward the entirety of the Heavens.

Fu Jing Jing had literally created a tribulation for the Heavens!

The heavens, of course, retaliated.

How dare an entity dare make a Tribulation?

How dare an entity defy it so blatantly?

All the star-shattering lightning fell from the black clouds and collided with the Truth Tribulation.

The scene was the Heavenly Calamity against the Truth Tribulation.

It was a moment filled with the purest of destructions.

Nothing could ever compare to the creation of the beginning.

Worlds across the Universe shattered, reality shattered, countless black voids appeared, the Heaven's shrieked, and all fabric of existence shook.

Angel was trying her best to remain sane during this event.

However, spectating something like that was not something she could resist. Angel felt her cultivation base deviating, her soul quivering in and out of existence, her own thoughts becoming tangled, and her own self crumbling down.

Her soul was dying. Angel was dying.

Even if [True Heart of Glass] was powerful, Angel herself was still weak.

The emotions the sight before her instilled in her made her heart crack without limits, like a base falling to the ground. Her resolution crumbled, her mind began going to the brink of insanity, and her energy went rampant.

As Angel died, the white cracks on Fu Jing Jing's body reached her neck and bare feet.

They kept spreading until her whole body was filled with them.

However, she didn't stop.

Fu Jing Jing knew that doing this would mean her death. Even if her strength was practically unrivaled, it was impossible to create an attack that challenged the Heavens in this way. If the attack were stronger, Fu Jing Jing would be able even to destroy them!

A cultivator that grew thanks to Heaven's energy couldn't challenge it this way. That was the limit of a cultivator.

The Heavens were absolute to such an extent.

Still, Fu Jing Jing did it.

She decided to sacrifice herself for the world to return to normal, for all living beings to live without fear again, not having to worry about the constant Tribulation going on. She did it for the Heavens to regain their fairness and realize their growing partialness.

However, her body felt as if it was about to burst. Her soul, as if it was about to disappear eternally.

Nevertheless, she relentlessly continued using the Mirror to attack the Heavens, even when some parts of her body were falling off and disintegrating into white specks.

After an unknown time passed, the Heavens suddenly stopped attacking and received the Truth Tribulation head-on.

The Tribulation slammed it and created countless locks on it. The Heavens let the Truth Tribulation transform them until they regained their initial state.

An absolutely fair and unbiased existence.

The sacrifice of the woman for itself and all the creatures moved even the unfeeling Heavens, destroying its growing ego!

When Fu Jing Jing realized she had succeeded, a smile appeared on her cracked face, and her white eyes curved with her smile.

This smile was the first and last of this encounter.

It wasn't a proud smile. No, what adorned her crumbling being was a gentle smile full of compassionate feelings.

"Thank you for understanding, Heavens."

In the next instant, unable to bear the pressure anymore, her body exploded like glass, and the Mirror below her disappeared, returning everything to normal.

Those shards of Fu Jing Jing's existence spread throughout the whole world. The light shone through the disappearing black thunderclouds, and the first light in thousands of years refracted on the shards creating a rainbow-like color creating the first and only worldwide aurora.

The last thing the ego of the Heavens did before disappearing was to use its immeasurable power to bend the aurora to write a single sentence.

"Heaven's Truth Saint."

At that moment, everyone knew a new Saint was born, the fifth in the long registered history before the Heavenly Cataclysm.

However, no one knew that the Saint wasn't born but reached the end of her long travel.

The Saint perished to accomplish her objective, to end the dreadful Heavenly Calamity that killed innumerable Gods and immortals.

Angel's consciousness returned to her body.

However, her body fell to the ground powerlessly.

Angel's pupils were dilated, her body limp, and she didn't have a breath in her. Her meridians had cracks, and even her dantian was almost shattered. Her soul was in a terrible state and in the brink of disappearing.

Angel was worse than if she was dead if nothing was done.

Fu Jing Jing looked at Angel and sighed with sadness in her white eyes. "So, the Trial was defective. Not even the innate owner of the [True Heart of Glass] can overcome it. It was too much."

She approached and hugged her between her arms, and lifted her slowly. Even if she was a soul, she could solidify with a little bit of effort.

She wouldn't have combat strength, but carrying a person was within her capabilities.

Angel's body lay limp and with her eyes open between her arms, still without a breath in her.

The Mirror, still in Angel's form, spoke with regret in its voice. "She won't make it. She could almost overcome it, but it was still too much. We've sub-estimated the Trial's difficulty."

It had realized that Angel had what it took to be its master even before the Trial ended.

All previous challengers collapsed right after the Mirror was summoned in the vision since the aura was too powerful. However, Angel didn't even feel it and was shocked at the size and the reality that something like it existed.

This meant that Angel was perfectly compatible with itself. Not even Fu Jing Jing could summon the entirety of its body until she almost reached her peak.

Nonetheless, the rest of the event proved to be too much for her mind, and it collapsed.

If she were with her real body, she would have just fainted as a defense mechanism and avoided serious harm. However, since she was in her soul form, that option didn't exist, and she had to take the full burn.

Suddenly, Fu Jing Jing felt a particular energy surge inside Angel.

Her white eyes regained hope and looked across her body. When her eyes looked at her waist area, she realized the energy came from Angel's uterus.

After their deed, Yasenia didn't help them absorb her Yang energy as she normally does because of the five mortals and her haste to enter the 300,000-point Trial.

Moreover, Angel had also decided to keep it there for as long as she could to feel Yasenia even if she was away. She also didn't normally do it herself because normally the dragoness pampers her and does it for her. Hence, Angel had been walking around with her core filled with Yasenia's Yang energy.

Her body had certainly absorbed a small part of it naturally, but it was a slow process, and she still had more than ninety percent of what Yasenia released in their session.

Now, that energy was burning violently.

It was as if it had felt Angel's dire state.

Like a tsunami of energy, all of Yasenia's Yang energy rushed across the cracked meridians in her uterus toward Angel's dantian. The meridians were cracked but not broken, so with some effort, the Yang energy managed to enter the damaged dantian.

Like spring water to a human dying of thirst, it nourished her greatly, controlling the tangled energy flows because of shock.

Then, it acted like a medium to move that energy through Angel's broken body, slowly activating her subconscious healing properties.

One minute later, Angel opened her eyes wider and took in a deep breath, filling her lungs with needed oxygen and energy.

Her mental state was still crumbled, but her body functions worked on an instinctual level to keep her barely alive.

Fu Jing Jing was delighted, and even the Mirror gained a small smile. Fu Jing Jing said, "Since you regained your consciousness and you are alive, I can count this as overcoming my Trial. Let's begin the inheritance Transferring."

The Mirror was just a helper and a reward for the Trial, so it asked with a little concern in its voice. "What about her mind? Can you heal it? Unlike her body, it has completely crumbled."

Fu Jing Jing looked at the Mirror and raised her eyebrow, "Hoh hoh~ Is it concern what I hear in your tone?"

"W-Who is concerned? I just don't want my future master to become a fool, that's all!"

Fu Jing Jing snorted, "Then, you shouldn't have almost killed her. Prepare for it if her lover arrives, you and me will be in trouble."

The Mirror snorted, "What can a small junior do?"

Fu Jing Jing reminded it, "Our combat strength is only at the low-middle levels of the Unification realm. So, we will be in trouble if she is stronger than that."

The Mirror coughed and didn't comment anymore.

Fu Jing Jing looked at Angel and thought seriously for a second. Then, she shook her head and answered, "I can't help her completely recover, but you shouldn't worry. Her mate could probably find a way to help her. The worst-case scenario is her acting like a child after regaining consciousness or having forgotten a part of her memory. Both of them happening would be the absolute worst scenario."

The Mirror nodded and prepared to start the Transference Ritual.

Chapter 284: Inheritance Ritual. Valeria's strangeness.

The Mirror nodded and prepared to start the Transference Ritual. For that, it needed to take its current base form and leave Angel's shape.

The small Angel grew in height, and her hair changed from blonde to white. Her body became more slender, and her blue eyes became lighter, icy like the coldest of ices, and filled with pride. Then, it said, "Good, let's begin the inheritance ceremony."

Fu Jing Jing nodded.

First, she made Angel's robe disappear, making her completely naked. Then, she laid the catatonic Angel on the crystal bed she was previously sitting on. Angel's creamy skin touched the cold crystal mattress, but not a single twitch could be perceived from her.

The moment Fu Jing Jing laid her on it, the aura of the whole cave took a turn.

From stillness, the energy began rotating with increasing strength and momentum.

All energy accumulated across hundreds of thousands of years inside the cave moved and followed hidden paths inside the walls. The energy moved in complex patterns and concentrated on six spots above them, slowly activating a gigantic formation covering the whole place.

Then, Fu Jing Jing waved her long white sleeve, and a beam shot toward Angel's heart. It struck precisely in the middle and created a small hole. From it, a drop of blood left Angel's body. Following that, the wound closed, and that drop very slowly floated upward.

Since Angel's mind was broken, forcing things on her was easy for Fu Jing Jing. She sighed and said, "No matter if you wanted to gain it, I can only follow through with this, or else you will remain like that for the rest of your life. I hope you don't hate us, little Angel."

She said that because, besides forcing Angel to do this, the drop of blood was not a normal drop of blood.

That drop of blood was a drop of precious blood essence.

Blood essence was basically the vitality and strength of a cultivator.

Losing a single drop of this blood that only resided in the heart was enough to lose lifespan, cultivation, soul strength, and potential. In worst-case scenarios, losing blood essence could lead to cultivation base degradation, and hurting the foundation, making it impossible to advance and basically crippling the cultivator. The total amount a cultivator below the Transcendence Level had was ten drops of that blood.

Angel had only four since she was young, and her cultivation base was low. This meant that losing one drop was an even bigger disaster.

Nevertheless, Fu Jing Jing wouldn't let any side effects happen since this process was necessary for the Ritual.

Moreover, she was a Saint. She was someone with such a broad knowledge of cultivation that she could fight directly against the Heavens. Even if her current self were incomparable to the past, she wouldn't mess up in her own inheritance ritual.

Even so, the loss of lifespan was inevitable since there had to be a price for using essence blood and not returning it to the body. Unlike the Blood Contract, where the drops combine and return to the body, here Angel was about to give her blood essence to the Mirror.

Still, as long as Angel continued cultivating and advancing, she would not even realize it.

When the drop of blood essence floated thirty centimeters above her heart, Fu Jing Jing chanted in a low voice and at high speed. It was like a gentle yet imposing murmur guiding the Formation around her. Her ethereal voice filled the crystal cave as the energy began gathering toward it from the outside.

The cultivators in the surrounding area realized something was wrong because the natural flow of energy was disrupted. This alerted most of them, and they began gathering in that spot.

Meanwhile, the Mirror finished transforming into its current spiritual form.

If you looked closely, it resembled Fu Jing Jing, but it had white hair and blue eyes. Its demeanor was more similar to the imposing Saint in the vision than the current soft and gentle one. She looked at

Then, it floated above Angel's immobile body, mirroring her perfectly. Even her hair seemed to be affected by reverse gravity as it spread in the air.

The Mirror closed its eyes and let the spiritual body connect with the Formation covering the cave. Then, Fu Jing Jing clearly pronounced, "[Mirror of Truth], an item born between Heaven and Earth. You gained consciousness, improved across the countless generations of owners, and grown to become one of the strongest in the world. Do you accept Angel Glassheart as your new owner?"

The Mirror's voice reverberated with conviction, "I do."

With its approval, Angel's blood essence entered mirror-Angel's heart area.

Then, the energy outside the cave went berserk as it got absorbed without limits toward the Ritual area. This created a powerful vortex that rustled the forest into a loud and natural cacophony.

All that energy divided into seven portions. Most of it rushed through the formation lines toward the center of the altar and entered the [Heaven Refining Crystal Mattress]. The mattress gave a prismatic glow, and Angel's body absorbed it.

The rest of the energy went toward the six spots that glowed above them. Fu Jing Jing looked up and chanted, "I, Fu Jing Jing, Heaven's Truth Saint, hereby declare that Angel Glassheart is my inheritor!"

The energy concentrated on the six spots burst outward quickly and changed forms.

Blue crystal chains were what erupted from the cave walls toward Angel.

These six chains rapidly tore the air and lodged deep inside the woman lying on the mattress.

The chains pierced her hands, feet, stomach, and forehead. However, there wasn't a violent collision of any sort. It was like they entered the water, not creating the slightest of injuries on Angel.

From the six spots where the chains appeared, a powerful energy pulse traversed them toward Angel's body, hitting her moments later.

Then, Angel's naked chest shone with a blinding golden light, and a single golden chain shot out toward the Mirror spirit above her.

Of course, Angel still couldn't make sense of anything. She didn't know what was happening. At that moment, Angel couldn't even speak or think, much less understand the ongoing Ritual.

To end the initial part of the Ritual, Fu Jing Jing chanted with a clear voice, "Inheritor, you who incarnates pureness. You who shall bear the weight of the truth. I now let you be reborn under my inheritance. [Heavens Truth Crystal Coffin]."

From the blue chains lodged into the walls, the crystal crept toward Angel. It was as if it was sentient. The crystal covering the cave advanced through the chains and reached the lying Angel.

When it touched her, it began covering her body, surrounding her.

From her hands, feet, chest, and forehead, the blue crystal slowly created a cocoon around Angel.

After not more than ten minutes, Angel was crystallized inside a beautiful blue crystal coffin.

Then, the Mirror spirit floating above her began dematerializing from her fingers, hair, and toe tips, slowly sending itself into Angel through the golden chain that connected their chests.

Outside there was a big commotion. The place where the inheritance was hidden was absorbing energy from the surroundings violently. A visible energy vortex was rotating rapidly on top of the place, and the cliff covering the crystal cave was being destroyed.

The energy was extremely abundant yet so violent that people couldn't cultivate it. Moreover, the surroundings were starting to become crystallized. Some people even had their fingers covered by crystal.

"What is happening?" Said a random man.

"Did someone enter those doors?" Asked a beast-woman.

"Impossible. We have been guarding them at all hours for the past two weeks!"

"Then, is it gathering energy to open?"

"That is the most probable thing. Prepare yourselves. When it opens, we are going in to gather treasures!"

"Are you all living under a rock!? A blonde woman entered not long ago!"

"Huh? How dare a single woman to enter and steal all the treasures!"

"Yeah!"

"Who dares go before us, Demons!"

"Bah! You are only ten. What are you going to do against all the cultivators here."

"Right, stop being so arrogant. Without numbers, we are not scared."

"You dare disrespect our race? Be prepared for the consequences when we go out!"

"Ha! Do you think that we will let you out!?"

And so, another battle began for another unreasonable squabble between cultivators, reducing the number of cultivators in the secret realm one more time.

Meanwhile, as Angel slowly absorbed the inheritance, Kali walked around aimlessly.

She could have returned to the town, gathered more Trial Points, and kept buying things.

But she had already bought almost one of each herb and the most useful Pill recipes.

Her remaining points were enough to buy an Alchemy book, but nothing had gained her interest during the time they were looking around. 'Dr. Ava's books are as good if not better than those in the town.'

When walking with Angel toward the inheritance point, she spotted some interesting herbs. Therefore, she realized there were still some wild and rare herbs, fruits, and other spirit flora outside.

So, she went on a journey to collect things. Kali spoke to the tall three-meter-tall lady beside her. "I will use the nights to cultivate and the day to look around. I may be lucky and find something useful. If I hide myself in the town, I can not call the experience "Secret Realm Exploration," right, Valeria?"

Valeria, who was walking beside Kali, didn't answer. But she still looked at Kali with her soothing and attractive smile.

Kali felt her heart skip a beat and laughed, "You already were beautiful, but after gaining Yasenia's qualities, you've become too beautiful, Valeria. You just made my heart skip a beat!"

Kali thought to herself and said, "Let's see if we find something to increase your sapience. I really want to be able to talk with you."

Then, she caressed her stomach, and her face blushed. "It still feels warm..."

She hadn't cultivated Yasenia's Yang energy since she still couldn't believe that her uterus had received her dearest seed. Although Yasenia had mostly reduced the energy with her acupuncture manual and expelled the semen, her meridians still had Yang energy in them.

Her hand would always go to her stomach each time she felt it. The experience was something that made her feel hot in the cheeks each time she remembered it. 'This means that, even if we can't advance any more in the future, she reached my deepest part so I still can get...'

Her face gained a red color, her fox ears twitched with delight, and her tail wagged so hard that she was creating wind behind her. She felt extremely giddy and delighted, a smile never leaving her face. 'To think I would be able to do what I did... Even if the experience was too much, once I get accustomed, we will be able to... Kya! Even thinking about it is embarrassing!' Kali fanned her red face and chuckled with a silly lovestruck expression.

Valeria felt her dear mistress's happiness, and a foreign but familiar emotion burned inside of her. Her developing mind flashed with foreign memories for a second, she could see herself on a throne of some sort, but that memory left her almost instantly.

Valeria ignored that strange flash and focused on the feeling in her chest. She didn't understand what it was, but it felt very similar to her mistress's current feelings as if her emotions were contagious.

Her face gained a smile, and even her steps became lighter, flowers blooming each time her feet touched the ground. Kali discovered Valeria happily skipping beside her and laughed, "You also feel happy? There are even flowers blooming in your steps."

Valeria looked down at Kali and nodded. Kali was momentarily surprised, but she didn't delve deep into it. She looked at the blue sky and said, "Today's weather is great."

As they were happily walking, Kali suddenly felt Valeria stopping. She also stopped and looked toward her, confused. "Is something wrong?"

Valeria seemed not to listen to her as she was looking to their right, her green eyes shining with a soft glow.

Kali looked in that direction and asked, "Is there something in that way?"

However, to her surprise, Valeria didn't answer but began walking in that direction alone.

Kali blinked twice, unable to believe what was happening. 'She is moving without me ordering it? This is a first.'

Curious about what caused this, the fox didn't stop her and followed after the [Golden crown].

Like that, a fox woman and her summon disappeared deep into the forest.

Chapter 285: Yasenia's convictions.

Let's go back in time a bit.

After the entrance to the trial swallowed Yasenia, she appeared on a desolate land.

Broken weapons, dead bodies, half-dead people, the smell of blood and death, shouts in the distance, and clashes of weapons.

Everything around her let Yasenia know where she was.

She opened her mouth and voiced a single word. "War."

Nothing would be able to mimic this kind of brutality besides War.

Yasenia saw that the people around her ignored her, so she didn't move. She stayed calm and saw the War up close.

A man swung a sword and bisected another. With a shout of anguish, another took revenge for the first one, brutalizing even the body.

A woman used a spear to attack a horse-rider but was overwhelmed by the war-hammer-wielding cavalry. Her spear was deflected, and the weapon slammed into her face. The aftermath was what anyone would expect—a loud crunch sound followed by an explosion of gore.

Archers fired a round of arrows, hiding the scorching Sun in the sky for a second.

The shield-bearing soldiers raised their shields in hopes that they would be safe. However, the reality was cruel. Lucky or unlucky, depending on the side you battled, the arrows went through the gaps between the shields, killing those they wanted to protect and, sometimes, even the shield bearers.

Death, death, and more death.

Most people's eyes were filled with madness as they killed and tried not to get killed.

This was War.

Brutal, ruthless, and merciless combat where rules mattered to no one and all that was important for the soldiers was one thing. Not the country, not their loyalty, not their battle.

Returning alive.

They fought with their very souls to return alive from the battlefield, where hundreds died every second.

Even if only thirty seconds had passed, Yasenia felt like she had been expecting it for hours. 'To think I was excited to participate in the War. Thankfully, mom traded Feng Yuan's life for my safety.'

The dragoness sighed, 'However, it seems as if that luxury won't apply a second time.'

Suddenly, the voice of a man appeared in her mind. 'You are strong; you are a rapid learner; you are talented; your potential is limitless; your intelligence high. Yet, you are easily controlled by your instincts; you are inexperienced; you don't try to understand where your faults are; you don't try to understand yourself.'

Yasenia frowned at those comments. She wouldn't believe everything a random voice told her. Therefore, she spoke aloud, "It is true that my instincts easily control me sometimes. However, what do you expect from a young dragon like me?"

Yasenia looked up and said with a calm face, "I'm inexperienced. That's a given since I have lived for no more than 21 years. If someone as young as me could be considered experienced in front of thousand-year-old old monsters, it would be strange."

Yasenia sneered, "I don't try to understand my faults? Then, point to me, oh mighty and sage senior, which are these flaws, and I will tackle them head-on! Since I'm inexperienced, I'm unable to find my own shortcomings easily. I need guidance! However, that doesn't mean that once I know them, I will deny them. Once I know them, I will try my best to overcome and correct those faults!

The old man's voice said, "Excuses. So what if you are young? Does that mean your brain is less than an adult's? You always try to find someone to point out where your faults are, wanting to be spoonfed. How about trying to resolve them by yourself? Arrogant and spoiled, that is what your words convey.'

Yasenia laughed mockingly and glared at the sky, "Do we know each other? What do you know about me besides what you've seen in this secret realm?"

Yasenia continued challenging the voice, "Why are you not saying anything about the inexperienced part? You are trying to act like a wise old man, yet you fail to understand me. You ask me if my brain is less than an adult's. My answer is yes; you are correct. The time I have spent learning is so much shorter than experienced cultivators that it can't be compared. Therefore, even if I'm intelligent, I'm not wise enough when compared to the seniors!"

After Yasenia's shout, the sounds of the War going on around her remained.

Yasenia didn't hear the voice, so she continued. "You ask why I always ask for directions. I will ask you back. Why wouldn't I use the excellent teachers around me to guide my own growth without bumping into useless trouble that has been resolved in the past?"

"Should I cultivate without a cultivation method too? Cultivation methods are, in short, ways the seniors researched to absorb the Energy of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, it is something I shouldn't use, right?"

Yasenia calmly said, "I'm trying to advance my knowledge as much as I can, but I can't be hasty and try to gobble everything up, or one day, I will choke to death!"

"Therefore, I shall ask for directions!"

"Therefore, I shall not stall my growth with previously resolved troubles!"

"Therefore, I might be inexperienced but not stupid and ask for advice!"

Silence.

Pure silence descended around Yasenia.

Even the War around her came to a stop. Everything seemed to have frozen under her mighty declaration.

Five minutes later, the voice said, "Young, inexperienced, rash, and arrogant. A cultivator is someone that has to go through countless hardships, a person that is bound to lose and gain."

Yasenia's face was cold as she asked aloud, "And who decided that? Who decided what a cultivator was?"

The man's voice answered, "The Heavens!"

Yasenia sneered, "That useless thing that has to be empowered by some archaic seniors to hurt me? If it weren't because those two random seniors who appeared in my tribulation, I wouldn't even be tickled by the Heavens!"

A voice boomed inside her head, "INSOLENCE!"

Yasenia roared back without hesitation. "FOOLISHNESS! LIVING UNDER SOME KIND OF SUPERIOR FATE AND THINKING THAT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IS ALREADY PREDESTINED!"

"I'm the one molding my fate! I'm the one making the decisions! And if the Heavens are in my way, I will just burst them open, creating a path toward MY future!"

Yasenia looked at the sky with wrathful eyes and roared, "I'm not the one that fears the Heavens!"

"The Heavens will be the ones trembling under my might!"

"The Heavens will rotate around me!"

"And those who try to stop my ascension will become my stepping stones!"

Yasenia's voice echoed through the battlefield, her will piercing the sky and her determination strong enough to make the trial around her tremble.

That was Yasenia's conviction.

That was Yasenia's core being.

She was not a normal cultivator. She was a challenger. A Heaven-defier. Someone that wouldn't hesitate to go against the World itself if her ideals were challenged.

After another minute of silence, the old voice said. "This mentality may help you reach the top of the World, but what about those surrounding you? Will they also become stepping stones for your ascension? Will you also burst them open if they come in your path?"

Yasenia's heart didn't even move. During this whole conversation, her mind remained calm and analytic.

At first, she thought that this was the trial, but the further she spoke, the more she realized that she was wrong. The voice speaking to her is a lingering consciousness of somebody, most probably the one that created the town or even the secret realm.

Yasenia answered with ridicule, "My dears becoming my stepping stones? My most precious treasures, those I pamper with all my being, becoming something I will use for my benefit? I really want to laugh to your face, but I don't know where to look to do that."

After her statement, an old man appeared before Yasenia.

He was exactly the same as the one that was outside the secret realm when it was opening and the one who spoke to Cecile.

Yasenia stopped looking up and looked at him with a smirk. "You finally decided to appear, senior. So, may I ask, what is this all about?"

The old man looked at Yasenia silently for a second and then said, "You are really similar to your mother. Both of you think you can go against the Heavens, yet you fail to understand that all the strength you have is because of them."

Yasenia lifted an eyebrow and answered, "I don't deny that. My current strength is certainly because of the energy I absorb. The World created this energy."

Yasenia's natural seductive smirk returned, and she said, "I guess the Heavens are something similar to the will of the World, right? Therefore, you telling me that my current strength is because of the Heavens is completely right. No one can argue with that point."

The old man's wrinkly eyes opened slightly wider for a second, but he relaxed almost instantly. He looked at Yasenia with his ancient and profound eyes and said, "You are too smart for your own good, young dragon. Your race always stirs some trouble one way or another. All of you believe that you are superior, that even the Heavens must bow down to you. Yet, not even the Sun God and the Moon Goddess one million years ago came close to achieving that. Only the Saints got close to that strength."

Yasenia easily answered, "But I'm not them. I haven't even done anything to offend the Heavens. My words may have been arrogant and despondent of them, yet I haven't gone against them once. Therefore, as long as the Heavens do not offend me, I will continue being an obedient cultivator and follow its rules."

Yasenia's gaze became piercing as her slit eyes thinned. "I said this in the past. I will follow the rules until I'm strong enough to make my own. Once I achieve that strength, I will continue living as I like, unbound and free from all shackles, able to protect all my loves without limits."

The old man sighed, "You are a child that has yet to grow up, spouting nonsense you don't even understand."

Yasenia didn't deny it. "I don't know if that's true. You may be right. My path may lead to destruction. But what I said were my true feelings."

The dragoness lifted her chin proudly and said, "I do not hide my true self when I'm facing something or someone who questions my motives. My goal is simple but, unfortunately, incredibly hard."

Yasenia sighed and looked at the battlefield, "I will certainly go through hardships. No matter how careful I am, times when I'm challenged and almost defeated will eventually happen."

Her gaze returned to the listening old man and proclaimed, "Still, I won't accept them as if they were something guided by Heaven or Fate. When those things happen is because I wasn't careful enough. At some moments during my journey, I will make a mistake, and that mistake will lead to trouble. No one is perfect, and that is unavoidable."

"However, when that happens, I will always fight against those hardships and, in the end, remain either victorious or not seriously damaged."

The old man asked, "What if any of your lovers die?"

Yasenia looked into the old man's eyes and said, "That won't happen."

"What makes you so sure of that? There isn't a certain guarantee that you will offend someone without knowing, and they deal an ambush when you aren't present. You can't guarantee their safety against someone that is overwhelmingly strong."

Yasenia nodded, "That's true. There isn't a guarantee. But that doesn't mean I won't do everything in my power to prevent that. And what would I do when that day comes? That is something I haven't thought about, I'm not thinking about, and I will not think about. I will protect them, and that's it."

The old man cryptically asked, "What if you can't keep your promises? What if that hurts your lovers enough to make them want to leave your side?"

Yasenia didn't answer as she found that there was more to his question. She frowned and asked, "What do you mean?"

The old man sighed and said, "The phoenix was also similar... You are truly a match made in Heaven. Follow me."

Chapter 286: Yasenia's Principles Challenged!

The old man sighed and said, "The phoenix was also similar... You are truly a match made in Heaven. Follow me."

Yasenia followed behind and asked curiously. "The Phoenix? Are you talking about Cecile?"

The old man didn't answer. "The thing you lack the most is experience; life experience, to be exact. You have your mind focused on one objective, but you haven't had major setbacks. You've quickly understood skill creation, cultivation, alchemy, blacksmithing, formations, acupuncture, combat, body training, and sexual arts.

"You've gained your lovers without much trouble, Kali being your biggest challenge. However, there was no one to fight for them against you."

"You've even peeked into the essence of swordsmanship when you went to train with your Master, Madeleine. Something which seems you haven't realized, but it is certainly inside of you."

The old man turned toward Yasenia and said, "In short, you are naturally gifted in everything you do. Beauty, relationships, strength, potential, wealth, and family situation. You've lacked nothing since you were born. However, this has made you naturally conceited. You believe there is nothing you can't solve if you put your effort into it. Deep inside, there is a seed of arrogance that, although it has been smashed by you spectating that War, still exists."

Yasenia didn't deny it or ask how he knew all that. The fact that he could look inside her memories was not strange since this Trial was obviously different from the previous ones.

Moreover, it would be stupid to say that that was not the case. All the things the man had said were truths. Yasenia could not and would not argue those things she already knew.

Yasenia was thoughtful and said, "Th only defect you said I have I that I'm naturally conceited and arrogant. However, our previous talk makes me believe you think I lack something more, right?"

The white-bearded old man nodded and turned, continuing to walk toward the settlement of one of the camps. Yasenia asked again, "Will this Trial improve what you think I'm lacking?"

The man nodded, "Yes. This Trial is special in a way that, no matter the natural talent, strength, items, or treasures you have, there won't be advantages against others. It is a shame that this time you are only paired against another challenger, but well, they are also not normal, so you will have to put in the effort if you want to win."

Yasenia lifted an eyebrow, "Is the other challenger a woman?"

The old man didn't answer and said, "If you fail to complete the Trial before the other challenger, you will lose the special reward that normally is not gained with this Trial. You may ask, Why am I receiving this special reward?" Yasenia closed her mouth because she was about to ask that and listened.

He explained, "Because you are too naturally gifted. Hence, this Trial's difficulty will be the highest I can create and still make it not impossible."

Yasenia nodded, unfazed. The old man asked, "Won't you protest and say this is unfair?"

Yasenia laughed, "Fair? What is fair? Although it may sound arrogant, I wouldn't have been born if fairness existed. Every single person I fought until now in my generation had to taste unfairness after fighting against me."

The old man nodded, "It is good you recognize it and do not negate it."

Then, he warned, "The risk of dying in this Trial is very high, no matter who enters, this includes you. Even if they are a chess expert and the formation and I decide to improve those skills, it will create a Trial where a grave blunder would mean death."

Yasenia asked, interested, "Dying playing chess? How does that work? Do the chess pieces explode or something?"

The old man said, "It can be possible. The formation can also make it so that a body part will be damaged each time they make the wrong move. Or that he loses something related to the Trial each time he loses. Who knows? There are thousands of ways to make anything dangerous."

After walking away from the warzone, they reached a tent on one side of the battlefield. It was a common soldier's tent, big enough for a single person.

They entered the empty tent, and the old man turned toward Yasenia. "Now, listen well. This is your Trial."

Yasenia got serious and listened attentively.

He looked at Yasenia and spoke a single sentence. "You have to win this War."

Yasenia waited a little bit, expecting more, but the old man didn't continue. Yasenia blinked and asked, "That's it?"

He nodded, "That's right."

Yasenia didn't believe that something like that was enough to be categorized as the "most difficult trial." She asked, "What's the catch?"

The old man thought about it and said, "You have four questions. Ask carefully."

(A/N: How about you write what questions you would ask before reading?)

Yasenia got thoughtful. She didn't ask right away since these four questions could make a big difference.

Yasenia remembered that she was on a timer, so the first thing she asked was the following, "What is the time relation between the Trial and the outside world?"

The old man said, "Good Question. Knowing how much you have will help you strategize better. The answer is, one week outside is the same as ten years inside the Trial."

Yasenia's eyes widened. "Huh?" Then, a big frown appeared on her face. 'Decades? Am I going to be here longer than the time I've been alive? How will that change me?'

Yasenia looked outside the tent and observed the scale of the War. 'A colossal war between millions. There is no way I can end this easily. I would be able to only if I had much higher strength than the people here.'

Therefore came Yasenia's second question. "In which ways is my cultivation affected?"

The old man explained. "Your cultivation speed will be reduced to an average cultivator's speed. Everything else, including your strength, skills, and everything related, is the same."

Yasenia thought, 'That's somewhat expected. If I could cultivate with my normal speed, I could abuse the Trial to reach tremendous heights. I suppose that my cultivation speed is the same, but the time dilatation affects it. This means that it would only be equivalent to a cultivation week outside, even if I train for ten years straight here. Hmm, Maybe more since I will absorb the extremely pure energy of the black orb, so reaching level nine should be possible during my stay here.'

Yasenia, however, still felt something amiss. 'What can the Trial change that can really endanger me? My treasures, strength, and skills are not restrained in any way, so unless the whole enemy army is filled with Peak Mental Nourishing soldiers and Unification Realm commanders, it shouldn't be too difficult. Just tedious. This means that there isn't a high risk of dying. So my next question should be about my enemies.'

Yasenia asked again, "What is the strength of the enemies compared to mine?"

The old man said, "The enemy army has five ranks. Foot soldier, cavalry, lieutenant, commander, general. Your current strength is as high as a very strong soldier approaching a weak cavalry."

"Eh?" Yasenia was so surprised that she let out a stupid sound.

The old man smirked, "Are you afraid? Scared of a small War of this scale, so much for 'I will make the Heavens Tremble before me."

Yasenia rolled her eyes, "I'm fearless but not suicidal. I've seen the number of soldiers, and I couldn't count them by sight! That means that there are millions of people battling here. Now you say to me that all of them have similar strengths compared to me and that you want me to win this War. How could I not be surprised?"

The old man asked, "Any more questions?"

Yasenia now knew she would be here for a very, very long time. Her face soured, 'I won't be able to see my dears for years. Wait, what about my constitution's extra effects?'

Yasenia was about to ask, but she stopped herself, 'First, try to find any questions that are more important than that.'

Yasenia thought about it, but that issue kept creeping up in her mind. Yasenia sighed, 'I have to know about this, or I don't think I will be able to sleep until I know the answer.'

Yasenia asked with a strange face, "My constitution makes me somewhat lustful... Will I feel the effects as normal in here?"

The old man's smile became clearly visible. "Finally, you asked. The answer is physiques are not restricted in any way."

Something clicked inside Yasenia's mind, and she realized why that previous question he made seemed so cryptic, "So that was the meaning behind your question. You knew about this. You knew I would have to make a decision like this."

The old man said, "I told you that this Trial would increase your experience in the things you lack. In everything you lack. Therefore, sexual relationships and love is also an area you will have to explore. Betrayal, backstabbing, cheating, pure love, happiness, comfort, and all the feelings love can give will probably happen. Even if it seems that you have a lot of experience, you haven't been in a relationship for more than three years."

He smiled and said, "You now have two options before you; you either do not accept the Trial and leave, forsaking the treasure, or you will eventually break the promise with your lovers."

Yasenia frowned and gritted her teeth, "You are an annoying old man. You knew that?"

The old man smirked and didn't answer.

Yasenia frowned and thought about it. 'Is the treasure worthy enough for me to do this?'

The old man interrupted, "It is. The reward will probably be the core item for your development. Without it, you will waste many years, and the lack of strength will certainly give you many problems."

Yasenia looked at him quietly for some good seconds and then sighed, her face twisted as if she had heated a fly, "It seems like I will have to find someone to be my little lover until I leave here."

Yasenia began walking back and forth, her tail tapping on the ground repeatedly. "We will probably be more than a decade together. That is almost ten times the time I've been with my dears. It is almost impossible for me not to develop feelings since I will be with her for many years. Ugh... I think this may be the most difficult part of the Trial."

Yasenia suddenly stopped walking and got thoughtful, "It doesn't have to be a single woman or a small group of women. Right! I can create a big group of females and support them with my dual cultivation method. Since I will stay here for a long time, I might as well use all my cards. Holding back here would be stupid. Moreover, I will be able to know what happens when I don't hold myself back and let my lust dominate me. However, I have to keep a steady mind, or I may lose myself in this experience. Losing affection for my dears outside is something I will not trade for experience."

The old man hadn't left and asked, "What if any of your lovers would do the same as you are planning to do?"

Yasenia turned to look at him and frowned, "They don't have lust problems like me. Moreover, since I will be doing it in a big group, I will be able to keep my feelings in check-."

The old man looked at Yasenia and said, "Do not avoid my question. What if any of your lovers created a big Harem? Angel, Andrea, Evelyn, Cecile, Kali, Tatyana. Imagine any of them having sex with unknown women, and maybe since they want to explore themselves, with unknown men. What would you do once you know? How would you feel?"

Yasenia sighed and answered, "I've always said it aloud, and I'm not ashamed to say it. I would feel like I lost something important. I would feel very uncomfortable about it. Thinking of any of them being intimate with an unknown person pricks my heart and makes me feel unwell."

Yasenia clarified, "I wouldn't become angry with the. I wouldn't become disgusted with them. But I'm sure that I wouldn't be able to remain indifferent if something like that happened."

"Then, aren't you being extremely selfish and a hypocrite?"

Chapter 287: Power increase across the Secret Realm.

This is not only a chance to become stronger; it is a chance to gain what she lacks. Experience.

Yasenia is extremely young, and if she can remain many years inside, it will be a boost she won't be able to gain in any other way. Time is something hard to acquire extra off since it runs equality for everybody, unlike Treasures and other things.

For those that fear this event creating needless drama or misunderstandings, I hate those things, so don't worry. Unless it is according to the girls' personalities, things like that won't happen.

I also want to remind you of Tatyana's sentence. "What I care about is the heart, not the body."

On the other side, remember, the Trial is not real. It is similar to a lucid dream. So Yasenia is honestly being guided by the Old Man to believe that she will be cheating if she accepts the Trial. He is tricking her and testing her beliefs, the same way he did with Cecile. You've seen it in many instances during their conversation.

Yasenia looked at him calmly and didn't deny it, "Yes, I am. I'm selfish and a hypocrite. Even if I need to release my lust, I could do it in other ways. Masturbation is always an option, and visiting a brothel in punctual moments when masturbation doesn't work anymore is also an option. There would be zero emotional attachment, and although I would have intercourse with others, it would mean much less since they are one-time interactions."

Yasenia sighed, "Still, I rather choose the happy group route. That way, I will be able to use all my cards and have my feelings diluted between them enough that I won't feel love for any of them besides some affection and closeness. My bottom line is betraying Mom's trust. She has suffered enough for even her daughter to betray her expectations."

The old man put his hands on his back and commented, "That is cruel for those women you will trap in your honey trap. They will be used like tools for your selfish wish of finishing this War as fast as possible."

Yasenia lifted an eyebrow, "But they are not real. We are inside a trial. Therefore, they won't know they are being used as I will remain by their side until I manage to win this War, and I will disappear once the Trial ends. Although I'm using them, they will never know. Moreover, winning the War should also be in their interests."

The old man looked at Yasenia with interest in his ancient eyes. "You are very strange. You know that it is clearly wrong, but you will do it anyway. Why don't you choose your first option? What stops you from making that decision?"

Yasenia smirked, "What better place to do that experiment than inside a Trial that will disappear after I complete it? With women that do not even exist? Once I leave here, I won't try it on real people. Even under the guise of testing, if I did something like this outside, I wouldn't be able to forgive myself. Moreover, as I have repeatedly pointed out, this is a Trial, a place created with techniques I don't understand, but it certainly is a place that doesn't exist."

The old man got thoughtful and caressed his beard. "Interesting. How about a small innocent help?"

Then, he waved his long white sleeve, and the surroundings changed.

Yasenia's military tent became bigger. There was enough space to hold another six people comfortably.

Then, six bodies formed beside Yasenia.

The dragoness observed, with her expression changing by the second.

Slowly but surely, six familiar people appeared before her, all of them wearing the same military armor as the people outside.

They were Kali, Angel, Andrea, Cecile, Evelyn, and Tatyana.

Yasenia's golden-red slit eyes moved across them, not finding a single imperfection. They looked exactly the same as the real them. Her eyes became deeper as she looked at them with a profound look.

The old man observed that there weren't any ripples in Yasenia's eyes.

There was one simple reason for this; they weren't her real dears.

She turned her head toward the old man, and she asked with a calm voice, "What are you doing?"

He lifted his white eyebrow and said, "Giving you a small helping hand."

"This is your helping hand? Why would you even try to help me?" Yasenia asked with an unreadable face.

"Wouldn't you feel better doing it with someone that appears like them? This way, you are not really betraying them, right?" Said the old man.

Yasenia looked at the six of them for a second. Then, she took out her sword and slashed the six people in half with a single motion, surprising the old man again.

Yasenia saw and felt as her sword sunk into each of them, destroying their bodies with her tyrannical strength. However, her golden slit eyes were unpassive as she looked at her sword killing her six "lovers."

The six copies burst into a gory shower of blood in front of Yasenia's strength, creating quite a mess inside the tent. Yasenia spun her giant sword once and made blood splatter on the ground in a crescent Moon shape.

Then, she kept it inside her ring again.

She turned toward him, and she said, the dragoness's voice indifferent. "Their appearance doesn't matter. They are not them, so even if they are identical copies, they are still copies. I don't need substitutes. I will challenge the Trial as I planned, and that's it."

Yasenia saw that the old man wanted to speak again, so she interrupted, "Those six identical copies and six random women in the streets are not different. They are not my dears. I will be betraying them either way. Accepting your offer would only make it worse. Not only would I betray them, but I would also be doing it with people who looked like them."

Yasenia's voice was flat as she said, "If I accepted your offer, doesn't that mean that my treasures, those I pamper with my very soul, are replaceable fuck-dolls? Don't do that again. They are more important than my heart, and there only exists one of each."

He gave Yasenia a look and decided not to speak anymore. With a wave of his sleeve, his body disappeared, cleaning the mess in the surroundings.

However, the tent didn't change, and six women Yasenia had never seen before appeared in their steed.

After that, the Trial World began moving again.

Yasenia felt somewhat heavy, so she looked down and saw full body armor covering her. It fit snuggly with her voluptuous curves, so she was happy with it. Yasenia looked at those six and took a deep breath. Then, she breathed out and said, "Let's do this!"

Outside the Trial and far away from the town, on a volcano filled with dense magma, fire, darkness, death, and earth attribute, a blad muscular man was being bathed by the elements. He was wielding a two-handed hammer with one arm; on the other arm, a Transcendent Ranked shield glowed with an imposing aura.

Behind him, five pairs of fleshy black wings spread magnificently. His aura was unlike any other cultivator Yasenia had seen in her generation. The demonic energies around him made other demons look like undeveloped creatures.

He released his aura, creating a big explosion of energy and flattening almost a hundred meters around him. His strength was clearly inside the Unification Realm.

"Finally, my Demon Blood awakened. In a week or so, I would stabilize my foundation. Then, I suppose I should target the two biggest targets, Isla and Yasenia."

He looked behind him at the mouth of the active Volcano and dove inside it. "Will they be easy prey? Or fall like ants before me?"

On a completely opposite environment, an island surrounded by white corals and rocks, a blonde woman with grey eyes sat crossed-legged. Compared to the terrific Demonic aura the previous person released, her aura was as big, but it had a divine feeling.

Her water, light, ice, and space elements orbited around her, creating multiple events. Behind her, five pairs of pure white Feathered wings gave her a holy aura. Her body and face had reached absolute perfection, to the point that it would only arouse feelings of awe. She smiled and said, "My Divine Bloodline has completely developed. I won't lose to anyone with this."

Then, she looked thoughtful for a second and asked aloud, "How much has she improved? Will it be as easy of a win the next time we meet?" Her tone carried arrogance that previously didn't exist, clearly influenced by her enormous jump in strength.

At the same time, a handsome silver-haired man was absorbing a red crystal inside a bloody cave. The dry corpses of ten men and women surrounded him in a strange and macabre formation. Above him, black clouds of Heavenly Tribulation began gathering.

The crystal broke into pieces and entered his body. His aura increased continuously, creating pulses of energy. It grew unnaturally fast, basically reaching the previous two in strength.

He stopped absorbing the energy of the red crystal and looked up, and smiled. His smile twisted with vengeance and hatred. "Finally, I'm entering the Unification Realm. Yasenia, your end is near. Once we meet again, you will have no chance of escaping. For my family, for my sister's safety, you have to become a plaything for the Demons!"

A short and cute woman was running around, gathering some treasures she had found inside a cave. She was alone, and her strength was incomparable to the others before her. She looked at her surroundings and frowned, "I have to find Andrea. With the oath binding us, she will have to listen to me. I heard she has become stronger after getting with that dragoness."

She frowned and sneered, "To be able to like a deformed woman, that dragoness sure has a wide heart. Since she likes women, I can't understand why she doesn't despise Andrea. To think she has everyone deceived, not letting them know that she has that thing between her legs... Ugh, disgusting."

She went outside the cave, appearing in a volcanic area, and sighed, "Anyway, I heard some kind of doors inside a Volcano open. I should go there. But I also have to find that thing soon so she can gather treasures for me. Useless thing, so hard to find." After that, she went toward the gates inside the Volcano.

Meanwhile, a tall, tanned, armored woman was advancing through the passages inside a massive black structure. Beside her, an injured lobster with a shell walked carefully. "Ebirah, be careful when I fight later. You were hurt because some stranded attack hit you!"

The lobster protested with an arrogant tone, "Be careful!? You are supposed to be guarding this princess! I'm guiding you toward a super-powerful treasure. What less should I expect!"

The tall woman laughed nervously, "Don't be angry, don't be angry. Didn't I tell you a simple thing to do? Why did you snap again?"

Ebirah made a human-like humph sound, something Andrea still didn't understand how she made, and she said. "You are just making excuses! Look at my beautiful pincer! After I blocked that stray attack, it was completely cracked! I will need a week of massages and good food to heal this-! Oh!!!"

Andrea was startled by her sudden shout and prepared for combat. However, the princess lobster exclaimed, "Below us! It is below us! Make a hole, Andrea! Punch through with your brute strength!"

Andrea began sweating, "You want me to punch a hole through a one-hundred-meter-deep floor? Aren't you asking for too much?"

Ebirah snorted, baffling Andrea again, "Then, let's go through that way!"

Andrea shook her head and followed her orders. It seems that our heroic and beautiful Andrea liked to pamper her girls. She thought amusedly, 'My little companion sure has a temper. As expected of a pampered princess, hahaha.' Andrea didn't feel bad about her attitude. She thought that she was interesting.

In another different place, inside a lightning altar at the top of a mountain surrounded by constant electrical storms, a blue-haired woman was gritting her teeth enough to make her mouth bleed. Thunder fell continuously on her, and a lightning dome isolated her wolf companion. "Fuck me! Why is receiving this cultivation method so dangerous!? I will die!"

The wolf shouted, "Hold on, Evelyn! Only two more hours, and this will be over! Remember that you will probably advance into the Unification Realm after you absorb the treasure below the mountain."

Evelyn wanted to answer, but a lightning bolt as thick as herself slammed into her, creating harsh burns on her skin. "Ah!" A shout of pain escaped her mouth, but her violet eyes remained determined. "Don't underestimate me!"

RUMBLE!

White electrical currents coursed around Evelyn, battling the storm falling on her. "We've only just begun, altar!"

Far away from the mountain, a closed cave with a one-kilometer-wide glittering lake inside existed. A small vortex could be discerned in the middle, disturbing the peace it normally had.

A platinum-silver-haired naked woman sat cross-legged in the middle of the lake. The water didn't affect her, and her two big silver wings were neatly folded behind her back. The energy rushing inside her was tremendous, and her cultivation increased by leaps and bounds every second.

Her eyes were closed as she felt her whole body changing on a basic level. She was transforming into a complete phoenix as if her parents had been two phoenixes.

That wasn't all. Above her head, a thunderous storm was gathering.

This peerlessly beautiful Moon Phoenix that looked like a lone Goddess bathing was about to enter the Unification Realm.

Far away from her, inside a paradise-like place, a fox woman and a three-meter-tall woman sat in the middle of a lake. What was different was that they were sitting above the water.

Surrounding them, many types of plant creatures encircled them. Moreover, the aura the tall woman gave was incomparable to the past.

The fox-woman sat in a trance above the water and absorbed the natural energies that rushed toward them. The three-meter-tall light-green woman opened her eyes, deep and surreal wisdom shining in

them. She looked at her mistress and smiled gently as a mother watching her child grow. "Sorry for not being able to take care of you properly, child. Don't worry; now that I've awakened, no one shall bring you harm."

However, the same as nature, her gentleness hid a deep and powerful wrath. "Those that dare will have to suffer this eminence's wrath."

Chapter 288: Announcing the Trial to the other cultivators.

As everyone received and assimilated their inheritances, treasures, or cultivation methods, time flew by in the secret realm. One day, two days, five days. Like water, time flowed without anything able to stop it.

Eventually, two weeks went by inside the secret realm, reaching the one-month mark since the realm opened.

Inside the town, everyone was doing their thing, getting stronger, gathering treasures, and doing many other activities.

However, today was special since the Mayor and Mayoress of the Lost Town seemed to have something to announce.

Using lost technology, Han Xue appeared in the town's sky, wearing a magnificent robe, and announced the next. "Welcome, respected immortals. I, the Mayoress of the Lost Town, have an announcement to make. As tradition says, at the one-month mark after the first Immortals arrive, we will announce the competition for the rarest and strongest treasure!"

The cultivators began cheering and shouting. Han Xue smiled and said, "However, winning the best treasure is not that easy! There are various conditions to participate. First, you have to gather 300,000 Trial Points. Second, you must be above the fifth level of the Mental-Nourishing Realm. Third, you have to come to our main building and be respectful and ordered! Those that do not abide by the rules will be executed by the Divine Lightning! That's all."

"Ha?"

"300,000 Trial Points!? Insanity!"

"That is impossible!"

"What a scam!"

"How is it possible to have 300,000 Points saved before the announcement? A normal person would use them as they get them!"

Han Xue explained, "For those that do not have 300,000 Trial Points, there is a chance to participate as long as you gather the points required! Good luck."

Then, with a wave of Han Xue's sleeve, her image in the sky disappeared.

All the cultivators were silent for a second. Then, chaos ensued as every one of them began to run around. Those that didn't have that many points went to the Monoliths, and those that had them went toward the gathering place.

Divine lightning fell on stupid people that tried to "Take advantage" of the chaos. However, unlike the first days, this didn't startle other cultivators as they were at least ten cultivators dying daily toward the Divine lightning. It was a nice cleansing method, to be honest.

Three hours later, Han Xue gathered a group of cultivators that wanted to challenge it. They were those that luckily had 300,000 Trial Points gathered. One of them asked, somewhat impatient, "Oy! Mayoress, when are we going to enter that Trial?"

Han Xue looked at the man that spoke and smiled, "Do not be hasty. I wanted to make sure that no one was left behind."

Another shouted, "Just guide us in. Those that don't come can only blame themselves!"

Han Xue lost her smile and articulated, "Listen here, little immortal. You are in my house, so don't you dare order me around. Am I clear?"

Although she was a mortal, her tone gave an authoritative feeling that not even cultivators could ignore. However, that man thought that Han Xue couldn't do anything, so he sneered, "What can you do? As long as I don't do harm to you, you can't do anything, little mortal."

Han Xue pointed up with her index finger and then waved it down. For them, it was slow.

No matter how sudden, the movement of a mortal wouldn't startle any cultivator above the Body Modification Realm.

Still, no one stopped it. The man maintained his sneer until Han Xue's finder finally pointed toward the ground.

RUMBLE!

BOOM!

A lightning bolt, unable to be perceived, fell onto the man, carbonizing him in an instant. Everyone's eyes widened as they looked at Han Xue. She smiled and said, "You can't touch me, and I can kill any of you whenever I want. So don't anger me. Am I clear?"

A collective gulp sounded as they looked at that mortal woman who had their life literally in her hand. Han Xue nodded after seeing them all shut up, "Now that we are on the same page, let's go toward the Trial place."

She turned around and sighed, 'Surely, dear Yasenia and her companions are one of a kind. The other immortals continue being stupid.'

The four hundred cultivators that gathered followed after Han Xue silently, like good sheep following the shepherd. However, two cultivators between them stood out.

Their auras were strong and profound, and they had people following them. They were a incredibly handsome man and a beautiful and slender woman. The woman was blonde, and the man blackhaired.

They approached Han Xue, and the man spoke with a smile, "Hello, madam Mayoress."

Han Xue gave him a side eye and couldn't help but be momentarily stunned. However, she recovered after blinking twice, her demeanor changing to completely neutral again.

It was normal she reacted that way since cultivators reached levels of perfection that would make any mortal drool. Han Xue asked, her tone even, "What do you want, immortal?"

The man was surprised that she recovered so fast, stunned even longer than Han Xue. Han Xue smiled and asked again, "Immortal? Is something wrong?"

The man woke from his momentary stupor and shook his head, waving his long black hair. He laughed aloud and commented, "I was impressed by the Mayoress' mental fortitude. My name is Long Baidi, and I come from an influential family in the sky continent."

Han Xue blinked, 'The same continent as dear Yasenia. Should I be a little more polite?'

Han Xue smiled more genuinely and answered back, "My name is Han Xue. Mrs. Han Xue would be fine."

"A pleasure to meet a strong-willed mortal like yourself, Mrs. Han Xue."

Han Xue's growing goodwill was squashed by a single sentence. 'He shouldn't be someone Yasenia knows.'

Her tone became more formal and said. "What could Mister Long Baidi want from this mortal?"

He internally frowned at her instant change of attitude, but he didn't give it too much importance. He asked, "You see, we are searching for a cultivator, and with your connections, I'm sure we will be able to find her sooner or later."

Han Xue's interest was piqued, "If you say something like that, you should have prepared something in exchange, right?"

Long Baidi nodded and took out a yellow and red heart-shaped fruit. "This is a [Ten Year Longevity Fruit]. Each mortal can eat up to ten fruits, prolonging their life by one hundred years! Moreover, it is the easiest variant to grow. It takes ten years to grow, ten years to bloom flowers, and ten years to give fruits. I'm sure Mrs. Han Xue would like something like this."

Han Xue lifted an eyebrow, interested. She first opened the mausoleum door with the circular key, and the door lowered. She spoke to the cultivators following behind, "Follow me. There are stairs in the front, so walk in order. Everyone will enter simultaneously, so it won't matter if you reach there first or last."

Han Xue walked toward the place at a slow rhythm and looked toward the fruit. "So, who do you want me to search for? I'm telling you, if you don't have a characteristic trait, it would be impossible for me to find someone."

Long Baidi took out a picture and handed it to Han Xue. Han Xue picked it up, and after looking at the person, she paused for a good second. Then, she continued walking. Long Baidi laughed again, "As expected of you, not even her can make you flinch. This woman has been quite troublesome for my family and me outside, so I want to search for her and eliminate her inside this world. That way, their side wouldn't be able to react to her death. It would be a big favor if you help us search for her. This fruit is yours as long as you tell us anything you know about her. Of course, the more you say, the better the rewards."

Han Xue kept looking at the picture and asked, "Although she really is characteristic, can I get her name? It should make us find her faster."

"Yasenia Dravory. A dragon-raced female with divine beauty and strength. Truly, someone blessed by the Heavens since birth."

Han Xue maintained her expression and heart in check. She knew some cultivators could even pick up the heart rate to detect emotions. She said with a face filled with interest, "She really is beautiful, the most beautiful woman I've seen. To be honest, as long as she has walked through the gates of our town, I'm sure to find her. I will look into the matter after you enter the Trial."

Long Baidi cupped his fists and nodded, "Thank you, Mrs. Han Xue. Also, I would recommend not getting into direct contact with her. Even if a high-level painter created this image, it can't truly catch the level of charm she has. Tempting mortals to do her bidding should be as easy as flipping her hair."

Han Xue chuckled and said, placing one hand on her mouth, "You sure exaggerate."

However, internally she sneered at the "painter." 'This really is a shitty painting. I could write a better illustration with my eyes closed. It doesn't catch her charm, charisma, or natural seductiveness. Fuck, I really want to rip it apart; it is basically an insult!'

Han Xue returned it to him and casually said, "It is very well painted; I wonder who is the one who did it?"

'I really want to make lightning rain on them.'

The woman that had been silent behind Long Baidi interjected with a gentle and soothing tone. "It was me, Mrs. Han Xue."

Han Xue looked at the beautiful and saintly woman and asked with a smile, "Who may you be?"

'Should I kill her? Painting Yasenia like that is basically an insult as if... Oh? Did she paint her like that because she wanted to make her look worse than herself? She is more than she looks.'

Han Xue's eyes cunningly flashed as she listened, "My name is Tang Xian. I'm from the Tang family, allied with Baidi's family on the outside. A pleasure to meet you."

Han Xue said with a smile, "You were able to capture the beauty of Yasenia really well. If she were more beautiful, it would have really been surreal."

Tang Xian answered with a small laugh, "Thank you, I've done my best to paint her."

Han Xue was amused, 'She has changed my compliment toward Yasenia for a compliment toward her painting skills? Shameless! It is a shame that we've reached, or I would have loved to taunt her more.'

After they reached the crypt-like hall, every cultivator spread in the room. It had a capacity for thousands of people, so it didn't look crowded even with four hundred people.

Han Xue looked at the gathered cultivators and said, "To enter the Trial, you all must position yourselves in one of the circles drawn on the ground. Do not fight with each other since there are more than 1,000 teleportation circles across the room."

"Also, do not begin thinking that choosing different circles will make a trial easier or harder. So don't take too long to choose."

The four hundred cultivators listened and positioned themselves on the circles drawn on the floor.

However, when Han Xue was about to tell them the method of entry.

Two teleportation circles that weren't marked on the floor appeared and shone brightly, creating a one-meter-wide light pillar. From them, two women appeared.

Everyone was confused. Han Xue's expression became complicated, and she was somewhat anxious. 'I hope meeting with these people doesn't trouble her. Most importantly, has she won? Or has the other person won?'

The four hundred cultivators looked confused at those two, but most people's eyes suddenly widened when they recognized one of those two.

Their current state was the polar opposite. One of them was confused, while the other was looking calmly at the surroundings.

Chapter 289: Two Weeks, Twenty Years.

While they were all looking dazed at her, the calm woman smirked, emitting such mature charm that left people dazed. Just a smile and most people present had their hearts pounding faster than usual.

Those golden slit eyes, that seductive long tail, her voluptuous body proportions, everything highlighted the aura around her. This aura gave not only unparalleled natural allure but also maturity and experience it previously didn't have. Her mellow and slightly low voice came next, "It seems that I finally won. Luan Qiuqiu was right about their plan. She was such a clever girl. Her training gave lovely results~."

Then, a flash of sadness appeared in her golden slit eyes, "I will somewhat miss them... However, everything I've learned will live forever inside of me. Moreover, no matter how much I like them, my dears are waiting for me. They are and will be the most important."

After waking up from their daze, many people present looked at Yasenia and tried to feel her strength.

However, when their senses tried to sense her spiritual aura, it felt like it sunk into a powerful, dense, and deep pool, sending a chill up their spines.

Even though they could tell that her current level was that of a level-nine, almost half-step, Mental Nourishing realm cultivator, the feeling she gave was horrifying. There were two general thoughts.

'Who is this monster in human skin!?'

'How did this monster improve so much?!'

The charming mature woman, Yasenia, felt her heart's excitement growing the more she thought about Angel, Andrea, Cecile, Evelyn, Tatyana, and Kali. 'I really missed them. I want to find them as soon as possible, but first, I need to digest my gains. Moreover, I have to advance the [Convergence of the Celestial Bodies] technique that I've been stuck on for a while.'

Yasenia got thoughtful, 'Since I've already gained insight. The only thing left is breaking the barriers. I also have to see if all the things I learned during these years carry to my real self.'

However, there was something that had changed inside Yasenia. The number of years she lived on the illusion took a toll on her, making her forget some things. It wasn't that she would forget with

the powerful mind that she had, but she had lived in that illusion for a long time, making the memories of the time before blurry.

Therefore, when she looked around and spotted Han Xue, she frowned. 'Hmm? Who is she? Her face looks extremely familiar....'

Meanwhile, Long Baidi and Tang Xian hid in the crowd and looked closely at Yasenia. They didn't know why she suddenly appeared there, but it was something good for them. 'Anyway, it is good that she is here. We will be able to get rid of her. Moreover, with the Mayoress on our side, she will only be in deeper trouble... eh?'

Their eyes widened when Han Xue approached Yasenia with a smile, giving off a clear, familiar vibe. Everyone was about to speak about it when she suddenly heard Yasenia ask. "Do I know you?"

Han Xue's steps froze as her eyes widened, "Do you not remember me?"

Yasenia looked at her closely, and then, it came to her. Her face eased as a smile spread on her lips, "You are the Mayoress of the town, Han Xue. I'm sorry for momentarily forgetting about you. My memories are somewhat blurry."

This time, it was Han Xue's time to be confused. She asked, "Why are you outside, Yasenia? Only two weeks have gone by! Did you really manage to pass the Trial? Or was the other girl the winner?"

This time, her words were like a rock being thrown into a calm lake.

"Huh? What do you mean!?"

"She entered the Trial before us!?"

"Impossible. Why would she? Did you lie to us, Mayoress!?"

"So the two people that appeared had entered the Trial before?"

The other woman, who was trying to make herself as small as possible, froze, 'Crap, there is no way I won't be noticed now.'

Of course, Tang Xian's and Long Baidi's faces darkened. 'She played us! How dare a mortal play us like a fool!?'

Yasenia looked at Han Xue and smiled bitterly. "Two weeks... More like twenty-three years."

Han Xue's eyes widened, but Yasenia recovered instantly and said, her tone returning to normal. "Anyway, yes, I managed to complete it. It was very hard, but I could do it in the end. I was really scared that the other person would complete it."

As she spoke, Yasenia's gaze moved in the direction the other pillar shot up.

The woman there was looking at her with a worried frown. She had good facial features, her beauty radiating that next-door girl feeling. Yasenia wouldn't forget about the brown-haired, honey-colored-eyed possessed woman, "Sarah? So you were the mysterious person that entered before me...."

Sarah laughed awkwardly and tried to explain, "L-Listen to me, Yasenia, I-"

Yasenia cut her off, "Don't speak or make excuses. You lied to me, and you kept another thing from me. I told you, the thing I hate the most are liars. Now, after my experiences, this thought has only solidified."

Sarah's eyes widened as she stumbled with her words, "Huh? Wait! D-Don't take it that seriously! We- I- it was just a coincidence I managed to find out about it!"

Yasenia smirked, "Was it also a coincidence you lied about the number of Points?"

Sarah asked the System, 'System! What happened!? How did she complete the Trial in such a short amount of time? I thought I would have two weeks of advantage! Moreover, we were almost done with the Trial, just two days, and I would've completed it!'

[Host. Even if you ask me, I don't know how to answer. I was with you the entire time. But this is bad, how about you try to ask her to give you the reward? It is too good of a reward to lose it just like that.]

Sarah frowned and thought about it, 'Will she give it to me? I'm not that close to her.'

[You can always exchange it for another treasure. Your Shop Points have increased a lot during the Trial, so you should be able to buy something she wants. Moreover, she won't be able to use that treasure efficiently as you.]

Sarah began sweating, 'Should I really?' Sarah remembered that Yasenia had let go of the scroll rather easily, so she opened her mouth, about to try her luck again.

However, Yasenia cut her off, "Stop speaking. I have important things to do, and I don't want to lose my time arguing with you, especially not when people are shouting so much."

Sarah's mouth dropped. 'Did she just say I don't have time?'

The people that had been ignored became even angrier and shouted more. One of them even rushed toward Yasenia, sword in hand. "Fucking whore! Do not look down on me!"

The slash and attack were so fast that Han Xue couldn't react. If it were an attack aimed at her, the protection would activate automatically, but it wasn't.

However, she didn't have to worry since, for Yasenia, it went extremely slow. 'Poor posture, poor technique, low strength, low speed.'

Yasenia coldly looked at him and coldly spat, "Weak."

Her body leaned slightly, dodging that sword strike with a hair's breadth, and then her tail, in blunt form, lashed like a whip three times, hitting him straight in the middle of the back, leg, and waist.

BANG!

A deafening sound exploded through the hall, followed by a body rolling on the floor without control, his limbs and back bent and sunk in ways no human should have.

It smashed against the wall with brutal force and splattered them with blood.

However, the people around reacted not in awe but angered, persisting in the previous issue. This time, most of the shouts were directed at Han Xue.

"What is the meaning of this!?"

"Do you think you can do as you like!?"

"We haven't even begun the Trial, and someone is getting out of it already?"

"Right! How did they know about it sooner than us!?"

"I demand an explanation!"

The crowd became rowdy and bombarded Han Xue with questions.

Han Xue acted calmly, but she was internally frowning. 'Couldn't she have completed it a day before? I wouldn't have to do the announcement that way.'

She was getting overwhelmed because no matter how strong a mortal's psyche was, they would not be able to resist so many cultivators shouting at them.

However, Yasenia was getting annoyed and also wouldn't let anybody bully her as it was because of her that she could finish the Trial before Sarah.

A profound aura spread from her as she calmly uttered a single word, "Silence."

Even If her voice was calm and her tone normal. The word literally boomed in their heads like a hammer. Some even grabbed their heads in pain.

The noisy hall turned silent in less than three seconds. All the eyes focused on Yasenia with a wide array of emotions.

Yasenia calmly at the hundreds of cultivators and said, "Why are you asking her when it was I who found out about the Trial first? She didn't have anything to do with this as I found it thanks to my treasure sense."

At that moment, a man and a woman walked out of the crowd.

The man was extremely handsome, with long black hair, an angular face, and robes that conservatively showed off his physique. He was tall, and his sword-like brows and deep eyes gave him a piercing look that would accelerate the heartbeat of almost any woman he looked at.

The beautiful woman complimented the man perfectly, with a slender and perfect body. Her blonde hair, dark eyes, and long white robe gave her a feeling of holiness. However, it wasn't a feeling of innocence but the feeling of majesty that accompanied this divine aura.

Their aura was powerful as the air around them moved in strange patterns, making people feel respect.

Yasenia looked at them and narrowed her eyes for a second. Then, she muttered, 'Unification Realm Cultivators. But why are they using a technique to create those strange unharmful patterns? Is it a cosmetic technique? I should be careful in case it hides something more.'

The man smiled and said, "To think we would meet with the Heavenly Dragoness here. My name is Long Baidi. Nice to meet you."

The woman spoke next, her voice soothing and ethereal, "My name is Tang Xian. You did a great job, Yasenia. Since you were the one that managed to complete the Trial, you must have received a treasure. Now, give us the reward you got."

The people around looked at them and began commenting. "The holy son and daughter have appeared!"

"They are the future of the junior generation. No matter how strong the Heavenly dragoness is, she doesn't compare with them!"

"To be able to contribute her treasures to them, the Heavenly Dragoness sure is lucky!"

"Holy Son, please look at me!"

"Holy Daughter! You are as beautiful as the stars. No matter what you need, I will come to your aid!"

Similar shouts spread in the big hall.

After listening to those two and then the surrounding cultivators, Yasenia asked herself seriously. 'Are they all brainwashed? Or are they all stupid?'

Chapter 290: Taking the Reward!

"My name is Tang Xian. You did a great job, Yasenia. Since you were the one that managed to complete the Trial, you must have received a treasure. Now, give us the reward you got."

After that absurd declaration coming from her, Yasenia was flabbergasted.

Tang Xian's tone was extremely calm and soft as she requested that absurd request. As if it was a matter of course for Yasenia to give her treasures to them.

Of course, she ignored the crowd and looked back at her with a smirk. She lifted her straight eyebrow and said, "Did you fall off the crib when you were little? Else, I don't know how to explain your mental disability. How could someone ask something like that with a straight face and not have their cheeks redden in shame? I'm impressed."

Silence!

Everyone turned silent as they looked at Yasenia with wide eyes. Most cultivators thought of Tang Xian as a goddess because of the manipulation the Tang family did in the shadows. Of course, doing something like this wasn't easy, so they invested a lot of resources into it.

Angry curses immediately followed Yasenia's words. "How dare you speak to the Holy daughter like that?"

"She is a chosen one from the Heavens! You, a filthy beast, have no right to speak to her like that!"

Yasenia's got thoughtful for a second. Then, she looked at the angry crowd and laughed, "I didn't expect you to have so much influence. With how many of them did you lay? Isn't it sore after all the work you put it through?"

More angry curses followed, some of them ready to jump on her. However, Yasenia turned her head toward the barely alive cultivator at the side, stopping them in their tracks.

Tang Xian didn't get angry. Her smile became even more gentle as she said, "You are quite a funny youngster. Heavenly Dragoness, even if our families have a grudge, we can lay it to rest today. You just have to give us a single treasure. I think it is quite generous compared with the wrongs you did to us."

"That's right! Give it to her!"

"Don't be ungrateful!"

"We are going to sabotage the Academy if you don't comply!"

Yasenia didn't even flinch at their words. 'Sabotage the Academy? Only after leading a War could I begin to understand the capabilities of those at the top. Mother could not only lead Wars easily, but she could also create a Top Power in less than a thousand years in a place where Political power was already stretched throughout the land.'

Yasenia really disdained those that spoke without knowledge. 'Her skill, intelligence, and planning abilities are way above these delusional people or their families to challenge something.'

She shook her head and decided to ignore them.

Without responding to Tang Xian, she started walking toward the Black orb in the middle of the hall.

There were people in the way, and even other cultivators came in front of her. Yasenia snorted, and an invisible ripple spread from her. She had activated a skill she had developed inside the Trial, her [Dragon Strength]. After using it continuously inside the Trial, it evolved into [Dragon Authority].

After this ripple hit the angry people in the front, their minds blanked for a second, and even though they regained their bearings shortly after, a strange phenomenon was happening in front of everyone's eyes.

Under the shouts of other cultivators, Yasenia slowly walked forward, and the crowd parted seamlessly, leaving way for her.

"Huh? What is happening?"

"Aren't they shouting at her? Why are they letting her walk?"

Obviously, it wasn't voluntary. The dragoness's sheer pressure and authority didn't let anyone bar her path.

Yasenia calmly spoke as she sashayed sensually toward the black orb, "Tang Xian, I don't know which kind of lies you have fed these people, what kind of alchemy substances you yourself ingested, nor what kind of delusional world you are living in. Do you want to know the harsh and simple truth?"

As Yasenia spoke, the people around also quieted down. By the time she made the question, everyone was silent.

Yasenia reached beside the black orb floating in the middle of the room and placed a hand on it. Then, she spoke while looking in Long Baidi's and Tang Xian's direction.

"You are nothing in my eyes."

The next moment, a blinding multicolored glow flooded the crypt-like hall. Not even the columns in the surrounding stopped the light, making everyone close their eyes for one second.

The Black Orb shrunk and entered Yasenia's body, resting inside her Dantian. Yasenia knew what this thing was and many of its uses. However, it wouldn't be until less than a month later that she would understand why the Senior told her it was essential for her.

Everyone opened their eyes and saw that not only did the orb disappear, but the formation lines to enter the Trial were also gone!

Yasenia turned and continued talking to Tang Xian and Long Baidi. "Not only you are nothing in my eyes. Your families are nothing in my mother's eyes. The only reason your families are alive is that my mother doesn't want to destroy them. I'm ashamed it took so much time for me to understand, but the only reason you can even stand here today is that my mother wants me to end the grudge between us."

Yasenia saw that the eyes of Long Baidi and Tang Xian were getting colder and her mouth made her typical seductive smirk; this time, her allure carried a mature seductiveness that tickled the heart. "In short. You are just training dummies my mother left alive to temper me."

Long Baidi's aura exploded from him, pushing all the cultivators more than 100 meters away from him and Tang Xian.

This cleared the aura around them, making them face Yasenia without no one in the middle.

His voice was cold as he said, "You are too arrogant, beast. Do you really think you can fight any of us? We are already in the second level of the Unification Realm. You who are in the ninth level of the Mental Nourishing Realm are nothing but an ant before us!"

Yasenia laughed calmly, "An ant? You are confusing my race, Long Baidi."

Her face cooled as she asserted, "I'm not an ant, but a Dragon!"

BOOOM!

Yasenia's [Dragon Authority] exploded outward with a terrible might. The whole hall was fully covered in her presence, making people feel constricted.

After commanding armies for decades, Yasenia's [Dragon Strength] evolved to [Dragon Authority], and although it was just the next level, the effects were incomparable.

Together with her natural aura, [Dragon Authority] was enough to pressure all the cultivators under the Unification realm to feel suffocated, as if countless shackles had sprouted from the ground and tied their limbs and neck. Worse, those below her cultivation level couldn't hold on as they fell to their knees. Their hearts felt as if they were about to burst just from her presence.

This was especially true for the beasts and beast-humans within the crowd. They felt as if an ancient beast was in front of them, showing off who was the one above all.

Long Baidi and Tang Xian's facial expressions lost their calm for the first time. Although the dragoness's current aura release didn't affect them enough to lower their combat power, the effects on the surrounding people made it clear the difference between them.

Without saying another word, Yasenia took out [Draconic Heart].

However, its form was very different from before.

The previously rocky and rusted surface around it was gone, and a blue-colored greatsword with a red core was left.

The size was also smaller than before.

Previously, if Yasenia placed the blade tip on the ground, the sword would end on her shoulders, and the hilt would go even higher than her height.

Now, if Yasenia did the same action, the end of the hilt would reach Yasenia's neck. Of course, it was a small sword by any means. However, it was much more agile than before.

In short, the previous bulkiness has been replaced by a sharp edge and sleek body.

Moreover...

The individuals that could barely resist Yasenia's aura suddenly exclaimed, "A high-level Heavengrade sword!"

"Is that sword the reward for the trial?"

"If it is, it is a worthy reward for a trial worth 300,000 points."

"The aura it gives is very profound, indeed an excellent treasure."

That's right, after nourishing it for 20 years with her limited energy, it had grown from the previous low-level Heaven grade to the current High-level Heaven grade.

The transformation to its shape came naturally and slowly as Yasenia fought with it, becoming increasingly compatible with Yasenia's developing battle style.

It became less cumbersome and strong, focusing on agility and maneuverability.

It was still a heavy and big sword, but it could be said to be light compared to the prior form. This way, Yasenia's powerful legs would be freer during combat, and implementing kicks to her arsenal was not impossible.

Yasenia declared, "You two are lucky that I have more important matters to deal with. However, I'm sure we will see each other soon. At that time, pray to the Heavens so that you can survive."

Yasenia pointed her sword toward the exit and exclaimed, "Those that don't want to die, MOVE!"

Then, Yasenia pushed against the ground, and after a golden aura surrounded her figure, she streaked across the room and disappeared, leaving a golden trail behind her.

She rapidly zoomed through the spiral stairs and went out of the underground chamber, leaving a stunned crowd behind.

With Yasenia gone, her pressure also banished. Many cultivators took a deep breath, filling their lungs with oxygen. The collective gasp was a clear sign of most people's situation.

However, those that were not that affected felt fooled. And their thoughts began drifting.

Someone asked, "Did she run away?" And this question sparked doubt a lot of in the cultivators. No one liked feeling like an ant before people of similar age. Cultivators also made a lot of excuses to hide their ugly inferiority complex, jealousy, and bitter resentment.

"So much for the Heavenly Dragoness! I will call her the cowardly dragoness!"

"I bet that the previous pressure was an intimidation skill! There are plenty of those."

"She must have been weak, and to take the treasure and escape, she must have bluffed her own strength!"

"Right! The next time we see her, we will kill her and take the sword from her!"

Tang Xian and Long Baidi heard the comments and also shared their feeling. 'We were fooled by a beast! The next time it won't go the same way!"