

Heaven 741

Chapter 741: Reactions All Around.

During the last three years, Distancia has been more active than ever. The biggest and most important event was the Astral Sky Clan's ability to become the lords of Holy Maple City.

That place was not only one of the top ten most populated cities of the Holy Beast Empire but also a strategic post that even the Holy Beast Emperor himself would step up to protect if an opposing power attacked it.

However, in the public eye, it appeared as if the Holy Beast Empire relinquished the city for nothing.

Of course, the people in the city were not happy. The Holy Beast Empire was considered the number one power in the entire continent, so living under their governance was not only safe but also bound to be prosperous.

Who would want to step out of the shade of such a giant tree and be attached to a fledgling power?

The people outside Maple City didn't know how Yasenia managed to reach such an agreement with the Holy Beast Emperor, but they were expecting that the only remaining thing after delivering the city would be nothing but the husk of what it was before.

However, the Astral Sky Sect subverted the views of the entire World when the population and central powers remained primarily untouched.

From the more than 500 million people living in that city, it was reduced to around 420 million in the year following the handling. The loss was significant.

However, some merchants looked closely and realized that the major powers of the city didn't move. The people who left were primarily low-level cultivators and mortals.

The functioning, economy, and infrastructure of the city were not only not worse, but somehow, they became even better as one day, dense energy suddenly filled the massive city.

All the formations, alchemy, and anything that used ambient mana to function were enhanced with thicker energy, which, in turn, would boost the production power and number of geniuses that the city could produce.

With one move, the Astral Sky Sect made all the people who hastily left feel their intestines turn green with regret.

After all, not only did those who left spend a large amount of currency to do so, but the Astral Sky Sect Master herself told the public that those who left were banned from re-entering the new city.

Of course, some people thought highly of themselves and amassed a big group to protest outside. It had been done in the past, and with a few Epoch Cores at the helm, they were confident of being listened to.

What happened next, however, made their view on the Astral Sky Sect take another massive turn.

The Astral Sect Master herself appeared on top of the revolting masses in her dragon form, spanning a massive 400 meters in length and wingspan, twice as big as she was before. The peerlessly beautiful creature mesmerized almost every living being who laid their eyes on her.

With a giant and complex image of a Sun and a Moon on her massive wings, the primarily blue and gold dragon hovered in the sky like a patch of night sky that had taken a draconic form.

The regal and curved horns, the indifferent and cold dragon face, and the soul-stirring aura that she emitted made everyone hold their breath at the sight of such a mythical being. They feared the mesmerizing creature would dissipate like a dream if they spoke or breathed too loudly.

It was general knowledge that the Astral Sky Sect Master didn't have a very high cultivation level. Still, under the stunned eyes of the people, she opened her maw at the people who were about to storm into the city to cause trouble, and the World dimmed.

All colors seemed to disappear as torrents of energy gathered in front of the titanic dragon's maw.

Then, a single echo spread around like the judgment of the Heavens, followed by Empyrean destruction.

[Celestial Dragon Breath].

Those three words became etched in the minds of everyone as the enormous dragon literally carved a hole in the landscape with strength not befitting someone of her cultivation level.

The attack was so monstrously strong that it was felt all around the gigantic city that held around 420 million people.

After that, the Astral Sky Sect Master flew away, not even looking at the remaining people. That day, the death count reached an astonishing 25,000 while those injured surpassed 100,000. There were even seven low-level Epoch Cores and the only two mid-level Epoch Cores among those who died.

While many were dissatisfied and a few wanted justice, the world's top powers remained silent. It was a tactical approval that what the majestic dragon did was not without reason, or, at least, it was not an offense deep enough for them to move.

From then on, Holy Maple City changed its name to [Astral Dragon City]. There was even a life-like carving of the Sect Master's dragon form curled around the main gate, looking down at all life-forms who entered the city.

Other than that, the news of the Wolf Patriarch wanting to bring a new bride into his harem also spread around. The date for the consummation was set to be ten years after the summit at the latest.

With this reminder, the World moved on from Astral Dragon City, and everyone started talking about the World Summit that would happen in less than two years. The news of a few second-rate and third-rate powers being uprooted because they were the ones instigating the assault on Astral Dragon City also flew under the radar of most of the public.

"Father Emperor, are you really not going to react to what the Astral Sky Sect is doing? Aren't they acting too arrogant? In the last few years, the number of deaths they've caused has already reached 4 million!"

The Holy Beast Emperor looked at his third eldest daughter and sighed. "Didn't I tell you that all those who died are shameless criminals and people who provoked them first?"

The dragon woman with similar facial features to the Holy Beast Emperor frowned, wanting to complain further, but the Holy Beast Emperor spoke up first. "I know that Holy Maple City was

supposed to be yours when you finally finished your royal tasks, but haven't I compensated you greatly? You even have one of the five only [Unlimited Astral Pass] our power has so that you can enter the Astral Sky Sect at will and train there. A benefit, by the way, you have yet to use."

The eldest daughter sneered. "What can a new and upcoming power possibly have that we don't, Father?"

The Holy Beast Emperor looked at her intently, making her feel increasing pressure. Then, he asked, his tone deep and penetrating, as if he could see through her soul with a single look.

"Speak. Who or what power have you been contacting lately."

The dragon woman rolled her eyes, acting nonchalantly. "Father Emperor, what are you talking about? Thanks to the Shadow Beast Guards, you already know all of my contacts." The dragon woman shook her head and turned to leave. "Father Emperor, you are becoming increasingly soft with age."

The Holy Beast Emperor sighed and looked at her for a few more seconds. Then, as she was about to leave the throne room, he spoke.

"I'll give you one warning. Don't ally with someone who wants to oppose the Astral Sky Sect. Even I won't be able to save you. Or better said, I won't save you if you provoke them. As long as you are in the wrong, then I can't help you."

The woman frowned, pausing her steps and listening to her father speak. "Also, you will be the one participating in this summit, Aria. You are at the peak of the middle-level Epoch Core, and you can be considered the strongest below the High-level Epoch Core category. Be sure to hold back the breakthrough and consolidate your strength as much as you can."

The dragon woman started walking away again. "Understood, Father Emperor."

On a luxurious place constructed inside a mountain, a few wolf beast humans paid respect to their Patriarch.

When Fu Lang Zu lost an arm and a leg, a few people who had been waiting in the dark jumped at him, wanting to kill him, but to the surprise of many people, even while missing two of his limbs, Fu Lang Zu smashed all the competitors that jumped to steal his seat as the Patriarch.

Fu Lang Zu looked at his side at the calm and indifferent silver-furred woman and asked, frowning. "Why are you so reluctant to follow through with this ceremony?"

Zephyrith had her eyes closed as she spoke calmly. "I told you, I'm not your tool. I said that I would marry you once you proved that you were the strongest wolf beast-human, but instead of gaining strength, you've lost your limbs. Recover your limbs and then break through into the peak level. If you do that, I'm yours. That was my promise to you many years ago, and it remains the same now."

Fu Lang Zu gritted his teeth for a second, feeling hatred when looking at his two stumps. Even if they didn't hurt, it felt like a phantom pain was always there, gnawing at his patience and rationale. The image of Doriel's two obsidian eyes appeared in his mind from time to time like a nightmare, making his recent mood irritable.

Doriel naturally didn't just cut his limbs. With her expertise in curses, she inflicted several mind-afflicting effects that appeared like small things, like sudden pain in the limbs, a short and abrupt

hallucination, disrupting his energy flow for a few seconds, etc., but when accumulated over time, they could become a significant problem.

Fu Lang Zu looked to the side at a dark-furred wolf-human and ordered. "Du Lang, you'll participate in the summit." Then, he said ruthlessly. "Kill whoever participates from the Astral Sky Clan."

Du Lang asked, his voice low and cold. "As you order."

Several other powers also began choosing their participants, not knowing that very far away, new threats were approaching.

On a place where the sky was dark and the ambient around was dry and desolate, two beings spoke. "Senior brother, why do you think we've been sent to such a place? I even had to hold back and avoid breaking through."

"Hm. I'm also doubtful." Then, the senior brother smiled evilly. "But what does it matter? It is such a backward place; we are bound to have fun. Let's take a few junior sisters and brothers with us."

In another place that had white and golden structures, a man with a sacred beauty spoke with a woman. "This task is important; the high beings have spoken, and we must investigate in depth."

"Understood. I call our usual brethren to go in this expedition."

Deep in a forest, a group of beasts flew toward the center of it, the leading grifing speaking to the rest. "The ancient aura felt by the elders is something we must get our hands on. Our task is to retrieve it."

ROAR!

In a place with mystical structures and deep energy, a few immaterial creatures spoke with each other. "Should we go?"

"Of course! It will be fun!"

"How do you know?"

"The energy told me that it will."

"Then, we should go."

And in a few other similar places, a few beings gathered and flew toward their main powers to be transported toward the place that alerted all of them.

Evelyn: Author I really want to

Author: Yes? Screen time for Evelyn will reduce?

Evelyn: give you a big hug for being so "CLEAR" and "NOT AMBIGUOUS" with those last paragraphs.

Author: You are such a darling, Evelyn. Let's move on! I summon you!

The Rest:

Dezwon quinn: Hello!

Andrea: Welcome!

Dezwon quinn: I wanted to ask If your future children travel to Distancia during their cultivation journey, would you prefer for them to use your reputations there or start from zero? I would like to hear each of your opinions.

Author: How about Evelyn goes first?

Evelyn: Sure. I don't care much. If they want adventure, they can go by themselves. If they want to adventure with a safety net, the power can support them from the shadows, and if they just want to move on, the power can also support them. In short, I would leave it to the child's will.

Dezwon quinn: I see. What about the others?

Kali: Hm. I rather if they always got support, even if it is just in the dark. I wouldn't want to lose a child for not being attentive enough.

Evelyn: Cough, that wasn't my intention.

Kali: Haha, I know. You probably would send people to help them without them being aware of it, right?

Evelyn: That's right!

Andrea: I'm of the same mind as them I think all of us are, no?

Cecile: Yes. Risk is good, but risk with an invisible safety net is better.

Yasenia: I wouldn't mind allowing them to explore by themselves as long as they have a few life-saving treasures.

Tatyana: I'm of the same mind as Yasenia.

Angel: I think that what Kali said makes sense.

Dezwon quinn: Thanks for answering, girls!

Author: And that's all for today!

Chapter 742: Yasenia's Three Years of Body Cultivation.

Body Cultivation is the art of enhancing the body's strength. It sounds quite direct, but there are many nuances in this path that make it complicated enough to be considered the harshest path.

It was for a reason that Body Cultivation had disappeared from the rest of the World, leaving behind the knowledge of Soul and Spiritual cultivation.

While everyone could practice body cultivation because it catered toward non-attributed techniques, the difficulty of practicing it at higher levels was much more considerable than the other two paths.

For example, when our girls crossed the first realm, the "only" thing they needed to do was coat their bodies in energy. This would make each and every cell act as a small energy reservoir, unlike the Spiritual Path, where the cultivator's first step is to create the Meridian Net and Dantian and then connect them.

Let's turn back the clock three years for a moment and see how Yasenia broke through each of the realms.

In the first month, Yasenia completely solidified and perfected her foundation in the first realm and broke through, facing an assault of 12 lightning bolts.

She managed to fight back with difficulty, but it wasn't something that could deter her or hurt her deeply. In a few hours, she was back in perfect shape.

After entering the Second Body Realm, named [Mortal Transformation Body Realm], the Body Cultivator would need to create the meridian and dantian, using the energy they had gathered during the first realm and, quite literally, transforming the body to one of a cultivator.

After all, without meridians and the Dantian, there is no cultivation. Those two are the main pathways and reservoirs of the body.

However, Yasenia already had meridians and Dantian. So, how could they break through? Did they skip the entire realm?

Actually, no. It was quite the opposite. Realms that overlap between paths are one of the most complicated because modifications must be done to the base without upsetting the delicate balance inside a cultivator's body.

While cultivators were strong, they were, quite literally, an extremely concentrated amalgamation of Energy. That's why, when a cultivator went "supernova," meaning they exploded their Dantian, the effects were catastrophic enough even to hurt their own souls so much that they were affected during reincarnation.

To put it into perspective, a second realm cultivator's "supernova" could damage even a Unification Realm person, and if done at close quarters, killing a low-level Unification Realm expert was not completely out of the discussion.

Still, unless it were because of deep resentment and hate, a cultivator would rather die than explode themselves to drag their enemies with them.

I digress. The question was, how or what did Yasenia do to cross this realm?

The answer was in the nature of Body Cultivation. Yasenia used the method of Mortal Transformation to connect her existing Meridian Net and Dantian with the body. The concept was similar to how capillaries worked with blood vessels and the body.

The capillaries were very thin tubes that could secrete substances to "feed" the body and connect veins and arteries. Well, Yasenia and the girls modified their meridians to grow capillaries and do the same.

The process was arduous and meticulous because once created, similar to their Meridian Net, modifying it would be exceedingly laborious, close to impossible.

It wasn't that complicated for the girls with human bodies because human anatomy was the most studied across all realms, and the seniors could guide them even with their eyes closed.

Cecile, Kali, and Yasenia were different.

Even in their "base" forms, they had large extra limbs to care for.

Cecile and Kali didn't have it that complicated because their wings and tails were not that influential in their whole beings. A bit of extra research was enough to decide on how to create the new "Sub-Meridian-Net."

However, Yasenia's tail was stupidly complicated. To the point that even these usually all-knowing seniors had headaches.

If you remember, Tatyana actually allowed Yasenia's tail meridians to be woven by her little treasure after teaching her anatomy as best as she could with Avalonia.

After all, as a Progenitor Queen and a Dragon, her instincts in these matters were exceptionally sharp. With reason, at that. Imagine a Progenitor being born, and because of the uniqueness of their body, they mess up their future path even before taking the first step in their cultivation journey.

Progenitors were stronger than their peers not only because they had unique bloodlines but also because their raw instincts and comprehension were exceptional.

So, with this in mind, Tatyana, Mirrory, Valeria, and Yasenia worked tirelessly for three months, almost creating a new biology sub-category called "Yasenia's Tail," and managed to find the most optimal way of developing it.

For the seniors, it wasn't tiresome but highly entertaining. After all, studying new things they hadn't researched before was always a delight for them.

Even creating the immortal rank technique took less effort.

Still, it was a great success, and Yasenia broke through like a rocket, reaching the third realm in three and a half months.

Even with a big stop in the middle, the dragoness only took about eight months to break through into the third realm of the Body Cultivation Path.

The girls were dumbfounded, but they quickly recovered and redoubled their efforts, even dragging Yasenia to Dual Cultivate when they started feeling the energy lacking.

Yasenia couldn't help but be delighted as her dears dragged her away from time to time and aggressively squeezed her juices with eager and loving faces.

While it was true that being so overwhelmed by talent was sometimes frustrating, it was a bit different if it was your lover.

The pride they felt in their hearts at Yasenia's overwhelming talent made them, as her wives, feel so delighted that they wanted to boast to the entire World about her accomplishments as if they were theirs. They wanted to exclaim things like, "Look! This is my lover!" or "Can you reach the third realm in less than a year? Right, you can't, but my lover can~" or "Her giant heavenly peerless tits are unmatched!"

Hm? That last line

Whatever, let's move on.

You should know that thanks to the powerful Dual Cultivation Technique, the girls weren't left behind at all, quickly sprinting behind their dragoness.

Once again, one must admit Tatyana's foresight is quite spot on. Dual Cultivation Techniques are not that popular for their lack of power (and their sexual nature), but they are fast, and with the right combination, the results are exceptional, like the ones we are seeing.

So, Yaseenia reached the first level of the Third Body Realm, called the [Spiritual King Body Realm].

The strength of the tribulation was so high that a few people confused it with the ones to enter the Ethereal Soul Body Realm. Moreover, even in that category, it was considered a strong one.

The sight of a blackened sky and 30 giant serpents made of pure Tribulation Lightning was enough to scare 90% of the sect. Still, who were these lightning bolts aiming at? Well, our dragoness. So, while receiving some heavy injuries, she managed to blast all those serpents into nourishment for herself.

The third realm consisted in strengthening the body, once more, by imbuing "spirit" in the body.

The "Spirit" referred to in the Body Cultivation path was different from the "Spiritual" Path.

This spirit was more of a will and stance, a physical and mental state similar to enlightenment.

Those who reached this state would gain the strength to intimidate enemies with their auras and also infuse the energy in their bodies with much more ease and precision. There was also a qualitative and quantitative jump in the energy stored in the body.

To achieve this, the cultivator needs to focus all their efforts on harnessing a highly elusive concept known as "will" and then refine their own bodies through it, a task that is not only complex but also difficult to master. It was an abstract concept even for the fantastical world of the Body Cultivation Realm.

However, for Yaseenia, it was extremely easy.

She had [Empyrean Regal Dragon Aura], an aura that not only created will but also manifested it offensively. So, instead of creating a new "Will," Yaseenia tempered her own and used it to enhance her body.

The results were astounding. Her dragon aura had actually evolved once more, transforming into [Cosmos Dragon Imperial Suppression]. By now, our dragoness could probably kill people below the Unification Realm with just a look.

Using [Cosmos Dragon Imperial Suppression], Yaseenia attacked her own body and tempered her flesh and mental strength. This was the first realm that actually brought some effects to her overall strength.

It took her eight months to cross this entire realm while the other girls caught up and even surpassed her. The reason? The amount of tempering her developed dragon aura could do was vast enough to take a while.

While normal people worked with their hands, Yaseenia was using a complex tool, so it took a while to reach the point of not being able to perfect it anymore.

Our girls also benefited a lot during this realm. They had a very big cheating key called "My Dragon Wife."

Yaseenia's will was useful not only for herself but also for them. The reason was the peculiar ability to externalize and use it as an attacking method.

Above all, it was our girls' trust in Yasenia. The Dragon's pressure could actually hurt them while they were body-cultivating, so they needed to have extreme trust and allow their dearest to squeeze their bodies perfectly.

Their trust was based on two things.

First of all, it was Yasenia, and their lover probably preferred to have an arm sliced off before they got a scratch on their skin.

Second of all, Yasenia used Dragon Aura to help Andrea while she crossed the Spiritual King Realm in the past.

And so, the Ethereal Soul Heavenly Tribulation arrived for our dear dragoness.

The moment it came, the entire sect was shrouded in darkness.

Yasenia looked at it with a stunned expression. "What in Heaven's name is this?"

This time, even the seniors felt their lips twitch.

This level was well into the Fifth realm tribulation level. Probably, not even the leaders of this continent faced something as potent as this when they crossed into the Epoch Core realm, and Yasenia was breaking through into the Ethereal Soul Realm.

As Yasenia looked at the blackened sky with her mouth agape, the seniors who were currently residing in the sect came to see.

Tengliu asked, confused as she looked at the clouds. "Wasn't she entering the Ethereal Soul Body Realm?"

Mirrory answered her. "She is."

The leaders turned to look at the mysterious red-haired and green-eyed woman with their eyelids trembling. "This is for the Ethereal Soul realm? Then what about Epoch Core?"

They had seen this red-haired woman in the past, but no one knew her identity. Not that they dared to poke their noses into the matters of the Astral Sky Clan. During the last seventeen months, they've benefited tremendously from their collaboration, and they didn't want to stop benefiting.

The Mermaid Queen asked, a concerned expression on her usually cold and indifferent face. "Will little Yasenia be okay, Lady Tatyana?"

Most of the leaders have become increasingly fond of Yasenia during their time here. Her dedication, hard work, talent, and personality had wholly won them over, and they all cared about her as if she were one of their juniors.

Tatyana looked at the sky silently for a few seconds. "Depends."

Her answer made our girls turn to look, their hearts trembling and their eyes widening. If Tatyana was not sure, this was much more serious than expected.

Yasenia suddenly felt a pulse spread from the cloud, and knowing that this was the pressure wave to immobilize her, she released her auras and strength, taking a deep breath and roaring defiantly.

"ROAR!"

Her throat vibrated as the deep dragon roar made the air around her swell and explode upward.

BOOOM!

Both auras clashed, and the massive aura Yaseia spread from her body was rapidly crushed as the invisible pressure descended with seemingly unparalleled strength.

BANG!

Yaseia's legs bent ninety degrees as her tail dug deeply into the ground for extra support. However, her back didn't bend as she looked upward with a defiant gaze.

Then, she challenged the Heavens.

"You are so eager to kill me!? It will not be that easy!"

RUMBLE!

The sky shook, and the Tribulation lightning began to gather. Countless lightning serpents came one after another.

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The serpents gathered one after another, increasing in number by the second, and the faces of everyone present became increasingly dark.

By the time it stopped, 87 Tribulation Lightning Bolts were moving in the clouds.

This sight made everyone feel their hearts constrict in worry for the lone creature facing such a catastrophe.

Chapter 743: Determination and Sacrifice. A Dragon's Will.

Yaseia knew from the time she received her first Heavenly Tribulation that her path would never be an easy one.

She took it lightly, even if she almost died, and never brought up how truly scared she was at that time.

Since she was a child, Yaseia trained, studied, and spent most of her time becoming stronger and learning about cultivation.

Her first memory, other than being taken care of by Tatyana, was training. From the day she could walk, Yaseia has been training.

If it were not for her constitution, her body would've been sculpted with perfect muscles and almost no body fat. With a humanoid body and her large and heavy tail, there was just no way that she could maintain a feminine shape. Her tail had always weighed at least two times more than her human body. And yet, even when she was a mortal, Yaseia always kept it in the air.

She knew that she could just let the tail limp and drag it. But she always had it swishing behind her and moving around. Not because it was more comfortable but because it strengthened her core strength.

Almost everything she did, from when she was about eight months old to now, was strengthening herself one way or another. Even having fun with her dears at night was part of her dual cultivation training.

Even then, even when she poured everything into becoming stronger and also helping her lovers follow behind her without getting too far behind, the tribulations were still something that concerned her.

That day, when she entered the cultivation path, she saw three lightning bolts instead of the usual one, and she saw two unknown beings of unknown power, increasing the strength of her tribulation. When the first strike almost floored her, Yaseña knew. She knew her path would be like walking on thin ice; a wrong step, and she would plunge uncontrollably into the icy waters of death.

What scared her at that time was not dying.

Fear of death was never a thing Yaseña had because she knew that she was doing her best, and if she died, she would be able to accept it calmly.

What she feared at that time was her dearest's reaction. Tatyana's reaction.

After Tatyana confessed why she was brought into this World, she understood that the woman she called "mother" was like a candle without fuel, burning by the remaining liquid accumulated in the past. At any moment, that flame would disappear.

And Yaseña also knew that her existence was a new fuel for this woman at the end of the rope.

So, with all of this in mind, for the well-being of her mother, Yaseña resolved herself to become strong enough to at least fight by her side.

And yet, as if the world was mocking her, she learned that her mother was not a "normal" strong cultivator.

She was a being that could stomp her feet once and make an entire continent quake. A gaze would make millions bend their knees, and a wave of her hand could summon an army big enough to swallow the earth in a sea of undead creatures.

Catch up? Yaseña wanted to laugh in ridicule. If her mother was a normal cultivator, perhaps it was possible. Still, she was not only mind-bogglingly strong but also extremely talented.

Yaseña believed that Tatyana's talent was no less than her own. Perhaps she was more talented.

However, it didn't deter her.

RUMBLE!

The sky shook, and Yaseña looked up at the sky with a tight expression as her body felt like it weighed more than a mountain.

Her legs were bent 90 degrees, and she screamed at Yaseña that they couldn't resist the pressure.

Her tail, supporting her body with her powerful legs, also trembled as it dug into the strengthened soil to keep her body from falling.

'Why?'

Yaseña asked herself.

'Why am I not allowed to live?'

The Heavenly Tribulation was far more potent than what someone of her current talent and potential should have. It was clear that the all-encompassing and virtually omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent thing called "Heavens" was personally targeting her.

'Why must I bend my knees and surrender to their will?'

The Heavens were an existence to be revered. Even Yasenia knew it. How could any creature go against something like it? It was foolishness.

'But I will.'

Yasenia's golden eyes flashed when they reflected the light created by the 87 massive lightning serpents roiling in the dark clouds.

'I will not fall prey.'

She didn't feel resentment toward the Havens. Her birth was clearly something that challenged the natural balance.

However, while there was no resentment, Yasenia would never bow down.

Her will was to live long enough to see her baby absorb her Saint Inheritance, becoming a woman who would make everyone feel reverence for her talent and strength.

Her will was to live long enough to see her darling become someone admired by everyone for her crafts and strength, making everyone know that even without being born with a talent as high as the sky, she could reach the top.

Her will was to live long enough to see her dear digest her God's Inheritance and become a Goddess of the Sky, finally getting rid of her perpetual sense of inferiority.

Her will was to live long enough to, one day, see Kali without scars and smiling happily, eventually reaching her full potential and seeing her nine tails bloom.

Her will was to live long enough to see her sweetheart become the strongest Phoenix and see her standing proud, her silver wings stretching across the Heavens, and for her smile to bloom.

Her will was to live long enough to, one day, see her mother smile without burdens and love her long enough so that her trampled heart could heal all the scars.

"[COSMOS DRAGON IMPERIAL SUPPRESSION]!"

BOOM!

Her long black hair danced wildly as her bent knees slowly straightened.

'To live long enough, I must be strong. Stronger than anyone.'

The Celestial Energy Star in her dantian rotated, making the entire Solar System move rapidly, and with it, moving the gaseous energy stored in her Dantian. That energy is what she usually used, also called the "energy ocean."

RUMBLE!

Yasenia still couldn't move, and twelve of the 87 lightning bolts fell quickly, striking her without being able to defend herself.

BOOM!

The almost straightened legs bent again, her head bowing down as she resisted the powerful currents.

Her skin felt as if millions of ants were eating her, and electric arcs moved around her body, creating burns on her spotless skin.

"[Celestial Cosmos Immortal Body Technique: Cosmos Body Reinforcement]."

It was one of the skills she unlocked as she increased her Body Cultivation Realms. A pure skill that would increase her physical strength.

A part of her energy seeped out from her dantian, rushing along her meridians and exiting from the capillaries of the Meridian Net she had created the previous realm. That energy sank into her body and strengthened her muscles, bones, and internal organs.

Then, she pushed upward while gritting her teeth and tilting her head upward to look at the tempestuous sky.

RUMBLE!

This time, 15 Lightning Serpents fell down simultaneously.

"[Nascent Star Burst]!"

Her arm explosively rushed upward and met with the concentrated fire of the fifteen bolts.

A white light flooded the area, followed by an enormous explosion.

Yasenia felt her muscles and bones cracking, the pain unbearable enough for her to grunt in pain even while trying not to make a sound.

'Don't react. Don't react. Don't React.'

She chanted in her mind, trying to control her facial expression so that her watching dears wouldn't worry as much.

Looking at the remaining 55 lightning bolts, Yasenia's mind spun quickly as 25 Lightning bolts began moving. 'I've learned six skills in total from the Body Cultivation Scroll. In the first realm, I learned [Nascent Star/Moon/Sun Burst] and [Nascent Cosmos Art]. In the second realm, I learned [Star/Moon/Sun Burst Barrage] and [Cosmos Body Reinforcement]. In the Third Realm, I learned [Sun Crushing Palm], [Moon Splitting Palm], [Star Reaching Palm], and [Internal Cosmos Ignition].'

During a Body Cultivation Tribulation, she felt tremendous strain when trying to use her Spiritual Path skills. That's why, during her first tribulation and in the following two, she used just her body and Body Cultivation Techniques.

While thinking about what was about to come, Yasenia activated [Internal Cosmos Ignition].

This skill was a berserk skill similar to [Day and Night Cycle]. However, it was more direct in the sense that it didn't weave as many skills.

It was more of an extreme burst in physical strength and skill strength that would put a strain on the body the longer she used it.

When Yasenia activated it, all the energy in her body felt as if it was boiling, and a current of heat and strength filled her limbs.

BOOM!

With another aura burst, Yasenia managed to push back the suppression even more right as the 25 bolts rained on her.

After that, Yasenia activated [Nascent Cosmos Art], which was more of a combination of strikes instead of creating one powerful effect.

While using [Draconic Heart] as armored gloves, her movements became ethereal as she punched, kicked, and used her tail to fight back the 25 almost simultaneous attacks.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

Attacking one strike after another and tethering each of the blows to create a constant attacking motion, Yasenia fought back the attacks of the Tribulation.

Each time she struck one of the bolts, her entire body shook as if she was punching a metal plate, making her entire arm, leg, or tail recoil back.

However, pushing through the pain, Yasenia managed to block the first 24 strikes. Sadly, the last one was too quick, and she couldn't recover in time to strike back.

BOOM!

With a massive explosion, Yasenia was almost floored as her body burned with the powerful Tribulation Lightning.

The dragoness managed not to falter, standing in place and protecting against it. Even when her skin had a few painfully red spots, she still didn't fall.

Finally, without giving Yasenia much rest, the last 30 bolts fell.

From the outside, the 30 massive lightning serpents rushing downward toward the woman with a thundering roar was a terrifying sight.

Our girls felt a bit pale as Yasenia, with a body riddled with burns, faced this colossal strike.

Tatyana's fist clenched as Yasenia moved and pushed her palm skywards.

The energy in the surroundings gathered toward the dragon, and when the arm extended, a massive pressure spread around her.

"[Celestial Cosmos Palm]!"

An ethereal voice echoed in the surroundings, filling the area with unequal oppression.

Then, the image of a massive Dragon claw appeared and rushed upward, clashing with the bolts at a midway point.

BOOOOM!

The sky shook with a massive explosion, but from the remnants, 15 lightning serpents rushed downward as strong as before.

Yasenia crouched, and, this time, she punched upward.

"[Nascent Celestial Burst]."

Another wave of immense energy moved from the dragon's dantian across her right arm and burst forth with a massive wave of energy.

Another sky-rending strike echoed because of the collision, but at the same time, Yasenia's damaged skin split, making blood burst.

Using two celestial skills consecutively placed a tremendous burden on her when the Heavens were suppressing her.

However, as if she didn't see her body breaking apart, another aura of similar strength gathered around her.

Tatyana's, Valeria's, and Mirrory's eyes hardened. A third Celestial Skill would probably break what Yasenia could resist.

The others didn't know why she started gathering energy again; after all, they thought that the remaining 15 serpents would be destroyed.

However, just 50 meters above Yasenia, the explosion's effects burst open as 5 of the biggest tribulation lightning bolts broke through.

"[Celestial Burst Barrage]."

Then, Yasenia's arms blurred as she punched five times in an instant.

Blinding blue light swallowed the surroundings, and Yasenia's attacks shot upward like light pillars, swallowing the remaining five lightning bolts.

The energy pillars didn't only destroy the bolts, but they continued upward, exploding five holes in the clouds above.

The leaders and others opened their eyes in awe and were about to cheer, but they saw Tatyana, Valeria, and Mirrory rush toward Yasenia at extremely high speed, Tatyana looking restless.

Before they could understand what was happening, Yasenia's skin, scales, and mouth erupted with blood, creating a harrowingly beautiful image of a dragon woman being illuminated by five light beams that crossed the dark clouds but surrounded by a blooming flower of bright red blood.

That instant, that moment when the blood was still in the air, shining because of the light, was engraved in each of the minds of the people spectating.

Chapter 744: Aftermath. Cecile's Hidden Care.

Falling, the sensation of her consciousness disappearing as tearing pain ripped the insides of her body apart permeated through her being.

Yasenia internally laughed at the ridiculousness of the Tribulation's intensity.

'But I lived.'

Yasenia knew that she didn't die; her eyes clearly saw all the bolts being torn into pieces before her vision flashed white, and darkness engulfed her mind.

'I need to wake up and continue training. I'm far from being able to stop.'

The almost still Celestial Star Energy in her dantian began spinning at a normal pace again, and her dried and damaged meridians were filled with her energy once again. Like gentle rain falling into dry land, it slowly seeped into her and healed all her injuries.

With the number of times her body had been on the verge of death, her regeneration factor and proficiency had been increased enough for her to tell, even when unconscious, how much time she would need to wake up.

'Hm Two days. Sigh My dears must be worried.'

Yasenia was worried but not restless. She trusted that her dears had a good mental fortitude. 'Only Kaleina was also there, right? I hope my injuries didn't startle her too much.'

The tactile sensation on her body slowly returned, and she could feel the weight and tender scales of her little baby. 'Is Kaleina sleeping on top of me? Hm I can feel someone grabbing my hand as well. This size and texture Sweetheart?'

The hand grabbing her tightened as if answering to her being recognized, and Yasenia smiled softly. Her body burned with pain, but she didn't mind. As long as they were by her side, Yasenia was satisfied.

'Hm. I can feel that I've recovered enough to regain consciousness. Let's wake up, then.'

Slowly, she put strength on her heavy eyelids, and after a flash of white and her pupils constricting and dilating to adjust to the light, she saw her surroundings.

"Good morning, sleepyhead."

The cool but gentle voice of her soulmate reached her ears, making Yasenia slowly move her eyes sideways to look at Cecile. "G-Good Morning."

Cecile smiled, but Yasenia could clearly feel the distress in her sweetheart's soul. She knew that even if Cecile didn't really express herself outward, inside, she was a really expressive girl.

Each time they went somewhere, finished their training, or saw something interesting, Cecile would always inform her and speak about it through their connection. There were times that Yasenia would be bombarded with words for many minutes at once.

The dragoness found this endearing, so she not only didn't stop her but encouraged her. People thought that her sweetheart was an Ice Queen without emotions, but they couldn't be more wrong, which amused Yasenia.

"Time?"

Yasenia moved her parched throat and asked. Cecile understood her, and she spoke, taking a cup of water enhanced by many nourishing medicines and feeding it to her slowly. "It's the third morning after you received the tribulation."

Yasenia blinked and drank slowly, feeling her damaged throat healing. After drinking, Yasenia asked again. "Injuries?"

Cecile paused, but she didn't show anything extra in her face. "Truth?"

Yasenia laughed but hissed right after. The mere chest movement of her almost laugh delivered quite a piercing pain into her brain.

Cecile looked at her lover, wrapped in bandages like a mummy. Even her face only left open her two pretty golden eyes, nose, and mouth. 'It was scary.'

When the tribulation ended and Yasenia's body bloomed like a red rose, Cecile felt a small portion of that pain through their shared connection, and her legs almost buckled.

The electrifying pain that Cecile felt for a fraction of a second was enough to make her eyes widen for a second.

Then, seeing Tatyana looking restless and hastily communicating with Valeria increased the pain inside her. They even had to use one of Yasenia's life-saving treasures, a pill that made it impossible to die from non-direct harm for 20 minutes, to make sure that Yasenia survived.

The strain caused by the third Celestial Skill was brutal to that extent.

Usually, it wouldn't be this severe. After all, Yasenia's control, bodily strength, and celestial energy amount had significantly increased.

However, she didn't use them in a normal situation. The pressure the Heavens imposed on Yasenia was enough to make the powerful dragoness's leg bend even while expelling almost all of her auras.

The only thing that allowed her to fight back was the skills Yasenia unlocked with her Body Cultivation technique and the evolved Dragon Aura.

Everything else was focused on holding back the Heavens from squeezing her against the ground. So, with such a hard strain, using the incomparably powerful Celestial Energy was a daunting task.

On the first usage, Yasenia's body started to hurt. On the second one, some of Yasenia's meridians and internal organs were damaged. By the time she used the third, everything inside her body was shredded by the monstrous wave of energy.

If Yasenia wasn't a dragon with incredible vitality and had so many advantages, Cecile couldn't see anybody surviving that.

Thinking of all of that, Cecile looked at the gentle and placid golden slit eyes looking at her like two pools of calm and sweet golden water. Cecile smiled lovingly, playing with Yasenia's hand. 'Really, her gaze is sweeter than honey.'

"The damage is as follows. Your internal organs ruptured; thankfully, your heart was not as damaged. Your meridian net almost crumbled, and most of the capillaries that you grew were completely fried. The bones of the arms were shattered, and blood vessels all around the body also exploded, causing your blood pressure to fall dangerously low. The Tribulation Lightning that remained in your body created extensive damage after you fainted and your defenses weakened, but it was swiftly taken care of by the seniors, so only 40% of your skin and superficial muscles were charred. As for the head, nothing happened. The bandages are there to support your neck muscles, which ripped because of the strain of constantly looking upward."

Cecile intently looked into Yasenia's golden eyes with her icy blue ones, expecting to see signs of negative emotions, but instead of that, they remained calm. Unable to hold back, Cecile felt her heart constrict. No matter how injured, Yasenia would always take it in stride.

The Phoenix wanted to tell her to take more care of herself, but she couldn't. Remembering that fearsome Heavenly Tribulation, how could she scold Yasenia?

The fact that she was alive was more than enough for Cecile. 'Thankfully, Yasenia always takes her time when breaking through and waits until she consolidates everything.'

Her lovely dragoness was hanging on a thin thread, and the second she relaxed, it felt as if that thread would snap, plunging her into the abyss.

Cecile felt her hand being squeezed reassuringly, and she looked up, snapping from her daze.

"I'm okay. Don't... Be sad."

Cecile's throat tightened, but she quickly hid the emotions, not wanting to burden her heavily wounded lover.

With a smile, she leaned forward, gently and carefully touching foreheads with Yasenia as they looked into each other's eyes. "I'm not."

Yasenia's lips arched, and she made a short laugh. "You are."

'I'm helpless, really.' Cecile really wanted to help Yasenia carry part of her burden, but she could do nothing about the tribulations. She could help with everything but that.

Changing the subject, Cecile asked after planting a soft and tender kiss on Yasenia's lips. "Hungry?"

"A bit."

Cecile smiled and stood up. "Wait a moment, I'll carry the food here. Keep Kaleina company for a while."

Yasenia blinked twice. "Kaleina?"

She spread her spiritual sense using her soul and saw the small dragon curled in a donut while sleeping on her other side. 'Wait.' Looking closer, she could see that the eyes were partly opened, looking at her sneakily.

Smiling, Yasenia called her softly. "Baby, come here."

Kaleina lifted her body with her frontal arms and walked at her. "Mommy!"

The little dragoness approached her face, licking her cheeks and lips, and Yasenia laughed tenderly. "I'm okay, baby."

Kaleina snuggled by her side, purring in happiness. "I'm glad Mommy woke up."

Yasenia wanted to turn her head to nuzzle with her, but her neck muscles sent a sign of protest, so she could only speak. "So, did Kaleina laze around while Mommy slept?"

Kaleina stiffened a bit, lifting her head with a guilty look. "W-Well, I wanted to be by Mommy's side until you woke up."

As a young dragon already seven years of age, Kaleina's intelligence was on par with a human adolescent child, but still with childish tendencies, curiosity, and instincts.

Dragons took a while to mature completely, but they were aware of this from quite early in their lives. To make a comparison was like placing the knowledge of an adult on a child.

No matter how intelligent, a child will always have a certain quality that differentiates them.

Yasenia laughed, enduring her pain. "Don't worry, love. I'm not blaming you. I was just asking." Then, she added. "But, next time, take your lessons before accompanying Mom, okay?"

Kaleina nodded obediently and nuzzled with her, giving her gentle licks as she purred. "Mommy, when will you be okay?"

Yasenia gleefully received Kaleina's affection as she answered. "Well, maybe two weeks or so will be enough to leave the bed."

Kaleina nodded, and then her tail began wagging as she looked at Yasenia. "Mommy, you were super awesome when fighting off the tribulation! A big punch created a giant explosion, and then a super tail strike created a shockwave! Then, then, you even created five beams that pierced those scary clouds!"

The adoration in her golden eyes almost made Yasenia burst into laughter. "It was difficult, but if my baby thinks that Mommy was awesome, then it was worth it."

Kaleina smiled proudly. "I'll tell all my friends! Mommy is, after all, the strongest!"

Yasenia felt a moment of nostalgia, seeing herself in this child, and her eyes softened enough to make Kaleina feel a bit flustered. "W-What is it, Mommy?"

"I love you, Kaleina."

The purple scales on her face lit up in happiness and shyness. "I love Mommy too!"

Cecile returned after a few minutes and saw Kaleina happily curled around Yasenia as the two of them spoke about things like what Kaleina did with her friends and such.

"My love, I've come with the food."

She saw two pairs of almost identical golden slit eyes turn and look at her, making Cecile's heart pound. "They are so cute! I want to squeeze that lovely face~."

Cecile approached with three plates of soup and sat on the border of the bed. Then, she inserted energy into the furniture, and the bed gently lifted up, making Yasenia sit up.

Looking at the momentary frown, Cecile asked. "Painful?"

Yasenia was sincere at these moments, and she commented. "The breasts' weight pulled a bit on my wounds."

Cecile approached and waved her hand, summoning a partition to be placed under her lover's heavy breasts as support. It was done just for this purpose, which made Yasenia blink twice in wonder.

"When did you get this?"

"Comfortable?"

The dragoness nodded lightly, with minimal movements. "I can feel my shoulders relaxing."

Cecile laughed softly. "All of us have a full set of equipment to take care of you made by Kali, Andrea, and Angel. Naturally, we took into account one of our lover's most prominent features. This is a breast supporter, and it does just that. It uses formations and a few naturally healing materials to soothe you."

Yasenia felt a bit embarrassed, but it was the truth that it really helped. "Thanks."

Kaleina asked, curious. "Will I also have great breasts like Mommy when I grow up?"

Yasenia and Cecile looked at her with amusement. Cecile asked, stifling her laughter. "Great breasts?"

Kaleina nodded, not finding anything at fault with her words. "Of course! They can produce super yummy milk and are warm and soft and comfortable! They are great breasts!"

Yasenia asked carefully. "Did you, by any chance, brag about them with your friends?"

Kaleina smiled widely and proudly. "Yes! Almost every day!"

"Pfft, hahaha." Cecile burst into laughter, and Yasenia sighed.

After this event, Yasenia slowly recuperated, and then she finally began cultivating for the last stretch before she could break through into the fifth and last mortal realm.

The Ethereal Soul Realm and Half-step Unification Realm.

Chapter 745: Ethereal Soul Realm's Difficulty.

The dragoness recovered in less than half a month thanks to all the pampering from her dears. The medicine might have had a good effect, but our dragoness was sure that all the pampering from her lovers was what helped the most.

The first thing she did after recovering was to evaluate her strength. After all, entering the Ethereal Soul Realm meant that Body Cultivation had entered the same realm as her Beast and Spiritual Cultivation, which meant that the gains were no longer small.

Also, in her mind, another two types of skills appeared for the new realm. One of them was called [Cosmic Sun/Moon/Star Nova]. It was a wide area of effect attack of the respective elements. A very rare type of skill in the Body Cultivation Path.

What piqued Yasenia's interest was the second skill she unlocked.

Until the fourth realm, Yasenia had unlocked an attack skill and a support skill. This time, it was similar. However, this skill was not a combat support skill.

The name of the skill she unlocked was [Celestial Cosmos Immortal Body Refinement]. After reading the skill name and description, the dragoness raised both her eyebrows. 'Isn't this the rarest type of Body Cultivation technique? Moreover, it has the entire name of the technique in it'

From what Yasenia understood, Body Cultivation skills were not nearly as varied as Spiritual Techniques. Most of them were melee, attributeless, single-target skills of the offensive or defensive category. Movement techniques were also relatively common.

Area of effect skills were much more rare, similar to ranged abilities. Still, there was one type of skill that was much rarer, and those were refinement skills.

This type of skill is what allowed Spiritual Path cultivators to enhance their bodies to the point that they could somewhat compete with pure Body Cultivators in the same area.

What they did was use medicine, energy, or many other kinds of methods to refine the body as if it were a weapon.

They were very powerful, but because of how painful they were, most cultivators opted not to use them. Only a select few who didn't really care about themselves used them. You must realize that those who didn't weren't really cowardly because if they fainted during the "refinement," chances of receiving irreversible damage were quite great.

Yasenia read the summary. "Using the heat of the Sun, the chill of the Moon, and the pressure of the Stars, the cultivator can refine their flesh, bones, and organs to become impenetrable by any weapon or attack. Those with [Celestial Energy] will be able to increase the effectiveness and speed of the skill with much more ease, speed, and results."

The dragoness pondered and looked around. She was currently in the garden area, with the morning Sun radiating in the clear sky, and sitting on a mound of soft and comfortable grass.

There weren't many people around her. Five maids, Kaleina and Flame.

Focusing on the scroll again, she read the method she needed to practice it, and her lips twitched. 'I need to what now?'

The dragoness sighed, looking at the sky with a resigned expression. 'Really, gaining strength is not easy.'

Tatyana's voice reached her from the communication device. "Little Treasure, are you ready to spar?"

Yasenia pondered and shook her head. "I need to practice one skill for about Four hours? I'm not sure, but it shouldn't be longer than eight. I'll join you later."

Tatyana asked. "Do you need help?"

Yasenia read the skill again. "Hm For now, I don't."

Tatyana nodded. "Sure, tell me when you are done. By the way, have you learned what you need to do in the Ethereal Soul Realm to advance?"

The dragoness nodded confidently. "I need to use my soul to temper my body, right?"

"That's right."

Yasenia commented. "It's quite interesting that the fourth realm of the Body Cultivation Path needs soul strength."

Tatyana laughed. "While focusing on the body is correct, if a Body Cultivator never trained their soul, they would just fall to one illusion attack. They are weaker soul-wise, but it's not to the point of being toyed around by those who control Soul-related skills. Moreover, tempering the body with the soul grants a good amount of resistance to soul attacks. It is a needed realm."

"Hm. I'm curious, though. Reading the theory, I couldn't really find the existence of innate skills in the Body Path. What happens with them?"

Tatyana commented. "Innate skills are closely tied to the bloodline and constitution. Body Cultivation focuses on the flesh, unlike Spiritual Cultivation, which focuses on bringing out the potential of everything in the body equally. Innate skills are certainly strong, but a tempered body is as strong. This path is more raw toward gaining strength, but not less effective."

Tatyana chuckled. "The only reason you've been able to match up physically to body cultivators, other than your buffing skills, is that you are a beast. While not all of the bodily strength is translated to your humanoid body, a big part of it does. If not, beasts that can transform into humanoid forms would lose all their strength when transforming."

Yasenia agreed. "Other than tempering the body with the soul, is there anything else I need to take into account?"

Tatyana answered. "No. The Body Cultivation Path is very straightforward. Still, it will hurt like hell, so be prepared, little treasure, hahaha."

Yasenia sighed. "I will. By the way, I've gained a body refinement method. That's what I wanted to practice during these hours. Anything I need to look out for?"

Tatyana sighed with admiration. "An immortal rank technique has its perks, after all. Regarding what you need to consider, there is nothing you don't know. If you need any help, ask us."

"I want to try doing the refinement myself without help. If I can't, it would mean that I won't be able to practice it if I'm alone, which makes it quite burdensome."

Tatyana smiled on the other side of the device. "That's how it should be. It will now hurt double since you must temper and refine your body."

Yasenia's eyebrow twitched. "Thanks for reminding me."

"Hahaha." Tatyana laughed and cut the connection.

Yasenia sighed and called the two little ones. "Kaleina, Flame."

The young purple and gold eastern dragon crawled toward her with a slithering motion and the help of her frontal legs, followed closely by a trotting ten-year-old with beautiful red wings.

Both of them threw themselves in Yasenia's arms, and the dragoness caught them with a laugh. "Did you have fun?"

Kaleina nodded with a bright smile. "Yes!"

Flame also nodded, feeling a bit shy by Yasenia's comfortable hug.

"Well, Mommy has to go and cultivate, so you can either stay here a bit longer or go to Kaleina's other moms. You can choose. Okay?"

"Okay~!"

Both of them answered, and Yasenia stood up, flashing away after giving each of them a kiss on the forehead.

Yasenia began preparing for the body tempering and refinement after reaching her cultivation cave.

The way to do it was to create a rather complicated formation using a few materials like [Lunar Blue Stones], [Solar Streaking Iron], [Stellar Dive Metal], and similar.

What would've happened if Yasenia hadn't known formations? Well, she would've needed to either learn or ask for help.

Thankfully, Yasenia has not stopped practicing her secondary professions. Even if she was not the most talented, she was not helpless. Having extra knowledge was not something bad, and instead of

just accompanying her dears and doing nothing, she used that time to continue to increase her knowledge.

First, she created the corresponding [Formation Ink] and used the pen Tatyana gave her in the past, called [Earth Dragon Nail Formation Pen].

Carefully placing the rocks in the places where the scroll told her to and slowly painting the complex lines that melded with the energy in the surroundings, Yasenia set up everything in about one and a half hours.

Looking at the five-meter-wide formation, Yasenia was satisfied. She stepped inside and stood in the center of it, taking a deep breath and taking her usual cultivating stance.

Then, she moved.

Like an ethereal mirage, her arms, legs, and tail moved in exceptional synchrony that couldn't be compared to what she did at first.

As she moved and warmed up her body, the image of her soul manifested around her.

The majestic dragon didn't have the usual size, being large enough just to grab one person with its claws.

Then, a translucent sphere appeared around Yasenia, surrounding her entire body. The dragon's phantom slowly lowered its claws and grabbed the sphere from both sides.

Right after, the muscles of its entire body bulged as it mercilessly squeezed the sphere.

Yasenia, who was moving in a trance, stopped as her face crumpled, and an involuntary scream of pain escaped her throat. "AH!"

All the effects around her disappeared when Yasenia stopped moving. The dragoness blinked twice, not expecting so much pain. Moreover, because she was in a trance, she clearly felt everything severalfold.

Yasenia took a deep breath and closed her eyes for a second, trying to remember that painful feeling. The sensation was quite similar to what it looked but on a much deeper level.

She felt her entire soul squeezing on her body, trying to crumple her into a ball. Each of her muscles, organs, and bones felt the squeeze at once, including her spine, head, and even brain.

However, it was not a physical squeeze. Even when she stopped almost immediately, she recalled the sensation of energy from the surroundings being forcefully stored in her body.

Suddenly, she recalled one of the things she had read about the Ethereal Soul Realm. "It said that for some, it hurt more than for others, but there wasn't a clear specification as to why."

However, for Yasenia, it felt quite clear. "It's soul strength. The reason people from Distancia don't know is that they don't pay any attention whatsoever to the soul. Even if someone discovered it in the past, they were probably labeled as people saying dribble. After all, without a deep knowledge about the soul, it is probably impossible to prove directly without making it sound like speculation."

Thinking as such, Yasenia didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "My soul strength It's my strongest quality and by a large amount."

In terms of Spiritual Path measurements, her Soul was at least on par with a level 6 or 7 Dantian Spiritualization Realm cultivator.

It was absurd to that extent. Even some of the level 3 and 4 maids had less soul strength than Yasenia, which could tell you just how large it is. There were many reasons for this, but the more prominent were first, Tatyana nourishing her soul before she was even born; second, the special qualities of the Tribulations by the Gods that increased her overall strength; and third, the few pills she took had used in the past to increase it further.

One that Tatyana gave her even before the Tournament was quite powerful, the one called [Mind Reinforcement Pill]. Then, the [Beast Physique Pill] also influenced her soul, the same for the powerful [Beauty Pill] she ingested in the past, and the [Element Enhancing Pills] like [Sun Enhancing Pill], etc.

And these were just the stronger ones.

With Kali in their squad, the number of reinforcing pills they've ingested was in the three digits. Plus, the food Yasenia cooked also had permanent strength buffs.

On top of all of this, since Yasenia has discovered this, she would naturally increase her spiritual cultivation to the half-step to spiritualize the dantian and further increase her soul's strength so that her tempering would be even stronger.

In short, Yasenia's soul was stacked, and she was about to multiply its strength.

She took out the communication device to inform her dears of her discovery, just in case they hadn't realized.

Before connecting it, she paused as she pictured her near future.

'I'm going to suffer quite a bit, eh?'

Yasenia smiled wryly, her tail flopping on the ground.

Andrea: Love, I'm cheering for you.

Yasenia: *Throws herself in her arms, acting pampered.* Darling, I don't want to cultivate anymore~.

Andrea: *Holding back her imminent nosebleed.* Y-You must, Love.

Yasenia: *Puppy eyes* I must?

Andrea:

Andrea: Well, now that I think about how about-.

Evelyn: You can't give in, Andrea! Steel your heart!

Yasenia: *Supper soft and cute puppy eye attack.* Dear?

Evelyn: *Freezes for a second before clutching her heart* her power(cuteness) level is immeasurable I can't win Ugh.

Author: And so, they were all defeated, and Yasenia stopped cultivating forever.

The rest:

Author: I summon you!

Andrew Miles: Hello!

Yasenia: Hello.

Andrew Miles: Have Angel, Evelyn, Kali, Andrea, and Cecile had any ideas on how to deal with not seeing Yasenia when you or she enter a closed-door cultivation session? I imagine you are getting to the stage where it could be required for studying techniques or intents in the near future.

Andrea: I have no problems. Isolation for cultivating is something taught from very early on. The only reason we are not doing it right now is because Yasenia's Dual cultivation Technique is just faster and better than us going into seclusion for ourselves.

Andrew Miles: Oh. That makes sense.

Angel: Hm. But, if we have to, although I will miss Yasenia very, very, very much, we can do it without problems.

Evelyn: Yep, it's a normal part of our lives

Cecile: Hm.

Andrew Miles: I see. Thanks for answering!

Author: And that's all for today! Bye-bye!

Chapter 746:. Unification Realm Half-Step.

A few months later, about one year before the summit, Yasenia was cross-legged in her cultivation room, practicing her Spiritual Path.

Thanks to what happened during the creation of her Body Path technique, she received a boost to her cultivation, which pushed her to be close to the half-step.

Hence, after working hard, she finally reached the limits of the ninth level of the Unification Realm.

The progress was quick, and the only thing left was to understand how to break through.

For the Half-step of the Unification Realm, what a cultivator needed to do was spiritualize their dantian. It was the preparation step for the next realm.

Moving energy around her body and feeling the saturation and inability to improve her strength further, Yasenia began attacking the bottleneck while meditating about it.

'Spiritualize the Dantian... The Dantian is the organ that creates, absorbs, stores, transforms, and releases the energy around the body via meridians. It is an organ three fingers-width below the navel. For women, it is very close to the position of the uterus.'

Yasenia placed the fingers horizontally right below her belly button and pressed them; she could feel the pressure deeply, moving her inner organs gently and pushing against the uterus and Dantian. 'Hm... How can I move the Dantian into my soul? The theory says that you need to try to materialize the soul and surround it, creating channels to connect the physical meridians with the soul's Dantian.'

'This step is something that only happens in the Spiritual Path. Even the Soul Path doesn't do something like this.'

Yasenia pondered. 'But why? Shouldn't the Soul Path also do this?' It was a common question for those who studied both paths. 'From what I read, Soul Cultivators don't move the Dantian because they need nourishment for their relatively weaker bodies, and having a physical dantian helps. Then, Body Cultivators don't focus on the soul as much, so a similar situation occurs. Only Spiritual Cultivators, who are all-rounders, chose to do this step so that there is a tighter connection between soul and body.'

Yasenia accepted the explanation, even if it appeared a bit loose. After all, wouldn't the other two paths also benefit from connecting the soul and body?

However, after revising the information once more in-depth, she realized that she had forgotten one thing. 'Balance. All things between Heaven and Earth need to be balanced so that there aren't problems. Even if both the other methods are extreme paths that focus on one thing only, they need their bodies to stay balanced so that they don't crumble. The Dantian is a perfect anchor for that. Meanwhile, spiritual cultivators always keep a good balance between everything, so instead of an anchor, they need a connection.'

Yasenia nodded, convinced.

Having caught the essence of this step, she restarted her efforts while using the index, middle, and ring fingers of both hands to press on the Dantian. 'Let's start slowly. I've already informed my dears so that I can take my time.'

First, she cut off all her senses toward the outside and even made her spiritual sense disappear.

After closing her eyes, her other senses started to sharpen. Then, using her energy, she cut off her sense of hearing for outside sounds and her sense of taste, she dimmed her skin's sense of touch, and she also closed her sense of smell.

Her body slowly lost connection with the outside, leaving only herself in her mind.

This was the main reason why cultivators needed a safe space to practice. Now, even a mortal would be able to sneak up on Yasenia. Still, the dragoness was calm, her heart beating at a constant rhythm.

The feeling of her blood moving, her energy gently rotating around her, and slow and deep breathing further relaxed her mind.

After two minutes, all her senses were fully internalized, and she disconnected from the outside World.

Reaching this state in such a short time was nothing but miraculous, as an average cultivator of her level would need about an hour or so to reach her current concentration level.

Then, she began practicing the energy movements of [Convergence of the Celestial Bodies] to push against the bottleneck.

One rotation, two rotations...

Slowly, Yasenia began gathering the required energy to move her soul and spiritualize the dantian.

Not knowing how long it had gone by, Yasenia finally gathered enough energy inside of her.

Then, her will connected with her soul, and she slowly and gently began materializing it around her fingertips, touching the flesh on top of the Dantian.

An ethereal and transparent energy seeped inside her and reached the Dantian. With utmost care and patience, the dragoness continued to summon her Soul inside her body.

Thanks to the previous steps in the Unification Realm, body, and soul were already connected as one, and the only thing left was this last step.

As said before, to connect all mind, body, soul, and Dantian, the cultivator first needed to connect everything else, and then, when spiritualizing the Dantian, because of the previous connection made, everything would click into place like the final puzzle piece.

Time went by, and after constant efforts, Yasenia manifested 100% of her soul and concentrated it around the Dantian. Following that, she moved the previously gathered energy and surrounded the Dantian and the main Meridians connected with it.

As energy surrounded the organ, the soul around it began fusing with it. However, if done this way, the soul would be the one materialized instead of the opposite. Hence, when the process was about to end, Yasenia reversed the flow, creating a chain reaction.

This reaction created an enormous fluctuation of energy that spread all around the sect.

Every creature with a fourth realm strength and above turned their heads simultaneously toward Yasenia's cultivation cave.

Meanwhile, Yasenia controlled every minute energy strand and saw how the organ became blurry, slowly melding into her soul, together with the end strands of the meridians connecting to it.

Spreading her energy thinner along the meridians to make them go from fully spiritualized to physical in a gradual manner, Yasenia finally managed to reach the final step.

The remaining energy left in her began speeding up, moving across her entire body at high speeds, and the meridians around her entire body tensed as they were all filled with it.

When she filled her entire body with energy, Yasenia used her entire being and compressed everything.

Every single inch of her body tensed, and all the energy got squished, creating a higher concentrated energy flow. As she pressed, the sound of an invisible barrier shattering sounded inside Yasenia's head, and an enormous surge that came from her Dantian area spread all around her body.

The sturdy floor around Yasenia cracked from the pressure she emitted as torrents of energy rushed into her cultivation room from the outside.

The waves of energy were absorbed by her ravenously, nourishing herself and constantly increasing her strength.

The vitality of her cells, her marrow, her organs, everything was enveloped in enormous quantities of energy, and she finally broke through.

As if all the energy concentrated in her couldn't hold on anymore, Yasenia opened her closed eyes, revealing a pair of glowing golden eyes, and her aura exploded.

BOOOOM!

The entire mountain quaked as a monstrous presence descended on all beings. The weaker ones couldn't help but hold their breaths, afraid of angering the creature by releasing such terrifying pressure.

The dragoness slowly and elegantly stood up, pushing her body up with her tail, and she gently slid one foot forward, lightly bending her knees.

With one arm stretched forward and the other bent and close to her body, she prepared to punch forward. Yasenia used her entire strength and moved.

Her clenched fist harshly compressed the air before it. Rotating her waist in perfect synchrony, all her muscles worked in harmony, beautifully completing the motion.

BANG!

The air before Yasenia exploded as if an enormous explosion had occurred, making her hair wave behind her together with her dress and creating a forward shockwave that slammed on the wall more than a kilometer ahead, denting it very lightly.

Yasenia maintained her position, taking in all the information, and her spiritual sense spread outward.

100 meters... 300 meters... 800 meters... 1200 meters...

It pushed outward exponentially faster, and it finally stopped at 4000 meters or four kilometers.

Compared to her previous 1000 meters, the difference was enormous.

Yasenia returned to a relaxed position, her tail gently swishing behind her, and she smirked. "Good."

Her increase of strength when she reached the 10th level of the Fusion Core beast had been very large. However, the jump from level nine to half-step of the Unification Realm was even bigger.

Right now, Yasenia was confident in fighting ten of her previous selves without becoming tired. She smiled wryly. "If I had broken through before my tribulation, I wouldn't have needed to lose that life-saving treasure. I didn't expect the increase in strength to be so high. Were the tribulation clouds taking into account my growth?"

Curious, she retrieved [Draconic Sword] and unleashed [Draconic Sunrise].

BOOM!

A massive heat wave followed a golden flash, smashing against the recovered wall in the distance and creating a large gash.

Yasenia widened her eyes momentarily and muttered. "I couldn't even scratch that wall in the past from here..."

You must remember that the stronger someone is, the bigger the difference between levels and realms.

While a cultivator got, let's say, a 3x strength increase after breaking through, Yasenia's 3x and an average cultivator's 3x were not the same.

From 3 to 9 is not the same as from 30 to 90.

Yasenia pondered and walked outside her cultivation room, calling Tengliu. "Come, I want to spar with you."

Tengliu was relaxing as she moved with ethereal grace and beauty in one of the cultivation areas, prepared for the leaders who joined the Astral Sky Alliance. When she heard that, her silver eyebrows raised, her movements not stopping. "Really? You couldn't last 5 seconds one the last time we fought."

Yasenia smiled. "Just come."

Tengliu laughed. "Sure. I'll be there. I can't lose a chance to be together with little Yasenia~."

Yasenia used her movement technique, and she pierced through the sect like a beam of light, appearing in the fighting arena prepared for high-level cultivators.

Tatyana, who had been extending her spiritual sense around Yasenia's cultivation room, felt surprised. 'So fast?' Then, she burst into laughter. 'Maybe reaching the strength limit of this World will be much easier for Little Treasure than I thought.'

Yasenia arrived at the arena, and while she used her movement technique, many ideas on how to continue to explore this technique appeared in her mind. As one of the strongest movement techniques in the Sky Continent, specially prepared by Tatyana for herself, it naturally didn't end in just [Pegasus Gallop].

There were many levels for it, each as strong, if not stronger, than the most basic acceleration burst called [Pegasus Gallop].

[Pegasus Gallop] was the first sky, and there were another 8, with a total of 9 Techniques within the Skill.

For now, though, Yasenia could only use the first one. However, after this breakthrough, she could feel that unlocking the second sky, called [Ursa's Grasp], was a matter of time.

By names they were called like this: [First Sky: Pegasus Gallop], [Second Sky: Ursa's Grasp], [Third Sky: Orion's Shield], [Fourth Sky: Lyra's Harmony], [Fifth Sky: Aquarius's Rain], [Sixth Sky: Draco's Descent], [Seventh Sky: Artemis's Arrow], [Eight Sky: Andromeda's Embrace], and finally, [Ninth Sky: Ara's Awakening].

Each had different and complex effects, drawing upon the mysterious power of the stars and allowing a cultivator's movement to create many phenomena.

From what she had read about the technique, the number of stars didn't directly represent the number of stars in the sky, but the complexity. Each extra star was a step increase in difficulty.

More or less, each constellation had a certain number of "steps" and "stars" that needed to be summoned. For example, Pegasus needs 14 stars to be wholly summoned, showing that Yasenia has perfect control over it.

Ursa was a simple seven-star sky, and the others went like this. Orion used 19 stars, Lyra 27 stars, Aquarius 38 stars, Draco 46 stars, Artemis 61 stars, Andromeda 86 stars, and Ara 99 stars.

Then, Yasenia looked at the technique and saw that there was still some hidden knowledge that she couldn't look at. However, she didn't bother much about it.

Chapter 747: Tengliu vs Yasenia Spar.

While waiting for Tengliu to appear, Yasenia moved slowly and tried to activate Ursa's Grasp. The seven steps and stars needed were a bit complex, and activating the skill mid-battle wouldn't be easy, especially when she was about to battle someone as strong as Tengliu.

'The Ursa's Grasp skill can be activated only by the steps combined with the stars, unlike Pegasus Gallop, which just needs to order and connect the stars in a certain order.'

She took one step forward, then another at an angle, then another until she completed the form of the constellation. Upon completion, a surge of power filled her, increasing not only her speed but also her strength.

Before she could inspect the effects more in-depth, Yasenia saw Tengliu sneaking closer through her spiritual sense, stopping a little further than her previous limit. This made our dragoness's eyebrow twitch. 'This pervert couldn't have been peeking at me from a safe distance in the past, right?'

Yasenia stopped what she was doing but didn't react so as not to warn her. 'Let's see what you will do now~.'

She didn't have to wait too long before she saw Tengliu using strength and flashing forward at incredible speed, appearing right behind her to give her a hug.

Predicting it, Yasenia hit the floor with her tail, pushing herself forward enough for Tengliu's wing-arms to miss. Then, she turned her body around with the same strength from the tail tap, landing while facing the silver harpy with a smirk.

Tengliu's beautiful purple eyes widened, looking at the smirking Yasenia.

Then, like a little fangirl, she approached with stars in her eyes. "Wow, wow! You've become so fast, little Yasenia! Did your Spiritual Sense increase in range? Or was that all reaction speed?"

Yasenia chuckled. "You'll have to learn by yourself. However, I can tell you that I've had a big breakthrough."

Tengliu pouted and approached while batting her long eyelashes in a coquettish manner. "Please~, tell aunty Tengliu~."

Yasenia laughed again and shook her head. "Nope~. Let's go inside; I want to release all my skills on you."

Tengliu licked her lips. "That sounds quite charming~. You can release them and try to defeat Aunty Tengliu."

The dragoness rolled her eyes at the clearly sexual innuendo. Looking at her happy smile, she couldn't help but ask. "So, how are the rooms you've all received? Comfortable? I've heard that you have almost taken root in our sect, as you are returning to your clan less and less."

With a large smile, Tengliu walked by her side and answered. "Don't blame me. Living here is lovely~. Regarding the rooms, they are delightful. I'm really happy with mine!" Then, she added softly. "Thank you for not holding back when creating mine."

Yasenia looked at her and smiled. "Don't worry much, Aunty Tengliu."

Tengliu hugged her arm with a big smile and nodded. "Mm!" Then, she asked. "So, how much of my strength do you want me to use?"

Yasenia pondered and commented, not minding the skinship. "The last time I told you to fight me with a recently entered high-level Epoch Core, and I lost in five seconds, right?"

Tengliu nodded admirably. "Being an entire realm below and not being instantly defeated is unbelievable, little Yasenia. I was stunned at that time. After all, the High-Level Epoch Core is considered the top powerhouse of the continent. Even if peak ones exist, most of them are retired and trying to break through that last barrier without much success. So, being able to resist five long seconds against one is really good."

Yasenia asked. "Do you remember exactly how much strength you used back then?"

Tengliu patted her naked breasts, making them jiggle. "Of course! Do I use exactly the same to see your improvements?"

With a nod, the dragoness added. "Yes. I've broken through the early stages of the Ethereal Soul realm, and I'm getting close to maxing out my beast and spiritual paths, so I want to know how much I've improved."

Tengliu and Yasenia reached the arena and got inside one of the privately reserved ones.

A sect where conflict arose needed a place to vent those misgivings, so there was a rule that if the other party accepted, disciples would be able to fight to the death, bet with their treasures, etc. Of course, the sect needed to know specific reasons and if one of the parties involved was forced. But other than that, disciples had the "right" to kill each other legally.

In a World dominated by the Jungle Law, this kind of rule wasn't outrageous, as they prepared most of them for the future. The benefits far outweighed the disadvantages created by it.

After entering the arena, Tengliu and Yasenia separated and looked at each other for a few seconds.

Yasenia summoned [Draconic Heart] and took a deep breath, her facial expression cooling down as a torrent of energy burst from her body.

The enormous aura that spread made Tengliu's eyes twitch. 'She has grown this much? How is this possible?'

One after another, buffs rained on the dragoness, making the already tyrannical aura increasingly strong.

One after another, skills like [Celestial Cosmos Dress], [Draconic Waning Moon], [War Intent Level 3], [Monarch Intent Level 3], and many other buffs intertwined and continuously increased her strength.

Aura burst after aura burst, and Yasenia's aura began making the air around her tremble as it seemingly grew without end.

By the time Yasenia stopped, Tengliu's relaxed face became serious, feeling a slight sense of pressure.

"[First Sky: Pegasus Gallop]."

Fourteen stars appeared around her, and Yasenia pushed her body forward.

Tengliu's pupils shrunk as she focused on tracking Yasenia's speed burst.

BOOM!

The heavily reinforced floor under the dragoness cracked, and she shot forward with ridiculous speed. Tengliu had lost Yasenias track for a really short instant, not expecting such an abrupt acceleration.

By the time she reacted, Yasenias had crossed about two-thirds of the distance between them.

Tengliu didnt dare be careless, and she took a stance, ready to welcome Yasenias, increasing her own physical strength by using her skills that were limited to a new High-level Epoch Core.

"Come!"

With Tenglius shout, Yasenias stomped the ground again, pointing her sword forward.

"[Draconic Sun Charge]."

While she calculated the meeting point, Tengliu suddenly saw Yasenias accelerating once more, and her restrained reflexes almost failed to see the sword tip appearing just one meter before her chest. 'What?'

Still, even if she was retraining herself, Tengliu still had the strength of a High-level Epoch Core.

With quick movements, Tengliu took a step back and moved her palm sideways, striking the side of the sword before it struck her, deviating her strike with a loud explosion.

However, Yasenias wasnt carried forward without control as she expected. Instead, the dragon used her push to increase her momentum and lash with her tail as she spun her body.

Tengliu wanted to dodge back, but with utter fascination, she realized that Yasenias tail was too quick and long to dodge, leaving her with no other option but to defend.

With a smile, she crossed her arms and braced herself for impact.

"[Draconic Sunset]!"

BANG!

Her crossed arms and Yasenias tail met, creating a massive explosion that forced Tenglius talons to slide for about ten meters. Yasenias recuperated her stance and looked at Tengliu with cold and analytic eyes, preparing to charge at her again.

Meanwhile, Tengliu woke up from the stupor created by the strength behind the tail strike and burst into maniacal laughter as a chill of excitement and glee rushed across her body. "HAHAHAHA. STRONG! LITTLE YASENIA, YOU'VE BECOME SO STRONG!"

Then, with a wide grin, Tengliu rushed forward. Yasenias every fiber tensed as her senses were pushed to the limits. 'Left!'

Sliding her left foot in an arc to move her body, the dragoness lowered her stance and placed her sword before the attack, coating it in energy to increase her defensive strength.

BOOM!

Yasenias clenched her teeth as she felt Tenglius tyrannical strength hit her sword. Her arms cried in protest as they barely absorbed the shock, and her body slid backward for about 100 meters.

Even before she could regain her stance, Tengliu appeared at her right, sweeping her leg toward her stomach.

With practiced and quick motions, Yaseenia spun her sword and met the kick with [Draconic Sunrise].

A flash of golden light followed a sonorous sound.

CLANG!

A metallic sound that a sword meeting with a leg shouldn't make spread around as sparks flew while the sword slid across the bird-like leg.

However, that balance was only maintained for a fraction of a second, and right after, the monstrous strength behind the leg strike blasted the gigantic sword backward together with the dragon woman, making Yaseenia fly.

Tengliu grinned. "Yaseenia, you are too light!"

The dragoness snorted as she regained her position mid-air, using [Cosmos Body Reinforcement], a Body Cultivation strengthening technique. She had used her spiritual arts until now and none of the body cultivation skills.

When Tengliu appeared again like a ghost by her side, Yaseenia could see her movements much more clearly. Quickly, she turned around and slashed horizontally. "[Draconic Crescent Moon]."

Frost followed her sword's motion, creating a beautiful silver trail, and another collision occurred.

This time, while Yaseenia was blasted backward, she had much more control over her sliding body than before.

Tengliu's purple eyes shone with appreciation, and she continued a relentless pursuit. Yaseenia answered with her breath attack, claw attacks, body cultivation techniques, and spiritual techniques.

Continuous explosions were heard in the arena as Tengliu attacked without pause, using the strength of a recently crossed High-Level Epoch Core strength and pushing Yaseenia to the limits with each strike.

If the dragoness lost concentration for a fraction of a second, she knew that a few of her bones would duplicate without her consent.

Still, while Yaseenia was on the defensive, her previous limit of five seconds had long passed.

Tengliu marveled at Yaseenia's resilience and ability to answer. Because this was a spar, she knew that Yaseenia was not using her berserk or skills that could self-damage her. She still had fresh in her mind the terrifying strength that the skills that bore the "Celestial" moniker had.

10 seconds... 20 seconds... 30 seconds...

Yaseenia released her body and spiritual path skills one after another, all her meridians pumping energy like crazy around her body.

Unlike in the past, the strain was much more manageable, and her energy and body followed her thoughts with unprecedented clarity.

Tengliu's attack speed constantly increased as the battle went on, attacking in places where Yaseenia couldn't block and landing many hits on her.

Still, unlike in the past when her body almost exploded with each of Tengliu's attacks, now she was able to absorb the powerful blows without crumbling helplessly. Naturally, they hurt like hell, and each strike managed to fracture and break something inside her, but she could continue fighting even as purple and swollen spots appeared all around her body.

The fight continued, and Tengliu's eyes flashed. 'I got you.'

Tengliu's palm sneaked through her defense after a misstep caused by Yasenias bruised leg not responding as she wanted, and the dragoness was unable to block the palm strike.

It landed squarely on her chest.

BOOM

"GAH!"

Yasenia felt the air being forcefully expelled out of her lungs as her rib cage sunk inward and her body streaked like a comet through the arena.

BANG!

Carrying tremendous speed, she smashed against the distant wall with a loud explosive sound, her head ringing and her vision disoriented.

Even then, she steeled her mind and used her spiritual sense to seek where Tengliu was, ready to stand up from her prone position and continue the battle.

However...

"I won~."

Yasenia smiled wryly when she saw Tengliu's clenched fist one inch from her forehead. If that attack had landed, the wall behind Yasenia would've been painted by her brain matter.

She readily admitted defeat for the umpteenth time. "You won, cough!"

As she spoke, Yasenia spat a mouthful of blood. That last palm strike had shattered a few internal organs.

Tengliu crouched and gently patted her back. "You were amazing, Yasenia. I took two minutes and five seconds to kill you!"

Yasenia turned around, her body aching everywhere, and fell on her back with a sigh. Her energy was working to heal her body, so there was itchiness in the places it worked, making her extremely uncomfortable. Still, she was accustomed, so her face didn't change.

"It's not bad. However, I expected to be at least able to land a solid hit or two. You blocked everything."

Tengliu shamelessly lay by her side, snuggling close to her, making Yasenia look at her disapprovingly.

However, the thickness of Tengliu's face could be compared to an armored city wall, so she just blinked cutely with a smirk. "You must remember that I'm not a real "recently broken through" High-Level Epoch Core. No matter how much I hold back, controlling the reaction speed and many other factors completely is impossible. Moreover, you haven't used any of your berserk skills or

your dragon form. I think that your current effective combat strength is already on par with or superior to those "genius" middle-level Epoch Cores that are about to break through."

Yasenia pondered and felt that it might be the truth. She felt a pair of soft lips landing on her cheek, and she looked at the harpy. "As I said, you are extremely strong. Be proud."

Yasenia shook her head and sighed. "I'm not. With my current strength, I will soon die. I need to be even stronger."

Tengliu frowned, showing killing intent. "What do you mean? Let's see who dares kill you with me nearby!"

Yasenia smirked. "The Heavens."

Tengliu's valiant expression wilted, and she coughed. "Right, you have those abnormal tribulations."

Yasenia patted Tengliu's butt twice, asking her to get off from her body. She complied, and they both stood up.

Walking outside, Yasenia muttered. "A little bit more than a year for the summit. I need to prepare."

It wasn't only Yasenia but all the other girls who entered frenzied cultivation.

Chapter 748: Sierra's and Ebirah's Breakthroughs.

For the first eight months, Yasenia tried to push her Spiritual Cultivation and Beast Cultivation to the limits of the fourth realm, letting Body Cultivation aside.

The other girls were also pushing their cultivation further, all of them reaching the half-step Unification Realm.

Cecile and Kali also focused on improving their beast cultivation, reaching similarly the tenth level of the Fusion Core beast realm. To increase beast cultivation, time was not as influential as resources.

Beast Cultivation couldn't be practiced intently, so the only way to increase it was by eating a lot of Beast Cores and other resources like spiritual herbs, fruits, etc., that would aid with the beast's development.

With Yasenia's ring's garden being boosted by the Heaven-Born Earth Core Natural Treasure named [Earthquake Splitting Rumbling Earth Core], regrowing the fruits that worked and provided a gentle boost without creating impurities was not hard. Plus, her ring had a spiritual-herb-growth accelerating function, so they didn't lack resources to feed five beasts, even if Yasenia needed as much as the other four combined.

With that, Ebirah and Sierra managed to reach not only the peak of the fourth realm but also consolidate their bodies and cores.

They were in the place to receive tribulations to advance into the Legendary Core Beast Realm. They would be the first to enter the fifth realm out of all the girls.

Andrea looked at Ebirah and asked. "Are you prepared, Ebirah?"

Ebirah clenched her little fists and raised them cutely. "Yeah!"

The light reflected on her beautiful pink crystal-like tail, beautifying her surroundings with just her presence.

Coraline and a few other leaders were also here to spectate. After all, Ebirah was Coraline's daughter, and as a show of respect, attending the tribulation was a matter of courtesy.

Ebirah stepped forward with a confident gait, and her body began glowing with beautiful white, pink, and golden lights.

In a short while, her body grew explosively, and she transformed into her beast form.

The enormous pink lobster looked extremely beautiful, with streamlined curves and a gleaming shell. Her agile-looking body and perfectly slender claws gave her a charm you wouldn't expect from a crustacean. Her eight legs, with crystal-like pink carapace, moved elegantly, carrying her heavy body to the center of the place.

Then, her armored tail looked finely crafted and slender, as if an artisan had taken their time carving her body, finishing her gorgeous body in a fan-like tail that reflected the light ethereally.

The girls couldn't help but exclaim in awe each time they saw Ebirah's beast form; she was extremely beautiful.

Ebirah's head flexibly looked upward; unlike normal lobsters, she had extra joints, carapace sections, and overall increased mobility, making her highly mobile. "Come!"

Her cute voice echoed, and then, her aura ballooned.

A massive hurricane of energy began gathering. Streaks of blue, yellow, and golden moved at her, expressing her Earth, Water, and Sun affinities.

In the sky, dark grey Tribulation Clouds gathered, slowly accumulating lightning bolts. One after another and with a rumbling roar, 81 Lightning Bolts gathered.

That was the standard number for creatures crossing into the Fifth Realm.

Seeing that her daughter wasn't "contaminated" by Yasenia's ridiculous cultivators, Coraline released the breath she was holding. 'Although the bolts are certainly stronger than usual, it is completely manageable.'

Tengliu laughed. "You look relieved, Coraline."

Coraline nodded without shame and said honestly. "I thought that spending time with Yasenia, the tribulations would become crazy and attack her relentlessly."

Yasenias smiled wryly. "It's not contagious."

Coraline looked at her with an apologetic gaze, but Tatyana's words silenced her. "It actually is."

Yasenias and the rest looked at the Death Empress with questioning looks, and Tatyana smiled. "The Heavenly Tribulation is increased by Karma and many other factors, like bloodline, constitution, and if a creature has done anything to go against the Heavens. If someone stays close to Yasenia for a long time, they will be affected by Yasenia's Karma, so the Heavens will naturally increase the strength of their tribulations, sensing that the creatures are close to the one going against them."

Wuria, the Glass Scale Lamia Leader, asked. "So If we join little Yasenia's Alliance Will we also be affected?"

Tatyana smiled and nodded, making them flinch. Tatyana rolled her eyes. "Why are you flinching? It is a good thing!"

The leaders looked at Tatyana with a deadpan, and Tatyana sighed and explained. "What does the Heavenly Tribulation being stronger entail?"

Du Xian, who was actually present, muttered. "More pain?"

Tatyana looked at the cute squirrel woman with an exasperated look. "Du Xian, I know that you are young, but you are the leader of a race. Try to think deeper."

Tengliu laughed. "Only you can call a several-hundred-year-old woman 'young,' hahaha."

Tatyana asked Tengliu. "Have you thought of an answer?"

Tengliu nodded and answered seriously. "The Tribulation being stronger means that there will be more Heavenly Energy concentrated, and if we manage to survive, it will make us stronger than our peers. While increasing a Tribulation's strength is dangerous, danger and reward go hand in hand, as that is only fair. The Heavens can't do anything unfair."

Du Xian understood. "I see, high risk, high reward." She paused and looked at Yasenia. "Then, what about Yasenia?"

The other leaders also looked at the dragoness with realization and wondered how many benefits Yasenia was getting for surviving her crazy tribulations.

Tatyana smiled. "She wouldn't have the strength to fight against some High-level Epoch Core cultivators if it weren't like that. Moreover, she has yet to cultivate her three paths to the limits, so she is far from her power ceiling before ascending to the fifth realm."

The leaders gulped, and Wuria asked. "Say, Lady Tatyana. Will Yasenia be able to fight us when she breaks through?"

Tatyana shrugged and honestly admitted. "I don't know. I've tried to predict Yasenia's growth a few times without using skills, and I've failed quite miserably each time. In my initial assessment, one I made before she started the cultivation path, I predicted that at this point in time, about ten years after she started cultivating without my help, Yasenia should've been around level 7~9 Unification Realm."

The leaders were confused. Coraline asked as she saw Ebirah smashing the lightning bolts one after another. "Isn't Yasenia 54 years old? She is slower than what you predicted, no?"

Tatyana smiled and took out a bone-age measuring device. "Use it, Little Treasure."

Yasenia placed her hand on it, and a number that made the leaders doubt their eyes appeared.

Gireila, the Ember Phoenix Race Leader, exclaimed. "T-Thirty-one-years-old!?"

The leaders looked at Yasenia with horror in their eyes. Yasenia laughed. "I'm 54, but I gained 23 of those years in a special way, so It's normal for the device to be confused. This measures bone age, not mental age, after all."

Angel muttered, her face burning. "I almost forgot that Yasenia was actually almost four years younger than me." The fact that she acted like a baby since almost day one with someone younger was a bit embarrassing, no matter how pampered Angel was.

Andrea coughed. "She was more than a decade younger than me."

Evelyn smirked and was about to tease Andrea, but she received a gaze from a pair of red eyes that made the words stuck in her throat. She coughed and commented. "that's nothing, Andrea. Don't worry much."

Andrea looked strangely at her. "So rare that you actually say something normal."

Tengliu looked at Ebirah, who was repelling the last five bolts and looked back at Yassenia. "So How did you gain those 23 extra years, little Yassenia?"

Yassenia smiled. "A Trial in a secret realm extended two weeks into 23 years of experience."

Coraline muttered, her eyes still locked on Ebirah. "Such a magical thing is possible? I thought Time was immutable and impossible to alter."

Tatyana added. "Slowing or speeding time in an area to a certain extent becomes possible after reaching a certain level of strength. But the effects are very, very limited. Even I, with very time-consuming and complex formations, can barely alter it. The effort is not worth the results yet."

Evelyn asked, stunned. "How strong is the person who created that secret realm, then? They could dilate two weeks into nearly 1250 weeks!"

The leaders also stiffened.

Only Coraline spoke after seeing Ebirah cross successfully. Her voice was laced with pride and emotion, and she walked forward to hug her little daughter, who had returned to her humanoid form. "It still feels like yesterday when I gave birth to you, love. And yet, you've crossed the fifth realm to become a Legendary Core Beast. I'm so proud of you."

Ebirah laughed happily and snuggled close to her, burying her face in her breasts while her lobster tail flopped up and down. "Mommy~."

Coraline patted Ebirah's head full of pink, soft hair with a gentle smile and looked at Yassenia. The gratitude in her purple eyes was evident. "Thank you for lending her the Transcendence Ranked materials for her breakthrough, little Yassenia. I know it's not much, but I swear that the Lobster Race will live and die with the Astral Sky Clan as long as I'm their leader."

Yassenia laughed. "No need for that, Auntie Coraline. As Andrea's contracted beast, Ebirah is part of my family. Giving her less than the best is not something I would want to do."

Ebirah laughed sweetly, and like a little bird, she left Coralline's arms to hug Yassenia, her face accurately diving into the deep valley. "Thank you~."

Yassenia patted her head softly, looking at the other person about to break through. "Ready?"

Sierra nodded resolutely and walked forward.

If Ebirah had little problems with the Tribulation, Sierra, as a [Winter Tribulation Thunderstorm Wolf Queen], had even less.

Without any signs of struggling even once, not only did Sierra break through into the fifth realm smoothly, but she also surpassed Kali's bloodline level and crossed into the low-level Ancient Beast Bloodline.

Once the Tribulation finished and her aura spread around, the faces of the people spectating became stiff. Ancient Beasts were entirely above the maximum level Distancia's beasts could reach. Even Ebirah was "only" a peak-level Divine Beast.

Of course, the main reason for Sierra's explosive growth was that for Sierra, Heavenly Tribulations were nothing but nourishment.

Yasenia looked at Sierra and asked with a laugh. "How is it? Do you feel stronger?"

Sierra blinked and smirked at Yasenia. "I think I'm not far from you, Lady Yasenia."

Yasenia lifted an eyebrow and disappeared from her position, reappearing at Sierra's side while punching without holding back, using her bodily strength.

Sierra turned around with a wild grin and met her head-on with pure physical strength.

BOOM!

A massive shockwave spread around, forcing Sierra to take ten steps back, leaving behind deep footprints in the solid ground.

Meanwhile, Yasenia moved back five steps, which surprised the dragoness. Yasenia laughed. "Not bad."

Sierra rolled her eyes in exasperation. "You are still physically stronger? What the heck are you made out of, Lady Yasenia? Heavenly Steel?"

Yasenia smugly moved her chest to make it jiggle from side to side. "I don't know what you are talking about. I'm actually very soft and delicate. Hugging me is softer than hugging a pillow."

Sierra looked down, and her lips twitched. "I can't refute it But why are you still stronger?"

Yasenia blinked. "I'm a Dragon."

Sierra and the others wanted to complain, but they all couldn't say anything. The leaders have been informed about "common" information about the outside world, not being as ignorant as before, so they also didn't say anything.

Who would've thought that the dragons that they looked at as a lower-ranked species would be so tyrannical outside Distancia?

The leaders wanted to cry as almost everything they considered "normal" was completely overturned.

Evelyn trotted forward and hugged Sierra with a wide smile. "Congratulations, Sierra! You are a Legendary Core Beast!"

Sierra smirked. "A level two one, at that."

Evelyn blinked. "Eh?"

Sierra laughed. "I managed to make a small breakthrough after absorbing all the Tribulation Energy."

The rest who heard her wanted to bite her out of envy. 'Her bloodline is a cheat!'

The Forest Sky Empress appeared and looked at Yasenia. "Little Yasenia, we can finally reveal where the gathering will occur."

Chapter 749: Location for the summit. Swordmaster Eira.

The Forest Sky Empress spoke. "The place is called [Ascending Ocean City], a coastal city controlled by the Mermaid Race.

Evelyn tilted her head and commented. "A curious name."

The Forest Sky Empress laughed. "The city is special because it is half sunken into the sea and half afloat. If you looked at it without knowing, it might look like a city that was swallowed by the sea. However, there are plenty of people living there, as it is one of the Mermaid Race's main cities, with over 800 million inhabitants, counting both sea and land species."

Yasenia became interested and asked. "Do you have an illustration of it? I would love to see how it looks."

The Empress nodded and showed her the sight of a massive city that spread from inland into the sea. On the dividing part where the sea began engulfing the buildings, you could see a change in architecture. It was a charming and prosperous city.

Tatyana asked her. "How many people can each power carry over there? I doubt that it is limitless."

The Forest Sky Empress answered respectfully. "Lady Tatyana, each power can gather up to 100 powerhouses for the visit. Each power will also put forth five participants, and up to 300 Ethereal Soul and below experts are allowed to accompany the main party."

Andrea asked. "Powerhouses?"

It was Coraline who clarified. "People in the Epoch Core Realm."

Andrea realized and nodded. "Thanks, Coraline."

Coraline frowned and tapped her forehead. "Didn't I tell you to call me mother? You are little Ebirah's partner, so we are basically family."

Andrea felt a bit bashful and nodded, scratching her cheek with a finger. "Okay, Mother."

Coraline smiled, satisfied, and tiptoed to pat Andrea's tall head. "Good."

During the last few years, Coraline has observed Andrea's personality and attitude closely, and she couldn't feel more relaxed in leaving Ebirah to her.

While acting was possible, hiding the true nature during all the time she had looked over them was impossible. It was clear that Andrea was an honorable, just, reliable, and hard-working woman. Leaving her daughter with a person like that was nothing but relaxing for Coraline.

So, after realizing what kind of person Andrea was, Coraline didn't even care if she was a human and treated Andrea as if she were her own child.

Tatyana looked at Yasenia and asked teasingly. "What are the arrangements, Sect Master?"

Yasenia thought and commented seriously. "All 50 maids will come; Ebirah and Sierra count as an extra two powerhouses, making that 52. Then, we can arrange all the middle-level Epoch Core and above. With this, filling the 100 total quotas will be easy."

After absorbing Holy Maple City, the sect's population quite literally multiplied by ten after one round of recruiting, making the number of people inside break through the 500,000 mark with as many as 600 Epoch Cores. Between those, about 90 are middle-level Epoch Cores, and 2 are High-level Epoch Cores, not taking into account the maids.

Compared to before, it was a large improvement.

While thinking about that, Yasenia called someone with the help of the formation.

After waiting for a few seconds, a harpy appeared, flapping her brow wings. "You called, Yasenia?"

Tengliu's eyebrow raised, looking at the woman who appeared as if she didn't recognize her. 'Such a big change.'

The dragoness nodded and explained the situation. "Ghana, you will be in charge of the entire sect when I leave with the maids." Ghana's eyes opened, and Yasenia smirked. "It's time to show me if all my nurturing has been worth it or not."

Ghana smiled, delighted, and bowed deeply, not caring about her naked chest bouncing. "I'll do my best, Sect Master!"

Evelyn sighed with emotion. "Harpies are such a wonderful race."

BANG!

Ignoring the woman who flew in a perfect arc, the Nine Golden Body Sect Patriarch was also here, and he asked. "Yasenia, who are you sending to participate in this summit?"

Yasenia smiled and pointed at herself.

The leaders froze, and The Forest Sky Empress approached with a worried look. "Little Yasenia, I know you are strong, but the people we will send are not weak at all. Isn't it too risky? What if there is an accident?"

Yasenia shook her head. "I need to hone my skills. This is a chance I can't let go of. Andrea, Kali, and Cecile will also participate together with me. As for the fifth participant, I'll ask Eira to come forth."

Tengliu tilted her head, not knowing who this person was. "Eira? I've never heard that name."

Yasenia smiled and looked to her right. "Come here, Eira."

They turned their heads, and a pure white woman stole their breath away.

A petite human woman wearing a white ethereal dress and carrying a silver sword hiding in its white scabbard on her waist stepped forward. Her hair was similarly white, and her eyes were silver, making her pupils and iris barely distinguishable from her sclera. With a lithe and delicate figure, her beauty was similar to the reflection of the Moon: delicate, cold, and illusory.

Even her eyelashes, eyebrows, and skin were white without looking sickly. It was an ethereal white color that gave a sense of mystery and beauty. The only color on her face came from her pursed petal lips, which added a charm to her overall being.

The short woman rested her hand on the pommel of her sword and bowed lightly. "Young Miss, did you call?"

Eira's voice was like a clear stream of water trickling down a mountain path, pleasant and relaxing.

Yasenia saw the various leaders' lips twitch when they realized that her fifth participant was a maid. She couldn't help but laugh a bit and present her while placing her hand on her fluffy white hair.

"She is a Level Six Dantian Spiritualization specialized in the Sword Path, one of my maids. In your words, she is middle-level Epoch Core on the verge of breaking through into the High-Level Epoch Core. The limit for this summit was as such, right?"

Eira's silver eyes turned toward them, and the leaders felt like someone was poking them with an absurdly sharp sword.

The feeling around Eira was that of a sheathed sword hiding her cold edge. Still, they could feel that once she revealed her sharpness, it would be extremely dangerous.

Tengliu frowned, bewildered. "Why do I feel as much danger coming from her as some of your strongest maids, Little Yasenia? She is relatively low-level, right?"

Yasenia hugged Eira over her shoulders, burying her cold face in her breasts, and proudly said. "Eira is a genius sword master who reached the [Sword Intent Level Nine] right after entering the Dantian Spiritualization Realm. She has the [Divine Sky Sword] constitution, boasting the greatest single target lethality between all my mortal maids."

Yasenia grinned. "In a way, she has talent no less than my own."

The leaders almost choked. 'Level what now!? And just after entering the fifth realm!? What about now?'

Yasenia saw their faces and laughed, answering their unasked question. "She is still at level nine, which is the limit, due to her lack of cultivation. However, she has perfected her Sword Intent to a terrifying point."

Yasenia looked down and smiled. "I'm honestly unsure how strong she is."

They looked at Eira's cold face with wonder, but their expressions immediately crumbled when the aloof and pure woman with a flushed face and rubbing herself in the dragoness's arms, sniffing around with an intoxicated expression. "Young Miss's scent~. Young Miss's body~. So nice~, so soft~. Young Miss~, Young Miss~."

Yasenia smiled and used her tail to pat her head. The woman almost began purring in comfort.

Tatyana smiled. "Her talent, combat-wise, is not much worse than Yasenia's before she got the Body Realm Cultivation Technique. When I picked her up in an orphanage, I really couldn't believe my eyes. She is one of the few maids who passed most of my training regime without spilling blood. A true unparalleled genius."

Coraline saw her obedient form and asked with a soft laugh. "When did she become so fond of little Yasenia?"

Tatyana smiled. "When Yasenia first saw her when she was little, she stuck to her and showered Eira with compliments because of her appearance. Eira was so flustered at that time that she didn't know what to do; it was her first time interacting with children, after all, hahaha. While taking care of young Yasenia, she naturally came to like her as protective feelings sprouted in her."

Alaia, at the side, smiled. "Eira has an entire wall filled with Yasenia's photos in her personal room." Then, she chuckled. "I still remember that one time she secretly stole Yasenia's sheets to replace her own. She got quite a scolding back then."

The leaders looked at them with cold sweat on their foreheads. "Why are these two looking at that as if it were endearing!? Isn't Eira a completely obsessed woman!? A sickly obsessed one, at that!"

Evelyn muttered. "Oh! She is one of the Yandere Tatyana spoke about in the past!"

Tatyana proudly smiled. "One of my people!"

The Forest Sky Empress was curious and asked. "Eira, can you attack me once with the intent to kill? I want to see your strength."

Eira ignored her, but Yasenia asked softly. "Can you show her?"

Eira paused and looked at the Forest Sky Empress with an annoyed face for interrupting her cuddle time with Yasenia.

Separating from her arms, Eira's entire demeanor changed as she became as cold as a 1000-year-old piece of ice. "Sure. Don't die."

The Forest Sky Empress felt a chill climb up her spine as her instincts tingled. She flew upward, and Eira followed, leisurely floating about five kilometers apart.

When Eira grabbed her sword's hilt and began unsheathing it, the world around her dimmed, making her pure white appearance glow as if she were the center of the World.

HOWL!

With a piercing sword howl, everything around Eira began being cut into pieces, air included. Sword lights radiated from her, and those that landed on the ground cut the floor.

Her long white hair fluttered with the wind generated, and the further her sword was released from her scabbard, the sharper the aura became.

The hard stone in the Tribulation Plaza was like mud meeting a sword, being lacerated left and right.

The Forest Sky Empress's expression hardened as she unhesitatingly used all of her defensive skills. The sight of the floor that could resist Heavenly Tribulation being sliced was a good warning of what was about to come.

Eira continued unsheathing her sword, and when the tip of her silver sword entirely left the scabbard, her eyes began glowing with an ethereal silver light as her piercing aura fully unleashed and the hurricane of sword lights disappeared, leaving a silent aura around Eira.

However, that calm was 100 times more fearful than the raging storm.

The Forest Sky Empress's heart sank, and she stuttered. "W-Wait."

It was too late.

After gathering her energy, Eira moved her sword diagonally. "[Sword Intent Level Nine], [Sky Splitter]."

SLASH!

The strike was so fast that the friction with the air created a blinding flash of light.

The Forest Sky Empress hastily used one of her strongest defensive items. "[Sky Forest Mountain]!"

A massive island, two kilometers across, appeared in between them.

Silence followed the sword strike, only leaving Eira's actions

Eira flicked her sword once and returned it to its sheath, floating downwards like a little bird returning to her nest and snuggling in Yasenia's arms again.

The people were frightened and looked at the stiffened Forest Sky Empress in the sky.

Then, a line appeared alongside the giant mountain that extended backward.

BANG!

The mountain was divided diagonally and revealed the Forest Sky Empress. They were glad that she was okay, but their faces changed when the same started happening to her.

From her shoulder to her waist, a red line spread, bursting with blood right after.

The Forest Sky Empress vomited a liter of blood as she fell from the sky, her eyes filled with horror. 'Oh, my heavens, I almost died! If it weren't for my protective artifact. I would've been sliced in half!'

A rumbling sound was heard by them, making the people confused, and following the sound, they saw a mountaintop in the distance crumbling sideways. Their eyes began twitching as all their instincts rejected the idea of facing Eira.

Looking back at the sweetly smiling petite girl in Yasenia's arms, they gulped. 'Monster.'

Tatyana smiled at the Forest Sky Empress. "This is a good lesson. The worst thing you can do against a sword master is give them time to prepare. Even if they are a realm below, sword masters can kill people with one hit if the conditions are right." Then, she praised the heavily injured woman. "Still, your body is extremely resilient. You managed to block the attack, which is praiseworthy."

The Forest Sky Empress didn't know whether to laugh or cry, so she smiled tremblingly. "T-Thank you for the advice. It would've been nice hearing it one minute before, though."

Tengliu approached Yasenia with a coquettish smile. "Yasenia, can you ask Lady Eira to be merciful toward our participants?"

'Joke! A single sword strike almost killed a top-10 powerhouse. How can weak middle-level Epoch Cores resist!?'

Eira moved her eyes, glaring at Tengliu, making the bird freeze in her steps.

Yasenia laughed. "Don't worry, she won't participate unless our life is endangered. She is there mostly to take care of us than to participate. If we lose, that's that. Only if people try to kill me will she step forward."

The leaders sighed in relief. 'If that monster could participate at will, they might as well forget from fighting for the first place.'

Chapter 750: Contact.

With everything sorted out, the only thing left to prepare was the list of Ethereal Soul Cultivators. From the 300 slots, she reserved 70 to use at will.

Then, for the remaining ones, Yasenia created a tournament where the top 230 would gain the ability to attend, placing 220 Peak-Level Earth rank material as a reward, and for the top 10, there would be seven low-level, two mid-level, and finally, one High-Level Heaven ranked material.

Materials were not as valuable as equipment, but they were good enough to make everyone excited. A High-Level Heaven-Ranked material, whether a spiritual ore or an herb, was costly and rare.

The tournament was hosted in the Astral Dragon City the month before the summit and lasted for a week.

It was an excellent way to increase traffic in the new city and show people who didn't want to come how the city had improved.

Remember that formations enhanced the ambient energy, so when people from all over the world arrived, they almost became green of envy toward those living here.

The faces of those people made the inhabitants feel smug, and public opinion toward Yasenia increased by several notches.

All in all, it was another successful action that increased Astral Sky Sect's prestige around the entire Continent.

The Continental Shadows kept their heads down the entire time because the other top powers' leaders attended, squashing any intention of creating harm.

Therefore, on the Wolf Main City closest to the Astral Dragon City, the Continental Shadows gathered.

Fu Lang Zu was sitting on his chair inside one of the deepest rooms, surrounded by other leaders from the Continental Shadows. The room was spacious, and the numerous beast-human races gathered around created an exotic environment.

The Assassin sect leader opened the conversation with his usual cold and emotionless tone. "Things are getting out of hand. Yasenia's active involvement has shaken the foundations of the continent with much more strength than we expected."

A sect master from a strong second-rate sect asked. "Can't you kill her? Although it might anger many people, I think it is better to have Yasenia gone rather than her being present. Didn't people from both the World Arbiters and Supremes join her? Without her, they will fall apart like before. Even if there is a small War, it will probably be better than whatever is accumulating right now."

A muscular man with fins on his neck and a relatively handsome face, wearing imposing royal robes, spoke. "There is no need."

Once he spoke, all eyes gathered toward him. Fu Lang Zu lifted an eyebrow and asked with a sneer. "Oh? You are finally willing to speak, Azure? I've already lost an arm and a leg, something that wouldn't have happened if you had allowed me to act as I pleased right when I asked you to."

The man looked at him and snorted. "Don't speak so freely, Fu Lang Zu. I thought that you showed promise, but every action you took after Yasenía Dravory appeared has been nothing but pathetic and disappointing."

Fu Lang Zu roared. "Emperor Azure Abyss, don't go too far! That pathetic dragon is nothing but a small obstacle that I can squash whenever I want!"

Emperor Azure Abyss looked at him with cold and muddy eyes. "There is no need for you to step out anymore." Then, looking toward the doors, he spoke. "You can enter."

Everyone was confused.

The doors opened with a loud bang, and a tall man with reddish skin and a pair of curved horns stepped forward, followed by another five creatures very different from himself but looking from the same race, as every one of them had six pairs of fleshy wings.

All of them had horns, colored skin, wings, and a profound aura that put pressure on everyone gathered there. Some of them had animal features, adding to their uniqueness.

"Emperor of the Ocean Chasm Empire, you made us wait too long."

The leader of the group radiated a natural heat, reaching up to 3 meters in height, and the aura around him was extremely tyrannical.

Fu Lang Zu's face hardened, feeling extreme danger from him. "Who are you?"

The man turned his head toward him and smiled toothily. "Demons."

Meanwhile, the Holy Beast Emperor was sitting in his throne room, looking at the six people before him with a stern expression.

The man at the lead had a profound aura and a serene expression. His facial features were finely crafted and masculine, as the twelve blue-feathered wings at his back glowed with an otherworldly aura. "Leader of the Holy Beast Empire, don't look at us that way. We are here to talk, and we want to avoid conflicts if possible."

His deep and soothing voice was pleasant to the ears.

The Holy Beast Emperor smiled lightly, but there was a hint of disdain in his tone. "Even if you say that, you are demanding all of our high-level cultivation techniques."

The man facing him smiled. "This place is really backward, so we don't blame the Emperor. Many beings are proud of being the leaders of their world. It is, after all, a fine accomplishment. However, for us, Divines, we would only need to tell one of our seniors, and before you could react, this World would disappear."

The woman by the Holy Beast Emperor's side, the Empress of the Holy Beast Empire, sneered. "Is that a threat?"

The man laughed. "Not at all. Just an objective evaluation of the situation you are currently entering." He continued. "We are being quite generous by only asking for your strongest cultivation methods to protect this kind of backward world. We would usually demand 80% of the resources that come from this World."

The Holy Beast Emperor patted the hand of his Empress to signal her not to speak. "What if we are already in a cooperative situation with an otherworldly power?"

The woman by the man from the Divine race crossed her arms and snorted. "My senior brother is being kind and respectful, but you are showing extremely rude behavior! What is there to fear? Would they even dare face us, Divines? As long as they are not ignorant, they will take a step back like all creatures do before us!"

"Auriel."

The woman pouted, her twelve blue and white wings flapping in protest. "But, Senior Brother Selioranis, they are being disrespectful!"

The man patted her head and smiled. "They are ignorant people, so we must not blame them for their disrespect. As Divines, we carry justice. Moreover, Demons have already arrived in this World. Even if they don't accept now, they will come back later begging for us to save them from those foul creatures."

He spoke aloud, not bothering to hide his words, which made the Holy Beast Emperor internally angry. However, he didn't act on it, as he was accustomed to being taken advantage of by aliens. 'At least Tatyana's offers have proven not to be as invasive as the ones of these people Moreover'

He felt their auras and frowned. 'I don't like how they smell.'

A dragon man, he was quite sharp, and he could sniff out the arrogance behind their gentle smiles.

"Regardless, your conditions are too much. We decline."

The blue-haired, blue-feathered man put on a troubled expression. "I see The next time we come, we won't offer such good conditions, though. Are you sure?"

The Holy Beast Emperor nodded, making Auriel burst into anger. "Ungrateful half-lizard! Not even true dragons dare oppose us, and you are arrogant enough to go against us!?"

The guards at the side burst forth with tremendous auras, unsheathing their weapons. "BOLD!"

Auriel looked around with an angry face. "You dare face me!? Insolent creatures!"

Then, she released her own aura.

BOOOM!

The space around her shook terribly, pushing back all the guards against the walls and creating cracks along the entire throne room.

Her aura felt as if a giant had descended, making everyone feel like a giant mountain was resting on their backs.

The Holy Beast Empress's face hardened. 'Peak Level Epoch Core!?'

Even the Holy Beast Emperor's face became serious.

Naturally, they weren't Body Cultivators, but the signals were those of a peak-level Fifth realm cultivator. Moreover, a very strong one at that.

A woman with blonde, silver hair, six silver wings, and six golden wings hugged Auriel's arm. "Big sister, don't get mad."

Auriel relaxed her aura and looked at the woman hugging her arm. Then, she protested while looking at the man. "Hmph, Senior Brother Selioranis, let's participate in whatever summit thing we heard about in the past and show them the difference between us. Junior Sister Wyrin and her friends can participate. If we stomp everyone, they might gain some reason in their rotten brains."

The man laughed softly. "Okay. Let's do that. What do you say, Wyrin?"

The half-golden, half-silver feathered woman smiled gently. "Sure. We can do that. We've come out to training other than searching that treasure, after all."

Then, Selioranis looked at the emperor and smiled. "I hope you are still as arrogant as now the next time we see each other."

With a flash of light, the six feathered-winged beings disappeared.

The guards at the side slowly stood up, their bodies hurting, and they fell to their knees. The Royal Guard Leader, Monarch Beastmaster, exclaimed. "Emperor, we were useless. Please punish us!"

The Holy Beast Emperor waved his hand. "Stand up and send a letter to the Astral Sky Clan. Things are getting more complicated faster than we anticipated."

Meanwhile, in a cave found in the middle of a large desert, another group of six appeared. They were all humans.

Once they entered the cave and went to the large and extravagant "altar" in the middle, their eyebrows got increasingly tangled. One man spoke. "Senior Sister An, are you sure that this is the strongest independent human power of the continent?"

The beautiful woman looking at the compass nodded with a troubled expression. Their spiritual senses only caught one Dantian Spiritualization Realm cultivator. Moreover, this woman was only a level three Dantian Spiritualization woman.

Once they entered the altar, ignoring all the weak humans guarding it, they walked through a few passages and reached an open room.

There, they saw a beautiful woman wearing a semi-transparent white dress, looking up with a pious expression as a constant trickle of blood fell on her semi-exposed chest.

Complex blood auras and energy torrents constantly rushed at her, increasing her cultivation at breakneck speeds.

The woman moved her eyes and looked at them. "Oh, new believers. Have you come to prostrate yourselves before I, Tang Xian, and bath in the blood of the Beast Human sinners of the world?"

One of the men looked on with a strange expression. "Even if this scene is arousing I think she is crazy."

An Meiling, the leader of this group, sighed. "After not seeing many humans around this world, I knew that our race's situation would be bad, but" Looking around, she didn't finish her words.

The man at her side asked. "So? What do we do? That woman has fallen into the Demonic Path head first. Quite a rare thing for a Fate-attributed cultivator, to be honest."

Another man muttered. "I mean, I can feel that her breakthroughs are happening extremely quickly. Her strength gain is unreliably fast. While she might reach the peak of Dantian Spiritualization in

not many years, with her foundation, overcoming the Transcendent Realm Heavenly Tribulation might be impossible."

While they discussed, An Meiling looked at the woman looking at them with tranquil eyes that hid pure madness and pondered. "Tang Xian, right?"

Tang Xian laughed. "You can call me Holy Daughter. I'm the one to inherit the almighty Tang Family of the Sky Continent and also the woman who was tasked by the heavens to eliminate all the filth in this sinful world! We, humans, should become the strongest race!"

An Meiling's eyes flashed. 'Sky Continent?' She got thoughtful for a while.

Tang Xian looked at the men behind An Meiling with a pure smile as the constant stream of blood tainted her chest and garments. "Such vigorous males! I hope you can impregnate a few of the females in the Holy City."

An Meiling's lips twitched and asked. "Are there any other human settlements?"

Tang Xian put on a melancholic expression. "There aren't. We are the last bastion. The hands of the sinners taint those who exist outside our sacred grounds! Only we can repopulate the World and make humans prosper again." Then, she smiled softly. "With the arrival of you six, this process will be faster."

The six humans looked at Tang Xian's stomach, but they didn't feel any life. An Meiling asked, sneering. "And you won't participate yourself?"

Tang Xian shouted with a twisted face. "IMPOSSIBLE! How could a sacred being like myself be contaminated by lowly seed!?" Her face relaxed as she smiled again. "Only a perfect human male is worthy of impregnating me to give birth to the hero of the human race that will liberate everything!"

An Meiling sighed, and the man by her side asked. "What do we do, senior sister? Although our sect doesn't hunt down demonic cultivators aggressively, we lean more toward the righteous faction. Should we deal with this crazy woman and search for another group of humans?"

An Meiling looked at the compass and commented. "This is the first human encampment we've seen that it wasn't a breeding spot. Let's not test our luck. We've already killed quite a few beast humans, and creating more chaos might be detrimental. We are only six, after all. Moreover, if she is truly from the Sky Continent, she is from a senior World compared to ours. We might receive rewards if we return her to her family, as she probably isn't here because of her will. Therefore, let's stay here."

One of the females of the group laughed. "Senior Sister is as intelligent as always. She can see everything quite clearly."

An Meiling laughed and added. "Also, move all the humans we've saved here. While this woman is a bit crazy, I can feel that she is honest in her intent to save humans. Her values are twisted, but they align with ours. For now, that's enough for us to ally with her."

The others nodded, and An Meiling asked. "Junior Brother Ou, have you sent news back about the slavery that's taking place here?"

The man patted his chest. "It's done. It should arrive in a few years. Coming here was already resource-consuming, so sending anything back is quite complicated. However, I sent the coordinates with a red mark, so there should be a few seniors that come later."

An Meiling nodded. "Right, we must create a human bastion until our seniors arrive. Seeing such savagery toward humans is quite rare, to be honest."

An Meiling looked at Tang Xian deeply and smiled. "Tang Xian, you want to become a savior, right?"

Seeing Tang Xian's eyes lighting up, An Meiling's lips arched further. "I have a way."