

Heaven 951

Chapter 951: [Grand Cosmos Family Altar]

Yasenia led everyone outside, and they followed with anticipatory gazes. The dragoness was not usually the type of person to hide surprises, so this mysteriousness was tickling their curious hearts.

Even the girls were not really sure of what Yasenia did. After all, they knew that she was trying to create the family martial art, but not much more.

Coraline asked Ebirah. "Do you know what this is about, Little Ebirah?"

Ebirah shook her head. "I only know that Yasenia has been trying to create a Martial Art! This is probably it. But, I know nothing more."

Coraline raised her eyebrow. 'A martial art? I mean, while I admit that the girl is talented, can she really create a powerful martial art at her age?'

After walking for a while, they arrived in front of a pair of massive doors that were not there the last time they visited. Tengliu looked upward and asked, stunned. "What is this, Little Yasenia?"

The dragoness smiled. "This is the gate for the [Get Better At Martial Arts Family Altar]!"

Kali spoke with extreme seriousness. "Change the name."

The dragoness's excited smile froze, and she pouted. "W-Why!? It sounds good!"

Kali glared at her and said. "Change it."

Yasenia used her most lethal, cute, and attractive gaze and turned toward Andrea, asking for help. However, even before she completely turned, Andrea spoke rather curtly. "Change it."

The dragoness bent over as if someone had punched her gut. "I-Impossible, even my spoiled gaze didn't work... Dear-"

Evelyn shook her head. "Change it, Yasenia."

Yasenia fell to her knees. "Gah!" Then, she gazed at her Baby and opened her mouth. "B-Baby, can you convince them?"

Angel opened and closed her mouth, then, with much difficulty, she looked sideways. This was a deep slap for Yasenia; her face twisted sideways from the phantom blow.

Yasenia pouted and commented. "Okay, whatever. How to call it?"

Kali sighed. "Love, isn't it quite easy? Use the name of the thing that is in there and add an altar or something to it."

Yasenia stood up again and tilted her head. "Then... [Grand Cosmos Family Altar]?"

The girls almost spat blood. 'You had that badass and absolutely great name available, and you chose [Get Better At Martial Arts Family Altar]!?'

The dragoness sighed. "Anyway, the [Grand Cosmos Family Altar] was created to hold a thing I created during the last years. It is the accumulation of everything I know, learned, and comprehended. Of course, it will become more complex as time goes by and evolve as I understand more. The thing inside is able to absorb my experiences if I pour them into it."

Coraline asked, curious. "So... What does this altar do?"

Yasenia turned around and pushed the enormous doors. This altar was designed so that all kinds of creatures could enter, including giant beasts. The door was embedded in the mountain because the entire mountain had been transformed into the altar.

This mountain was nearly 30 kilometers tall, and the doors that lead into it were 2 kilometers tall and 1 kilometer wide.

The sheer size of this place was difficult to picture.

Yasenia could open the doors thanks to her ridiculous physical strength. There was no need to create a formation or enchant them so that they were lighter. In Yasenia's opinion, if someone from her family in the future was unable to open the heavy doors or have someone open the doors for them, they were unworthy of what was inside.

After pushing it a little bit, she used her entire strength and transferred it to the doors. A powerful energy pulse swallowed everything, and the doors lit up with gorgeous imagery of a dragon woman doing all kinds of martial arts.

Everyone looked in awe as the gargantuan doors opened. The children, who still had not developed enhanced vision, were even more stunned. In their eyes, their mother had suddenly pushed open a mountain high enough for them not to see the top.

Even Kaleina, who could see further thanks to her early cultivation, was shocked. 'What kind of strength is this?'

Yasenia turned around as they opened and smiled. "Let's go inside."

Everyone followed behind her while looking around. The second they stepped inside, the dark inner part of the altar illuminated, revealing a place large enough that it felt like a small world.

The place was carved with several images representing Yasenia and the girls. It told the short yet eventful story of the dragoness with vivid and gorgeous imagery.

Then, in the middle of the enormous place, there was a "small" stone tablet surrounded by a formation with a 10-kilometer radius. The formation was separated into six concentric circles.

The dragoness spoke. Her voice reached all of them with ease. "This is the place. That stone tablet in the middle is where all my experiences as a martial artist have been stored. The [Grand Cosmos Stele] is an artifact that can spread a particular type of energy outward that can be comprehended. Depending on what the people comprehend from the stele's images and energy, one can slowly learn the seven major realms of the Grand Cosmos martial art."

Yasenia laughed. "Well, that's the simple explanation."

Everyone looked at the dragoness with open mouths. They could perfectly feel that the thing in the middle was incredibly valuable. It was to the point that seniors like Coraline could sense that they would be able to learn new things themselves if they sat down to look at the stele."

Tengliu stuttered. "D-Did you create that stone tablet? Alone?"

Yasenia shook her head. "I've created the martial art knowledge they impart. What I haven't done is the creation of it. I just beat it up enough that the essence of it was ingrained in it permanently."

Yasenia looked at Tatyana and commented. "Tatyana, Mirrory, and Valeria have done the heavy lifting. Without them, this stone stele wouldn't have become like it for a millennium or even more."

Coraline asked, looking at the formation that covered a large part of the area. "What are those concentric circles? Do they have any meaning?"

Yasenia nodded. "Of course they do! There are six concentric circles, for now, because that's the realms that this thing can teach to: Mortal, First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Realm cultivators. The outer circle is for mortals; the next one is for first realm cultivators, etc."

The dragoness grinned. "However, that Stele is not a Heaven-Ranked item. Not even close. It is a high-level Transcendence Level item."

The Mermaid Queen squeaked. "H-High!?"

While it was very rare for the Mermaid Queen to lose her composure so much, this time, nobody mocked her. Everyone could understand the sensations that the Mermaid Queen was going through.

Yasenia added. "Of course, that quality is not fixed. As I said, if, for example, I reach the Transcendence Realm, have new insights, etc, I can come back here and pour my experiences into it. The Stele will absorb everything and evolve with it. The stone it is made of is very easy to... Enhance? Meaning that as long as I have enough materials, I can upgrade its quality."

Loberon, who finally snapped out of his daze, asked. "L-Lady Yasenia..."

The dragoness smiled. "Just Yasenia is fine."

Loberon nodded and asked. "Then, Yasenia, This is your family treasure, so to speak, right?"

"Hmmm..." Yasenia pondered and answered. "More or less. At least for the family that will grow in Distancia, it is. Why?"

Loberon pointed at himself. "So, um, is it okay that we are here?"

Yasenia blinked and realized. "Oh! Well, all people here can be considered close family one way or another. At least, you've proven yourselves to be considered close enough for me to reveal this. If my eyes deceived me and I made a mistake and something happens, I only have myself to blame."

The maids of the children, who were walking behind them, couldn't help but feel a surge of pride and loyalty.

Yasenia spoke. "While using the tablet is somewhat unlimited, I won't let anyone use it. It is obviously an advantage for those who closely follow me and, well, my family. I want to divide the allocation of time depending on many things, and I hope that everyone can understand it."

The dragoness sighed as she approached Estrella. "I don't want to make barriers, to be honest. However, I want my blood family to have an advantage. It is the truth, and I won't lie."

Coraline laughed. "We understand, Yasenia. Don't worry. We promise to try to keep our greed in check."

Yasenia smiled. "I know that you will. If I wasn't 100% sure, I wouldn't have called you here. What I am worried about is more... How to explain it..." Yasenia looked at the Stone Stele and sighed. "Once you try and feel that thing, you'll get to learn a large part of who I am. Some of my weaknesses and strengths will be exposed."

She then picked Estrella from Tatyana's arms and crouched so that the rest of the children gathered around her. The dragoness's tail forcibly pulled Kaleina to crouch with the rest, making her giggle. "Babies, this is Mommy's present to all of you. Although it is a bit unfair to Estrella, since today is your birthday, to compensate, Mommy won't give any presents to anyone this year, okay? This big place is Mommy's present to each of you for this year."

All the children looked at their mother's gentle facial expression with bright eyes.

Everyone looking couldn't help but feel their hearts melting, as everyone in that circle of 8 people had exactly the same eyes. Eight pairs of golden slit eyes that shone with the warmth of the Sun.

Tengliu smiled softly. "It's really beautiful, isn't it?"

Coraline patted her shoulder and asked. "Have you thought of starting your own family?"

Tengliu snorted. "As if..." Then, she sighed. "As if I haven't thought of it. After my fight with Yasenia, I feel completely liberated, and then, seeing those adorable little creatures, I just can't help but want a few of my own."

Linghui Mingyu smiled mischievously. "If you want to check for a mate, perhaps it is better to wait for Yasenia's bloodline to produce a male."

Tengliu looked at the Mermaid Queen with a speechless expression. The Mermaid Queen raised her eyebrow. "What? Am I wrong? It's not like age is a big barrier as long as they are an adult. Look at Yasenia and Tatyana's age difference."

Tengliu opened and closed her mouth. "B-But the seniority!"

The Mermaid Queen looked at Tatyana and saw the red-eyed woman smiling at her. However, somehow, the smile felt colder than a sword pointed at her neck. "What were you talking about my age, little mermaid?"

Linghui Mingyu stuttered. "I-I was saying that Lady Tatyana is incredibly young and at the epoch of her life! I wish I was like that!"

Tatyana's smile relaxed a bit. "Hm~, that sounds much better. I am 20- Wait, no, I am 60 years old! Perfect for my little treasure!"

The seniors around felt their mouths twitching, wanting to say a thousand words and being unable to say even one.

Tatyana then spoke. "Also, if you want to go for the little ones, wait until they are an adult to start doing any courting. And..." Tatyana looked at Tengliu with a raised eyebrow. "No [Seduction Intent] or skills allowed. If you use any, including your beauty as a cultivator, I'll kill you."

Tengliu laughed awkwardly. "Don't worry, I'll probably try to search outside."

Tatyana was confused. "You have excellent genes here and want to search outside? I mean, sure, suit yourself."

Tengliu didn't know what was wrong with this family anymore, and that was a lot coming from someone like her. 'Ah... Whatever, the future me will deal with these things.'

Chapter 952: [Grand Cosmos Stele] Effects.

Estrella looked at the Stone Stele in the distance with a thoughtful gaze. Her blue and golden eyes looked pensive as the amplified aura of the [Grand Cosmos Stele] permeated her body.

Dawn and the other children similarly looked at the present their mother gave them, some with incomprehension and others with curiosity. Of course, while intelligent, they didn't know much about it as children.

Kaleina was different, of course, she couldn't help but look at the Stone Stele as if it was the most precious item in the entire cosmos. Who could say that they could experience how an absolute genius thought and felt about martial arts across the cosmos?

The thing in front of Kaleina was her mother's accumulation during 60+ Years of pure and almost uninterrupted fighting. Kaleina knew that her mother had literally forged her battle style by herself through raw combat. Fighting, fighting, and more fighting was what produced the absolutely terrifying and talented creature that currently stood by her side.

The dragoness commented. "Now, Estrella is today's birthday girl, so she will decide. Do you want to test this today? Or does my darling want to do another thing?"

Estrella looked between the Stone Stele in the distance and her Mommy's smile, and she didn't know what to choose. Estrella wanted Tatyana and Yasenia to pamper her today and be with her like they usually did on every child's birthday. However, the Stone Stele's aura felt so... welcoming for her.

Estrella looked at Yasenia and spoke. "I want... Um..." Estrella frowned, looking at Yasenia with somewhat of a pleading expression. The dragoness acted as if she didn't see it. In life, making choices is one of the most important things. So, teaching the children that they couldn't have everything they wanted was a good way to prepare them for it.

Yasenias asked. "Yes, which one do you want?"

Estrella looked for a bit more time, but ultimately, her curiosity won, and she pointed over. "I want to try that, Mommy."

Yasenias approached and caressed her head. "Great, love." Yasenia looked at the rest of the children and explained. "Today, you will all try it together, okay?"

The dragoness looked at the rest, maids included and said. "All of the people here will try it. Me included."

Kali asked, confused. "Hm? Yourself?"

The dragoness nodded. "I was in the middle of an enlightenment when creating this, so while a lot of the information is in my head and I can probably demonstrate all steps, there are many insights that I can perfect while comprehending it." She looked at the children and smiled. "Of course, I'll join all of you a bit later. I'll teach the young ones how to do it while Tatyana guides all of you."

Kaleina looked between Tatyana and Yasenia, not knowing to which group she belonged. The dragoness laughed. "Kaleina and Flame, both of you are with me and the children."

Kaleina nodded, and Flame walked over, still marveling at everything that composed this giant place. "Aunt Yasenia, this place is incredible."

The dragoness looked around and nodded. "It took a lot of effort and resources. To be honest, if an average First Rate Sect knew how much we spent to create this, they might have a heart attack and spit blood until they die, hahaha."

Flame chuckled. "I mean, that stele alone is enough to buy a few First Rate Sects probably, no?"

Yasenia chuckled and said while guiding Kaleina, Flame, and the children toward the outer ring. "Tatyana told me that high-rated powers, and I mean those in the Sky Continent, would rather have that Stone Stele over the entirety of Distancia."

Flame's eyes widened. "No way."

The dragoness laughed. "Right? I also didn't believe it, but after hearing the explanation, I can somewhat understand why." Yasenia asked. "Tell me, Flame, what do you think is more important, one super powerhouse or one million talented disciples?"

Flame hummed and got thoughtful. The Phoenix girl had experienced Yasenia's war from quite close quarters, so she knew a lot of details. From the beginning to the end, the reason Yasenia could do everything she did, other than Yasenia's own intelligence, was the backing that the maids provided.

So, Flame answered. "The super powerhouse."

Yasenia used her tail to caress her head. "Correct. That Stone Stele, if it resonates deeply with someone, will allow them to push beyond their talent and grow at a terrifying speed. In short, this stele, if used in a sect, can become a powerhouse producing treasure."

Flame and Kaleina realized the advantage and agreed. Kaleina giggled. "Well, I'd rather have ten moms by my side instead of ten thousand Tang Xians, hahahah."

Flame rolled her eyes. "That Tang Xian woman was just delusional. She really thought that she could beat Auntie Yasenia. Didn't you hear what Lady An Meiling said? She thought that she was prettier than Auntie Yasenia!" Flame laughed. "That woman had problems."

Yasenia chuckled and said. "Okay, we are here. Step inside."

The dragoness entered into the "mortal-level" layer of the enormous formation and the others followed her.

Once inside, all the children felt a rush of energy around them, making their bodies feel light but very strange.

Their legs wobbled, and even Dianna, who was quadrupedal, fell down. Kaleina and Flame wanted to catch them, but Yasenia restricted their movement with her aura. "Don't help."

Kaleina looked at Yasenia and saw the dragoness looking at the children with an extremely attentive gaze.

The dragoness spoke. "Babies, how are you feeling? Uncomfortable?"

Estrella, who was on all fours and breathing heavily while trying to stand up, looked up with a confused expression. "I-I can't stand up, Mommy."

Skye, frustrated because she couldn't even be on all fours, shouted. "Mommy! I can't move my limbs!"

Aurelia was sitting on her butt, looking around with confusion, and Dawn was perplexed, looking at her arms and legs as if they had stopped being hers.

Then, Katarina fell over, the little bipedal dragon looking cute as she tried to use her wings to stand up.

Finally, Dianna was flopped on her belly, looking up at Yaseia with her pretty golden-amber eyes, waiting for her Mommy's words.

Yaseia spoke. "The Stone Stele in the middle has my aura, babies. It has your Mommy's presence in it and is reduced depending on which cultivation level you are in. So, for you who are mortals, it is limited. Of course..." Yaseia looked at Katarina and Dianna and smiled. "Stand up, Dianna, Katarina."

Dianna and Katarina blinked and focused on their limbs. Then, as energy enveloped their bodies through their beast core, the two of them stood up. Unlike the rest, who had been born in the mortal realm, Katarina and Dianna were born with a cultivation base. They couldn't use it properly, but it was enough to overcome the mortal realms' pressure.

Yaseia spoke. "This Stele has many different things to improve your martial arts understanding and even practice." The dragoness smiled. "First of all, you need to focus, Babies. Don't resist the energy that is coming towards you; let it permeate your limbs. Kaleina, Flame, you two as well."

The two of them nodded and followed Yaseia's words. The dragoness smiled lovingly when she saw that all the children had stopped struggling and were doing what she said. "Great job. You are doing fantastic."

The mortal realm section's energy was faint enough to understand it fairly quickly, so after thirty minutes, Kaleina and Flame completely understood everything. However, this didn't allow them to unlock the art, not at all.

Yaseia looked away from the small ones and said. "Now, Kaleina, Flame. You two have managed to allow the Stone Stele to form something like a connection with you. Meaning, your presence and progress will be marked in the stele, so the next time you visit, unless your aura or cultivation level has gone through a very large change, your progress will be stored."

Kaleina and Flame were puzzled. "Progress?"

Yaseia smiled widely. "This place can be used in three different manners. The first one is the one you did. It helps you refine your energy comprehension by allowing it to permeate inside you."

Lifting two fingers, the dragoness commented. "The second method is sitting cross-legged and looking at the Stone Stele, trying to comprehend the [Grand Cosmos Art], and slowly unlock my martial art legacy. This will also help with your current understanding of martial arts and can even help you refine your own martial art."

The dragoness looked at Kaleina and Flame and chuckled. "The third one is fighting copies of myself at any age. For example, scream... [Five] toward the Stone Stele."

Kaleina blinked and shouted. "Five!"

The ceiling of the place lit up, and a lightning bolt descended in front of Yaseia. That bolt transformed and took Yaseia's shape, but it was different. It was 5-year-old Yaseia who appeared.

Kaleina blinked several times and stuttered. "S-So adorable! KYA! I want to hug you!" The dragoness giggled when she saw Kaleina running toward her phantom image.

Once she was close, the 5-year-old Yaseenia moved incredibly swiftly and jumped and kicked. Kaleina's pupils shrunk, and thanks to being two realms above cultivation-wise, she could react and dodge backward quickly. "Huh?"

The dragoness commented. "The phantom has my own talent, strength, techniques, and proficiency when I was at the age you shouted. In this case, that's me when I was five years of age."

Flame was stunned. "Wow." She thought for a bit and shouted "[Twenty One]!"

Yaseenia raised her eyebrows, and the 21-year-old Yaseenia appeared. Flame was at the peak of the Second Realm. However, 21-year-old Yaseenia was already at the Mental Nourishing Realm. Of course, there was no way for Flame to know about this.

Flame took a stance, and the illusory Yaseenia took out a copy of the old Draconic Heart. It was an enormous rocky sword with a sharp edge.

Kaleina looked with interest.

Yaseenia's illusion stomped the ground, shooting forward.

Kaleina and Flame both lost sight of the Phantom Yaseenia, and an instant later, Flame saw the dragoness's giant sword falling on top of her and bisecting her. She couldn't even react before her body was split in half.

Or, well, Flame was not split in half in reality, just in the simulation.

Yaseenia looked at the shocked Phoenix Girl and chuckled. "The illusions can do damage, but they can't do lethal strikes. If the strike is considered lethal, the illusion will disappear, and you will lose. Another method to make the illusion disappear is..." The dragoness looked at her 5-year-old self and told Kaleina. "Kill her."

Kaleina almost spat blood and vehemently refused. "IMPOSSIBLE! MOMMY, YOU WERE SO CUTE! HOW CAN I LAY MY HANDS ON THAT ADORABLE LITTLE THING!?"

The dragoness blinked several times, not expecting such a reaction. From the distance, Evelyn shouted. "TELL HER, KALEINA! I SUMMONED THE 3-YEAR-OLD HER, AND NOW I CAN'T GET RID OF HER! WHY IS MY WIFE SO ADORABLE, AHHH!"

Yaseenia coughed. 'Well, I didn't expect this.'

She pointed at herself and used her aura to crush the illusion at the same time that Tatyana did the same to the little Yaseenia who appeared there.

A collective wail of lament that startled the children echoed in the place from everyone who summoned a little Yaseenia.

"NOOOOOOOO!!!!!"

Chapter 953: Estrella, Skye, Dawn, and Aurelia vs Little Yaseenia.

Estrella and the other children looked at it and somewhat understood how it worked. The dragoness looked at them and saw Estrella shout. "Two!"

Kaleina and the girls in the distance looked over, curious. The rest of the children also gazed over.

After a bolt that fell from the ceiling, two-year-old Yasenia appeared. Estrella looked at her mother when she was two years old, and she was surprised. Yasenia was taller by more than half a head, and her body looked much more developed.

Even as a child, Estrella couldn't help but feel intimidated. She looked at Yasenia and asked. "Um... What do I do now, Mommy?"

The dragoness approached and crouched by her side with a smile. "The one in front of you is an illusion of Mommy at your age. Can you see Mommy's and her resemblance?"

Estrella frowned. "I can't."

The dragoness blinked and looked at herself. Then, she realized. Other than her eyes being golden and her hair being long and black, she was not like herself. First of all, her tail was completely different. It was a bicolor tail, with the first half black and the second half golden.

Then, she held a wooden sword, but it was a longsword, not her usual giant sword. After all, she only learned the giant sword fighting style when she was around 5 to 6 years old.

The 2-year-old Yasenia looked more like Yasenia's daughter than herself when she was little. In the distance, Coraline asked. "Hm? Now that I've realized, her tail is a different color."

Ebirah commented. "Something happened in the Secret Realm! When I met her, she had a tricolor tail!"

The rest nodded and focused over.

The dragoness hummed. "Well, that's better. That child in front of you is an illusion."

Estrella tilted her head. "Illusion... What was that?"

Yasenia smiled. "She is not real. Usually, an illusion is false. For example..." Yasenia gathered energy and focused in front of herself. Then, an image of Estrella appeared, looking somewhat fuzzy. Estrella exclaimed. "That's me!"

Yasenia commented. "Try to touch it."

Estrella did so, and her hand went through, dissipating the illusion like smoke. The dragoness explained, looking at the bewildered Estrella. "That's an illusion. It looks real, but it is not."

Skye commented. "Mommy, I want to see an illusion of me as well!"

The dragoness looked toward Angel. Angel nodded back with a smile, and she tapped the ground.

A wave of energy rushed at the children, and a more vivid illusion appeared than what Yasenia created. The children, confused, looked around with interest and did the same as Estrella, dissipating them.

"Do you understand now, baby?"

Estrella looked up and nodded. "Real but not real!"

The dragoness laughed and looked at the rest. "How about all of you, dears? Do you understand?"

The children nodded and answered energetically.

With that out of the way, Yasenia commented. "The difference with the illusion in front of you is that it can hurt you."

Estrella was confused. "But... Won't she disappear when I touch her?"

Yasenias shook her head. "This one is a bit different. Instead, she will disappear when either of the following conditions is met." The dragoness lifted a finger. "First condition, you deal a lethal blow or manage to make her unable to continue fighting." Then, she lifted her other finger. "The second condition is she does the same to you."

Estrella frowned. "I don't understand."

Yasenias was patient. Estrella was a child, so not understanding was more than normal. "For example..." Yasenia looked toward the stele and shouted. "Twenty!"

A twenty-year-old Yasenia appeared, and the dragoness walked toward herself. The illusion, noticing the aggression, instantly shot toward Yasenia with the intent to kill and use of her acceleration skills. However, Yasenia easily blocked all blows.

The dragoness turned around, using just her tail to avoid all the attacks of the illusions, and smiled at Estrella. "As you can see, Mommy's tail is clashing with that illusion's blows, right?"

Estrella looked at the blur of attacks and blinked twice. "Um... Yes."

Yasenias looked at the rest of the children and saw that they were dazedly looking at her tail. "Hm... Is this one too fast?"

Yasenias quickly decapitated her illusion and shouted. "Sixteen!"

A much younger-looking Yasenia appeared, wearing a beautiful red dress shaped like a flower. When the young Yasenia rushed forward, the dragoness quickly blocked everything. After all, Yasenia was a mortal at this age.

"Can you see better now?"

The children nodded twice.

"Perfect. So, the illusion will attack me tirelessly until I do a lot of damage to her. For example, imagine that I do a deep cut in one of her arms." The dragoness's tail flashed, creating a large gash on the illusion's arm that dripped with illusory blood. She asked the children. "Is that wound enough to make Mommy admit defeat?"

As dragon children, their sensibilities were different. Hence, this scene didn't disturb them. Instead, they all felt excited as their faint instincts somewhat activated. Estrella shook her head. "Mommy wouldn't fall with that."

The dragoness, who was blocking the injured Yasenia's blows, laughed. "That's right. What if I do this?" Her tail flashed again, and another large gash appeared on the illusion's chest. Of course, the illusion gritted her teeth and continued forward with unwavering determination.

The illusions didn't have thoughts or feelings, but they mimicked perfectly what Yasenia would do in a life-and-death situation. This meant that the illusions were the Yasenia of that age, fighting to the death with unlimited stamina but limited vitality.

The dragoness demonstrated with not too gory wounds, and eventually, her tail pierced the illusion's heart. That made the illusion explode in particles and disappear.

Estrella looked at the two-year-old Yasenia and understood. "So, I need to fight the illusion until it can't continue fighting."

The dragoness smiled, amused. "That's right."

And so, Estrella rushed forward. The two-year-old Yasenia also moved forward. Estrella approached and spun, trying to use her tail to hit little Yasenia's knees. She was using her height disadvantage to deliver a hit that could increase her advantage.

However, Yasenia had been trained by Tatyana and several other Sky Continent powerhouses since she was a few months old. Not only that, Tatyana used the maximum amount of treasure she could while avoiding affecting Yasenia's fate as much as possible. In short, Little Yasenia was in a completely different league compared to Estrella.

The seniors looked on with awe as Little Yasenia tapped the ground, jumping over Estrella's tail swipe, and spun mid air while using her own tail.

Estrella's face received Little Yasenia's tail, sending her flying. "Ouch!"

Estrella touched her face, feeling a burning sensation that made her eyes water a bit. Little Yasenia didn't stop, though. So, after she landed, she shot toward Estrella and used her momentum to do a palm strike toward Estrella's face. That blow would certainly create nasal bleeding.

"Get away from Big Sister!" Dawn appeared and tried to kick Little Yasenia's side to protect Estrella. The seniors raised their eyebrows, thinking that such a blow would definitely land.

Yet, to their utter stupefaction, Little Yasenia allowed her leg to slide, doing a frontal split and dodging Dawn's kick.

A new maid blurted. "Impossible! She is two years old!"

That was not all. Once Little Yasenia touched the ground, she used her hands and spun her body upward, landing a spinning kick on Dawn's back and pushing her against the ground.

Tengliu looked at Tatyana with horror and asked. "What the hell did you teach your daughter when she was only two!?"

Tatyana answered flatly. "Strength. Enough that it has kept her alive until today."

Everyone got silent. Who could refute those words after knowing what Yasenia has gone through?

Meanwhile, Estrella saw Dawn being kicked, and her instincts as a big sister appeared. "DON'T TOUCH DAWN!"

She rushed forward and punched, but Little Yasenia had recovered her posture and skillfully deviated Estrella's punch. Estrella felt her body going forward, and then, her stomach was smashed by the dragoness's knee.

Bam!

"UGH!"

Estrella felt the strike to her core, making her legs falter. Little Yasenia mercilessly looked down and raised her right leg high, preparing an Axe Kick that would send Estrella to sleep.

However, Little Yasenia's eyes flashed as she pivoted with her left leg and completed the back-kick movement. Behind her, Skye used incredible reflexes to bend backward, barely dodging Little Yasenia's kick.

Then, from the side, Dawn arrived again and sprung forward, using her leg to make quite a powerful attack.

Little Yasenia crossed her arms and received the blow, taking a few steps back. Her golden eyes flashed when she felt a leg right behind her knees. She quickly looked sideways to see Aurelia crouched and extending her leg while calmly looking up at her.

However, this was not enough as the Little Dragoness used her hands to flip backward and recovered her stance, looking forward and taking a martial arts stance.

The seniors at the side looked at the five children with surprise.

On one side, the coordinated and improvised attack created by Estrella, Skye, Dawn, and Aurelia was incredibly smooth.

On the other side, Little Yasenia's strength at the same age as them was egregious.

It was Estrella, Dawn, Skye, and Aurelia against Little Yasenia.

Estrella rushed forward first and punched quickly. Little Yasenia deviated from the strike and took a step back with her leg, whipping her waist to flick her tail toward her right side.

Dawn, who was approaching from the right, barely covered her body with her arms as the tail slap happened.

PA!

Skye and Aurelia overcame Estrella and punched forward. However, Little Yasenia used her tilted position to follow along in a spin and shot an extremely powerful kick toward Aurelia.

Aurelia's eyes flashed calmly as she used her arms to block.

Bam!

Her body was thrown backward while her arms tingled with pain. However, Little Yasenia was in a position where Skye could easily sneak in a blow. Skye shouted and attacked Little Yasenia's face with a powerful punch.

Pa!

Little Yasenia ate that punch, making her head whip sideways. However, Aurelia shouted. "Skye, defend belly!"

Even Skye didn't know when she obeyed, but her arms went toward her stomach. Right after, Little Yasenia's punch came and struck there with tremendous force for a two-year-old.

BAM!

Skye coughed as her eyes widened in pain, and she was thrown to the ground.

Little Yasenia used her hand to clean the blood dripping from her lips and looked at the four children.

Yasenia smiled and clapped. "Good enough~. Let's stop, babies."

Estrella was confused and looked at her. "Why do we need to stop, Mommy?"

Yasenia laughed. "Do you see Little Yasenia's face?"

Estrella looked over and saw a very cold expression that wasn't there before. "What's wrong with her?"

The dragoness grinned. "Well, when your Mommy was young, she would not really fight seriously until she received a decent blow. Skye's punch is what I would consider a good blow back then. So, from now on, there won't be just punches, kicks, and tail whips. Little Yasenia will also use attacks like claw strikes to the eyes, bites, and other more hurting attacks."

Skye asked, feeling a bit frustrated after standing up. "And what's wrong with that, Mommy!?"

Aurelia spoke calmly. "Little Mommy might injure us too much because we are not yet prepared."

The dragoness raised the corner of her lips. "That's right. You all are still not at this level. If you want to fight Little Mommy, choose one-and-a-half-year-old. That should be perfect for a team battle. Then, individually, I think that the one-year-old me is good enough for now."

Dawn snorted. "Little Mommy is really strong!"

Estrella humphed. "It's Mommy, after all, of course she is strong!"

The other three children nodded sagely.

Then, Yasenia turned toward Dianna and Katarina and smiled. "You two will be fighting the 13 Year Old Me, okay babies?"

Dianna and Katarina nodded, their tails wagging.

Chapter 954: Yasenia's Time with the Children.

While Yasenia taught the children, Tatyana taught the rest how to use the formation. After realizing that they could use it to summon all kinds of Yasenia's illusions, the girls naturally didn't hold back. As soon as Tatyana finished the explanation, Andrea, Evelyn, Angel, Cecile, and Kali shouted the following ages simultaneously, in order of mention.

"12!"

"3!"

"2!"

"5."

"4!"

Then, the girls, seniors, and maids looked on with marveled expressions as the dragonesses of the respective ages materialized in front of them.

Tatyana could not say that she didn't understand why they did this. And as anybody would probably do after seeing the adorableness that young Yasenia had, they rushed forward and hugged the

illusion. Of course, as an illusion that was programmed to attack back, all the summoned illusions resisted the hug, but to no avail.

This made Evelyn, who had quite a thorough thought process, frown. "Wait, can you like... molest these Little Yasenias?"

Tatyana shook her head. "Don't worry. The only reason they haven't exploded after your hug is because your intentions behind them are relatively pure. If you try to touch her indecently, she disappears. This is Martial Art Stele, so Dual Cultivation Techniques count as rule violations."

The girls nodded, understanding how it worked. Then Tatyana cleared the place of Little Yasenias, and Estrella and the other children fought two-year-old Yaseenia. After everything, all the people started using the [Grand Cosmos Stele] for real.

Dianna and Katarina were the youngest of all of the children. Therefore, even when they were second-realm beasts and much stronger than 13-year-old Yaseenia, they couldn't control their own power enough to beat Yaseenia.

13-year-old Yaseenia couldn't really land effective blows on them because their hides were tough, but she was agile enough to avoid being caught by them. The reason Yaseenia was making Dianna and Katarina fight her mortal self in the first place was to help them learn body control.

Dianna especially had a few problems. As a creature with 13 limbs, she needed much more time to coordinate and learn how to use everything.

After she saw that the children were getting exhausted, Yaseenia commented. "Okay, let's stop here. Come, come~. Mommy will have a dinner party with all her babies while the rest continue playing here, okay?" She looked over to the third ring and asked. "Flame, Kaleina, are you coming?"

Kaleina barely dodged the 19-year-old Yaseenia's blow and answered swiftly. "No! I want to be here a while longer!"

Flame, fighting a few months older "Yaseenia" compared to Kaleina's, also answered with difficulty. "I will, woah! Stay here with Kaleina! Thanks for asking, Auntie Yaseenia!"

The dragoness tutted. "Sure, sure~, the babies of that time have grown up~." She looked at the six darlings looking up at her and smiled widely. "Let's go bath first."

And so, Yaseenia guided the children toward the bath, and they all entered. Once their bodies were submerged in the healing waters, all of them sighed or purred in comfort. The dragoness sat with her back against one of the bathroom walls and smiled softly. "We have around one hour to play around. If any of you want to come and get washed by Mommy, tell me."

Dianna used her four legs to swim rather expertly and collided with the dragoness's breasts. Yaseenia giggled and lifted her up, hugging the medium-dog-sized darling. "You really like Mommy's breasts, don't you, love?"

Aurelia swam close and muttered. "Mommy, why are they sooo big? Compared with the other Mamas, only Mama Angel and Mama Kali come close..."

The dragoness answered easily. "Because I am the Mommy of all of you, and I need to store a lot of milk in case my babies need to be fed!"

Aurelia blinked. "I see... So, does Skye drink Mommy's milk more often?"

Skye looked over with a confused expression, and Yaseia asked. "Why do you ask that, Aurelia?"

Aurelia commented. "Well, Mama Evelyn is very small. Does she not have lots of milk?"

The dragoness tried to hold back her laughter, and she commented while caressing Aurelia's long golden hair. "Well, Little Spark does indeed like to drink from Mommy more than from Mama Evelyn."

Aurelia hugged Yaseia's side with her short arms, making the dragoness support her little one with her tail, and she spoke. "I also prefer Mommy's milk, but... This is a secret from Mama."

The dragoness raised her eyebrow. "Oh~? Why is it a secret?"

Aurelia looked a bit troubled. "Because Mama gets a bit sad when I don't pay her attention. Really, she is like a child."

Yaseia had to stop herself again from bursting into laughter. 'Oh, Baby, our daughter already knows you, and she isn't even two! Hahahaha.'

The dragoness lifted Aurelia to give her a kiss on the nose and giggled. "You are so adorable, Little Gem."

Aurelia giggled happily and hugged Yaseia's neck together with Dianna.

The dragoness heard a loud splash and looked over. Skye was standing proudly, her tail swinging around. "Today I was able to land a punch on Little Mommy!"

Dawn commented. "Only because Big Sister Estrella and I distracted her!"

Skye looked smug and said. "But I was the one who landed the hit! So, today, I am the strongest!"

Estrella bubbled in the water. "Little Mommy is so strong..."

Skye's eyes glittered, and she started doing random moves around. "Right!? She did this fuahhh jump and the pahh kick! And, and! Ah-" She slipped from moving too excitedly and fell backward, falling into the water with a splash.

Dawn and Estrella laughed.

Katarina swam forward and used her mouth to gently bite Skye's neck and get her out of the water. Skye blinked a few times and coughed, looking a bit embarrassed. She patted Katarina and said. "Thank you, little sister."

Katarina made something similar to a giggling sound. While Katarina and Dianna couldn't communicate with words, perhaps because they were growing together, the four humanoid children were really good at deciphering what they meant.

Dawn laughed. "Look, Little Sister Katarina is laughing."

Skye pouted. "Little Sister! You must support big sister!"

Katarina giggled again and swam away toward Yaseia. Skye looked over and said, indignant. "Mommy! Katarina laughed at me!"

Yaseia welcomed her third darling with her tail and smiled. "Well, she was laughing because she likes Skye a lot. Do you see Katarina laughing when other people who are not her sisters fall?"

Skye blinked twice and humphed. "Then... I'll forgive her! I also like Little Sister a lot too!"

The dragoness smiled gently. "With the 'Also' you don't need to add 'too' Little Spark."

Skye swam over while asking. "Why?"

The dragoness commented. "Well, it's a bit redundant."

"Redundant?"

The dragoness commented. "For example. Imagine that we take another bath after this one. Does it make sense?"

Skye tilted her adorable head and answered, unsure. "No?"

Yasenia hummed and saw Dawn and Estrella swimming over as well. The dragoness smiled.

"Aurelia, Dianna, let your sisters take your place. I can only hug four of you comfortably, and you two have been here the most."

Both children kissed Yasenia's cheek and obediently separated. They've been taught quite well to share things with their sisters.

After she nestled with four of them and used her tail to play with Aurelia and Dianna, all of them had a great time in the bath.

The dragoness took them out after one hour and used a special soap to help their muscles and bones develop.

While all the children knew how to clean themselves, they also knew that their Mommy really liked doing it. So, they all patiently waited for their turn.

Estrella asked. "Mommy, why is Little Mommy so strong?"

Yasenia rinsed the water off Estrella's hair and explained. "It is because Mommy had a lot of very good teachers when I was young. Also, Mommy developed faster than baby. Did you realize how Mommy was a bit taller and my tail was a bit thicker?"

Estrella opened her eyes after the soap was cleaned and nodded. "Hm."

The dragoness leaned over Estrella's shoulder with a large smile. "Well, that's one of the reasons. Mommy trained a bit harder than you do because Mama Tatyana focused all her efforts on me."

Estrella tilted her head. "Mama Tatyana took care of Little Mommy..."

Yasenia nodded. "That's right. Mommy explained how Mama Tatyana is muuuch older than Mommy, right? When Mommy was a little child like you, Mama Tatyana was as big as I am now!"

Estrella giggled. "Did Mama Tatayna shrink? Mommy is bigger than Mama Tatyana!"

"Oh~? Baby is teasing me? Here is Mommy's super tickling attack." The dragoness tickled her sides, making her burst into laughter. "Hahahaha! M-Mommy, stop! Hahahahaha!"

Dawn approached with a large smile. "I want tickles too! I want them too!"

The dragoness laughed and lifted her arms menacingly. "Nobody is going to escape this tickling dragon today!"

Dawn's eyes widened cutely, and she turned around, laughing and shouting. "Tickling Mommy is here!"

The little children laughed and started running while shouting, and the dragoness chased after them through the entire bathroom.

"Noo!"

"Run! Tickling Mommy is here!"

"If she catches you, you will end like Big Sister Estrella!"

The dragoness was attentive as she spoke from time to time. "Remember to look at the floor so that you don't slip!"

As soon as she said so, Katarina's talon caught a slippery rock and slipped forward. The dragoness only decelerated the fall and allowed Katarina to fall. "Aya~! Didn't Mommy tell you? Now you will fall prey to Mommy's attack~."

Katarina was lifted from the ground, and the dragoness's fingers sunk below the wings, making the Phoenix Dragon start chirping as her body wriggled in laughter. "Hahaha~, does my Little Feather like this~?"

The small game of tag lasted for a few minutes until all the children were breathless from Yasenia's tickling attack.

Then, the dragoness dried their bodies and placed clothes on them, guiding them all toward the kitchen. Yasenia often showed them how she cooked, so they learned that the food didn't come from a magical place.

Knowing that things had effort behind them made children find them more appealing and also helped them understand their value.

The six children sat around a table that the dragoness set up and looked at their mother cooking. This scene was somewhat very peaceful and relaxing for them. The sight of their pampering mother cooking them food had a special magic that calmed them.

Aurelia asked. "What are you preparing, Mommy?"

Yasenia commented. "Well, I am preparing Estrella's favorite dish~. All of you will eat it today, even if you don't like it! After all, today is Estrella's birthday."

The children answered as one.

"Okaaaay!"

"Okaaaay!"

"Okaaaay!"

"Okaaaay!"

"Rawr!"

"Rawr!"

Yasenia hummed. "Very good~. As a reward, each of you will receive your favorite dessert!"

The children raised their hands. "YAY!"

After preparing the food, which was grilled ribs with cheese and a special sauce, Yasenia placed it in front of all of the children. "Remember to wait until everyone has their dishes in front of them. Okay?"

Dianna, who was about to chomp on the juicy rib, paused comically, licking her lips and tapping the chair with her little paws. Yasenia kissed Dianna's head. "Great job, Dianna."

Once the food was in front of them, the dragoness gave the go-ahead, and the dinner ensued.

Chapter 955: Three Years.

After that day, Yasenia went on to complete all the things she had left for later. One of them was to use the transmutation cauldron and experiment with it. [Transmutation] was an art similar to alchemy but done with minerals and items. It was a profession or a practice that manipulated the existing attributes of an item to create completely new ones.

Using enough energy and other materials, increasing the quality of a weapon, armor, robes, or anything like that was also possible.

There was always a chance of failure, which could have several effects on the transmuted items.

Yasenia noticed the following problems happening. The less influential ones were things like materials losing properties, the outcome being weaker, and consuming the supporting items while nothing else happened.

The worst ones went from needing to scrap the item in its entirety to things blowing up in a literal manner. Thankfully, she had been testing with Magical and Low-Level Earth Ranked items. So, the Transcendence Level transmutation cauldron didn't even have a scratch.

The dragoness practiced quite often with it, even setting aside cooking for a while to use that time to learn transmutation. There were few books on transmutation in the massive library that she had in her [Five Realm Spatial Ring]— many fewer compared to other professions.

Other than transmutation, the dragoness chose one day to go visit the Parus Mine. Standing at the core of the mine with crossed arms, she looked at the white and ethereal eastern dragon floating there and muttered. "After I captured you, [Spiritual Soul Mine], I placed you here and allowed your aura to spread through the mine, increasing the quality of the minerals we produced."

The white eastern dragon looked at Yasenia with curiosity. Its facial features were soft and expressive. Knowing that the creature below wouldn't hurt it, it floated down and moved around Yasenia. The dragoness extended her hand to caress the creature's body and commented. "Thanks to you, the profits are increasing daily, and the profit margin is becoming increasingly larger, accelerating without any signs of stopping soon. How do you feel here? Is it cramped? Do you feel good? Is there something that bothers you?"

The white dragon shook its head and rubbed its face with Yasenia's. The dragoness chuckled. "Good." Then, she said. "Although it will be in a few years, that's nothing for someone like you... So, I'll tell you now."

The Eastern Dragon blinked and looked at her.

"I'll be leaving soon. Remember that your presence alone is enough for the mine to grow constantly; you don't need to do anything actively. And, if someone tries to force you, you can always attack. Okay?"

Yasenia scratched its chin and smirked. "I'll create an escape route that only you will know before I leave. You are here on your own will, not as a slave. If the people controlling the sect misbehave..." Yasenia smirked. "Give them a scare and disappear for a few years."

The Eastern Dragon nodded a few times, showing that it perfectly understood Yasenia's words. Yasenia laughed. "Perfect. Also, I'll leave behind instructions for future Sect Masters, so this problem should never happen. Nobody will come to bother you unless it is urgent." The dragoness realized and spoke. "Speaking of urgent. Look at this and remember it well."

Taking out a white seal with the image of a white Eastern Dragon, Yasenia said. "If someone with this seal tells you about danger, trust their words."

The white dragon nodded, and the dragoness patted its head. "Good. The escape route... How about I build it here? This will be a little secret between you and me, okay?"

The dragon nodded, and Yasenia started working on it. She would come here every day for about an hour, and this activity continued for around three years.

In the meantime, many other things happened. One of them was the girls learning many new things from the [Grand Cosmos Family Art Stele]. Andrea used it to upgrade her own martial art to the next level. Now, each form was several times stronger and deadlier.

The other girls learned the "basic" [Grand Cosmos Martial Art] forms, while Kaleina and Flame slowly gained insight into them. Overall, the strength of the family took a positive step forward.

The children also grew with the years. As they passed, their talents started becoming more noticeable. Although, as Yasenia and some others had expected, Estrella was getting a bit behind in progress.

While her techniques were good, and her overall martial arts knowledge was deeper than the other children, her own body was limiting her. For her age, she was strong, agile, intelligent, and had quick thinking. However, compared to her little sisters, she lacked in the raw strength aspect.

While Estrella was the most similar to Yasenia at birth, she didn't have many of Yasenia's innate advantages. Estrella's soul was not as large as Yasenia's, and she didn't receive as many elixirs as Yasenia did.

Little Yasenia continued to be stronger than all the children at their age. Of course, that would soon not be the truth, as their bodies would start maturing enough to start practicing Body Cultivation.

Dianna and Katarina were fighting against the 17-year-old Yasenia, who was in the later stages of the first cultivation realm. While Dianna and Katarina were born in the second realm, 17-year-old Yasenia was already strong enough to fight above her own level, giving her enough strength to battle those two and beat them every time.

To Dianna's and Katarina's credit, they had gone from fighting the Level 5 Meridian and Dantian Creation Realm Yasenia to the Level 7 one.

Meanwhile, Kaleina and Flame were still having their asses kicked by the 19 and 20-year-old Yasenia. During that time, Yasenia had her first Dual Cultivation sessions, which allowed her to skip many levels really quickly. Moreover, thanks to her bloodline's hidden potential, the dragoness skipped from the fourth to the seventh level of the Body Modification realm. This made quite a big vacuum in the powering-up scale. You either fought the third level second realm Yasenia or the seventh level second realm one.

Kaleina and Flame finally understood how much of a monster Yasenia was during this time. While they themselves were strong, especially Kaleina, who had the [Void] attribute, the dragoness would use extremely complex moves and martial arts accompanying her [Sunrise], [Sunset], [Crescent Moon], and other skills, making her almost impossible to beat.

Of course, they weren't wholly helpless. After all, they were at the half-step of the second realm, but their winning chances were as high as twenty to thirty percent.

During these three years, Tatyana used quite a lot of time to teach Estrella and increase her own strength. Her cultivation speed was ridiculous due to having a body that could feed from her Demigodess-level dantian and having already experienced the Dantian Spiritualization Realm. In just three years, she managed to increase her current body level from Level 2 to Level 9. She was a step away from becoming a half-step.

Naturally, the girls were not nearly as fast as her, Yasenia included. Furthermore, of all the girls, Yasenia was actually the slowest. This was not because she slacked. The cultivation hours for all the girls were approximately the same daily. Arguably, Yasenia cultivated the most because she Dual Cultivated with all the girls.

During a Dual Cultivation session, the cultivators also increased their energy while storing the excess that they couldn't absorb as reserves for later. So, the dragoness was constantly growing while sending her girls to pleasure heaven.

After so many years together, Kali and the rest were completely and utterly at Yasenia's mercy. Their dragoness had learned and enhanced all their weak points, and if their dear dragon lover went serious, forming coherent words would become a problem during the sessions.

They tried to fight back, but their resistance to pleasure could not compare with Yasenia's.

After three years, Yasenia reached the peak of the third level of the Dantian Spiritualization Realm. Her speed was still ridiculously advanced, but it was significantly slowing down as she continued to advance. For example, right after three years, Yasenia was stuck at this peak, unable to advance to the fourth realm because she needed to accumulate egregious amounts of energy.

Yasenia looked into her Dantian and saw a very noticeable mist flowing around her Solar System Dantian. The previously faint smoke had thickened enough to look like a beautiful nebula covering the space in her Dantian.

The problem was that, as Yasenia absorbed more and more energy, the Celestial Energy Star in the middle would use a large part of it while the rest of the planetoids in her Dantian were also absorbing energy passively.

It was not on purpose, but when she tried to cram more and more energy to compress, the nebula-like energy would touch her treasures and feed them. She was quite literally force-feeding their energy even though they were trying their best to leave everything for her.

Of course, Yasenia was frustrated with herself. "Ah! At this rate, I will enter the fourth level after 100 years!"

Soluna appeared by her side and sat between Yasenia's legs with familiarity. The dragoness hugged the cuddly Empyrean Spirit and placed her chin on her head. "Sigh. What do I do, Soluna?"

Soluna giggled. "Who knows? But I am having fun!"

Yasenia pinched her soft cheek and scolded with a smile. "I bet you are, glomping all of the energy I work so hard to collect; my Soluna is having a blast!"

During the last few years, Yasenia and Soluna's bond has deepened a lot. After all, Soluna lived inside Yasenia, so when Yasenia wanted to ask something, she would sometimes share it with her, even if Soluna didn't know about it.

Sometimes, expressing her words helped Yasenia order her thoughts. Soluna laughed while Yasenia pinched her, not feeling any pain as the dragoness did it very softly.

Yasenia sighed and smiled. "Really, you are like another one of my children."

Soluna pouted. "I am not your child!"

The dragoness raised her eyebrow. "I know. Don't worry." Naturally, after so many years, the dragoness realized that Soluna had a bit deeper feelings than friendship toward her. This didn't dampen their relationship, and Yasenia also didn't say anything.

The girls had known this before Soluna made the contract with Yasenia, so that was a sort of signal telling Yasenia to do as she pleased with Soluna's situation.

Yasenia didn't do anything; she would be completely passive. If something appeared between them in the future, well, that was it. If nothing happened, then, their bond would continue to be close. They had literally her entire life to slowly get to know each other, so the dragoness didn't feel any rush like she did with her girls at first.

Soluna spoke. "Yasenia, how about you try to create a little bit instead of doing everything at once?"

The dragoness blinked several times and then looked toward the ceiling. "Sometimes, I am so stupid."

Soluna giggled. "Very cute."

Chapter 956: The way forward.

After the dragoness got Soluna's hint, she walked out to speak with the girls. It didn't take long to gather everyone.

Yasenia sat on one of the couches with Aurelia between her legs, Dawn and Skye at her sides, and Katarina perched on her shoulders. The phoenix dragon would sometimes lower her head to playfully bite Yasenia's hair.

Kali asked while caressing Dianna's fur. "What's wrong?"

Yasenia smiled. "I finally discovered how to break through. Well, it was thanks to Soluna pointing out the obvious."

Evelyn raised an eyebrow. "So, what's the answer?"

The dragoness laughed, a bit embarrassed. "I was trying to convert everything at once, but that didn't work because of the specialness of my Dantian. So, I'll just do it slowly. This should work, right?"

Tatyana laughed while caressing Estrella's hair. "You finally realized." Tatyana clicked her tongue. "I lost a bet because of your dorkiness, love."

Yasenia blinked and saw Mirrory appearing with a victorious grin. "I won~. Intelligent people are sometimes easily predicted."

The dragoness laughed. "You actually made a bet? What's the content?"

Tatyana sighed. "I'll let Mirrory take a tour around my Underworld Empire unimpeded."

Yasenia chuckled. "What if you won?"

Tatyana sighed longer. "I would be able to ask her one question about cultivation and have it answered to the best of her abilities."

The dragoness winced. "Sorry. I should've been a bit quicker realizing."

Mirrory grinned. "Betting with me was a mistake in the first place."

Tatyana snorted. "As if you haven't lost to me before."

Mirrory smiled smugly. "Perhaps I am losing on purpose to win on the big bets~."

Tatyana blinked a few times and looked at Mirrory incredulously. "You aren't doing that."

Mirrory raised her eyebrow. "Who knows~." Then, she vanished.

Andrea laughed. "Tatyana, you might want to stop betting with her."

The Death Empress snorted. "As if! She will regret today's words!"

Angel poked Yasenia's side and asked. "So, why did you gather us?"

"Well, two things." Yasenia raised two fingers with a smile. "First one is... I just wanted to spend a bit of quality time with the whole family."

Evelyn smirked. "Cheesy~."

The dragoness answered back with a raised eyebrow. "It is, and you all love it~." Then, she lifted her second finger and explained, giving off a reluctant vibe. "I gathered all of you to tell you that I am going into closed-door cultivation for this one level. The amount of concentration I need to perform a controlled conversion is too high to interrupt the sessions just after a few hours."

"Ouch." Katarina bit down firmly, so Yasenia reacted. "Why did you bite me, love?"

Katarina spoke very slowly, trying to force her vocal cords to make human sounds. "Mommy... leave... unhappy."

Cecile blinked a few times. "Um... Were those her first words?"

Even the dragoness was stunned. "Oh, baby, did you just speak?"

Katarina humphed. "Very... badly..." Her tone was clearly somewhat embarrassed. Katarina's voice was very strained and hard to understand. After all, she was still developing the human vocal cords. This made her sound less than pleasant.

Yasenia moved Aurelia out of her lap, using her tail to caress her head, and then grabbed her little daughter. "Oh, my precious baby. Even if you take one hour per word, Mommy would listen to you read an entire book!"

Katarina buried herself in Yasenia's arms. She was not small, but the dragoness's embrace was as welcoming as when she could be cradled between the dragoness's arms. Moreover, if Katarina wanted to be engulfed by her Mommy or Mama, she just needed to ask them to transform. Then, forget about hugging; she would be smaller than a single one of Yasenia's scales.

For Katarina, this was the opposite of terrifying. Because Yasenia was her biological mother, her mountainous size only gave her an incredible sense of security.

Cecile approached after Katarina buried herself in Yasenia's arms, unwilling to talk more. The Moon Phoenix woman crouched before her. She smiled gently, a facial expression that, a few decades ago, the girls would've never imagined her doing. "Little Feather, speak with Mama then and practice, okay? When you feel like you are good enough, then you will talk to Mommy. What do you think?"

Katarina looked at Cecile and shifted around, running into Cecile's arms this time. The Moon Phoenix's large wings naturally spread and cocooned her little one, leaving the cute draconic head out. She looked like a little bundled dragonling, extremely adorable.

Katarina looked at Yasenia, and the dragoness pondered. "Okay, how about Mommy stays out for another week, I play with all of you, and then I go? What do you think, Katarina?" She looked around. "And what about the rest of you?"

Skye was fast to jump into the conversation. "One month!"

Yasenia burst into laughter. "No can do, love."

Skye pouted and looked at Katarina. "Little Sister Katarina, do as we practiced!"

Katarina nodded and then looked at Yasenia; when the dragoness looked over, she put on a sad face, making even her pupils enlarge. Yasenia almost had a heart attack. 'My daughter is just too cute!'

Still, she really needed to do this, so she commented. "Okay, all of you, come here."

Kali and Tatyana patted their daughter's butts, and both of them approached. Cecile also kissed Katarina's head, and she placed them down, letting her run over to her Mommy.

Yasenia asked. "Is Mommy strong?"

The children blinked, confused. Aurelia was quick to answer, though. "Very strong. Even Little Mommy can give us a lot of trouble. So Mommy is naturally very strong."

The dragoness nodded. "But, even then, many people can beat Mommy, right?"

The children didn't want to admit it, but they still nodded. The girls had taught them honesty from a young age.

Then, Mama Dragon said. "So, Mommy needs to become stronger so that she can protect all of you, right?"

The children nodded again, but their expressions were clearly disappointed. The dragoness kissed each of their foreheads, and she said. "That's why Mommy will be with all of you for a week, and then, I'll go to closed-door cultivation."

Dawn asked. "Mommy, my birthday is in one month... Will you be able to make it?"

Yasenia rubbed her face with her pretty daughter and sighed. "Sorry, love, perhaps I won't make it. What Mommy is doing takes time, and if I do it wrong, Mommy will be really hurt. Then, I might lose not only one birthday but many. Would my pretty Dawn want that?"

Dawn shook her head and spoke, a bit sad. "Okay, Mommy. I understand."

Yasenia gave her a little kiss on the nose and smiled. "Good girl." She looked at the rest and asked. "How about all of you?"

They all nodded and answered. "We understand..."

The dragoness laughed, showing them an exceptionally beautiful smile that dazed them. "Thank you, babies."

The following week passed quickly, and eventually, Yasenia entered her cultivation room to tackle the energy condensation problem.

Once inside, she activated all the formations and even took a few pills, contrary to her usual practice. The dragoness liked being as natural as possible with her Cultivation, so she very rarely used pills to aid her progress.

It was a strange thing to be somewhat of a purist about, but nobody said anything.

This time, though, she would need horrendous amounts of energy, so she decided to make an exception. 'I'll see how this goes, and taking in this experience, I should be able to tackle the transformation from liquid to solid by myself.'

After she sunk her conscience into her Dantian, her Solar System Dantian welcomed her. The nebula-like energy was surging and moving around in waves, showing tremendous power and potential.

Then, she further focused and grasped a few particles of the entire thing with her spiritual sense. Compared to her entire energy pool, it didn't even reach 0.01 percent of the whole, but it was enough to do a small test.

She first drew energy from the surroundings, and she filled the limited space with more gaseous energy. As the pressure inside the solid sphere increased, the energy started being repelled and resisting Yasenia's attempt.

Energy tended toward an immaterial form. Therefore, the act of squeezing it together into liquid or even a solid went against the natural order. It was a cultivator's way of challenging the heavens.

Cultivation was, in the end, a mortal defying the heavens by stealing part of its powers for themselves.

Yasenia muttered. 'Okay, everything is going smoothly for now. Let's see what happens when I form the first droplets of liquid energy.'

After feeling that she could draw much more gaseous energy into the sphere she contained with her Spiritual Sense, she took in a deep breath and then compressed the sphere. 'Transform.'

A profound wave of energy pulsed outward from Yasenia's body. The energy was slowly arriving at its condensation point.

Then, the dragoness circulated both her Spiritual and Body techniques, and she used all of her strength.

The sphere quickly shrunk in size.

An instant after the critical point arrived, Yasenia felt an unstoppable force explode outward, accompanied by a torrential wave of pure energy.

Her spiritual sense was blasted outward, causing her a piercing pain directly into her mind and cutting off her "sight" from the place where it happened.

The dragoness sighed. "This will be quite a long one..."

She quickly spotted the super-concentrated energy spot when she looked inside her Dantian again. 'Hm... Is that liquid energy?'

There was a fluid that was sliding through an invisible wall. While the imagery of her Dantian was that of an endless cosmos, it was naturally not endless in nature. So, there were "walls" around everything.

Of course, as a [Spiritualized] Dantian, even these walls couldn't really be called as such.

Regardless, the liquid drops she created gently rolled down like jelly instead of a fluid. 'Hmm... pretty.'

The energy was bluish-purple, similar to the colors of the Celestial Energy Star but less pure. While it appeared like a colloid, the consistency was undoubtedly that of a fluid.

The dragoness looked at the rest of the energy floating around her Dantian and sighed. 'Is this really the only way? I'll take at least three years to do it this way.'

Her brain spun around, and she tried not to overlook the most straightforward solutions this time. While the problem seemed complex, in essence, she just wanted to constrict the liquid faster.

'How to do this...?' Suddenly, the dragoness looked at the few droplets of liquid energy and blinked. 'My treasures were forcibly fed when I compressed energy around them... What about you?'

Her spiritual sense captured the liquid energy, and she created a sphere again. From the sides of this sphere, Yasenia poured gas energy into it. As the energy compressed again, the dragoness's lips arched because the tiny droplet of liquid energy was getting bigger.

The pace was certainly slow, but it was accelerating. 'Hoho~, so the mental pain I received was because I entered some kind of "half-step" state. I had a small backlash because my body was not completely accustomed to the power behind the liquid energy. Thankfully, I tried it with a tiny amount at first.

Yasenia continued pouring her gas energy into the droplet, and it quickly rose in size. As it became bigger, its own qualities as a higher-quality energy began pulling in gas energy by itself. It was not the fastest, but the pace was certainly exponential.

Yasenia smirked. 'I hope not much time has passed outside. Keeping track of time when doing these things is really difficult.'

After the last bit of gaseous energy became liquid, her aura condensed and increased in depth. There was no violent explosion. Now, her aura was like a bottomless ocean.

Yasenia had fully entered the fourth level of the Dantian Spiritualization Realm.

Chapter 957: Maids and Yasenia's conversation.

When Yasenia stepped outside, her presence spread like a flood. Her strength had become several times higher compared to the previous level. It was to the point that every single person above the Unification Realm level in the realm felt Yasenia's aura for a second before she ruled it inside herself.

Alaia, Flora, Leila, Doriel, and the other maids appeared in front of Yasenia and kneeled. "Congratulations, Young Miss!"

The dragoness nodded and asked. "How much time has passed?"

Alaia lifted her head and answered. "Seven months, two weeks, and three days."

The dragoness hummed. "I see." She couldn't help but sigh. "It was still longer than I expected."

Flora laughed. "If any other cultivator heard Young Miss, they would probably cough blood from anger."

Yasenia chuckled. "Well, I am pushing 70 already. I thought that by this age, I could at least be in the solid energy realm."

Doriel spoke. "If Young Miss had not been trapped in that trial for 20 years, then it would've been possible."

The dragoness nodded. "However, it happened, and making excuses is not something I want to do," Yasenia muttered. "Honestly, advancing with a perfect foundation is what's making me advance so slowly."

Clara spoke seriously. "You can't be hasty, Young Miss. Young Miss's tribulation to the Transcendence Realm will need every single treasure, ability, strength, and talent that you can squeeze out. I would even recommend delaying the breakthrough for ten years to consolidate after you reach your peak."

The other maids nodded, agreeing with Clara. Yasenia crossed her arms under her chest and got thoughtful. After swinging her tail around for a bit, she said. "I won't agree because I don't know what might've happened by then. Still, know that I'll keep it in mind." Then, she looked at her maids and smiled. "I want to test my strength before doing anything else. Do any of you want to spar?"

The animal ears and tails of the beast human maids perked up, while the human ones had starry eyes. A big collective "Yes!" was heard, loud and clear.

Yasenia blinked a few times, surprised. "So eager?"

Alaia laughed. "Young Miss was too weak for us to spar somewhat seriously. While Young Miss still has a long way to go to face us properly, Young Miss has gained enough strength to threaten us slightly. Of course, this is in the sense that Young Miss's weapons and skills now have the potential of harming us."

Yasenia raised an eyebrow. "Really? I always thought that to fight even the weakest of you, who is currently at..." Yasenia looked around and blinked. "Level 8 of the Dantian Spiritualization Realm, I would need to reach at least Level 6."

Selena smiled. "Young Miss, that would be true if you didn't unlock Beast and Body cultivation. With your current Level 4 Legendary Beast Status, low-level Epoch Core, and Level 4 Dantian Spiritualization realms, Young Miss has enough strength to face us."

Yasenia acknowledged and asked. "Speaking of Body Cultivation, I am at the peak as well. Is it better to break through first? I just don't know how long it takes to go from low to middle-level Epoch Core realm."

Clara spoke. "Madam Cecile has managed to break through quickly. The difference between low- and middle-level Epoch Cores is the energy within the Epoch Core, as well as its size and integration with the body. Right now, Young Miss's Epoch Core is somewhat of a... 'Alien' organ to the body, so you are not entirely in sync with it. Epoch Core realm will allow your body to completely assimilate the organ as if you were born with it."

The dragoness hummed. "I see. So I will be able to break through rather quickly. Is there any event that I need to know of? How are the children doing?"

Alaia stood up and gave Yasenia a jade scroll. "Here is everything that happened to the little misses when you were away, Young Miss. There is also general information about the world's political situation and a few extra details about the sect's progress."

The dragoness took the scroll and sank her consciousness into it. Information flowed quickly into her mind as she read everything that happened. She couldn't help but feel a bit emotional as she read about many new events. 'Hm? Luminaria is getting much more intelligent than I expected.'

Luminaria was the name that the girls gave Estrella's jellyfish pet. Estrella didn't call her like that, though. She always referred to her as "Lumi."

The children's birthdays also went well, but there were reports of the children looking toward the mountain during their birthday as if expecting Yasenia to appear.

Yasenia had the urge to go and meet them right at this moment and pamper them, but she continued reading. 'Oh! Flame's shop is doing quite well; even Kaleina is helping from time to time... Hm? Oho~, a few people have been trying to court Kaleina.'

The dragoness sneered. 'As if you have any chance at all. Hm? Flame got upset, and she had a fight with Kaleina. Hm~, Hm~? Oh? Aha~, hehe. I see!'

Yasenia smiled, amused. 'Tsk, ts. Flame needs to be a bit more direct~.'

Then, the dragoness read the political situation and sect situation quickly, not even spending half the effort on it as she did with the children's information.

Yasenia closed the scroll and took out her consciousness from it. "I see. So the Undead had quite a good harvest."

Alaia nodded. "We've gone to investigate, and they've grown to a few tens of millions after digesting their gains."

The dragoness clicked her tongue in wonder. "Undead spread really fast, don't they?"

A maid that had necromantic powers smiled. "As long as there is Death, Undead will thrive. However, during peaceful times, the Undead had difficulty increasing their numbers."

Yasenia hummed. "Is that why so many people have a really bad impression of them?"

That same maid nodded. "Yes, young miss. It is a deserved fame because many Undead have manipulated several powers during the ages to increase the wars, incite discord, and even influence some religious groups into sacrifice practices. While many Undead are not really like that, the extreme ones are really extreme."

The dragoness blinked. "Quite dangerous neighbors to have. I might've not fully considered the level of threat when speaking with them. I am a bit accustomed to Mom's Undead; it didn't come to mind that natural Undead have such habits. They are not much different from Demons in that regard."

That maid pouted and defended. "Young Miss, while it is the truth that naturally born Undead lean towards evil, at least the general majority doesn't care as much. Demons are all evil."

Yasenia laughed. "All of them? Not even one of the race deserves saving grace?"

Alaia explained. "How can a good tribe thrive in an environment where the weak are brutally dominated by the strong? All good tribes that refused to go with the others were exterminated long ago by the current races. Peaceful Demons are so rare that they are sold in some auctions around the Universe as valuable and rare items."

The dragoness winced. "Ouch. You try to be good, and people take you to sell you because you are so odd. Talk about being miserable; good demons might be the ones that have it the worst."

Yasenia asked. "So, what's your recommendation with the Undead? Does anyone have an idea?"

The maids all got thoughtful. Eventually, a Level 9 maid spoke. Her tone was deep and pleasant. "Young Miss, how about we make them sign a racial heavenly oath?"

Yasenia blinked. "What's that?"

The maid spoke. "Heavenly oaths can affect individuals or groups. Some races in the past, like Divines, were restricted because of the racial Heavenly Oaths."

"The past meaning...?"

After Yasenia's question, the maid answered. "Before the Heavenly Cataclysm."

The dragoness rubbed her chin and commented. "Continue."

The maid nodded. "As long as all of them agree, a Heavenly Oath to restrict an entire race can be placed down. Of course, doing such things heavily influences a person's Karma. How the Karma will change depends on what the future will look like with that Heavenly Oath on."

Yasenia frowned. "Too risky."

Doriel nodded. "While the idea is good, if Young Miss does it, the Karma behind that action can be crushing. More so now that Young Miss is approaching the Transcendence Realm. The best case scenario is Young Miss managing to close all of her lingering Karma ties."

The dragoness asked. "For Example?"

Doriel commented. "Searching for individuals like Isla, Jaxon, Madam Angel's sister, and other people with deep ties with Young Miss might be interesting. Completely resolving Young Miss's ties with Distancia would be ideal."

Yasenia crossed her arms. "How do I do that? Cutting my ties with this world?"

Doriel commented. "Resolving all remaining debts of gratitude and cutting off the cycles of revenge is a good start. When Young Miss leaves, you should leave everything set up and be able to forget about Distancia."

The dragoness frowned. "But, some of my children might want to remain here in the future. What about them?"

Doriel smiled. "Family ties are not taken into consideration because they are family. Cutting ties with family is often considered as negative Karma. Of course, the situation depends. Family relations, as long as they are good, they will be there."

Yasenia muttered. "This is quite complicated."

Alaia spoke soothingly. "A step at a time, Young Miss. You don't need to do this. After all, these are recommendations passed down from time immemorial."

The dragoness sighed. "With more reason, I need to do it. Traditions are usually there because people in the past saw a solution to a problem that has completely disappeared thanks to that tradition. If we forget about the tradition, that problem will reappear with time."

Yasenia pondered and turned around. "I'll break through into the middle-level Epoch Core first. Then, I'll come out and have a few sparring sessions with all of you. Fifty battles should be enough to gauge my strength. After that... I'll need to start looking outward and creating something that can find those people related to me... There are so many things to do even when times are peaceful."

The maids saw Yasenia disappear into the cultivation cave again, and one of them asked. "Senior, was it okay to tell Young Miss all of this now? Not even Lady Tatyana has told her, right?"

Alaia spoke. "We can't let Young Miss feel relaxed. Although I feel bad, we need to keep Young Miss's alertness up at all times. The cultivation world is ruthless, and the second you relax, it can devour you even before you know what happened."

Alaia frowned, feeling a bit guilty. "While what we said was a bit exaggerated, it is not a complete lie. These traditions are customary traditions almost throughout the entirety of Heaven and Earth."

Flora sighed. "Young Miss's path is difficult. The Heavens are against her. Only that is enough to make anyone helplessly crumble down. Yet, Young Miss is facing more than that."

Leila spoke. "However, we should also not interfere much. Changing Young Miss's path can lead to an unwanted outcome."

Tatyana spoke to all of them through spiritual sense. "Leila is right, keep it light. What you did was good this time around, but interfering too much will create discord. Keep it in mind."

Chapter 958: Middle-Level Epoch Core! Violent Breakthrough.

After Yasenya entered again, the dragoness started thinking about how to start the cultivation session. "Hm. Let's first do one hour of body refinement, and then I'll start body cultivation. The body refinement should warm up my muscles and meridians enough to tackle the breakthrough from low to middle-level Epoch Core."

The dragoness walked toward a corner of the room, where she had set up a bathtub, not much larger than her body. After all, body refinement was not an activity that was filled with comfort. On the contrary, it was extremely painful.

Still, the dragoness methodically took out the herbs and other materials. On average, she did this every two or three days. So, as the water changed colors and absorbed all the properties, she lit up a fire below the bathtub with her [Alchemy Fire].

When the concoction reached a boiling point, Yasenya let her clothes drop, going completely naked, and she lifted her long and seductive leg, sinking her feet in it.

The sensation of her skin burning while needles prickled her skin, muscles, and bones was transmitted to her brain. However, the dragoness kept a neutral face, sinking her entire body into the bath.

Her feet, legs, waist, tail, stomach, back, breasts, neck, and finally, her entire head. The boiling concoction surrounded her everything, assaulting her with pain that many would consider straight-up torture.

Even if she wasn't really getting physically hurt to a great extent, the feeling was like hundreds of people were giving her body blows with red-hot metal bars.

Still, Yasenya closed her eyes and started practicing the technique. The skill allowed her to breathe underwater, making the concoction follow her respiratory and digestive system, spreading the medicine all around together with that sensation of burning. 'This is what burning alive must feel like. No, perhaps this one is worse. After all, I also feel like thousands of needles are piercing my body inside and outside, with my muscles and bones feeling like they are about to snap and be torn into pieces.'

Yasenya would twitch from time to time, even if she could hold her position. The pain was that big. Even when she had done this thousands of times, it still made her react from the powerful pain that body refinement carried with it.

Moreover, each of these sessions would only increase her overall strength a fraction. At first, she made big jumps in strength, especially in defensive power. Still, as she continued to do them, they became less effective, to the point that the before-and-afters were unnoticeable for Yasenya.

Still, she did them. She gritted her teeth and allowed her body to be assaulted by the painful body refinement technique. Because she knew. The dragoness deeply understood that cultivation was all about accumulation. The small fractions accumulated across tens, hundreds, or even thousands of years would eventually pay off. As the ancients said, even mosquito legs are meat.

The torturous hour went by rather slowly, but eventually, Yasenia emerged from the water and used her fingers to clean the water off of her eyes. She opened them, revealing her deep and profound golden eyes, and without saying anything, she stepped outside.

Looking at the now clear water of the tub, she hummed. "I absorbed everything. I need to increase the potency for next time."

Body Refinement was a gradual process, so when you got accustomed to refining your body to a certain level, if you wanted continuous improvement, there was a need to increase the level of torture as well.

Not many across the entirety of the Heavens were able to do what Yasenia was doing. Many either gave up or went crazy from the psychological damage.

Yasenia didn't bother putting on clothes and walked toward the middle of the room. She took a deep breath, allowing energy to flow through her meridians. The liquid energy moved slower than the gas energy. However, as it flowed through her meridians, her body was nourished with seemingly infinite energy.

Then, Yasenia slid her foot and slapped her right palm forward.

The air compressed before her palm, and then, it burst.

BOOM!

A massive shockwave moved forward, accompanied by a violent storm of wind. Yasenia didn't stop; her face focused on the martial arts movements shown in the [Celestial Cosmos Immortal Body Technique].

The first week, the dragoness practiced the movements without the assistance of the new liquid energy. She just used her Body Cultivation path, gathering and using gas-state energy. However, Yasenia felt that while possible, she would take a long while to break through to the middle-level Epoch Core.

'One week has gone by.' Yasenia muttered. "Let's start for the real." Then, she took a deep breath and wore her usual revealing blue dress. As she moved, this time, her liquid energy from the Dantian flowed.

Surprisingly, with the liquid energy coursing through her meridians, her movements felt much more solid, fluid, and smooth. Each strike linked with the next in perfect harmony, showcasing impressive synergy. 'Gaining liquid energy has not just increased my raw strength.'

The energy created by her movements flowed to her muscles, bones, and Dantian.

'I can feel everything around me better. My senses have expanded.'

Together with the sharpening of her mind, fluidity increased.

'My limbs move exactly as I want them to. I am correcting mistakes I didn't even feel were there before.'

With increased fluidity, her blows increased in power.

'Each strike, each step, each movement, everything links as one.'

With the increase in power, the momentum was exponential.

'I can feel that this set of movements is not a compilation of martial art movements. They are one big movement, seemingly unending and perfectly linked.'

Subconsciously, Yaseia activated [Grand Cosmos Art]. Using phantoms of enemies to practice, the dragoness unleashed the first form, then the second, the third, the fourth...

'No wonder I could fight Mom and the other seniors during my enlightenment. I was acting according to my subconscious knowledge of the [Celestial Cosmos Immortal Body Technique].'

The dragoness performed the fifth, sixth, and final seventh forms.

'When seniors say to be like water, to be fluid with the power of a water stream, this is what they meant. You don't release different kinds of movements. Everything must be one big stream, one big river of martial movements that connect.'

Her hands, legs, and tail constantly attacked, each blow stronger than the last. Yaseia smiled. 'I see.' Then, she focused on her Dantian and rushed all her energy toward the bottleneck.

BANG!

The energy flowing through her meridians toward the middle-dantian roared powerfully. The dragoness continued, increasing her speed until only a blur could be seen.

Then, she shouted. "BREAK!"

BANG!

CRASH!

BOOM!

A hit, a breakthrough, and a violent aura explosion.

One after another, everything surged inside the dragoness. Her Epoch Core absorbed the torrents of energy surging into it, swelling and transforming, making its composition sturdier, giving Yaseia's physique nourishment like never before.

Yaseia could feel a violent surge tearing into her muscles, bones, and organs while another rebuilt it. The horrendous pain almost forced Yaseia to stop her martial arts movements. Nevertheless, the dragoness persisted. She gritted her teeth and roared. "BREAK! THROUGH!"

Her leg propelled her skyward, hitting the ceiling several kilometers away in less than a second. Then she pushed against the ceiling, falling down like a meteor and impacting the ground with her fist first.

BOOM!

At the same time as her punch hit the ground, gargantuan energy waves exploded outward, mixing with the blow and transforming into a shockwave that slammed against the cultivation cave's walls with violence.

Yaseia stood on her knees, her fist sinking a few centimeters into the floor. That feat in itself was ridiculous since the cave she was in was supposedly strong enough even to bear a half-step Dantian Spiritualization Realm's full-blow strikes.

Yasenia's strike damaged it, meaning that the reinforced floor couldn't bear her strength, even if it was for a second.

The dragoness lifted her fist while breathing heavily and looked at her immaculate hand. There were no scratches or even marks. She only had a light reddish tint on her knuckles. "Huh? Did I really do that?"

Yasenia was somewhat baffled. However, she quickly shook her head. "Did I break through?"

She quickly sank her spiritual sense into her body and gazed at the Epoch Core. She was stunned to find that it had not only increased in size but also grown a few more meridian connections around itself and her body. Those connections seamlessly interacted with the other meridians and spread throughout all her bones, muscles, tendons, and organs. "Oh? Is this what the maids said about the Epoch Core integrating with myself? I see."

Yasenia stretched and moved around a bit. "Hmm... Let's test my speed. Before, I needed this much impulse to reach the other side. What if I use the same now?"

Yasenia looked at the distant wall and pushed with the same proportional strength she had before. Her body vanished from her standing point, followed by a loud explosion.

BANG!

The dragoness bounced off the wall and rolled around, clutching her face and breasts. "Ouch, ouch, ouch!"

Soluna's laughter reached Yasenia. 'What did you expect? Hahahahaha.'

Yasenia grumbled. 'I thought I would be able to slow down enough if I was too fast. Who knew that I would cross more than two kilometers just like that!? It felt as if I took a single step!'

Soluna mercilessly laughed. 'Hahahaha. I am going to tell your wives later, hahahaah.'

The dragoness stopped on her back and opened her arms, looking at the ceiling resignedly. "Sure. Go ahead, sigh." Then, she spoke. "Anyway, time to go out and deal with whatever it is I need to deal with!"

She walked outside, and like the previous time, the maids arrived and kneeled. "Congratulations, Young Miss."

Yasenia raised her eyebrow. "Oh? But I didn't use my aura this time. How did you know?"

Alaia smiled. "Everyone heard the large explosive sound coming from your cultivation cave, Young Miss. It happened in the middle of the night, so you startled everyone awake."

The dragoness coughed. "Everyone? Even the children?"

Selena smirked. "Don't worry, Young Miss. Their sound canceling formations prevented such a scene from happening."

Yasenia sighed. "That's good."

"How is that good? I jumped so high that I hit the ceiling!"

Yasenia smiled widely and looked sideways, seeing Evelyn wearing a beautiful purple kimono with blue flowers. The dress increased her mature aura, and because her hair was gathered in a gorgeous bun with accessories, it gave her a completely different feeling than the usual mischievous girl.

The dragoness was not shy with her praise. Her tail wagged as she approached with sparkling eyes. "Wow! You look so pretty, Dear. Like a beautiful petunia that has been recently watered."

Evelyn blinked and coughed. "Praising me won't make me forgive you!"

Yasenia leaned forward and pecked her lips, putting on a cute and smiling expression. "How about this?"

Evelyn stuttered. "T-That's not fair! I finally had an excuse to act angry. I don't want to lose it like this!"

Yasenia blinked twice adorably and rubbed her cheek with Evelyn's while purring. "Are you sure you want to be angry~?"

The maids sighed. 'This time, it is Madam Evelyn's loss.'

And that it was, as Evelyn's determination to be angry at Yasenia crumbled like a stack of cards. "I don't..." Evelyn sighed and hugged Yasenia tightly. "Welcome back. I missed you."

Yasenia smiled softly and hugged her back. "I missed all of you too~. I love you."

Evelyn looked upward with a gentle smile. "I love you too, Yasenia."

Chapter 959: Preparation Of Combat.

Yasenia approached the sparring arena. She had gained enough strength since the last time she fought seriously that she would not be even comparable to who she was before.

First of all, her War Intent and Monarch Intent had reached Level 9. While Celestial Intent was still stuck at Level 7, its strength was not much worse than the other two.

Then, her cultivation realms had reached the "middle" range of the fifth realm. Yasenia had always thought that by the time she reached this level, she should be almost unstoppable among the people in the Distancia Continent. Her plan back then, when she didn't have the maids, would've been to turtle until today, when she gained this level of strength, and then face the World.

Of course, plans changed.

Even then, she participated in the peak-level battlefields thanks to her [Celestial Pearl]'s incredibly overpowered buff.

Now, Yasenia was confident that she had the strength that her buffed self had back then. Standing at one side of a big arena, Yasenia looked forward with a focused face.

She didn't know that the children were standing and looking at her in the stands together with the rest of the girls.

Skye muttered, her eyes glittering. "Mommy is so pretty! She looks... different!"

Estrella looked at Yasenia's relaxed stance and asked. "Why do I feel like Mommy's relaxed stance is so... defense-tight?"

The girls smiled while looking at Estrella. Her cultivation and strength might be falling behind, but martial-art-wise and combat-instinct-wise, she was the sharpest of them all. Kali answered while patting her head. "Very good observation, Estrella. The reason you feel like that is that she is on guard. While her posture is relaxed, all the fibers in her body are tensing and relaxing. The second a threat appears, she will jump at it like a predator."

Dawn asked, excited. "Can Mommy win against her maids? Auntie Leila and the rest are really strong!"

Andrea answered while laughing. "Even we don't know how strong your Mommy has become. So, we'll need to see. First, one of the Level 8 maids will enter the arena and fight. If Yasenia wins, a Level 9 one will enter. If she wins... Then, Auntie Leila or one of the others will need to step forward."

Skye looked up at Evelyn and asked. "Do you think she can win, Mama? You have seen her from very close, right?"

Evelyn hummed. "I am honestly unsure. However, I can tell you that I felt somewhat overwhelmed the second I tried to look at her aura. While a sense of strength has always accompanied your Mommy, that level of oppressive feeling is entirely new."

Angel blinked. "Really? Was it that much of a difference?"

Evelyn nodded seriously. "It was like looking at a peak-level senior. Other than Angel, we can more or less fight at a Level 8 to 9 Dantian Spiritualization realm strength. But Coraline and other people of a similar level felt... weak compared to Yasenia."

Ebirah blinked twice. "Even Mom?"

Evelyn crossed her arms. "I am unsure, Ebirah. I have sparred with your mother and lost, but when fighting her, I didn't really feel an overwhelming sense of defeat. When I thought of fighting against Yasenia..." Evelyn shook her head and laughed. "The only word that flew through my head was 'Impossible.'"

Tatyana spoke up. "It is normal you felt that way." The Death Empress spoke as everyone looked at her. "When Yasenia has transformed her energy into the liquid state, she has also mixed a bigger proportion of Celestial Energy with it. The gas energy had less than 0.1 percent Celestial Energy purity. The liquid energy in her Dantian has around two to three percent of Celestial Energy purity."

Cecile spoke for the first time. "Too strong."

The girls looked over, and Cecile's face was more severe than ever. "She is even having trouble holding back her aura. Tatyana, you might want to increase the aura-blocking feature a bit before she starts for the children."

The Death Empress didn't mind adding a few extra layers, and she quickly did so. Several geometrical lines and runes spread in their private room, making the space around her flicker a few times while an Aura Blocking formation spread around.

Then, Tatyana looked at the children and smiled. "Little brats, remember to look at that screen if you want to know what's happening. The speed that your Mommy fights now is too fast to follow by your eyes." Tatyana looked sideways and smirked. "Flame, Kaleina, you both as well."

While holding Angel's hand, Aurelia asked, surprised. "Even Big Sister Kaleina?"

Tatyana nodded. "Yes." Then, she looked at the arena. "Oh? A maid is about to enter the arena."

The girls looked at the screen that was showing the maid preparing to jump in. Kali hummed. "Her face is so serious."

Tatyana laughed. "They know. Their Young Miss has finally caught up. The realization has hit them harshly. After all, most of the maids you see here were in the early Unification Realm when Yasenias was five years old or so."

The Death Empress smiled somewhat evilly. "They know that they are not as useful the second they can't protect Yasenias. They are Yasenias's personal maids because they can fight by her side. If they become so weak that they can't fight by her side, what is their use other than intelligent and trustful advisors?"

Angel muttered. "But they are not becoming weaker, no? Yasenias is just... too fast."

Tatyana shrugged. "Yasenias is their zero point. If the zero approaches you ten steps and you move one, you go from a 10 to a 1. Therefore, you are weaker by comparison, and consequently, you are worse. As a result... You are useless."

Andrea repeated. "Their zero is Yasenias."

Alaia spoke in the maid stands that were hidden from the dragoness. "Many of you were doubtful. I know it." The other 49 maids looked over. "We are all her loyal maids, and while I know that everyone here would give their entire existence to avoid any harm from happening to Young Miss, some of you slacked off."

Alaia looked at a few Level 8 maids and said. "The potential of all of us is similar. We all started at a similar point. However, some of us are now Level 8, others Level 9, and others are already deep in the Half-Step Dantian Spiritualization Realm."

Alaia spoke. "That's unacceptable. Yet, Lady Tatyana never said anything. Why do you think it was?"

A Level 8 maid spoke firmly. "Because Lady Tatyana never doubted that Young Miss would eventually catch up. That this exact moment would one day occur, one way or another."

Alaia nodded flatly. "Exactly." Alaia looked at the weakest of them all and said. "River, this is not a spar for you."

River was an otterkin beast human. She had a slender body and cute, rounded animal ears. Her attributes were Water and Darkness. The reason she was on the maid team was her assassination skills. Similar to Doriel, River had a terrifyingly lethal innate skill.

Not to mention, her combat style was incredibly agile and swift. By the time her enemies tried to slash once, River would've probably sliced them to death. She was someone who used speed combat to the limits.

River looked around and tightly gripped the handle of her short swords, her adorable face struggling like never before. "I don't want to assassinate Young Miss."

Alaia didn't blame her. Instead, she said. "None of us want to. We, who love Young Miss with all our beings, would never, even in our worst nightmares, want to point our weapons at her seriously."

Alaia continued with a sigh. "That's why we train. That's why we never complain. That's why we always cultivate. We want to stay a step ahead of our extraordinary Young Miss. Ahead enough that, when fighting her, we can hold our killing intent back."

Alaia sighed. "Sadly, River, Young Miss's strength is currently the same as yours. She has caught up."

River's face, filled with pain, slowly became determined. "I was wrong. This is my punishment."

Alaia nodded. "It is."

River took in a deep breath and looked at Yassenia, who stood in the middle of the arena with her sword drawn out. 'That's not Young Miss. That's not Young Miss. That's not Young Miss. That's not Young Miss. That's not Young Miss. That's not Young Miss. That's not Young Miss.'

River repeated those words in her head again and again. She repeated them so many times that anybody would've lost count. However, the more she repeated them, the worse her body's state became.

From the family viewing area, Aurelia asked, puzzled. "What is happening to Auntie River?"

For the children, River had always been a playful and adorable auntie who played with them in the water. So, seeing them suffering like she was made them a bit uncomfortable.

Tatyana spoke. "This is her punishment."

Aurelia blinked, and Skye asked. "What did Auntie River do wrong?"

Tatyana spat flatly, with zero compassion. "Be weak. That's her sin. She had tools, but she didn't use their 200% potential. She didn't grind her soul against a wall to become stronger. She relaxed, thinking Yassenia would not catch up for much longer."

Tatyana looked at River coldly. "Now that she is weak, she needs to aim her swords at the person she swore to protect with her very soul. She is in pain, enough psychological pain that it is affecting her physically." Tatyana said. "But she needs to do it."

Estrella asked, grabbing Tatyana's hand a bit tightly. "What if she doesn't?"

Tatyana looked at her daughter and knew why she grabbed her hand. She understood Estrella's current thoughts. However, Tatyana didn't mellow her words. "You must do it. There is no 'ifs,' Estrella. You fight, fight, fight, and fight. You clash with your future until the day that your heart stops beating."

Estrella tightened her grip, and Tatyana spoke. "Estrella. There is no failure. It doesn't exist because you can keep trying. Failure only becomes failure when you give up. If you try again, you haven't failed; you are still trying."

Estrella looked up at Tatyana's face, expecting to see a cold expression. However, she saw a smile gentle enough to melt ice. Tatyana said, softly. "You are my daughter. You can do it as long as you push forward. Mama could, Mommy could. How could someone that came from both of those people not do it?"

Estrella blinked a few times and nodded seriously. "Okay."

In the middle of the arena, Yasenia was highly alert. She also understood what challenging the maids meant. 'They will come with the intent to kill. This is a death battle, not a spar. They are my maids, so they would probably rather die than be weaker than me.'

As she was thinking that, her hairs stood up as a presence appeared right behind her. Yasenia's aura exploded outward with violence together with the skill she had prepared. "[CELESTIAL DRAGON ROAR]!"

ROAR!

BOOM!

A blue shockwave impacted against the attack that was aiming at her heart from behind, blasting the person who rushed at her away. Still, when Yasenia turned around, she saw that River had already recovered and was just a few meters away from her with a terrifyingly cold face as her short swords rushed at her throat.

Yasenia grinned to herself. 'So freakishly strong! Hahahaha.'

Chapter 960: Battle Maid Vs Yasenia.

When River rushed back at Yasenia after being blasted away by the Dragon Roar, her vision blurred, and her ears rang.

[Celestial Dragon Roar] was powerful enough to instantly kill people in Yasenia's same realm if their soul defense was not strong enough. So, it was natural that River, being a Level 8 Dantian Spiritualization Realm cultivator, received a harsh blow from it.

Still, knowing where Yasenia was and calculating how much the dragoness would take to turn around, she shot forward without giving her body time to rest. "[Consuming Twin Sword Slash]."

Her swords gained a viscous dark aura that, when she was around 20 meters away from Yasenia, shot forward mercilessly toward the dragoness neck.

The mix of Water and Darkness attributes created an incredibly sharp and swift black blade that consumed everything in its way.

River didn't lower her guard. While she couldn't think of a way her Young Miss could block the attack, she didn't dare underestimate her. '[Full Moon] is too slow, and any movement skill she has won't be enough to dodge. Still, continue the pressure until someone stops you!'

The otterkin's aura burst forth with a terrifyingly dense wave of killing intent. The otterkin saw 19 white dots shine with incredible brilliance as Yasenia's voice echoed. "[Heavenly Constellation Steps, Third Sky: Orion's Shield]."

A massive translucent blue shield appeared in between the blow and the dragoness, shining with Empyrean splendor.

CLANG!

River's pupils shrunk when her blow was completely blocked. However, it didn't take her with her guard low. "[Flowing Dark River]."

Her steps became complex as she moved in confusing patterns while gathering Darkness and Water energies. Then, her two swords landed on the [Orion's Shield].

BOOM!

A blow that created a shockwave capable of razing down mountains occurred. Yet, River's face was disbelieving. 'She blocked it!?'

River felt terrifying heat against her skin, and saw Yasenia opening her mouth wide. "[Celestial Dragon Breath]!"

BOOOM!

River quickly placed her swords before her body. "[Dark River Waterfall]!"

A pillar of black water burst upward, blocking a large part of Yasenia's dragon breath. Still, the power of the Celestial Skill was ridiculous and broke the defense, hitting River's body and blasting her backward once more.

Yasenia knew that giving River time to recover was the worst thing she could do. Hence, she used [Pegasus Gallop] and [Celestial Charge] together, instantly crossing the distance between them while leaving an Empyrean stella behind her.

"[Draconic Sunset]!"

BANG!

Yasenia's giant sword deviated from course as River's short swords redirected her blow to the side, leaving them both face to face. Reacting quickly, Yasenia's tail moved from the side, trying to grab onto River's stomach, but she underestimated her maid.

River didn't retreat. She took a step forward so quickly that Yasenia didn't even notice that River's palm was on her stomach. Then, River's physical strength condensed to a single point from the heel to her palm and exploded violently. "[Crushing Dark Wave]."

BOOOM!

Yasenia's body bent like a bow as her face contorted in pain, flying away right after and smashing against the opposite side of the arena.

River quickly ran after her. "[Dark River Flowing Steps]."

Like a shadow, her body melded with the surroundings and disappeared from sight.

The dragoness quickly stood up, using her energy to recover from her stunned state, and looked around. 'Tsk. I lost her.'

The dragoness lifted her sword and then slashed toward the ground. "If you are hiding, I'll make you come out! [Sun Core Shattering Strike]!"

A flash of golden light engulfed the arena, followed by a wave of Sun Energy. The dragoness's sharp spiritual sense quickly noticed a faint presence behind her and she turned around, her sword gaining a silvery glow as it spun with her. "[Draconic Crescent Moon]!"

A crescent that covered the entire arena was manifested, instantly smashing against the wall. 'I missed.'

Then, from behind, her instincts made her nape feel the chilliness of River's blades. Subconsciously, even before processing what was happening, her body reacted. "[Grand Cosmos Art, Fourth Form: Cosmic Air]."

With incredible fluidity, embodying the harmonious nature of the cosmos, she turned and kicked backward, her feet landing on River's stomach.

Time seemed to stop as River's blades were touching Yasenia's neck at the same instant that her foot landed on River's navel.

If that kick arrived a single millisecond slower, Yasenia would've lost. However, thanks to that kick, River's swords slowly separated from her neck and never managed to reach her.

River's cold and emotionless face cracked slightly, showing a hint of regret. 'I hesitated.'

She rag-dolled backward, Yasenia's strength and her own having burst in her body and creating damage to her internal organs.

From the stands, the maids looked at River and understood what happened. If River's enemy were not Yasenia but a random person in exactly the same situation, this blow would've been decisive enough to tilt the battle in River's favor or outright win the match.

Alaia looked at River, coughing a mouthful of blood, and squinted. "Young Miss's blows are really powerful. Much more than I anticipated."

Selena, the group's de facto tank, spoke. "Young Miss's blows are not only heavy. They are penetrating. Each of her strikes sinks into River as if she were made of water. Young Miss's blows are highly lethal."

Doriel spoke. "After this exchange, the chances of winning should be around sixty-forty."

Alaia asked. "Sixty for River?"

Doriel shook her head. "Sixty for Young Miss."

The rest of the maids were stunned. Leila asked. "Aren't you overestimating Young Miss a bit, Doriel?"

Doriel spoke. "While River has yet to use her berserk skills, Young Miss has not used any Celestial Enhancement or [Day and Night Cycle]."

The maids became silent after that sentence. Doriel commented. "Here it comes."

Then, the dragoness's voice spread around with the weight of a thousand Moons. "[Celestial Dragon Body], [Celestial Cosmos Body Reinforcement]."

River saw as her Young Miss's aura skyrocketed beyond anything she had felt before and took in a deep breath. "[Battle Maid]."

Horrible energy torrents rushed at River as her strength similarly skyrocketed.

[Battle Maid] was a skill Tatyana developed in the past. All of Yasenia's maids had it, and it shone more when the maids used it together. After all, it was part of a battle formation. Still, using it standalone was as powerful.

Tatyana had in mind that, in a situation where either a single maid or a large group of maids was left around Yasenia, they could use this skill to overcome whatever was in front of them. The only drawback of the skill was the terrible mental and energy strain it caused.

The effects were harsh enough that River's body convulsed for a few moments as the skill took effect.

After it completely activated, her aura burst outward and clashed with Yasenia's, pushing the dragoness's aura back.

Yasenia looked at River with a severe face. While she was strong, she was fighting someone who could similarly fight above her weight class. Moreover, River was a Level 8 Dantian Spiritualization Cultivator, which meant that her energy had already been transformed into a solid state.

As cultivation advanced, the difference between levels was increasingly more significant.

The dragoness prepared and looked at River, her vertical pupils thinning to lines. "Come."

And, as soon as she spoke, River disappeared and reappeared to her left. Her speed was so swift that it basically looked like teleportation.

Still, Yasenia's senses were buffed to ridiculous levels. So, moving her body with minimal movements, [Draconic Heart] shifted and ended in River's sword path.

CLANG!

The dragoness felt the blow, but it was not that heavy. River was specialized in speed, so she was able to resist the clash.

However, counterattacking was impossible.

CLANG! CLANG! CLANG! CLANG! CLANG! CLANG! CLANG! CLANG! CLANG!

Moving fast enough to leave several afterimages in her path, River moved around Yasenia and slashed at her like a storm of blades.

The dragoness, even with two Celestial Skills on her, was having trouble blocking everything. As she fought, she was losing terrain, which forced Yasenia to transform [Draconic Heart] into twin swords to fight back.

Then, using her tail and twin swords, the dragoness defended the absolute barrage of blows. Still, River was too quick, leaving large gashes around her body when she couldn't block.

Thankfully, she had a terrifyingly strong physique. Otherwise, River's swords would've probably spilled her guts out already.

Yasenia used her defensive techniques one after another. [Celestial Cosmos Nebula], [Orion Shield], [Grand Cosmos Art: Nebula Ripple], [Draconic Full Moon].

One after another her defensive skills were used, and yet, even when she managed to create distance or a bit of breathing space, River would attack her the instant that her defenses collapsed.

Moreover, because River was so quick, attacking her was a nightmare. The dragoness used wide-area attack skills, but even those failed to hit. 'She is becoming quicker... How is this even possible?'

The dragoness remembered the fight several years ago when the fifty maids at that time fought back more than 3000 Epoch Core Cultivators. Until now, she didn't understand how, with just one Peak-Level Dantian Spiritualization, they were able not to receive wounds during that fight.

Only now did she learn. 'My maids are just on another level compared to people here.'

She knew it, but now, she was learning it with her own flesh.

If you asked, could Yasenia beat a high-level Epoch Core? The answer was a clear yes. Yet, the woman before her, who was at a similar level to those high-level Epoch Core, was suppressing her to the point of being unable to fight back. The dragoness continued her fight, and while she still had a few tricks on her sleeve to use, like [Day and Night Cycle], her [Celestial Pearl], and other Celestial Skills, she felt satisfied.

So, with complete trust in her maid, Yasenia stopped defending and smiled. River approached at incredible speed, her swords flying toward her neck and about to decapitate her.

However, before that happened, River used her entire body to stop her ridiculous momentum forcefully. Her muscles and bones shrieked in protest, tearing in some places, but she was able to stop her blade before it touched Yasenia's neck.

The dragoness laughed and stepped forward, opening her arms wide and hugging River tightly. "Ahh! You are so strong, River!"

Suddenly, surrounded by the familiar and comforting embrace, River felt the tension around her entire body disappearing, and she fell limp in her arms. "Young Miss..."

Yasenia looked down at River's adorable face and giggled. "Hmhm~, my River won~. Are you happy?"

River looked upward cutely and shook her head. "I am not... I feel very bad..."

The dragoness's eyes softened, and she caressed her cheek. "Was fighting me seriously that hard?"

River nodded a few times, and the dragoness sighed and hugged her face into her ample breasts. "Sorry, River. I really wanted to test myself."

River sniffed without restraint, taking in Yasenia's sweet floral scent, and almost purred in comfort. "Hm~. Young Miss is really strong. I needed to go all out..."

Yasenia laughed, caressing River's rounded otter ears. "If my little maid said so, then it is the truth~."

River smiled, feeling complete and happy again. 'Ah~, Young Miss's embrace is the best~.'