

Chapter 361 - 357: Basking In The Moment

The taste of victory was said to be sweet. But to Wei Wuyin, it was bittersweet. As the isolation formation was deactivated, he could now observe the audience members of the colosseum, nearly a billion lifeforms of all genders, races and ages, who were wild with explosive excitement.

He was bombarded by his name.

"ASCENDANT EMPEROR WEI! ASCENDANT EMPEROR WEI!"

The sight of endless individuals shouting one's name in crazed hype was a scene that was extremely difficult to describe, extremely difficult to understand. The sheer worship, happiness, and burning excitement overwhelmed him.

However, when Qingye Ying surrendered, he wasn't happy nor excited. He was disappointed. This entire event, his willingness to reveal all his alchemic abilities, were all to find a worthy opponent to test his skills against. But all it revealed, all it had shown him, was that he had no opponent.

In this starfield, there was no challenge. There was no equal. And due to this, he had become the figure that would define an era. While his victory felt bittersweet, a little reluctant to end this in such a manner, the erupting cheers and chants started to slowly change his mentality.

When the crowd somehow started to shout a specific set of words, his heart started to thump with unimaginable feelings.

"NEO-DAWN HAS RISEN! NEO-DAWN HAS BEGUN! TODAY IS A NEW DAY, TOMORROW IS A NEW ERA!" These words were started by a senile old alchemist, screaming out at the top of his withered lungs. Others chimed in, and before anyone noticed, everyone was chanting these four phrases with feverish fervor!

As he stood before the crowd, hearing his name, hearing his title shouted so vigorously, and seeing the world know who he was, all he could do was one thing: Smile.

He brilliantly smiled with his pearly white teeth. He hadn't felt happiness or excitement in the beginning, but at that moment, all the issues with the Calamities of Hell, the Bloodline of Sin, the mysteries of this world, and all of his worries seemingly vanished in the tide. He basked in this tsunami of cheers!

'One of the things I've wanted in life wasn't to be worshipped, but to be remembered! And this, this is what it means to be remembered. An entire era...mine.' His thoughts were elevated. With his Celestial Eyes of Spiritual Divinity, specifically his Eye of Truth, he could observe the gathering of the world's mental focus on himself. He felt his existence permeate throughout the starfield at this single moment.

Without needing to say a single word, he knew that today this starfield was considered to be named the Tri-Vision Starfield. As for tomorrow?

It'll be named the Neo-Dawn Starfield.

In the V.I.P rooms, the group of beauties were watching this all with overwhelmingly complex emotions buffeting their hearts.

"He did it..." Qing Qiumu whispered to herself, but the entire room heard it clearly. Not only did Wei Wuyin prove that he was vastly superior to the Successor of the King of Everlore, surpassing the old legacy, but he re-invented the top-quality of product and revealed alchemic skills that exceeded the comprehensible reality of those present. In minutes, eighth-grade products were made with utter ease.

He had displayed the greatest ability, the greatest talent, and received the greatest response. The entire colosseum, planet, and likely starfield was echoing out his name at this moment. While victory had come swift in an unexpected surrender, this only highlighted his feats!

The Princess of Everlore, the poster child of the #1 alchemic force, surrendered to Wei Wuyin. This was an overwhelming victory that even this person that many regarded as the next definer of an era had to accept in the most complete way imaginable: SURRENDER. It was short but extremely decisive.

Qin Qiumu's delicate hands were clenched, trembling furiously with avid emotion. There was a light of happiness flickering in her eyes. To her, Wei Wuyin was someone she was close to, and seeing his unstoppable rise in such an absolute fashion had instilled her with pride and heated emotions. But as the magnified image of Wei Wuyin basking in the glory was shown, her heart started to race uncontrollably. She was unable to describe what she felt.

Na Xinyi had the clearest feelings out of all those present. Nearly two decades ago, Wei Wuyin and she were nobodies of the Myriad Yore Continent. She had met him, and he had given her mercy by saving her from an ill-fate at a cost. At the time, she resented Wei Wuyin, and hated him to the very soul. But after she met him again, he had shown a side of him she hadn't expected.

Despite his strength, despite his abilities, he still took responsibility for his actions and was willing to do right by her. Very few individuals in the cultivation world had such principles and morals. No longer blinded by her hatred, the memories of before were cleared up from its foggy haze of indecision as she realized that she hadn't lost something but had been given a new lease on life instead.

It was inexplicable yet expected.

In her mind, she finally realized that if it was anyone else, they might've claimed all three of her Primal Yins and kept her as a slave at best, threw her corpse aside at worst. But Wei Wuyin merely took one, with her consent, and then set her free. He stayed true to his word.

Furthermore, he had saved Qing Qiumu and spared Long Chen in the Grand Spirit Trials because of her. While that wasn't exactly true, from her perspective, it was. From the perspective of the vast majority, it was. Even then, Wei Wuyin had kept her in his thoughts and considerations.

The memories of before were now fundamentally different than before. There was no longer a hatred swelling within her heart at the thought of their passionate night filled with incredible pleasure, eliminated by relief and gentle emotion. Her eyes started to brim with wetness, threatening to spew over.

°Why did I ever hesitate?° It was as if her connection, thoughts, and emotion to Long Chen had been thoroughly severed at that single thought by an unseen force. Her heart had made a decision before, but now, she was more certain than anything at the moment.

Lian Yu's eyes were indifferent, cold, and dark. She saw Wei Wuyin being praised by the world, and she could only think about Long Chen. To her, Long Chen was her world and Wei Wuyin was a threat to it. When she saw the intense reactions of those present, she couldn't help but clench her fists with abnormal tightness. Her nails nearly drew blood.

Qing Qiumu, Na Xinyi, and Lin Ziyan were all Long Chen's! In her mind, likely even in his, Long Chen had invested time and effort to help them, travel with them, and support them. But Qing Qiumu hadn't accepted him, Na Xinyi was fickle, and Lin Ziyan had directly had a change of heart. How ungrateful!

'Would any of you sluts have what you have without Long Chen!' She felt resentful in the deepest location of her heart. So to her, that handsome face on the screen wasn't provoking any emotions outside of blazing hatred and dark resentment. To her, Long Chen was the greatest man that deserved the greatest love.

Long Tingyu emotions were the most complex. To Long Tingyu, Wei Wuyin was her big brother's rival, and she was innately biased. But this bias was childish, so it had very little foundation. Should she be excited or sad? Even she wasn't certain.

While Hong Ru and Xiao Bing felt genuine happiness, holding each other's hands as they observed Wei Wuyin claim victory. Hong Ru had been revived thanks to Wei Wuyin, so she felt a heartfelt gratitude to him, and Xiao Bing loved Hong Ru, feeling even more intense emotions towards Wei Wuyin. If it wasn't for him, who knew if she would ever come back to her?

So they were happy.

Wu Baozhai, "..."

The colosseum cheers slowly died down. Wei Wuyin relished in it while it lasted, creating an everlasting memory. But all things came to an end. When he turned to face the three leaders of the hegemonic forces and two Emperor Alchemists, he could see their varying emotions present. Even Qingye Yun's normally calm expression had twisted into something uncertain.

Wei Wuyin said, "Thank you all for being here, being a part of this moment with me. To everyone watching today, truly, THANK YOU!" His words resonated with the crowd. Sometimes, people simply wished to be acknowledged for their presence. It was enough to garner immense goodwill as countless individuals raved at his words, believing it to be directed at them.

They were a part of history today and they'll never forget it.

Chapter 362 - 358: Era-Defining Requests On Ascension Day

With the end of the All-Alchemic Clash, an innumerable amount of celebratory feasts were held in Wei Wuyin's name. There were even numerous societies that had unanimously decided to mark this day on the decadal calendars. They would name it:

Ascension Day.

It would be celebrated with the offering of alchemical products to youths, the future generation. For thousands and thousands of years, the starfield's elite alchemic forces, whatever they may be, will generously offer to the younger generation of talents. While those youngsters who devoted their lives to alchemy will receive the respect of countless individuals in hopes that one day they could bring about a new beginning of an era.

Several hours later.

Wei Wuyin hadn't expected an end like this, but it was met with grateful happiness. He had even met a few individuals that were calling the starfield in casual conversation the Neo-Dawn Starfield. He held a bright smile for a full hour after, unable to stop.

At the moment, however, he was before the presence of all the hegemonic forces of the world and its leaders. This included the forces that were extremely close, such as the Alchemist Association and Golden Coin Pavilion. They were led by Sixth Stage Astral Core Realm experts, rivaling Grand Imperial Sages.

But now, these figures were quietly and patiently waiting for Wei Wuyin to speak. Even if they were extremely powerful, even if they could crush Wei Wuyin with their fearsome cultivation base, they wouldn't dare. Not only due to Tuo Bihan's presence, but merely because of who he was.

Sweeping his gaze over these figures, he noted the Grand Imperial Sages were present, including some elite figures of the hegemonic forces that rivaled them outside of leadership. There was even Li Che and Yi Yun, who were revealing calm expressions, but the light in their eyes betrayed their intentions.

"Grand Association Master Yun," Wei Wuyin called out Qingye Yun's title causing him to take a calm breath, "You owe me a request for my victory. In that case, I'll state it now."

Qingye Yun's heart tightened. He knew this would happen. Unlike the first wager he lost, there was no optional condition in this one. There was no way they could pay-off their loss.

Wei Wuyin said, "The entire Alchemist Association will merge with the Myriad Monarch Sect, joining my personal Faction: the Ascendants. Any objections?"

"...!" The hegemonic leaders of the starfield exclaimed, gasps and shock abound. This request was a little too much, no?

Qingye Yun sighed. He looked at Wei Wuyin, his expression regained its calm, and even the light within his eyes betrayed his excitement. He expected something similar to this, and he was well aware of the Myriad Monarch Sect's conduct towards personal factions and its rules. This wasn't bad.

This just meant that he gave up leadership to Wei Wuyin. While less than fifty years old, he had proven his abilities beyond any doubt.

However, Qingye Yun didn't immediately agree. "What about those unwilling to join? If they choose to leave?"

Wei Wuyin calmly smiled, "They can leave if they wish. I'll only accept willing parties, but I, nor the Myriad Monarch Sect, will accept any ex-Association members nor their descendants for three generations and three hundred years."

Qingye Yun felt the viciousness within this remark, but he didn't object. He nodded, "Then, I, as the Grand Association Master, agree. I'll talk this over with the others later, organizing and handling the merging process." His willingness wasn't unexpected, especially considering his Princess of Everlore had fallen to pieces.

There were even a few that were envious, especially Li Che and Yi Yun.

Li Che hastily said with a cautious manner, "Ascendant Emperor Wei, I've been an independent alchemist, one without a home. I wish to join you." He didn't state to join the Myriad Monarch Sect, but Wei Wuyin.

Wei Wuyin gave Li Che a long look, causing cold sweat to drench Li Che's back. He couldn't fathom the amount of pressure he, a prestigious Alchemic Emperor, would feel to ask to join a faction. Normally, there would be numerous forces that sought him out, fought over him aggressively, but now he was praying to the gods known and unknown that Wei Wuyin would say yes.

This was an opportunity that might never come again. After all, who wouldn't want to work under the King of Everlore, let alone the heaven-defying Ascendant Emperor of Neo-Dawn! Regardless if it was his technique or exquisite confidence in the concoction process, he knew that Wei Wuyin was a well of information and skills he could drink from. Just a little might heavily improve his skills.

In truth, Wei Wuyin's skills were indeed higher than his. This wasn't simply due to his Alchemic Astral Soul. His application of alchemical methods, knowledge of observations and various interactions, and control of force were simply of a higher standard. This was evident that he could concoct a ninth-grade product.

Wei Wuyin nodded, "Emperor Li, of course I accept you. It would be my honor to work alongside the illustrious and renowned Imbibing Stars Elixir Emperor. I'm sure there's much I can learn from you."

Li Che's face blushed after those words, his heart somehow fluttering like a young maiden. While he knew that he would likely be relegated to a subordinate, he was still happy about Wei Wuyin's acceptance.

Yi Yun pouted, turning to the Golden Coin Pavilion. He was a contracted Alchemist and had obligations, but he wanted to leave. Unfortunately, the Golden Coin Pavilion's Pavilion Master seemed unwilling to pledge allegiance to Wei Wuyin. This caused him much dissatisfaction. He must find a way to break away.

Wei Wuyin was just about to speak when a cold voice spoke out.

"Ascendant Emperor Wei, I wish to speak to you in private." This voice belonged to the pure-blooded elf, Jiang Feilan, the Palace Master of the Sacred Light Palace. Her words were direct, and her wintry eyes were calmly staring within Wei Wuyin's.

Wei Wuyin heard Wu Yu's contemptuous snort in his mind, and he bitterly smiled in his heart. The others turned to observe Jiang Feilan, their eyes curious as to why she spoke in such a direct manner. They all wished to speak with Ascendant Emperor Wei for numerous reasons.

"In due time," was all he could say. This only elicited a pair of narrow eyes from Jiang Feilan. Her actions prompted people to remember that her daughter was still held captive on the Bloodforge Continent due to a prior incident. These individuals were well-informed, so they likely felt like it was connected to that.

But they couldn't be happier. If Jiang Feilan was so aggressive, then they had one less competitor to become the next Grand Monarch Wu Yu, Divine King Han Xei, or Demonic Abyss Master.

Wei Wuyin proceeded to speak, giving thanks and informing them of his intentions of providing a platform for various products, such as seventh-grade products that were already an extreme rarity. While he wouldn't freely allow the access of eighth-grade products, he intended to gather various materials and things from the sect by opening up a business of sorts.

Despite being a member of the Myriad Monarch Sect, he won't isolate himself from the rest of the world. While he couldn't say that he'd be the next King of Everlore, he did have the intention of elevating the alchemic culture of the starfield. This hopeful desire fueled them with endless elation.

He had his own plans.

Furthermore, he had even requested for a spare Void Gate. Xue Yifei and the others were still trapped, and after a bit, the Golden Coin Pavilion offered a spare Void Gate that had yet to be affixed to a location. They were initially willing to offer it for free, but Wei Wuyin kindly declined and bought it at its standard price.

With this, it'll be a short while before Xiao Bai, Ying, and Xue Yifei return to him.

The fortunate aspect of this meeting was that no one held objections over the future of the starfield. They had long since accepted the Myriad Monarch Sect as the leader, and even took the initiative to indirectly suggest making compensations for the previous war that nearly crippled the Myriad Monarch Sect.

They even alluded to the fact that if the Myriad Monarch Sect wanted their planets and flat continents back, they would do so. After all, they couldn't prevent Tuo Bihan from claiming these locations if he invaded. His current cultivation meant only their trump cards left by their ancestors had to be used to deal with him, but that was a small portion to a larger issue.

That issue being Wei Wuyin.

Realmlords.

Timelords.

Starlords.

Just from his display of concocting eighth-grade elixir with utter ease, they realized his success rate and refinement speed was heaven-defying. These former titles would definitely be born in the Myriad Monarch Sect first, claiming the entire starfield as their own. What they needed to do was keep their head down and cautiously accept the newfound status quo without rocking the bed lest they be erased.

While Wei Wuyin couldn't guarantee that future generations of the Myriad Monarch Sect won't strive for revenge, he could at least inform them that he had no intentions of destroying any of them completely. While this guarantee might sound somewhat ridiculous and loose, it still allowed their hearts to simmer down.

Even the Princess of Everlore and the Alchemist Association were scheduled to be devoured, so they had no avenue of independence or a future if Wei Wuyin didn't allow it.

The meeting lasted for quite a while with various issues being discussed. Wei Wuyin was a natural leader, acting in the position of power and the central focus. His opinion, at this moment, was the most important. Fortunately for them, he was young and his ambitions weren't extremely wild.

The Grand Monarch Lineage were well-known tyrannical conquerors, and they suppressed the other forces to extreme levels before their decline. If it wasn't for their ancestor's presence, they might have been thoroughly wiped out. But Wei Wuyin was more mellow, like the combination of Grand Monarch Wu Yu and the King of Everlore. As long as they didn't overstep their boundaries, they could co-exist.

With the absorption of the Alchemist Association, one of his main plans he had from the conception of the Ascendants had been accomplished. He would soon become the #1 Alchemic Force in the entire starfield. He would no longer have to strive to provide for every individual member, capable of delegating tasks as he saw fit.

In the end, everyone left with smiles and light hearts. The only that remained in the room were Jiang Feilan, Qin Rui, Qingye Yun, and Tuo Bihan.

Wei Wuyin was somewhat startled by Qin Rui's presence. She, much like Qingye Ying, liked to conceal her appearance thoroughly. But from her eyes that looked at him, he had a strange feeling. He didn't know how to describe it.

Anyhow, Qingye Yun had stayed behind on his order.

"Grand Association Master Yun." Wei Wuyin merely said his name and he faintly jumped. Those four words contained a questioning intent. Those silver eyes that regarded him were extremely piercing and demanding.

Qingye Yun sighed in his heart. "Ascendant Emperor Wei, I'll inform you of my intended request, but I must ask you: Can we discuss this at the Headquarters of the Alchemist Association? It would be better to tell you there." While this type of request could be misunderstood as having ill-intentions, Wei Wuyin nodded in agreement regardless.

From the beginning, Qingye Yun had tried various manipulative tactics to get him to agree to some request. Now that the Alchemist Association would soon become his, he wanted to know what this request was. Why all these shadowy means? Why not directly ask him?

He had more than just these questions, but all would definitely be revealed when he understood the 'why' of it all.

Qingye Yun felt his heart calm after seeing Wei Wuyin agree.

"You're dismissed." Wei Wuyin declared, causing Qingye Yun to bow slightly before leaving. He didn't even show an ounce of unwillingness in being directly dismissed. But within his heart, there were definitely all sorts of strange and intriguing thoughts.

With that, only four remained.

Wei Wuyin couldn't help but wonder what Qin Rui wanted. He looked towards her, and her expression tensed!

Chapter 363 - 359: However You Like

It wasn't simply Qin Rui's facial expression that had tensed at Wei Wuyin's glance. Her heart started to thump erratically, in turmoil and uncertainty. Earlier, Tuo Bihan had informed her that Wei Wuyin was a Mortal Sovereign Alchemist. Not only that, he was far younger than the King of Everlore.

If it was simply this, she might've been better off. But she had bore witness to his All-Alchemic Clash like everyone else, and she now knew that he wasn't simply at the level of the mythological King of Everlore, but likely far, far, far superior. Standing before Wei Wuyin hit her differently than it did three months ago.

At the moment, his aura was ethereal and endlessly majestic. He felt as if he walked out from a novel of legends, a figure of unlimited potential and grand feats. He felt unreal. Yet, as she observed his nigh-perfect face and imposing height, his toned body highlighted by his robes, and gorgeous pair of silver eyes that seemed to be able to regard the entire world's truth, she felt her heart race.

Within those eyes were limitless possibilities. Within those eyes was a future she could see herself in.

Tuo Bihan's suggestion of her taking advantage of Wei Wuyin's liking towards her was echoing in her thoughts without end. If she did, if she decided to break the oath she'd made all those years ago, would she become the next Sacred Elven Queen, or someone even greater?

"I..." At the thought of this, her mouth unintentionally released a sound. She wanted to speak, to jump at this opportunity, but she still wavered in the end. Unable to speak further, her eyes became downcast.

She couldn't do it.

"Congratulations on your victory, Heavenly King Wei." She said this instead, exuding a formal and proper manner.

Tuo Bihan couldn't help but sigh in his old heart. Was it true that the two had no fate? Was she going to pass up this opportunity? But he couldn't interfere; this was her choice. If he could still speak to her mother, he wondered for a moment what she would think.

Wei Wuyin faintly smiled, "Thank you, Grand Sage Qin." He understood her thoughts, and he knew of her history. The tragic and good parts. Furthermore, he didn't feel much of a loss. While Qin Rui was a beautiful woman, she and him simply didn't have much interaction. He would respect her choice and not pursue further.

Qin Rui nodded, walking away. Her hands were tightly clenched into two fists, uncertain if what she did was correct. But the future would tell all.

The only one's left in the room now were Tuo Bihan, Jiang Feilan, and himself. Tuo Bihan couldn't help but observe this Sacred Light Palace's Palace Master who was a pureblooded elf. He couldn't understand why she was still here.

Jiang Feilan had retained an expression of a frosty veil, her emotions and thoughts hard to see through the snowy blizzard of ice-cold emotions. She glanced at Tuo Bihan briefly.

Wei Wuyin sighed in his heart, "Tuo Bihan, you can leave us."

Tuo Bihan was taken aback at the order. Jiang Feilan was the Palace Master of the Sacred Light Palace and a cultivator at the Gravity Emission Phase. She was extremely powerful, so leaving her alone with Wei Wuyin was ill-advised. If she sought to take action against him, it would be extremely difficult to stop it, even for him.

But he didn't say anything about it. If it was anyone else, then he would dismiss their order, but Wei Wuyin was a figure that exceeded normality and common sense. So he left with a faint nod. His figure vanished in silver light.

Jiang Feilan watched Tuo Bihan seemingly vanish, her heart throbbing for a moment. Was this Spatial Force? While there were some unique cultivators who could utilize it before the Realm Lord Level, none of them could reach the level of power that cultivation stage could provide. She couldn't even sense his movement. It was as if he had vanished into thin air.

This made her understand that the legendary chasm described between the Sixth and Seventh Stages were true.

Wei Wuyin calmly glanced at this glacial elven beauty. Her silky black hair, impeccable skin, and willowy physique was quite a sight to behold. While she wasn't voluptuous, having the slender features of a woman, both in her breasts and butt, she still was a beautiful woman nevertheless.

For several minutes, the two merely stood there, regarding each other in silence.

While this was happening, Wu Yu was going on a seemingly endless tirade. Despite being a Grand Monarch, he was truly a little invested in matters of the Sacred Light Palace.

"Why even entertain her? You and I both know she's here for you, to enter your bed! She even has a husband and daughter, and yet she's here. Pathetic, just like 'her'." This was only a fragment of the insults thrown at Jiang Feilan, the rest weren't close to being as tamed.

Wei Wuyin couldn't help but bitterly smile in his heart. He truly knew what Jiang Feilan wanted, but he couldn't understand the why or how. From the on-set, she seemed locked onto him like he was prey. Furthermore, while her chilly eyes betrayed nothing, he could feel an aura of reluctance from her.

"Are we completely alone?" Jiang Feilan finally spoke, her voice was like a block of ice frozen over a few times. While it was feminine, it felt like it could cause one's soul to shiver.

Wei Wuyin faintly smiled, "For now, yes. But we're still under light observation. Any surge of energy or force within this would cause a decisive response." He decided to inform her of their current state. Their room was very big, with various tables and seats within. It was a grand meeting room, after all.

Jiang Feilan nodded, looking around briefly. Then, she started to walk towards Wei Wuyin, closing the distance between them. As she did, her eyes fixated on Wei Wuyin's eyes, locking their gazes. Soon, what was several tens of meters had dropped to a few meters.

Click.

She pressed lightly against her robe, particularly the belt that held it together. It slipped off slowly, revealing the fine curves of her figure. She didn't stop either, slowly removing an article of clothing with each step, her movements lacking the slightest hesitation. By the time she was a few steps away from Wei Wuyin, her exquisitely slender and gorgeous body was laid bare for him to observe in its entirety.

There wasn't a hint of clothing concealing her.

Wei Wuyin's expression was undisturbed as he watched her strip her clothes off, leaving a trail behind.

She wasn't shy at all.

"What do you want?" Wei Wuyin broke the budding atmosphere of seemingly seduction with a question. He had seen his fair share of women's bodies, far more stimulating forms as well, so he wasn't bothered. He was simply curious.

Jiang Feilan was faintly shocked by Wei Wuyin's composure. She expected less from a young man below the age of fifty, but she remained calm. She answered, "I'm one of the few female cultivators at the Sixth Stage of the Astral Core Realm in the entire starfield, and my body is extremely suitable for dual cultivation."

Her words carried a trace of alluring fragrance. With that, she lightly touched Wei Wuyin's right shoulder, her slender fingers caressing it.

"You didn't answer my question," Wei Wuyin indifferently responded.

"If we dual cultivate, you'll be able to make headway in your cultivation base, reaching the Sixth Stage in an extremely short period of time, saving you hundreds of years of bitter cultivation. You can use my body and spirit as a guide, traversing the path of cultivation swifter." Jiang Feilan stated. Her words were true.

If Wei Wuyin dual cultivated with her, he'd be able to glimpse upon the secrets of cultivation realms far quicker, even ascending realms with an explosive fashion. It was a tantalizing prospect.

"Hmph!" Wu Yu snorted. But even he couldn't say anything regarding its veracity.

Wei Wuyin frowned, a hint of displeasure in his eyes. "What do you want?" He hated asking a question a second time, and his patience was slowly dissipating.

Jiang Feilan didn't say anything, but from the faint trembling of her fingers, one could extrapolate that she felt a sense of pressure...of fear. She leaned in, her face a mere inch away from Wei Wuyin's own. She didn't hesitate to place her pink lips on his, kissing him directly.

Her soft lips held a unique chilly feeling that stimulated the senses, forcing one to seek warmth. Wei Wuyin didn't reject, meeting her brazen actions with his own. He held her slender waist and met her lips in battle. For nearly a minute, their lips and tongues met in continuous battle.

Only after a mutual agreement was met that a truce formed, allowing them to separate. Jiang Feilan's normally chilly expression had glazed somewhat and the heat from her body was clearly rising. Just from this, Wei Wuyin knew what she meant by 'suitable for dual cultivation'.

He was extremely confused for a moment, but then he realized something. "A Renewal Yin Physique?" There were a myriad of Yin Physiques recorded throughout history, some only existing in theory. The Three-Point Yin Physique was an evolving physique that allowed the body to grow Yin Sources. This was what Na Xinyi possessed.

The Renewal Yin Physique allowed the Yin Source to, with time, restore their Primal Yin. The essential and most powerful aspect of Yin Source. It was this Primal Yin that was used to cultivate, containing an extremely abundant amount of extremely pure and high-quality yin energies, including dense spiritual qualities. These qualities were very useful to understand the secrets the body itself experienced.

This meant her body wasn't just suitable for dual cultivation, it was extremely suitable! While she had a daughter, this did little to impede the restoration of her Primal Yin. She was no different than Qin Rui. In some ways, she was far, far better. And Wei Wuyin knew she wasn't a hidden virgin. Having met her daughter, they had similar bloodlines you'd find from a Mother-Daughter Pair.

Jiang Feilan was momentarily stunned. She hadn't expected her physique to be deduced so easily. But she soon calmed down, her hands sliding down Wei Wuyin's chest towards his pants. Before she could undo his belt, her hands were grabbed.

Wei Wuyin stopped her, his eyes staring into hers. "Speak. Or we stop here."

Jiang Feilan was silent for a long moment. In the end, she sighed softly. "I can act as your cultivation cauldron. You can use me as you please, have me however you like. In exchange...I hope you can support me to higher phases, to a higher realm. In doing so, you can enjoy the benefits of my physique and cultivation base. I'll be yours, in whatever way you want."

"..." Wei Wuyin wasn't too shocked by this simple reasoning. "Why? You have a husband, a daughter."

Jiang Feilan was completely undisturbed by their mention, entirely unfeeling. Just from this, there was a story behind it.

"I know my own talent; I know my own limits. I'm already nine hundred and sixty-three years old, and even if I cultivate diligently, I still won't be able to retroactively change my foundation enough to ascend into the Seventh Stage." She had the same issue Tuo Bihan did, and she wasn't a purist. Her innate foundation was definitely severely lacking, even if she took a Refraction World-Light Elixir before.

Wei Wuyin knew this was the truth. This only highlighted the cultivation world's mantra: Cultivation is difficult. A single wrong step, and the next become so increasingly difficult that they may very well be impossible. The heavens were unforgiving to all those who lacked its blessing.

But the Alchemic Dao enabled a change and an opportunity. It could shatter the conventions of cultivation, remould one's talent, redefine one's foundation, and bring one to higher levels. In a starfield

unable to naturally generate anything beyond the Fourth Stage of the Astral Core Realm, the Dao of Alchemy allowed Mystic Ascendants to be born.

If this didn't highlight its heaven-defying means, nothing did.

This could be considered Jiang Feilan's only chance before her lifespan was dried up. So he didn't fault her decision or desires. Considering it was likely the King of Everlore had propped up his 'favorites' to the Mystic Ascendant Realm, it made sense to take such drastic actions.

Jiang Feilan slowly left Wei Wuyin's loosened grip, her icy eyes briefly glanced downwards. She took her slender body and knelt before him, her eyes looking up as she awaited his words, his decision. Her entire future was laid before him, and she was willing to give up anything to grasp it.

Anything.

Chapter 364 - 360: One Shot, One Opportunity

Wei Wuyin was reminded of his time in the Scarlet Solaris Sect. When he first arrived, he was a pot of boiling feelings and stressful air. After his older brother had sacrificed his life to ensure his survival, witnessing the slaughtering of his clansmen, and losing everything important to him in a short period, he would've done anything for the sake of strength.

ANYTHING!!!

He wholeheartedly devoted himself to cultivation, fueled by the dreams of vicious revenge and endless nightmares of repeating events. He forged his own path, grasped every opportunity for power, and struggled. But, he never lost himself. His older brother had instilled into him a sense of unyielding principles and morals, and considering he only lived because of those very principles and morals, he would never forsake them.

He slowly rose within the sect until he gained some recognition. He met Mei Mei, and his life had changed. He found a future and an avenue for his revenge. After claiming the most brutal, bloody, and ferociously violent revenge imaginable, he felt unexplainable feelings.

He soon came across the Violet Moon Sect remnants. He met Na Xinyi by chance, using her to upgrade his cultivation from the Third Stage of Qi Condensation to the Fourth. Due to this, he starved off an assassination attempt via a borrowed knife and survived. His act of freeing her was an expression of those principles and morals, and sometimes he'd question whether it was correct.

He wasn't aware, but it was this act of upholding those principles that caused Long Chen to benefit, to develop a grudge, and later to take advantage of the Scarlet Solaris Sect's chaos to behead him in that alternative timeline. But if he was given the same choice, he still wouldn't have decided to change his actions.

Now, he looked at Jiang Feilan. She was the Palace Master of a hegemonic force, regarded and respected by hundreds of billions, and yet she was kneeling before him with a faintly pleading light flickering within her gaze. She was seemingly at his complete mercy.

But he knew she had no other choice. Even if Qingye Ying wasn't a part of his faction now, even if the Alchemist Association remained neutral, she would never acquire the necessary resources to reforge her

cultivation foundation enough to ascend. Qinge Ying's refinement times also showed that she would have to waste decades purely on her, and if she was to wait until she developed and grew further, Jiang Feilan would never be a priority.

She would be given scrapes at best, left alone at worst. Just like all those in the King of Everlore Era. There was a reason only those close to the King of Everlore or a part of the factions with Mystic Ascendants were capable of ascending continuously while there were no other notable forces.

This was her only chance.

"..." Wei Wuyin had already decided on what to do during their kiss. He was practical. His desire for strength was never-ending, and he wanted and desired Qin Rui because she was a beautiful elf with her Primal Yin intact. He, much like other cultivators, was inherently selfish. He wouldn't deny this.

Even with all his Alchemical Products, he still had to comprehend the next stage of cultivation. With Jiang Feilan's high cultivation base and Renewal Yin Physique, he could speed up his cultivation by tens of times. He was fighting against time, trying to reach the Realm of Sages at the fastest possible speed to ensure his survival even if he failed a Calamity.

Hence, he had already decided to agree. He had no option to reject and no reason to. Just like before, he would still do anything for strength that did not infringe on his principles and morals. And this, this wasn't even close.

However, he made clear a harsh fact: "While I can help you reach the Seventh Stage, I can not promise you much else. Your own effort and talent will still have to come into effect. The Alchemic Dao is not infinitely wondrous without limits."

When he said that, Jiang Feilan's frosty eyes brightened with a light of elation. Her hands were more animated, already reaching for Wei Wuyin's belt and removing it in an extremely practiced manner. She wanted to show her conviction and determination, revealing Wei Wuyin's manhood.

Somewhat startled by the sight, she felt her heart racing uncontrollably at the sight. She couldn't help but mentally compare. A hot and pink blush surfaced on her face, giving her a more womanly vibe. She was clearly aroused to an extreme, her thoughts wild with predictions.

She opened her pink lips and leaned forward, her tongue out and her body hot.

Qin Rui and Tuo Bihan were outside, floating directly below the Sky Layer. Qin Rui's expression was indeterminate. Tuo Bihan simply remained silent, not interrupting her thoughts.

In the end, Qin Rui asked: "Do you think I should've done something differently?" For some reason, she felt as if her opportunity was seized by someone or something else, making it so the door was forever closed. It was a strange feeling, almost instinctual.

A formless regret permeated her heart, and she was struggling to reconcile.

Tuo Bihan didn't nod or shake his head, merely responding: "A choice is a choice. There is no right or wrong, just events that happen from making it. Whether those events are good or bad, beneficial or soul

shattering, one can never know. You acted with your heart, and that alone meant it was correct." He consoled, but whether he knew if those were his real thoughts or not, even he didn't know.

Qin Rui bit her lips. Wei Wuyin was an era-defining character, much like the King of Everlore. His future was boundless and those who followed him would likely share in his future. If she stated her thoughts and desires, would he have responded? But did she need to compromise her upheld principles for that?

She had kept her Primal Yin intact for a thousand years for a reason, should she break it for Wei Wuyin? Furthermore, Wei Wuyin was still a part of the Myriad Monarch Sect, it was in his best interest to develop its top talents. She still had a chance of entering the Realmlord level and beyond! She remained hopeful, lightening up her emotions.

If all else went poorly, she still could change her choice!

Unfortunately, Tuo Bihan knew what her choice meant.

Wei Wuyin had other obligations and individuals to support. He wouldn't spare much attention to others. This would only become more selective as time passed on. Qin Rui had effectively eliminated herself from ever entering into that selective circle.

And Tuo Bihan wasn't even aware that Jiang Feilan had presented a much better option. Now Wei Wuyin no longer needed Qin Rui's nourished Primal Yin. She had become irrelevant a few minutes after declining. While Wei Wuyin might still accept her, the level of importance she'd have to him would be far, far below what she could've gotten at that time.

Sometimes in life, you get one chance, one opportunity to seize the world as yours.

Sometimes in life, you lose it.

And it never comes back.

Chapter 365 - 361: Disillusioned

"This can't be..." A voice filled with disbelief, unwillingness, and frustration echoed out. Many of the observation rooms for the All-Alchemic Clash were still occupied after its ending. There were still numerous individuals lingering around in hopes of establishing connections with various forces, but this particular room was occupied for another reason. It was the location that the Grand Prince was forced to stay in until the clash had finished.

Ji Changkong, the Grand Imperial Sage of the Extreme War Mountain, had brought Long Chen here shortly after Wei Wuyin's oath, diffusing the heated challenge of an impulsive youth. He had fought for Long Chen's rights, to ensure he wasn't snubbed as the Grand Prince, but as he watched Wei Wuyin shatter expectations, a swelling sense of bitterness emerged in his heart.

Regardless of how one saw it, he had stood on the side of Long Chen, and much like Zen, had offended the young Ascendant Emperor...

But what could he do?

While he pondered his options, Long Chen was having a discussion with his supposed harem. Ji Changkong was completely uninvested, merely staying here out of obligation at the moment. It was Long Chen's words that resounded with such emotion.

"This can't be, Lin Ziyang! He must've done something to you!" Long Chen's voice ramped upwards in volume and intensity. He was currently facing the newly restored Lin Ziyang. This was the woman that he shared a deep history with, forged by moments of struggle and joy. They arrived at the Myriad Monarch Sect together, jointly ascending the ranks and facing any obstacles.

In the Myriad Yore Continent, he risked his life and gathered all his supportive forces to fight on her behalf, to rescue her from the fate of an ill-established marriage arrangement. He faced down an Astral Core Realm powerhouse as a lowly Qi Condensation cultivator for her in the most fearless manner!

When he fought with his life on the line, claiming narrow victory for the clutches of fate, she was always the first to embrace him in relief while racked with silent worries. And he always knew she would venture into the jaws of death with him, warming his heart up endlessly. He derived strength from her gaze, from her warmth, and from her feelings.

But now...

Her vast ocean blue eyes felt foreign to him.

Lin Ziyang, on the other hand, was facing Long Chen with similar yet opposing thoughts. To her, Long Chen was her and her clan's only hope. He was the 'destined' one for her, and she devoted her all to him due to it. But when she discovered the truth, that she had made a mistake, all those valiant struggles and tragedies became bitter and painful.

She had suffered for her idiocy! When she met Long Chen, her incorrect choice at misreading Ming Shufeng's visions had caused her to suffer. It was as if it was heavenly punishment.

She was brought away from the Myriad Yore Continent, where she was regarded as a Mortal Godlord, and an extremely talented and beautiful cultivator. She was renowned, fierce, and possessed power, respect, and authority. She could arrive at any of the top sects of the various countries and be treated with the utmost courtesy.

But when she decided to follow Long Chen, her life changed for the worse, no, for the horrendous. She was brought to the Myriad Monarch Planet, where she was relegated as a Null Disciple, forced to perform degrading tasks and considered at the lowest rung of the sect. Her beauty to cultivation ratio was far too great, prompting numerous suitors to arrive and court her. There were some with gentle methods, but most were hostile when she seemingly refused them for Long Chen, a lesser talented, no-background having youngster from a lower continent.

They became antagonistic and macho, attempting to snatch her from Long Chen. At the time, she could only act as the hapless damsel, hiding behind Long Chen due to her extreme weakness. Due to this, they suffered endless impediments in the sect and had to rely on two other women, who Long Chen clearly liked, to survive. It made her feel inferior and insignificant!

For some reason, she was targeted the most out of all of Long Chen's female companions, as if she had a target on her back. Perhaps it was because she was the most useless out of the bunch, the easiest target! It ate at her mentality.

Furthermore, it didn't end there. After numerous close-calls, numerous life-and-death scenarios, her luck finally ran out. Not only had she faced terrifying circumstances, such as crippling and debilitating torture, she was left in that helpless state for over a year. It was extreme suffering. And it wasn't even just because of her, but for revenge against Long Chen.

She was a mere observer of her own life from the moment she decided to follow Long Chen. A weakling that was only able to allow things to happen to her passively, to rely on Long Chen to swoop in to save her. That feeling was indescribable. Unless you felt it, it was very difficult to understand.

Then, she learned what she believed to be the truth. The consultation of fate by Ming Shufeng wasn't regarding Long Chen, but Wei Wuyin!

Tap. Tap. Tap.

Lin Ziyang, however, was more anxious as her delicate, jade-like fingers tapped the table in a frantic rhythm. Her eyes revealed all sorts of anxiety and uncertainty.

Ming Shufeng frowned, "You don't have to be so anxious, do you?"

Lin Ziyang turned her gorgeous eyes towards Ming Shufeng, this friend of hers. She pouted her lips and said, "Of course I do. You said-"

"I know what I said," Ming Shufeng interrupted. "I've consulted the heavens and glimpsed into fate. You're fated to be with the one you love, and I've figured out how."

Lin Ziyang started. Her anxiety shifted to excitement as she leaned forward. Her voluptuous curves and breasts were mouthwatering as she leaned to reveal her ample assets. Unfortunately, no man could witness such an appearance. A pity.

"Really?"

Ming Shufeng smiled and said, "Yes. All you have to do is seal your cultivation base. Say it was due to an accident. Then, seal your voice. When the wedding happens, the embers I've sent out will become a raging flame that'll send him directly to your doorstep."

"And then?" Lin Ziyang was a little skeptical that she had to feign marrying a member of royalty for her desired ending, but Ming Shufeng had never been wrong before.

"Then: Certain Victory, Astral Lightning shall descend, and the False Gods of the Mortal Dao shall ascend." Her words were spoken with an ephemeral and all-knowing manner.

Lin Ziyang's eyes widened with excitement. She clenched her fist and peered into an open window. "The love of my life, the one who cultivates the Haven Heart Qi Method. I hope it's him."

The memory of their conversion was as clear as day to her. In hindsight, considering Wu Jiao's presence had eliminated the chance of victory for Long Chen, she should've been skeptical. The only clear sign of victory, when she was no longer blinded, was Wei Wuyin facing Wu Jiao and outsmarting him brilliantly. As for Long Chen? Numerous allies of his had instead suffered crushingly painful deaths at the hands of Wu Jiao.

She had tunneled on Long Chen that she hadn't even contemplated on the circumstances of the prediction enough. When she recalled this, she couldn't help but develop a wisp of rancor in her heart. How could she had been so foolish?

In truth, she wasn't at fault. Wei Wuyin's interference and deliberate actions to kidnap Ming Shufeng and screwed her predictions, turning victory into defeat.

But when she considered the possibility of making that 'correct' choice, of being with Wei Wuyin who shook the entire world and caused the starfield to remember his name, she couldn't help but feel an extreme pain in her heart. She was spat on, forced to scrounge for resources, put her life at risk, and she obtained a most thoroughly crippling for her tolerance. Moreover, she wasn't even certain if Long Chen could shatter the restrictions on her bloodline any longer.

"Long Chen! He's done nothing but restore my mind, body, and spirit. He's done nothing but help me, and it was only after that I realized the truth..." Lin Ziyang's words were trembling with complex emotions, mostly anger and frustration.

"...The truth?" Long Chen wasn't certain what she was talking about, but his heart felt as if it was in the vice grip of a great python. Even his hands were trembling non-stop.

"The truth that I...that we're simply not meant to be," When she observed the sadness and faint traces of despair surging within Long Chen's eyes, she couldn't help but change her originally heart-shattering words to something softer. But this didn't alleviate Long Chen's feelings, merely stoked his emotions as he saw her gentle change to be a sign of reluctance.

"Is he threatening you with my life? Are...are you doing this because of me?!" While artificially altering her mental functions wasn't possible due to Wei Wuyin's clear-cut oath, that didn't eliminate blackmail. In his heart, he knew that the Lin Ziyang he recognized would do anything for him. Even...even...

"...What?!" Lin Ziyang was taken aback by his jump in logic. She saw the hope in Long Chen's eyes, as if praying that she was being manipulated by someone, that she was doing this for him. "No! NO!" She shouted, "I'm doing this for ME!"

The softness in her voice ended, and she made her intentions clear with a stern tone. With that, she was about to take her leave. She knew more conversation would only bring about more pain.

But Long Chen saw her shifting emotions from gentle to utter refusal as a confirmation that he was close to the truth. Otherwise, why would she change her tone so suddenly? Why would she spout off words that she was leaving him? That she was going to be with him? HIM?! His nemesis!! It was unthinkable!

"Yan'er, I won't let him force you into anything! No matter who he is, Mortal Sovereign Alchemist, some Neo-Emperor, or whatever, even if he was god himself, I will not allow him to harm you! To take you

from me!" With an impassioned voice that revealed his most sincere feelings, he shouted with utter conviction.

Lin Ziyan was shocked ashen, unable to understand what Long Chen was talking about. "He's not forcing me! He didn't TAKE ME! I...just! JUST! Just forget about me, Long Chen." In the end, she couldn't form the right words and simply left.

Her silhouette to Long Chen was lonely and sad, causing the fires of rage to stoke within his heart as the image of Wei Wuyin emerged within his mind.

"First it was Qiu'er, then Master, then an attempt on MY Na Xinyi, and now you've taken MY Lin Ziyan from me! No matter what, no matter who you become, Wei Wuyin, I, Long Chen, kill you!" His seething rage and killing intent was boiling to the highest degree. To him, all he saw was a systematic deprivation of his companions. A devious act of extreme planning to snatch everything that was his.

Even his future throne!

"..." Ji Changkong watched from the side, observing the deranged red flitting within Long Chen's eyes. He could only remain silent.

Chapter 366 - 362: Reflection Of Surrealism

Several days after the All-Alchemic Clash, the starfield was still seething in excitement. Wei Wuyin was in the mouths of most, if not all. The Ascendant Emperor of Neo-Dawn had demonstrated absolute supremacy, forcing the Princess of Everlore into submission, and redefining history by producing the world's first known Transcendent-Quality Alchemical Product. While few understood how it came about, it was unanimously agreed that the product he'd made was of an entirely different quality than ever before.

When an appropriate cultivator is decided, they'll refine the Refraction World-Light Elixir and its effects will be revealed to the world. Until then, everyone was discussing what it might achieve, and what type of expert would be created from its refinement. It was a hot topic.

There were even a few that believed the elixir will fall into the hands of a lucky genius of the Myriad Monarch Sect, or it'll be saved until Wei Wuyin reaches the appropriate stage. Regardless, it enthralled the citizens of the starfield.

Furthermore, news of the Alchemist Association being merged into the Myriad Monarch Sect was leaked, creating feverish buzz regarding it. But after learning it was going to be directly underneath Wei Wuyin's leadership, the various worries of the starfield were alleviated.

Considering the Myriad Monarch Sect had a genuine Realm Lord and Wei Wuyin, their future control of the starfield was a given. There were few that resisted the idea, because it signified the change of an era, an opportunity to every cultivator of wealth and renown. Similar to how the King of Everlore elevated the cultivation standard of the world, with both the Princess of Everlore and Ascendant Emperor of Neo-Dawn working in conjunction, it would certainly cause the new era to vastly surpass all others.

There was no one that didn't want this to occur.

The Alchemist Association's elders that had leaked the initial piece of news were floored. The lack of backlash at Wei Wuyin's future monopoly had startled them to no end. Their plans to garner public support about this matter had faltered, with many believing this was the best and most efficient way to usher in the new era.

Since this opinion reached the lowest of cultivators to the highest, this was a foregone conclusion at this point. Even Qingye Yun, the Grand Association Master, wasn't reluctant. While there was a wager of a request, this was borderline subjugation. In the end, the tiny few of the elders that resisted the idea could only hide and accept reality.

At the moment, Wei Wuyin was quietly resting in his Sky Palace. There was a serenity to being in the eighth layer, above the noise of all those below. The nearest Sky Palace was hundreds of miles away from him, and while a short distance for cultivators, was still relatively large enough to be undisturbed.

In truth, Wei Wuyin hadn't expected such raging support and explosive conclusion to the All-Alchemic Clash. He primarily wanted to test himself against Qingye Ying.

She revealed a talent and skill far beyond any alchemist on the starfield, highlighting the extreme advantage Alchemic Astral Souls possessed, but she wasn't his match. What took her seventy-six days to complete would take any other established Alchemic Emperor years to decades, and they might not even concoct a product of low-quality, let alone high-quality.

She exhibited and proved her abilities, but it was horrendously overshadowed by the comparison. It wasn't really fair to her abilities, but he couldn't say much. He didn't know if he was the peak and she was the lowest, or if she and him were both in the middle tiers of proficiency in the Alchemic Astral Souls, with the peak being even greater. To test this, he'd have to be exposed to greater alchemists.

Whenever he contemplated his series of advances, he couldn't help but remember his initial arrival to the Myriad Monarch Sect. He was just a little fledging unbeknownst of the grander world. But in a short few years, countless voices were echoing for him to claim ownership of the entire starfield. It was extremely surreal.

Even Jiang Feilan, someone even he was originally wary of, had given herself to him. The discovery of her Yin Renewal Physique was quite a shocking delight. The one thing he lacked the most at the moment was comprehension, not resources. While some resources could help strengthen one's comprehension, it still took far too long. With her Primal Yin and her cultivation base, he could gleam deeply into the secrets of the various phases.

He would certainly be able to ascend at an extremely rapid pace, leaps and bounds as some might say. How could he not be delighted?

Since the beginning, so many things happened that brought his life into a whirlpool of greatness. To think that just a few decades ago, he was a mere Core Disciple of the Scarlet Solaris Sect. Now, he was the Ascendant Emperor of Neo-Dawn. There were moments in his life where he felt that he'd wake up from a dream. When he did, Du Leng would be offering an assortment of breakfast in his residence in the Scarlet Solaris Domain.

It was a strange feeling.

But when he opened his eyes, he became aware of the world around him, of the truth.

He was here.

It was a feeling filled with endless radiance. The memory of him basking in the endless cheers across the starfield, of being herald as an individual of the utmost greatest, was real.

The memories of him traversing through time, hearing his mother's voice, feeling her touch once more, hearing his voice once again, and gaining two sets of slightly varied memories was real.

The Black Skeleton, the Bloodline of Sin transfer, the Wall of Heaven, his memories of his first Calamity of Hell, and the Heavenly Daos. It was all real, instilled into the fabric of his reality.

All of his lovers, those incredible women of exceptional beauty and talent, their exquisitely soft, voluptuous, and hot bodies. They were all real.

"Lord Wei," a voice resounded. Wei Wuyin's eyes shifted, noticing the valiant Su Mei off to the side, respectfully calling his name. Regardless of how much he experienced or what he felt, he would always remember the time death was a foregone conclusion, as he planned to mark off things on his bucket list. At that time, Su Mei had unhesitatingly followed him into the unknown.

"We."

Just recalling her unshakeable determination and unyielding emotions at that moment caused him to feel a sudden surge of happiness and relief within his heart. Regardless if he became a god one day or if he'd vanished in body and soul, he'd never forget the 'her' of that moment no matter what. She was the greatest example of 'real' to him. A portion of his life he'd consider as vital as his own heart.

He took a long moment before he could ease out of his thoughts. With a soft breath, he said: "Yes?"

"Someone seeks your audience," Su Mei informed. Her expression was unchanging, but Wei Wuyin could see a little dissatisfaction within her pure black eyes. He was intrigued.

"Who?" He rose up from his sitting position, stretching lightly as he relaxed his muscles and bones. There were very few people who could cause dissatisfaction within Su Mei.

Su Mei answered unhesitatingly, "Wu Baozhai."

Chapter 367 - 363: Stage Between

"Wu Baozhai?" Wei Wuyin's mind stirred, his thoughts flitting through his interactions and impression of this particular woman. He had first seen her during the Wedding of Lin Ziyang, but had later met her officially during the gathering of youthful elites set to travel to the Myriad Monarch Planet. At that time, he had realized that her Primal Yin's aura had been forged by a formation, signifying that she was no longer a virgin.

The first impression he had towards her was that she seemed noble, intelligent, and pride was innately branded into her very bones. She was the perfect image of a Princess of a country, embodying beauty, strength, grace, and nobility.

She was also fiercely confident, acting for her own interests in light of others' apprehension. When they had officially met, she had openingly approached him before Long Chen and his bevy of stellarly gorgeous beauties. Her intentions were to ask about his Spirit Ton Elixir, and he could distinctly remember her stating that her actions weren't for others to dictate, expressing her powerful freewill and independence.

He had always wondered what happened to her. She never 'felt' like a woman that would depend on a man to rise, unlike Lian Yu and Na Xinyi. Even though they had inner desires for strength and status, it liked a certain dominant independence and cleverness that made women outstanding amongst their peers.

She was also very intelligent, perceptive, and cunning. With a few words before, she had obtained benefits for Na Xinyi outside of marriage. He recalled her eyes that were radiant with intelligence, discovering his intentions during Qing Qiumu's execution. While she could be misunderstood as Long Chen's backdrop, she felt more like the brains of the group.

He pondered briefly, ruminating over her desire for an audience with a pensive expression.

Su Mei hadn't expected Wei Wuyin to think about this so thoroughly. In her heart, she felt that Long Chen's female companions had already embedded themselves too much in his life. There was Na Xinyi, Qing Qiumu, Lin Ziyang, Xiao Bing and Hong Ru. The latter two had already entered his Sky Palace and were diligently cultivating.

But observing them for a period, she felt their orientation wasn't towards men. They were inseparable, and the way they acted and spoke to each other, looked at each other, were like long-lost lovers. Perhaps their separation by life and death had aligned their understanding of each other.

Regardless, she felt it would be better to simply dismiss all these women and directly end Long Chen. This was her opinion, but she would never deliberately interfere with Wei Wuyin's wants. If he wanted to indulge in them sexually, then she would always and undoubtedly support him.

After a long while, Wei Wuyin finally lifted his head out of thought. "Bring her in. To the Main Hall," he instructed.

Su Mei nodded, departing with swift steps. She was very diligent when taking orders. When she left, Wei Wuyin's lips twisted into a faint curl. He couldn't help but think about Wu Baozhai.

As he started making his way towards the Main Hall, he had a sudden spurring thought. He communicated with Wu Yu, "Does the Wu Clan on the Myriad Yore Continent have a connection with you?" This question seemed far fetched, but it had itched at him the moment he thought of responsibility.

"..." Wu Yu was silent for a moment. "You know the importance of the Myriad Yore Continent?" He answered with a question.

This only served to strengthen his curiosity. "Yes. It's the birthplace of the King of Everlore and Divine King Han Xei. It is cherished and jointly shared by the Hegemonic Forces, protected as a way to show their respect. Due to that, its isolated, but it has the most Void Gates of any Continental Flat Earth in the starfield." This was the base knowledge of what he knew.

"While that is true, do you know the significance of seven countries?" Wu Yu inquired.

Wei Wuyin realized that Wu Yu wasn't willing to directly answer, wanting him to first piece together the puzzle a little. This caused his curiosity to be set ablaze, but he had also similarly obtained his answer. He thought for a moment and responded, arriving at the Main Hall.

"If I had to guess, make the wildest guess, then I'll say it signifies the four hegemonic forces and the three Servants of the King of Everlore, including the San Clan." He recalled that, unlike many areas of the starfield, the Myriad Yore Continent had demons, humans, and elves. It was an unusual mixing pot of a variety of races.

To highlight the importance of this, the Sacred Light Palace's Astral Territory was occupied by the vast majority of elves of hybrid elves of lesser status. There were barely any humans amongst them. The Demonic Abyss Mountain's Astral Territory was similarly dominated by demons, with the vast majority of the Continental Flat Earths and Planets being engulfed by various degrees of demonic energies. This made it like the Extreme Demon Mountain, allowing only demons or hybrids to thrive and survive.

This was also true for the Elemental Heaven Astral Territory, being mostly humans and the Myriad Monarch Astral Territory having an abundance of humans but not as oppressively populated like the others, being more of a mixture of the four races.

There were no beastmen present on the Myriad Yore Continent, which was extremely telling. The King of Everlore seemed to avoid relations with beastmen, not finding an individual to promote beyond the Mortal Limits. Considering what he knew about Wu Yu and the Sacred Elven Queen's relationship with the King of Everlore, this meant he had a type or at least a type of species he refused to...you know.

This was likely the reason he never had a beastman servant.

"...!" Wu Yu's spiritual fluctuations betrayed his surprise. Wei Wuyin had completely pinpointed the truth so accurately it was scary. "You're right. The descendants of us litter the Myriad Yore Continent. It was agreed upon by the King of Everlore at the time, and he enjoyed the possibility of what would happen if the three races were in close proximity. Furthermore, it would prevent either of us from ever exterminating the other's bloodline to the last.

"Before the King of Everlore's Era, the majority of the starfield was dominated by humans, even the majority of Mystic Ascendants were human, such as Me, the Bloodforge Emperor, Divine King Han Xei and his Guardian of the Elements, including the Four Ways Elementus Knights." Wu Yu listed off a series of characters.

Wei Wuyin was intrigued, "Guardian of the Elements? Four Ways Elementus Knights?" He hadn't heard of these Mystic Ascendants before.

Wu Yu carelessly explained, "the Guardian of the Elements was the Divine King Han Xei's first cousin, having been propelled into the Mystic Ascendant Realm by the Divine King Han Xei's continuous investments. The Four Ways Elementus Knights weren't actual Mystic Ascendants, but those who've attempted and survived the tribulation, reaching a pseudo-state. They were very similar to False Realmlords. It's quite strange actually. And I don't have much understanding regarding that state, but it was definitely beyond the Mortal Limits and touched upon the Mystic Dao, even in failure."

Wei Wuyin was deeply interested, having learned of a stage between the Astral Core Realm and Mystic Ascendants. But due to Wu Yu's own ignorance, he couldn't satisfy that curiosity. Regardless, he decided to invest a little more into learning about it.

Besides them, he knew there were three other Mystic Ascendants: the Demonic Abyss Master, Sacred Elven Queen, and Yi Servant. The Yi Servant was the King of Everlore's most trusted servant of the three, the Yi, Er, and San. He was said to have reached the Mystic Ascendant Realm, but there were also rumors that the King of Everlore never had a servant of that level.

He wondered if that servant had reached that False Mystic Ascendant Realm like the Four Ways Elementus Knights.

As he pondered about this, a jolt reminded him of his original question: "So the Wu Clan is descended from you? Are they your direct descendants or blood relation?"

"Haaa...I guess you'll likely find out eventually, but they are direct descendants of myself and my wife, Junia, intermixed with my original blood-related clansmen." Wu Yu seemed to be somewhat exhausted at this reveal.

Wei Wuyin couldn't figure out why. But he knew there was a complicated story, which once more made him ponder. "Is Wu Baozhai your direct descendant? A great-great-great-many great-granddaughter or something?"

"..." Wu Yu didn't answer, but his silence was telling. It reeked of a hint of gloomy shame.

"..." Wei Wuyin couldn't fathom why. After all, Wu Yu's era was thousands of years ago, enough to cross dozens of Astral Core Realm generations. He shouldn't have anything to be ashamed about. But his instincts told him that there had to be a juicy story there.

After a series of further attempts to gather the truth from Wu Yu, he heard multiple sets of footsteps as Su Mei walked in with Wu Baozhai in tow. Wei Wuyin couldn't help but regard this black-haired princess once more, noting that her imperial majesty had mellowed yet she still had the nation-toppling looks and vixen-like body that could aflame any heterosexual male of any race.

When Wei Wuyin saw her crystal clear and intelligent eyes filled with careful observation, he couldn't help but deeply admire this woman once more. Her appealing curvaceous body and delectable peach-colored lips aside, she felt like a threat. And knowing her intelligently clever side that hid her cunning, he knew she was one.

The question was: What did she want?

Chapter 368 - 364: Wu Baozhai's Desire

Wu Baozhai's expression was gentle and calm, her body no longer exuding that imperial fierceness that told the world of her domineering existence. Her time as the bottom rung of society, forced to rely on a man, unable to fully exert her intelligence and cunning, had diluted her noble nature.

After all, the Myriad Monarch Sect was a sect where intelligence was of secondary importance to cultivation talent. Because cultivation talent translated to cultivation strength which translated to power

and authority. This was the primary way the Myriad Monarch Sect functioned, and the majority of the starfield, giving more importance to the talented than the sly and intelligent.

This was not inherently wrong, but those figures that could be outstanding tacticians or exceptional leaders were relegated to lesser statuses due to their weak personal strength and talents. They could only be the subordinate of others or relegated as servants.

Wu Baozhai was one such figure, helping Long Chen's eventual rise from the background and never receiving any credit. She wasn't bitter regarding this, feeling that it was better to have reached her current level, the Astral Core Realm, than stay in the Qi Condensation Realm as a sheltered princess in the Myriad Yore Continent. She was ushered into the grander world in one go, forced to admit her inferiority to those more superior.

Still, while talent was regarded first, it could be amplified with the existence of planning. Unfortunately, planning with Long Chen was a struggle due to his seemingly endless enemies that either he created or had simply sought him out due to jealousy or self-indulgent arrogance.

When she requested an audience with Wei Wuyin, she hadn't expected to be seriously considered, and if she did, she knew that she had to keep her guard up. For some reason or another, she could keenly feel that all of Long Chen's close relations were crumbling apart by an invisible hand. But she didn't know if it was done deliberately by Wei Wuyin or simply a result of his one-sided rivalry being influenced by Wei Wuyin's immeasurable aura.

It started with Na Xinyi. At least, as far as she knew. Their history was filled with bad blood as Wei Wuyin was a member of an enemy sect that hunted her sectmates and captured her, forcing her to give up one of her Primal Yin, and then seemingly tossing her aside in pity.

Of course, she wasn't foolish enough to simply believe this.

What she did know was Long Chen's oath to get revenge for Na Xinyi, an act of valiant machismo to garner Na Xinyi's favor. It worked, at first. Then, Long Chen met the object of her revenge and it was all turned on its head. Wei Wuyin was simply too outstanding and he directly accepted responsibility without a hint of apology, directly suggesting to take her as his wife.

This was the first domino that fell.

Qing Qiumu's ambiguous relationship with him soon came to light, having saved her life not once but twice. It didn't stop there as they continued to interact in a seemingly intimate fashion, with even her uncertain if Qing Qiumu and him had a relationship. Then there was Lin Ziyann, Xiao Bing, and Hong Ru's attitude changes.

It seems that anything Wei Wuyin touches is slowly taken away from Long Chen, transferred to Wei Wuyin by some invisible hand. It didn't seem deliberate either, as Wei Wuyin seemed to act as if it was far beneath him, yet it also felt coordinated. Furthermore, now she could be added to that list. While it was unlikely that Xiao Bing and Hong Ru were seduced, considering their current relationship, they had seemingly forgotten about and even became somewhat hostile to Long Chen.

After he challenged Wei Wuyin in front of numerous individuals despite their protest, the emotional connection they felt towards Long Chen was turning brittle. This was especially so after Long Chen was

humiliated, something they felt was warranted with the way he was acting, and then proven wrong. That his desire for revenge was as illogical as they believed it to be.

After all, Wei Wuyin never seemed to give him any consideration, leaving him alone unlike the numerous other enemies they had. This was an enemy that Long Chen was trying to develop himself in a one-sided manner, and it was terrifying. In fact, Wei Wuyin had spared Long Chen after his attempt to openly kill a prominent and well-connected genius of the sect.

While Wei Wuyin had punished him in his place, clearly allowing them to avoid the Huangfu Clan's decisive revenge. As for whether the Haungfu Clan would even fart in objection towards Wei Wuyin? Absolutely not. They would sooner kneel for forgiveness in a heartfelt plea than seek revenge.

Long Chen's mental state was in a state of continuous degradation as he tried in the most aggressive fashion to become enemies with Wei Wuyin. While Wei Wuyin continued to outshine all others, becoming the Ascendant Emperor of Neo-Dawn, the herald of the new era, and most popular future ruler of the starfield. Despite being five years older, they had similar starts entering into the Myriad Monarch Sect, but their differences were outstanding.

This wasn't to say Long Chen wasn't impressive. He was a sub-fifty year old Soul Idol with Fused Astral Soul of Sword and Slaughter and cultivated in the Grand Monarch Lineage, becoming recognized as the Grand Prince of this generation. He was by no means lacking. But the comparison was simply too great.

Wu Baozhai noticed all this and understood the eventual reality. This was why she was here.

Now, meeting Wei Wuyin once again up-close, she was once more stunned breathless by his smile. She was brought back to the first time she's gotten close to him, how that smile had caused her heart to go aflutter. That feeling hadn't gone away in the slightest, and had even rendered her breathless.

He still possessed fatally attractive features and an unearthly degree of handsomeness that seemingly went beyond reason. Her body, as a woman, once more became heated. A natural female response when entering a state of arousal, her soft cheeks painted crimson. Despite strengthening her willpower over the years, she still failed to keep her composure.

Regardless if it was his silver eyes that drew in your endless imagination or that smile that tugged at the heartstrings, she couldn't imagine how a man like this could exist. Is this how men feel when they meet them? If so, she finally understood why they were so unreasonable.

Fortunately, she was still strong enough to regain herself soon after.

Su Mei caught the reaction of hers and quietly observed. She was actually inwardly surprised that Wu Baozhai recollected herself so quickly. Most women would seemingly lose themselves for seconds or even full minutes, some never even awake from their state as they fumbled foolishly in their attempt to attract Wei Wuyin.

Wei Wuyin glanced at Su Mei, "You can go."

Su Mei nodded, giving Wu Baozhai one last glance before departing.

Wu Baozhai and Wei Wuyin were alone together in the Main Hall, spacious enough to fit a hundred people and incredibly luxurious. Wu Baozhai hadn't been in such a setting in a long time, her mind recalling her stint as a princess. Inwardly, she sighed in amazement.

With a calm voice, "Greetings, Ascendant Emperor Wei." Wu Baozhai bowed deeply in respect, showing the proper etiquette that those of lesser status would give to those far beyond their own.

Wei Wuyin smiled. Since the crowd cheered his name to the highest heavens, he quickly grew accustomed to it. "You wanted to meet. So?" He didn't delay with small talk, directly delving into her reasoning for being here. He didn't think it was with a similar purpose to Lin Ziyang, but if it was, that would be extremely curious and out-of-character.

Wu Baozhai had to take a few breaths, she felt that today was an act of defiance towards Long Chen. And for some reason, that still weighed on her heart. Perhaps it was due to him being the one who took her virginity or the first man that caused her to be obedient and follow him to worlds' unknown.

After a short moment, her limpid eyes became focused. She fixed her gaze onto Wei Wuyin, which surprised him somewhat. That gaze of her did not seem like the gaze of a woman pleading to become someone else's, but had revived her seemingly forgotten sense of independence and nobility.

"Ascendant Emperor Wei, before I explain my purpose here, I would like to ask a question." She sought Wei Wuyin's permission to ask. After all, no one liked to be bombarded with questions.

"Ask away," Wei Wuyin responded. He was unafraid of any question.

She nodded heavily, "Are you intentionally acting against Long Chen in a systematic fashion, slowly snatching the things most important to him until he's left with nothing?" Her question was followed by a brief silence and her staring fiercely into Wei Wuyin's eyes as if to catch a glimpse of the truth.

Wei Wuyin wasn't shocked by her question. He had pondered this a few times in great amusement, but he knew the answer to that question without a doubt. "Intentionally? No. In fact, I've tried my best to actively avoid Long Chen and his so-called women, but either they or he forces me to act. These actions inevitably lead to him losing what he'd strived to retain."

"..." Wu Baozhai was silent, merely staring at Wei Wuyin's exceptional face without blinking. She was inwardly shocked that Wei Wuyin was completely calm as if he expected her question. In fact, his words caused her to wonder.

Wei Wuyin smilingly explained, "After we arrived on the Myriad Monarch Main Planet, entering the sect, we should've gone our separate ways and never collided again. But Na Xinyi had summoned me by using my name and reputation to save Qing Qiumu and Long Tingyu. Furthermore, it was Long Chen who sought my help in restoring Lin Ziyang and reviving Hong Ru, which I did.

"It's their own prerogative to seek me out or Long Chen's ill-decisions or inherent weakness that drove them to me. This included this ring. And while I might've schemed to obtain it the first time, did I not send it back? It was the ring's choice in the end to follow me, and not something I could forcefully decide for it." Wei Wuyin even pointed at the unassuming black ring that once was worn on Long Chen's finger that was now hung on his neck beside a crescent necklace.

Wu Baozhai glanced at the ring, knowing it was Long Chen's greatest fortune and how he'd gained the Grand Monarch Lineage. It seemed from Wei Wuyin's words, there existed an independent intelligent lifeform that embodied the ring, who chose to stay with Wei Wuyin rather than Long Chen for their own reasons. Furthermore, this seemed to be in line with her own beliefs on the matter.

She had never once seen Wei Wuyin actively interfere or interact with them in any way, and was seemingly pulled towards them. Whenever he was, he displayed outstanding influence, power, intelligence, and means that rid them of all their problems. This formed a stark contrast with Long Chen.

She knew of Lin Ziyang's strange belief and how Wei Wuyin similarly cultivated the method. Her choice was understandable and actually extremely reasonable. Na Xinyi hadn't acted yet, but from her eyes she knew that she'll seek out Wei Wuyin to become his wife very soon. She won't be able to resist the allure of marrying the newly crowned Ascendant Emperor of this new era.

Furthermore, she had saved herself from having sexual relations with Long Chen, sacrificing her talent and beauty instead, and leaving that possible path open to Wei Wuyin. Na Xinyi was seemingly left with no choice lest she be left behind, and from what she knew of Na Xinyi, she did not want to be left behind.

"So, what is it that you want?" Wei Wuyin inquired again.

Wu Baozhai took a deep inhale before finally exhaling, her ample chest bouncing as a result. With that...

Thud!

She knelt. Her right knee slammed against the floor, her head low, and she solemnly spoke: "I seek to join your faction, the Ascendants!"

"..." Wei Wuyin.

Chapter 369 - 365: Grand Princess

"..." Briefly stunned, Wei Wuyin observed the former princess kneel with conviction. From the beginning, he'd always felt she was an extremely clever woman with a cunning streak, carrying a perceptive eye and commanding air. She was bound to be a great Queen of a Country, which was one of his innermost thoughts about her. She would rule that country with a vigorous fist, bringing it to another level.

This was the impression she gave him.

But now, here she was, kneeling before him proclaiming her desire to join his organization. To add, their connection was rather awkward and inescapable.

Wei Wuyin didn't ask why she wanted to. He already had an idea. She would be an excellent addition to the faction, especially if given a leadership role. But, he still had his reservations.

Rubbing his chin with a pensive expression, he questioned: "You must know that the course that Long Chen and I are on will inevitably end with one of our deaths. This isn't something either of us would cease without great reason. Are you trying to act as a connective tissue to broker peace between us?"

After the Imperial Combat declaration, Wei Wuyin and Long Chen had already entered an inevitable conflict that wouldn't stop until death. The former felt that the latter's mental state was already entering a decline, acting against common sense for the sake of a personal vendetta that didn't really exist. The latter felt that the former was an irreconcilable enemy that sought to undermine his existence, a rival that must be removed.

Wu Baozhai's body trembled slightly after hearing Wei Wuyin's words. Her voice was soft yet firm, "No." "Hmm," Wei Wuyin continued to rub his chin in thought. He slowly walked forward, causing Wu Baozhai's lowered gaze to note Wei Wuyin's leggings and shoes. She lifted her eyes slightly, and then Wei Wuyin squatted before her, his silver eyes seemingly piercing into her own.

She gulped. The aura Wei Wuyin gave off now was far different than before, nearly oppressive. It was as if he was seeing into her very soul, gleaming into her deepest thoughts. She couldn't calm down, but she was fearless in the face of his inspection. Her eyes reflected her sheer determination and hardened resolve.

"I've come to learn that many of the women within Long Chen's supposed harem aren't actually his or are with him for very specific reasons. I'm baffled by the sheer means to gather together such fascinatingly unique women by his side. Both for his success in having such followers and his failures in closing them.

"Regardless if its Qing Qiumu, the most talented Wood Cultivator in the last three millennia, or Na Xinyi whose Yin Physique has reached a frighteningly high level naturally, or Lin Ziyun...whose history and background dates back to the King of Everlore era. Then, there's the two heavenly beauties of the Wu Country, a Princess with bloodline ties likely to the Founding Monarch himself. As for Lian Yu? Who knows.

"So, how did you, Princess, enter into his orbit and decide to follow him across the stars?" Wei Wuyin slowly stood up, using his hand to signal Wu Baozhai to rise. As if by a subconscious order, Wu Baozhai was startled by his words, observed his hands, and by the end of it had already risen.

She didn't even feel her body stand up, merely as if she was going with the flow. Her heart quivered for a moment before she calmed down with several breaths. They were now a single yard away from each other. She never realized how tall and imposing he was until now.

After a short moment, she knew that Wei Wuyin wanted the story. He wanted the truth as to how and why she was with Long Chen, to judge her worth and true desires to join him. If she was in his position, she would want the same information. The fortunate matter was he hadn't quickly declined her, leaving her a path of fulfilling her own desires. It'll be whether she was willing to prove she was worthy enough at this moment.

In her heart, she needed this the most. She had no reservations about telling the truth, no matter how embarrassing it was.

"It all started..." She began to explain.

And as she did, Wei Wuyin's heart quaked at several crucial points.

It began in the Wu Country during a youth-led expedition into an ancient ruin belonging to an ancient king. She, alongside her subordinates, had arrived with several other groups. Long Chen, at the time, had become an enemy to a group not much weaker than hers. He had taken the center stage limelight as an enemy that this particular group sought to destroy, but they were waiting for the ruin to periodically open due to various reasons. After they'd claimed the treasures within, they publicly declared to end Long Chen.

She was completely indifferent to this, only feeling that Long Chen had a penchant for creating enemies beyond his capabilities. She had even believed he would die with his cultivation and background lacking. Then, they all ventured into the ancient ruins with vigor and vim, ready to scavenge for treasure.

They met many dangers and she had lost a few of her subordinates. She met Long Chen by accident. They were soon forced to team-up to deal with the troublesome obstacles the ruins laid before them. She was surprised by his strength beyond the ordinary standard, feeling that he was worthy enough to recruit.

She had even suggested this to him, but he only replied with his desire for freedom. Even when she brought up the issues of the other group, she found his response utterly lacking in urgency or fear. This elevated her level of curiosity towards his mysterious demeanor and valiant act. Of course, this was merely at the point she was interested, there were no romantic feelings between them.

She had numerous suitors and many of them wished to conquer the nation-toppling beauty that she was. There were those more talented, more handsome, and had a greater background than Long Chen.

But as they ventured further in, they were met with the group that had enmity with Long Chen. Shockingly, they'd teamed up with two other groups of similar strength. One of those teams had a female leader who had it out for her, whether because of jealousy or their other encounters where she always came out ahead, they decided to team-up and fight against her.

Outnumbered and outgunned, many of her subordinates could only lose their lives as they were forced to venture deeper into the ruins for a chance at life. They fell into an old trap, leaving only her and Long Chen remaining. Her rage knew no bounds, but she still tried to calmly plan her escape lest her revenge and life end with a whimper.

They soon found an area that contained a coffin that seemed to belong to this ancient king. They scoured it for a chance to escape, but had awakened some ancient spirit. This ancient spirit was quite perverted, already viewing the two as an item. He gave them a cultivation technique that would allow their cultivation bases to ascend, but it was a dual cultivation method.

She was quick to refuse, and she even declared she'd rather die than lose her virginity in such a manner. As a Princess, her Primal Yin was of the utmost importance and connected with her chances at marriage and her reputation. If she lost this in this sordid manner, she might as well give up her status as a princess.

For some reason or another, the ancient spirit seemed to be slightly enraged that she refused it, and diffused some pink mist that was an aphrodisiac. It rendered her cultivation base nullified until she was helpless and it seemed to have done the same to Long Chen. She slowly lost herself alongside Long Chen

and they dual cultivated, the cultivation technique was guided by the ancient spirit, and their cultivation bases ascended.

They were then capable of breaking the trap after a brief discussion. She felt helpless at this, blaming the ancient spirit, but it seemingly vanished into the afterlife. If it wasn't for Long Chen convincing her that this situation was brought about by those groups that hunted her down and tried to kill her, she might've followed after it in rage.

They left the ruins and fought, killing those responsible with their newfound strengths and leaving. After such a fierce and bloody battle, she readjusted her mentally and decided against claiming her own life. She devised a plan to hide her lack of Primal Yin. Even if all else failed, Long Chen had confidently declared to take responsibility. She still would be able to marry a genius, was her thought process.

After that, a series of intriguing events occurred as she continuously helped Long Chen strive and grow in the Wu Country. Then, Lin Ziyang's Wedding took place. The rest of the story was known.

"..." Wei Wuyin was struck silent by the vivid telling of her story. He realized how brutal the Heavenly Daos were, forcing gorgeous beauties onto Long Chen. If he wasn't aware of all the heavenly influencing that could've taken place due to the Heavenly Daos, he would think that Wu Baozhai and Long Chen were incredibly lucky.

But Wu Baozhai was extremely unlucky. She was, much like Na Xinyi, a piece of fortune for Long Chen or him. That forced encounter had led to him receiving the support of a Princess in the country he was developing in, in a way that made him almost entirely flawless.

She was his fortuitous encounter.

As he thought more about this, he found it ridiculous that some ancient spirit was perverted en...ou...gh...

His eyes slightly widened. Recalling the aspects of cultivation, he felt it was nearly impossible for a spirit to exist unless they've broken the Mortal Limits. This meant only two figures could have left their spirit in the Myriad Yore Continent, and only one had the means and motive to ensure Long Chen's survival or his benefits

He glanced down at the ring that housed Wu Yu's spirit, remembering the shame he felt. For a moment, he was at a loss as to whether to laugh or cry.

He sent a message, "You're going to fill in the rest of the story?" The tone of his transmission contained a hint of mirth. He had already thought about various possibilities, but he was sure the truth was greater than he'd imagined.

"..." Wu Yu's gloomy aura was felt clearly through the ring. In the end, he finally spoke: "I met Long Chen when he was sixteen years old. I was in the midst of recovering my sentience and strength, still lacking after slumbering for thousands of years. Having lost my physical body, I couldn't pass on the Imperial Heaven Qi Method's Ignition Essence without a proper medium, and this medium either needed to be a descendant of mine that contained traces of my Imperial Heaven forces or a fellow cultivator of the Imperial Heaven Qi Method. Considering the legacy was long since lost, there was only one choice."

"..."

Holy...

"Did Long Chen know?" This was the first question he asked, utterly shocked by the sheer shamelessness of Wu Yu.

"If he did, he wouldn't have cultivated the method. The best medium for the Ignition Essence was the Primal Yin of my bloodline and only Wu Baozhai was suitable at the time. I thought it was his greatest fortune to meet her, so I did what I had to. It was the only way I had a chance at recovering my body, the only way he could be inducted into the Grand Monarch Lineage." Hearing the hasty and excuse-filled explanations of this Grand Monarch left a sour taste in Wei Wuyin's mouth.

Wu Yu had orchestrated the sexual interaction between his inheritor and his descendant, essentially forcing them into that situation. While he didn't feel that Long Chen, who was technically manipulated into it, was in the wrong, it felt strange to him. This was different from Na Xinyi's situation, perhaps even more acceptable to some, but it still felt screwed-up.

In the end, he didn't linger on the subject.

Wei Wuyin observed Wu Baozhai, not feeling the slightest pity for her. In fact, he felt further intrigued and proud of her. She had come here of her own free will to break away from the Heavenly Daos intended path for her, to become the mental support for Long Chen through his rise to grasp her own fate. As an Inheritor of Sin, an individual who possessed the Bloodline of Sin, he fiercely respected her expression of independence.

This was especially so after going through all these events with Long Chen, further orchestrated by the invisible hand that was the Heavenly Daos. While his presence certainly gave her options that otherwise would've never existed, it was still her who took the reins of her own life and came here in the end.

There was no Heavenly Daos influence.

There was no Bloodline of Sin direction.

This was an ultimate expression of her own will.

With a bright smile, he brought out his right hand.

Wu Baozhai's eyes trembled as she saw Wei Wuyin lift his hand, smile, and say words that would forever change the course of her life:

"You hungry?"

These two words that embodied so much were once again said, causing Wu Baozhai to be somewhat startled. But for some reason, some ungodly reason, she felt a hunger emerge in her mind, body, and soul. It was a hunger for something she strove for her entire life.

Biting her lips, she nodded faintly with a blush.

After a brief moment, his eyes brightened. He chuckled lightly and followed with another set of world-changing words. "What do you think about becoming a Grand Princess?"

Chapter 370 - 366: Emotional Downfall

Wei Wuyin had squared Wu Baozhai away, his thoughts swirling as he sat on his couch in thought. When that impulsive set of words left his lips, a series of convenient scenarios emerged in his head. From the very beginning, he sought to find a leader for the Myriad Monarch Sect to ensure the safety of his subordinates, lovers, and legacy if the worst case scenario arrived: the death of his body and soul.

At first, he wanted to let Tuo Bihan act on his behalf, but he was too advanced in age. He wasn't reliable for a long lasting security. But what if he had a subordinate of his become the Grand Monarch? He had always thought of ways to do so, but after obtaining Wu Yu's spirit, he learned about the Imperial Heaven Ignition Essence.

It made it impossible.

Unless Wu Yu regained his physical body or Long Chen decided to willingly give up his cultivation base, it was impossible to find a legitimate heir. He felt no desire to topple the legacy of the Myriad Monarch Sect, especially with Wu Yu still existing. But even if that wasn't the case, he didn't feel the need to do so, and rather respected the cultural traditions and modus operandi of the Myriad Monarch Sect.

Now, he'd just learned of a loophole.

Wu Baozhai.

As he'd thought, Wu Baozhai also possessed the Imperial Heaven Ignition Essence within her that lay dormant in an inactive state. Dual Cultivation was principled on two methods, sharing and plundering. Considering the benefits that Wu Baozhai experienced during her Dual Cultivation with Long Chen, he expected she would retain a portion of the Ignition Essence within her.

Not only did she have a portion, but she had the complete essence stored within her in a state of hibernation. The only reason she hadn't developed an Imperial Soul was purely because she didn't have the Imperial Heaven Qi Method. It was also this Imperial Heaven Ignition Essence that gave her a greater imperial aura, that soon left after she entered the Astral Core Realm.

This revelation brought him an unexpected solution to something he intended to do since he'd known Long Chen's position as an Inheritor of the Grand Monarch Lineage; finding his own Inheritor! And find he did, nay!

She found him!

He'll have to ensure some things, such as her feelings towards Long Chen, but after hearing their story and feeling her emotions as she told it, he felt she was only with Long Chen due to her ideals or thoughts on purity, forcing a sense of obligation that had dwindled overtime. Perhaps she would have truly fallen for him with time. But the fact she strove to regain the direction of her life was already telling.

As he pondered his plans in depth, Su Mei arrived.

"Lord Wei, I've settled Wu Baozhai." She had swiftly performed her duties, bringing Wu Baozhai to an area of the Sky Palace to commence the reset of her cultivation. She would have to abandon her Astral

Soul entirely, reforge her foundation, and establish an Imperial Astral Soul. Fortunately, Wei Wuyin had experience with this already.

After setting her aside with the necessary materials and instructions, she was housed away for cultivation. Prior to this, however, Wu Baozhai had asked to personally inform others of her choice. While this could be perceived as leaving Long Chen, she felt it was best the news came from her.

And she did.

They ventured down towards the surface and met up with the others, and as Wu Baozhai explained this to them, to Long Chen, it was anything but peaceful.

The sheer explosive interaction was shocking even to Su Mei. Fortunately, Wu Baozhai smartly left out Wei Wuyin's intentions to allow her to become the Grand Princess, overtaking Long Chen's position. As they spoke, she caught the determined glint within Wu Baozhai's eyes that revealed her complete willingness to do it, to replace Long Chen.

As for the viciously thrown words filled with pain and feelings of betrayal, she accepted them all. Besides Lian Yu, Long Tingyu, and Long Chen, the rest were mostly silent. This was especially so when Na Xinyi asked why and she explained her innermost thoughts in an emotional display. But to Long Chen, it was simply a complete and utter betrayal. He didn't see it, or couldn't see it, any other way.

He had even brought up their sexual relationship with each other, saying how Wei Wuyin was merely doing this simply to take her away from him, and she was falling for it! Even Lian Yu lost her emotions, calling her a disgusting slut with no sense of loyalty. A vicious side Wu Baozhai had never expected from the normally gentle Lian Yu.

Their relationship fell apart.

Even when she explained that she wasn't there to become Wei Wuyin's lover nor had any intention to, their minds had already become set on that possibility. Maybe it was because they understood or thought of doing so as well, so they fixated on it.

Su Mei silently watched it all, bringing Wu Baozhai away after the climax of their feverishly heated exchange. She found it somewhat laughable that they believed Wu Baozhai joining the Ascendants meant becoming Wei Wuyin's lover, as she was extremely aware of his ironclad principles regarding this issue.

Returning, she settled Wu Baozhai and informed Wei Wuyin of the developments, including the emotional collapse that had occurred.

Wei Wuyin expected nothing less. All that remained was for Na Xinyi to arrive, asking him to honor his previous words. With that, Long Chen would only have Long Tingyu and Lian Yu. Considering Long Tingyu was technically his adopted sister, that was a little awkward.

He truly didn't know if he was plundering all of Long Chen's karmic fortune little by little or if this was the inevitability of interacting with a Blessed as an Inheritor of Sin. He hadn't taken any intentional actions, hadn't experienced any influences of the Heavenly Daos, and yet each one of Long Chen's mysterious beauties that were likely expressions of Karmic Luck was coming to his side.

Lin Ziyang had a unique bloodline and history.

Wu Baozhai possessed keen intelligence and a bloodline legacy.

Na Xinyi had an evolving Physique that was endlessly beneficial to every male in existence.

Qing Qiumu's talent was vastly beyond imagination.

He didn't know if they had their own stories as grand and extraordinary as Lin Ziyang, but he knew each one of them was unordinary. He could only imagine that Lian Yu and Long Tingyu were someone special as well. If he had to make a wild guess, he would assume that Long Tingyu had a connection with the Abyss Master and Lian Yu might be connected to the Divine King Han Xei in some way, perhaps linked to the Guardian of the Elements or the Four Way Elementus Knights.

This was just a speculation based on how Lin Ziyang and Wu Baozhai had distinctive connections with two other great figures, the Sacred Elven Queen and Wu Yu respectively.

With a light sigh, he nodded towards Su Mei. There's been non-stop developments as of now, and he had this distinct feeling that it'll lead to something explosive. It wasn't his Eye of Truth or his Bloodline of Sin, merely his instincts that told him that a chapter was approaching its inevitable climax. As for what they would lead to, he had no idea.

With a shrug, he stretched his neck to the side. "The Gateway Door will open soon. There are still a few things to do, such as visit the Alchemist Association and ensure the settling of the new Void Gate, but I think its time I challenged my next Astral Tribulation." He hadn't made major breakthroughs in his cultivation for quite a while, being thrust into many different things without pause.

Now, he had finally comprehended the unique principles of Soul Idol Formation, feeling the trigger to start his Astral Tribulation at any time.

"Tch!" - King.

"Yes! Yes! Yes!" - Ori.

"..." - Eden.

"Finally." - Kratos.

It's been a while since his Astral Souls felt lively, they were ready to finally begin. He could feel their excitement, their elation, and the utter expectations from them. He knew this Astral Tribulation like the others wouldn't be ordinary, but he just didn't know what they had planned.

He was infected by their vigor, smiling brilliantly with anticipation.