

**Chapter 391 - 387: Seers Emerge, The End Is Seen**

Qingye Yun could only watch from afar along the other Alchemist Association members as Wei Wuyin left via the Void Gate, his emotions complex. While he didn't have much hope that he'd agree, it was good that their relationship was still decent. They had already discussed the branch that will be constructed in the Myriad Monarch Sect, including the elders that would be taking leave and their respective jobs while there.

As for the tome left behind by the Envoy, Wei Wuyin had taken it with him with a gleeful smile. It was extremely thick, containing millions of characters and would require some intense reading. With him departing, Qingye Yun had simply allowed him to take it. The Alchemist Association already had it for thousands of years, so it was almost useless in their hands.

After several minutes of staring at the deactivated Void Gate, he sighed and left back into the Myriad Transformations Tower. He soon found Qingye Ying in her room, her eyes blank as he laid sprayed out on her bed. She seemed to be questioning life, not even wearing her veil.

Seeing this prideful young woman so defeated and in despair, he could only helplessly sigh. He felt that he sighed more today than he'd done in his lifetime, feeling quite shocked by his own reaction.

"Grandfather...do you think I'm beautiful?" She absentmindedly touched her face, a precious aspect of her that she held in the utmost confidence.

"Of course you are," Qingye Yun wryly smiled. "Your beauty is in the top ten of the entire starfield, no doubt. This was likely even greater amongst us elves." He could only comfort her using these vain-like compliments.

Qingye Ying's eyes seemed to regain some light, and that light soon grew bitter as she thought about Wei Wuyin's incredibly handsome face, feeling frustration swell within her heart. But when she thought about his scathing insult, her eyes became dejected.

He wasn't entirely wrong.

Her cultivation had been crippled by her own risky actions, leading to her path of the Alchemic Dao coming to an end at the First Stage of the Astral Core Realm. While she might be able to eventually concoct a ninth-grade product in the far-off future, becoming an Mortal Sovereign Alchemist, she would likely be unable to touch upon the Mystic-Rank or further.

She could only grunt in helplessness.

Qingye Yun remained standing, unsure of what to say. Just as he was about to spout more consoling words, his storage ring started to glow with a faint radiance. He inspected the transmission message and his expression started to rapidly and wildly change.

Intrigued by her many-great grandfather's reaction, she turned over in her bed and lifted a curious brow. "Something's wrong?"

At the end of his myriad of expressions, a hint of skepticism and joy emerged on his face as he glanced at Qingye Ying. He only said, "All hope isn't lost yet." With those words, he pulled up this young girl of his and departed in a hurry. Being carried off so quickly caught Qingye Ying by surprise.

They soon descended the shuttle and arrived at the first floor. She had already straightened herself out, her eyes regaining its innate pride. When the doors opened, they walked to the main hall and saw a high-ranking elder standing behind a cloaked figure.

There was faint golden mist that encapsulated the figure, making it uncertain if they were male or female. That mist was beguilingly majestic, as if it contained secrets of the heavens. The elder was unable to draw his eyes away from it.

When Qingye Yun saw this, his eyes brightened considerably. He stepped forward and graciously bowed with genuine respect. "Greetings, Heavenly Seer. Is...is what you say true? Is there really a way?"

Qingye Ying's expression changed and she was fiercely shaken. This was a Seer?! She had only heard legends of them depicted from ancient times. It described their ability to peer into heavenly secrets, capable of finding the truth outside of the present era. They could predict the future and seize fortune! Her heart was wildly racing.

The cloaked figure's hood shifted a little, as if they were staring at Qingye Ying. In a voice that was neither male or female, quite androgynous and ambiguous, they answered: "It is as true as the heaven's boundless will."

A surge of happiness painted Qingye Yun's expression. "Then please, let us discuss this inside." The Seer didn't reject him, following along as they ascended the tower with Qingye Ying in tow.

After they left, including the elder, at an ordinary corner of the main hall, a faint shadow of a statue shifted slightly. With its movement, prompted by no shifting of light, the shadow slowly started to bulge, revealing a darkly dressed figure. The aged eyes concealed beneath a black, nondescript mask betrayed a trace of surprise as it looked at the shuttle's entrance. Then, it merged back into the shadow, seemingly vanishing from the world.

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Wei Wuyin was currently soaring through the sky, about to pierce through the Sky Layer and return to his Sky Palace. Just as he reached the sixth level with a giant and thick book in hand, his spatial ring glowed with a spiritual radiance. After receiving its contents, his eyebrows furrowed.

"Interesting. What are you planning exactly, little girl?" Wei Wuyin faintly smiled as he recalled a figure in his memories. With his Eye of Truth, he felt as if his decision had prompted interference from an uncertain yet familiar figure. A worldly trend that the Alchemist Association, and Qingye Ying, might receive a surprising boon of hope. While this might not lead to much, it still intrigued him enough.

He hadn't arrived at the Alchemist Association alone, but with Ying in tow. With his unique Shadow Force and Shadow Intent, he could exquisitely merge with any shadow-like existence, including Wei Wuyin's. He had simply remained entirely hidden, concealed beneath Wei Wuyin's own aura. No one was capable of even noticing his presence, allowing Wei Wuyin to understand the danger of a high-tier assassin. Fortunately, he had his Celestial Eyes that could perceive such hidden things.

But what truly prompted his actions were the feeling of unease that a ruinous fate of the starfield was approaching, and it seemed this ruin might come with complex pieces segregated until the very end; he was unable to determine what they were from his Eye of Truth. He didn't know how or why, but seeing the trend of the world inch closer with each passing day, he felt a pressure envelope his heart.

He had his speculations, mostly that it had something to do with the Blessed Temporal Reincarnator having regressed from the alternate future to the present with foreknowledge of events. While he'd decidedly started to shift his actions to combat this advantage, there were certain events he couldn't change. For example, his meeting with the Alchemist Association was bound to happen and likely end in the same way.

He was unwilling to sacrifice himself to change that outcome. There was also his entry into the Gateway Door and the secret or world realm that hid behind it. He felt that there was something he sorely needed there, unable to be obtained anywhere else in the starfield. He could only sigh at this, uncertain what other events were fixed.

He didn't even know how far the foreknowledge of this Blessed extended, making him uncertain if the ruin led to their untimely demise. But he knew that knowing of one's eventual outcome held untold advantages.

Narrowing his eyes with a dangerous glint, he erupted with explosive speed and pierced through the Sky Layer. It didn't take him long to reach the eighth-level, arriving at the entrance of his Sky Palace.

When he arrived, he was greeted by an unexpected individual at the gates. "You cultivated it?" A hint of joyful expectation fueled his voice as he stared at the shapely and womanly figure who revealed a warm smile. Her aura was something that Wei Wuyin was quite familiar with.

As she radiated a faintly golden glow, shimmering with a heavenly light, she nodded with a solemn expression. "I have, and I've seen something."

This was Wen Mingna!

She had been cultivating an ancient Seer technique left for those capable of peering into Heavenly Fate. It was named the Ritualistic Fate of Nine Worlds Method, and it was the greatest Seer cultivation method he could acquire with his wealth and connections in the starfield.

It originated from the Nine Worlds Fate Seer, a prestigious figure that had developed after the King of Everlore Era. It was rumored that he was the first figure that, by himself, ascended to the Mystic Ascendant Realm without the King of Everlore's explicit support. His legacy method was left to his descendants, but they were unqualified to cultivate it, lacking a talent with Fate Energies. They graciously handed over this Mystic Ascendant-level Method for a hefty sum.

While he could see the trend of the world, origin of all things, and even unseen divinities with his Eye of Truth from the Celestial Eyes of Spiritual Divinity, this wasn't aimed at the Heavenly Daos. He knew there was a distinctive difference between them. One dealt more in likely probability extrapolated from present and past events to the possible future and the other was influenced by an unseen will. The latter could change the world's trend at a whim.

Seeing her Fate Qi become rather developed, being robust and holy-like, he felt that, just like Alchemic Qi, one's cultivation base truly affected one's abilities. But her words caused him to frown slightly, "What did you see?"

Wen Mingna was still at the Qi Condensation Realm, only having practiced her fate method for a short period, but with his high-level of cultivation support, she was already capable of gleaning into the heaven's elusive intentions.

She solemnly said with a tinge of undisguised panic, "I saw the end...of everything."

### **Chapter 392 - 388: The Other Woman**

The days soon came and went, causing six days to eclipse in a sudden flash of time. Unknowingly when, there was an air of tension within the starfield. This was especially so around the youthful geniuses of the Myriad Monarch Sect and Elemental Heaven Pavilion. The upcoming venture that would lead them to an unknown, an unknown waiting for their vigorous exploration and likely plundering.

That or their untimely demise.

With the restriction of three hundred years for entry in place, all the well-known peak experts of the starfield had been eliminated, unable to grasp this opportunity themselves. The Grand Spirit Trials had served as a brilliant display of the starfield but simultaneously acted as a selection of elites for two hegemonic forces.

While there were some that had gained entry, others who were more talented yet less lucky were eliminated, most of the lower breed of cultivation and quality but greater degree of luck had decidedly given up their spots to those more wealthy and adventurous. While those who sought the unknown possibilities, a few were happy with receiving instant benefits.

So, those fortunate enough to obtain a spot were all exhilarated and elated. Amongst those were a few members of the renowned faction: Ascendants. Despite Zuhei's state of tasting death, Lin Ming's departure meant he had claimed victory. There were a few in the outside world that expected his actual demise, but he was still alive.

Unfortunately, Zuhei was still recovering so he was unable to participate. Su Mei had also received a spot, but she had to handle matters outside while Wei Wuyin departed for an indeterminate amount of time. She was here to regulate and oversee various matters, and she was the only person Wei Wuyin trusted for this matter.

With the top two subordinates of Wei Wuyin refraining from entering, this meant their spots were reassigned. Wei Wuyin, obviously, kept the spots within the faction.

At the moment, Wei Wuyin's head was buried within a thick tome, reading the tiny and compacted rows of characters in each page. As he did, his silver eyes would shine with luminous radiance that betrayed his surprise and interest. He was currently residing within his Sky Palace's study, four externalized Astral Souls circulated around him, devouring various alchemical products with utter ease, their externalized forms released intermittent bursts of light unique to them.

Turning a thick page, Wei Wuyin's storage ring started to glow with a spiritual light. With a faintly dissatisfied look, he read the incoming transmission. Afterwards, a faint smile surfaced on his face. "It's time?"

Wei Wuyin had been in secluded cultivation since meeting Wen Mingna outside his Sky Palace. She carried an ominous warning, but her lacking cultivation base only inferred the heaven's intentions in a vague and indistinct manner. There wasn't much clarity to it, even less informed than his Eye of Truth.

While the two different abilities were far apart in terms of function, they were different avenues to obtain the same result. The Eye of Truth glimpsed at unseen and unknown present and past information, revealing possibilities of the future before one's gaze. For example, he could 'see' that acting in a certain manner would yield certain results. But that was only regarding likely possibilities.

As for Fate Qi and its connection to the heavens, it was more about understanding the Heavenly Daos intentions. The two can collide but simultaneously can differ, with the latter having precedent. The Heavenly Daos influence events, like a sudden palm smashing against a body of water. While the Eye of Truth reads the wind and predicts the ripples of the water.

Despite this, he learned a very important detail from Wen Mingna's vague prediction: The Heavenly Daos were dipping its hands into events, pushing certain matters to happen. Knowing how far-seeing the Heavenly Daos can act, he felt it likely had to do with an instance, or developing instance, or the Blessed Temporal Reincarnator's Karmic Luck.

Whatever this existence was doing, the Heavenly Daos were supporting them, slowly pushing the world into a possible ruinous state. But ruin did not mean bad, but for the Heavenly Daos, especially for Blessed, it can mean opportunity.

Unable to intervene directly, he could only await his moment. He would just prepare the best he could.

Pow!

Closing the thick tome, Wei Wuyin rose and his Astral Souls emanated a faint light. They sped towards him, entering his three central locations of his cultivation base—Brain, Heart, & Dantian. When they re-entered, he briefly inspected their progress and faintly nodded.

Wei Wuyin's study had two doors, with one leading to the outside hallway that interconnects with the Main Hall, while the other led to his bedroom. He opened the door to his bedroom, hearing the faint waking sounds of a beauty. Inspecting the lazy beauty on the bed, revealing her voluptuous body and exquisite curves, he grinned.

"Nuh...you're back?" The voice contained a hint of playfulness yet delicate warmth with a seductive quality. This alongside her unrestrained stretches caused Wei Wuyin's silver eyes to flare with indecent intentions. But unfortunately, his free-time had just run out.

The feisty little beastwoman in his bed had just woke from a long session. When he looked at her brown-colored eyes that looked at him, he saw a burning desire to receive him entirely once again, indulging in unimaginable ecstasy. Tempted, he sighed in his heart, lamenting at his inability to stop time. "Nyla, I'll be leaving for the Auric Sea today."

Nyla Shur was one of the two women that he had claimed as his lover early on. Her short-cut brown-colored hair, feline ears, sharp incisors that revealed themselves at the sides of her mouth, furry pair of ears and petite form betrayed her status as a beastwoman of the feline lineage. Alongside Da Shan, she was the only woman he courted during his rapid rise and thorough development.

"That's today?!" A faint yelp of surprise resounded from Nyla. She was an elder of the Mortal Captain-level, unlike Da Shan who was a disciple. She had forgotten the time, losing herself in Wei Wuyin's firm and powerful body.

Wei Wuyin chuckled slightly, nodding. "You should really focus on increasing your stamina," he commented as he slowly started to undress, another set of clean robes floated beside him.

Nyla pouted with grievance, "That's not my fault! You....you! Too many times..." Her voice trailed off as her cheeks reddened, clearly blaming Wei Wuyin for his techniques forcing her body to an early state of exhaustion.

After dressing, Wei Wuyin donned a set of unique black martial robes fashioned from extremely high-quality materials. It had a trim of silver, highlighting Wei Wuyin's muscles and bodily shape. They were outside the standard sect attire, no longer representing the Myriad Monarch Sect. In fact, it had no embroidery or insignia pinned to it.

"If you need any products for cultivation or money, seek out Su Mei while I'm gone." Wei Wuyin carelessly commented, straightening out his robes. Nyla bit her lips and nodded.

Wei Wuyin couldn't help but give that alluring body one last look before departing with a gentle forehead kiss and a faint knowing smile, causing Nyla to blush even harder. She released a frustrated grunt, touching her belly while having a layer of glaze over her eyes.

"How did I get so lucky?" She murmured to herself, feeling as if it was all surreal. He had just been a handsome human that she met one day. They had even gotten into an argument over nonsense, a dispute on obtaining a specific cultivation material. Despite his status as a Heavenly King, she was unwilling to back down as an elder.

One thing led to another, and she found herself in his bed and losing her long kept virginity. What she had believed she would keep till finding a Dao Companion had been ruined in an impulse, but what a lovely impulse it became. That day, somehow, she had intertwined herself with Wei Wuyin's life. She became the lover to the Ascendant Emperor of Neo-Dawn, the next era's leading figure, and he wasn't aloof or dismissive as one would expect from a grand figure.

He was invested, attentive, and ensured her satisfaction in the bedroom, cultivation, and life. She wanted for nothing except more time with him, and her rising cultivation base only ensured that. She revealed a gentle smile, feeling a rush of blazing emotion within her heart.

After a moment, she pouted with discontent and displeasure. "Da Shan lied to me; I still can't last long..."

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Wei Wuyin arrived outside his Sky Palace, met by Su Mei and Xiao Bai. The pegasus's rapid growth was astonishing, already rivaling Bo Kay's mature pegasus in size with ease. Despite still being a young colt,

Xiao Bai's development had been improved upon by a myriad of alchemical resources. With its eyes, flickers of lively lightning flowed within.

Su Mei was waiting beside Xiao Bai's hoof, barely exceeding it in height. Despite that, Su Mei was a figure no one could casually dismiss in any picture. She had a neutral expression, befitting a subordinate waiting for their leader.

Xiao Bai neighed in excitement.

Su Mei's pure black eyes betrayed an elation that revealed itself whenever she met Wei Wuyin. While her expression remained firm, this was something she couldn't hide.

"Let's go," Wei Wuyin chuckled with heart. He was excited. Since his Scarlet Solaris Sect days, this would be the first time he'd venture out in a group expedition. It brought back painful and exhilarating memories. Ever since he inherited the Bloodline of Sin, his life had been on a course beyond the typical cultivator.

When was the last time he needed to personally search for something he needed? This feeling renewed his youthful vigor that had been dulled by outstanding wealth and influence.

He knew the coming days that would soon be filled with the unknown would not be boring.

### **Chapter 393 - 389: Everworth Lake**

The Myriad Monarch Sect's most elite talents were gathering at one location, with a few exceptions. They were all enthralled and excited, having made ample preparations to explore the unknown realm beyond the Gateway Door. Many of them weren't even aware of its existence, only finding out after the Grand Spirit Trials that they would be given a spot to adventure out.

Some paled, giving up their spots to others for resources or connexions. Others roared in excitement, ready to venture out into the unknown and test their mettle against whatever obstacle that comes. With the restriction set of three hundred years, this meant whatever came would be within their manageable limits. At least, this was the held belief of many elites.

Shockingly, their gathering place was not within the Myriad Monarch Sect, but outside the sect and on the planet. It was a public location called Everworth Lake. It was a pristine freshwater lake that expanded for three kilometers in all directions, and above those crystal clear waters was a floating pagoda.

This pagoda had similarities to the Wu Astral Tower on the Myriad Yore Continent and the Myriad Nascent Dao Pagoda, being sleek-black with faint starry light on its surface, but containing nine different floors. It lingered above the lake, floating beneath the clouds, and emanated an imposing and vast aura.

It housed the largest Void Gate on the planet, which was typically only used to send out troops of war. Furthermore, it was exceptionally powerful, capable of establishing a portal in terrifying areas. The Auric Sea, one of the most dangerous and mystical areas in the entire starfield, had its restrictions that caused normal Void Gates to be unable to establish a connection.

This led to the numerous elites venturing to this area, usually cordoned off at all times except war.

There were also various senior experts intermixed here, gathering in their own groups like the youngsters, having idle conversation. Amongst these experts were the former Grand Imperial Sage Yao Zhen, now the Prime Imperial Sage Yao Zhen. He stood off with a group of demons, including his son— Yao Wei, an almost smaller-sized exact version of himself.

Similarly, Qin Rui was present, within a group of elves alongside her own disciple, Bing Yin. She, shockingly, was not an elf. She was a human. She had long-flowing black hair that carried traces of an airy feeling, but her appearance wasn't anything too outstanding, wearing round-framed glasses upon her face. Her flat-chested, almost board-like, slim figure didn't contain much seductive charm. However, no one would ever underestimate her, especially as her aura revealed pulses of spiritual strength, an indication of her Soul Idol Phase Cultivation.

Ji Changkong stood with only one figure, his own disciple. Shudao was a hybrid demon, also different from his master who originated from the beastman race of the canine lineage. He had a pair of dark triangular eyes, waist-length white hair tied in a ponytail, pointy ears, and a slim frame that betrayed his elven side.

He was just as sharp as Ji Changkong, radiating Sword Intent that sliced the air. He, too, couldn't be underestimated as his cultivation base had now reached the Third Stage of the Astral Core Realm. It seemed his abrupt elimination in the Grand Spirit Trials hadn't dulled his edge nor stopped him from participating in this expedition.

With the three disciples or descendants of the former Grand Imperial Sages present, everyone felt pressured. They all radiated vast might and seemed intent on plundering the lionshare of whatever this expedition provided. But this invigorated some hot-blooded youths, becoming dead-set on derailing these grand aspirations.

Amongst the demon group, an unexpected tall and mighty beauty was garbed in armor, her golden irises radiating a heavy pressure to any that looked. Her curvaceous and ample-breasted tall figure couldn't be fully enjoyed because of that, and because of her status.

Quite a few were aware of her existence as the lover to one of the most prominent members of the entire starfield, Wei Wuyin. She could even obtain the faint smile from the ever-brooding Yao Zhen, and seemed to be friends with Yao Wei. Even the elders in the group paid her every change of expression an ungodly amount of attention and thought.

Da Shan was lavished with words of praise and caution, and while she was aware these wily old foxes were all trying to invest in her as a way to form a connection to Wei Wuyin, she didn't mind. In fact, she felt proud and loved this sensation. What woman disliked good attention?

While she could feel envy, from both men and women alike, this only caused her to stand even firmer amongst these elders of higher rank. If it wasn't for the faint demonic air lingering nearby, making everyone who approached uncomfortable, she might've formed a gathering.

There was another group that held a lot of attention. They were the talk of everyone, especially since their auras were more consolidated, purer, and seemingly of a higher quality than everyone else. There were only twelve individuals present here, being one of the smaller groups, and they consisted of all youths, but not one of them was lacking.



Just from those terrifying auras alone, the elders and those of keen spiritual senses could determine that the weakest were at the Soul Idol Phase. This terrified them. Especially the one at the lead, her aura revealed faint spatial ripples that accompanied her every movement, indicating the integration of spatial energies within her cultivation base. This was a quality only contained by Spatial Resonance Phase cultivators, those at the Fourth Stage of the Astral Core Realm.

While the group was multiracial, the leader was a female human. She had an elegant figure accompanied by a slim waist. Her auburn-colored hair was tied into a sleek ponytail that reached half-way down her back, giving her a faintly heroic disposition. Paired with those energetic eyes and red-lips of hers, she contained an electrifying presence.

She was the sword-wielding Hong Chunhua, who originally had jet-black hair. After swearing her sword to Wei Wuyin, she had cultivated a unique method that had changed her hair color and lengthened it, which accentuated her face even more.

As the First Commander of the Ascendants, quite a few gazes of reverence and fear emerged in these elites eyes. The Ascendants weren't just in development, but were actively participating in the Myriad Monarch Sect's struggles. They had claimed numerous territories from other Sky Nobles and Heavenly Kings in a fair and above-board manner, displaying their ferocity.

It seemed Wei Wuyin had kept his promise, allowing her to exceed every Heavenly King present, excluding himself, in six months. While that had long since passed, she was heralded as the top expert of the younger generation, with her cultivation at the Spatial Resonance Phase exceeding everyone. She, too, was a Heavenly King of the Extreme War Mountain, but she remained a part of Wei Wuyin's faction and continued to display exceptional loyalty.

She had similarly been present in the Grand Spirit Trials, but she was eliminated early. It wasn't due to another, but her own excitement. She had killed too many high-level beasts with the assumption that she would receive points and was unable to dig herself out of a negative value by the time she learned otherwise, eliminating her in the very first trial.

Hong Chunhua wasn't the only one who experienced this.

The other eleven were top-tier members of Ascendants under three hundred, each with their own specialty and astonishing cultivation base. Hong Chunhua couldn't help but recall Su Mei whenever she thought about this.

The Ascendants rarely saw Wei Wuyin, with him only coming to inspect them and give them some one-on-one time to size-up their cultivation needs a few times, allowing them to get to know their leader a little. But Su Mei was almost always present, delivering fresh, top-tier, high-grade alchemical products in vast quantities. Whatever they needed, she had.

She gave them assignments, orders, and guided their cultivation. Despite her cultivation base exceeding Su Mei, she wasn't her match whenever they sparred. Thinking of Su Mei, she felt a desire to compete. Unfortunately, she learned that Su Mei wouldn't be coming, so she felt a little dejected.

Besides members of Ascendants, she felt there was no competition amongst these so-called genius youths. Shudao? Bing Yin? Yao Wei? These former Grand Imperial Sage disciples and descendants were once top-talents that dominated beyond their cultivation stage, but now they paled.

She felt any member of the Ascendant could fight them to a stand-still at worst, and decimate them at best. While she sized up those present, her thoughts extremely arrogant and competitive, a winged shadow flitted through the sky and swept over them.

This prompted the rising of heads.

Qin Rui's beautiful brows furrowed as a complex light emitted from her eyes. She couldn't help but glance at Da Shan subconsciously, seeing her smile that effused heartfelt excitement. Her heart throbbed in an irregular fashion, causing her thoughts to become more complex.

The winged shadow circled the area a few times at a mind-blowing speed before swiftly landing on the lake's surface, sparks of lightning erupted as a powerful neigh twisted wind currents. Stepping on the lake as if a holy creature, with snakes of lightning twisting beneath its hooves, Xiao Bai proudly lifted its head towards the gathering at the lakeside.

It was clearly basking in the awe and shock of the crowd, especially as its powerful aura made experts even at the Fifth Stage of the Astral Core Realm change their expressions.

"I've never flown that fast!" A flustered voice sounded, prompting a particular figure in the gathering, a figure that should've been a leading figure that was quietly residing off to the side with a few others, to lift their eyes and reveal complex emotions even greater than Qin Rui.

The voice belonged to a maiden that was quite familiar to the crowd, having had a spectacular showing at the Grand Spirit Trials.

Wei Wuyin's hearty and unrestrained laughter resounded, "Where's the 'I can handle it!' girl gone?" With a faint tease, the lightning and wind subsided to reveal two figures. The first caught everyone's attention, having a resounding reputation, but the second was just as gaze-stealing as her blushing beauty was an incredible sight to behold. The two seemed to be holding each other, or moreso, the gorgeous female was clinging to the robes of Wei Wuyin as if her life had flashed before her eyes, her eyes flickering with playful grievance.

That figure in the crowd softly murmured with rancor and vile, "Qing Qiumu..."

### **Chapter 394 - 390: Only One Left**

Long Chen clenched his fists tightly, creating audible cracks of his knuckles as they turned white. Those black eyes of his revealed a sinister light filled with murderous intentions that could scare a child silly, unbeknownst to himself. The sight of Wei Wuyin and Qing Qiumu, likely their position together, had evoked this sinister reaction.

After his 'failure' to protect Na Xinyi, he had lost the trust of his companions that had been cultivated for decades. While he realized his fault after some time of reflection, he still felt great animosity towards the one he felt was responsible for it all—Wei Wuyin.

However, despite his acceptance of his fault and admissions of his own wrongdoing, the others had still formed an invisible wall of distance against him. As for Qing Qiumu, she had almost entirely severed their long cultivated relationship. But after that, after all she said on that day, this is what she's doing?

His teeth grinded together betraying his festering rage boiling to the brink. Just as he felt as if his mind was about to erupt in hellish fury brought about by the myriad of negative emotions in his heart, a gentle and warm touch brought him back.

Taken aback, he turned to see the smile of a beautiful woman, Lian Yu—the one woman that hadn't abandoned him. And what a beautiful woman she was, especially in his darkest state, she became his brightest light, his angelic guardian that protected his heart without reserve. Seeing that gentle, calming smile on her face that seemed to say: "I'm here, everything's okay."

He felt like an angry child comforted by his mother, and his raging emotions fizzled into nothing. He turned away his focus, retaining a neutrally indifferent expression after returning the smile to this delicate beauty that had no one but him in her heart and mind.

Lian Yu relaxed after seeing Long Chen calm himself, feeling elation at his control. As for that slut, Qing Qiumu? She wasn't worth his time. In her heart, she knew there would come a time where they all see the true difference between Wei Wuyin and Long Chen. She gave Qing Qiumu a fleeting look of pity, thinking about how unfortunate she was.

Wei Wuyin and Qing Qiumu were completely ignorant of their thoughts, merely existing in their own space. Whenever they were together, like two kindred spirits, they relaxed in each other's presence revealing their original hearts.

Wei Wuyin laughed at her look of grievance, throwing his hands up in surrender. Seeing this, Qing Qiumu's nerves had calmed down as she smiled. She was truly caught by surprise by Xiao Bai's incredible flying speed.

When Wei Wuyin had been flying down from his Sky Palace, he had spotted her similarly flying towards the Myriad Monarch Sect's Everworth Lake Gathering. She was already running late after cultivating an intensive art that caused her to lose track of time. A few minutes prior, she had just been reminded of the gathering, and hurried to depart. She was certainly going to be late, so she was quite panicked.

Fortunately, Wei Wuyin was similarly 'late'. She was picked up as he descended, unsure if they'll make the event on time at a slow flying speed, so the conversation went like this:

"Are we going to make it at this rate?"

"Oh? We can go faster, but I don't know if you're going to lose your lunch or not."

"Lose my lunch? I'm a cultivator! I can handle any speed!"

"...Are you sure?"

"I can handle it!"

She even felt that Wei Wuyin was playfully joking about the stereotypes of her gender, thinking she was the fairer sex and considered her as less resilient. As a cultivator, she was quite competitive innately and valiantly sought her limits and things out just like everyone else. Or else, why cultivate?

But oh boy was she wrong!

When Xiao Bai cranked his speed to ten, she lost the air out of her lungs and nearly lost consciousness along the way. She immediately regretted it. She had almost fallen off Xiao Bai, having to hold onto Wei Wuyin's robes tightly, fearing for dear life. What should've taken a fully day's worth of flying had been completed in a few minutes.

Now, she could only blame her blind confidence. Therefore, she wasn't actually mad at Wei Wuyin, merely realizing that everyone has limits and there were things even cultivators might find hard to bear.

She clutched Wei Wuyin's robes a little tighter, catching her breath. Her flushed appearance truly was a captivating sight to the audience, but the majority of focus was still on the man of the hour himself. There were numerous elites and elders in the crowd, both male and female, that felt envy and jealousy at Qing Qiumu's closeness to Wei Wuyin. But they didn't dare speak out anything ill of Qing Qiumu out loud, keeping their jealousy internal.

Xiao Bai started to walk on the lake, giving off an imposing presence that startled the crowd. The various high-level cultivators felt even more shocked by Xiao Bai's aura, being exceptional in all aspects.

Yao Wei turned to his father. "Great Father, that's a Sky Thunder Pegasus, right?"

Yao Zhen's violet flames swirled within his eyes as if he was contemplating a myriad of things. With his deep, darkly-rich voice, he responded: "Yes. Its Sky Thunder Bloodline is exceptionally developed." Xiao Bai's bloodline wasn't new to many, as quite a few had witnessed its existence during Qing Qiumu's execution date.

Wei Wuyin had arrived, aweing the crowd with his pegasus and presence. However, this was the first time that many had personally seen it evoke its bloodline powers in such a matter, causing their hearts to throb with shock and disbelief.

"Isn't it only a colt? How come its size and aura is so powerful?" An elder demon couldn't help but remark in uncertainty. Almost everyone knew that Wei Wuyin had been gifted a pegasus who later unlocked its innate bloodline after taking some Thunder Blood Pills, but that knew it was less than a decade old in age.

A pegasus at the size of eighty meters was usually matured to the maximum, usually at the age range of two to three hundred years old. Therefore, they were uncertain.

"There's no need to wonder. Wei Wuyin had invested numerous resources into Xiao Bai, even causing its Sky Thunder Bloodline to show signs of evolving." Da Shan proudly explained, completely unbothered by an elf clutching Wei Wuyin closely.

Yao Zhen added, "A beast's size is a reflection of its inherent physical power and lineage. In ancient times, there were beings the size of minor continents that existed on planets. It's not shocking that it's size reflects its developments thus far." As an experienced Sixth Stage expert, Yao Zhen was quite knowledgeable.

A few elders, especially Yao Wei, were taken aback by this information. They knew beasts could become large, but they can become the size of continents? They gulped at the mental image.

Over on the other side, Ji Changkong had to similarly answer this question to Shudao who was confused at Xiao Bai's size and aura.

"Ancient beasts? What type of beasts?" Shudao asked inquisitively with deep interest.

Ji Changkong wryly smiled as he looked at Xiao Bai. Beasts were different from cultivators, capable of developing at absurd speeds if given proper nourishment while contradictorily having extremely long lifespans. They had latent powers of their ancestors, capable of awakening and pursuing that power that existed in legends. If given enough time, Xiao Bai's strength would eclipse his own.

As for its speed? Just from what he saw, he was certain that he couldn't catch up without hindering its movements with Spatial Lock, a unique ability to Spatial Resonance Phase cultivators. This left him a little bitter in his aged heart.

He carelessly mentioned some information detailed in some ancient books, "Ancient beasts said to be descendants of true dragons. They ranged from all types, but their lineage was rather consistent."

However, this baffled Shudao. His sharp gaze turned to Ji Changkong, "Master, dragons? What true dragon lineage? They lived in this starfield? Where are they?" When Shudao asked this in genuine curiosity, Ji Changkong was startled.

"..." When he tried to recall the answers, for some reason, he realized that every lineage in the ancient records existed today, but the dragon lineage had seemingly vanished. There was not even a beastman that had an inkling of their bloodline. He couldn't help but ask himself, "What happened to the dragons?"

If these beings were the size of continents, how could they just vanish?

He became thoroughly lost in thought, absentminded to the point he hadn't noticed an interaction brewing.

Wei Wuyin and Qing Qiumu had left the lake, floated to the lakeside. Xiao Bai neighed, blowing a wad of air toward the crowd with a cocky 'I bet you want to punch' smile. Then, he took off as quick as he came, leaving the two here.

Qing Qiumu circulated her various energies, calming her seething blood and lungs. She had regained her normal warm, motherly elegance that was quite calming to the eyes. Wei Wuyin still held a faint teasing light within his eyes, causing her to roll her eyes.

Just as Qing Qiumu was about to greet her Ancestor and Qin Rui, a familiar figure approached alongside a female companion. When she caught sight of them, her expression changed into a frown. Long Chen and Lian Yu arrived side by side, they both had calm expressions. She didn't know how to react to them. Since the incident with Na Xinyi, her eyes to Long Chen's true nature had been revealed.

Long Chen took the lead, directing his gaze towards Wei Wuyin. As the Grand Prince, he carried himself with an important air. While Wei Wuyin might be the next King of Everlore in the starfield, that individual, in his mind, was merely a foil to the true characters of the future. Such as his master, Grand Monarch Wu Yu.

It was this consistent thought within his mind that allowed him to dismiss the overwhelmingly oppressive sensation that Wei Wuyin was spreading, believing him to just be an outrageously talented alchemist without a chance to reach the peak of the Martial Dao. Without that, he would eventually be nothing and can only be bypassed by him.

Long Chen indifferent swept his gaze across Wei Wuyin, looking at his neck that usually possessed his black ring. He asked, "Where is my master?" Long Chen felt that with this journey to the unknown, Wu Yu would certainly choose to accompany him rather than Wei Wuyin.

Wei Wuyin gave Long Chen an amused look, as if looking at a clown playing elitist. Even though their statuses were so different, so vastly apart in influence, power, and reputation, he still brazenly clashed with him. He felt in the depths of his heart that Long Chen, this man that once brought shock into his heart, was uninteresting.

He focused his gaze on Lian Yu, ignoring Long Chen. According to Xiang Ling, Lian Yu was all he had left after he nearly caused the death of Na Xinyi by not actively protecting her. While Wei Wuyin had brought the calamity cake, Long Chen had eaten the misfortune cream himself. Now, Long Chen was left with Lian Yu.

When Lian Yu felt his gaze, her delicate eyebrows furrowed. She felt naked before his silver eyes, causing her body to grow restless and uncomfortable. But when she saw the light of surprise flit across those eyes, her heart shivered for some reason.

Wei Wuyin commented lightly, turning to Long Chen. "You used your Grand Prince Request to bring her along? Are you sure that's a good idea?" He genuinely asked, startling Long Chen.

After Wei Wuyin had taken the two other requests, the third regarding Na Xinyi needed to be changed, so he asked for an exception to be made for the expedition. It wasn't originally meant for just her, but Xiao Bing, Long Tingyu, Wu Baozhai and Lian Yu. They were all asked to be given a spot, which was agreed upon.

But that had all crumbled as Xiao Bing cultivated with a reborn Hong Ru and Long Tingyu was too distraught by the past events to come. Wu Baozhai, for obvious reasons, had refused his good intentions. This left Lian Yu, the only woman that stayed in his life.

"It's none of your business what I or she does. I ask you again: Where's my master?!" Long Chen's eyes narrowed dangerously, feeling impatient.

Qing Qiumu was about to rebuke Long Chen for his attitude, as this was a public gathering and his actions were extremely disrespectful, but Wei Wuyin touched her shoulder and calmed her down instantly.

Wei Wuyin gave Lian Yu one last glance. Then, he replied: "He's occupied."

Wu Yu had decided to direct Wu Baozhai's cultivation after Wei Wuyin decided to refuse to concoct an Ever-Rebirth Pill. Instead, he said he'll let Wu Yu make up for his actions in the past and let Wu Baozhai reconstruct his body in the future, if she chooses to do so.

While a little angry at this, Wu Yu already had a guilty heart and inevitably agreed. Wu Baozhai was his bloodline descendant and the most suitable cultivator for the Imperial Heaven Qi Method, she'll make great advancements with his help. Therefore, he took her in as his disciple.

As for Long Chen?

Wei Wuyin wasn't certain if Wu Yu had just given up after Long Chen challenged him to Imperial Combat. The likely result could've left him resigned to Long Chen's eventual fate, deciding to abandon that avenue of possibility. Furthermore, with his help and Wei Wuyin concocting unique products suitable for the Imperial Heaven Qi Method, it was certain that Wu Baozhai would reach his level one day, and he might be able to exceed his previous limits once restored

Long Chen clenched his teeth, unbeknownst to him that his so-called master was teaching another to replace him. After all, Wu Baozhai was an innate ruler of the Grand Monarch Lineage unlike him, who snatched it from her.

Just as Long Chen was about to say something, a ray of brilliant silver light erupted from above, attracting everyone's attention.

A grey robed figure was revealed from the light. Tuo Bihan hovered above everyone, sweeping his stern gaze across everyone present, including Long Chen and Wei Wuyin. He announced, "We'll be leaving a day early! Everyone, get ready" His voice contained a hint of urgency.

Wei Wuyin was intrigued by his distress as he faintly smiled. *'What are you up to, little girl?'*

#### **Chapter 395 - 391: Unexpected Fourth Party**

Tuo Bihan's words sent the crowd into an abrupt start, confusion and uncertainty emerged on the expressions of many elders, especially the former Grand Imperial Sages. Due to the Auric Sea's unique environment and inherent dangers, the sect had decided to only leave a few minutes prior to the scheduled entrance. However, Tuo Bihan's order had accelerated their activities.

The former Grand Imperial Sages instinctively sent inquisitive spiritual transmissions to Tuo Bihan inquiring about the change, but he merely swept his gaze across everyone and his eyes emanated silver light. He waved his hand, his spiritual force barking out an order.

"Do not resist!" When those words slammed into the minds of everyone, Tuo Bihan didn't waste anymore time. Faint rays of gorgeous silver light erupted from his fingers, sweeping around the crowd like lively streamers. These rays became like slippery fishes that circulated around the bodies of everyone present.

Qing Qiumu felt startled by Tuo Bihan's sudden actions, unconsciously stepping closer to Wei Wuyin. She hadn't noticed, but the worry within her heart started to dissipate. When Long Chen noticed this little action of hers, his focus quickly returned to Wei Wuyin due to his want to continuously question, a blazing fire burned within his heart.

Wei Wuyin kept his focus on Tuo Bihan, his body felt lighter as the silver light swam around his body. He had experienced this numerous times already, but it was the first time the process was slower and more detailed, likely due to the sheer number of individuals being brought away.

Just as he thought, the rays of light started to undulate with rippling waves that were visible through the air.

Swish!

Tuo Bihan exerted his spatial force, bringing everyone away into the Everworth Void Gate. When everyone arrived inside the building, they were greeted by a similar environment like the Wu Astral Tower. The dizzying crisscrossing tiles and extremely spacious area. There were no unnecessary items besides a single Void Gate that was several times larger than standard.

The half-circular silver arc that was the Void Gate had a platform beneath it that was multi-colored, emitting some strange and dim light. If one inspected it, they would find their energies stirring.

Wei Wuyin knew this was a unique empowering tool that was added to the large-sized Void Gate for the sake of penetrating certain environments and restrictions safely. Most sects, clans, or planets would typically have some restrictive formations that prevented the abrupt descent of enemy forces.

After all, a Void Gate was one-way travel that left very little evidence of an arrival. Its unique characteristics made it an astonishingly effective invasion tool. At a moment's notice, War Commanders could send an army of ten thousand experts at someone's doorstep.

But this Void Gate was designed for war, to breach into weaker areas of a restriction. While they might not be able to descend directly upon the enemy forces, they could descend nearby, or at an established allied camp, bypassing these issues with ease.

All the youths had never seen such a large Void Gate, its use had been decommissioned for the last eight hundred years, the time of the last war between the Myriad Monarch Sect versus the other three hegemonic forces. While the sect suffered the loss of many of its territories, they maintained their core and survived through the ordeal, signifying their foundation and exceptional strength at the time.

The large silver-colored semi-circular arc had all the similarities to a normal Void Gate. Tuo Bihan's figure flickered with faint silver light as he unhesitatingly sent out a Void Disk that integrated with the Void Gate, causing a curtain of multi-colored light to descend.

"Go!" He shouted out.

The former Grand Imperial Sages, especially Qin Rui, frowned heavily at this. It was rare that they'll have to listen to the direct orders of others. They hadn't expected to be barked at like subordinates, causing a desire to become Realm Lords to grow ever-stronger.

Of course, Tuo Bihan cared little for their feelings. Seeing how there was a moment of hesitation, he waved his hand and the elders felt their bodies leave their control. Like darts thrown across the room, they were sent into the Void Gate at startling speeds. There were a few who exclaimed in shock but it accomplished nothing as they disappeared.

"Go!!" He shouted again, allowing no more hesitation. The elders clenched their teeth, shooting into the Void Gate after their comrades. While they didn't know why this was happening, they were still confident of their strength.

After all the elders left, the former Grand Imperial Sages looked at Tuo Bihan with a leveled gaze, and then shot off into the Void Gate. They wanted to know why these developments were happening. The disciples were the last and next, causing them to follow after their elders after a brief hesitation.



Da Shan turned to Wei Wuyin with questions in her heart, but seeing his relaxed and calm appearance, she felt a wave of relief flow into her heart. Finding her rock of confidence, she brought her well-endowed body through the Void Gate, her eyes flashing with battle spirit.

Qing Qiumu, too, looked at Wei Wuyin. If anyone knew what was going on, she felt Wei Wuyin would know. After all, who didn't know that Tuo Bihan was incredibly close, almost a subordinate, to Wei Wuyin. He had even gone personally to retrieve his concubine.

Wei Wuyin didn't hesitate either. He grabbed Qing Qiumu's hand and said, "Let's go." They shot into the Void Gate.

Qing Qiumu was startled by Wei Wuyin's actions, feeling the surge of unprecedented warmth and strength he carried within his hand. This was the first time she had such direct physical contact with Wei Wuyin, but her heart warmed. She knew he was doing this for her, hoping to alleviate her worries. So she followed along.

Long Chen was the type of person that liked to observe events and take action last, a tactic that he'd developed after years of traveling into dangerous locations or being brought into spontaneous developments like this one. As such, he was near the last of individuals that would enter the Void Gate. When he witnessed Wei Wuyin and Qing Qiumu holding hands, he hadn't raged, exhibiting extreme calm.

As if this answered all his suspicions, he no longer cared about Qing Qiumu in his heart, burying their stories in the depths of his mind. He grabbed Lian Yu's hand, shooting off with her in tow.

After they all entered, Tuo Bihan looked at the Void Gate, his eyebrows furrowed. He then shot into the Void Gate and vanished, causing the Void Gate to close.

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The Auric Sea was considered one of the most dangerous, mysterious, and mystifying locations within the entire starfield. There were numerous other areas, sometimes restricting certain individuals from entering, like the first Demon Planet that was conjured by the Abyss Master of Demonic Abyss Mountain. It was the only planet in the starfield that was covered in the corrosive and infective demonic energies year-round in extreme levels.

There were numerous unique lifeforms born due to this, and most of the life situated there had become demonic in nature, even the trees. It was stated that any non-demon creature would immediately suffer the effect of demonization from exposure of demonic energies after a single day there.

This led to it being both extremely dangerous and shocking, because there were few who knew who the Abyss Master of legend had created such a planet.

But the Auric Sea was slightly different, and that was due to its unexplorable environment and composition. It might be called a 'sea' but it was a circulate planet, the largest planet in the entire starfield by roughly twelve times. Furthermore, it had no orbit, remaining completely stationary where it was.

Even more shocking, the planet had no external gravity outside of its atmosphere. This meant nothing was every pull down to it. In fact, objects could fly past its atmospheric layer with an inch of difference

and remain unaffected. But that didn't mean it had no gravity. In fact, its internal gravity was abnormally strong. To add, the gravitational force became stronger the closer one got to its 'surface' until they were brought into its depths and crushed to death.

As for its composition, this was even more confusing as it was 100% liquid. It wasn't normal water, but some type of dense azure liquid that had a greater density level than water. There was no weather on the planet either, meaning no wind currents. The entire 'sea' was incredibly still.

From the outside, it seemed like an unmoving azure ball. It could even be mistaken as the starfield's largest marble, the still liquid seemingly solid.

Ten thousand feet above the surface of the Auric Sea, still within the bounds of the atmospheric protection from the Dark Void, but at its most outer layers, there were three groups of individuals. They stood a large distance apart.

They were all looking at a single location that was shockingly empty, but the odd expressions on their faces at the moment betrayed the truth: there was something there.

Amongst these three groups, there were a few notable figures within each. There was a group in alchemist robes, redesigned and imparted with distinctive characteristics of a Martial Artist's robes. They all had cauldrons on their backs, and this cauldron was spewing out an unending series of stars. This clearly belonged to the warrior faction of the Alchemist Association, and at the head of this group was Qingye Yun.

One other group was adorned in white robes with various colored strips. They had various insignia etched into their outfits at strange locations, likely denoting their faction, rank, and other things, but they all shared one common characteristic; at the right shoulder was a swirl of white that consisted of nine lines. The Elemental Heaven Pavilion was headed by Lin Ruyan, the Pavilion Master.

The last group consisted of just three people, and at the head of this group was a figure shrouded by a misty exterior, but his aura was unmistakable: A Realm Lord!

The San Emperor was here!

At this moment, several dozen miles away, a figure emerged belonging to the first elder of the Myriad Monarch Sect.

### **Chapter 396 - 392: Auric Sea, Unstoppable Descent**

The three groups' attention was brought away, looking at the elder that had abruptly appeared a fair distance away. Lin Ruyan and Qingye Yun frowned, their gazes exchanged for a moment before they turned to the San Emperor and his two Envoys. Their emotions at the moment were unreadable.

Everyone oddly felt on edge. The atmosphere was quite tense despite the complete lack of wind.

The figures of the Myriad Monarch Sect started to emerge out of thin air, clearly brought here via a Void Gate. They were unsurprised, but the first arriving elder was startled. He turned to see the three groups. Despite the distance, the elder's cultivation was at the fourth stage of the Astral Core Realm, granting his astonishing vision.

His expression became twisted as he immediately noticed the signature crimson mist and imperial attire of the San Clan's Envoys. It wasn't just him. As more elders arrived, their expressions betrayed their shock and hesitation. The San Emperor was a Realm Lord, despite his methods of getting there, and has ruled the starfield for generations. Most of these elders were born under their rule, an innate sense of reverence swelled within their hearts.

After all, this man, alongside another, had thoroughly conquered the starfield and its hegemonic powers. In fact, it was the San Clan that had intervened, preventing the mutual destruction of the four hegemonic forces after the Myriad Monarch Sect was pushed into a corner by the other three.

Many of these elders were alive today due to that generosity, so they were feeling extremely complex. But they still kept their wits about them, knowing why they were present and why Tuo Bihan sent them first.

The first disciple of the younger generation emerged, his cultivation at the Sky Ruler Phase was quite powerful, but he released a yelp of panic as he felt an astonishingly powerful gravitational force exert itself upon his body. The yelp was accompanied by a dozen feet drop from the sky before the elders reacted, waving their hands to still his falling figure.

The disciple was covered in cold sweat as if he felt his life flash before his eyes. He couldn't help but stared at the azure surface below, feeling strange that the ground was a smooth azure-color. Just as he was questioning this, a female cry sounded by a heart-wrenching shriek of fear.

The elders hastily acted as they stabilized the falling figures of the newly arrived disciples. Despite being ten thousand feet high, the Auric Sea's gravity was incredibly strong. Unless one had sufficient strength, typically at the Soul Idol Phase, they would find themselves unable to self-stabilize in a short period of time.

Just as they expected, a Soul Idol disciple emerged soon and he was startled by the abrupt change of gravity, but a powerful spiritual force erupted from his body and stabilized his figure after a few feet. The person couldn't help but gawk at the azure surface below in shock.

He had never seen such a strange sight before.

The others soon followed, causing a few to scream out in shock. Those three groups were calmly watching, but they didn't feel schadenfreude, especially the disciples. They, too, felt that gravitational power and the horror that followed. There were mostly hints of pity in their eyes.

Wei Wuyin and Qing Qiumu's figures soon emerged out of thin air. When they did, Qing Qiumu felt the force, grabbing at Wei Wuyin. With a swift action, Wei Wuyin grabbed her slender waist and brought her close into his embrace. Her cultivation base may be impressive for her level, but she lacked the spiritual sense and swift reactions of a Soul Idol expert.

Therefore, he had held her hand when coming to avoid Qing Qiumu from experiencing the horror of falling downwards.

Qing Qiumu blushed, her hands pressed against Wei Wuyin's robes and grabbed him at him forcefully. She was truly given a fright at the abrupt shift of her weight. When she felt the muscles beneath Wei Wuyin's robes, her eyes widened slightly as she blushed.

Wei Wuyin was entirely unbothered by this contact, "Calm yourself. Circulate your astral force to lift yourself and forgo your Mana Control." The reason numerous cultivators had fallen was due to the Mana Control abilities granted by the Sky Ruler Phase which had become second-nature to them. While it enabled flight, in this environment it was quite deadly.

He inspected the ambient mana and felt its thin nature, making it nigh impossible to sustain flight. With his Celestial Eyes, he saw the flows of mana be drawn into the azure liquid below. This meant the only mana available was in transit to the bottom. If they tried to control it, it'd be like holding a mountain on your shoulders or being pulled down by a full-grown whale as a mortal—impossibly heavy.

Qing Qiumu blushed, feeling somewhat embarrassed by her thoughts. But she was still an extremely diligent cultivator and had a fair share of abrupt circumstances. Now that she knew the issue and solution, she started to circulate her cultivation base and drew upon the wind energies within her, empowering it with astral force, and she started to float on her own power.

She left Wei Wuyin's embrace, staying afloat on her own power. A beautiful smile that could bring light to the darkest times soon showed itself on her gorgeous countenance. Having achieved stability, she found the time to observe the azure surface like the others. Her emerald-colored eyes brightened as amazement flashed within.

"What is that?" To her, it was like a smooth surface, almost like a porcelain plate. There was no reflection, however.

Wei Wuyin similarly inspected the azure liquid that seemed like a solid. He frowned for a moment, a trace of uncertainty emerged in his heart. He lifted his hand, feeling startled by something. Just as he was pondering this, the rest of the disciples emerged and Lian Yu, a World Sea Phase cultivator, released an extremely loud shriek.

The others turned their heads to see her falling figure and Long Chen grabbing her hand, but he seemed to be visibly struggling. The elders were startled. When they heard an unhealthy pull of Lian Yu's arm, as if it was about to rip, they acted.

An elder took action, the fastest amongst them, and circulated his spiritual force around the two, but his expression instantly changed. It was as if Lian Yu weighed like a mountain.

The elder threw away his pride and yelled, "Help me!" His cry prompted two elders, one male and one female, to take simultaneous action. They were all at the Spatial Resonance Phase, and were amongst the Earthly Generals. They exerted their powers in a brilliant display, ensnaring Long Chen and Lian Yu.

But with that, Long Chen's expression changed as Lian Yu's eyes revealed her horror and shock. These emotions reflected in the eyes of the elders as the weight was impossible. Even with all their powers, Lian Yu started to descend alongside Long Chen. A few feet, then a dozen.

Before long, she was already forty feet beneath everyone and the elders' expressions twisted as they shouted out in horror. "What the hell is happening?! Help us!!" The first elder shouted, completely shocked by events.

Qin Rui took action. She had merely been watching, but she understood the unique characteristics of the Auric Sea; the closer one got to the surface, the greater the gravitational force. This was why they

were ten thousand feet away. She immediately exerted her astral force's astonishing powers, causing a surging wave of multicolored wind to erupt from her delicate fingers.

They swept under the falling duo, enshrouding them. With a faint grunt, she pulled. The elders breathed a sigh of relief resounded after witnessing a former Grand Imperial Sage, an existence at the Sixth Stage of the Astral Core Realm, the Gravity Emission Phase, take action to handle this event. But their sighs were premature, after Qin Rui's misty exterior seemed to abruptly vanish.

Her gorgeously exquisite face that many hadn't ever seen clearly, including her soul-snaring yin aura, was revealed to the crowd. But alongside this was her beautiful countenance had been twisted to betray the extreme effort she was exerting.

The duo kept descending, shocking Qin Rui. Ji Changkong and Yao Zhen's expressions revealed shock. It seemed Qin Rui was suffering the same amount of struggling effort as the others, as if the Auric Sea was adapting after her interference.

They descended for three more feet, and the weight became extremely unbearable to the elders.

"Lian Yu!" Qing Qiumu cried out. While she had her issues with Long Chen, and didn't improve Lian Yu insulting Wu Baozhai, they still lived and knew each other for years. Her cry was followed by the simultaneous actions of the two former Grand Imperial Sages.

They simultaneously brought out extremely oppressive demonic and sharp forces in support, wrapping around Qin Rui's initial wrap. They couldn't allow their Grand Prince to suffer without acting before others. But it did little to alleviate the situation, shocking everyone present.

At this moment, Tuo Bihan arrived and observed the powerful forces interacting in an attempt to save two disciples. He spotted the disciples, and his expression changed. He was about to evoke his Worldly Domain, but a shout halted him instantly.

"Tuo Bihan, stop!" Wei Wuyin roared, his voice held an unquestionable tone. Tuo Bihan was startled, but he stayed his hand without hesitation.

Qing Qiumu was shocked by that order, looking at Wei Wuyin. For a moment, she thought Wei Wuyin was going to let Long Chen and Lian Yu fall to their deaths because of their grudge, reminding herself of Long Chen's despicable behavior. Was he like that too? Her mind was on the collision course of becoming a mess.

But this thought could only float for a moment as Wei Wuyin stared at the duo intently, his expression revealed an extremely deep and thoughtful frown but soon relaxed. Instantly, he shot off. They weren't too far apart, a mere few dozen feet away, and he arrived before the two in a flash.

When everyone saw Wei Wuyin, the Ascendant Emperor of Neo-Dawn descend, they all cried out with voices of shock, surprise, horror, concern, and disbelief. They were far more intense than their reaction towards Lian Yu and Long Chen's possible demise. The Auric Sea became sharply stronger just a few feet down. At around thirty feet down from their current location, Sky Ruler could no longer support themselves.

When Wei Wuyin arrived, he looked at the various forces enshrouding the two's figures. At the moment, Long Chen's arms were incredibly straining, showing off thick veins as he kept a hold of Lian Yu with a

double grip. Her arm seemed to have already been dislocated from her shoulder, and she was sweating cold bullets at her forehead.

When Long Chen saw Wei Wuyin through the veil of forces, his expression changed. Lian Yu similarly saw Wei Wuyin, a feeling of shock emerged in her heart, but also hope. If Wei Wuyin fell into their dilemma, then everyone would exert a thousandfold times more effort to save them.

But Wei Wuyin's next words caused her heart to sink.

"Everyone, stop your actions! Let them go," his silver eyes seemed to flash with a seemingly cold light as he said this, widening the eyes of the two in this unexpected predicament.

### **Chapter 397 - 393: Auric Sea, Unwillingness**

The elders were instantly taken aback by Wei Wuyin's order. Was he trying to give these two the death sentence? This was their Grand Prince, and while the holder of it held little importance in their hearts, the title and what it represented did. After all, Long Chen was the only living survivor of the Grand Monarch Lineage.

They can't just let him go, have him fall to a horrific crushing death by the Auric Sea's unique gravitational properties. They hesitated, especially the three former Grand Imperial Sages. They deeply understood the grudge between Wei Wuyin and Long Chen, so they were even more hesitant.

But an elder amongst them, the female elder that had supported the first, just stopped. Her astral force receded and she stood off to the side obediently. She was Bei Ming, a Captain-class Knight of Enforcement. She was the very same woman that had shattered the execution blade on Qing Qiumu's neck at the last second after hearing there was a chance that she might be his wife.

Her decisive actions had saved Qing Qiumu's life, and she held an unequivocal degree of loyalty towards Wei Wuyin. It was only because of him that she had a healthy baby girl at home, lively and strong. She didn't hesitate for a single moment in executing his orders.

She was like a domino as it caused the elders to recall the individual who had given the order. The two male elders looked at each other, retracting their powers and allowing things to happen as they will. Wei Wuyin wasn't one to forgo responsibility for his actions, so they didn't hesitate to wash their hands of this. They even felt relieved at the lack of strenuous activity.

But the former Grand Imperial Sages held on, their eyes flashing with complex emotions. But it was only for a moment longer. Yao Zhen was the youngest but he also had a very calculative mind despite his brutish appearance.

He responded, "Yes, Ascendant Emperor Wei." He no longer referred to Wei Wuyin as Heavenly King or Junior. He was an existence beyond the Myriad Monarch Sect, and he deserved that level of respect from him and everyone else present. When he retracted his powers, there were only two forces holding the duo in place, shielding them from everything.

Long Chen and Lian Yu saw this. The former gritted his teeth and viciously stared at Wei Wuyin with extreme hatred. It was as if Wei Wuyin was slowly snipping at the ropes that held them against the cliff, his silver eyes watching them with a faint indifference. It was chilling.

Long Chen knew that it was Lian Yu causing this somehow, but he didn't know why. All he needed to do was let go of her and he would be fine. He wished he had Wu Yu by his side. He even tried to use his Imperial Heaven Aura to resist, the same aura that resisted chaos mana, but to no avail. His heart was sinking into a sea of despair. If the two other former Grand Imperial Sages were to let go, they would descend and be crushed into nothing.

He learned of the Auric Sea's powerful gravity from Ji Changkong and knew a Timelord had been utterly crushed before even touching the surface, turning into bloody mist and fleshy mush.

A Timelord!

Ji Changkong and Qin Rui were struggling with internal conflict. But the strain was horrible on them, causing them to lose at least twenty percent of their forces already without achieving much. They couldn't last much longer anyways. It was so horrible that Qin Rui couldn't even keep her spell to conceal herself and her yin aura active after the first moment.

Wei Wuyin was seemingly not in a rush, looking at Long Chen and Lian Yu with his silver gaze. This only served to cause their hearts to groan in pain, feeling helplessness engulf them. Ji Changkong gritted his teeth, his Sword and Saber Intent flaring wildly as he exhibited fearsome strength. He wrenched his hands towards himself, trying to pull them up, and he succeeded!

For about a foot, before they descended three feet down further. He shouted loudly, looking at Tuo Bihan who was only just looking at them coldly. It was only then that a sensation similar to a splash of cold water had smacked him in his face, bringing him to an apt realization. His actions were directly going against Wei Wuyin's will.

If it was anyone else, even Long Chen, he could ignore them, but not this man. At that moment, he finally gave up. He retracted his forces and relaxed himself, feeling unburdened. He turned to Wei Wuyin and clasped his hands, apologizing: "I ask for forgiveness for my actions. I merely wanted to see if I could overcome that mysterious force." After these words were speedily said, Ji Changkong remained silent.

Wei Wuyin didn't even look at him. He only stared at Lian Yu, his eyes focused on her bountiful chest. Her clothes were tugging at her figure causing all her curves and exceptional assets to be clearly revealed. It was true that Long Chen had a type: ample-breasted and exquisitely beautiful.

But that was not what was on his mind. He kept descending alongside them, his focus as unmoving as his gaze.

Qin Rui was the only one left. She wanted to give out an order for support, but she knew that it was useless. She felt even more helpless than Ji Changkong. She looked at the figure casually descending alongside Long Chen and Lian Yu, her expression twisted from the strain. Why was this happening? How come this was impossibly difficult?!

She knew with her expenditure of astral force, she would be drained in less than a minute. With a shout, she held on. She wasn't going to follow this order! She won't just let them die on the whim of Wei Wuyin! She held on and everyone only watched her. Their gazes of idle behavior infuriated her to no end.

Those beautiful eyes of hers looked at Tuo Bihan, and there was even a little pleading light within as she felt her strength continuously wane. But Tuo Bihan had furrowed brows, his gaze looking only at the descending trio at that moment.

She felt aggrieved! She gritted her teeth, deciding to go all-out! She tapped into her innermost powers, and then pulled! Pulled! PULLED!

She brought both her hands forth and lifted them up, all her astral force being used to drag the two upwards. Her action was extremely impressive. Those of lower cultivation bases squinted and retreated in shock, feeling her immense power. Was this a Gravity Emission Phase expert's strength?!

That was a power that could easily crush continents and move small planets! But alas...

After her greatest effort, she pulled the two up by two feet, causing the two to reveal a trace of hope, but that was all. Her strongest power only lifted them by two feet. Drained, her expression slacked as she started to lose control over her body and consciousness.

Tuo Bihan arrived beside her, grabbing her delicate body into his embrace and holding her as she slunk off into unconsciousness. She had overexerted her cultivation base, draining all the innate physical, mental, and essence energies stored within her. She must've lost years of natural cultivation with that single action.

Tuo Bihan sighed, his grey beard flowing freely as he observed the angelic expression of peace on her face. This girl was always so stubborn in everything she did.

That was the final rope of support for the duo as all the external astral force holding them and covering them had left, leaving them vulnerable. Long Chen gritted his teeth, ignoring Wei Wuyin as he used his two arms to grab Lian Yu's hand and used his astral force to resist their descent. Her arm was unreasonably outstretched like a rubberband. Fortunately, her water-based cultivation base made her quite flexible.

Lian Yu looked at Long Chen's contorted expression, knowing that she was the reason for this. She despaired. She was thinking about severing her limb, saving Long Chen from the effort, but an intense desire to live swelled within her.

She clutched harder, holding out hope and believing in Long Chen. If anyone can overturn this situation, it was him.

Wei Wuyin and Long Chen both saw her expression and thought different things. Long Chen thought about how he couldn't let go, no matter what. While Wei Wuyin was quietly remembering a scene long ago, before he inherited the Bloodline of Sin.

There was a woman that had seduced him, having the same desiring expression to survive after her sect was destroyed, hunted down to the last. She had the same hopeful expression while kneeling naked before him, her gaze lively as she saw the figure of a man enter their room. While that hope was later severed by his saber, being sent to the afterlife, he was reminded of that one moment.

Wei Wuyin couldn't help but sigh. He said, "Let her go."



"NEVER!" Long Chen shouted through his clenched teeth, staring into Lian Yu's eyes. He kept pumping our astral force, preventing even Wei Wuyin from getting close.

Lian Yu's eyes brightened an extreme amount, nearly as brilliant as the stars in the sky. It reflected immense love and devotion. She clenched her hand around Long Chen's harder than ever before.

"..." Wei Wuyin calmly observed this scene, shaking his head slightly.

This odd scene was just being observed by everyone present. They were uncertain what was happening, but they all had their hearts in their throats. Were these two figures going to fall into their deaths?

Qing Qiumu was speechless. She didn't know what to do. She had almost felt a desire to throw herself at them, but she knew it was useless. She was a measly Sky Ruler. Three former Grand Imperial Sages couldn't accomplish much, so how could she? She bit her lips heavily, nearly drawing blood.

"..." A few dozen seconds later.

Long Chen's astral force was near depletion. He could only last longer because the difficulty seemed to change depending on one's cultivation base. While depletion was at the same rate, he had merged Astral Souls so he had a much larger Astral Core than others, as well as density and foundation.

But he could only hold out for three seconds more. After that, he'll fall whether he lets go of Lian Yu or not. He grunted as he tried to pull Lian Yu into his embrace, but this only caused her already stretched arm to stretch further. It was amazing she hadn't lost her arm. It was nearly two times longer than before.

Wei Wuyin knew this had to do with her physique and cultivation method, and she could easily regain her arm's normal length

Then, it came.

Long Chen lost his last drop of astral force. He could no longer sustain flight and his eyes betrayed his panic. He cried out as he fell with Lian Yu. His weakness caused him to lose his grip, causing his hand to let go of Lian Yu, but she held on to his slack hand.

When she felt Long Chen's grip loosen, unable to hold on, her expression changed. But then a strong arm held onto her slender waist, and another clutched at Long Chen's robes like they were carrying a bag of garbage. His limp figure was far too weak, and the gravity kept him from moving. So he was truly like a puppet without strings, his four limbs and head were pointed downwards while holstered from his belt.

Her shock was immense as she followed that strong arm to find Wei Wuyin holding onto her waist, keeping them afloat.

This startled everyone.

Wei Wuyin's silver eyes and face were extremely close to Lian Yu's. If he leaned two inches forward, they would be touching lips. She could feel his warm breath in her face, which was shockingly fragrant and alluring to smell. Even her meridians and Astral Soul quivered with desire, feeling extremely awkward.

Ji Changkong shouted out in abhorrent shock, "Impossible!"

Wei Wuyin kept his eyes focused on Lian Yu's water-like ripples, staying silent as they floated casually without any issue.

Three Gravity Emission Phase experts acted in concerted effort to stop their descent, to bring them back, but a measly Soul Idol Phase expert halted them so casually? Ji Changkong, Yao Zhen, Bei Ming, and the other elders and disciples were thunderstruck by what they witnessed. This was even more so for the other audience several dozen miles away.

After several tens of seconds, Wei Wuyin finally moved and looked towards the Auric Sea's surface. He ignored Lian Yu's thumping heart that was racing without restraint. A slight frown emerged on his face, giving Long Chen a glance.

"You're truly fortunate to obtain these women. Every single one is extraordinary in their own way." As he murmured this under his breath, he looked at Lian Yu and smiled faintly.

He suddenly said, "You should be fine now. Circulate your astral force." After he said that, his figure ascended until it was back to ten thousand feet high, and he let her go. Lian Yu instantly panicked, wrapped her non-stretched arm around his neck and pulled him closer, not wanting to fall out of fear.

Wei Wuyin coolly threatened, "If you don't let go, I'm going to kiss you." His words were uttered with the straightest face, and Long Chen's extremely exhausted body quivered. Lian Yu was startled, inspecting Wei Wuyin's face. She was shocked to realize that he truly held unearthly handsome looks, possessing a demeanor that seemed beyond mortals.

Her heart started to flutter slightly. She struggled for a moment before seeking verification, "...I-I won't fall?"

"As long as you don't want to. Keep your astral force circulated, empower your wind energies to stay afloat." Wei Wuyin instructed. She hesitated, thinking that maybe Wei Wuyin wanted her to fall to her death, but she still trusted him for some reason, and didn't want to be kissed and cause their situation to turn awkward.

She removed her arm and circulated her forces as instructed, floating with her own power. Her expression drastically changed.

How?!

Wei Wuyin didn't bother answering, tossing Long Chen's body into her embrace like a bag of rocks.

Ignoring his fate, Wei Wuyin looked at the Auric Sea. He called out to Tuo Bihan, "I'll be back." After he said that, he ignored everyone's reaction, only giving Qing Qiumu and Da Shan a faint smile to reassure them. He then started to descend.

### **Chapter 398 - 394: Auric Sea, Lian Yu's Uniqueness**

As Wei Wuyin began his descent, the emotional concern of everyone else was clearly shown. Alongside those were expressions of intense confusion as they observed the freely flying Lian Yu who carried Long Chen with relative ease. Just seconds earlier, a battle to save the duo from the gravity of the Auric Sea was waged at the highest level, causing three former Grand Imperial Sages to act and fail in the end.

Yet Wei Wuyin, a Soul Idol Phase cultivator, a youngster of less than fifty years old, and an Alchemist, had seemingly resolved the issue before everyone's eyes. The disbelief and confusion was greatly warranted.

Ji Changkong glanced towards Yao Zhen, who was similarly glancing at him, questions flickering within their eyes. They turned to Tuo Bihan, who was intently watching Wei Wuyin with a neutral expression.

A disciple at the Heavenly King rank, someone who possessed a Soul Idol Cultivation base with far greater combat standards than normal Soul Idols cultivators, could no longer hold his curiosity. He asked no one in particular, "How did he do that?"

His words sparked numerous bright lights, temporarily causing those watching Wei Wuyin to look at each other inquisitively. The Auric Sea was rather special, and it restricted spiritual sense due to the unique gravitational forces. Similar to how gravity can distort light, it can also drag along spiritual senses.

This aspect was why Gravity Emission Phase Cultivators, those at the Sixth Stage of the Astral Core Realm, were so overbearingly powerful. While they might not be outstandingly strong in neutral situations in relation to Light Reflect Phase experts, in combat situations they were at an outrageous advantage against lower-leveled cultivators. Their ability to distort spiritual sense, light energies, spatial energies, and influence their opponent with uniquely generated gravitational forces was their cultivation advantage.

The Auric Sea was a perfect demonstration as to why it was so powerful. A vast astral force of a Sixth Stage expert had been drained not simply because of the power but the gravitational force required a diversion of astral force to resist the pull. This was why Qin Rui had lost not just her astral force but her innate energies as she drew upon everything to resist it.

It was an extremely unfavorable environment to fight, and eliminated the Gravity Emission Phase's advantage due to the greater gravity. In here, they had no Spatial Resonance, Light Reflection, or Gravity Emission cultivation advantages, making them akin to incredibly overpowered souped-up Soul Idols Phase experts.

"..." But no one could answer, merely remaining quiet. This silence lasted for a while until a groan attracted everyone's gaze. They realized that Qin Rui, who was being pumped with pure energies quietly by Tuo Bihan, had started to wake.

When she did, so did Long Chen, who received the same treatment from Lian Yu. Regaining their consciousness or mobility, they both had varied expressions. Qin Rui was filled with momentary confusion until she saw Tuo Bihan, then she rose abruptly, her beautiful eyes turned towards the Auric Sea.

She seemed prepared to exclaim loudly, but she halted seeing Lian Yu and Long Chen safe at the ten thousand feet range. Her turbulent heart settled with relief. "Did I save them?" She turned to Tuo Bihan, trying to get verification. While she had her inner anger at his actions, Tuo Bihan was like a grandfather-figure to her, so she still sought him out and felt fine with him holding her.

Tuo Bihan clicked his tongue, turning his gaze towards Qin Rui with admonishments in his eyes. "You all are so stubborn. So incredibly stubborn." He briefly swept his glance at Ji Changkong and the other elders who took time to retract their powers.

"What do you mean, Grand Sage Tuo?" Yao Zhen asked, seeking an explanation. While he knew that he had quickly followed Wei Wuyin's order, therefore he wasn't targetted by those words, he still wasn't sure about the entire situation.

Tuo Bihan sighed, "You all saw him order me to stop, not to take action. Then give you guys the same order as he stood patiently beside them. Do you think the little boss could have breached your protective wards shielding the two of them without harming those inside? Why else would the little boss command you to stop your actions besides having a solution? Did you all really think he would publicly, before the witnessing eyes of other forces, plot to kill Long Chen? Isn't that just exclaiming to the world of internal conflict and corruption? Long Chen wasn't even the one in danger, but that wet girl there."

"...!" Seemingly realizing something, they turned to Lian Yu. Long Chen had just regained his ability to move, looking at the crowd's curious gazes and hearing Tuo Bihan's words. His expression became a little ugly.

Tuo Bihan scoffed, continuing: "You guys should be experienced on how the little boss acts, and he is calculative and confident in everything he does. Which matter hasn't he settled with ease? " As if bringing up all Wei Wuyin's achievements, such as handling his enemies with precision, or accomplishing tasks and feats beyond them.

They then realized that every last one of them was shielding Long Chen and Lian Yu as they descended, but Wei Wuyin just waited by the side patiently. If he wanted them to die, he would have ordered them to drop them or something more direct, push him down himself. The realization twisted Ji Changkong's face into an unsightly image. Even Qin Rui's eyes widened, her eyes in disbelief.

She was about to ask with grievance, but Tuo Bihan interrupted her. "The little boss doesn't owe any of you an explanation, nor did he need to explain his actions or solution to any of you. You should've known by now that everything is a test of loyalty; he gave an order, you should follow it."

"..." Yao Zhen and Bei Ming's eyes brightened. While Tuo Bihan hadn't explained how, he explained the why. And the 'why' meant they would benefit greatly after their decisive actions.

This caused Ji Changkong's already unsightly expression to become downright ugly. He groaned in his heart, seemingly failing in his observation ability, understanding of Wei Wuyin, and lost his chance to flip to Wei Wuyin's side after the Long Chen fiasco.

Qin Rui's beautiful eyes flickered. She remained silent.

Long Chen turned to Lian Yu, he whispered: "What did he do to you?" His voice was somewhat weak, making it very difficult for others to hear besides them two.

But Lian Yu was startled, thinking. She said after a long contemplation, "I don't know. I felt like I had a brick in my chest, pulling me down, and then when he touched me, it felt as if it vanished or became noticeably smaller." She touched her bountiful valley, causing an alluring sight.

Long Chen frowned, his lips twitched at the 'touched' word. He looked down, seeing Wei Wuyin continuing his descent. There was a faint desire in his heart to see Wei Wuyin become bloody mist and crushed flesh just like that Timelord.

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Wei Wuyin wasn't aware nor cared about what was happening above him as he descended. He was already a hundred feet below the ten thousand feet line, his hands trembling slightly.

"Are you certain?" Wei Wuyin asked internally.

"Yes. I feel it below," Kratos, the Draconic Void Astral Soul, spoke in a grave tone. This was the first time it wasn't sounding like an arrogant god that had no restrictions in this world. Its unexpected seriousness brought waves to Wei Wuyin's heart. "I need to get closer to be absolutely certain."

He nodded, descending further.

When Wei Wuyin had seen Lian Yu's descent, he felt that there was a strange power exerting itself on him. It was oppressively strong, seeking to drag him down. It was probably no less than Lian Yu's. But there was a strange difference, and that was towards the grade of forces used relative to the force exerted.

If a fourth stage Astral Core Realm attempted to resist, the gravitational force would correspondingly increase until it wasn't able to. This was why the elders, Long Chen, and the former Grand Imperial Sages all felt the same level of difficulty and achieved similar results with stopping Lian Yu's descent despite their varied cultivation levels.

Long Chen could last longer because his cultivation was beyond the standard of a normal Soul Idol Phase expert, but it clearly isn't enough. This same level of force pressed against him, threatening to drag him down, but his physical strength was horrifically high and he had astral force that went into unimaginable levels for a Soul Idol.

With his four Astral Souls, all of which were Nine-Ringed or higher Soul Idols, with extremely large Astral Cores that were representative to his powerful physical, mental, essence, and spiritual energies, he resisted this force with immense ease.

After inspecting the issue, Kratos had spoken to him that he might be the cause. It felt that his bloodline was being affected, trying to drag itself downwards while attached to the unique gravitational force. After Eden intervened, it contained his bloodline aura and the force vanished.

It was correct; his True Dragon Bloodline had been drawn downwards. But then what about Lian Yu? He was startled after this discovery, and he went to her. After using his Celestial Eyes, he couldn't find any irregularities. She was a human without a speck of Draconic Bloodline in his eyes.

But when he finally touched her, using his own bloodline to feel her own, he realized that she contained a unique power that had a Draconic Signature. It was stored within her heart, and seemed to take the form of a legendary Jiaolong, or Dragon of Myriad Rivers within myth. They had another name, Flood Dragons.

That's when he realized that somehow she had a Flood Dragon's Aquatic Essence infused within her heart. After suppressing its aura, Lian Yu was free.

Xue Yifei had the Yin Dragon Soul within her sea of consciousness and Yang Dragon Soul infused into her beating heart, and it carried the Demonic Essence of a Demonic Dragon. Similar to how Wu Baozhai can cultivate the Imperial Heaven Qi Method due to her innate ignition essence, Lian Yu could cultivate something similar to his True Dragon Method alongside Xue Yifei but acquiring different powers, like Yuan Longshi had.

After he inspected her Astral Soul, he felt as if he could glean into Heaven's Intentions. She had a Water Astral Soul born from a Heart of Water Qi, as ordinary can be. It seems that something was likely to happen, infusing her Astral Soul with the Aquatic Essence in the future, unlocking an extraordinary talent towards water forces, gaining both Aquatic Energy and Draconic Energy.

When she unlocks that hidden potential, who knows what her limit will be? In comparison, however, his True Dragon Bloodline was a Pure Bloodline, and be it demonic or aquatic, they were merely derivatives mixed with something else.

He stared at the Auric Sea, "What are you?" He kept descending with narrowed eyes.

### **Chapter 399 - 395: Auric Sea, What Lies Beneath**

The specific targeting of the Auric Sea made Wei Wuyin recall something that Wu Yu mentioned when they were discussing various matters years ago. According to him, the Divine King Han Xei had a huge problem with dragons of the starfield. For some reason or another, he had acted in genocide.

Curious, he asked what these dragons were like. He had met Anu, a living and breathing dragon that was struggling for lifeforce. It didn't seem to hold any hatred towards him specifically, lacking the distinct anger of a species that went nearly extinct by a human's actions.

He believed the dragons might be in hiding or in hibernation, awaiting for the right time to awaken. But he felt that wasn't correct. So when Wu Yu explained that dragons were originally the rulers of this starfield, he was shaken.

In ancient records, the dragon lineage of beasts was a species that was present before humans or elves, and the planets and continents were their living grounds. While demons existed alongside them, creating an off-branch of demonic dragons, there were no humans or elves beforehand.

Without them, there were no beastmen that were born from them. It was strictly a starfield ruled by dragons, and their power levels were extremely high. Unlike humans, elves, or just cultivators in general, beasts at the Star Beast level could travel amongst the stars, soaring and surviving through the Dark Void. They seemed to be able to resist the unique Chaos Mana with relative ease.

Not all beasts had wings, but they could all 'swim' through mana.

They weren't a very intelligent society and lived on the most basic animal kingdom rules. But one day, humans and elves had arrived in the starfield and started to develop. The dragons would mostly ignore them, eating a few that bothered them too deeply. There were even records that depicted dragons as abhorrent bloodthirsty creatures that consumed humans and elves like they were great enemies.

But if that was true, humans and elves would've long since went extinct before they got the chance to grow. Wu Yu didn't believe those records as they defied common sense. As for how or why humans or elves came about, he felt it had to do with the concept of Void Gates.

No matter what, it seemed very strange that the advanced method for storage rings and Void Gates existed in a nascent cultivation society before Realm Lords were even a thing. It was as if they were carried here from elsewhere alongside these newly arrived humans and elves.

They likely came from Void Gates elsewhere, traveling beyond the starfield. Who knows why or how, but they just arrived. This was recorded by ancient murals of demons, preserved and observed by historians who relished in understanding the past.

Later, the cultivation society came to be. Even the Alchemic Dao started to show signs of development, but the starfield still had limitations. Tens of thousands, maybe even hundreds of thousands of years later, the King of Everlore was born and the current cultivation society elevated beyond the starfield's limit. The Fourth Stage of the Astral Core Realm's limit was elevated!

Humans, elves, the newly born beastmen, and hybrid demons were given room to become equals or even greater than the dragon lineage present. They did, and the Divine King Han Xei had started a bloody war with dragons.

While Wu Yu didn't know why the aggression and lack of mercy, the dragons were hunted down and all killed. There wasn't a single one left on the starfield. This included every last beastman and woman of the dragon lineage.

With the Divine King of Han Xei breaking the Mortal Limits, how could these dragons resist? They were all slaughtered. Wu Yu had witnessed it, but he had stayed his hand in this. Well, there was another reason.

The first Mystic Ascendant to be born in the starfield was the Divine King Han Xei, someone who was born in the same continent as the King of Everlore himself. They seemed to have had a relationship despite the age difference. The time he exterminated the dragon lineage whole, no one could stop him, no one even rivaled him at the time.

This was all the information Wu Yu knew. While it wasn't likely the full story, Wei Wuyin knew one thing: the Divine King Han Xei carried strong killing intent towards dragons.

But when Kratos noticed the force pressed upon it, it also felt its bloodline stirring wildly. Wei Wuyin felt it too, which was why he was descending downwards closer to the Auric Sea. While he could prevent the Auric Sea's dragon aura pulling force, he still had to resist the strong gravitational force.

As he reached two hundred feet below the ten thousand feet line, his expression changed. He felt that the Auric Sea's gravitational force was not one-directional, but like a twister that was churning and pulling him downwards. The force wanted to crush him into nothing and then drag him down.

Despite his incredibly strong mortal body, he felt the immense pressure within his bones. He kept descending despite this, this time no longer taking it slowly as he abruptly dropped like a meteorite. In moments, he reached the five hundred feet distance beneath the safety limit, and the gravitational

force was horrifically crushing at this point. He had to bring out most of the powers of his four Astral Souls to resist, but even still his bones released cracking sounds.

He sighed, "This is my limit." While he was a Soul Idol of abnormal quality, he still had a ceiling of power. If it wasn't for his body refined by extremely pure energies and his physical energies being enhanced by both his Draconic Void Astral Souls and numerous alchemical products, he might've already been crushed to nothingness.

Sweeping his gaze to the Auric Sea, he asked: "Anything?"

"..." Kratos remained silent for the longest moment. After that, it spoke in a hoarse voice that seemed to carry indescribable emotions, "They're alive."

"...!" Wei Wuyin's silver eyes constricted after those words. His Celestial Eyes were pushed to the maximum by instinct trying to look into the Auric Sea, but to no avail.

"..." Eden, Ori, and King. They all seemed to be sending support to Kratos, causing Wei Wuyin to feel its emotions even clearer. It was a sadness of untold levels. A sadness that he had once felt in his life. It was when he looked back at that moment, knowing that everything he knew and loved was gone.

When he felt the wetness on his face, his heart and hands trembled. "You can feel them?" He slowly asked with his eyes slowly closing, the tears dropping and crushed by the twisting force.

"I can hear them..." Just as Kratos said this, it completely opened up its senses, fully linking them to Wei Wuyin. Then, he finally heard it. He heard something that he wouldn't forget for the rest of his life.

SKREEEEEEEEEEEEEEE-oOoOrrRrRRrnNK!!!

BA-REEEEEEEEEEE-AAAAAARRRRRRRRRRUUUUUUUUURRRRNN!!!

Rheeeeeeeeeegha-ohwoooooo!!!

It was a cacophony of roars, a continuous stream of sounds. When Wei Wuyin heard these sounds, these roars that seemed to be ever-present but forever distant, he realized why he was crying just by connecting with Kratos.

These...

These weren't roars.

They were screams...

#### **Chapter 400 - 396: Auric Sea, Emperor's Actions**

At the ten thousand feet boundary, the Myriad Monarch Sect's entire group were staring at Wei Wuyin's distorting and descending figure. The unique gravitational force of the Auric Sea was twisting and contorting light in strange ways. There were times he seemed extremely close, exceptionally far, or simply vanished. Due to this same force, spiritual sense was extremely difficult to send outwards, leaving many of these powerful experts helpless in their hearts.



Wei Wuyin's level of importance was era-defining. There was absolutely nothing that could happen to him, let alone on their watch. But as an independent figure that could descend without anyone's consent, they could only stare.

Qin Rui soon regained a semblance of her strength, capable of lifting herself by her own power. Leaving Tuo Bihan's grasp, she floated quietly by the side with a solemn expression. Her heart felt complex at the moment, unsure how to feel.

After exerting the maximum amount of her effort, she had failed to lift Long Chen and Lian Yu out of their predicament, but Wei Wuyin had seemingly accomplished it with ease. Furthermore, it seemed their actions had only served to hinder his intentions to remedy the situation. Tuo Bihan had even stated it was a test of sorts, and while she wasn't sure if that was Wei Wuyin's original intentions, it certainly revealed much.

"..." The audience could only wait. Even the existence of the San Emperor in the distance had been relegated to a lesser priority, with many curious as to what Wei Wuyin was doing, how he was doing it, and praying for his safety. While many were unsure if Wei Wuyin would ever consider them anything important, just his presence had allowed numerous high-grade products to enter their hands. These products were heaven-sent, allowing their own cultivation bases or their descendants' to elevate to a higher standard.

They didn't have to wait for long. For those who cultivated ocular arts that could enhance their visual perception, they noted that Wei Wuyin's descending figure started to rise. Yao Zhen was one of these individuals, his eye sockets held a pair of violet flames.

"He's returning," he announced. The hearts of numerous individuals erupted with pounding relief at this moment, staring intently at the Auric Sea.

Lian Yu's sapphire eyes rippled continuously. Her emotions were the most complex, feeling extremely awkward. Wei Wuyin had saved not just her life but Long Chen. This was not an action one would do for an enemy, so she was questioning whether Wei Wuyin actually cared for Long Chen or considered him important by any means.

Even the former Grand Imperial Sages couldn't stop her from falling, only serving to delay it. If he just left it alone, eventually they would fall to their inevitable death. At least she would, the others would certainly act to save Long Chen if Wei Wuyin remained silent. After having her life saved, the bitterness and bias she held towards Wei Wuyin couldn't help but falter, as if she was now willing to view him in a different light to assess the truth.

Was he truly deliberately acting against Long Chen? Was he trying to systematically take everything from him as Long Chen assumed or was it founded by his own imagination...

The seed of uncertainty was planted in her heart.

Qing Qiumu held a hand to her beating chest. The anxiety that swelled within her was numerous times greater than others. Moreover, she was feeling extremely guilty after having doubted Wei Wuyin. She knew him, and he would never deliberately act in such a way without reason. She felt she wanted, no, needed to apologize and hoped for his safe return.

Wei Wuyin's ascent was relatively slow, but since there were only a hundred or so feet, he arrived rather quickly. When he finally re-entered that ten thousand feet line, his radiant silver eyes exuded an unfathomable light of calm. There was no evidence of his previous tears, his emotional state had regained its normalcy.

"I'm finished," he looked at Tuo Bihan and announced. His voice came off as calm, but in the depths of his tone was a steel-like desire. Tuo Bihan nodded, not asking how, why, or what had happened or discovered, merely turning his gaze towards the three groups from afar that were spectating audiences to this event.

When Tuo Bihan saw that misty veil and the clothing of the three men, his eyes sharpened. "We're going! Everyone, ready!" He ordered, causing the elders to guard their disciples and establish a flying formation with Tuo Bihan at the lead.

Wei Wuyin arrived beside Qing Qiumu, who's emerald eyes revealed her relief and guilt. Observing this, Wei Wuyin revealed a slight smile to her. "You were worried about me?" His eyes flashed with a teasing light.

Seeing that Wei Wuyin was about to make a joke, she pouted her lips and lightly snorted. "Who would worry about you? Even if you wanted to die, who would let you?" She hadn't even realized her guilty emotions and stress had been alleviated by that single sentence of his, but the next words left her heart quivering.

"Thank you." Wei Wuyin displayed a rare leak of emotion at that moment, looking into her eyes.

Qing Qiumu's heart kept quivering, and she wanted to say something. "I...I-" Her guilt may have lessened in her heart, but it was still there.

But Wei Wuyin interrupted her, "It's okay." He said just two simple words yet Qing Qiumu felt his meaning in the depths of her heart. When she saw his smile, she knew that her thoughts had been seen through and forgiven without any exchange of words. There was no reason to dwell as long as he knew the truth, that she would no longer think of him in such a light. This caused her to reveal a smile so beautiful that it could enrapture the hearts of gods, devils, and heroes of all ages.

Long Chen was observing them silently, and when he saw that smile his heart didn't quiver, but felt as if it was being twisted and crushed. He gritted his teeth, clenched his fist, and closed his eyes. Lian Yu felt the animosity emanating from Long Chen, and she hesitated after realizing his attention was on Wei Wuyin. While she felt conflicted, she still held onto Long Chen's hand.

The other groups were dozens of miles away, so the Myriad Monarch Sect elders and disciples had to travel for quite some time to arrive. When they did, the Elemental Heaven Pavilion and Alchemist Association's disciples' focus were on Wei Wuyin. While the elders were looking to Tuo Bihan, shifting over to the San Emperor from time to time.

A youth was among the Elemental Heaven Pavilion group. He had a nine-colored dot on his glabella, a pair of exquisite grey eyes, and an outstanding aura that set him apart from the normal crowd. With his handsome face and heroic demeanor, he emanated the scent of a demon-tier genius.

Lin Ming had been observing everything from the on-set. He had an inkling as to what happened, but he couldn't quite understand how Wei Wuyin prevented Lian Yu's descent. This gave Wei Wuyin a more enigmatic feeling. He also couldn't tell how far Wei Wuyin traveled downwards, so he couldn't gauge his strength. The distance alongside the distortion effects made his figure vanish to them and just reappear suddenly.

*'Senior Sister Lin said that Wei Wuyin wasn't anything impressive, and that the starfield was merely hyping him up on their ignorance. But that still doesn't mean I should underestimate him, and that I should consider him a competitor, especially if he enters the trial.'* He recalled the words of his senior sister, his grey eyes rippling with white light. As someone who could obtain Zuhei's loyalty and discover his potential, he never once underestimated Wei Wuyin in terms of his insights, perception, and intelligence.

As for combat prowess, he didn't feel that Wei Wuyin could eclipse Zuhei. Furthermore, his Elemental Origin Intent that he felt in the Grand Spirit Trials felt disordered and false, so he didn't believe it could match his own. Regardless, he turned to the San Emperor and felt a sensation of foreboding in his heart.

Tuo Bihan soon arrived, his eyes focusing on the San Emperor. While he didn't fear the San Emperor, this was the Auric Sea. There was absolutely no reason to fight in such a dangerous location, and even a World Sea Phase expert could bring a Spatial Resonance Phase expert down with them if they wanted, let alone a False Realmlord.

While he had no animosity towards the San Clan, in fact, he even felt grateful for their help after the Hegemonic War, but still kept his guard up.

Tuo Bihan asked Lin Ruyan, "What happened here?" The reason why he had left a day before their scheduled date was due to finding out that the Elemental Heaven Pavilion and Alchemist Association had already left to the Auric Sea via the sect's spies. He wasn't certain if they were going to pull some tricks, trying to exclude the Myriad Monarch Sect from the exploration group.

Lin Ruyan had a faintly helpless expression as she gazed at the San Emperor. She sighed, explaining everything that had happened. The expressions of the elders and disciples of the Myriad Monarch Sect became unsightly while the Elemental Heaven Pavilion and Alchemist Association's members revealed odd expressions.

Their gazes inevitably turned to the San Emperor and his two companions.

Tuo Bihan's expressions darkened. This was an expedition that only the three forces leaders knew about. They had cordoned off every single piece of information from others, even keeping the disciples in the dark until the day before. Even if the San Clan investigated, they should've been sent for a loop with no way to gain answers. Yet they had arrived at this very moment as if they already knew about the Gateway Door.

If the leaders hadn't betrayed them, then who? They had all taken airtight Spirit Oaths. Even if they leaked somehow, their cultivation bases would essentially shatter. This wasn't an Oath of a Qi Condensation Realm cultivator but those at the Astral Core Realm, it wasn't something anything less than a Timelord could prevent from happening.

Furthermore, according to Lin Ruyan, they had only learned of this fact and arrived here thanks to a spy in the Alchemist Association leaking the information that the San Clan was intending to travel to the Auric Sea. They had just arrived when the San Emperor was seemingly waiting for them.

This left the group feeling helpless. But there was an even more shocking piece of information!

The San Emperor had arrived before them and had even sent in a group already! And that was already several hours ago!!