

Chapter 431 - 427: Farsighted Dragons Leaving Seeds

"Six million..." The number of desolate pearls was quite a shocker, something he hadn't expected from the decades of savings from the city. After all, Grandquake City was like most cities underneath large entities, forced to give taxation and tributes, limiting the amount of wealth that could be kept.

Based on his rough estimation of the City Lord's memories, this ring shouldn't have more than three hundred thousand desolate pearls collected and saved over the decades, and that was counting other objects and materials acquired, not just the desolate pearls. This included Astral Crystals! But just the number of desolate pearls, unrefined and present, was six million!

He took a deep breath, realizing the female Reamlord was likely embezzling funds or obtaining desolate pearls beneath the eyes of the financial overseers, and they might be willing to allow it to pass due to her strength. Or better yet, they might not have!

If that was the case, it was in the female Reamlord's best interest to find him before the others, preventing them from learning of her deceit and the inevitable truth of her thieving ways. As for considering this as the female Reamlord's wealth? Absolutely impossible!

He also knew the absurdly high salary of a Reamlord Guardian of these cities, and it wasn't even close to being remotely near that much. They earned far, far less.

Wei Wuyin frowned slightly, considering some matters. After a moment, he flipped his palm and inspected the astral crystals stored within the ring, finding it to be extremely insignificant in comparison, merely two hundred thousand. This was roughly the same as six hundred thousand astral stones in his starfield, sufficient to fund a mid-level force for decades.

According to the City Lord's memories, there was a failure rate in refining desolate pearls into astral crystals, being a pitiful 10% for top-tier refiners, far less for those starting out. There were even those who needed a hundred desolate pearls to fashion out a single astral crystal, having a 1% success rate.

He had obtained the refinement method, discovering that it required numerous methods that were on par with some advanced alchemical methods in terms of difficulty of application and control. Furthermore, it was linear and unchangeable. At least for others!

He analyzed the method for a while, finding some flaws via comparison and his own knowledge of refinement. This knowledge was obtained via Eden when it had completed the Mortal Star Formation Tribulation. Just like King and Ori who gained a grasp of higher Intent, he had learned advanced principles of the Alchemic Dao.

This was one of the massive differences between him and Qingye Ying. He had grasped more from the tribulation, obtaining a deep understanding of the seven alchemical principles. He still had to comprehend and incorporate that knowledge, and like a skilled mathematician meeting a new problem, he could easily discover the inherent flaws within it, and even find new, quicker, and more efficient ways to solve the problem.

After a brief meditation lasting roughly two days, he had finished revising the method. With a calm breath, he smiled bitterly. While this new method was perfect to enhance the refinement rate, it wasn't

needed for him. His Astral Souls could diffuse the desolate power within and absorb all the innate astral essences it contained without any refinement required.

His actions were essentially useless and would bear no fruit for himself. At best, he could use these astral crystals to concoct enhanced essence pills to expedite the recovery of astral force or accelerate the cultivation speed of others. Regardless, he decided to do so out of testing his limits.

"Hurry!" Kratos excitedly shouted, throbbing intensely now that Wei Wuyin had finished his work. At least it had the presence of mind to wait for him to complete his studies and improvements before urging him, showing the respect it held for him and Eden.

With a gentle and warm smile, Wei Wuyin responded with a joyful chuckle: "Okay! Okay! Let's do this." When those words left his lips, Kratos was racing extremely quickly to the point the mountain was rumbling from its force of its beats. Wei Wuyin had long since gotten used to the explosive beats of his heart, simply laughing and bringing out twenty thousand desolate pearls.

While the desolate pearls contained the blood energies from living dragons, and others might consider it questionable to use them, but not Wei Wuyin or Kratos. They shared similar principles, and if required, they wouldn't hesitate to resort to slaughter or force to extract these energies if certain dragons weren't aware of their good intentions.

These desolate pearls contained their innate essences and draconic blood energies, tainted and suppressed by the desolate power within. But it was those draconic essences and blood energies that allowed it to be refined, forged into tools and armaments, and used for formations. Otherwise, the desolate power would lack the ability to congeal.

To explain, when Wei Wuyin arrived at the mine that contained the Ancient Void Gate, he had found an area that had been immersed in desolate power intermixed with earthen energies, but it was utterly unable to form these desolate pearls or even earthen essence stones infused with desolate power. It was far too chaotic, too fierce, and only this type of extraordinary energies and essences could allow it to form these desolate pearls.

For others, removing the desolate power that entangled the draconic blood energies was a difficult feat, and one had to purify it alongside the desolate power to produce astral crystals, but not Wei Wuyin.

His eyes radiated white light effusing Desolate Intent. He looked at the twenty thousand desolate pearls with a steady gaze. Lifting his hands, he started to move his fingers about like puppeteers. Sizzling and whistling sounds erupted from the desolate pearls! Their greyish tinted surfaces started to smoke, effusing wads of grey clouds.

Wei Wuyin was utilizing his Desolate Intent to extract the desolate power! After several minutes, the entire cave was filled with grey cloudy mist, and Wei Wuyin clenched his fists in a similar manner as he'd done when confronted by the abrupt assault of the female Realmlord!

The grey cloudy mist surged and flowed into his palms as if they were the most powerful vacuums in existence! In the matter of seconds, the area was clear. He overturned his palms, revealing two baseball-sized grey crystals. The amount of desolate power extracted was far, far greater than what the female Realmlord had stored and sent.

After keeping the desolate crystals, he looked at the pearls that ceaselessly trembled. The pearls were translucent and the insides were quivering, clearly revealing the violent and aggressive presence of draconic blood energies. They originated from various dragons of different lineage, and each pearl had multicolored light within signifying that truth.

He found out that a few dragons had aquatic and demonic bloodlines! These bloodlines influenced the draconic blood energies, and they released aquamarine and violet colors. This was merely two bloodlines, and there were roughly five more he couldn't identify.

The aquatic-type draconic bloodline aura matched heavily to Lian Yu's own, and the demonic-type draconic bloodline aura belonged to the lineage that Yuan Longshi had. He now realized that these two weren't just cultivators like Xue Yifei and himself, but might be ancient descendants with draconic bloodlines.

This discovery startled him for a moment, thinking about the existence of beastmen. There was no way the bloodlines diluted to the extent that they were back to being humans, right? Or was there more to the story? He didn't feel any link to beastmen from Lian Yu, so why would she have a draconic bloodline? Furthermore, Lian Yu originated from the Myriad Yore Continent while Yuan Longshi originated from Bloodforge Continent.

They were far, far apart.

Wei Wuyin pondered as he released a wisp of his draconic aura, suppressing the chaotically quivering bloodlines instantly. His True Dragon Bloodline was extremely pure, refined by millions of years of unrefined lifeforce and forged into its most exquisite state. He had an extremely oppressive aura that settled the others in moments.

"...!" Wei Wuyin's eyes erupted in brilliant light, flashing with vast mental energies and the light of discovery. He had determined how it was possible that these humans could grasp bloodlines of dragons without cultivating or being descendants! When the possibility entered his mind, he felt a wave of disbelief!

The answer was quite simple: Someone had implanted it!

Why?

The answer was even more simple if one thought about it! And it was because he had done something extremely similar!

When he was losing his mind, losing himself, he orchestrated three methods to escape his unfortunate predicament, and only Bai Lin had succeeded! He left behind three seeds, but only one was reaped and it allowed him to find a sect safely! While he never intended to become an alchemist, or stay for eight years, he eventually regained himself!

Wei Wuyin bitterly smiled at his theory, "It seems the dragons are not a species lacking intelligence and wisdom if true. To plan out an escape route expecting this type of fate, how insidiously devious and frighteningly farsighted. Unfortunately, the plans still fell short, likely not expecting the King of

Everlore's departure would result in a vicious decline in cultivation standards. How unfortunate!" He lamented at their indirectly foiled plans, but felt respect at the implementation of it.

The dragons had planted seeds for their escape in these vessels, passed down through generations. If one of these seeds reached a certain cultivation level, perhaps they might've been lured by the bloodlines within them and fall into a ploy to act against the Auric Sea, possibly freeing the dragons as a result. After all, the Divine King had done this, and he would never let a dragon reach a level of development to do so.

It was quite intelligent.

After Wei Wuyin reached this point, he truly felt a bitter sensation emerge in his heart. But when he recalled Anu, he realized there might be a second seed planted. When he thought this, his Celestial Eyes gleamed with brilliance. If so, the ruination of the starfield might be linked to the dragons' escape.

He frowned, unsure how to react to this, especially considering his own intentions. Was he the third seed? Could Anu have made him another seed?

Thinking this, he felt extremely uncomfortable. It would explain why a dragon of that caliber would unhesitatingly pass on the full extent of the True Dragon Transmutation Method to him...

The second method to cultivate the True Dragon Transmutation Method, the only method applicable to a human like himself would actually use, involved passing alongside Anu's bloodline to his children indirectly! This was clearly its intent, and he was definitely not the first or last!!

It was definitely how Yuan Longshi and Lian Yu were born...

"Who cares! Who cares! Who cares!" Ori immediately sounded, linked to his thoughts and mind. It revealed its own perspective of this possibility, clearly feeling it was irrelevant.

"No matter what, your intentions won't change." Eden wisely said. It knew Wei Wuyin's emotions and intentions clearer than others, snugly situated within his Sea of Consciousness. Even if he was planted as a seed by Anu, would that change anything?

Absolutely not!

Furthermore, Kratos was there! How could he ever think about stopping now?!

With renewed vigor, Wei Wuyin took a deep breath before expelling out all those turbid, uncomfortable feelings. "You're both right; it matters not if I'm being calculated within someone's scheme. I'll still act how I wish, according to my own heart and will."

"Tch!" King merely made his signature sound, but a trace of pride was leaked.

Wei Wuyin relaxed his mind, no longer thinking of these complicated and unnecessary things. It was time to restore his Bloodline Source, and then...push it even further!

Chapter 432 - 428: Unseen Divinities

The True Dragon Transmutation Method was an exquisite cultivation method, but its name was definitely deliberately embellished. After all, unless one took the third method, consuming numerous

strands of unrefined lifeforce, how would one refine essence blood enough to produce a trace of a True Dragon's bloodline aura?

One would have to excavate deeply into the dragon's blood, hoping to bring forth its hidden ancestral lineage. According to the method itself, Anu and the other draconic lineages were considered beasts, but True Dragons and those of equal lineages weren't referred to as such. They were called Divine Myths of Heaven.

They weren't beasts, but existences that predated beasts. They might be gods of some higher form of existence, a greater world like the rumored realm of immortals mentioned in stories and folklore. But Wei Wuyin didn't feel like a god, likely because his bloodline level was far too low.

He knew that divinities existed in this vast world, and some legends told in folklore and stories of the crazed and delusional held truth within them. He had been to Hell, faced the Heavens, observed reincarnation, saw the Yellow Springs, and possessed the Celestial Eyes of Spiritual Divinity that had stated its abilities to observe unseen divinities!

He knew better than anyone that the existence of gods was real!

As for these Divine Myths of Heaven, this might simply be one of their names referred to them by their beastly descendants like Anu as a display of utmost respect. Others might even call them Divine Beasts, who knew?

Regardless, the True Dragon Transmutation Method was divided into three different conceivable methods of cultivation. The first method was the insertion and refinement of essence blood into one's heart, transforming the blood cells it oxygenates, making it produce dragon blood. But because of this, the body would undergo changes to adapt to the new blood, making the individual partially a dragon, losing their humanity as a result. The cultivator would be left with uncontrollable mutations, destructive urges, bestial instincts, but gain a stronger physical form and innate physical energies.

The second method focused on transforming one's innate yang energies, allowing the birth of Dragonborn children. This would result in those like Lian Yu and Yuan Longshi, and they would receive intangible benefits for their cultivation.

For example, Lian Yu was a powerful water-attributed cultivator who made a name for herself in the Myriad Yore Continent, blessed with extraordinary looks and talent. The draconic lineage had invisibly helped her become powerful, and if it wasn't for the King of Everlore's departure, the decline of Alchemy, she might've reached extraordinary heights.

Wei Wuyin had decided to not cultivate this method due to the ticking clock that hung at his neck, the Calamities of Hell. He didn't wish to have children and be unable to protect them, watch them grow into fine women and men. He knew how it felt to lose a parent and he wouldn't knowingly do that to his own children.

He had decided to cultivate the third method: Birthing a Divine Mark of Myth! It was both similar and fundamentally different from beastmen who used their hearts as dantians! He would transform the Divine Mark of Myth into a Spirit, housing it within his heart, and having it grow!

His Divine Mark of Myth had always been Kratos' true form!!

By making it his Spirit for cultivation, he cultivated a Draconic Heart of Blood Qi, containing draconic blood energies that would take the same cultivation path as other spirits, strengthening itself as a result! It also had a restriction, and that it required an individual that hadn't cultivated a Heart of Qi!

Wei Wuyin now knew that Anu had left this method in the hopes of a powerful expert that might've missed the mark for their schemes, to be an alternative to focus their all on raising their child in the most appropriate fashion, allowing them to cultivate and hide from the Divine King's prejudiced gaze. Even today, not a single individual could discover his Draconic Heart!

The schemes ran deep, like rivers through the fields. He couldn't help but feel a little bitter and simultaneously amused. Because of their schemes, he had given birth to the True Dragon Bloodline, fashioned a Draconic Heart of Blood without being a child, and was pushing it to great limits!

Fortunately, he took what he had and brought it to its greatest potential. Still, the high quality of his Bloodline caused his Mark of Divine Myth to be severely low-level, and with all things dragon outside of Anu vanishing from the starfield like snow on a sunny month, he had no way to improve his Bloodline.

The last time it had improved was when he reached the Zenith Mortal State, reaching the Third Stage of the Mark of Mortal Myth. He hadn't experienced any improvements when he transformed his Zenith Mortal State to the Zenith Origin State. Wei Wuyin could only conclude that it was likely due to his Bloodline Source having been thoroughly exhausted at the time, unable to display any tangible change. If he restored his Bloodline Source, he might experience a huge leap!

There were three grades: Mark of Mortal Myth, Mark of Mystic Myth, and Mark of Immortal Myth. They were divided by seven stages, with the first stage being the lowest and seventh stage indicating the highest quality of blood energies in its respective purity grade. The stage also determined the base strength of his Bloodline Abilities and limits of his cells potential.

Wei Wuyin always felt it was quite interesting how the grades of the Mark of Myths were the same as the ranks of the Alchemic Dao. It seemed that all things in cultivation had links to each other, even if they're outside of their respective Daos.

Looking at the twenty thousand formerly desolate pearls, now draconic pearls, on the ground, he felt an urge to consume it all and replenish the essential draconic energies his Bloodline Source lacked! There was a matter that gave him pause, however. He was concerned about the various bloodline variations within, wondering if he should use the Mark of Eden's copious lifeforce reserves to refine the energies into their purest state.

Fortunately, before he could make such any unnecessary waste, Kratos externalized! It was a Mark of Myth that was refined from the essence blood containing a True Dragon's aura and power, why would it fear lesser blood contaminating it?!

It exited out of his heart as a grey, indistinct blob that barely had a clear shape, but the ripples it emitted were like continuous roars of an ancient dragon! It shook the mountains, causing avalanches of rocks to tumble down, nearly crumbling it entirely!

Wei Wuyin excitedly smiled with glee! He put away his useless thoughts, allowing Kratos to perform what he believed was the best. Moreover, if Eden had any considerations, it could similarly tap into the

Mark of Eden freely extracting the life force and wood energies contained within. He didn't need to do anything!

Kratos had lacked for too long and it was fully unleashed! It held nothing back as it charged towards the pile of draconic pearls, its globbish form gulping them into it with rapid speeds. Wei Wuyin's eyes widened as several seconds was all it took for Kratos to devour half the twenty thousand pearls!

He couldn't help but be shocked at the speed of digestion, and each millisecond caused the glob of grey to condense more and more, obtaining a shape that was more and more distinct. When Wei Wuyin saw its form slowly take shape, he felt his mind enliven, a feeling of anticipation growing uncontrollable.

For so long has he been wondering the true form of a Void Dragon! What did it look like? Was it like the dragons of legend? These folklore dragons were known as having leathery, large bat-like wings, with hardened and energetic scales that seemed to breathe with every motion! They had large claws that could crush mountains, thick bodies, and spikes protruding from various areas such as their spines!

He believed Anu had this appearance, feeling intrigued if it would be similar!

With widened eyes and a focused expression, he watched it devour pearl after pearl, growing clearer and clearer! Its long form was faintly revealed, twisting about exquisitely within the remnant grey light!

When it finished the last draconic pearl, refining the last portion of draconic blood energies, restoring its Bloodline Source completely, Wei Wuyin's silver eyes nearly popped out of his skull!

Before he could even conceive another thought, a world-shaking roar resounded that caused his consciousness to nearly black out, only holding on due to Eden's timely interference. When he regained himself, he found that Kratos had returned to his heart, enshrouded by concealing mist!

Even though he couldn't see through it with his spiritual sense, he had already seen its true form! And...

And...

His eyes brightened to match the brightness of the solar stars in the sky, betraying his extreme disbelief and excitement!

"...Absolutely incredible! Is that how divine dragons look...? They're...perfect!" The more he recalled Kratos' appearance, the more he felt awed by it all. He was lost in himself for a long moment, and then an explosive thought emerged in his excited mind: "I have the ability of Draconification!!!"

The thought of mimicking a portion of this exquisitely perfect form caused him to feel indescribable excitement.

He felt the surging blood energies flowing out of his heart, feeling its innate quality, and immediately used the method to measure its grade. "It's at the Fifth Stage of the Mark of Mortal Myth!" He had leapt two full stages, approaching the peak of the Mortal-Grade!

Immersed in this feeling, he could view his cells change, expanding wildly and capable of carrying several times more physical energies than normal. The restrictions of his physical body were being lifted as his blood flowed!

But he had six million desolate pearls left! His heart throbbed intensely, and an explosive thought surfaced in his mind!

"Let's do it!" Kratos urged from behind its concealing mist. Wei Wuyin laughed wildly, feeling like trying to see if he could breach the Mortal-Grade as well! He would refine all six million desolate pearls!!

But he stopped for a moment, looking at Kratos concealed by mist. He couldn't understand why he was unable to view his form anymore, curious about this development he asked, but the answer was quite shocking.

Kratos snorted arrogantly, stating with immense pride: "Mortals can't see the form of divinities!"

"..." When those words were said, Wei Wuyin felt as if he realized a worldly truth. The only reason he could see its externalized form was due to his Celestial Eyes! Those eyes of his had the ability to observe Unseen Divinities! But he was still skeptical, raising a brow with uncertainty. "You're a divine existence now?"

King gave a laughing 'tch', clearly revealing the truth, but it didn't elaborate...as always.

"..." Kratos went completely silent, its prideful voice no longer emerging.

Wei Wuyin quickly discovered why and shook his head with a quiet smile. While Kratos might have the form of a divine existence, it was far, far off from becoming one. Although, this made it extremely clear why he'd never seen a true dragon's form before! No wonder there were absolutely no depictions of it anywhere! It was like a whole new creature!

With an excited breath, tossed that thought to the side, thinking of the six million desolate pearls needing to be refined. "Let's begin!"

Chapter 433 - 429: The Hunting Of Qing Qiumu

Swish! Swish! Swish!

Shiing!

Boosh!!

In a location of The Desolate Lands, within its eastern region, chaotic sounds of sweeping blades, explosive eruptions, and sword howls resounded out ceaselessly. These sounds were followed by grunts and exclamations of pain, the hallowed and exhausted breathing of experts.

Swoosh!

An emerald-colored haired beauty with a blank mask covering the lower half of her face soared through the sky, skidding across the ground from time to time. Her slender figure was wrapped by grey-cloth that emanated faint light, and this light pushed away the desolate power that lingered within the air.

She was surrounded by nine soaring blades. They twisted and turned, clashing with incoming bursts of astral force and other armaments. These armaments were held by a pursuing force of cultivators that were dressed in a mishmash of outfits. Their lack of unified dressing betrayed their disorganized and hasty assembly.

There were dozens of men and women amongst them. They raced on foot, enhanced by astral force, as they ran with solemn expressions. The slowest amongst them screamed, shouting with grievance: "WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!" A pathetic whimper escaped his body soon after as an emerald blade arrived at his fleeing back.

Psh!

A gush of blood erupted from the man's chest, his eyes widened as begging emotions effused from them. Unfortunately, they lasted for a second and remained unanswered as the sword moved upwards, splitting his head in half. His brain matter spewed on the floor with gushing blood and bits of his flesh.

His maimed corpse thud onto the floor, skidding a certain distance from his previous running momentum. The death of this individual didn't cause the others to increase their speed, because they were already pushing themselves to their limits!!

The emerald-haired figure landed next to the corpse and waved her delicate hand, taking their spatial ring in a practiced fashion, and turned her calm gaze towards the others. A surge of astral force erupted from her and she exploded into movement, shooting towards them.

"Split up!" The next slowest member shouted in panic, turning away from the group in hopes of escaping. It was a female with a willowy figure.

"DON'T!" Another member ahead of her shouted in panic, but the woman had already left their tight-knit fleeing unit. She got no more than a few dozen meters from the group when a green vine escaped the grey dirt they tread and ensnared the woman.

The thin woman exclaimed in horrified shock, using her bladed weapon to cut at the vine, thinking how strange it was that a piece of greenery could exist in that grey desolate sand. But when she saw the faint flickering of grey light from the vine, her expression became even more fearful.

"Dai'er!" One of the members called out the woman's name, tearful and afraid. Clearly, their relationship was close. But another member forcefully grabbed him by the shoulder before he could act hastily and pulled him along. With tears in his eyes, he saw a scene that would leave him with nightmares until the end of his life!

The one vine split into numerous vines, and then dozens of thick vines swirled around the woman's figure as she vigilantly fought. When she saw her hopeless situation, she turned to those fleeing members with hope and a light of wanting to live flashing endlessly in her eyes. Her hoarse voice shouted out: "SAVE ME!!"

At that exact moment, the moment she had lowered her guard for external support, more than a dozen vines erupted and engulfed her whole.

Slink!

She was drawn into the ground as crimson blood gushed out. Her figure vanished beneath the grey sand, and only the splurge of blood remained as evidence of her life.

Gulping, the man who shouted cried tears as he ran even more passionately. He swore on his heart that he'd get vengeance! Brutal and violent vengeance!!

Swish!

A sword sliced through the air, and the man felt his neck go cold. When he saw an emerald blade pass by him and the one who held his shoulder, he thought how pretty these blades were. It was his last thought.

Thud! Thud!

Two heads fell and two headless corpses collapsed.

The others continued further ahead, not even looking back as they erected their astral wards in unified fashion to protect themselves. They didn't act like the four just now, lowering their guards with unnecessary actions or trying to separate from the group. They remained unified and together, defending against the emerald haired devil that pursued them.

The emerald haired figure flitted through the two corpses, swiping her hand above them and taking their spatial rings. After seeing the others escape in a unified fashion, a faint sigh released from the figure. She held out her hand, and a vine swirling with grey light and traces of crimson glaring blood erupted from the grey sand. It held a spatial ring at its tip, handing it to the woman.

With that, she flickered away.

Half an hour later, the twenty-seven individuals left were grouped together at the base of a mountain. They scoured the surroundings with eyes betraying their vigilance and fear. After using their spiritual sense to inspect the surroundings thoroughly, a member amongst them heaved a heavy sigh of relief.

"She left," he said with a weak and exhausted voice.

A woman that was relatively big-breasted, a little thicker than most, and holding a mace shook her head. "We can't lower our guards," she reminded. Her eyes kept sweeping the surroundings with vigor.

A middle-aged man, tall and somewhat handsome, squatted towards the ground and placed his hand on the grey sand. His eyes and fingertips lit with radiant light undulating spirituality. He was executing a spell to observe the world via seismic activity.

The others glanced at him, awaiting the news with bated breaths.

After several minutes, he said with a heaving breath. "She's gone." Those words were taken far more seriously than when the other member said it, causing the others to noticeably relax as their astral force circulation lowered to the utmost, and their bodies plopped to the ground.

The heavy breathing of numerous figures resounded.

The big-breasted woman grunted with dissatisfaction, "This was such a failure!"

The middle-aged man stood up, looking at the sky with a heavy expression. "Who could've known that a Verdant Forest Elf would be so terrifying in the Desolate Lands? It's our bad luck."

A sharp-eyed woman stomped her foot, "We were tricked! That elf wasn't a normal Sky Ruler! She had nine high-grade Astral Armaments! To freaking add, they were a set!! Even her cultivation base wasn't

ordinary, and even Brother Bo Yu with our support held little advantage! It was like fighting a Spatial Resonance expert!" The woman spoke out all of her inner grievances, energized by her previous fear.

"I don't think we were purposefully tricked. It was just a matter of lacking information. We'll be better organized and prepared next time. There's a renowned array in Desertfall City that restricts wood cultivators greatly. We'll retreat, regroup, make further preparations, and return." The middle-aged man named Bo Yu said calmly.

"We better! That bitch killed too many of us. If word gets out, who would fear us in the future?" The sharp-eyed woman stated.

"Pfft! Fear us? We aren't a unit or a group, so don't pile us together!" The big-breasted woman said, waving her mace with a tinge of ridicule in her eyes. The sharp-eyed woman froze and then harrumphed, not engaging the woman. She merely whispered a sly insult under her breath.

"Cowardly slut." The big-breasted woman didn't hear what was said, but she knew it wasn't good. And she didn't quietly say her retaliatory response, being open and loud.

"Enough! This target has been on the run for a while. We have to be the first to obtain this bountiful prize before anyone else lest we waste those lives for no reason and internal conflict doesn't help." The middle-aged man reasoned, bringing the seething atmosphere to a calm.

"We'll definitely get her. A Verdant Forest Elf of that quality will definitely be worth tens of thousands of astral crystals, and we'll be set for decades." An exhausted male member spoke, trying to butter up the sharp-eyed woman, but the woman only snorted in annoyance.

Seeing his attempt once more amount to nothing, he wore a bitter smile as he took sneaky glances at the sharp-eyed woman's figure, especially her ample bottom and long legs. He stealthily licked his lips, imagining her in nothing but her birthday suit. What he would do to her if...

"WATCH OUT!" A shout startled the exhausted member out of his lovely imagination, but his response was a little delayed as he turned to see another member of their group with a thick, green vine ensnared around their neck. A pleading expression in their eyes before it abruptly tightened.

CRACK!

The odd twist of their head and neck ended any attempt at a struggle. The warm corpse went limp. The exhausted man's eyes widened, but as he tried to jump up out of fear, he found his legs tethered to the ground. With widened eyes, he looked at the grey sand beneath his feet and screamed.

But his voice was abruptly seized by a thick vine that wrapped around his throat. The last thought in his mind as he felt its grip was: "Will my neck twist like that?"

CRACK!

The death of two members weren't alone, but roughly two-thirds of the twenty-seven members were simultaneously ensnared by vines, their necks hoisted and twisted until death.

Bo Yu was the one who shouted, and he shot out with his astral force, taking to the skies. As the one with the highest combat prowess and cultivation base, he felt assured that he could escape, but he

didn't reach more than twenty meters into the air before emerald crisscrossing lines of sword light converged on his figure.

He let out a sound he'd never released before in his life and would never again as his body slowly separated into segments, blood oozing out as multiple thuds crashed into the ground. The dismembered corpse of their strongest member set off alarms of horror and panic in the group. They no longer worked together, separating wildly.

That was their mistake.

One by one, they were either sliced into pieces or crushed by vines.

"Haaa! Haaa! Haaa!" Heavy breathing matched the swinging power of a mace as the big-breasted woman and sharp-eyed woman fought back-to-back. The sharp-eyed woman held a dagger, flicking it from time to time to fight off vines or sword light that sliced towards her.

"We surrender!!" The sharp-eyed woman screamed aloud with fear, hoping to eke out a path of life. But to her horror, she only received whipping vines and soaring swords.

"AH!" She shrieked as her dagger-wielding arm was cut off from a moment of carelessness. She didn't even get another chance to plead as a sword plunged itself in her skull. The sword continued through it and stabbed through the big-breasted woman's back, spewing both of their blood onto the grey sand beneath their feet.

The big-breasted woman froze, feeling the wood force pouring into her body and her lifeforce withering. Even her astral force could no longer circulate like normal. But that didn't matter as her heart was already pierced by another blade, swiftly ending her life.

"..."

The scene went silent as the last member of the twenty-seven met their end. The vines whipped out as they snatched spatial rings, and the swords circulated together until a figure arrived from a distance. They flew over and released sword howls of excitement, as if being drenched in blood gave them further energy.

The emerald haired figure stepped past the corpses, retrieving all the spatial rings, and removing her mask. From her emerald-colored eyes, she displayed a gorgeous countenance of an elf.

It was Qing Qiumu!

With a sigh, she kept her Nine Meadows Astral Swords and the vines retreated into the grey sand as if they were never there.

She looked at the bloody scene before her. Since she arrived on this Four Extremes Continent, on this Desolate Land, she was met with pursuit after pursuit. Her very first minute here she encountered a group of Grey Sands Elves on lizard-like creatures. They were startled that she was present, but after seeing her appearance, they left her alone.

This, however, didn't stop the human Seekers from acting against her. Before she knew it, just three days in, she was hunted by Seekers. At first, she was patient and merciful, but after learning of their intent and viciousness, she held nothing back.

She wasn't some delicate flower that could be taken advantage of, having experienced hundreds of battles in her dozens of years of life. This was especially so when she obtained the alchemical products of Wei Wuyin and astral weapons. She was a fearsome foe not to be underestimated

Furthermore, she realized that this was a trial of sorts, and if she acted passively, then the world would crush her unhesitatingly. She didn't want to be crushed, so she wielded her swords in defiance.

"...I've touched it." Qing Qiumu noted the unique soul fluctuations emanating from her Astral Soul. She faintly smiled as she knew her cultivation was about to make a breakthrough. She needed to restore her condition, find an isolated area, and assail the third astral tribulation!

Thinking about her rapidly rising cultivation base, she warmly smiled as she recalled the unearthly handsome face of Wei Wuyin. "I wonder how he's doing? Knowing him, probably taking over this world bit by bit. Haha, or tricking someone." Thinking about all the exaggerated stories Wei Wuyin told her, she brilliantly smiled.

Will they meet?

With that final thought, her figure vanished, leaving a mass of corpses that would soon decay from the ambient desolate power, becoming nothing in a few hours.

Chapter 434 - 430: Nine Months Of Cultivation

ROAR!!!

A titanicly explosive eruption of sound shattered the skies above, sundered the earth below, and collapsed the nearby mountains. The chaos was hectic, devastating, and yet the roar kept lingering in the air as space trembled ceaselessly about.

It didn't seem to originate from a normal beast, but a being of heaven, something directly out of myth! Those who were nearby quivered with fear, their bodily functions almost shutting down, their cultivation bases going haywire, and their minds blaring with a sensation of crisis. Like a flock of birds startled by a gunshot, those who were searching for those special locations that held desolate pearls shattered wildly.

Within a collapsed mountain within the Desolate Land, crumbled until it was nothing more than a pile of large rocks, a faint grey wave of light undulated from the gaps and cracks. The sky became tainted in a greyer tint.

Rumble!

After a short while, a hand pierced through the rocks and grasped a nearby boulder, digging its fingers deeply into its surface. The hand was by no means ordinary, having hexagonal grey scales that were absolutely gorgeous, shimmering with radiant grey light. The hand's nail was sharp, long, and black.

It left distinct claw marks on the rock's surface as it exerted force. The rock crumbled into dust, and the hand fell into the pile of rocks, once more hidden. After a brief period, another hand shot out but this hand was flawless, without the slightest blemish, with an exquisite set of neatly cut and trimmed nails.

It grasped another rock, pulled, and a head popped out of the rubble. With a deep exhale, Wei Wuyin's head fully escaped and felt the world was slightly brighter than before. He looked at the sun, realizing the solar star above was experiencing a slight change.

"Nine months?" Murmuring to himself, Wei Wuyin circulated a little of his astral force to invigorate his innate wind energies, controlling them as he slowly levitated above the rocks, escaping the fate of being buried.

As he floated above the rocks, he looked at his surroundings to verify that he hadn't appeared somewhere else. Fortunately, he was still in the Desolate Lands.

"An entire nine months, huh?" It's been quite a while since Wei Wuyin had cultivated in seclusion, and this was probably the longest he'd ever cultivated without any other interactions, focused purely on himself. The last time he remembered such an incident was during the Yang Yore Fields at the Scarlet Solaris Sect.

Thinking of that moment, he nostalgically thought of Wei Si, that muscle-headed adopted cousin of his. He was the only living member of his family, despite his status of being adopted. Wei Wuyin had tried to find him, had Su Mei investigate the incidents that happened that left him rampaging and taken away, but there was nothing.

Now that he met those outsiders that had unknown intentions, unknown origins, he realized that the starfield wasn't one without visitors from beyond. Lin Ming's female companion on the Myriad Yore Continent was likely the same type of person. In that case, could Wei Si have been taken away by one of these visitors?

There was also another question that he didn't really know, and even now, it bothered him sometimes. It was: "Could Wei Si have been a Blessed?"

This question lingered for a moment before he helplessly smiled, thinking of the Yang Yore Fields once more. There was a particularly stimulating event regarding Yan Zhu, a fellow Core Disciple who birthed a Seed of Spear Intent. He didn't know what happened to her, but if she actually gave birth to Spear Intent, she might be suitable to recruit for the Ascendants.

His Celestial Eyes brightened with a mysteriously obscure light, but only a frown remained as it dimmed. He couldn't get any sort of feeling from her, as if she was no longer a part of the immediate world.

Was she dead?

After a long moment of silence, he sighed wistfully. Cultivation was difficult; the last time he saw her was nearly twenty years ago, and innumerable events have happened since then.

"The path of life is about moving forward, always. I just hope Wei Si is alive. I miss that beefy kid." Wei Wuyin couldn't determine Wei Si's current state, even with his Eye of Truth, and it only verified that he had been taken far away, outside of his perceptive reach.

After spending several more moments in silence, Wei Wuyin shook off the melancholic feelings with a faint smile. He clenched his fist, feeling the flow of blood within his body. It was like a torrential river, surging with immense force that could crush mountains, overturn oceans, and rend the sky.

After nine whole months, Wei Wuyin had refined a little over a million desolate pearls into draconic pearls. That was an extremely arduous and time-consuming task, and even the first time he'd performed this wasn't instant. But the sheer number also developed a problem, Kratos couldn't digest it as swiftly as he'd done before!

While recovering its Bloodline Source was swift, the apparent increase of its innate qualities was extremely slow! Wei Wuyin had to supplement the draconic blood energies and essences himself, cultivating the Bloodforging Mystic Method to find another outlet. The Bloodforging Mystic Method was a Cultivation Method that was created by the Bloodforge Emperor, a subordinate of Wu Yu. It touched upon concepts that exceeded the Mortal Limits.

It typically required one to find blood-type of materials to cultivate, and it even halted Zuhei from rapidly progressing due to this need. There weren't many objects naturally formed within the heaven and earth of the starfield that could progress it, but the draconic pearls were perfect materials for it!

Originally, the method was filled with various flaws and inconsistencies within, but Wei Wuyin had spent an entire year reforging it with his comprehension of the Alchemic Dao and the True Dragon Transmutation Method to make it suitable for those who cultivate using their beating hearts, while removing the bloodline lineage requirement. With this, he made it extremely suitable for himself and Zuhei to cultivate, but there was another issue.

The Bloodforging Mystic Method could be considered an Evil Method, but that was only in its later stages. During its foundational stages, one merely needed to condense their essence blood into Bloodforge Runes, and then they could use various energies to improve its qualities and power. With these runes alone, one's bloodline power would strengthen as their cultivation advanced.

The resources required after the first level was still beyond this starfield's means unless one commenced a massive slaughter of cultivators with refined blood energies, condensing them into Blood Pills often used by Evil Cultivators. Otherwise one needed to gather blood-enhancing herbs and materials, which the starfield rarely gave birth to.

Yuan Longshi was fortunate to have had unique resources left behind by the Bloodforge Emperor, but he still devoured beasts to drain them of their blood energies for his cultivation and recovery of blood energies. He had reached the third level of the Bloodforging Mystic Method, the Bloodforging Battle Armor.

Wei Wuyin wasn't really willing to slaughter others for their blood energies, be it human, beast, elf, or demon. It clashed with his own principles. While he respected Evil Cultivators, understanding that cultivation was difficult, and in cultivation there was no wrong or right, there was no too far or too little, but it wasn't the path he wished to take. There was always another way, sometimes even better.

As an Alchemist, he understood this principle extremely well.

Till now, he hadn't cultivated the Bloodforging Mystic Method. But now that he had the sufficient resources, obtained without slaughtering a single life, he wasn't going to delay.

"Unfortunately, despite reaching the later stages of the Bloodforging Mystic Method, refining a million draconic pearls, I couldn't break past the limits of mortality within my bloodline." Wei Wuyin felt an

unbreachable wall as he entered the Seventh Stage of the Mark of Mortal Myth, reaching the utmost limits of his bloodline.

There was a wall of the Mortal Dao. He felt that he needed something specific to advance. When he thought of that something, for some reason, he recalled that Solar Star with the ring circulating around it.

Taking a deep breath, he clenched his fists. Kratos was no longer restrained, he had access to his Bloodline Abilities, and his physical body had been refined with the Bloodforging Mystic Method and his peak Mortal Myth-tier True Dragon Bloodline!

"It's time!" Kratos' voice sounded within his mind.

"Time! Time! Time! Let's do it!" Ori started to get overly excited.

The other two remained silent, but Wei Wuyin could see their anticipation. He faintly smiled, looking at the sky. Since Jiang Feilan had met him that day, offering her Yin Renewal Physique and Primal Yin that contained the secrets of her cultivation, Wei Wuyin didn't restrain himself. They dual cultivated numerous times, and he fully comprehended the Fourth Stage of the Astral Core Realm, the Spatial Resonance Phase!

But the others were unwilling to advance, seemingly waiting for Kratos to fully recover. Now that it had, Wei Wuyin felt the trigger to ascend to the next stage!

With heroic laughter, he flew higher into the sky.

Chapter 435 - 431: Spatial Resonance?

Every Astral Tribulation, without fail, his Astral Souls would diverge from the norm, instigating a change that would shatter conventional thought. The Mortal Star Formation Tribulation, they fully accepted and absorbed everything the tribulation had to offer, even giving birth to an advanced version of Intent.

King, his Divine Saber Astral Soul, had obtained the next step of Intent through this! The Heart of the World, World of the Saber Intent! It was his highest level of Intent, even beyond his Elemental Origin Intent. He hadn't used it in battle, but the profundities of it were breathtakingly world-defying!

Ori had the blueprint of its next level as well, but the requirement to establish it was lacking, needing those pieces to advance. He currently still lacks three high-level Intents of Water, Fire, and Wind. When he fully comprehended these Intent, the Heart of the World, World of Elements Intent will be born!

During the Sky-World Lightning Tribulation was played like a fiddle, growing bigger and bigger it was inevitably transformed by them into golden pellets! They had him take all of it at once, refining all four simultaneously and giving birth to a miraculous transform that evolved them, reaching the Zenith Origin State.

The Soul-Pulse Manifestation Tribulation was the most dangerous, most reckless of the tribulations he'd experienced to date. If it wasn't for his quick-witted thinking, he might've died. Even they hadn't considered the possibility that their actions would send him across multiple starfields!

Despite that, he didn't dread their wilful actions of upping the stakes. If there was a way to heighten the benefits he'd receive, to strengthen his cultivation far beyond the norm, then he would take that risk

anyhow. These were four of his Astral Souls, and while they might have different and distinctively unique personalities, the core of their existence were very similar.

He was just as reckless in the face of benefits!

After all, he took over a city with a Realm Lord watching it! Nearly killed himself to fool the female Realm Lord to snatch her spatial ring! He took extreme risks for great benefits! It was in their nature as much as it was in his own!

"I want to see what you four will do. Bring it on!" Wei Wuyin excitedly shouted, interfacing with the sensation to commence his Fourth Astral Tribulation!

The Fourth Astral Tribulation, just like the others, oftentimes went by various names. The lack of consistency, he wasn't sure if it was due to the unique structure of cultivation or if it was like the Sixth Stage of Qi Condensation, where numerous individuals perceived different comprehension of the same discovery.

For example, Zuhei had named the Soul-Pulse Manifestation Tribulation as the Nine Spiritual Judgment Tribulation. When Wei Wuyin recalled this, he didn't feel that Zuhei was wrong, just that he wasn't right either. It was incredibly strange. This wasn't an odd occurrence either.

It was as if multiple people devised the laws of cultivation, and when they did, they had conflicting opinions of names. The term 'Mana' was synonymous with Worldly Essence, World Qi, etc., but it was generally accepted as Mana by cultivators. It felt right to everyone who hears it, causing the name to be adopted instead the moment one heard it.

It was truly and undoubtedly strange!

The really intriguing bit was that the Soul-Pulse Manifestation Tribulation was never a name that popped up in the starfield, not once. He even had doubts that he made it up without any foundation!

Pop!

Wei Wuyin heard a familiar sound! It was the same sound that echoed out whenever he created a Void Portal. He looked at the sky, recalling the details of the fourth astral tribulation. According to the records, it was similar to the Soul Idol tribulation as it was divided into nine parts. It involved infusing various qualities of spatial essence into one's body.

The higher the quality properly infused, the greater one's resonant affinity with spatial energies, including the purity and strength of one's spatial energies refined by the Astral Soul. But if one's body could no longer resist the flow, then one's body would expand and explode!

He understood the incredible dangers of the trial, so he fully expected a raging flow of spatial essence crashing into him, his Astral Souls wildly working to refine the spatial essence and diffuse the danger. But...

"..."

After several minutes, he frowned.

He looked around, the world still the same as before. He curiously inspected his Astral Souls, and he felt Ori, King, Eden, and Kratos simultaneously activating their triggers, likely causing the trial to erupt with a greater ferocity like all the other times.

"Huh?" Wei Wuyin was confused. He twisted and turned in mid-air. "Where is this Astral Tribulation?" This thought echoed out a few times as he spread out his spiritual sense, even evoking his Celestial Eyes, but nada, nothing, zilch! There was literally nothing happening!

He furrowed his brows, once more inspecting his Astral Souls. They seemed to be vibrating, but there was nothing happening now. He pushed his lips to the side, looking around, feeling somewhat let down. What the hell was happening?

A full hour passed.

Wei Wuyin was just floating in mid-air, eating lunch. He hadn't consumed any food in a while, and he enjoyed a wide-variety of astral fruits, so he kept a storage of preserved fruits in his spatial ring, enough to feed a full-packed sect for several days. As a cultivator at the Astral Core Realm, eating was merely ways to expedite the recovery of physical energies or indulge oneself, and even sleeping had similar benefits. They were entirely unnecessary, capable of converting astral force into needed aspects for sustained life.

He still ate quite often, however.

"HAAAA!" He yawned, feeling a little bored by the lack of action. Perhaps he wouldn't feel this way if he wasn't hyped for the Astral Tribulation...

"I thought we'd travel through the void! Or like...see the depths of space, view its mysteries or something! I mean, how are these World Realms even existing? Will I understand the concept of spatial folds? Why is it required to comprehend a Worldly Domain before forging a secret realm of your own?!" He grew somewhat irritated by the lack of any event. Even a little robbed.

Then, boom...

It was a small boom, very small. It resounded in his body for the briefest of moments, drawing his attention away as he peered into his Astral Souls. After doing so, his eyes narrowed. They...they advanced!

They had fully ascended!!!

He felt the spatial energies within their Astral Cores, integrating and refining their astral force. But...

But...

He didn't feel anything special...

In fact, he felt the spatial energies were quite lacking, a little too simple, a little too basic. When he noticed this, his expression became a little twisted.

Eden, who usually remained silent, decided to speak up at this particular moment: "The Dao of Void exceeds fixed space."

All it said were those seven words, and Wei Wuyin finally understood, but he felt utterly helpless!

Kratos had once explained the Dao of Void principles.

It went: "The Dao of Void relates to space, time, astrological forces, and void energy. Space relates to fixed, stable, chaotic disturbances within the Dark Void and its various forms, including atmospheric space. Time relates to the past, present, future, isolated, and paradoxical temporal periods of existence."

He hadn't understood it at the time, but he realized now that the spatial energies within the Spatial Resonance Phase related to fixed-type spatial essences, but Kratos' Void Energies exceeded that! As for why he didn't feel or notice the rumored pressure or surging essences of the Spatial Resonance Astral Tribulation...he had a Draconic Void Bloodline! His entire body was infused with Void Energies that carried the Dao of Void!

It would be like expecting an ocean to feel a drop of water...

He sighed.

"Well, that's disappointing."

Chapter 436 - 432: Discovered!

Wei Wuyin was unsure how to feel about this unexpected development. However, when he considered the Void Bloodline and the characteristics of the fourth astral tribulation, he had no choice but to accept it.

His four Astral Souls had fully initiated and completed the fourth astral tribulation, the Nonuplet Spatial Resonant Tribulation, and he felt that they've overcome nine full levels, reaching the Nine-Ripple Spatial Resonance Phase. While he hadn't felt their reckless manner erupt, strengthening the tribulation far beyond its limits, he knew they had.

The quality of fixed-type spatial energies infused within each World Sea was far, far greater than his original estimations. This was similar to their actions during the Soul-Pulse Manifestation Tribulation, increasing the benefits and advantages received by the tribulation manyfold.

He could feel the active refinement of his astral force, and felt the knowledge of Spatial Prison and Spatial Mark had already integrated with his Sea of Consciousness. Through his Astral Souls, he felt their faint resonance towards ambient space increase, and even realized he could draw the ambient spatial energies around to himself. It felt invigorating!

In nine months of time, he had undergone massive improvements to his strength and cultivation base. Not only did he reach the Spatial Resonance Phase with utter ease, but he had reached the peak Mark of Mortal Myth, entering the limits of his current Draconic Void Bloodline, and cultivated a Mystic Ascendant-level Cultivation Method, the Bloodforging Mystic Method, to a high level.

He still had five or so million desolate pearls left, numerous astral crystals, and other materials held within the female Realm Lord's spatial ring. He was currently set for cultivation resources, no longer needing to plunder other cities or search for those desolate pearl locations that Seekers sought.

Wei Wuyin decided to find the so-called Holy City that likely held a Token of Elementus, continuing with his original mission. Before then, however, he still had the transcendent-quality elixir that he had yet to take! The Refraction World-Light Elixir was the first and only transcendent-quality alchemical product that he'd ever fashioned, and it was extremely, unfathomably, unimaginably beneficial for cultivators seeking to assail the Light Reflection Phase, the Fifth Stage of the Astral Core Realm!

The Refraction World-Light Elixir's primary function was to modify the body's innate characteristics, allowing it to act as a medium to refine certain light energies prior to reaching the Light Reflection Phase. According to the records, the peak-quality allowed a cultivator to channel True Light from the world, refine it, and improve the Primary Light typically developed.

However, there were no records mentioning transcendent-quality effects. All Wei Wuyin knew was that the effects of transcendent-quality products would vastly exceed their peak-quality counterparts. Understanding the vast benefits of light energies, Wei Wuyin didn't hesitate to float down to the crumbled mountain and retrieved four vials of Refraction World-Light Elixir.

Abruptly, a thought emerged in his mind. "Do I need four?" The effects of the Refraction World-Light Elixir was about transforming the body, allowing the channeling and refinement of light energies prior to reaching the Light Reflection Phase. This allowed cultivators to develop a greater Primary Light Source, which ranged from Black, Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet and White, from lowest to greatest.

He originally assumed each Astral Soul needed a separate vial, but he had only thought this out of habit. This elixir wasn't for them, but for himself, for his physical body. As long as his meridians, cells, and body could absorb and refine light energies, they would be able to absorb it without any changes to themselves.

He had nearly forgotten that while these Astral Souls could refine alchemical products by themselves, circulate to passively absorb energies, they lacked the control to truly cultivate or ascend phases without him. With a faint breath, he put away the other three vials and unhesitatingly imbibed the other vial.

When he did, his silver eyes vanished, pupils and all, while the sea of white that was his sclera had become translucent and obscure. Soon, crystalline-like light started to flicker across his skin, causing his flesh and bones to become increasingly transparent. The raging sea of grey dragon's blood surged through his veins and arteries, revealing itself to the world!

If one looked closely, they would notice his meridians were bright, releasing a crystalline-like light, as if it was absorbing reflecting this unique light. The light started to ripple, alongside his vanishing flesh and bone! As it did, without warning, his eyes became mirrors!

They reflected the entire world, and so did his skin, his flesh, and his meridians! This lasted for mere moments before it ended, returning Wei Wuyin to his original state, regaining the radiance of his silver eyes, the solidity of his physical body.

With a rough, exhausted breath, Wei Wuyin's eyes trembled with utter amazement, unable to conceive the words of what he'd just experienced. He could only think about how mystical it felt!

Wei Wuyin intensely looked at his two hands, moving them animatedly in front of his eyes. The light in his eyes was investigative, seeking answers, inspecting changes, after he felt that his body had become extremely different from a moment ago.

With grasped the air, and light twisted around his hands. He wasn't controlling the ambient light, but absorbed it into his flesh, entering his meridians, bones, and being refined and funneled into his Astral Core, further integrating with his Astral Souls. The mirage-like appearance was quite ghastly, but when he exerted a little more, the area around his hands became completely black.

It was as if he had observed a blind spot in his vision, unable to process and perceive the light within the area around his hands. These two hands were completely devoid of light energies, and whenever new light energies attempted to integrate and reveal it, they would be twisted and drawn into his hands at an extremely fast rate.

Wei Wuyin heavily shook his hands, dispelling the absorption force. The light returned to normal and he could finally perceive his hands once more. A sense of comfort surged through his heart.

"No wonder those who consume this elixir have higher states of Primary Light. The light energies are drawn into my body by minute amounts passively, but actively, its similar to absorbing ambient spatial energies. The affinity one has with light will increase manyfold, reaching untold heights. How could they not establish higher states of Primary Light?" As he surmised this discovery, he felt wonderment within his heart.

"True Light..." When he recalled the True Light mentioned by the records, he felt increasingly awed. It wasn't light at all. It was the source of all light. The wild and unverifiable theory that True Light was the origin of all light was wrong, but it was the source of all light.

As he thought about it, feeling the contradiction, feeling the confusion pile within his mind, he realized his mental energies were being rapidly consumed with the faint aura of the elixir brimming within his mind. But he refused to halt this opportunity, pondering heavily on this topic!

Drip!

A drop of blood swiftly leaked from his nose, carrying traces of intracranial fluid. His head was throbbing, but he refused to stop! Wei Wuyin's Sea of Consciousness shook like an earthquake with a scale of ten, causing his vision to become blurry and leaking tears mixed with glaring crimson blood!

"...!" Eden's roots extended to all parts of Wei Wuyin's Sea of Consciousness, piercing into the sea of mental energies, pumping it fiercely with its own energies, trying to offset the heavy consumption Wei Wuyin was experiencing. It further stabilized his Sea of Consciousness, but that only prevented its collapse.

However, Wei Wuyin was in a dazed state, his silver eyes absent yet present, as if he was far off into another world.

"...Why the risk?" Kratos and King simultaneously asked, sending their energies to Eden, supplementing it further. Despite their question, they helped without any hesitation.

"Since he doesn't ask why, why should we? Why should we?" Ori poutedly exclaimed with fierce rebuke, sending its energies in larger quantities than the other two!

"..." The two went silent. The four took risks all the time, rarely explaining their plans because they knew that Wei Wuyin would act cautious, likely spending too much time planning. It was an established habit he developed after experiencing numerous betrayals, sinister schemes, and the loss of those he loved.

He never took wild action without deep contemplation, rarely acting willful and reckless. This was clear by the delicate planning he took towards Yuan Longshi, with over a hundred contingencies. While this wasn't wrong, and if it wasn't for this trait, they might have already perished in this world of cultivation, but it revealed a flaw in his Heart of Cultivation.

They acted because they knew what he wanted; they acted fast and reckless because they knew what he was experiencing and facing! It wasn't just the Heavenly Daos, this mysterious controller of all things, but Hell itself! He didn't have the time to plan! They didn't!!

Thud!

Wei Wuyin fell to his knees, his silver eyes dimmer than ever, nearly becoming black in color. The mental energies of his mind were being drained considerably quick, but the faint light of comprehension remained at the very depths of those dimmed eyes. It was relentless, searching fiercely!

"More!" Eden's voice rippled, heavy and harsh. It knew this was the unexpected effect of a transcendent-quality Refraction World-Light Elixir!

Kratos started to wildly thump, a faint ripple spread throughout space from Wei Wuyin's body. "There's someone coming!" It shouted in warning, but sent more energy after that brief delay. Wei Wuyin's heart was pumping fiercely, sending copious amounts of refined blood into his brain, stabilizing it as it throbbed in an abnormal manner!

"Tch!" King felt the timing was quite horrible, about to externalize, but it was grasped by Ori.

"No! No! No! Stay!" Ori was violently trembling, the Astral Core showing signs of cracking. It was pushing itself even harder than the other two, with only Eden experiencing greater burden. It was the central figure to prevent Wei Wuyin's mental collapse.

"..." King halted. It didn't respond, just answered with its actions. Its Astral Core trembled, starting to crack, and it sent vast amounts of its innate energies to Eden. It didn't hesitate, releasing with even greater energies than Ori. This lightened Ori's burden, causing the trembling to become less frequent.

"How long?!" Kratos anxiously asked, feeling the approach of a familiar aura. The fierce beating of Wei Wuyin's heart betrayed its panic.

"He's comprehending the Origin of All Light! Don't stop! No matter what!!" Eden explained in haste. It knew what Wei Wuyin was searching for, and if it wasn't for his Celestial Eyes of Spiritual Divinity's unique abilities, Eden's integration into his Sea of Consciousness, four extremely powerful Astral Souls, and his extremely refined mental energies, this would have ended in swift failure. The fact he had this opportunity was miraculous, he could not let this go!

"She's here!" Kratos shouted, a faint draconic roar erupted.

A few hundred kilometers away, a figure arrived in a flash of silver light. The figure held a glowing parchment, looking at Wei Wuyin's location. "You think I wouldn't find you?" With a sneer, the figure blurred forward.

If Wei Wuyin was aware, he would be startled by this person! It was the female Realmlord of Grandquake City!

She found him!!

Chapter 437 - 433: The Hunting Of Wei Wuyin

The female Realmlord might be hundreds of kilometers away, but her speed was by no means slow, even during the Season of Regression! At her current pace, she would reach Wei Wuyin's current location in roughly two minutes! This was one hundred and twenty seconds!

The four Astral Souls were ceaselessly pouring their energies into Eden, reinforcing Wei Wuyin, replenishing his mental energies through rapid conversion via Eden. It was only because of Eden's unique abilities that it could substitute mental energies with its own, absorbing and converting the wildly different energies the others had to offer, fueling Wei Wuyin's mental prowess.

"..." They were all silent, but they knew that these two minutes was all Wei Wuyin had. If he couldn't comprehend the Origin of All Light during this time, then they might suffer capture or death. This was a Realmlord! A genuine Realmlord that used their own cultivation base to surpass the seventh astral tribulation!

Three seconds...

Seven seconds...

Twenty-three seconds...

Time ticked on, but Wei Wuyin was still in his state of comprehension, with blood leaking from his nose, eyes, and a dark pair of eyes with merely a faint light of insight flickering within. If it wasn't for that light, Wei Wuyin could be mistaken for someone already a corpse!

"We need to externalize!" Kratos exclaimed, feeling the approach of the female Realmlord. Unlike the others, it was well aware of the immediate changes in space even if it wasn't focused on it. The Realmlord was using spatial force to traverse the world, and she should've been faster, but somehow the Season of Regression's unique environment was slowing down her movements.

"No! No! No!" Ori angrily repeated, continuously sending its energies without saying anything else. It was unhesitatingly giving 120% of its effort, unwilling to distract itself.

If they externalized, they could use their powers to resist the Realmlord without Wei Wuyin. Unfortunately, this would only buy more time. They didn't think about using their powers to run, they would never get far as they couldn't execute arts, spells, or establish formations without Wei Wuyin. They wouldn't get very far.

Eden interjected with a strained voice, taking the leadership role at this moment. "Can't! Externalizing destabilizes the Sea of Consciousness! Focus!!" Its explanation sent Kratos into silence again, recalling all the time they left Wei Wuyin's body.

While he had gotten used to it, that was attributed to his strengthened mental and physical state with time. There were numerous times where he nearly lost consciousness, felt dizzy, or had an abrupt surge of weakness. This was indicative of the heavy stress his body and mind had to withstand to externalize any of them at any time.

The act of externalizing already defies common sense, but it didn't come without its negative aspects! If they externalized now, not only would the other three lose their support, but the stress might spiral Wei Wuyin's current precarious state into the absolute unknown.

Without any other options, the four started to fully converge their efforts in hopes that Wei Wuyin's comprehension was sufficient to grasp the Origin of All Light in less than two minutes! He needed to wake up or else...

Or else they might very well die today!!!

When the sixty seconds mark was hit, the horizon was experiencing chaotic surges of wind currents and an oppressive air. The female Realm Lord had sped up! She must've noticed Wei Wuyin was currently staying still!

They had even less time!

"YOU...CAN..." Ori struggled out some mental messages, in naive hope that Wei Wuyin could hear it. It wasn't a warning, but the sound of a supportive voice.

Before Ori could finish, Wei Wuyin's black eyes brightened with his signature silver radiance! The light of insight and profound thought flashed within those eyes of his, revealing a sign of intellectual resurgence!

"...Fascinating!" Wei Wuyin breathily exclaimed with awe and astonishment trembling within his voice. He soon felt the wetness of his grey blood leaking from his nose, eyes, and traces of saliva spewing from his lips.

Touching the warm blood, his expression changed! A trace of bewilderment flitted through his eyes as he inspected his body. He was horrified! He observed the struggling states of his heart, which had expanded and torn in thinner layers of flesh from overexertion. His dantian held two quivering Astral Cores that were filled with spider web-like cracks.

He tried to inspect Eden, but he couldn't even enter, being completely blocked from entering by some strange force. He frowned, thinking for a moment before his expression changed once more!

He turned to the horizon and felt the pressing aura pushing towards his location with a determined pace, rapid and fierce! "Her?!" Wei Wuyin exclaimed a little, feeling startled that he was discovered without warning. He hurriedly tried to use the Celestial Eyes to gaze into events of the world, but he couldn't use it!

His Celestial Eyes had deactivated somehow!

How did he not notice her before though? Despite the pressing situation, he didn't panic and remained unfathomably calm and collected. While he often planned matters too thoroughly, he would never panic

in moments of crisis. His silver eyes reflected his calm state as he contemplated for a brief moment, and without hesitation, ran!

He used his physical body and blurred with large, impactful steps as he blazed through the grey dirt lands with frightening speed! With a quick swipe of his hand, he wiped off the blood stains, interacting with his Astral Souls to see what their states were.

But he became solemn as he noticed their states were exhausted, with King suffering the most damage somehow. Its coremost innate energies were almost completely exhausted! While Eden was unable to be observed currently, Ori was heavily exhausted as well. As for Kratos, its Bloodline Source was intact, untouched, but his heart suffered heavily and even stretched out and thinned as a result.

As he saw this, his heart was rippling with unfathomable warmth and awed emotions. He wasn't an idiot, realizing what they had done to ensure his survival. Furthermore, they didn't try to break him out of his state of comprehension, which would've been too easy to do! They trusted him, believing he would finish before the female Reamlord arrived!

This level of trust was dangerous but also heartwarming to the utmost limits! He couldn't let down their faith, his eyes brimming with determination and resolve. Therefore, he exploded with further speed!

Several dozen kilometers away, the female Reamlord arrived at Wei Wuyin's previous location. She observed the crumbled mountains, spreading her spiritual sense to inspect the area. She noticed the specks of grey blood that carried a unique aura that caused her heart to tremble.

"What's this aura?" She questioned for a moment, but checked her glowing parchment soon after. She grinned, "Running? Too late." With a stomp, she blurred towards Wei Wuyin's direction!

Wei Wuyin didn't look back, but he felt her approach. "She's locking onto my aura somehow! But how?" He started to think, and with a few handseals, he was about to conjure a few clones to mislead his pursuer, but he grimaced in pain. This caused his expression to become slightly unsightly!

His spiritual energies, astral force, and various powers gave a scathing feedback, making him realize his astral souls were not just exhausted, but heavily damaged. They had pushed themselves so far so quickly, causing him to feel a little frustrated, but after realizing the gains he had obtained, he sighed with thankfulness in his heart.

He hurriedly tried other avenues, but even his bloodline abilities had no fuel to use. While his Bloodline Source was fully intact, he had no forces to activate it! He needed to use pills and elixirs to help their recovery, but in their current states, how could they externalize and rapidly digest the products?

At this rate, she would reach him in a minute or so! Considering the vast open field and her status, he didn't have the time to find a city and hijack the city-wide array! While his cultivation had risen, his power had skyrocketed, who could've guessed he would be in this type of situation?

"Fine! Then, I'll just kill her." Wei Wuyin declared to himself, stopping on the spot. He didn't like being hunted nor being passive either, so if she wanted to court death, then he would give it to her in full!

He turned around, his aura changing imperceptibly. He no longer drew upon their powers, deciding to rely on his other identity! A Mortal Sovereign Alchemist!

With a wave of his hand, two large pellets the size of baby's fist emerged in his palms. With a sharp, lethal light in his eyes, he was going to risk it all!

Just as he withdrew the ninth-grade pellets, his eyebrows rose as he inspected the pellets, and his expression twisted fiercely! They were being suppressed by some strange power emitting from the continent!

He didn't hesitate to spin around, speeding away once more! He couldn't use pellets if they were being suppressed! Maybe he could resist the force or tweak it if he was at full strength, but now? He didn't hesitate to keep his pellets and run! It seemed if he used these pellets, it wouldn't be the female Realmlord courting death but himself!

Ten or so kilometers away from Wei Wuyin, the female Realmlord finally spotted Wei Wuyin running swiftly with her spiritual sense. With a cold and sinister smile, she chuckled and explosively accelerated! In less than ten seconds, she would catch up to Wei Wuyin!

Chapter 438 - 434: A Realmlord's Determination

Wei Wuyin inwardly cursed. The suppression of ninth-grade pellets was a gross miscalculation on his part, costing him precious seconds to flee or plan. The approaching pressure of a Realmlord at his back was growing stronger and more oppressive with every breath of time. Despite that, he remained extremely calm, his mind circulating fiercely.

This wasn't the first time he'd been chased. In fact, he was chased by the Wall of Heaven, taking life and rending land, sky, and sea as it passed. He survived that; he had the utmost confidence to survive this. What was a Realmlord before the Wall of Heaven?

With the light of calculation effusing from his eyes, he continued his mad dash across the grey sandy desert. The female Realmlord at his back was fast, but the Season of Regression seemed to greatly suppress spatial force. If he was on the Myriad Monarch Continent running from Tuo Bihan, he wouldn't have gotten more than a few hundred meters before being intercepted.

There were a few benefits to this.

Wei Wuyin reminded himself that he had to be patient and mindful. A momentary slip-up was all it took. If he ended up in the female Realmlord's Worldly Domain in his current state, his life would no longer be his own. With a fierce glint in his eyes, Wei Wuyun scanned the world until he peered downwards at his feet.

His silver gaze erupted with scintillating brilliance. Without hesitation, he urged his Elemental Origin Intent, channeling his Desolate Earth Intent, and like a fish facing freshwater, he dove into the sand, piercing it and swimming through the hard earth beneath. His abrupt actions caused the female Realmlord watching to softly exclaim in surprise, before a cold smile emerged on her lips.

She exerted her astral force, warding around her like an egg shell, and without hesitation, dove into the earth via forceful means. Unlike Wei Wuyin, she didn't have Earth Intent, so she couldn't manipulate the pre-existing earth as freely, but she had immense power, so she didn't need to.

As she penetrated the earth, she kept her spiritual sense locked onto Wei Wuyin's burrowing form. Despite his Desolate Earth Intent transforming the surrounding earth soft, he still had to dig his way

through with powerful swipes, causing immense disturbances in the environment. He was extremely easy to track.

"You somehow made a fool of me once, I won't allow you to do so again." She told herself with a fierce, fiery glint within her eyes. Wei Wuyin had humiliated her, taking the spatial ring directly before her eyes. Even still, she had no idea how he was capable of eluding her Worldly Domain, taking the spatial ring from her finger.

To add, he had taken everything she earned through centuries of embezzling, extorting the various powers, accumulating as a nest egg for after she finished her job as a protectorate of the city. She would soon leave, find a young talented male expert, and fund the beginning of a clan as she produced children.

She had it all worked out, yet not only was her funds taken, but she was even interrogated for three months by the other powers suspecting her of colluding with Wei Wuyin. After all, he was merely a Soul Idol Phase expert, and he had somehow gained control of the Grandquake Array beneath their noses.

This smelled like an inside job from all angles. Even the City Lord was decisively executed due to some random evidence that appeared out of nowhere, but her strength as a Realm Lord made it extremely difficult for them to do the same. She had to swear a vicious oath and a formation was imprinted within her body as a result and was assigned with the task of hunting Wei Wuyin down. She must retrieve every piece of material lost to regain their trust.

Therefore, she used a favor to obtain this Scrying World Compass, this glowing parchment, to locate Wei Wuyin. It wasn't exactly accurate, and it needed something to fixate on to even work. For the past six months, the Scrying World Compass had been chaotic, unsure of where he was, until several minutes ago. It had suddenly pointed towards Wei Wuyin with unerring accuracy.

As for what she used to locate him? It was the wisp of his aura left behind on the City Lord's bed. She had discovered very early before the others had arrived that Wei Wuyin stayed in that area, so she investigated it and found out it had been used for hot and steamy activities. She had to delicately separate the elf's aura from Wei Wuyin's but she had found her lock.

The World Scrying Compass wasn't too reliable though. After seeing the crumbled mountain, she realized that Wei Wuyin had been sealed within a mountain filled with Desolate Power, so it restrained his aura from spreading. The moment he left, the compass discovered his location.

Of course, she would never report her findings to the others assigned to tracking him down to retrieve the spatial ring and its contents. After all, if she did and Wei Wuyin was discovered, they would find out about her activities and her situation would be even worse than right now.

She couldn't let him fall into anyone else's hands nor live to tell the tale!

Wei Wuyin winced in pain while digging, the exertion of his Elemental Origin Intent was impacting him fiercely, and the pain was like a thousand needles stabbing into the soft tissue of his brain. It was a horrific type of pain, but he had to endure it. If he delayed for a few seconds, his pursuer would catch up and a little headache would be the least of his problems.

Boosh!

Wei Wuyin dug deep enough to find a tunnel, bursting into the hollowed insides with a heavy crash. He landed in the tunnel, his silver eyes roaming for any formations, but he found none. Both relieved and frustrated, he realized this was the exact same location he entered when he was captured. The coincidental realization only lasted for a breath of time.

There were two directions, and one of them led to Ai Juling's city. His eyes flashed for a moment before he shot off in the opposite direction of that city.

A few dozen seconds later, another destructively explosive sound erupted. The female Reamlord looked around for a moment, realizing where she was. "Grey Sands Elves underground tunnels? You're thinking of escaping through here?" She sneered, using the parchment to locate his direction, spreading out her spiritual sense and noticing his footprints.

With a cold laugh, she urged her astral force and shot off even faster than before. The tunnel quivered fiercely as a response, nearly collapsing!

Wei Wuyin felt the crumbling and his heart thumped harshly for a moment. Not looking back, he sprinted faster than before. He cursed that the Grey Sands Elves had no defenses in these tunnels! How useless!

As he cursed, he sped up faster and faster, even his refined bones were creaking and making faint snapping noises. He was like a black shadow as he blurred through the tunnel at speeds that made the female Reamlord gawk in awe, feeling shock and disbelief at the sheer physical speed of Wei Wuyin.

As he traveled for a few seconds, his eyes brightened as he heard the elven language. A few soldiers were riding their lizard-like mounts while chatting in glee, a few even laughing and chuckling as the topic seemed to be quite hilarious to them.

Woosh!

Suddenly, they felt a burst of wind lift their clothes and cause their mounts to growl. The burst of wind was only for a moment, already long gone by the time they got their bearings. They asked each other questions, spreading their spiritual sense, and then they felt an incoming force from behind them. They were confused for a moment, but their mounts started to growl ferociously and scratched their claws into the ground.

They started to move without their riders permission! They started running away!!

"Too late. Insignificant insects." A cold voice resounded, sending shivers down the spines of the mounts and their riders. A mournful sound left their throats as silver force passed through their bodies. Like balloons of blood, flesh, and bones, they burst into bloody mist with bits of hardened white!

Woosh!

The female Reamlord passed them instantly, not delayed by a single millisecond.

Hearing the sound of mournful death howls behind him, Wei Wuyin didn't look back or feel sorry for those who died. He wasn't a saint nor was he above using others to survive! He needed time!

After a second or so of running, he was met with a fork in the tunnel, splitting off into two parts. He didn't stop for even a breath of time, randomly choosing the road with the most traveled footsteps.

The female Reamlord soon met this fork, inspecting the glowing parchment in her hand, looking at the left. She scowled for a moment, but shot off in hot pursuit!

"I can't lose her!" Wei Wuyin softly murmured to himself, realizing she was definitely tracking his movements. The desolate power in the tunnel made it extremely difficult to continuously send out one's spiritual sense without desolate intent infused within it. Continuous usage will drain one's spiritual energies with remarkable speeds. He felt short bursts of her sense sweep him, but never for longer than a few moments.

He hadn't felt her spiritual sense sweep by but she was definitely behind him, pursuing him like a tigress after its prey, so she must know where he went without locking onto him with her spiritual sense! She must be tracking him using some unique tool or spell!

He needed obstacles.

With another burst of forceful speed, he traveled further into the tunnel. His eyes brightened as he saw an opening far away. The entrance to a city! He didn't know what city this was or how strong its guardian was, but the formations within might delay the female Reamlord for longer than a moment!

With a horizontal leap, he shot into the entrance, startling the guards at the entrance and the elves traversing along the edge of the city. With a deep breath, he used his powerful lungs to scream out a single word: "INVASION!!!"

While he spoke in human tongue, the sound exploded like a surging tsunami throughout the city, startling the elves awake and alert!

But he didn't stop then, exploding with another leap and shot into the sky diagonally. His leap carried him to the top of the dome-like structure that held the city. With a fierce punch, he urged his Desolate Earth Intent, and dug into it.

He was just in time as the city's formations activated, sealing off the entrance and the city with various exquisite runes. If he tried to penetrate just a second before, he would've been delayed even further!

A thin film dropped down from the entrance, blocking off all new entries, and the trained elves hurriedly took to the skies with their astral forces erupting fiercely. They charged towards the various entrances, guarding against any invasion from all angles. They seemed to be practiced and swift, needing only a dozen or so seconds to react.

The female Reamlord was met with the thin film of light preventing her access. She realized Wei Wuyin's scheme and coldly snickered. "Foolish!" She shouted, flipping her palm and thrusting it forward with pulsating astral force.

BOOM!

It took less than a second for the thin film to collapse, not even earning enough time. When the female Reamlord shot into the city, she was met with a suppressive aura and force intermixed with desolate

power. It halted her movements for a moment, but her expression was extremely calm as she held a cold grin.

"REALMLORD!" The elves shrieked in horror, announcing to the world as they saw the female Realmlord use her Worldly Domain. Screams and howls of pain and terror resounded! But the bitter desire to protect their loved ones from an enemy emerged in the valiant hearts of these elven soldiers, throwing their bodies towards the female Realmlord hoping to buy time!

The city-wide formation was already circulating, taking the weak, young, and old away with flashes of light. They just needed time!

Wei Wuyin was huffing and puffing, his breathing incredibly labored as he felt extremely exhausted. The lack of active energies meant he had to rely on his innate physical energies to handle the consumption of his swift and harsh movements.

"I just need time!" Wei Wuyin repeated to himself, not looking back as he sped through another tunnel. He started to run fiercely once more!

Chapter 439 - 435: What Time Can Do

"HELP ME!"

"SHE'S TOO STRONG, HOLD THE LINE!"

"It's over...we're all going to die..."

The eruption and collapse of another city left the elves hopeless and in despair, not expecting the sudden descent of a Realmlord!

Wei Wuyin was sweating bullets, having already passed through his third city. He was frustrated by events. Not because of the fierce and vicious slaughter the female Realmlord was unleashing, but how the elves were unable to hold her back for longer than a few seconds!

In all three cities, each had a Sixth Stage Astral Core Realm cultivator overseeing matters, but they were almost instantly obliterated by the female Realmlord, and the city-wide formations did little to resist her. He now realized that the elves truly were the weaker race in this world.

He couldn't help but think of the possibility that if the high-ranking members of this world were to enter the starfield, who could resist them? They would bulldoze over everyone, and might even have means to resist the planetary formations.

If Realmlords were already this horrifying, how about Timelords? The thought sent shivers down his spine, not in fear, but with the imagery of the massive damage they could cause.

He now realized why the starfield had been subjugated by two false Realmlords, and why Tuo Bihan didn't consider them opponents. And how an entire starfield heralded the Myriad Monarch Sect as the next ruler by default, just with Tuo Bihan's presence!

Realmlords were not to be underestimated! And this was especially so for genuine Realmlords!

Wei Wuyin soon came across a larger tunnel, clearly fashioned and maintained a little better than the others. His eyes brightened! Could this lead to one of the Nine Capitals? He remembered Chu Leitao mentioning how there were nine cities that housed the main branches of the Grey Sand Elves.

These cities had to have Realmlords and powerful formations defending them! While he might be leaping out of the frying pan and into the fire, he had no choice!

With a renewed vigor, he sprinted just a tad bit faster.

A long distance behind him, an icy-cold gaze was carried by the female Realmlord in hot pursuit. There was a heavy frown on her face, clearly not expecting Wei Wuyin's insidious means and actions to use entire cities to delay her. She had to destroy half the city to shatter the formation, taking tens of thousands of lives as a result, before shooting after him.

But she couldn't go around, because she wasn't certain if he'd hide in the city! It was better to destroy all obstacles than to let that little shrimp go free. "You overestimate these insects. Even their Capitals can't stop me, fool!" But she wasn't as fierce as before.

A Realmlord did not have an unlimited reserve of astral force, and flying during the Season of Regression at maximum speed, using her refined spatial energies to produce spatial force, and bulldozing over formations and foolish elves was extremely costly. She had already used more than eighty percent of her Astral Force in her World Sea.

She didn't have permanence, so she couldn't reuse her astral force freely. This was a benefit only those at the Zenith Mortal State possessed, and she only had an 8th Mortal State Astral Soul! Those who cultivated to the Zenith Mortal State needed nearly a hundred times as many resources to cultivate and experienced far, far more difficult astral tribulations. Only the elite geniuses of an entire world would dare venture on that path.

She cursed at Wei Wuyin in her heart. As a Realmlord, her energies and astral force take a considerably long time to recover.

She growled. If they came across another city, she wouldn't be able to pursue him further! While she had a Worldly Domain, the Season of Regression made her unable to grasp and convert the ambient energies and mana for her usage, so she had to use only her own power.

She bit her lip, feeling aggrieved after entering the larger tunnel, noticing that it was more maintained than others. She knew this led to one of the Nine Capitals of a Great Elven Clan. While she didn't fear those insignificant pests, capable of crushing any overseer they had, she still knew her situation would be dire if she continued!

With a long breath, she started to form handseals and used a full ten percent of her astral force alongside the remaining bit of her spatial force, locking onto Wei Wuyin's fleeing form with her spiritual sense.

"Ha!" She executed a spell.

Wei Wuyin was running while his breathing was extremely turbid and heavy when his body felt impacted by a forceful power. He was lifted off the ground momentarily, feeling as if he was pushed upwards by an unseen hand. Then, he floated downwards.

He was startled, but kept running the moment his feet hit the ground.

"You can't escape me," the female Reamlord said with a cold glare. Then, she shot upwards and vanished into the earth.

Wei Wuyin instantly froze, stopping a few dozen meters from an exquisite gate that stood hundreds of feet high, brightened by golden light-effusing stones lining the walls. It gave the entire gate a majestic feeling of nobility. There was a single character painted at the center of this gate, and it covered roughly fifty percent of the gate.

He turned around, realizing the pressure of the female Reamlord had disappeared. With a frown, he no longer felt a sensation of deadly crisis. A tremble occurred in his legs, arms, chest, and neck. An abrupt sensation of weakness emerged throughout his body as he felt as if a mountain had been lifted from his shoulders.

Thud!

His knees heavily hit the ground, arms limp by his side and head hung weakly to the side. He had never felt so exhausted before. Every bone in his legs, even his toes, were littered with countless cracks from the level of forceful physical exertion.

After a moment, his silver eyes flashed with a violent chill. Without hesitation, he moved his weak arm to bring out a vial of elixir. He swiftly imbibed it then took out several pills. He threw those into his mouth as well.

"Five minutes. In five minutes, you're dead!" Wei Wuyin swore to himself, slowly refining the alchemical products, all of which were ninth-grade! He had never had the need to use them before, but now, he didn't hesitate!

The pills and elixir were miraculous, seemingly working together in perfect harmony as they intermixed into producing an even greater effect! Their energies funneled directly to King and Ori! As they were located in his dantian, they were the easiest to recover.

Creak!

The grand majestic gate started to be pushed open, separating into two portions. Wei Wuyin's silver eyes didn't bother looking, hurriedly trying to recover King and Ori to a proper level. The alchemical products carried energies with effects that engulfed their Astral Cores, slowly mending their cracks.

He felt a wave of excitement from them both, feeling their rapid recovery. Ninth-grade products were meant for Reamlords and those above, and even then, they might not be able to obtain them. He had just used several mutually beneficial products in unison for two Astral Cores at the Spatial Resonance Phase, so the effects could be imagined!

The opened gate soon revealed two figures. A lovely female figure alongside a tall, brawny man with a rugged beard that gave him a handsome manliness that went against typical elf appearances. The female was an elven beauty, with waist-length light brown-hair with golden highlights, a slim physique, and two proud twin peaks held dangerously in her dress.

The tall male elf was clearly older, containing the wisdom of age in his eyes, but didn't look middle-aged. They were both garbed in grey robes with lines of gold that gave them a noble feeling, and they had similar bronze-colored skin.

When Wei Wuyin saw the two, his eyes constricted for a moment. The male wasn't a normal cultivator, definitely a Realmlord or higher! He gave him a similar feeling as that young woman that was with Lin Ming at the Myriad Yore Continent.

As for the young woman, he was even more shocked by her! Her eyes were glowing with a beautiful white radiance that contained innumerable variations and permutations, alluding to her Elemental Origin Intent! She seemed to have cultivated a unique ocular spiritual spell that vested her eyes with Elemental Origin Power!

Could she be?

Was she a Chosen Candidate?!

His heart throbbed fiercely, not expecting to meet one of them, and it was even an elf! He felt that the Divine King Han Xei might be a prejudiced bigot, preferring humans over elves, demons, and beasts. But then, since elves were present on the continent, that might not be the case.

Even the Elemental Heaven Pavilion was the hub of human cultivators, so he didn't know what to think.

The bearded man walked forward alongside the young woman. He spoke in elf language, "It seems she left." His eyes glanced upwards, ignoring Wei Wuyin.

The young woman nodded, "She had rampaged through three cities. She must be low on astral force."

"Guess she's not that stupid," the bearded man laughed in faint amusement.

The young woman frowned. "You're not going to track her down?" Her voice contained a little dissatisfaction.

The bearded man shook his head, a glimmer of helplessness in his eyes. "You know about the Season of Regression. The greater one's cultivation, the greater the restraining effect. While I could injure her during this time, she could take me down with her. As for killing her without that sacrifice? It'll be possible during the Season of Devils, but not now."

The young woman pouted for a moment, but didn't say more on the topic. She soon turned to Wei Wuyin, seeing his haggard appearance marred by sweat and blood leaking from his nose. Even his eyes were bloodshot and veiny, clearly an indication of overexertion of his innate energies.

The bearded man rubbed his ruggish beard, "This Ganshu is only at the Spatial Resonance Phase. She seemed to have been chasing him. Quite impressive, and...ruthless!"

Wei Wuyin didn't say a single word nor reacted to the man's killing intent-filled tone, clearly pointing out his actions were extremely ruthless to lure the female Realmlord through multiple cities. Wei Wuyin didn't understand what the bearded elf was saying, merely his intent was understood.

He knew his life was hanging on the whim of these two.

Right now, he just had to focus on recovery.

The bearded man seemed to realize that Wei Wuyin didn't understand them. He sighed, switching to the common language. His tone was rather uncomfortable as he spoke, clearly revealing his unfamiliarity with using the language. "Why shouldn't I kill you?"

Wei Wuyin stared at the man for a long moment, turning to the young woman with a strained movement of his neck. He didn't answer. If they were going to act against him, nothing he said will convince them otherwise, and answering might trigger them to act sooner.

The young woman frowned, tracing her white gaze across Wei Wuyin's dirty face that was still extremely handsome. "You were chased by a Realmlord of your race, why?" The young woman asked curiously.

This was what Wei Wuyin wanted! If they asked questions, then he could delay! "...stole...something..." Every word he said was purposefully strained, making every word last a little longer. If they wanted answers to their questions, they must delay any action against him!

The bearded man settled his internal astral force, holding back from obliterating Wei Wuyin. He was truly about to turn Wei Wuyin into dust, not caring about his background or reasons, only the deaths of the elves he caused. It was only because the young woman asked a question that he decided to delay doing so. To him, what did it matter if he acted now or in a few minutes?

The young woman was clearly curious, "What did you steal?"

Wei Wuyin gulped loudly, clearly showing he was having difficulty speaking due to his injuries. But when he noticed they didn't intend to offer him any recuperative products or support, he knew in their minds that he was already marked for death. After all, why waste resources or energy on a dead man?

"...I...too...took...spell." Wei Wuyin didn't lie. The spatial ring contained a few special spells, so he did steal it. He knew these two would definitely have ways to determine if he was lying, and he was right.

The young woman glanced at the bearded man, her eyes brightened. A spell that could urge a Realmlord to hunt down a Spatial Resonance Phase cultivator through three elven cities? It must be heaven-defying!

A light of greed flashed through her pretty white eyes, and even the bearded man roughly rubbed his beard in curiosity.

Wei Wuyin knew that if they could read his mind, they would unhesitatingly do so, taking his life directly after. He bitterly smiled, but he just needed a few more minutes!

Chapter 440 - 436: Ninety-Six Seconds

"What's the spell?" The young woman asked with an invigorated spirit. She faintly had the desire to steal Wei Wuyin's spatial ring, and she intended to claim it later, but if he trusted them and decided to give them the spell, then that would be far more reliable. If he had memorized the spell, disposing of the spell's details, wouldn't she be foolish?

She considered herself intelligent and patient, even the bearded man couldn't help but subtly nod at her approach. It was a usual practice by thieves to destroy the evidence of their thefts, especially recorded

documents. Wei Wuyin could've done so, keeping the spell's finer details firmly in his mind as a life-saving card as well if captured.

Wei Wuyin could clearly see the fires of greed ignited in the young woman's eyes. She wanted this so-called Spiritual Spell that was enough for a Realmlord to topple three elven cities, chase a lower-phased expert through the continent, and kill mercilessly for. How incredible must this be? Too bad it didn't exist.

He purposely droned out a heavy exhale, revealing a weak and pitiable appearance. Even the light in his eyes were dimming, a clear indication that his consciousness was becoming unsteadily chaotic.

But the two were completely without any compassion, the young woman urged Wei Wuyin. "Tell us. If you do, I'll help you." The young woman bargained, the sincerity in her voice was real.

If Wei Wuyin used a sensory technique to perceive flaws in tone, he would certainly be fooled by her words. After all, she only included herself in those words. Likely, she intended to help Wei Wuyin earnestly, or help him to end his current suffering with a quick death, but the former still left the bearded man's intentions in the air.

If he decided to act, she wouldn't be lying.

Wei Wuyin licked his lips, leaning forward as his head dipped slightly in weakness.

"It's useless. Don't waste your good intentions. It seems he doesn't want to share, so we might as well end his miserable life," the bearded man coldly said, his voice leaking his killing intent.

"No, it's not. If he could survive a Realmlord's pursuit, then he has value. I'll help him." The young woman argued with a passionate voice, her pretty eyes quite bewitching to look at.

"Fine. If he reveals the details of this so-called spell, if its genuine, then I'll see his value." The bearded man harrumphed with dissatisfaction, showing his reluctance but willingness to accede to the young woman's whims.

Wei Wuyin wanted to laugh at this attempt at a play, clearly as false and cheap as a prostitute's affection. Only a fool would believe this and Wei Wuyin never considered himself as a fool. He merely leaned forward, coughed heavily a few times, and desperately outstretched a single finger.

"Sp...spell..." He slowly exhaled this word, using his outstretched finger to pierce the ground with some strength. He slowly dragged his finger across the ground, starting to form a spiritual formation. The formation was quite exquisite and gorgeous in appearance, forming a unique structure filled with miraculous symbols and mystical runic marks. The greatest feature was its symmetrical design.

The two's interest was instantly piqued by Wei Wuyin's actions. Spiritual Spells were far different than arts, and a few of them required unique spiritual formations to be constructed before being executed. These spells were extremely powerful, but their formations were often unseen when used.

This made it extremely difficult for others to copy or construct spells of a similar or exact nature. It was similar to the circulation of certain arts hidden by the body's meridians and flow of energies. Therefore, when Wei Wuyin was inscribing the blueprint of a Spiritual Spell on the floor, they were thoroughly invested.

This was actually the design of the Eye of Immortality, altered by a little. It still contained its exceptional beauty and fascinating profundities, simply being unable to cultivate without the appropriate method of the Celestial Eyes of Spiritual Divinity.

The young woman looked at the design, shape, and the lines that formed the spell and her white eyes radiated a brilliant light. "It's an ocular spell!" She exclaimed, causing Wei Wuyin to pause his finger as he lifted his head, giving this young woman another look.

Her intelligence was quite high, swiftly determining the purpose of the Eye of Immortality so quickly.

The bearded man's hands crossed over his chest, peering down at the spell formation's incomplete form. After a brief inspection, he revealed an uncertain expression. It was clear he wasn't able to determine that despite his years and vast cultivation base.

The young woman urged, "Continue. This spell isn't simple. It seems to revolve around a unique concept. I can't pinpoint it, but it has qualities similar to the Everlasting Spirit of Nine Flames Spell." She was too excited, explaining her thoughts to the bearded man without consideration that Wei Wuyin might leak this information.

The bearded man looked at the spell again, and his eyes brightened with realization. "You're right!" He was fascinated by the vague similarities.

This exchange shook Wei Wuyin. A technique with similarities to the Eye of Immortality? He wanted to know more. Since his cultivation of the Celestial Eyes of Spiritual Divinity, he hadn't discovered the purposes of the Eye of Immortality. If there was a spell with similarities, it could excavate the secrets within.

He wanted the spell.

"Continue, Ganshu!" The bearded man saw Wei Wuyin pause for too long, feeling impatient. He wanted to return to the city, not idle at this entrance. The only reason he was here was because of the alerts of a Realm Lord rampaging towards the Capital City, so he was tasked with protecting the entrance.

Wei Wuyin coughed a few times, hacking out a lung, his hands trembling with weakness. While he displayed this outward appearance, Ori and King had already recovered by thirty percent. He faintly smiled. He thought it would take four or so minutes, but it seemed there was less time needed.

"Back! Back! Back!" The joyous voice of that mischievous soul resounded in Wei Wuyin's mind, bringing him incredible relief.

"Tch!" King merely uttered this, but it contained emotions of happiness. King was clearly relieved that Wei Wuyin had awakened at the right time. But it also conveyed its thoughts: "You better have benefited from our sacrifice."

Wei Wuyin bitterly smiled, slowly etching another portion of the Eye of Immortality on the ground. When he recalled his gains, he was truly and undoubtedly excited. He hadn't expected the Refraction World-Light Elixir's transcendent-quality to reveal to him a door to comprehend an aspect of cultivation that he hadn't believed to have existed!

He had an inclination of its effects, after all he had concocted it, he similarly had the ocular abilities of the Alchemic Dao, the Alchemic Stars of Mortal Spirituality. After being granted these stars imprinted within his eyes, he could roughly determine the effects of any product. He knew the transcendent-quality version would give him an opportunity regarding light, but he didn't know what or the requirements to comprehend it.

When he touched upon it, King and Kratos had questioned him why take the risk, but they didn't see what he had, feel what he did. They knew he would comprehend something, just didn't expect it would require so much mental energy to facilitate his comprehension.

It nearly collapsed his Sea of Consciousness!

But now that the two were awake, he no longer needed to take action himself. The two started to revolve by themselves, swiftly devouring the remaining medicinal energies with unfathomable speeds. In a few seconds, they had completely absorbed the alchemical products, returning themselves to a full and complete state.

The remnant energies were sent to Eden and Kratos, their innate connection allowing swift funneling. In a few more seconds, he felt a tremble from his mind and his heart. His grey heart that was three times the size of a normal human heart started to mend, turning the stretched and thin layer into a firmer, full layer of flesh.

These were several ninth-grade recovery products! They worked in unison to produce a greater effect, so it was more than enough to have all four recover swiftly. With their unsurpassed refinement speed, no longer needing his own slow conversion and circulation, they recovered completely!

"Ninety-six seconds..." Wei Wuyin exhaled out.

"Hm?" The bearded man frowned, looking at Wei Wuyin with curiosity. Ninety-six seconds?

Wei Wuyin trembled slightly, standing up weakly on his own two feet. Seeing his tottering form, the two were briefly startled. The young woman was concerned, "Continue!" The spell formation was only half-way completed, and her anxiety got the better of her. It was exquisite and profound, making her want to know more.

But the bearded man felt an uneasiness in his heart, unsure why the weak and nearly dead human at the Spatial Resonance Phase was giving him such a feeling. It was faintly dreadful, even his heart rate was increasing slightly. Although he knew Wei Wuyin wasn't a threat in his current state, he couldn't shake it off.

Wei Wuyin coughed, spewing out some turbid and congested blood. After that, he felt a little better. He turned to the two, clasped his hands, and said without an ounce of weakness: "I should thank you. Your greed, curiosity, and manipulation tactics allowed me to survive, so thanks."

"...!" The two elf were startled, shocked by Wei Wuyin's abrupt change. His demeanor went from a weakened and pitiful peasant to a grand expert, holding untold power and authority. The shift was extremely vast!

Then, Wei Wuyin interacted with the Mark of Eden. The mark gushed out strands of life force that were quickly refined, integrating with his bones, cells, and flesh. In a blink of an eye, the innumerable cracks and damaged flesh surrounding his legs were healed.

"I have to kill someone. Apologies, but I'll be back." Wei Wuyin said, his body faintly glowed with grey light.

BOOSH!

A launching explosion erupted, sending Wei Wuyin shot upwards with tremendous force. He fully utilized the Zenith Origin State, shattering the restraints on the ambient mana, using it to complement his movements. He was extremely, unfathomably fast, and vanished before the two could even react!

The two wore blank expressions, unsure of what just happened.