

Chapter 631 - 626: Archaic Chosen, Three Factions

Since the Everlore Starfield had shattered, its inhabitants relocated to the Aeternal Sky Starfield, a total of nine months had passed. The various events that had transpired during this period laid the foundation of an incoming quake that will soon shake the entire world. The most notable, the lynchpin, was the events happening on a large-sized gorgeous planet tainted by nine radiant colors.

If looked at from afar, the emissions of its brilliance could have made one mistake it as a Solar Star. If it wasn't for the intensity of this radiance being like a simmering heat, not an explosive flare, very few could guess its actual identity. This particular planet was named Origin.

Ruled by the True Element Sect, the Elementus Domain was the eighth largest Domain of the sixteen existing Domains, and the smallest amongst the three World Sects. Within it, there were numerous planets yet the True Element Sect only owned and operated in a single planet, Origin.

The rest of the space, even the lunar satellites, were either sold off to the Golden Life Pavilion early on to sustain the growth of their talents and cultivation, or bestowed as part of the agreement to the special existences in its territory. The True Element Sect's situation was not optimistic, and just from their act of selling their greatest trial grounds, the Devil War Realm, otherwise known as the Four Extreme Continent, it was clear that they were in desperate straits.

Despite that, they remained an unmovable existence since they possessed Han Yahui, cousin of the Nine-Elementus Divine King Han Xei, and an Earthly Saint, a genuine fifth stage expert of the Mystic Ascendant Realm. With the Tian Clan's oath standing, no other force wanted to deal with the consequences of an annex attempt, fighting those parasitic leeches alongside Han Yuhei.

As for the True Element Sect, while its upper-tier powerhouses were unshakeable, their lifespans far too great to see an immediate decline, their younger generation was clearly suffering from the continuously declining performance in the King of Everlore's Chosen King Competition.

The decline was most evident in this generation, a result of their severe lack of resources and foundational strength. While their cultivation methods were top-tier, their spells and arts similarly high-leveled, the sturdiness of one's cultivation foundation was fundamentally important to a cultivator's strength, especially when competing against those of equal cultivation.

They lacked the means to purchase high-grade alchemical products from the Everlore Association, personalized armaments forged by the Godforge Association, or raw resources to cultivate the three-types of Creationist—Forgers, Architects, and Alchemists—from the Golden Life Pavilion. The latter of which required an absurd amount of resources for failure and successes.

Their financial crisis was clear for all to see.

Despite this, the internal circumstances within the True Element Sect were continuously complex, interwoven in relationships and selfish desires that stunted its growth. This stemmed from the basis of the True Element Sect's structure, the existence of the three factions.

Excluding the Lin Clan, the figurehead of the True Element Sect, there was the first faction: the Elementus Faction. This faction was headed by the Nine-Elementus Divine King and Han Yuhei, the Guardian of the Elements, the strongest faction within the True Element Sect. At least, on the surface.

The second faction belonged to the special existences from outside, those clans and forces that had fought and defeated the True Element Sect, forcing the Lin Clan into their nominal leadership with zero actual power to sustain their oath with the Imperial Clan. They integrated themselves within, and while they weren't the strongest with their powerhouses, they had the greatest potential due to their resources and talents. They were named the True Origin Faction.

The third faction was the weakest faction, yet they existed with the sole goal of upending this status quo. They were formed from the defeated and scattered remnants of the Jade Element Sect, those clans and sect leaders that had integrated with the Jade Element Sect during its formation prior to its renaming.

The third faction's origins were the oldest amongst the factions, and could, in some ways, be considered the rightful rulers of the True Element Sect. They were named the Shattering Element Faction. Their former glory, however, had collapsed beneath their continuous attempts to sever their relations with the True Origin Faction's influence, to regain their autonomy.

Despite this purpose, they were overly complex because they didn't outright support the Lin Clan. In fact, they wanted nothing more than for the Lin Clan to be removed as nominal leaders. After their poor decisions that led to their current circumstance, not a single one of them trusted their bloodline to lead. They were fierce in any action of going directly against the Lin Clan, even plotting against them.

The Lin Clan was small in numbers in comparison to the rest of the sect, and their overall strength was relatively pathetic. If it wasn't for the Bai Clan's intimate relationship with Han Yuhei, and the Lin Clan's relationship with the Bai Clan, they would've been relegated to Qi Condensation Cultivators forced to stay on the planet, having no real means to fight against their oppressors forever.

This complex network of relationships and factions caused the internal infrastructure of the True Element Sect to be an even greater mess, thrashed by competition and rife with schemes.

On Origin, the sole planet of the True Element Sect, there was an opulent white and gold palace that floated mid-air. It was beneath the Sky Layer, just levitating by itself, lonely and somewhat desolate looking. This palace was named the True Element Palace, the "main" palace that housed the Lin Clan.

The current planet was currently in a rumbling commotion. A few months ago, just three in fact, the entire planet and sect had been made aware of the existence of a Chosen that had completed the Devil War Realm's Elementus Chosen Trial. This startled the entire planet, especially those special existences.

Those special existences were well-aware that the trial was set-up by the Nine-Elementus Divine King Han Xei with the King of Everlore's support. The contents of the Elementus Cache had even been leaked a year ago by an Ascended, creating a startling rush of fervor. But after the Golden Life Pavilion had bought it, they no longer had the right to send their geniuses in.

They were filled with boundless regret. While most knew the trial was established by the combined efforts of the Nine-Elementus Divine King Han Xei and the King of Everlore, they were unaware of the

exact rewards. They only knew of it as a cultivation ground. Furthermore, the trial was outdated by several thousand years, almost forgotten by all except the desperate Lin Clan.

This discovery brought many questions, the most notable question: Was this Chosen legitimate?

The standards of the old had been elevated from thousands of years ago. This was a fact, so did this Chosen truly have the capabilities, the right, to become a Chosen of their sect? After all, the True Element Sect had a rule of three, like most forces, of selecting three Chosen amongst them.

The reason for this seemingly arbitrary decision and limit originated from the King of Everlore and his Chosen King Competition. There was a limit of three entry spots to every force that had an Earthly Saint. Lesser forces had less spots, such as Gold-tier forces, those led by Mystic Star Phase Cultivators, the highly debatable Tenth Stage of the Astral Core Realm or First Stage of the Mystic Ascendant. These types of forces had only two.

While forces beneath that, those labeled as Silver-tier, with Starlords as their leaders, were given a single spot. Those beneath this level didn't have qualifications to obtain a spot. Fortunately, Chosens weren't strictly for established forces. Any Starlord or higher, such as those Independent, can cultivate their own personal disciples to participate as long as they passed the preliminary test of the Everlore Association.

This test wasn't for the disciple but the master. They tested wealth, foundation, and strength. If they can justify their right to nurture a Chosen level disciple, they can send them in. However, these independent cultivators would only receive a single spot, even if they were genuine Ascended.

The vast majority of individuals accepted this, as freely allowing an unlimited amount of Chosen might divide the resources and focus of a talented individual onto others, promoting nepotism. While nepotistic practices still existed, the rewards for the competition was sufficient enough for most forces to disregard family, focusing on true talents.

With the question of this Chosen's legitimacy being called into question, an epic debate was waged. There was a side that believed that, since the King of Everlore himself had played a part in this Chosen being awarded his title, then his status should be legitimate. These individuals didn't care about the Nine-Elementus Divine King, who hadn't been seen in over a thousand years. There were even some who believed he was dead, unable to ascertain his whereabouts even from the Golden Gate Pavilion.

Another side refused to accept it. Simply because it wasn't correct to have his status determined by outdated standards, especially with their limited resources and spots. The Chosen King Competition was too vital to the sect. Just the rewards for a sufficient showing was enough to sustain them for a while. They couldn't risk losing that portion out of a sense of respect.

This was a difficult point to argue, causing the expressions of many to become unsightly for several minutes.

The third side, however, said that the reward in the Elementus Cache should be distributed to the other Chosen and their subordinates. After all, the concept of a Chosen wasn't just based on their individual

strength, but their forces. They actually didn't care about Lin Ming, just the resources and alchemical products he held.

The leaked list was utterly absurd. There were even dozens of ninth-grade alchemical products within. They were hysterical. It was fortunate they didn't assault Lin Ming and steal the ring directly, not that others didn't wish to. But the Saintess, an individual that has the Guardian of the Elements protection, wasn't something these selfish people wanted to face.

While the Shattering Element Faction had underhandedly acted, attempting to kill Lin Xianxei with a borrowed knife, causing her to eventually meet Lin Ming, they wouldn't dare act in the Aeternal Sky Starfield after that failed attempt with Han Yuhei present.

However, this last side had collapsed after hearing that Lin Ming, this Archaic Chosen, didn't possess the Elementus Cache and that his badge that should've granted access to the Devil War Domain had been rendered useless, especially when individuals remembered their deal with the Golden Life Pavilion to regain the right of usage if an individual passed, almost everyone shouted disagreements. It was the Golden Life Pavilion's guarantee of returning their treasured realm that Lin Xianxei, their Saintess, left to act as an Overseer.

It was also why Bai Yuxi, the granddaughter of Han Yuhei, was sent after they lost contact with Lin Xianxei and lacked an Overseer according to the Golden Life Pavilion.

Furthermore, the Devil War Realm was extremely beneficial after the Golden Life Pavilion elevated certain aspects of it, so Lin Xianxei and Bai Yuxi's cultivation wouldn't suffer and they'll get free resources and an incredible environment.

But upon learning this absence of the Elementus Cache, all three sides echoed their disagreements with accepting this Archaic Chosen! An unprecedented moment of unity resounded. Even the factions were shocked, but greed and benefits were obviously trigger points of fueled feelings, be it rage or unity.

Eventually, Han Yuhei had to intervene after someone had believed that Lin Ming was lying through his teeth, trying to keep the Elementus Cache for himself, acting with an overly aggressive stance. Lin Xianxei stepped up to protect Lin Ming at that moment. That terrifying figure was unaffected by this show, acting against them and trying to snatch Lin Ming away, but was stopped and subsequently punished with imprisonment by Han Yuhei.

After taking action, he had to settle this before the situation spiraled further out of control. Thus, he gave Lin Ming the choice of either leaving, foregoing his right as a Chosen or participating in the Three Chosen Aspects Tribulation, a measurement for pre-existing Chosen to renew their status, reaffirming their right as one after a period of time.

Inevitably, Lin Ming agreed.

No one cared about Lin Ming at this point. But the question remained, which faction will he join if he passed? The reason why this was even a question was that every Chosen must be tethered to one of the three factions, while none of the spots have been locked yet, with the Chosen King Competition being decades away, this Archaic Chosen would still have to join one of the three factions to earn his spot or challenge a pre-existing one.

Yet, what was more important was his status as a Chosen being legitimized. It granted him the support, no matter how limited, of the True Element Sect to develop his faction to compete with the other Chosen. The faction he joined would determine what level of support he would have. Without the Elementus Cache, many speculated the low possibility of him running as an Independent, challenging for a spot with his own power. It had been done before.

This caused a few individuals to be intrigued. Was this figure that passed the Chosen Trial outstanding or trash? The curiosity filled the coliseum for Lin Ming's trial, with the contents of it being broadcasted to the entire planet. It was his time to prove his right as a Chosen.

Outside of a room within the True Element Palace, an elegant figure stood beside the door. Within this room was the reason for the hubbub of the entire planet, Lin Ming, the Archaic Chosen.

"It's time..." Lin Xianxei stated solemnly.

Chapter 632 - 627: Archaic Chosen, Renewed & Determined

"It's time." Lin Xianxei's verbal cadence was slow, solemn, and heavy, emphasizing her state of mind. This single day would define the future of their Lin Clan, and certainly the future of Lin Ming himself. While the True Element Sect was struggling, it was not a force to be underestimated, and there were many things Lin Ming could obtain from its support.

Furthermore, for him, other alternatives were unfavorable. If he failed to prove himself today, grasp the title of Chosen with his own two hands, his life and potential might forever be limited. He wouldn't pass the basic requirement to become his disciple. However, she believed in Lin Ming. She had to. This left her heart in turmoil, unable to do much besides stand by him.

Her heart was further stirred by the Golden Gate Pavilion's Grand Seer's words. She was well-aware of Lin Ming's developing feelings and intentions towards her, and even she had felt uncertain feelings towards him in her heart, but those words were like an echo.

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"You should not want to find this man. He is everything you seek, foolish girl. All your dreams turned into reality, aspirations fulfilled, and even your future will be abundantly rich in happiness as long as you're with him; there is nothing you can't achieve. But...

"But the man before you will suffer from his astonishing brilliance. And if you side with the False Chosen, your dreams will be like ash in your mouth, your aspirations will shatter in the most destructive way, and your future will be led down a bleak and uncertain path."

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Lin Xianxei's hands clenched into a tightly-formed fist and her eyes flickered. While she was aware that the Grand Seer had ill-intentions when she spoke, there was a stabbing feeling in her heart that provoked the unquenchable question of: What if...

She wasn't ignorant of Wei Wuyin's existence either. During the course of her stay in the Everlore Starfield, she had followed his feats and further delved into his personal history.

When she was on the Myriad Yore Continent, just before they left the continent, she felt a pair of eyes observing her. She had been injured at the time, still recovering, so her concealment spell wasn't completely established. She felt her true self was seen, and she recalled those radiant silver eyes and otherworldly visage. A man that was finer than most, with a disposition that was impeccably irreproachable.

She had observed all the events surrounding him during the gathering of the Myriad Yore Continent's talents, from his conflict with that Long Chen character, his interactions with the several women by that person's side, and how dashing heroic he was when facing foes and handling his matters.

When facing Wu Jiao, a cultivator within the Astral Core Realm, he was fearless and even acted directly, claiming the arm of an expert beyond his realm and sending him fearfully away. At the time, she didn't consider it much of a feat. After all, Wu Jiao could be considered an incredibly weak Astral Core Realm cultivator.

But it didn't stop there; his ascension was unstoppable as he proved himself an outstanding alchemist, leader, and navigator of political affairs. He had, in just a few years, become renowned as having incredible influence over his sect, commanding the utmost level of respect, and admired by even the developing youths, utterly idolized. While he didn't display outstanding combat prowess during this time, he displayed exceptional cultivation talent, comprehending Elemental Origin Intent, progressing deeply as an Alchemist, and breaking into the Soul Idol Phase before fifty.

He was then heralded as an era-defining character. While she never believed his future would eclipse Lin Ming's, believing that Wei Wuyin was lacking in comparison, those words from the Grand Seer called into question her resolve on this belief. The entire Starfield was renamed in his honor, and he had only been active in the starfield for less than a decade.

This accomplishment was absolutely astonishing, unable to be refuted away with any argument. Furthermore, he wasn't an independent character, having numerous capable followers and subordinates. There were numerous members of the Ascendants that she had observed quietly while awaiting for Lin Ming's results from the trial. Every last one of them was outstanding, especially the women in the faction. They were talented, innately gifted, and breathtakingly beautiful. They were making leaps and bounds in their cultivation efforts in merely a few years.

It was unbelievable for such a barren starfield.

If it wasn't for the Tiangou's arrival, the starfield surely would've been taken over by the Myriad Monarch Sect and the Ascendants.

To terrifyingly add, she learned that not only did Wei Wuyin qualify as a Chosen by special exemption, comprehending the legendary and terrifying Element Heart Intent, but he had snatched the Elementus Cache from Lin Ming, proving his superiority over him, not once, but twice. While Lin Ming and Bai Yuxi's accounts that Wei Wuyin used self-harming methods to claim victory, she was skeptical.

What caused her much turmoil was a single question: Was the Grand Seer right?

Was she?

She slightly bit her lower lip tensely.

Creak!

The door that housed her hope slowly opened. A gushing surge of worldly air expelled from it, sending her hair fluttering about. Her eyes widened as she turned to see the strapping young man with grey eyes, dashing handsome looks, and an unfathomable glint within his eyes.

Lin Ming exited his room, his breathing steady, his back upright and stable as if it could carry the sky, weather any storm, and his aura was firm and steady. Lin Xianxei felt her heart had unnaturally sped up a little, feeling slightly overwhelmed.

Lin Ming looked at her, a confident smile plastered on his face. "Senior Sister Lin, let's go."

Lin Xianxei's eyes brightened. Lin Ming's current state was evidence of his control with his Domain Seed and Worldly Domain. That air of worldly air was the same feeling a cultivator would have facing a Realmlord. It suffused into space, affected the spirit, and infected the mind.

Her confidence was renewed, and her emotions and thoughts towards the Grand Seer and Wei Wuyin were pushed to the depths of her heart, buried and locked away. Her heart was defiant, and she would never allow a Grand Seer to dictate her fate. Even if she met Wei Wuyin, even if he was outstanding beyond comprehension, this man before her was who she believed in, who she was betting everything on.

Whatever struggles they faced, she made her choice; she would live with her choice. He had forged his Domain Seed before the Seventh Stage of the Astral Core Realm, the Realm World Phase, and could be considered invincible and an unprecedented marvel amongst his cultivation. When this fact was revealed to the world, those sly and despicable fogies would have to accept his potential.

She, however, hastily reminded Lin Ming: "This is your moment. Don't grow careless."

Lin Ming slightly started for a moment, the confidence in his eyes reined in, and he grew a little more serious. "I understand; I won't be careless." Lin Ming assured her heavily. He knew how important this event was, it was a time to prove himself before a greater world.

With a satisfied nod, Lin Xianxei walked through the hall, heading towards the exit. Lin Ming deeply inhaled and slowly exhaled, dispersing all the tension and ill-thoughts within his mind.

Memories of his past floated to the forefront of his thoughts. When he was young, he was poor, unruly, and self-destructive. He fought with all sorts of people, from gangs to the local authority. There was always a gnawing sense of absence in his heart, a lack of a purpose or goal. Cultivation was difficult, and it was the only thing that brought him solace, yet his background was non-existent, so his path was seemingly destined to be uneventful and short.

Therefore, he was unable to get the treatment, methods, arts, and spells of those more fortunate. He hated them, despised their luck and fortune. This all changed on a single day. A young girl that he befriended, a gentle soul with a kind heart, was abused by a local young master. He used his authority, family, and strength to take advantage of her.

When he learned of this, he, who was already a violent individual, went ballistic. Without care for his own well-being, he challenged that young master, goading him into accepting a fight. He had ferociously fought, trying to give a life for a life, but he could only use his teeth to rip off the other party's left ear.

With a mouth of blood and reddened eyes of madness, those who followed the young master were stunned, frozen by such a display of animalistic behavior. Using this opportunity, he stomped on the blood-curdling screaming young master's neck with all his might, directly killing him.

With that, he roared, causing the others to retreat. He left in haste, but he was chased down. He heard an unfamiliar voice, the voice of his Senior Sister Lin, to take certain directions and he was capable of avoiding their pursuit, escaping and arriving at the Myriad Dao Palace in Golden Milk City.

His journey towards cultivating, gaining strength, and finding purpose was ignited. His entirety changed, as he pursued the peak of cultivation and to help his Senior Sister Lin's ambitions. She saved his life, and he wanted to repay her with his.

And this was the moment where he'll be able to prove himself worthy of fulfilling her ambitions, the accumulation of all his efforts bearing fruit.

Lin Ming followed after her with a focused gaze.

The coliseum set to house the Three Chosen Aspects Tribulation was utterly massive, seating roughly ten million individuals, all of which were reserved for those with some influence.

Lin Ming and Lin Xianxue were riding a white-colored Skyship, a vehicle designed like a slimmer, longer-version of a standard sailboat, but there were large wing-like structures sticking out of its hull. The wings were energy-based constructs, not metallic, and they were animated in their movements. They flapped like realistic bird wings, propelling the Skyship through the world.

It was a majestically exquisite sight to behold.

The two flew towards the coliseum, looking ahead with calm expressions while standing side-by-side. The Saintess of the True Element Sect and the Archaic Chosen, the two may very well define the future of the True Element Sect.

The three factions would surely be avidly watching with interest, wanting to see how these two will perform. The two soon arrived at the coliseum, expecting a low-rumbling verbal commotion and discussions to ensue. Instead, they looked upon the massive platform at the center stage and the cavea was...

Empty?

Chapter 633 - 628: Archaic Chosen, No Audience

"..." The two looked at each other, confusion evident within their expressions. Were they late? Did they get the wrong time?

However, when their ship entered the airspace of the coliseum, they were hailed by a middle-aged man with a bun standing on the platform, his eyes betraying his annoyance. The middle-aged man was a Timelord, an existence that could establish their own legitimate force within the Aeternal Sky Starfield. Despite the vast disparity between truly top-tier powerhouses, his strength couldn't be underestimated.

With a swish, he soared upwards and met their ship. With noticeable haste in his tone, he urged: "Let's hurry and complete this tribulation."

Lin Xianxei's trimmed brows furrowed, "Why the rush, Timelord Duhan?" The rushing tone did not go unnoticed. She added, "there's no one here yet, not even the various elders to oversee the tribulation."

Timelord Duhan gave the Saintess a look, a little frustration in his eyes, there wasn't much respect either. But he answered nevertheless, "There will be no one else arriving today. I'll be conducting the Three Chosen Aspects Tribulation today, and I've been given that authority by Guardian Han. If you have any objections or concerns, you can forfeit your right to enter or bring it up to Guardian Han later." He brought out a white-colored token that had the nine-colored character for 'Guardian' on it.

Lin Xianxei and Lin Ming were taken aback. No one was coming? The elders aren't presiding over this event?! What the hell?!

"Where did they go? Why isn't anyone here? This is the Three Chosen Aspects Tribulation and will determine the status of Lin Ming as an officiated Chosen of our sect, a figure that can contest for the right to enter the Chosen King Competition. Do they take this lightly?" Lin Xianxei questioned. As she continued, her tone turned more and more dissatisfied and severe.

But Timelord Duhan was unaffected, he shruggingly said: "Not even your Sect Leader will be here, let alone anyone else. As for why they left, it's simple: The Golden Life Pavilion has just made an announcement regarding a new product they'll be releasing in the upcoming years. There's a product demonstration as well including a first-time auction, so everyone's there."

"..." The two Lin's were startled. Product demonstration? First-time auction? Golden Life Pavilion? The True Element Sect was mostly poor, so while it was somewhat reasonable for those special existences to participate, why would it urge everyone else to go? And couldn't they just send representatives, did they have to go themselves?!

Lin Xianxei was quick witted, so she immediately realized that this new product exceeded the importance of the Three Chosen Aspects Tribulation. She calmed herself down, asking: "What's the product?"

Timelord Duhan's eyes lit with excitement from that question, clearly energized at this topic. "No one knows the name or what it does, but the Golden Life Pavilion's Third Manager, Ma Zheng, has announced that it'll redefine the standards of cultivation! This was something he absolutely guaranteed! Furthermore, Alchemic Sovereign Ma Leihan had similarly bet his reputation on this matter."

"...Then, why did everyone leave? Couldn't they learn about it after?" Lin Ming grew confused.

Timelord Duhan gave Lin Ming a fleeting glance, seemingly dissatisfied with his ignorance. He didn't even feel like explaining, just saying: "Will you forfeit the tribulation or proceed? I don't have time to dilly-dally." Clearly, this figure that could establish a force with his own strength was unwilling to be here. From the twists of his lips to his lazy gaze, he revealed his disinterest.

Lin Ming frowned, rage simmering within his heart like molten water. He felt an urge to explode. This Timelord was treating him like a burden and a hassle, how humiliating was this?

"We're ready," Lin Xianxei directly stated. Timelord Duhan nodded, flying back to the platform and standing on it. The absence of a lively atmosphere gave the air a chilling, desolate feeling. The avid and energetic discussions, speculations, and guesses that should've been had was non-existent.

There was no peanut gallery. No individual to underestimate or speak ensured words to be humiliated after being proven wrong. In simple terms, there were no faces to slap and people to prove wrong.

Lin Ming was left to participate with just two audience members: Timelord Duhan and Lin Xianxei.

The Three Chosen Aspects Tribulation wasn't a trial, but a means to renew the trust of one's Chosen status to the world. This meant, by definition, a cultivator has already proven themselves to be Chosen material already, being legitimate. Due to this, the tribulation itself was divided into three: Human Tribulation, Spirit Tribulation, & War Tribulation.

The Human Tribulation was relatively simple. It involved measuring a Chosen's comparison to others. If someone of similar age within the crowd questioned their qualifications, they will challenge them in a contest. A Chosen should always be amongst the greatest in their age group, so this type of tribulation was often easy to overcome.

After all, the figure had been Chosen for a while, and received the support from the entire sect. If another figure, of similar age, were to be able to outperform them, then they'll be their own fault.

The next was the Spirit Tribulation. It tested and measured Spiritual Strength in Spirit Units. There was a set number that must be achieved for each cultivation phase, so reaching this meant your foundation of Spiritual Strength, a good indication of one's cultivation strength, was solid enough.

It was easy as well, relatively quick. In normal times, there would be a betting station to range their Spiritual Strength. But with the absence of a crowd, there was no raging excitement or disappointment. There was just silence.

The last tribulation, the War Tribulation, tested a Chosen's combat strength. It was well-known that a Chosen must have outstanding combat strength, capable of crossing entire phases. To be exact, a first, second or third stage Astral Core Realm Chosen must be able to fight three stages above their level. However, if they were at the fourth, fifth, or sixth stage, they must be able to fight against a Realmlord.

The difference between a sixth stage and seventh stage cultivator was utterly massive, and many would often refer to Realmlords as invincible against those beneath their cultivation level. Their Domain Seed gave them refined energies of all types, elevated spiritual strength, and a Worldly Domain.

Just the Worldly Domain was enough, providing control over external energies, mana, and astronomical forces, yet the Worldly Domain also gave World Pressure, a terrifying means of suppression. To fight against one was a feat that could echo throughout the ages.

But fighting and defeating were two entirely different things. To be classified as a Chosen at the Spatial Resonance, Light Reflection, or Gravity Emission Phases, a cultivator must last in a fight against a cultivator for a set amount of time, against a Realmlord of a set standard. The higher the phase, the higher the standard yet also the higher the time needed to last.

This made it increasingly difficult to overcome, especially for others.

But not Lin Ming.

The first tribulation was completed without contest. The absence of all youths his age, there was no one who would try to show-up the Archaic Chosen, proving that his standard was far beneath theirs.

Timelord Duhan was unaffected by this, merely moving on.

The second tribulation wasn't difficult for Lin Ming at all. During the Devil War Realm's Holy Ceremony of Divine Bestowal, the three trials that Wei Wuyin had faced, he met a strange object that could measure Spiritual Strength. It was called the Soul Mirror of Endless Reflection by the natives, but the mysterious young woman outsider, who's real name was Ming Yuling, called it the Spiritual Reflection Mirror.

Ming Yuling had tested herself and received an over nine thousand score with a Spatial Resonance Phase cultivation base. Wei Wuyin, who had four Soul Idols, and Ori with ten-rings, scored just short of 40,000.

The standard score for Realmlords was an average of 10,000 Spirit Units. While weaker realmlords, noticeably those from the Four Extreme Continent, averaged far lower. This was one of the reasons why Ming Yuling referred to Realmlords there as third-rate. She wasn't wrong. In fact, she was being kind.

Lin Ming was at the Spatial Resonance Phase with a Domain Seed. His energies were slightly more refined than standard, which subsequently led to his spiritual strength being elevated. After testing his score, he reached 13,700 Spirit Units. His nine-ring Soul Idol and Domain Seed were pushed to their limits.

'Even if no one is here, they'll all be awed when they return!' Was Lin Ming's thoughts as he held nothing back. He wanted to shock them even if they weren't here.

Even Timelord Duhan was shocked by Lin Ming's score, feeling that this kid might actually be exceptional. However, Spiritual Strength wasn't the only factor that determined combat strength. It was only reflective of one's foundation, not one's strength.

A child with the strength of an adult will never be an adult martial artist. It was that simple.

Lin Xianxei relaxed. The tribulation she feared most was the Human Tribulation. This absence of the crowd was a blessing in disguise. Without any competition, this period should be easily overcome.

...Is what she thought.

"The last tribulation, the War Tribulation, shall proceed when you're ready," Timelord Duhan announced to Lin Ming.

Lin Ming was ready, bringing out the Origin Spear. This was his most difficult test. Unlike the War Devil Realm, fighting those third-rate Realmlords under the suppression of the Season of Regression, this would be a genuine fight with an expert at this level. He was stoked, but also nervous. With a brief glance, he looked at Lin Xianxei.

She noticed his action and gave a beautiful smile, and a nod of confidence. She believed in him.

This warmed his heart. Even if the world was absent, as long as your eyes were on me, I'll push forward fearlessly. No matter the obstacle! Those thoughts echoed in his heart as his grip on the Origin Spear grew tighter.

With a heroic stance, he asked: "Who will be my opponent?" The fearless light in his eyes was radiant, absolutely blinding.

Timelord Duhan nodded, having a faint wisp of respect grow in his heart. While this Archaic Chosen was insignificant in the eyes of most, he had a trace of anticipation on his heart. With a crack of his neck, he pulled at his outer robes and pulled.

The robe was removed, revealing a set of pristinely white battle armor underneath. It was metallic in design and well structured. It covered all his vitals, his limbs, and he lifted an extendable portion beneath his chin, covering his mouth and nose.

With a clink, the mask and armor tightened. The surface of the white armor started to flicker with faint runes. It was clearly a high-grade astral armament. With a wave of his hand, a halberd with a curved blade was withdrawn from his spatial ring. With a heavy grab, he slammed the round pommel on the platform and that stirred the air into a frenzy.

"Your opponent is me." As Timelord Duhan spoke, his voice reverberated with a tremendous wave of power... It sounded deeper, deadlier.

Chapter 634 - 629: Archaic Chosen, Fight! Prove Yourself!

"What?!" Lin Xianxei hurriedly shouted, "You're at the Temporal Eye Phase! This isn't in line with the standard procedure of the War Tribulation!" Her heart raced. There was a vast, unimaginable difference between a Realmlord and a Timelord. It wasn't just the qualities of their cultivation being elevated, but access to time energies and their ability, Temporal Dissonance.

If a Chosen beneath the Realmlord level just needed to fight a cultivator for a while to prove themselves, regardless if they were fourth, fifth, or sixth stage, then one can get a gist of how terrifying the difference was between them. It wasn't even comparable.

While Wei Wuyin had brutally killed Realmlord experts, they were third-rate Realmlord under the suppression of the Season of Regression, which rendered their abilities and cultivation advantages severely diminished. A genuine Realmlord wasn't so simple.

Let alone a Timelord!

But Timelord Duhan was unphased by Lin Xianxei's objection. "Guardian Han had arranged this. To equalize, I can only unleash three moves. If Lin Ming can remain undefeated after three moves, he'll receive the official title as a Chosen of the True Element Sect. If not, he'll be relegated to a normal disciple."

"..." Lin Xianxei was rendered speechless. How was this fair? Three moves? Wasn't this making it extremely difficult for Lin Ming? Was this because of Bai Yuxi? But what can they do? It was Han Yuhei who gave them this opportunity to prove themselves, to become an official Chosen of the sect. She could only grow solemn, her expression dark.

"You can forfeit at any time." Timelord Duhan reminded Lin Ming, his uncovered eyes stared directly at Lin Ming. The light in his eyes revealed a hint of kindness towards a talent. Even if Lin Ming wasn't worthy of being a Chosen, he could see potential within him.

The score of 13,700 Spirit Units might be impressive, surpassing the average of a Reamlord by nearly four thousand spirit units, but that was the average standard for Reamlords. Furthermore, Ming Yuling, who wasn't even a Chosen, had over nine thousand Spirit Units at the Soul Idol Phase. His score was just barely enough to qualify him as a relatively decent disciple, but it was far from a Chosen's standard.

The average Chosen at the Soul Idol Phase had 12,000 Spirit Units. While those Chosen at the Gravity Emission Phase having 15,000 Spirit Units as an average, not even the greatest limits. If it wasn't for Lin Ming's age, being less than forty years old, he wouldn't even have passed the second tribulation.

Still, it wasn't outstanding by any means, just enough to be considered having the qualifications to fight for his Chosen title.

Lin Ming's heart shivered continuously. He had expected that this test would be abnormally difficult, especially since he skirted past the first and the second wasn't challenging. As for Han Yuhei changing the conditions, he was an Earthly Saint, the strongest expert in the True Element Sect, he could make changes and decide things. Unless they were detrimental to the sect, no one will argue against him.

After what happened with Bai Yuxi, his beloved granddaughter, he didn't think that Han Yuhei was in the wrong. It was already lucky that he was even given this opportunity after almost everyone rejected his status as a Chosen after learning his Elementus Token was useless and the Elementus Cache was taken.

With a firm series of heavy breaths, he steadied his heart. Three moves? It was just three moves! He couldn't back down; he had to fight! This would decide his future.

Lin Xianxei tensely clenched her fists. This was an obstacle she hadn't anticipated. In her mind, Lin Ming possessed a Worldly Domain, and he had grasped control of a world's air, indicative of his developed control of this unconventional power for a Spatial Resonance Phase cultivator. It wasn't a question that Lin Ming could fight Reamlords. But a Timelord, that was concerning...

'Lin Ming, you can do this.' She had to settle her heart with words of belief. These three moves and its eventual outcome will determine both their futures. Her fists tightened that her nails nearly pierced into her skin.

Lin Ming was just as tense, but none of it showed through his calm expression. With an upright posture, he wielded his Origin Spear with his right hand, pointing its tip to the armored Timelord before him. There was a flicker of ghostly white within his grey eyes.

Seeing Lin Ming's unwavering will, Timelord Duhan applauded this youngsters courage. However, he had no intentions of holding back during those three moves. Either Lin Ming rightfully earned his title, or he could settle for a stable life as a normal member of the sect.

"..."

"..."

"Begin! Careful!" Timelord Duhan shouted, his first move was imposing! He manifested his Worldly Domain, his eyes erupting in spiritual light! The air became suffused with a density of spiritual strength, flooding the entire stadium.

The sheer power of which reached Lin Xianxei, causing her to project a ward to defend herself. The worries in her heart increased.

Timelord Duhan's Worldly Domain instantly unfurled to reach a diameter of 1.4 Kilometers! This was an effective range of 700 meters in every direction, completely and totally within his control! A true, genuine Worldly Domain! The world that it engulfed was theirs to control, theirs to follow their every will!

Like Tuo Bihan, who was a purist, Timelord Duhan's Worldly Domain was similarly a translucent sphere untainted by a strand of Intent. The doctrine of purists had survived the passage of time, finding its way into a very small minority of the Aeternal Sky Starfield's cultivators. While no genuine Ascended have ever been born from them, their belief was firm and carried its advantages.

Lin Ming felt the approaching Worldly Domain and felt his heart shake with an accompanying chill. He had faced a Reamlord before, but that Reamlord's Domain barely reached 200 meters in diameter, roughly 100 meters in every direction. But it was understandable, after all, this was a genuine Timelord!

He clenched his Origin Spear, with a swift series of kicks, he pushed back and retreated while interfacing with his Domain Seed. Just as he was about to unleash his own Worldly Domain, a wave of explosive rumbles echoed throughout his sea of consciousness, and his astral soul stalled and cried out in pain!

He spat out a mouthful of blood. The Worldly Domain hadn't enveloped him yet but the spiritual spell of Timelord Duhan had reached him! This was the means of combat for genuine experts, and he was utterly overwhelmed by this multifaceted assault.

Timelord Duhan's spiritual force collapsed on him, bringing agony and pain to every ounce of his three states, mind, body, and spirit!

"Argh!" He cried out in pain, stumbling and losing his footing. The Worldly Domain was just short of reaching him when his nine-colored dot at his glabella activated! It was a defensive treasure with its own will, and immediately acted to defend against the assault. A pulse of air erupted from his body and the foreign spiritual force was repelled!

Timelord Duhan noticed his Worldly Domain engulfed Lin Ming. He sighed, realizing Lin Ming wasn't very experienced in the battle of true experts. In a way, this meant he wasn't ready to become a Chosen. With a thought, he used his hand to reach out and clench. He was going to seal Lin Ming's body, mind, and spirit with his World Pressure, effectively severing his entire combat strength.

"It's over..."

Lin Xianxei felt her heart in her throat. She wanted to speak, but only soft sounds of panic came out.

For a brief moment, thanks to Lin Xianxei's defensive treasure, Lin Ming regained control of himself. His grey eyes erupted with white light filled with Elemental Origin Intent. Just as the Worldly Domain engulfed him, his Domain Seed was thoroughly interfaced with!

Woosh!

A translucent Worldly Domain manifested!

Timelord Duhan felt a jolt in his consciousness. "A purist's Domain?!" His reaction was first of shock, then confusion, and then ferocious levels of disbelief! A Spatial Resonance Phase cultivator had a WORLDLY DOMAIN?!

When his Worldly Domain clashed with Lin Ming's, he felt the feedback from their fierce competition of ambient forces and energies, the clash of World Pressure. This was...this was...

He was utterly flummoxed that he hadn't reacted to continue his assault, giving Lin Ming time to erupt with his full strength, pushing his World Domain to its absolute limits, reaching 150 meters in diameter! While severely lacking in comparison to a real Realmlord, it was still a bonafide Worldly Domain!

Lin Ming used his greatest strength to speed backwards, leaving the effective range of Timelord Duhan's Worldly Domain. It was only then that Timelord Duhan reacted, his expression incredibly strange as he observed Lin Ming.

Lin Ming tightly clenched his Origin Spear, kept his posture upright and stable, and spat out a wad of blood from his lips. The light in his eyes was energized and fierce, not lacking a single ounce of confidence.

"First move."

Chapter 635 - 630: Archaic Chosen, No Moves!

"You have a Purist's Worldly Domain? How is this possible?" Timelord Duhan furrowed his brows, his eyes revealed a heavy source of suspicion. He was well-aware that Lin Ming comprehended Elemental Origin Intent, his Domain should've been white-colored, if not nine-colored in form. But it lacked a hint of Intent within, being pure as a Purist's Cultivation Base.

After a moment, his eyes brightened. "You're established an artificial Domain Seed?" After seeing Lin Ming's expression change slightly, he nodded to himself that his guess was right. The concept wasn't foreign. There were False Realmlords and even an alchemical product that can make them, but they were highly ineffective and unstable.

They required the refinement of a naturally formed planet or an artificially-created planet that had been in existence for over a hundred thousand years. It was essentially not worth it to refine a planet for a False Realmlord. Not to mention the success rate for this product was abysmal, so using several planets of that level for one was utterly not worth it.

Moreover, one's cultivation path would be severed. It was just a horrendously flawed alchemical product.

But he didn't understand how Lin Ming had done it. But after their clash of worldly control, he realized that Lin Ming's Worldly Domain lacked the means to control ambient mana and astronomical forces, only energies. This meant the Worldly Domain wasn't even a tenth of the appropriate strength.

There was also a trace of instability and connectivity issues within, evidenced by Lin Ming's inability to instantly manifest his Worldly Domain. Clearly, his Domain Seed wasn't thoroughly connected to his Spirit of Cultivation, hence his mind and soul.

After analyzing this, he realized it wasn't that impressive. In fact, it was highly flawed and nearly caused Lin Ming's defeat. His attempt to interface with the Domain Seed delayed his other thoughts and reactions, resulting in Lin Ming being smacked by his spiritual spell without any defenses.

Still, it was an anomaly. The existence of it will certainly qualify him as a Chosen, and fighting a normal Realm Lord with his foundation shouldn't be difficult.

Lin Ming didn't answer Timelord Duhan's question. This was his secret and he couldn't divulge it carelessly, especially to someone that wasn't very important to the sect. Furthermore, he'll likely earn the ire of the Tang Clan and who knows what else.

Timelord Duhan's expression darkened, but he understood that everyone had their secrets. With a soft breath, he realigned his thinking and released a pulse of spiritual force that flooded the entire platform.

Lin Ming gripped his Origin Spear and exerted the maximum amount of World Pressure from his Worldly Domain, keeping the spiritual force at bay.

BOOM! BOOM!

A series of explosions from the clash caused his body to fly backwards. He hastily used his astral force and mana control to halt his flight. When he did, his eyes narrowed as he saw a white-armored figure flying towards him with startling speed. There was a series of afterimages behind his figure, and before he could process what was happening, he felt his senses become disorientated.

At this moment, his nine-colored dot on his glabella roared to light and brightly lit in retaliation! The world he saw shattered, and he was met by the sight of a halberd-wielding figure stabbing at his abdomen. The blade was just five feet away!

Temporal Dissonance!

With his greatest strength, he moved his Origin Spear in retaliation. This elicited a shocked exclamation from Timelord Duhan, and the spear met the halberd, clashing in an explosive boom that sent Lin Ming flying to the other side of the coliseum.

Woosh!

Bam!

He heavily slammed into the walls of the coliseum, with copious amounts of blood gushing out of his mouth. Lin Ming's sea of consciousness felt like it was on fire as a nine-colored light invaded it, clearing out the spiritual force infused with time energies. It hurt like someone was scooping out his brain with a spoon.

Timelord Duhan was truly not holding back at all! Temporal Dissonance was the unique ability of Timelords, capable of infusing their time energies into their spiritual force and affecting the senses of their opponents. It can result in delayed reactions or the senses or thoughts halting entirely, making it an extremely deadly move!

The slam made Lin Ming's entire body feel like it had shattered, but besides some fractures on his bones, some splits on his skin, he was relatively fine. While Timelord Duhan hadn't held back in pushing his advantages, he didn't unleash lethal moves that would kill those of his equal.

In fact, if it wasn't for the peak-Astral Armament, the Aegis of the Elements, he would've long since met defeat. Lin Xianxei's gift had saved him twice, covering his weaknesses. Yet he still survived because of his refined body, quick reactions, and swift actions. It couldn't all be attributed to the Aegis of the Elements.

He spat out another gushing surge of blood before he shot out of the wall, leaving the faint imprint of his physical body. Hovering in the air, his eyes remained vibrant.

"Second move."

Timelord Duhan noticed that the Aegis of the Elements was present. He glanced at Lin Xianxei, his eyes a little heavy.

Lin Xianxei gave a faint smile. This was the real Aegis of the Elements, not a replica like what Lin Ming had in his fight with Zuhei. That belonged to her, and it was how she survived the attempt on her life all those years before. It was gifted to her by the Divine King Han Xei. It was this armament that allowed her status as his disciple to be known, allowing her more freedom than other Saintess' before her.

Timelord Duhan felt this was a little unfair. He wasn't allowed to use lethal moves in this tribulation, for obvious reasons. The most notable was the fact that, even if a Chosen was no longer qualified to be a Chosen, that didn't mean their talent and abilities were just erased. They were still top-notch geniuses that could become vital members of the sect.

This was an invisible restraint. He could use his cultivation advantages, but he couldn't unleash astral-grade arts or spells that required Realmlord or higher cultivation base to fully unleash. With a sigh, he looked at Lin Ming with a bitter light in his eyes.

But a tool or armament was sufficient to warrant a person's strength, developed or otherwise. After all, this was a renewal tribulation not a deciding one. In the Elementus Chosen Trial, external forces of strength were restricted from usage, except armaments that befit one's level.

Not here.

With that in mind, he decided to forgo his own dissatisfaction and proceed forward. Even if he was restricted, he still wouldn't hold back. He just needed to bypass the characteristics of the Aegis of the Elements and deliver a decisive blow.

Lin Ming could feel the pressure mount on his shoulders. With a fierce wipe of his hand, he removed the waterfall-like blood from his chin.

"Last move! Careful!" Timelord Duhan said, his entire body started to float into the sky. His Worldly Domain was fully unleashed and the ambient energies and mana started to tremble as his Worldly Pressure snatched their might, transforming it into his own. With a heavy breath that rumbled out like thunder, the astronomical forces, light, gravity, and other forces started to twist and distort, circling his floating form.

Lin Ming's expression darkened as he lifted his head to see Timelord Duhan's ascent. The ambient forces of the world were being snatched by him, conquered and converted to his power. This was a horrifying experience. It resembled the arrival of a god in myth.

It felt unbeatable!

But his heart remained firm, and so was his will to do battle. He couldn't fall here. Just one more move and he would earn his qualifications to become an officially recognized Chosen, having the right to establish his own personal forces within the sect.

It was the beginning of his path to the apex!

Timelord Duhan grasped his halberd with two hands and pointed it towards Lin Ming. The tip glinted with clear light, glistening like the ocean floor to radiant rays of light. It was beautiful, but its beauty was eclipsed by the shivering space that seemed utterly fragile as it affected it.

Lin Ming could only resist. With every last ounce of his will, he brought out everything!

His Worldly Domain was manifested to its limits!

His Elemental Origin Intent chaotically exploded outwards, affecting the ambient elemental energies, stripping a portion of Timelord Duhan's power! While he hadn't reached Element Heart Intent, this application of his Intent alluded to his comprehension nearing it!

With a low roar, his Astral Core completely revealed itself! When he fought Wei Wuyin, his Astral Core was eight centimeters in size, roughly sixteen times larger than the average Gravity Emission Phase expert of the Everlore Starfield! Now?

It had grown by two centimeters! A full ten centimeters in size, reflective of his outstanding growth since!

"Ten centimeters?" Timelord Duhan was quite surprised, but he didn't stop his galvanizing of ambient powers. He kept building up his own strength, turning the world into his own might.

Lin Ming, however, didn't stop there! Behind him, a nine hundred meters in size! It was of a white spherical existence that seemed both like a Solar Star and a Planet, with the ever-changing environments on its surface! Surrounding this sphere were nine spiritually cyan-colored rings!

At the moment it appeared, Lin Ming's entire existence elevated as his spiritual strength reached its limits, and his astral force was empowered by several folds. With another roar, the world trembled as he pointed the Origin Spear at Timelord Duhan.

Lin Xianxue felt her heart clench up, and every breath was heavy and slow. Those eyes of hers remained unblinking. The situation was at its finality and all Lin Ming had was a single more move to survive!

Timelord Duhan no longer charged his power. He wanted to test Lin Ming's upper-limits, and with his Soul Idol manifested, his strongest state was achieved. There was no need to delay his actions any further. With a cold snort, he kicked off in the air.

The entire world's forces followed him like an army entering into war! He had turbulent waves of cascading energies, forces, and mana trailing him! With his white armor, he was absolutely beautiful.

Lin Ming shot forward. He couldn't remain passive in this, and held his Origin Spear to the point his hand was bleeding. With a heroic thrust with all his power, every last ounce of his elemental origin force infused within, he unleashed his strongest attack.

「Divine Elemental Way: Strike of the Nine Worlds!」

He became a streak of white encased in nine-colored glow, as beautiful as a rainbow, as gorgeous as the stars. Within that white glow reflected the infinite variations of the world! All things in the world seemed entranced, following this streak to meet its greatest challenge! They were called, and they heeded this call!

Timelord Duhan's eyes released a ferocious light and he stabbed harder, unleashing more of his power into the strike. No expert liked to face a challenge, and their Heart of Cultivation would be unintentionally stimulated. While he hadn't unleashed any spell or art, he released his greatest blow possible!

The two blades met.

The world exploded in an array of nine colors.

BOOOOOOOOOOOM!

"..."

"..."

"..."

The stadium below was covered in cracks and a resounding silence followed such a hectic collision. But the two causes of this collision were nowhere to be seen, especially with the world covered in a multi-colored spiritual mist from their fallout.

Lin Xianxei shouted out, "Lin Ming!" Her heart was beset with worry so much that she launched herself forward, entering the multicolored mist.

"Lin Ming! Lin Ming!" A sense of dread enveloped her heart. Was it too premature? Did she rush him too much? She bit her lower lip in anxiety, but her spiritual sense couldn't make out anything in this mist of power. Wading through the mist she heard a familiar cough from her right.

She sped forward with excitement in her eyes, and she saw the armored Timelord Duhan holding Lin Ming by the neck like a little chick. Her heart stopped at that moment. Lin Ming's clothes were ravaged but his eyes were still brightly lit with a fierce spirit. While Timelord Duhan was unharmed.

"Lin...Ming..." Did he fail? Was it all over? She felt a little bit of her world collapse, but that collapse only lasted for a few moments as a bright glow filled it.

Lin Ming chuckled with heart, excitement and triumphant: "No moves!"

Timelord Duhan sighed, "No moves."

Lin Xianxei's eyes lit, her world brightened considerably! He did it? He did it!

HE DID IT!

Chapter 636 - 631: True Element Crystal

While there were no witnesses, the Archaic Chosen had succeeded in overcoming the Three Chosen Aspects Tribulation, proving his status as an official Chosen. From henceforth, the True Element Sect, regardless of its complex network of factions and relationships, will support his cultivation and development to a certain extent.

The most important event wasn't just his victory in claiming the official title, but the promise from Lin Xianxei. Soon, Lin Ming will be able to obtain the recognition of the Nine-Elementus Divine King Han Xei, becoming his official disciple. Lin Xianxei will truly become his Senior Sister underneath the same Master.

This moment could be heralded as the greatest piece of news for Lin Ming, yet his epic journey's climax of nearly twenty years had been overshadowed by an unexpected event.

Timelord Duhan had hidden his white armor beneath his robes once more, losing a portion of his valiant demeanor, replaced by a calmer aura. He seemed more like a middle-aged elder than a terrifying warrior.

The platform whirled with faint droning sounds as the hidden formations and array took action, sweeping away the elemental mist and fixing the cracks on the platform. The three were standing at the center platform as Timelord Duhan held an emblem that seemed to exert some control over the array, cleaning up the mess he made.

After he finished, he softly sighed as he directed his gaze towards Lin Ming and Lin Xianxei. They were currently smilingly discussing their recent success, talking closely, while Lin Xianxei used her astral force to alleviate and expedite the healing of injuries that Lin Ming sustained. However, they were all minor.

The Aegis of the Elements wasn't a peak-grade astral armament for nothing. If fully activated, controlled by an expert of equal cultivation, even he would be left helpless to deal any damage to its wielder while unleashing his full strength. While it was merely passively operated, it still reduced all his attacks by nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of its power.

He didn't know how to feel. While the challenge was more difficult, and the Three Chosen Aspects Tribulation allowed such outside means, a display of their means and background, it felt somewhat disingenuous to succeed due to it.

'Well, he has broken the standards of cultivation, forming a Domain Seed prior to the Realm World Phase, so I guess his status as a Chosen is somewhat justified.' Despite his thoughts, he felt this scratching feeling at the base of his heart that dissatisfied him.

By standards, even by average of a Chosen, Lin Ming's current strength simply wasn't enough to rival them. He lacked combat experience and developed instincts. In his first two moves, Lin Ming had undoubtedly lost due to these reasons. The only reason he remained undefeated was because of the Aegis of the Elements and his own expectations that Lin Ming couldn't resist him after each move. After all, he could've combined his moves in a rapid fire manner, and Lin Ming's defeat would've been certain.

In his opinion, all the battles that Lin Ming had undergone before lacked any true experts. His gathering of energies and forces was slow, his usage of his arts and spells were unrefined, and his tactics and means were severely lacking.

Still, he still overcame the tribulation.

The end result was all that mattered.

He sighed once again. "Chosen Lin Ming, you have succeeded in the Three Chosen Aspects Tribulation, Congratulations. With this, you're an official Chosen of the True Element Sect. May you bring eternal glory to the elements."

Timelord Duhan took out a piece of multi-colored quartz crystal with nine sides, oddly shaped and uneven. At each side, one of the nine elements was etched on it in characters. The characters themselves were all white, and if one looked at each character closely, they would see that they were composed of animatedly moving runes.

Lin Ming was curious about this crystal, realizing it wasn't simple. He reached out and grabbed it, and he felt a strange tingle from his hand as he did.

"This is a type of Essence Refining Crystal. It's called the True Element Crystal. It can gather ambient energies and mana to create a type of astral-level elemental essence. It is very useful in cultivating for those with Elemental Souls of any type. By sending in your Intent, you can draw out a specific type of essence to absorb." Lin Xianxei was clearly excited as she explained.

Lin Ming was startled by her explanation. Did this mean if he infused his high-level Elemental Intent within, it'll produce the essence of that type for his cultivation? He tried it instinctively, using the Grandgale Wind Intent. A surging wind current explosively erupted, causing the robes of Lin Xianxei and Timelord Duhan to flutter wildly.

"Grandgale Wind Intent? Apex-level?!" Timelord Duhan was finally surprised. He wasn't able to measure Lin Ming's cultivation exactly, because he was far too weak. Furthermore, Lin Ming evoked his Elemental Origin Intent, not his individual Intents. While his Elemental Origin Intent was impressive, it wasn't that outstanding.

Lin Ming was focused on the changes in the True Element Crystal as it sucked in his Grandgale Intent fiercely, absorbing. The eight other characters in the True Element Crystal flickered until they vanished, then they were replaced by the 'Wind' character.

In a few minutes, the entire crystal had spontaneously become a Grandgale Wind Essence Crystal. This caused Lin Ming's heart to quake in shock and surprise. He had only ever seen this Intent Aura in the Elementus Badge that he was given by Lin Xianxei.

How marvelous was this?

He hurriedly circulated his cultivation method, absorbing the essence that was contained within with his eyes closed. After another few minutes, he opened his eyes and felt his Astral Core expanded in size by a very minor amount. The essence portion of his cultivation had elevated by a tad bit, resulting in his foundation strengthening overall.

How terrifying was this?!

Timelord Duhan was flabbergasted by Lin Ming's Apex-level Wind Intent to such a degree that he was rendered speechless, his mouth gaping to reflect his shock.

Lin Xianxei smugly smiled. One of the reasons she had bet on Lin Ming was his outstanding talent and comprehension of this very Intent. There was a belief, while it might not be completely confirmed, that the Material Dao has three thousand Laws, and those Laws gave birth to three thousand Intents. Among these three thousand Intents were a single Apex-level Intent, the king of all other variations.

It was said an Apex-level Intent is the closest to a Law, and through it, that powerful Will, can feel the borders that exceed Mortal Limits with greater ease—Mysticism. It was rumored that comprehending an Apex-level Intent greatly increased one's chances of becoming an Ascended.

This was why Timelord Duhan was absolutely stunned by this discovery. While Elemental Origin Intent was impressive, it can be formed using nine of the lowest-level Elemental Intents, so it wasn't nearly as outrageous as Apex-level Intent.

For the first time, his opinion of Lin Ming had changed heavily.

Lin Xianxei's smugness didn't cease, joy flickering in her eyes. If Timelord Duhan knew that Lin Ming didn't just comprehend an Apex-level Intent, but several High-level Intents, and even fused it into his Elemental Origin Intent, he would be truly terrified.

Right now, Lin Ming's cultivation was too low, but if he was a Timelord too, he would be able to slay Timelord Duhan with a single stab of his spear. The thought excited her, reminding her that Lin Ming was a genuine genius amongst geniuses.

Lin Ming kept the crystal, joyful light effusing from his grey eyes. This was an unimaginable tool for cultivation. With it, he would be able to make fast advancements in certain cultivation methods and improve his foundation. He wondered what would happen if he used his Elemental Origin Intent on it.

Timelord Duhan once again sighed, but this time, for a very different reason. Given enough time, Lin Ming will surely shine brighter than others. After all, he had an Apex-level Intent, Elemental Origin Intent, and a Domain Seed prior to the Realm World Phase. While his battle tactics and experience was lacking, those things could be attributed to his desolate starfield and lack of any true opponents. Now that he has stepped into the field of the Aeternal Sky Starfield, these things will surely remedy themselves with time.

Then, he'll be a monster.

"Well, I'm off." After he finished his thoughts, a tinge of excitement reminded him of the event that was happening.

"WAIT!"

Chapter 637 - 632: Courage To Be Of Use

Timelord Duhan was about to leave. This caused Lin Ming to be startled. He recalled that Timelord Duhan was in a rush. There was a product demonstration and first-time auction being held for a heaven-defying object, supposedly.

Now, he asked again: "Wait! Can you tell me why everyone left? Why couldn't they just learn about the product after?" He was truly a little peeved that no one was present for his triumph, but he wasn't too vain to think the world revolved around him.

Timelord Duhan had already exerted his control over the ambient mana, about to take flight when he halted. Before, he had ignored Lin Ming due to his ignorance and inconsequential status he had in his heart, but Lin Ming had just shown the potential to become an Ascended. This wasn't true for all Chosen.

Many of them fail to become Ascended or never earned the qualifications to even assail the Mystic Ascendant Realm. There's a recorded statistic by the Golden Gate Pavilion that detailed all successful attempts, while the respective identities were hidden. If you accounted for those 'Mystic Star Phase' or Tenth Stage of the Astral Core Realm cultivators as Ascended, then there was a 1 in 74 chance for a Chosen to ascend.

If one removes the controversial phase, then the chances are severely reduced to 1 in 1,016 for a Chosen to ascend. And this was in an entire generation of the Aeternal Sky Starfield. This counted all those who were Chosen, including those who later lost their qualifications due to age or failing to meet the competitive requirements with time.

This might seem high, but there were typically only three Chosen even amongst Mystic-tier forces. Overall, there were roughly 40,000 Chosen in every centennial generation, accounting for all eligible forces and independent cultivators. Not every force was qualified to have a Chosen.

To translate, in a 100-year generation, roughly 40 true Ascended were born from Chosen. Of course, this number was actually heavily eclipsed by non-Chosen, simply due to the outrageous numerical difference, but the chances were much, much, much lower.

With Lin Ming's Apex-level Intent and Domain Seed prior to the Realm World Phase, Timelord Duhan no longer ignored Lin Ming's question. He stayed grounded, turned to Lin Ming and patiently explained: "The Golden Life Pavilion is a long-living business, and this isn't the first time they've announced this type of sudden event. However, they have never disappointed once. They've always brought forth outstanding resources, even new alchemical product recipes or multiship designs.

"Their practice is simple: this product demonstration and first-time auction is to determine the price of the product they wish to sell, and whoever buys it gets further rights to buy more with priority. This priority could save decades or even a century of time waiting. So the competition is often incredibly fierce, with no one wanting to lose out.

"However, to gain qualifications to enter the first-time auction, you MUST buy a ticket to the product demonstration or you won't be invited to the auction. This ticket is incredibly pricey, and it can allow millions to observe. So the various forces often bring their elite disciples and upper-echelon to observe." Timelord Duhan explained clearly, ensuring he got all the details.

Lin Ming was awed. There was such a thing?

Wasn't this driving a competitive atmosphere? Wasn't this drumming up fierce discussion revolving around whatever they sell? Buy the qualifications just to participate in the auction?! There was a wisp of disbelief in his heart for such practices.

Lin Ming frowned, "What about the others?" He couldn't help but look at the empty cavea of the coliseum. Even if the top figures and disciples left, what about those normal disciples and elders? Couldn't they have shown up?

Lin Xianxei said, "The Three Chosen Aspects Tribulation is only for top-tier figures and disciples to observe. Every seat is reserved for a specific person. This is a rule that won't be changed so conveniently."

"Oh..." Lin Ming understood now, feeling a little disappointed. What crappy timing, huh?

Timelord Duhan thought for a moment and then said: "The product demonstration hasn't started yet. Shall we all go? With your status as a Chosen and yours as a Saintess, entering will be easy."

The two Lin's eyes brightened. There was still a chance? They had thought it was already underway, but there was still time? How could they not be a little excited? After all, this event would likely involve billions of individuals.

Lin Ming looked at Lin Xianxei, wanting to see her thoughts. When he saw her looking at him, nodding with acceptance, he smiled brightly in return.

"Where is it held?" Lin Ming couldn't help but think that they'll travel to the Endless Prosperity Domain, likely via Void Gate. But Timelord Duhan gave him an awkward stare, then chuckled.

He answered, "here." With that, he once more exerted his mana control and lifted himself up. With a thought, he soared away startling Lin Ming.

Lin Xianxei levitated, "The product demonstration is observed through a Spiritual Projection Obelisk. It'll be too hectic and costly to pay for the transportation or expect other forces to pay for a two-way trip via Void Gate or waste months, even years, traveling across the starfield using Voidships." She gestured and followed after Timelord Duhan.

Lin Ming awkwardly rubbed his nose. Right. They took several months just to travel from nearby Domain to Domain with continuous travel, and the Endless Prosperity Domain will be outrageously costly for millions to travel to, let alone the tens of billions that'll likely be watching from every Domain.

He swept his gaze across the empty seats. 'One day, I'll be so great that no one would dare ignore or miss a single act I do.' With this promise, he flew after Lin Xianxei and Timelord Duhan.

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In the Endless Prosperity Domain, the Grand Horse Realm, there was a simple rectangular platform that wasn't very large, being relatively small, and even designed simply. It wasn't very eye-catching, but this was obviously deliberately designed to not subtract from the product being demonstrated or the individual presenting the product. Hanging above this platform was a cyan-colored disk that slowly spun.

Beyond it were walls and roof of the building, brightened by soft light emitting stones that were soothing for the eyes and senses. There weren't any seating arrangements in this auditorium-like venue, just a single podium at the forefront of the platform, clearly designed for a speaker.

Currently, several dozen experts, all at the Ninth Stage of the Astral Core Realm, the Star Core Phase, were rushing about to inspect the various formations that were established. Surrounding the platform,

on the walls, and roofs were numerous exquisite lines of runic markings that were beautifully structured.

These were the specialized Architects of the Ma Clan, proficient in formations and arrays. They were all relatively old, of all genders, but their eyes were bright and focused as they hurried along.

Outside of the building, Ma Zheng, his old and wrinkled figure, was sitting comfortably on a bench. He stared absentmindedly at the sky of the Grand Horse Realm. His eyes revealed the vicissitudes of the ages and his thoughts were inscrutable to the common mortal.

A series of steps resounded, soft yet noticeable. A voice announced themselves, "Patriarch Ma."

Ma Zheng didn't look away, merely exhaling out a little.

The one who spoke was a familiar woman that seemed to be in her early twenties, having a head full of healthy dark-grey hair, and dressed in light battle armor alongside a tight-fitting robe. It accentuated her figure. She was Ma Sujiang, the one recently demoted to becoming the Guardian of the Grand Horse Realm.

She was respectful as she bowed before Ma Zheng. As she was no longer the Assistant Manager of the Third Branch, she no longer wore her daoist robes. She stayed bowing for several minutes before Ma Zheng spoke, "You have questions? Doubts?"

Ma Sujiang nodded while bowing, "I do." She didn't question why she was demoted. It was a matter that has already passed, and she learned her lesson regarding that. She acted on her greed, thinking selfishly, and almost ruined whatever Ma Zheng intended to do. She was lucky she wasn't executed on the spot. If it was anyone else, they might have done so for her insubordination, so she was incredibly fortunate that Ma Zheng, her own father, was passing down judgment.

Ma Zheng glanced slightly at this last child of his, a product of his impending crisis to feel young once again after his life was nearing its end, and no breakthrough was in sight. He had reached his limits, found a talented young wife, his last one, and she bore him a single child: Ma Sujiang.

He had raised her to inherit his skills in business, an adequate successor, or so he thought. He knew she had ambition, and that was okay when moderated, but to act in such a way disappointed him. Besides that moment, her actions were all above-board and her status was achieved without his intrusive help. He didn't want her to be his Assistant Manager, however, she refused to be placed in any other Branch.

He selfishly wanted the Ma Clan to keep control of the Third Branch. After all, they were already slowly losing influence and control of the Golden Life Pavilion, at this rate, they would lose their Managerial Status after his passing, so he consented.

There was a time when he was its leader.

A long, long time ago.

He calmly looked back to the sky, "Ask."

Ma Sujiang looked at the aging father before her. With each passing day, the air of death increased around him. She calmed her thoughts. "My doubts stem from this demonstration and auction. With that alchemical product monopolized, the Ma Clan's future would be abundantly fruitful and limitless. Given a few thousand years, we..."

She halted her words, implying it all.

Ma Zheng slowly said, "Your thoughts aren't wrong; the Neo-Dawn Eclipse Pill could send us to great heights in a few thousand years."

With the added time it'll provide during the early years, the geniuses will all be able to become Realmlords, and invincible ones at that. At a certain point, there will be a differentiation between talents and geniuses. Those who have a Domain Seed prior to the Realm World Phase and those who do not. The extra hundreds of years of time not spent on comprehending the Spatial Resonance, Light Reflection, Gravity Emission, or fearfully preparing for the Realm World Astral Tribulation, will create an unfathomable gap between centennial generations.

Ma Sujiang wasn't wrong with her line of thinking. This pill might not be able to create Ascended, but it'll facilitate the growth of numerous talents that'll eventually become Ascended. They'll have greater foundations than those of equal ages.

"Then why?" Ma Sujiang questioned. By revealing this to the others, isn't this removing their potential lead? Couldn't they wait a thousand years? At least a few hundred! It'll be best if they just kept it a secret, never revealing it at all.

Ma Zheng's expression remained unchanged. He merely asked in return: "If the King of Everlore wanted you to prove your worth, would you destroy this Neo-Dawn Eclipse Pill from existence?"

"...!" Ma Sujiang was startled. King of Everlore? What did he, that legendary figure, have to do with this? Could it be about that silver-eyed alchemist? But since her father asked her this question, she seriously considered it from all angles.

In the end, she decisively shook her head: "I would. I'll do whatever I can to prove myself." The King of Everlore was an Alchemic Saint with astonishing talent, and his future was boundless.

Ma Zheng nodded, "The King of Everlore could, in a mere thousand years, change the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region. His origins are mysterious. Some say he originated from the Everlore Starfield, that he was born there. Others say he was sent there as a child, a test for developing talents of a clan that far exceeds the scope of our understanding. There are even a few who believe he's the reincarnation of an Alchemic Heavenly Saint, or an Immortal-Rank Alchemist.

"We don't really know the truth, but the fact remains: he was extraordinary. All those who followed him, proved themselves, was worthy enough to experience world-defying changes." Ma Zheng had rarely spoken so many words, and his voice seemed a little tired.

Yet Ma Sujiang's heart was nearly beating out of her chest. While Ma Zheng hadn't explicitly stated his thoughts, she had an assumption. She wanted to scream out that it was impossible, but no words came out.

Could this silver-eyed alchemist have the same potential as the King of Everlore?! When she thought up to here, remembering her actions of assaulting his concubine, her spine felt a terrifying chill.

Ma Zheng added: "Silver-eyes; Millions of high-level alchemical products; Outstanding foundation that exceeds imagination; Outrageous Alchemical Talent; Unverifiable background; Raised in the Everlore Starfield; Younger than fifty; A quasi Demi-Lord servant. If I had you make a guess as to who this person could be, who do you think it is?"

"..." Ma Sujiang was stunned, confused by such a string of details. But when she grasped the entire picture, her heart and mind exploded with the force of a supernova. She would've never thought about it until pointed out in such a manner.

IMPOSSIBLE!

Could it be?

The King of Everlore's...descendant?!?!

"Whether its true or not, it doesn't matter." Ma Zheng slowly said before rising from his seat. He started to walk towards the door to the building. It was about time to begin.

What mattered was that he was interested in seeing what this young man wanted. After all, that young man clearly didn't give him the product to hold and develop his own forces. That was a ridiculous plan that'll take longer than that young man has lived to pull off. Whatever he wanted to do, the Golden Life Pavilion, no, the Ma Clan was courageous enough to follow.

And this was the first step.

Chapter 638 - 633: Mother-In-Law

The trio of Lin Ming, Lin Xianxei, and Timelord Duhan, whose full name was Liu Duhan, had flown for several minutes through the skies at high-speed to finally arrive at the demonstration gathering.

Lin Ming was absolutely shook by what he saw. There were numerous Skyships hovering in the air. There were so many that the entire horizon was filled with Skyships from every direction, of varying sizes, of various colors. They absolutely littered the scene.

They were all pointed towards a single area, and he saw a sky-piercing four-sided object that had a narrowly tapering design with a crystal-clear pyramidion at the top. The obelisk itself was dark-blue in color, with strange runic markings etched on it in an orderly fashion from top to bottom, only absent from the crystal-clear pyramid at the top.

Those runes were of various colors and they weren't as animated and bright as most runes, being stationary and dim. Lin Ming was awed with wonder. Was this the Spiritual Projection Obelisk?

Lin Xianxei saw the wonder within Lin Ming's eyes and explained: "The Spiritual Projection Obelisk is an exquisitely designed tool at the Mystic-level. It can project one's spiritual sense a vast distance, and give one a realistic sense of the scene that the Revealment Disk at the other end displays. It'll be as if you were there, personally. And it does this for every cultivator with a spiritual sense, even Qi Condensation Realm cultivators can project their senses millions of miles away without any discomfort or stress."

"!" Lin Ming's mind erupted in astonishment at the description. That obelisk can perform such a feat? But there had to be limits, right?

Lin Xianxei seemed to read his mind, smilingly added: "There's no set limit on the Obelisk's end, but there is on the Revealment Disk side. Those who control the disk can limit the number of senses that can pass through each individual obelisk. Do you see that?" Lin Xianxei pointed at the sky above the obelisk.

Lin Ming lifted his eyes to see three golden orbs that were shimmering with golden light. They looked like miniature Solar Stars.

"Those are the tickets. They're called Golden Life Tickets, and they grant the Spiritual Projection Obelisk with certain permissions. With three tickets, that means only nine million cultivators here will be able to sense the events on the other end of the Revealment Disk. Any excess will cause a rejection of the spiritual sense, and brutally at that. Some even die from the backlash." Lin Xianxei explained their purpose and the severity of breaking it.

Lin Ming was stunned. Die? How vicious! He didn't know how to react to that, but he understood the logic behind it.

No wonder the coliseum was empty.

"Alright. You two can find the Sect Leader. I'll be going to meet with a few friends." Liu Duhan announced, shooting off after towards a specific Skyship. While he felt that Lin Ming had a great future, he didn't have the right to give them permission to send their spiritual sense into the obelisk. But he had a spot reserved.

So he merely said his goodbyes and left. If they were fated to meet again, they will.

Lin Ming waved him off. There was a faint sense of melancholy in his heart at seeing his figure vanish amongst the Skyships, but that was life. While Liu Duhan had been the turning point of his status, their paths might not converge anymore. In the future, he could be a Saint and Liu Duhan might still be a Timelord.

Who knows...

Lin Xianxei swept her spiritual sense across the Skyships until she found the Lin Clan's Skyship. With a bright smile, she urged Lin Ming to follow her. She was still jubilant from Lin Ming's success. As for this event, it stoked her curiosity more than anything. The Golden Life Pavilion was not known for their lackluster theatrics. Whatever this was, it might very well redefine the conventions of cultivation!

Lin Ming was sent into a trance from Lin Xianxei's smile. While he always felt that Lin Xianxei's current scarlet-haired appearance wasn't her true appearance, it was still incredibly beautiful and had its own charm. It was only after she shouted his way did he shake from his stupor, briefly smiling before following her.

They weaved carefully through the Skyships, finding a white-colored starfield that seemed to have been carved from stone. It was smooth as polished jade, and gave off an imposing aura. But when he observes it for longer, that imposing aura seemed to be weak, barely there. It was as if it was just his imagination.

When they arrived at its side, they could see several hundred figures gather together on the deck, discussing things. They formed groups of similarly-aged members, with the elders and disciples being noticeably separated.

At the second-level of the deck, there were individuals with powerful auras, and they ranged from men and women, and their auras brought their existences to focus. They were certainly all at the Realm Lord level or higher, with a few Starlords amongst them.

The most notable figure was a tall female dressed in white robes and golden embroidery, with a slit cut in her robes to allow her long, gorgeous leg and thigh to be seen. She was a blonde-haired beauty, looking incredibly young, resembling a young woman who was only eighteen or nineteen at most. Her youthful looks were a sharp contrast to her elusive aura that carried an enchanting feeling.

It resembled those who've exceeded Mortal Limits. She was an Ascended! As those around her spoke, many glanced her way to see her reactions off of instinct. It seemed she commanded great prestige amongst the group.

Her fair skin glistened in the light and her golden irises shone with an alluring radiance. She stopped her discussions as she turned to the two approaching the ship, and her expression revealed a faint smile that could lure the hearts of men at a single glance. With her long fingers, she gestured them over.

The act disabled the shielding of the Skyship and allowed them open passage.

Lin Ming was nervous as they flew into the opening. This was his first time meeting the upper-echelon of the Lin Clan, and they were Lin Xianxei's family, so he felt a need to impress. He straightened his back and flew steadily in hopes of establishing a good first impression.

When Lin Xianxei descended, he was shocked to see all the members of the Lin Clan turn to her respectfully. They bowed, remained silent, and paid their respects through this gesture. Lin Xianxei coolly nodded, arriving before the young woman that seemed even younger than her.

Those beside her moved out of the way deferentially in an orderly manner.

"Was this the status of a Saintess?" Lin Ming was shocked at this display and showing. They were treating Lin Xianxei as their leader, with the utmost respect imaginable. He expected to receive some jealous glares from the young generation, perhaps seeing someone trying to court her, but even the youngsters of the Lin Clan, those hot-blooded elites, were silent and bowing without a single form of disrespect or challenge in their auras.

Lin Xianxei's expression had simmered down from a smile to a neutral expression, she indifferently said: "Mother."

Mother?!

Lin Ming stayed close to Lin Xianxei, so he was shocked to hear this. He couldn't help but look at this woman, a little shocked. Lin Xianxei was scarlet-haired and her looks were different, sharper and more narrow, a little less attractive than the young woman before him. This woman had golden blonde hair with softer, gentler, and gorgeous features.

The only resemblance he could find were in their body types. Excluding their different attires, their height and shape was very similar, if not the exact same. It was uncanny even.

Lin Xianxei's mother, Lin Xianxian, kept her smile as she looked at Lin Xianxei up and down. She amusedly asked: "Still keeping your appearance disguised? You should just be true to yourself; you'll find a better Dao Companion that way. After all..." She looked at Lin Ming with a faint grin, enchanting enough to ignite one's internal fire, "Men are quite simple creatures."

Lin Xianxei harrumphed and retorted, "Simple men are simple creatures."

"Oh? So you're saying he's not simple?" She gave Lin Ming another glance. "The Archaic Chosen? I must say: Congratulations on your audience-less victory. It must've felt great to fight without any pressure."

Lin Ming furrowed his brows. He felt that Lin Xianxei's mother didn't really like him, but he didn't know why. They have never met before...

"Enough," Lin Xianxei said softly. She had to take a breath before she could continue, "We need two viewing spots."

Lin Xianxian laughed lightly, "Of course." She sent two spiritual lights their way, as if she prepared it beforehand. Then, with a slight pat of her forehead in surprise, she turned to Lin Ming and said, "I'm Lin Xianxian, Lin Xianxei's mother, and Sect Leader of the True Element Sect. You can call me Mother-In-Law, if you want." With a carefree chuckle, she announced.

Lin Ming's entire being froze.

"It's beginning!" An elder announced.

Chapter 639 - 634: Grand Demonstration, A Feeling

A high-pitched sound emanated out from the Spiritual Projection Obelisk. It blared out for thousands of miles, encapsulating every last skyship in the surroundings, causing them to vibrate slightly. The trembling alerted everyone that the demonstration was beginning.

The anticipation in the hearts of the cultivators of Origin, not just those of the True Element Sect, were at an all-time high. The last time the Golden Life Pavilion had performed such a grand showing, it showed off a fuel-efficient, highly-sustainable, affordable, and spacious skyship design. This design was terrifying, and the vast majority of cultivators today used them. It had replaced the archaic designs that were clunky and filled with various issues.

The best defining feature of that skyship design was its integrated homeopathic formations. With it, the various formations interlinked together through an array could be repaired without long-term maintenance. This was a huge issue because numerous issues occurred while traveling through planets, such as assaults or natural phenomena, and then the skyship's foundation would be devastated or ruined.

This left cultivators stranded. It wasn't easy to safely traverse planets using one's own power, especially with its enormity and various territories. Fortunately, the homeopathic formation allowed self-repairs as long as one has resources.

Afterward, all skyships of future generations had incorporated this formation. Despite it seeming as if the formation was the most vital portion of the product, the design for the skyship was still popular due to its exquisite design. It was so popular and efficient that 80% of all skyships in circulation had its general design. After overturning that market, the excitement for the next big thing was as high as the heavens from the entire Aeternal Sky Starfield.

The Spiritual Projection Obelisk within Origin wasn't just releasing that sound, but every location within the sixteen domains that had one. This included the Imperial Clan's Domain and the Nine Worlds Domain. Despite their restrictions set forth to prevent the Golden Life Pavilion from operating within their territory, they weren't willing to lose this opportunity, and the Golden Life Pavilion wasn't so petty as to turn away potential customers.

They, just like all the other worlds, all the forces within their territory, had the ability to buy a ticket to the demonstration. This earned the Golden Life Pavilion an incredibly tidy sum with very little cost on their part. After all, the cost to use the Spiritual Projection Obelisk was borne by these forces, not them. They just had to release the Revelation Disk's energy fluctuations out to their pre-crafted tickets.

The cost was close to roughly a millionth of what they themselves earned from just the ticket sales. Still, they only used it for special events. While there were scaled down versions of the demonstration, handled by the four branches independently or planet-restricted, this was throughout the entire sixteen domains.

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Far-off at the edge of the Aeternal Sky Starfield, a nascent planet was orbiting about. New Everlore had changed drastically from its original state nine months ago. In fact, it was totally different to an unbelievable extent. While far away from the radiance of the Solar Star, the environment of New Everlore was flourishing, a contrast to its bare bones state before.

There were tall, rich forests with freshwater rivers. The trees brimmed with pure wood energies while the waters were infused with special properties. If a mortal were to drink it, their bodies would be flushed of impurities, their thirst quenched, and their cells energized. For cultivators, they would experience similarities, but the water energies within would promote the growth of their innate energies.

There were entire fields being cultivated. There were grains that emitted gentle energies in every ounce. There were rice, corn, wheat, potato, and more that were varied from field to field, having various variations. There was one rice field that emitted a strong heat. This light red-colored rice was extremely beneficial to alleviate a cultivator's affinity towards fire as well as absorb fire energies to cultivate themselves.

There weren't just farms for food corps, but plantations that grew tea leaves, oil seeds, fruits, and sugar canes. The fields were exceptionally rich and had high yields. Regardless of the corps desired time to seed, they were all equally vibrant.

The common people, those low-leveled cultivators, were working in good conditions and had buildings established to maintain a steady pace and oversee unhindered progress. Yet at this moment, everyone on the planet, the trillions of people, were all looking at the sky to see a gigantic obelisk. There were

eight established, and above this obelisk were a single gigantic golden solar star-like object, far bigger than the other sixteen domains.

At one of these obelisks were millions of members of the Eternal Monarch Sect. At the lead of these millions, amongst them all, were a single woman of astonishing beauty and grace, looking forward with a calm, steady gaze.

Wu Baozhai observed the obelisk before her. Roughly a month ago, a half-dozen experts on voidships that seemingly exceeded Mortal Limits had arrived. She had thought it was an attack, even going as far as ordering defensive measures, but they had instead brought along numerous materials and respectfully talked to her as if she was an equal.

The person in charge was unnaturally nice. Then, they explained the concept of the demonstration and auction, informing her that they needed to establish these obelisks so the entire population could observe it at once. She was skeptical at first, but after listening to Wu Yu's assurances, she accepted it.

When Wu Yu had told her that it was likely Wei Wuyin's influence that was doing this, she was thoroughly astonished. Wei Wuyin wasn't even here, and there's been no word of him, yet he was having those beyond the Mortal Limits labor for him? To be so polite to a little Astral Core Realm cultivator like herself? Who was situated at the outer edge of the starfield, forgotten by most?

She thought Wei Wuyin was amazing when she delved into the spatial ring he left her, finding all sorts of agricultural and environmental alchemical products. How far-sighted must one be? There wasn't a single thing needed besides effort, and they were already capable of growing high-level crops with fertile fields.

The growth of which was expedited. What should've taken a century had been reduced to a few months. How terrifying was this?! Just anticipating it was terrifying enough, but being able to provide this?

She just couldn't stop marveling at his means and capabilities. To add, he wasn't overbearing and demanding as others. She couldn't imagine what other men would've demanded of her to help her with any of this.

Wu Baozhai mentally communicated with Wu Yu: "Those eight obelisks and those golden solar star objects above them must be costly."

"You have no idea," Wu Yu chuckled in reply. He had investigated the Golden Life Pavilion thoroughly after meeting Ma Sujiang, including their past achievements. He was well-aware that even mystic-tier forces would have an audience of millions, but they had established it so they could have an audience of trillions.

There was probably no force that would spend so much, yet they received this all for free? If he hadn't figured out that it was due to Wei Wuyin, he would fail as a brain-possessing existence.

When the high-pitched sound was emitted, everyone received a feminine voice through their spiritual senses, every cultivator on the planet, to send out their spiritual sense and the obelisk will act to connect with it. They just have to project it outwards slightly.

Some Qi Condensation Cultivators could barely extend their spiritual senses a few meters, so this was very accommodating. As they did, trillions of cyan-colored light erupted and entered the glabella of each individual. They instantly displayed the image of a platform, and it was as if they were really there! They could even feel the temperature of the room through their spiritual sense.

"How amazing!" Wu Baozhai was surprised by this feature.

"I wonder what is about to happen," Wu Yu spoke out.

"What do you mean?" Wu Baozhai asked, not sure of what Wu Yu meant. She thought that this could be a trap? But then she thought about it for a brief second and dismissed it. Just the few cultivators they sent to establish the obelisks could casually destroy this planet a thousand times over. Why waste the effort?

Wu Yu amusingly explained, "I just have a feeling that this is about to make a certain someone absurdly famous, and shake this entire world at its core." He had seen Na Xinyi, so he was aware of the Neo-Dawn Eclipse Pill. If this wasn't about that, he would sell his two legs.

"..." Wu Baozhai wasn't aware of what Wu Yu knew, but she felt a tightening of her chest at his words. She couldn't help but recall that figure that had been almost nothing before. Just like her, a small Qi Condensation cultivator with no backing entering into an entire new world. Then, in a few years, just a few years, he was a household name that shook the entire starfield and its inhabitants to agree, unanimously, that it'll be renamed after him.

Even the will of the San Clan was ignored, and they dared not speak a single word against it.

It's been barely a year, he wasn't even in the starfield, but was it about to happen again?

The ravenous anticipation in her heart started to surge.

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There were trillions of eyes observing the platform through their extended, interconnected spiritual senses. From those at the Qi Condensation to those at the Mystic Ascendant Realm, they were all present.

A figure walked onto the platform, feeling the countless gazes upon their existence, watching every breath they took and moves they made. Yet the figure was entirely unaffected, being highly composed.

The figure had lightly applied make-up that accentuated her natural beauty, just enough to make others aware of her. She had her dark-grey hair tied into an exquisite bun, and it no longer hid her bottom that was hugged by a tight-fitting black and gold cheongsam.

Ma Sujiang bowed slightly, "I welcome all observers from across the Sixteen Domains to this product demonstration. I, Ma Sujiang, shall be your host... Please forgive me if I'm inadequate."

Chapter 640 - 635: Grand Demonstration, Two Sovereigns

Her feminine traits were highlighted heavily at this moment, showing off another side of her that most could rarely ever see. She had discarded her earlier battle outfit of a Realm Guardian, dressing in an enchanting attire suitable for a female host.

Ma Sujiang was beautiful, and that wasn't up for debate, from her pink lips to her phoenix eyes, there was just no question. With her fair skin, she calmly arrived before everyone and caused the spiritual senses of trillions to quiver. The vast majority of which were men. A few were even enamored by Ma Sujiang immediately. If they could, they might confess their nascent yet intense feelings instantly.

Ma Sujiang calmly gave her opening introduction. With that, she proceeded without a hitch. Clearly, she was highly experienced in handling matters like this. When she was young, she had hosted numerous other demonstrations and auctions before. With a faint smile, she explained:

"Our Golden Life Pavilion has opened this product demonstration today for all the cultivators of the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region, to bring to you our newest alchemical product that'll be on sale in the coming years, available for purchase by the heroes of the cultivation world.

"To start, I'll explain the intended use of the alchemical product and its qualities. This alchemical product is a digestible pill, capable of being directly refined by cultivators. There are no gender requirements for this pill. There are no cultivation method requirements for this pill.

"There is, however, a cultivation restriction for this pill. To refine it, one must be at the Third Stage of the Astral Core Realm, the Soul Idol Phase. Those beneath this stage who attempt to refine this pill would find it useless, wasted. I caution against experimentation.

"The pill is of the peak-tier within the ninth-grade," as Ma Sujiang said this, the numerous spiritual senses trembled. Clearly, those words affected them heavily. But from the feedback, it was not positive. These originated from the overly powerful cultivators that had tremendous influence, some even from Earthly Saints!

To them, her words were the same as saying that this pill will be severely limited in quantity, especially with that tier. But even if they searched all other peak-tier ninth-grade products, none of them felt any of them warranted a starfield-wide demonstration. It was just too difficult to concoct or their effects were usually of very little value to Ascended.

But Ma Sujiang's next words shook them once more.

"The pill's purpose is simple: At its lowest-graded state, the pill can create a perfectly compatible Domain Seed, establishing a genuine Worldly Domain prior to the Realm World Phase, lacking only a single quality—Mana Conversion." Ma Sujiang's faint smile seemed to turn into a faint grin, and those terrifying spiritual senses went absolutely wild!

She could feel the intense reactions from the feedback.

The lesser cultivators, those from the New Everlore, who were unaware of its significance weren't too impacted, but those in the Astral Core Realm, aware of what this meant, their spiritual senses started to flare just as wildly. Besides those from New Everlore, everyone else had high-tiered origins, so almost all of them understood the implication!

On Origin, Lin Ming shouted out in disbelief: "IMPOSSIBLE!"

The tone he used was as if he heard the most unbelievable news in the world. It wasn't just him, Lin Xianxei's eyes widened so much her eyes seemed about to exit her skull. While their reactions might be intense, but they weren't the only ones.

Lin Xianxian dismissed this with a scoff, "This must be bullsh*t. A Worldly Domain prior to the Realm World Phase? While it's possible in theory, when has one ever been perfectly compatible? There's too many issues with this."

An elder beside Lin Xianxian whose status seemed relatively high added, "You're right, Sect Leader Lin. There's a pill that can do something similar, but it severe one's cultivation path, and can only be used by those at the Gravity Emission Phase. There must be a heavy cost to this pill. Otherwise, how heaven-defying would this be?"

Lin Xianxian had a wisp of approval in her eyes as she glanced at this elder agreeing with her. She nodded, "If this pill had no cost, then it'll be the best ninth-grade product in existence, hands down." She thought about something, looking at the wide-eyed Lin Ming and felt a little satisfied.

He looked like an ignorant little duck. This amused her that she chuckled softly. She couldn't help but explain: "If a Domain Seed could truly form at the Soul Idol Phase, then every cultivator would have a straight, unhindered path to the Realm World Phase. In theory, it'll save hundreds of years of time in cultivation, and completely obliterate all lethal danger that the Realm World Astral Tribulation has."

"It truly is impossible," the elder added while shaking his head.

Lin Ming absentmindedly looked at Lin Xianxian's mother who was explaining to him like he was a child. As if he didn't understand principles of cultivation. Furthermore, he was experiencing its effects personally! While he was trying to still stabilize his Domain Seed, remove the external influences from the three foreign soul energies, he knew of its outstanding power and advantages.

Also, his Worldly Domain lacked two qualities, not one!

They weren't the only ones who were dismissing this pill. Feeling as if the cost must be equally as terrifying. After all, there's never been an incident where bypassing the standards of cultivation didn't have its accompanying difficulties.

Ma Sujiang hadn't stopped permanently. She merely allowed them to digest this information and discuss amongst themselves. They were being primed for a slap, and she knew it. That resounding slap will only stimulate their desires.

Ma Sujiang continued: "There is a cost for this pill, however," the spiritual senses immediately focused on her. The discussions in the sixteen domains had simultaneously ceased. What could this cost be? Was it so heavy that it could be dismissed? But those who were intelligent knew that this would be the highlight of the description.

"The cost for the pill is that one must, I repeat, must be in the Soul Idol Phase!" When she stated this, her grin became brighter, revealing an astonishing innate beauty. The senses froze. She added, "There is no other price. The pill is entirely self-sufficient, so it doesn't need any supplementary materials or cultivation methods, just the correct cultivation base."

"..."

"..."

"..."

"WHAT?!"

"WHAT?!?!"

"WHAT?!?!?!?"

The trembling from the senses was just outrageously in disbelief. If it wasn't for the separation of a vast distance, including the inability to communicate through the obelisks and Revealment Disk, they would've bombarded Ma Sujiang with unending questions!

Ma Sujiang waited for a minute, exactly sixty-seconds, before she continued. She gestured, and the Revealment Disk moved to show a figure that everyone of any renown noticed. It was of a brown-bearded, short-haired middle-aged man with a slim physique and round glasses with a thin, black frame.

He pushed up the frame further along the bridge of his nose, and observed at the Revealment Disk. He didn't show the humble posture of a host, but had the stance of outrageous arrogance. From his imposing gaze, it seemed that he looked down on the world and then some.

This was Ma Leihan!

One of the thirty-four Mortal Sovereign Alchemists of the Aeternal Sky Starfield! There was not a single person amongst anyone of reputation that was unfamiliar with his visage! When he took the stage, even the senses of Ascended became calmer, subdued as if scared of attracting his attention yet also wanting to show how good and respectful they were.

A bonafide Mortal Sovereign Alchemist!

Since he made his appearance, the doubt that surrounded the pill had considerably lowered.

Ma Sujiang introduced, "This illustrious figure is Alchemic Sovereign Ma Leihan, Official Mortal Sovereign Alchemist of my Ma Clan. He will be acting as a Guest for this Product Demonstration and Authenticator of the pill's effects."

Then, the Revealment Disk changed again.

This time, an elegant figure, buxom and curvaceous in all the right places, arrived. Despite her vixen like body, she exuded a haughty elegance befitting nobility. She carried herself with gravitas of an empress, and she looked to the world with an inner pride that was impossible to overlook.

Dressed in a blue and gold dress that hugged her body tightly yet revealed no excess skin, as if while others might be able to admire her, they were unworthy of seeing an ounce of her skin. She stood on stage with a mesh veil that only covered her nose and mouth, revealing her heterochromic eyes of light grey(right) and dark grey(left).

She didn't even need to speak before the spiritual senses became explosive! They were even more terrifying than when they saw Ma Sujiang! While they couldn't even see her face, the signature marking on her stomach area was known by all!

The symbol was a seven-colored diamond-shaped, and divided into four equivalent sections by straight white lines.

The lines were thin, but they had seven-colored runic symbols that were extremely lively. At the top and bottom of the diamond was a rotating spherical object that resembled a pill. The left had the character for 'Ever' and the right had the character for 'Lore'.

The Everlore Association!!!

Ma Sujiang then introduced through the turbulent senses, "This person needs very little introduction, but I will embarrass myself in an attempt to do her justice. This is the gorgeous Twilight Alchemic Sovereign, Mu Yura, Official Mortal Sovereign Alchemist of the Everlore Association. She has been invited by the Golden Life Pavilion to act as a witness, ensuring the effects are without issues and our words are without falseness."

If before the doubts had dwindled, at this moment, the elite experts of this starfield started to believe one thing: This pill was real. And the Golden Life Pavilion? They were dead-set on proving it!