

PARAGON 71

Chapter 71 - 70: Su Mei's Interference

The event of the nearly-instantaneous downfall of the Lei Clan had caused a bout of chaos to ensue in the Jade Lotus Domain. As a clan that ruled over a vast area and was controlled by a Mortal God, they were well within the upper-echelon of the world and were entrenched into many different pots. Now these pots were stirred and some even tilted over.

A power vacuum had been created, and it was the opportunity of many. This type of chaos had concealed the abrupt and seemingly random human disappearances that were taking place within the Jade Lotus Domain and the sect.

The person responsible for these disappearances quietly held a transmission crystal in her palm as she awaited a response in Jade Blessed City. When it became lit with light, her expression subtly changed followed by a sigh of relief.

Wei Wuyin had given her permission to act as she will. At the moment, she stood at a restaurant's entrance that was filled with all sorts of cultivators. Her breathing and aura was subdued and concealed as she calmly waited.

Earlier, she had completed her mission of eradicating those marked for death by Wei Wuyin and decided to grab a bite. In an utter coincidence, she came upon the whispers of a plot.

Her eyes glanced into the restaurant to see three figures of unruly-looking men seated together being unusually silent. While they talked quietly and waited, their gazes would shift towards a table. At this table was a young woman with shoulder-length brown hair and bright eyes. Her attire was modest but her looks were exquisite and pure.

She was a beauty without a doubt. And she was now the main target of these three men.

Normally, she wouldn't intervene in such an event as the cultivation world was cruel, but when she knew the exact reason for their actions, her heart blazed with a dark emotion.

Before she could further her thoughts, the young girl had finished her meal and rose up after paying her bill. Without a care in the world, as if completely unaware of her current predicament, she left with a pep in her step.

Su Mei hid herself. The three men got up soon after and followed behind her, even though it was still daylight. They stayed a certain distance away from the young woman as they trailed her, but behind them, Su Mei had changed her attire to something more casually appropriate. A dark blue dress that highlighted her feminine curves that could easily be forgotten by her valiant and ruthless tactics.

They were quite good at tailing someone, splitting up and changing the tail every so often. She could tell they used transmission crystals to coordinate their positions, and this showed a level of skill that shocked even her. If it wasn't for their complete belief that they would never be followed, they might have been able to spot her.

The girl soon left Jade Blessed City on a carriage with a driver. She took the main roads as she departed. The three men's cultivation bases weren't low, so they followed on foot.

Su Mei's eyes narrowed with a dark glint. She avoided engaging in public because a fight between cultivators could lead to all sorts of innocent casualties and variables. It was best to strike when isolated. Furthermore, she wasn't sure if she could kill them all easily.

Each one of these cultivators were an incredible expert, having a cultivation at the Third Stage of Qi Condensation, Elemental Birth Phase. She even felt that they had all birthed the four main elements already. If it was a one-vs-one, she would have complete confidence, but numbers mattered in a fight with close cultivation bases.

Several hours passed, and they were now far away from the city. That's when Su Mei heard the commotion. The crashing of wood against the ground followed by explosive sounds and wailing cries. She knew that the carriage driver was likely killed by their assault.

She didn't hesitate to speed up and catch up to the three. This was the best time for her to strike.

Just as she assumed, in a relatively clear grassy clearing, the three men had taken action. There were remnants of earth and fire qi within the area, and within the hands of one of these men was the unconscious young woman. She seemed to have been instantly subdued.

Su Mei hid herself a little bit away in the distance as she calculated a good position to take action. Patience and planning was important before taking action. This was an aspect of battle that Wei Wuyin had taught her long ago, and she believed this thoroughly. It was this modus operandi that she was able to effortlessly kill the experts listed by Wei Wuyin.

Firstly, her life was always the most important to take into consideration. Secondly, the urgency of the situation vs objective has to be determined. At the moment, the young girl was not in harm's way as they wished to capture her. Therefore, there wasn't any urgency, hence why she waited for them to attack and lower their guards upon perceived success.

Lastly, always establish an advantage in any engagement, before or during, no matter how small.

The three men's guards were truly lowered. "Finally, we're done with this mess." One of the men said. He had a scar beneath his left eye, a gruff voice, and unruly facial hair. However, his muscular body and dense aura showed a strong foundation.

He spat on the ground.

Crack! Pshh!!

Not too far away, a skinny man used a dagger to slit the throat of the carriage driver before wrenching his head from his torso. The sound was disgusting to hear as blood and matter splattered about. However, he seemed quite practiced as no blood touched his clothes.

This man's eyes were sunken, revealing a chilly and vicious light. "Another trophy," he said with a cold laugh.

The last one was a silent, tall, burly looking man with a face full of black facial hair. He wasn't too muscular or skinny, but he stood out as his head lacked any hair. He merely looked on, and it seemed he was the most cautious of the three as his spiritual sense was circulating around him.

The scarred man carried the young girl as he said, "The boss will definitely enjoy this one. Let's go." With that, he hoisted the soft body of the young girl on his shoulder as he walked away.

The skinny man was murmuring to himself with a strange smile as he regarded the head. For some reason, a little bit of a pitched tent could be seen on his pants. As for the bald and silent man, he followed the scarred man without hesitation.

Su Mei could not identify the dynamic of this group a little. Her body moved silently as she didn't want to engage in a clearing. Instead, she waited several minutes tailing them until they reached a location cluttered by trees. With their line of sight mostly obstructed, she, who held the initiative, finally acted.

Her saber in hand, she slithered her way to be behind the skinny man who trailed a little away from the others, seemingly holding a decapitated head with all sorts of thoughts. Without a moment of hesitation, she jumped out with a chop.

"What?!" The skinny man was startled. However, when he saw Su Mei approaching him with killing intent, that startled look abruptly vanished, revealing a malicious glint and cold smile. "Finally, you reveal yourself! Haha!" As if expecting Su Mei, he threw the decapitated head towards her.

Boom!

Before a moment had passed, the head exploded and engulfed Su Mei's figure in a raging explosion of flames.

「Earth Art: Spikes of Heaven」

Then, a series of earthen spikes shot from beneath the ground to pierce the location she had been. A little bit away, the bald man had his hand placed on the ground as his earth qi flowed freely within.

It seemed that they had long since made preparation against Su Mei, noticing her long ago.

"Damn! And she was such a beauty. Did you see her hair, that skin and those eyes? Ooooh, I would do all sorts of things to her head!" The skinny man coldly spat with laughter and a tinge of regret. However, he was most ignored.

The bald man's eyes were more focused as he peered through the dust and smoke. Then, his eyes violently widened.

"Watch o—" he tried to call out, but it was too late.

Silver qi flashed and the laughter that was abhorrent to the maximum was cut off.

Plop.

A head fell.

The bald man watched as his comrades head fell from his shoulder, blood gushing out from the clean-cut stump of his torso. His heart was racing, but he was experienced as he circulated his earth qi to protect himself with a ward. He held his hands at the ready to execute some handseals, his eyes looking about his as spiritual sense tried to lockdown Su Mei's figure.

"To think she would use a spiritual spell to create an diversionary illusion...such high-level methods are usually reserved for high-level experts of the top sects." He cursed in his heart as he realized that their entire plan to eliminate their tail was a part of her plan. Otherwise, how could she set up a spiritual spell of that level?

She let herself become noticed.

He cursed as he wanted to run, but he was likely too slow and putting himself in such a passive situation was no good against a saber cultivator. His intelligence was obviously greater than the skinny man as he analyzed the situation and knew his limitations. However, it did him little good to stay alive.

While he was in the midst of his thoughts, Su Mei had prepared and gathered her qi and unleashed her strongest art.

「Saber Art: Torrential Outpour」

A vast, river-like surge of saber qi arrived and descended like a natural disaster. The bald man could only watch as the silver river that seemed to be teeming with saber images descended.

Before he could even scream, he was overwhelmed and eviscerated.

Su Mei undid her concealing spiritual spell, revealing her figure as her bright eyes were accompanied by a hint of exhaustion. This wasn't due to qi depletion, but her spiritual energies had been drained after consecutive spells.

Her bright black eyes fixed in the distance. The leader of the group had already departed, leaving the two to her. Unfortunately for him, her cultivation was stronger and so was her planning. With a tap of her feet, she pursued.

Chapter 72 - 71: Not A Damsel

"Shit! They're dead!" The scarred man coldly spat, hoisting the unconscious young girl on his shoulder a little tighter. His legs were like the wind as he shot through the forest. At the moment, the life talismans of his two partners had shattered in his storage ring, indicating their untimely demise.

What should've been a simple snatch & grab operation had led to such a huge disaster. When he left the two to deal with their tail, he didn't expect their deaths. They were veterans with boundless experience and decisive killing intent. Even if the cultivator was a Yin Form Phase expert, they would be able to hold their own and even kill.

Yet...

His heart was currently racing, but he maintained a calm mind. The decades of experience made him act as such, and he started to figure out various things. The girl's status was investigated, and she shouldn't have had any backing of this level. So, the only option was a random good Samaritan who came upon their action of kidnapping this girl.

If so, then abandoning this girl would be the best course of action. His eyes twitched as he struggled with this decision, but soon a flash of decisiveness emerged in his dark pupils.

However, while he was debating his actions, a flash of silver qi shot towards him like piercing lightning, aiming to slice into his back and his beating heart. His reaction was not slow, using the girl's body as a shield.

As he expected, the saber qi veered off course. It sliced a nearby tree in half causing a loud thud. The cut was clean and smooth, like a layer of glass.

He stopped, held the girl's neck with his right hand, and his eyes revealed dense killing intent as he eyed the world. A figure revealed itself. It was of a woman with black hair, pure black hair, and an indifferent expression. She wasn't a beauty of the ages, and that look could send cold shivers down a polar bear's spine.

Within her palm was a saber. The bloody aura emitted by this saber was heart-palpitating.

The scarred man used his fingers to grip the neck of the girl harder, causing her unconscious body to wince in pain and become roused from her state. She seemed still drowsy.

"I don't want to fight you to the death," the scarred man was wise, unwilling to fight and die for a girl he had just known of a few days ago. If his life ended today because of her, he'd be restless in his grave for eternity. After all, he had prospects and women waiting for him. She was completely not worth it.

Su Mei remained calm, her eyes regarded the man with little emotion.

Seeing Su Mei's lack of response, his heart chilled. Was she here for him? But when had he ever offended such a fearsome expert? With clenched teeth and shouted, "If you don't want her to die, then leave!" He gambled.

Step.

Su Mei walked forward without care, her saber glowing faintly with sharp, silver saber qi. A keening sound emanated from the saber, and it resembled the cries of dead men.

"Shit!" The scarred man felt himself backed into a corner. He had already realized that Su Mei's cultivation was above his own and her combat prowess was beyond normal Yin Form Phase experts. Fighting her meant a grueling struggle for his life with barely any chance for a tomorrow. That being said, he wasn't a coward.

His eyes narrowed viciously. If he had to, he would self-detonate. "Fine! If that's what you want," he harshly gripped the girl's neck causing faint indicating signs of her spine breaking. A single clench and her neck would be twisted into an unnatural angle and her life would soon end.

Su Mei didn't halt her steps, seemingly unaffected by the threatening stance. Instead, that faint saber qi started to rapidly increase in intensity and caused the surrounding grass to wave chaotically about.

"Fuck!" The scarred man now knew that if he killed this girl, all inhibiting variables of Su Mei would end. In fact, she was preparing and waiting for him to kill her. So, how could he? She was his only chance at survival, so his bluff didn't work. After all, the saber qi veered away when he used her as a shield. If he continued to use her as a shield, perhaps he could get an advantage.

Shiing!

Just as he loosened his grip and readied to fight to the death, with the final option being mutual destruction, a dagger appeared abruptly in his vision. Soon, the entire left side of his vision was overwhelmed with the sharp glint of a dagger with a white hilt.

Psuush!

It stabbed into his left eye and entered his brain instantly. A surge of qi exploded the moment it was inserted, his brain turned into mush, then pop! His head exploded into a gore of white, red, and pink matter and bodily fluids.

Su Mei paused, momentarily stunned by the abrupt development. From her position, she witnessed the young girl awaken and then not even struggle when her neck was held. Her eyes were strangely calm.

Then, the moment the man's grip loosened, the woman was like a flash as a dagger was taken from her thigh and jabbed without an ounce of hesitation. She had saved herself.

Su Mei was stunned by this. Her cultivation wasn't low, at the Second Stage of the Qi Condensation Realm, External Flow Phase. That was shocking considering she looked no older than sixteen.

Even Wei Wuyin, a talented genius, only reached the Second Stage after twenty. That was better than the vast majority, yet this girl redefined talent. Her qi seemed to even carry a hint of elemental energies. She was on the border of the Third Stage.

Su Mei didn't approach. Instead, he observed her from a safe distance.

Then, the young girl regained herself as she casually brushed off the dirt on her clothing. "Fuck!" She coarsely cursed, turning around to see the headless scarred man. "Fuck, fuck!" She kicked the man's corpse in obvious frustration.

"Why are you so fucking useless?!" She kicked a few more times and then calmed her breathing, seemingly trying to realign her mentality. Those eyes of hers didn't seem to originate from a damsel, but a calm and calculated genius. To Su Mei, she reminded him of Wei Wuyin.

The young girl turned to see Su Mei, her eyes cautious yet flashed with a hint of anger. "Please tell me the other two are alive," she asked while fixing her messy hair, straightening it out with a little bit of qi and strength.

Su Mei was merely stunned by the event, but she had accomplished her goal. The girl was safe and the men were dead. Therefore, she intended to leave.

"Wait!" The young girl called out, stopping Su Mei in her tracks. "I need the other two at least!" Her tone carried a faint hint of pleading.

Su Mei calmly said, "I killed them both."

"Argh!" The young girl lowly growled, ruffling her freshly straightened hair into a mess. "So much effort wasted!" She stomped a few times, then walked back to the corpse and kicked it a few times, repeating 'useless'.

Su Mei's curiosity usually lacked, but this girl started to stroke her interest. She asked, "What do you mean?"

After she delivered another swift kick, this time to the man's groin, she responded with: "I needed them alive. They...shit! They were my ticket to Cai Du's estate."

Su Mei was startled. Cai Du? Wasn't that God Cai, the Waterfall Savage God. He was a renowned figure that she had heard about even while in the Scarlet Solaris Domain. In fact, all Mortal Gods were well-known and popular, but he was a notorious expert. It was said that he dealt with all sorts of black market dealings and had his hand in sex trafficking. In fact, there were rumors that he was one of the head bosses of the trade.

"You...wanted to be taken by them?" Her expression was odd as she inspected this young beauty before them. Even though her cultivation base was impressive for her age, she would never be able to kill a Mortal God, even if his guard was down.

"Oh? You're quite smart to figure that out. Was it my words or your high-level thinking that led you to that conclusion?" The young girl mocked.

Su Mei's eyes narrowed. Her saber in her hand turned slightly.

Only then, when the glint of the saber entered her view did the young girl realize she was before an actual expert. She took a step back and hurriedly said, "Sorry! I'm just frustrated by the turn of events. You see, my younger sister was taken three years ago, and I'm trying to save her."

Su Mei brows furrowed. To be purposefully captured to attempt to save your sister was commendable, but quite dumb to deliver yourself to a figure of that level. Even if her explanation could bring out some pity, she didn't feel like involving herself with it.

She sheathed her saber and turned. This matter no longer concerned her.

Seeing Su Mei unhesitantly wash her hands of the matter nearly caused the young girl to pull her hair out. Shouldn't you take responsibility?! But, considering asking Su Mei, someone she didn't know, to help her save her sister against a Mortal God was too much.

The young girl deeply sighed. All her planning went to waste.

Woosh!

She felt a gush of wind arrive.

Kree!

Just as Su Mei was about to leave, an avian cry resounded. Su Mei lifted her hair and saw a large body, golden beak, and a pair of golden eyes. Bai Lin's elegant crane body appeared and on her back was a silver-eyed figure with a faint smile.

"Su Mei, do you want to help?" Wei Wuyin calmly smiled as Bai Lin descended. He leapt off her and beside Su Mei.

When Wei Wuyin arrived, Su Mei's heart raced. She pondered for a moment and slightly nodded.

Wei Wuyin smiled. This valiant looking woman was not the indifferent warrior that was cold and cruel as she seemed. Su Mei had asked for permission to exactly save this young girl because she had a heart, warm and soft. It was because she was once that young girl.

The girl who was taken against her will.

Chapter 73 - 72: Offering Help

The young girl was shocked by Wei Wuyin's arrival. When he descended, revealing himself in a black martial outfit, his well-toned body, abnormally handsome countenance, and unfathomable aura was all alluring and attractive. She was merely a young girl still experiencing the blossom of springtime, so her heart went aflutter.

Wei Wuyin ignored her as she swooned on the side. Instead, he talked to Su Mei. "Then, we'll help. It's only a small matter." To him, a Godlord, what was a Mortal God? It was like comparing a noble to peasants. His confidence only inflated rightfully so because even while he was at the Fifth Stage of Qi Condensation, he had killed two Mortal Gods.

To the current him, they were truly inconsequential.

Su Mei felt her heart warm as she knew that Wei Wuyin was only willing to help because she wanted to. When she was young, her life was calm and peaceful until an envoy of the Scarlet Solaris Sect arrived in her town. He was merely an outer disciple, but that enough exceeded her horizon.

He arrived like a dashing prince, and snatched her away against her will with strength, forcing her to be a part of his harem. This was her story. It was only when Wei Wuyin arrived that she regained a sense of herself, but her moral compass was biased towards those who snatched young girls.

This was why she couldn't hold herself back to kill and save this young girl, projecting herself to her. It was unfortunate that she unintentionally foiled her plan, but she wasn't idiotic enough to fight against a Mortal God.

If Wei Wuyin offered to help, then the matter was settled. In fact, a single wave of his hand could kill Cai Du with ease. She knew he was a legitimate Godlord, one with enough power to force one of the five grand sects to acquiesce.

Wei Wuyin nodded, turning to the young girl and asked, "What's your name?"

Startled, the young girl was pulled out of her fantasies as she blushed for a moment. She was a stark difference to the cold-hearted girl that stabbed a dagger into a man's eye and exploded his head without a hint of hesitation. Now, she seemed like a vulnerable girl that was flustered by a crush. This image was too different.

She blushingly said, "Ming Li."

"Ming Li, Su Mei will take Bai Lin with you to save your sister. This can be considered making up for spoiling your plans. It was us who meddled, so we'll correct it." Wei Wuyin calmly stated.

Su Mei was taken aback for a moment. She glanced at Bai Lin. She didn't expect Wei Wuyin would give her Bai Lin and tell her to handle this matter. However, when she recalled that fiery beam of golden light that penetrated God Lei's chest without being able to respond, she nodded.

"What?" Ming Li was confused. But before she could ask any questions, Wei Wuyin retrieved an orb of white mist from his storage ring and sent it towards Ming Li. It started to rapidly morph into a bracelet that wrapped tightly around her right wrist.

Then, Wei Wuyin abruptly vanished. Only his lingering voice remained, "I still have some matters to handle, so I'll leave this to you."

"..." Ming Li was baffled. He arrived and left just like that. She couldn't even say more than her name to him. Furthermore, she couldn't take off this wrist bracelet. Who knew what this was?

Su Mei wasn't as affected. She walked to Bai Lin who made small sounds of acceptance. In fact, her eyes flashed with a fierce intent. Her desire to exert her newfound power was filling her heart and she needed a vent.

"Let's go and save your sister," Su Mei said to Ming Li as she got on Bai Lin's broad back. Ming Li still wasn't sure what had happened, but she was still smart. Why would she arrive at Cai Du's estate at these people's urgings? The experts in that estate were powerful, rivaling a second-rate sect. Not only was their Cai Du a Mortal God level expert, but he definitely had Fourth Phase experts protecting it.

This was why she wanted to insert herself in under a false premise to find her sister. Openingly engaging was a suicidal act. Even though Su Mei was unwilling to help before and had decided to now, she wasn't a fool to simply join someone on a mission she believed to be reckless without a solid plan going forward.

Su Mei frowned. "I'm willing to help you save your sister, and Lord Wei has already said what needed to be said. If you don't want our help, then I'll leave." She didn't want to waste time on nonsense. Sometimes, being too cautious and intelligent can cause one to lose opportunities.

If she didn't want their help, then she would retreat and let her fate be her fate.

Ming Li bit her lower lip. She was unsure if she should accept their help, but she didn't have any real choice? At the moment, they were her only option without having to wait for who knew how long. However, she still didn't want to risk her life and place it into other people's hands without assurances.

"I'm not saying I don't want your help, but I don't trust you. Or him," she brandished the white bracelet that Wei Wuyin placed on her. "I don't know what this does, nor do I know whether you guys can fight Cai Du or his goons. If something happened and I lost my life, am I supposed to weep with grievance in hell?" Ming Li had always been a straight forward girl, and she pointed out her honest feelings.

Su Mei calmly said, "Lord Wei is the Saber Ascendant, a Godlord. That bracelet he gave you is your greatest assurance."

"...!" Ming Li's eyes widened in shock and disbelief. "G-Godlord?" What was a Godlord? A figure that stood at an incredible height in the continent as an indisputable powerhouse. They've transcended the status of simply Mortal Gods, but reached a point where they towered over all Mortal Gods.

To hear that man, that incredibly handsome and young-looking man, was a figure of literal legend caused her heart to throb. In a country of innumerable people, only nineteen Godlords existed in Wu Country.

"Are you coming or not?" Su Mei asked once more.

Ming Li bit her soft, pink lips in thought. She didn't know if she should believe Su Mei, but considering how she was unwilling to face Cai Du before but fully willing the moment Wei Wuyin arrived, she had to take this risk...she just had to pray it wouldn't cost her everything.

She walked towards Bai Lin and said, "Okay!"

The Cai Du Estate was a location within the Jade Lotus Domain with an area of two hundred kilometers of territory. It was wide and expansive, being more so a small city or fortress than a normal estate. The citizens of the Jade Lotus Domain regarded it as a sturdy safe haven and renowned as being protected by a Mortal God.

However, it had a dark reputation amidst its good name and that was due to sex trafficking. It was whispered in corners and shadows that Cai Du, the Waterfall Savage God, was an underworld boss that had many illegal dealings that went against the Jade Lotus Sect's laws. Yet, because of the severe lack of evidence, and likely for more nefarious reasons, the Cai Du Estate was never held accountable.

Without charges being levied against them by the authority of the domain, the members of the estate continued to act as they wished. Young daughters, strapping young lads, and beautiful wives were often reported to have gone missing and later sold.

In the Cai Du Estate, in a grand hall of the central palace, Cai Du was seated on a throne. He had greying temples with his slicked-back black hair, a wickedly handsome visage, a strong physical body and presence, all while towering nearly six feet and six inches.

Before him was a series of men and women of all sorts of ages. They were respectful and orderly before Cai Du.

A young man, no more than twenty years old, had a striking resemblance to Cai Du and wore a calm, confident smile. He stood at Cai Du's right and regarded the men and women before him with his nose slightly upwards.

He was Cai Jin, Cai Du's youngest and most talented son. Despite being nineteen this year, he had already reached the initial-stages of the Elemental Birth Phase, birthing only fire qi. Only when one births all four base elemental qi—Earth, Wind, Water, and Fire—can one be considered to truly enter the Elemental Birth Phase.

However, this level of cultivation already exceeded a vast majority of youths, revealing his outstanding natural talent. He was likely on par with Wu Chen, a child of a Godlord.

"Father," Cai Jin spoke, interrupting the previous speaker.

Cai Du didn't find fault with his interruption as he looked at this prideful gem of his. "Yes, son?"

Cai Jin then proceeded to smile as he talked about the topics on his mind, such as how to handle clan affairs. Their current meeting was an annual clan meeting to determine resources and all sorts of important matters, so he didn't hesitate to involve himself.

However, when he spoke, the expressions of many within the audience, especially those affected by his suggestions had ugly expressions. However, they didn't dare reveal it for too long and stifled it behind a passive expression.

"Fine, we'll do as you say." Cai Du clearly doted on this son of his, giving him free reign over clan decisions. As he was groomed to be the next Estate Master and Clan Lord of the Cai Clan, it was fine to allow him to exert some authority early, especially since he showed initiative.

"Dismissed." Cai Du waved his hand after and everyone, whether willing or not, left.

Cai Jin smiled with pure arrogance, "Thank you, father." He bowed with the utmost respect.

Cai Du waved him off with a smile, "It is yours anyhow. What if I let you enjoy it a few years early? Go, I need to rest."

"Yes, father." He bowed once more before leaving, excitement and confidence written all over his smile. Cai Jin had it all, and in the future, he'll have more. When he recalled the young beauties waiting for him in his bed, and another beauty about to be delivered to his lap, he couldn't help but feel even more smug.

Women, wealth, status, power, talent, and backing. Did he truly lack any?

Just as he was about to return to his home, a piercing avian cry resounded in the sky above the estate.

Kree!

Chapter 74 - 73: Cai Du's Estate

The avian cry drew many gazes to the bright sky. Before the eyes of the citizens of the Cai Du Estate, a large white bird with golden eyes, beak, and tail soared into view. It elegantly flapped its wings as it regarded those below.

Atop Bai Lin, Su Mei and Ming Li were observing the estate. Su Mei frowned, "there's a Qi Array laid down here." While this was to be expected, Su Mei hadn't expected its quality to be so high.

Qi Arrays were formations established using materials of the heaven and earth alongside control-based spiritual formations. They drew energy from the natural environment or pre-placed materials, such as Scarlet Qi Stones.

Depending on their size, the quality of material, Qi Arrays can have various forms of strengths and capabilities. The Scarlet Solaris Sect's Scarlet War God Qi Array drew upon strength of the Scarlet Mountain's Quintessence and gathered it into the body of a single individual.

This gave them an almost endless supply of Scarlet Qi at their fingertips. Without much personal cost, they could launch incredibly consuming Qi Arts and rapidly at that. It was terrifying to come against, and the stronger the one who used the Qi Array, the greater its effects.

Ming Li bit her lips, unease in her heart. "It's called the Waterfall Torrent Array. It gathers the ambient water energies and underwater lake beneath the estate to produce endless Water Qi." She had done her research and knew how terrifying the array was. This was why she didn't have any idea to attack head-first.

But when she thought about Wei Wuyin, an alleged Godlord, then her heart somewhat calmed down. She rubbed the white misty bracelet on her arm. If he was truly a Godlord, then this matter was truly settled as soon as he spoke. As long as they threw out his name, wouldn't the entire issue be worked out?

Kree!

Unfortunately for Ming Li, Bai Lin had no intention of this being handled like that. She didn't understand the full story as to why she was sent here, but she did know they were to establish dominance. Recalling Wei Wuyin's demeanor and action against the Jade Lotus Sect, her hot-blood burned with battle spirit.

She wanted to fight!

Her bright, resplendent golden eyes were beautiful as they were lit ablaze by fiery flames. Her bloodline started to circulate faster as her body became engulfed in ash-white flame.

"What?!" Both Su Mei and Ming Li were startled as they became wrapped around by white flames, their eyes flashed with shock and fear. To be abruptly engulfed by flames, who could keep their cool?! In fact, Ming Li was about to jump from Bai Lin's back, but stopped herself when she realized they were hundreds of feet high. If she fell from this height, death was a certainty.

Only after a few seconds did they realize the flames didn't burn, but felt warm and comforting to the touch.

"Is this your power?" Su Mei was still a little shook as she flipped her palms to see the ash-white flame calmly roam around her entirety. She felt a type of life force energy within the flames that slowly poured itself into her body.

Wei Wuyin had once said that Bai Lin's change was caused by a fruit, and this fruit blessed her with unique powers. She had already witnessed that fiery beam scorch a Mortal God with ease. Soon, she regained her heart and said, "Ming Li, it's fine."

"It's fine?!" Ming Li was on the verge of becoming hysterical. Even though she realized that these flames were painless, it was still too much to think she would calm down while completely covered in it.

Kree!

Bai Lin's eyes swept the surface of the Cai Du Estate until she located a grand gate that had grand sculptured and an artistic beauty. Without hesitation, her two eyes release two dense beams of golden fiery light.

Shroom!

The people below saw two beams penetrate the air and blazingly descend. For many, they couldn't register events quickly enough as they stared in awe. Those who could had gawked and shouted, "We're under attack!"

Boom!!

The beams smashed into the gate. Instead of merely penetration, a fiery explosion was produced that became a maelstrom of blazing golden flames that engulfed a hundred feet of area. Those in the vicinity who were engulfed by those flames couldn't even cry as they died soundless and swift deaths.

"Bai Lin!!" Su Mei was fiercely taken aback. Bai Lin had just launched a powerful attack that took at least a dozen lives indiscriminately. Her eyes bulged as her usual cool and collected self started to tremble.

"Holy shit!" Ming Li's reaction was similarly tense as Bai Lin's assault had devastated a wide area, devouring quite a few lives alongside it. This bird crane was that strong? Unknowingly, Ming Li was lucky as her younger sister wasn't amongst the recently incinerated.

"WE'RE UNDER ATTACK! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!" Qi-infused shouts exploded about everywhere as several surviving guards exerted their all. They used transmission crystals to send all sorts of alarms. Before long, various lights around the estate lit up like towers that pierced into the sky.

They were numerous. If one counted, they'd noticed ninety-six towers of light of cyan color erupt at key locations.

"Spiritual formation!" Su Mei's eyes narrowed. In truth, she expected to use a direct negotiation with Wei Wuyin's name to quietly handle this matter. After all, this was merely saving one person. There was no need to push it further, but Bai Lin had struck with lethal force.

Bai Lin let loose a hearty cry as her eyes blazed with an even greater battle intent. The spiritual formation that activated started to exert a spiritual aura that could pressure unprotected spirits. Unfortunately, she was a beast.

Her spirit was her will and her heart, so she wasn't affected by this. However, Su Mei and Ming Li instantly felt the effects. A torrential outflow of spiritual strength pressured their spirits, making their ability to control their qi difficult.

"Damn it! Unless one cultivated a certain spiritual method, they'd be affected by the Crushing Sea Spiritual Formation!" Ming Li cursed. She felt that if her attention was drawn away from her spirit for one second, she would instantly undergo Qi Deviation.

Su Mei furrowed her brows, but her cultivation was somewhat better so she didn't feel like her qi was about to detonate.

Qi Arrays and Spiritual Formations were the key protections that large territories and forces had. It was due to these well-prepared means that they could stabilize their territorial control and destiny. Without these, they would be open to massive assaults of full armies.

However, the cost to activate them was massive as well. So, unless the force was truly threatened, they wouldn't resort to using these large-scaled means.

Bai Lin didn't care about these means they had. Her blood burned fiercely as her powers started to rise. From her fiery eyes, she seemed about to launch another attack.

"Wait! Bai Lin, stop!" Su Mei hurriedly sent Bai Lin a spiritual message, fearful that she would attack without care. But Bai Lin had already charged her attack, a feeling of needing release had already built up. It was too late. And, Su Mei was not Wei Wuyin.

She focused her senses on the incoming squadrons of flying mounts. They were numbered in the dozens as they flew in formations. Their riders carried vigilant expressions and grasped all sorts of qi weapons within their hands. They seemed intent on battle, trained for years in reacting to a situation like this. Now, they deployed at insane speeds as they raced to face the threat.

Su Mei could sense Bai Lin's fiery golden light hadn't reduced its intensity in the slightest. In fact, it increased. She realized she wouldn't listen to her, her expression turned somewhat helpless. This beast was far, far stronger than her, and seemed to contain a trace of Lord Wei's arrogance.

Shroom!

Bai Lin's two eyes released a wide-spread ray of fiery light unlike the concentrated beam like before. The incoming riders were startled, attempting to talk to their beasts to avoid the ray, but the beam blanketed the entire sky. Their eyes widened as the rays swept them and their mounts almost instantly.

These riders and their mounts could barely face Third Phase experts. Trying to dodge or react to an attack that even a Mortal God couldn't see was wishful thinking. They were engulfed whole and their figures slowly disintegrated within the golden light until not even a piece of cloth or feather remained.

"!" All those below had eyes suffused with endless shock and boundless fear. Before long, all sorts of commotions occurred for two miles as they ran away from the white bird of golden death.

Ming Li's mouth was agape, her jaw nearly touching Bai Lin's back as she witnessed these fearsome sky riders vanish without a trace. As for Su Mei, her helpless expression was thrown away for a calm expression.

This was the cruelty of the cultivation world. Sometimes, you die for reasons of association and not fault. It was unfair that their arrival brought about the deaths of so many, but to wallow in their deaths was pointless. Her goal was to save one person. That was it.

She could only try to prevent more deaths by focusing her qi and shouted as best she could, "God Cai! I demand an audience!" Her voice carried a tinge of arrogance and chill as she tried to mimic Wei Wuyin. However, she didn't have that arrogant demeanor that was attached to the bones and blood, so it came off a little colder and murderous than haughty and arrogant.

In the Cai Du Estate, atop a throne, Cai Du was still seated on his throne as his spiritual sense inspected the situation. His expression was dark and dignified. That crane was immensely powerful. Those beams of light were threatening even to himself. Even with the Qi Array behind him, he didn't think he would be its match.

He was thinking about what to do, contemplating his options. Then, Su Mei's murderous words echoed. This nearly caused his heart to jump out of his chest. Who had such a powerful beast? Who did he offend?

No matter how much he pondered, he never offended a Mortal God Beast Tamer or high-level Alchemist. In fact, he likely never offended an expert at the Fifth Stage of Qi Condensation before.

"Father! Father!" Cai Jin arrived alongside his guards and a few family members. His expression was filled with uncertainty and concern. For a single unit to arrive and face their entire estate, they were either fools or incredibly powerful. Seeing how they were worthy of deploying the sky riders and Crushing Sea Spiritual Formation, he knew they weren't fools.

Cai Du's contemplating expression with a hint of fear vanished upon his son's arrival as he replaced it with a calm that seemed as if he had grasped the situation perfectly. He stood up from his throne as he said, "It's not a big issue. I'll handle this misunderstanding." Was his words as he walked out, his back strong and reliable in his son's eyes.

In the depths of his mind, however, he felt an unease.

Bai Lin felt her blood boiling more. She wanted to fight more. She wanted an opponent. Unfortunately for her, unless a powerful peak-Mortal God or Godlord arrived, she would remain unmatched today. Her Nirvana Flames were simply too incredible, capable of incinerating things upon contact.

Before long, a large eagle-like beast with a black beak and a size comparable to Bai Lin arrived. Atop its back, a handsome man stood straight, his qi aura was subdued but the dense vitality, illusory images, and strong presence alluded to his identity as a Mortal God.

Mortal God Cai Du, the Waterfall Savage God.

Su Mei and Ming Li felt the unconscious pressure emitted by Cai Du. They were already suppressed by the Crushing Spirit Spiritual Formation, and with the natural aura of God Cai, they felt an unfathomable amount of pressure. Due to Bai Lin's inability to use her spiritual strength, she couldn't help them repel that aura, so they were forced to withstand it in their current state.

Hm? Cai Du frowned when she realized that the two arrivals were a young woman and a young girl whose cultivation was pathetic when compared to his own. Only the beast had a physical aura that could shake his heart. He knew he could kill the other two without an issue.

He frowned, his heart a little enraged. "You have your audience." His words were calm yet carried a trace of irrefutable dignity of a Mortal God.

Ming Li rubbed her misty white bracelet subconsciously. She felt the immense pressure and unconscious fear swell in her heart. The Waterfall Savage God was a brutal Mortal God, known for truly horrifying accomplishments. The word 'savage' wasn't decided by him, but given to him.

Su Mei didn't show any weakness. She had seen Bai Lin execute a Mortal God due to two words, and saw them fawn over Wei Wuyin like dogs praying they can appease their master. Her original heart that contained an image of Mortal Gods had deteriorated until it became only a slight appreciation of their talent and strength.

"We're here on orders of Godlord Wei. This is Ming Li, and we're here to bring her sister away." While she didn't have fear or reverence in her heart, she didn't want to have the situation escalate. Without hesitation, she threw out Wei Wuyin's name.

Godlord Wei?

Cai Du frowned, a trace of uncertainty in his mind. When had there ever been a Godlord surnamed Wei in Wu Country? Furthermore, what sister?

Wait...

...Godlord Wei?

The name started to hit his mind a little. A rumor? Oh! Oh!! The Jade Lotus Sect's Lei Family descent! Almost immediately, he recalled the name that he had merely heard once, seen as a rumor. According to the rumor, the Lei Clan and their Clan Leader had fallen due to a random person. It was said to have been due to a woman held captive.

There were a few names fluttering about in the rumor mill, but Godlord Wei was one of them.

His eyes shrunk into needles.

Well, shit.

Chapter 75 - 74: Cruelty Of The Cultivation World

If the rumor was true, wasn't history repeating itself? If so, was his life in danger? Normally, he would form some heart to resist, but against a Godlord, an Eighth Phase expert, he had no confidence or hope. They were literal lords of Mortal Gods.

Even with his Qi Array, he was merely waiting for death. Furthermore, the Jade Lotus Sect would not interfere. Since he had already paid a visit to the sect, the sect that he lived under, how could they intervene and offend a Godlord for him?

He had an uneasy feeling in his heart.

Ming Li could see the various shifts in emotions within Cai Du's heart. This also placed her heart in a state of unease and fear. Could something had happened to her sister? However, considering they hadn't even mentioned how she looked or her name, how could Cai Du know?

Su Mei didn't care. The oppression from the spiritual formation was fierce and she still had to maintain her mental concentration to even regulate her breathing or else she might already be laying flat, covered in sweat, and heaving.

"Cancel your formation!" She demanded. This was incredibly uncomfortable, so she shouted with power.

Cai Du's eyes narrowed. He was still a Mortal God and to be shouted by an insignificant and weak woman caused his eyes to flash with anger. He had reigned for two hundred years as a Mortal God, so when had he ever been demanded of in such a way?

If it wasn't for his apprehension against this mysterious Godlord Wei, he would've taught her a lesson she would never forget, in mind, soul, and definitely body. The name Waterfall Savage God was not for show.

However, he calmed his ego and waved his hand. The spiritual formation was slowly shut down, but very slowly. He wanted the discomfort to last a little bit longer.

Su Mei felt the crushing pressure on her spirit reduce itself gradually and felt relieved. Even if it was a slow release, it was better than withstanding the crushing pressure, so she didn't have any qualms with this.

After a while, when the pressure vanished, Su Mei regained her calm composure. She signaled Ming Li to speak.

Ming Li gathered her courage, "God Cai, my sister was brought here three years ago. She's sixteen this year, and her name is Ming Yi." Shockingly, this information caused Su Mei to understand some things.

Ming Li and Ming Yi were likely twins, both with the life signature of sixteen years. However, if so, then Cai Du's eyes of ignorance meant he had little to do with her capture.

Cai Du frowned. Ming Yi? The name sounded familiar, but he couldn't recall. However, this made his heart throb even more. "I'll..."

However, before he could speak, a figure called for him with urgency and fear. "Father! Help!"

Cai Du snapped his head to the ground, seeing his son restrained by ropes of qi, carried in mid-air by a young man in black. He was stupendously handsome, even causing him to question his orientation, and had gorgeous silver eyes that seemed to carry the very essence of the spirit.

His eyes flashed with anger, his aura roiling as he instinctually readied himself to save his son. But, he didn't dare act recklessly as this person could likely kill his son before he could gather enough strength to attack.

"Lord Wei!" Su Mei was startled by Wei Wuyin's appearance. However, something felt off when she saw him.

"Lord Wei?" Cai Du's heart shook violently. Godlord Wei?!

When Ming Li saw Wei Wuyin, she unconsciously tried to rub her bracelet, but realized it was missing. Her shock was pulled away as she observed her wrist, baffled by how it vanished.

Wei Wuyin opened his mouth, but no words came out. This wasn't Wei Wuyin's true body, but his Avatar. It still hadn't grasped control over its vocal cords and lacked the ability of speech. So when he spoke, alien-like sounds emitted like the rumbling of thunder and sizzling of fire.

"...?" Su Mei, Ming Li, Cai Jin, and Cai Du.

They were all taken aback by those odd sounds.

Realizing this, Wei Wuyin's avatar resorted to transmitting his voice through his qi, but when it reached their ears, it was like a booming drum, causing them all to cover their ears. Not just them, but everyone in ten miles.

Only then did he realize there were quite a few flaws when it came to this avatar. As it was a self-created art, with little to no reference, these were bound to happen. Unfortunately, this severely weakened its ability to communicate.

With a wave of its hand, the avatar jumped into the air while Cai Jin was in tow. He was exceptionally fast, arriving on Bai Lin in a blink.

Bai Lin cried in excitement. She knew that Wei Wuyin had an avatar. She had tested its limitations a little, so she wasn't startled. When it arrived, the avatar restrained Cai Jin's cultivation and threw him to Ming Li's feet.

It turned to Su Mei, and then to Ming Li. A flash of sympathy in his eyes. It had searched the entire estate and scoured Cai Jin's memories, and came upon a dark, devastating discovery. There was a hint of pity, but sometimes, wanting to save someone didn't mean they could be saved.

Cai Du was startled by Wei Wuyin's speed and oddity, so he restrained himself from recklessly attacking. That being said, he couldn't help but shout: "What are you planning to do with my son!?" He felt useless, and this was all he could do.

Ming Li looked at the wickedly handsome Cai Jin whose cultivation was sealed with confusion. Why did Wei Wuyin bring Cai Jin here? The feeling of unease was starting to grow in the depths of her heart.

Su Mei looked at Wei Wuyin, a frown on her face.

Wei Wuyin lifted his arms and used his two fingers to point at Su Mei and Ming Li's glabellas. A strand of Eden Qi that carried images, audio, and emotions was sent into their minds. These memories revealed the truth.

Cai Jin's Memories.

Three years ago, Cai Jin was still an up-and-coming cultivator who had yet to gain his father's recognition. However, he didn't care. He didn't have a good talent and despite being seventeen with resources, he still hadn't entered the Qi Condensation Realm.

As the son of a Mortal God, this was a disgrace.

One must know that Wei Wuyin, regarded as a talent, had reached the Qi Condensation Realm before seventeen years, even without the support of a Mortal God.

Because of his lack of talent yet possession of a high status, he started to indulge himself in drink and women. During this, he started to even pluck young women off the streets using his allowance to buy thugs.

They were criminals without any qualms of kidnapping. With his luck, he came across a young woman. Those who took her to please him had soon discovered that she had a unique physique: the Core Essence Physique.

It was a unique physique like the three-point Yin Physique. Those who possessed this physique could absorb the essence of heaven and earth about five to ten times faster than average. This was an ungodly useful ability, capable of turning a single day of cultivation into five or ten.

A single year can equate to ten years of cultivation.

While there was still a need for comprehension, it was minor in the Qi Condensation Realm, also known as the Realm of Accumulation.

When he discovered this, Cai Jin had done everything he could to acquire this talent. And there wasn't one. Well, not really. His cultivation or ability wasn't at the level where he could steal someone's physique.

As for dual cultivation, this still required the woman to be stronger or as strong for any tangible benefits. And that was a deadly line to risk when forcing yourself on someone.

However, a shady doctor had advised him of a solution. He was told to use a one-sided dark art, often used by Evil Cultivators. This art would slowly devour her physical, mental, spiritual energies, lifeforce, and cultivation base until they were refined into his own. With that, he would be able to obtain what was hers. While it might not be everything, it would be enough to gain a weaker version of her Core Essence Physique.

He took this option without a trace of hesitation in his heart.

Slowly, the young woman was forced again and again, and every time, a piece of her everything was painfully taken.

No matter how she cried.

No matter how she begged.

Or who she called for in her agony.

Cai Jin ruthlessly took everything. And when he was done, her corpse was casually tossed into a furnace and turned into ash, forgotten and alone.

Cai Jin's rise was now as his cultivation speed tripled, and he became regarded as a talent and given his father's love.

He later learned that she had a twin sister and sent his trained goons after her. The moment she was brought to him, she would be crippled and slowly help propel his talent even further, maybe even giving him the full Core Essence Physique.

He was waiting with wet lips and a fiery heart, waiting for that twin beauty to arrive on his doorsteps.

Su Mei's face blanched. An untold sadness leaked from her pupils, "She was only thirteen..."

Ming Li's reaction was even greater. Her tears fell endlessly as her entire body shivered in despair. She saw her sister repeatedly taken and even calling her name. How heartbreaking was this?

The cultivation world was truly too cruel.

Chapter 76 - 75: Rage

Wei Wuyin's avatar calmly looked on. While he was on Ming Li's wrist, he heard her sister's name and realized they were likely twins. So he swept his spiritual awareness via a spell over the territory, but

didn't find a similar signature. Usually twins had the same if not identical qi signatures, because their souls and bodies came from the same source.

There would only be a slight difference due to mental energies infused within the Metaphysical Qi Aura.

He realized that Ming Yi wasn't here. Discovering her absence, he delved a little deeper. By using Eden Qi to search a few weaker cultivators' memories, he found nothing. So, he searched Cai Jin's simply because he resembled his father and likely saw her if she was here.

He found the truth then.

The horrible truth.

With a thought, he turned into white mist and transformed into a bracelet once more that wrapped around Su Mei's wrist. Su Mei's turbulent emotions were momentarily broken as she witnessed Wei Wuyin transform in wonderment.

"An avatar?" Only then did she understand why there were so many oddities with the current Wei Wuyin. It wasn't him, but an avatar of himself. She had merely heard of a Godlord's ability to create incarnations of themselves. This was the first time she witnessed such a miraculous ability.

"Y-You!!" A growl of rage and fury erupted. It embodied the epitome of sadness and anger, and it originated from Ming Li who stared daggers at the restrained Cai Jin. Her hairs stood and her eyes flared.

Shiing!

She withdrew a dagger and lunged. The distance between them was insignificant as she arrived on top of his body. Her thighs clenched Cai Jin's legs as she rose the dagger in the air with both hands, its sharp blade pointed down. It glinted with a sharp light like a guillotine of death.

"No! Stop!" Cai Du shouted, anxiety and fear exploded in his heart and eyes as he watched his son get assaulted. As a father, how could he watch his son die right before him? Who could?

He didn't hesitate to activate the Waterfall Torrent Array, grasping towards Bai Lin.

「*Water Art: Savage Shackles*」

The world seemed to freeze for a moment as the moisture of the surroundings and their water energies started to solidify, forming invisible shackles.

Kree!

Bai Lin felt the surrounding become denser, harder to move through as her white flames blazed to resist. However, the focus of this art was Ming Li. She felt the moisture that surrounded her body, limbs, and head become denser, nearly like iron. That moisture became true water constructs like whips. She was immediately restrained.

Su Mei realized what was happening, acting quickly. With a flip of her palms, her saber qi roared to life with a sharpness. With a swing, saber qi shot forth to aim at the water constructs that restrained Ming Li.

Unfortunately, when she met the water shackles, her saber qi wasn't capable of doing anything more than making a small incision that was quickly repaired. It was drawing power from the ambient water energies to reconstitute its existence. This was one of the key traits of water arts that made them very difficult to handle.

While they weren't powerful offensively, defensively, or in terms of speed, water arts could layer and repair themselves. Unless one completely shattered the art in one go, a battle of attrition would ensue.

"Tch!" Su Mei realized her cultivation base was a little too lacking to shatter an art casted by a Mortal God and empowered by a grand Qi Array. She could only gnash her teeth and strike out with precision, but to no avail.

Cai Du had restrained Ming Li, and was contemplating whether to kill her with a follow-up. However, before he could continue this thought, Bai Lin let loose an enraged cry that was followed by a beam of fiery golden energies.

Cai Du may have been thinking, but he was on-guard against Bai Lin since the first second, and responded in defense. He drew upon the abundant water energies of the underground lake of the Cai Du Estate and the Qi Array.

「*Water Art: Waterfall Guardian*」

A water-based humanoid figure manifested before him, the size of twenty meters that seemed to embody a waterfall within its body, torrential and pouring. It used its arms to block the fiery beams of light.

Unfortunately, while it contained the abundant water energies and backing of a Mortal God, Bai Lin's Nirvanic Flames were not ordinary. In fact, the guardian didn't last a blink of an eye when the beam came in contact with it. In a single moment, the embodiment of water that towered twenty meters was evaporated by the intense concentrated heat, boiled into water vapor.

"What?!" Cai Du was startled, his scale tingling with horror. He tried to retreat but it was already too late.

The fiery beam penetrated his chest, incinerating his heart and blood like a drop of water before the sun. With a gasp of death, his life came to an abrupt end. Even with a Qi Array with abundant water energies and a Mortal God cultivation base, he was no match for Bai Lin.

With a triumphant cry, Bai Lin's eyes radiated endless majesty and victory.

"Ahhhhhh! Ahhhhhhhh! Stop, s-st-ooop!!" Cai Jin's screams resounded as the sound of sharp metal entering flesh echoed repeatedly. Ming Li was no longer restrained, her eyes carried only the purest feelings of murder and revenge. Each stab was like a dose of dopamine.

Su Mei watched to the side, sighing. If she hadn't seen those memories, maybe she would stop this, but she simply didn't, no, couldn't.

However, after twenty stabs, blood was abundant but Cai Jin was still alive, hollering for mercy and also death. His entire torso was littered with holes, blood gushing out. This was enough to kill anyone.

"Bai Lin's white flame!" Su Mei came to realize what was happening. Her ash-white flames were engulfing them all, and Cai Jin was within this shroud. He was constantly being infused with lifeforce that was repairing his body and maintaining his life. Even after the fiftieth stab, Cai Jin was still alive, his throat strained and his body spasming endlessly.

"Just...just die already!" At this point, even Ming Yi was exhausted. Her arms felt weak after her emotions were brought to the surface, enacted with violence. It was when her clarity of mind returned and she saw the bloody and pale face of Cai Jin that her eyes came to a realization.

With one last strike, she directly inserted her dagger into his forehead. His screams of mercy ceased immediately, his eyes splitting into different directions, and jaw loosening with control.

Her body felt completely weak after, and she dropped beside the corpse. Her eyes were full of dry and wet tears. Within the depths of her gaze was the image of her sister's happy and smiling face. Their life together, promises, dreams, and desires.

She would never be able to see her again.

"We should go," Su Mei remarked. With Bai Lin's cloak enshrouding them, it seems dying was a difficult task, but not impossible. A fatal blow was fatal.

Bai Lin flapped her wings and shot off, leaving only fearful and awed gazes below.

Chapter 77 - 76: For Myself

Su Mei hadn't expected events to end like this. Not only did her wilful actions cause several (alleged) innocents to meet untimely deaths, but the Waterfall Savage God was killed. She thought, she thought, she thought, but no matter what she thought would happen, none of it mattered in the end.

Now, Ming Li was curled up beneath an oak tree. Her hands wrapped around her ankles and her face buried between her soft thighs. From time to time, sounds of muffled crying would resound.

Su Mei calmly sat next to her. Bai Lin had already taken off, returning to Wei Wuyin. As for the corpse of Cai Jin, it had been incinerated into nothing. A conclusion was reached, but it was not satisfying.

After several hours, Ming Li's sounds abruptly ended. Her head lifted to reveal a originally pretty face marred by devastating emotions and tears. Her make-up had already been completely ruined, creating dry black marks on her face.

When her eyes found Su Mei, her words were choked for a moment. It was only after a few attempts and calm breaths did she say, "Thank you."

Su Mei turned to her. She didn't respond.

"If...if you didn't interfere when you did, I would've ended up like my sister. I thought she was forced to be a maid or maybe a little worse, but I didn't think they-he wanted our unique constitution. I wouldn't have been able to escape and my life would've come to an end...just like hers." Her words were sullen and depressed, but revealed the truth of the situation.

In Cai Jin's memories, her identity was known. Her attempts to get captured in the same manner as her sister would've backfired due to her ignorance. There would be no opportunity to escape after being

caught in his clutches. After having everything stripped from her, only that blazing furnace remained in her fate.

So, she was thankful.

"..." Su Mei quietly nodded, accepting her thanks.

"Why did you save me?" Ming Li abruptly asked. The cultivation world was cruel, and atrocities occurred every day, with innumerable deaths and crimes. Su Mei saving her felt unbelievable to the feeling she received from her. A cold, valiant and emotionless beauty that killed without a blink of an eye.

This was what her instincts told her. And she was right.

Su Mei was a trained soldier. She killed and pillaged, captured and sold. She had committed all sorts of atrocities in her lifetime, and if there was an afterlife and a hell, then she would definitely end up in the latter. However, she had no regrets nor intentions to change

Su Mei looked to the half-moon that shone in the night sky. "I had a family. We lived in a small village with the strongest being our village elder, only at the first stage of the Qi Condensation Realm. I wasn't the prettiest girl nor was my family very affluent in the village, but we made an honest living and had each other.

"I had two older brothers, a mother, a father, and a grandmother. I couldn't have said to have it all, but I had enough. Unfortunately," she paused. Her eyes flashed with all sorts of complex emotions and thoughts.

Ming Li was paying rapt attention to every word, not daring to interrupt. To think such a strong woman belonged to such humble beginnings.

Su Mei finally continued, "One day, a cultivator arrived on a mission. He was an Outer Sect Disciple of a Sect. His status, wealth, horizon, and breadth of knowledge was far beyond mine. When he saw me, his eyes were filled with endless want. I was ignorant at the time, but not so much that I would give up my freedom of choice.

"But it mattered not. The man wanted me, and when I fought back, my everything had shattered." In her memories, she recalled that day.

"I don't want to go! Mommy! Daddy!! Please!!!"

"I want to stay, I want to stay here!"

"Let her go! You basta-argh!"

"You have to leave, Mei'er. It's the best for the village and yourself if you do. Don't worry, just be a proper woman and we'll see you again!"

"Sob. Sob."

Besides her oldest brother who was crippled, every other member of her family only sent her off with smiles. Even the Elder who doted on her merely watched and accepted her being taken away. They all said it was best for her, but she was kidnapped and no one could do a damn thing.

Su Mei returned to herself, "I wasn't much older than you when I was taken away. While I know now that they were too weak and fearful to take action, I was still abandoned. Then, I was forced to accept my situation. I was introduced into a harem and forced to live with a new family.

"At first, they cared for me. Then, when I was given more attention and focus, focus I did not want, they turned on me. They beat me. They spat on me. They made me feel small, weak, and irrelevant. I thought: why live another day?

"Then, a man arrived. He offered me a chance. A chance to take my own fate in my hands, to satiate my desire, my hunger. I found a reason to live: Myself. I swore that I'll live for myself, to do what I want. He never treated me like I'm weak or abandoned me, never restricted MY choice." More memories flashed, of all the missions and times Wei Wuyin and her acted together.

While it was merely three years, it was enough to change her everything.

"I helped you because I saw myself. I saw the young girl that wasn't given a choice to live for herself. I didn't know if you'd die, but I acted because I was selfish. I wanted to save you, but also the past me." She explained truthfully, holding nothing back.

Ming Li felt the stirring emotions in her story, her own heart quivered. She was taken away from her family, forced into a harem, and treated like trash with no value except to please. No wonder...

No wonder she's so strong.

"Thank you," Su Mei stood up. She didn't expect all of this to happen, but a part of her had been relieved as she acted to help. She had done all sorts of things, even captured the Violet Moon Sect members to be sold into slavery, so she was by no means a warm-hearted person, and she didn't want to become a hypocrite.

She merely acted because she saw herself in Ming Li. That was all. And she would not consciously act to save every girl she came across that was in peril. Perhaps she needed to save Ming Li to help remove some ephemeral wish by proxy. Regardless, her heart felt a little lighter.

Humans were complex emotional creatures. But that's the key, they had 'emotions' and as such their actions can be spontaneous and illogical. Why did she send Wei Wuyin a message for permission to save a girl? In truth, Wei Wuyin had never restricted her freedom of choice, and she followed him with the utmost loyalty because of it. Yet, she still asked.

Why did Wei Wuyin approve? He wasn't a saint by any means, and like her, he could ruin lives and kill without a blink.

It was because he knew she needed this.

That was it.

"Ming Li, goodbye." Su Mei said, turning to walk off.

Ming Li bit her lower lip, tightening her hold on her knees. She had spent the last few years trying to save her sister, and now she found out she was dead. She didn't know what to do now. By the time she gained some glimpse of her future, Su Mei had already left.

Her journey had not ended prematurely, and she still had a long road ahead of her.

Chapter 78 - 77: Myriad Creation Dao Palace

Three weeks soon flashed by, the deadline for the alchemical products came and went. Wei Wuyin fulfilled his obligation. With it, he discovered an interesting fact about his skill in alchemy; it was beyond his previous 'self' by a considerable degree.

His ability to concoct was flawless to a pinnacle. Every aspect and detail in the concoction process was clear and judged accurately without a hint of error, creating an incredible success rate that exceeded the abysmal rates of standard alchemists.

In fact, it wasn't merely the quality and success rate that rose, but the speed of concoction was faster as well. What should've taken a few days to concoct was capable of being finished in the matter of an hour. And this concocting time was only decreasing in the most wondrous way.

Due to his cultivation base, strong spiritual sense, and heightened spiritual strength, he could refine the materials of heaven and earth and essence at an inconceivable speed.

Therefore, he had finished the concoction of the products for Qin Feng and even had more than enough time to make a few for himself. He planned to use these sixth-grade products to help Su Mei and himself strengthen their foundation.

At the moment, Wei Wuyin stood at the entrance of Jade Blessed City. Su Mei and Bai Lin not too far away, awaiting for his arrival. As for him, before him stood two beauties—Dai Fei and Jiao Ning.

"Where are you going to go?" Jiao Ning asked. Her fingers were intertwined tightly revealing the anxiety in her heart. Her eyes flashed with a reluctance. She had been imprisoned for two years, and then Wei Wuyin rescued her, bringing her away and supporting him. These last few weeks were highlights of her life, filled with the utmost relaxation and satisfaction.

However, it seemed that all great things came to an end, even if you didn't want it to.

Dai Fei was more calm in comparison. While she felt admiration for Wei Wuyin, she didn't have a sense of budding love, merely attraction and desire. She had a life, and while being with Wei Wuyin was nice, it didn't define everything she was nor what she had to do in life. Only in fantasy would women think that an undisputed prince charming would ride in, bringing them away with a happily ever after conclusion.

Wei Wuyin warmly smiled. Jiao Ning was a regret that he settled in his heart, but he had a timer in his life and no desire to settle down in life at this moment. While he might have resigned himself to the bleak future of his death, that didn't mean he had completely given up. He had the Dao of Alchemy, three Hearts of Qi, and a spark of hope.

This hope is why he hadn't descended into depression and nihilism. He would live without regrets, but he would struggle to reach the Realm of Sages while simultaneously exploring the world. Therefore, he would leave to do so.

"I'll travel the Wu Country a little, then who knows? But, I won't forget you two." While he said these sweet words, the chances of seeing them again in his remaining lifetime would be relatively slim if he traveled the entire Myriad Yore Continent.

Jiao Ning felt her heart quake. In the back of her mind, she felt that this would be the last time she saw Wei Wuyin in this lifetime. An unspeakable sadness permeated in her heart.

Not allowing this goodbye to extend, Wei Wuyin turned away and left. His steps were light and free, and he was looking forward to the future. He still had many things to cross off his list. With a backhanded wave, he and Su Mei departed with Bai Lin, their silhouettes vanishing with time.

A week later.

After flying non-stop, Wei Wuyin and Su Mei had exited the Jade Lotus Domain. They had taken the awkward and long route, returning to the Scarlet Solaris Domain temporarily. They traveled along the border until he met the interconnecting border of the Scarlet Solaris Domain and the Hidden Shadow Domain.

Luckily, the Scarlet Solaris Sect didn't seem to be looking for him. He entered and exited without complications. The Hidden Shadow Domain was a stark difference in terms of environment than the Scarlet Solaris Sect and Jade Lotus Domain.

Those two domains were filled to the brim with vegetation and wildlife, essentially being forests, grassy plains, lakes, and mountains, but the Hidden Shadow Domain was far more desolate.

In fact, it was mostly rocky areas and small mountains. They even had mountain chains that extended for miles. Upon these mountains, entire cities were constructed creating a unique visual spectacle. The buildings were slanted, yet leveled off to make their insides flat, so they extended a little to the side as if it was a protruding cliff.

Furthermore, there were rivers traveling down the mountains, toppling his understanding of topographic and geological constructs. It was only after realizing that arrays and formations were constructed to siphon the water from underground deposits and sent them through the central core of the mountain into the top, causing rivers to flow downwards.

These rivers and soil taken from other areas caused sparse farming atop mountains to occur.

He could only smile in awe at the creativity and means of cultivators, inventing their own convenience. Since mountains were the majority of the land, why not use that to your advantage?

"The Warring States Pagoda is said to be a magical location that can bring about all sorts of talents and benefits," Su Mei said as she sat beside Wei Wuyin. As they soared non-stop, most of their time was filled with conversation and cultivation.

Wei Wuyin nodded, "the Warring States Pagoda is one of the reasons why, despite its incredible lack of innate resources, it is one of the most prosperous places. Furthermore, no single power could hope to control it, not even the Imperial Clan of Wu."

"Didn't stop them from trying," Su Mei quietly smiled. Indeed, the pagoda was a resource of unfathomable and endless means, but there were a few issues that prevented a monopoly.

First, it couldn't be moved. Second, anyone can enter.

The second was the most important. Because anyone can enter with but a single phase as long as they were within a hundred kilometers of the pagoda in any direction, even in the sky and underground.

Long ago, the Wu Clan had tried to restrict access and obtain all it offered, but it ignited a war that nearly collapsed the regime. If it wasn't for the Wu Clan's Ancestral King at the time exceeding the Qi Condensation Realm, it was likely the Wu Clan wouldn't exist today.

Not only did they lose a lot, they still couldn't stop others from entering due to the conditions of simply needing a single phase and a certain distance to enter. It was a hilarious and embarrassing event for the Wu Clan.

It wasn't just the Wu Clan, but countless other powers rose and fell due to the pagoda in innumerable wars, hence its moniker: Warring States Pagoda.

Later, the Hidden Shadow Domain was constructed and an alliance of the local powers were formed to regulate and create a fair environment for the pagoda. No one knew how the pagoda came to be or why, but it was miraculous and an opportunity for all.

After a few more hours, they finally entered the Pagoda World. It was a specific location that defined the border of the Warring States Pagoda's influence. While within this location, all one needed was a single phrase to be entered via a mysterious, unfathomable spatial power.

Su Mei felt secretly excited in her heart, wanting to challenge the Warring States Pagoda. "It's said that one can only enter the Warring States Pagoda up to nine times, as long as you fail, but if you succeed, you can no longer enter."

This rule also prevented people from endlessly challenging the pagoda.

Wei Wuyin pouted his lips, "I hope that this pagoda isn't the entrance to what I think." When he thought about the description of the Warring States Pagoda, he recalled the Myriad Dao War Palace. There, he birthed his Saber Intent and received a Nascent Saber Soul.

If it was true, then...

He just hoped that wasn't the case.

"Fuck!"

Wei Wuyin and Bai Lin stood before a nine-storied pagoda. It had a majestic, yet ancient aura about it that made one feel a hint of reverence within their hearts. However, whenever Wei Wuyin looked at this pagoda, his expression was distorted and ugly.

He kicked the dirt. The ground rumbled causing everywhere within a mile to experience a minor earthquake. He was pissed. After traveling for a week non-stop, forgoing sleep and even taking an awkward route, he felt trolled.

Su Mei had just entered the pagoda, but when he tried, there was no response. This was because this pagoda was an entrance. An entrance similar to the dilapidated doorway in Golden Milk City. It led him to a palace that could be ascended, and if passed, one was removed and unable to return.

This was the reason for his frustration.

Kree!

Bai Lin walked forward and rubbed Wei Wuyin's arm. She looked at him with her pure eyes, radiating a desire to explore the land. Wei Wuyin was too frustrated by events, so he gave her permission. With a jubilant cry, she soared into the sky to look for some fun.

"I'll wait for Su Mei to finish her trial," he pouted as he sat down. One of his most important landmarks had been visited and experienced long before. He didn't know whether he should feel happy or sad.

Su Mei entered through the entrance, transported by some spatial power. She observed her surroundings immediately, spreading out her spiritual sense. She immediately noticed the barren land that contained only a single palace.

The sky above was clearly fake. "Is this inside the pagoda?" She was unaware that the pagoda was merely a gateway. After gathering herself, she walked towards the palace.

It was dilapidated and ancient, as if it was taken out of history. After a short walk, she arrived at the stairs. "Ninety-nine steps?" She counted each step. Was this the Myriad War Dao Palace that Lord Wei mentioned?

Wei Wuyin had informed her that his Saber Intent was conceived in a place exactly like this. "So the pagoda is a spatial gateway, and this isn't its insides."

She stepped on the first step and heard a faint sound that caused her heart to shake a little. Before she could determine the cause, a short, old man with skin, eyes, and hair of different shades of red appeared from thin air.

She started. This man hovered off the steps and his low opacity body made him look ghostly. His smiling face also didn't help soothe the heart, especially the large smile coming from the old man. She felt somewhat uncomfortable as a woman being looked at like that.

In a monotone voice, "To ascend to the Myriad Creation Dao Palace, you must select your Dao."

"..." Su Mei was silent. Wasn't it the Myriad War Dao Palace?

Chapter 79 - 78: Captured

Su Mei was confused as she recollected Wei Wuyin's account of the Myriad War Dao Palace. When she did, she discovered a few, minor differences. The ghost wasn't blue, but red and the name was different. Were these places different?

"Choose your Dao," the red-skinned old ghost repeated. His smile was forever present while his voice remained monotone and robotic.

Su Mei had already considered her choice long ago. She said, "The Material Dao." Unlike Wei Wuyin who chose the Weapon Dao, she wanted to forge her own path. She had taken the saber to emulate Wei Wuyin, but if she merely followed his path, then she would never be useful. Furthermore, she too had ambitions and a deep-seated hunger to become an expert.

"Please choose amongst the three thousand Material Daos."

Su Mei said without hesitation, "Darkness Dao." When this was said, the red-skinned old ghost nodded and vanished. Before her, the ninety-nine steps started to release strands of dark-colored mist. It seemed to be void-black, truly without the presence of light.

She stepped forward and the world around her became dark, her senses started to be overtaken, and her lifeforce felt suppressed. Darkness was a truly abhorrent energy. It was not simply the absence of light. It was the suppression of all energy until only darkness remained.

All within true darkness was suppressed until it became darkness.

However, her heart remained steady as she started to walk forward. This was her trial, and she wanted to perceive and birth this profound Qi. This would be her start into her own path.

Bai Lin soared freely within the skies. She flipped and rolled, gliding here and there. These were maneuvers she couldn't perform while carrying Wei Wuyin and Su Mei, so she didn't hold back. Her actions, the trail of golden light from her tail, and her pristine and delicately white feathers.

The crowd below was awed, kids and adults pointing and conversing about Bai Lin's beauty and elegance. However, the height she was and the speed she traveled meant they could only look from afar. Bai Lin enjoyed the stares, and her newfound strength caused her confidence to soar.

When she was alone for those years without Wei Wuyin, she was forced to hide and cower in fear of being captured, but she could kill Mortal Gods with ease! As her intelligence grew, so did her understanding of her accomplishments.

She could be considered a powerhouse. Moreover, Wei Wuyin was a peak powerhouse that feared no one. His arrogant display in front of the Jade Lotus Sect was still etched in the depths of her heart, an astonishing amount of pride resided there.

Kree!

She noticed a river and dove down, landing at the edge. She saw her beautiful appearance in the reflection of the rushing waters. Her golden eyes and beak were defining features, and each feather was as white as possible, without a speck of dust or dirt.

As she checked her side profiles, reveling in her good looks, there was a sound of soft steps behind her. Her ears perked, noticing immediately. She acted ignorant as she used her beak to gulp some water from the river.

"Now!" A rough-sounding voice resounded, filled with power and authority. A tall man with bulging muscles lunged from behind a boulder, his hands clutching a large metallic net.

He wasn't the only one. A figure shot into the air, his hands weaving through handseals as his qi erupted.

「*Water Art: Stream Bindings*」

The river that Bai Lin was currently drinking had twenty nearby minor explosions on its surface. From each explosive spot, strings of water that looked like small, flowing rivers manifested that reached at least fifty feet in length and two fingers in thickness. They were fast as they wrapped around Bai Lin's wings, neck, and legs.

The art was exceptionally quick, surprising even Bai Lin as she was almost immediately restrained. The net soon was thrown. Its metallic design looked like closely-knitted mesh. It arrived above Bai Lin in an instant.

Bai Lin was enraged, but also her bright, golden eyes flashed with disdain. These individuals overestimate themselves. If it were her ten years ago, perhaps she wouldn't resist and await rescue or an opportunity. Luckily, she was not living in the past but living in the now.

And now, she was powerful.

Kree!

Her entire body erupted in fiery, blazing golden flames that instantly turned the water restraints into water vapor, and the metallic net couldn't even last before melting. She brandished her wings, causing a torrent of wind to pick up and push back all her attackers.

"What?!" The figure in the air, who executed the water art, was shocked as his body was sent flying in the distance. As for the one with the net, he was too close, so when Bai Lin erupted in flames, he was turned into ash.

With a shrug of her feathers, removing the molten liquid metal from her feathers, unharmed, her golden eyes saw the speck of ash that was her attacker. She smiled with contempt.

Phuu!

A sound reminiscent of a dart gun's firing resounded, causing Bai Lin's ears to perk up. She turned to see a needle enter her golden shroud, but it was met with the same fate as the net, melting into nothing. A little bit away from her was a woman, her eyes filled with shock as she saw her dart be rendered useless.

"Impossible! That's a Blaze-Resistant Tranquilizer Dart..." these darts were useful against fire-type beasts, capable of existing in unusually high-temperatures.

Kree!

Bai Lin did not show mercy because the perpetrator was female. Her golden eyes released concentrated fiery rays that traveled to her chest in a blink. Before she could even move, she was obliterated into dust.

"We are the Beast-Taming Sect, how could a measly crane that consumed a Golden Phoenix Fruit be capable of resisting our capture?" An older man descended. He wore orange robes with the emblem of a man riding a western-style dragon. It's lizard-like form was menacing yet graceful.

Bai Lin's eyes narrowed slightly. This old man's aura was quite strong. While she was confident of her strength, she didn't think herself invincible. She was about to fly off to seek Wei Wuyin.

Unfortunately, it was too late.

「Bloodline Flame Suppression Formation」

"Formation: Activate!" She heard a cacophony of voices from males, females, young and old arise from all directions. A brilliant, bright orange light erupted in all directions like towers. Her heart trembled with anxiety. She felt that she needed to escape.

Without hesitating any longer, she erupted with a wide-range beam of golden fiery energies in hopes to incinerate all comers. However, the old man coldly snorted and executed a single handseal, causing the world to briefly tremble.

「Spiritual Spell: Beast's Mind-Echo」

She felt dizzy, her bloodline feeling as if it was suppressed somehow while a ceaselessly resounding echo smashed her senses. Her golden light and flames were doused, and her eyes became somewhat dull. She had never felt so suppressed before.

kree...

She tried to cry out, in hopes that Wei Wuyin would hear. Unfortunately, she had flown too far in her fun.

Clink!

Before she knew it, the old man arrived and placed a shackle to her neck, while slipping a muzzle and shades over her mouth and eyes. She couldn't cry or see any longer. The weakness of her body overtook her as she felt her mind bombarded by all sorts of spiritual spells until she completely lost consciousness.

"Such a tough one," the old man grinned. Their losses weren't nearly as great as their gains. This crane had consumed a Golden Phoenix Fruit and awakened her innate bloodline. Fortunately, she hadn't undergone Ancestral Awakening, otherwise they'd be all dead.

Soon numerous steps arrived, revealing the nearly a hundred people that had worked in conjunction to execute that powerful formation. They all wore the colors and unique attire of the Beast-Taming Sect, sporting their emblem.

A short, stout young man excitedly approached the elder, his eyes flashing with immense jubilation as he stared at Bai Lin's entrapped form. "Elder Kai, this beast doesn't have a spiritual brand! We're so lucky."

A spiritual brand was often used to enslave beasts and force their obedience. It was used when wild beasts were captured, but Bai Lin was nurtured since birth in the Scarlet Solaris Sect and given to Wei Wuyin at a rather young age, so she didn't need a spiritual brand.

Elder Kai laughed, the joy infectious as others joined in. Looking at him clearly, he was tall, thin, middle-aged, with thin lips and large eyes. "We're quite lucky. We've been searching for this beast since hearing about it in the Xin Country. Who would've thought it would be spotted in the Hidden Shadow Domain, our domain!"

Bai Lin had awakened her bloodline abilities in the Xin Country, near the Eden Earth Sect, but she stayed in hiding and away from humans for too long. They had nearly forgotten about her until reports came in that she was freely traveling near their sect's headquarters.

It was like a pie fell from the sky and landed on your lap. How could you not take it? Even if others could resist the temptation, they definitely could not.

"We're the foremost experts in beast nurturing and taming, with a beast that actually has the potential for Ancestral Awakening, the heavens are helping us!" They were all too happy.

"We return to the sect immediately!" Elder Kai announced. In moments, everyone got ready to transport Bai Lin to the sect.

Chapter 80 - 79: Beast-Taming Sect

Amidst the raucous of excitement and cheer, the unconscious Bai Lin was ushered away by members of the Beast-Taming Sect on a large, rectangular metallic platform. It was pushed forward, carrying her huge body, using their joined qi.

Her shackled wings, beak, and body casted an pitiful feeling to the ambient atmosphere.

A few minutes earlier.

Wei Wuyin calmly waited for Su Mei to complete her trial, earning whatever rewards she could. While he was a little peeved knowing that the Warring States Pagoda was merely an entrance to the Myriad War Dao Palace, he felt happy for Su Mei. Her innate talent was spectacular, and even when he was a Core Disciple, he was shocked at how buried she was.

If he had to truly compare talents, he simply had more beneficial opportunities than her. He didn't think she lacked in the talent department in the slightest when compared to himself. Whether that was true or not, it was his honest belief.

"Hm?" His silver eyes roamed towards the direction Bai Lin had flown off to. His eyebrows furrowed slightly as he felt the spiritual presence of several cultivators gathering, especially one with a rather powerful aura. They were far, moving in unison, and in the exact direction as Bai Lin.

One must know that Wei Wuyin's spiritual sense was absolutely incredible. When he first ascended to the Eighth Phase, he could perceive sixty-six kilometers of distance with the utmost clarity. If he focused, it was capable of even 'viewing' this distance as if he was literally there. As for his ambient sensory prowess, his awareness was remarkable. And this was before, now that he'd consolidated his cultivation base, his senses could touch a hundred kilometers with ease.

With a little focus, his spiritual sense flashed until it reached Bai Lin. She was currently flying about, and the mass of cultivators weren't too far behind. They were concealed, but his spiritual senses were far too pervasive for such elementary-like concealments.

"Beast-Taming Sect?" A trace of anger flashed within his eyes as he recognized the emblem etched into their uniforms. From there, he deduced their purpose—Bai Lin. His hand subconsciously moved to extract his saber, a vivid massacre blazing in his gaze.

Ohn!

He felt a tick of pain in his right arm. He pulled up the sleeve of his right arm and witnessed the mystic writings on the tattoo, that only he could see and in characters he still couldn't recognize yet understood, began to rapidly change.

Karmic Luck Value: 602.8 -> 585.7.

First Calamity: Survived - 7/7.

Second Calamity: Suppressed - 41 Years.

His karmic luck value decreased by 17.1. Almost immediately, he felt a whisper in his heart. However, instead of being lulled into ignorant complacency, he felt the details that the Heavenly Daos wished to convey. His instincts to kill was to be suppressed, followed by an urge to investigate the Beast-Taming Sect.

The core sparking thought that should've triggered this urge was a faint belief that the Beast-Taming Sect, a sect with a renown comprehension of beasts would understand what had caused Bai Lin to change and how to capitalize on it.

His eyes focused on the black tattoo, feeling its mysteries. Was this how the Heavenly Daos led others to their lucky chances? While he had felt a subtle influence before, such as in Dragon Ash City, this was the first time it was so clear. It was like a sage giving him wise advice.

Could it be that the Bloodline of Sin's abilities or resilience against the Heavenly Daos influence increased alongside his cultivation base or was it a benefit of overcoming the first calamity? He felt that it leaned towards the latter than the former, but the former still mattered.

Calming his murderous intentions, he decided to follow along. He truly wished to learn more about Bai Lin's current state, and with the Heavenly Daos essentially directing him there, how could it lack what he desired? Furthermore, a lucky chance depended on your own actions, perhaps he could excavate far more than 17.1 value out of this.

While it pained him to observe Bai Lin be restrained by experts focusing on subduing beasts, it also opened his eyes to the variant methods of the world. These Beast-Taming Sect members were not particularly strong, but with a combined effort and specialty means, they subdued Bai Lin.

Her strength was apparent. There wasn't a single person amongst them that could withstand her concentrated beams of fiery golden light, yet they still emerged victorious with only a few losses.

He remained concealed, following closely behind as he merged with the natural elemental energies signature. He was like wind as he moved.

As he followed, he recalled the various details he knew about the Beast-Taming Sect. The Beast-Taming Sect's headquarter's location was unknown, but it was rumored to be based in the Hidden Shadow Domain. Seeing as they could gather these experts that exceeded a hundred in number, this was likely the truth.

The Beast-Taming Sect wasn't officially a part of Wu Country. It was the type of sect based in many different countries under the same banner without any clear allegiance. It was said they controlled one of the seven countries of the Myriad Yore Continent, but even that country wasn't its main base. This painted them with all sorts of mysteries. Furthermore, they were members of the alliance in the Hidden Shadow Domain.

As they had their hands in the proverbial pot of every country, their strength was truly an unknown. However, the theme of their sect was not. They nurtured, controlled, and used beasts for all sorts of tasks. They earned money by breeding powerful beasts such as the species of crane that Bai Lin originated from or the variant eagles. It was believed that started the concept of beast mounts in the Myriad Yore Continent, and even provided Alchemists with a means to defend themselves.

Their unique spiritual brands could render a beast completely under their control, like lifeless slaves. While off-shot methods of spiritual brands were devised, the Beast-Taming Sects means were still unique and nearly impossible to truly copy. It was said each indoctrinated member similarly had spiritual brands that detonated if their minds were controlled for interrogation or extraction of memories.

The most unique spiritual brand was the one they used. Unlike the complete control, they had a spiritual brand that linked beast with cultivator, allowing them to dual cultivate with their beasts. While it may sound odd, to clarify, the act of dual cultivation between tamer and beast was not sexual. It related towards the exchange of energies to enhance each other.

Cultivators had all sorts of elemental energies that beasts couldn't absorb and beasts had powerful physical energies that could benefit the cultivator's physique, growth, and strength. It allowed both beast and tamer to have a complete understanding and even a telepathic link.

This miraculous method truly made their legacy irreplaceable and famous.

As Wei Wuyin revisited all this information, a desire for their secrets was borne within his heart. If he could obtain that method, his ability to bond with Bai Lin would support both of their strengths and abilities.

Maybe a 17.1 karmic luck value drop would truly be worth it.

The group continued onwards until they arrived at the base of a seemingly common mountain. When Wei Wuyin arrived, he immediately felt something off as there was a strange spiritual strength that seemed to wish to permeate his senses and mind, distorting them. Luckily, his sea of consciousness and senses were stabilized by his Alchemic Heart of Eden Qi making it nearly unshakeable.

Elder Kai took the lead. He started to perform handseals at a slow, careful pace. Those hands of his would cycle through handseals, stopping and resuming at random intervals, yet each handseal seemed to have a purpose.

Wei Wuyin realized they were incredibly careful. By mixing truth with falsehood, those spying with recording devices would be unable to determine the requisite art or spell used to reveal the entrance of their sect. There could theoretically be millions of combinations that worked, or it could simply just be the first and last handseal used.

After several minutes of this, Elder Kai finally finished and placed his palm on the surface of the mountain. A howl echoed. A surge of qi erupted causing the mountain to rumble and the earth to quake as various changes were taking place within the mountain.

It took a while for all the hidden mechanisms to unlock as the ground ceaselessly trembled, and when it did, the mountain's surface layer started to push inward and then after a large 'chunk!', it rose to reveal an entrance that led to darkness.

The entrance was at least a hundred meters tall and fifty meters wide.

"Let's go!" Elder Kai ordered. He and his fellow members brought Bai Lin inside. The doors mechanisms started to reinitiate as the mountain's surface started to experience yet another change, likely signifying its closing.

Woosh!

Wei Wuyin's body remained concealed as he flashed into the gaping hole as it started to close. His heart had a lot of curiosity towards this sect, and he wondered what awaited him. His heart throbbed slightly in anticipation.

As Wei Wuyin entered, in the depths of the mountain, buried below, an eye capable of rivaling a mountain in size opened, revealing its sharpness and golden colors.

"Lifeforce!" A voice that sounded as if it was at the edge of death, yet majestic throughout the various ages, echoed quietly.