

Chapter 721: Soldier Of War, Facing An Ascended

"Urrg!" Wei Wuyin released a brutish grunt, feeling the elevation of his spiritual strength. The Spirit Units of every iota of his Spiritual Energies increased, connecting perfectly together, and producing a tremendously terrifying spiritual pressure.

The change caused the expressions of the nearby Ascended drastically shift, their eyes widening as they noted the alarmingly skyrocketing spiritual aura that an Astral Core Realm cultivator was unleashing. Moreover, it didn't seem to be stopping at all!

"A Spiritualist?" An Ascended from the star-pupil race questioned with befuddlement in their eyes, uncertain of what he was seeing exactly. The Ascended was no slouch, his cultivation base exceeding Jing Jiu's female companion, even exceeding her in terms of density and purity in aura. Clearly, he was a long-lived, well-cultivated Demi-Mortal Lord.

He was currently facing two opponents in a three-way fight, clashing with their auras as they pressed each other, diverting a very small portion of their strength to observe the events nearby. However, their clash was sufficient to induce shockwaves that could obliterate almost all Astral Core Realm cultivators.

One of his opponent's was a gargantuan figure that towered both of his enemies with ease, standing at over three hundred and sixty feet, or roughly a hundred meters in height. His large physical body seemed to act as its own Gravitational Central Mass, creating a unique gravitational force that attracted others to him into his own orbit.

Clearly, this titan race was unleashing the limits of his Bloodline Power, bringing forth the complete might of the titan race. The physical aura he was unleashing was horrifying, as if facing a large-sized planet hurtling towards you at all times.

This was other than Battalion Commander Borus, the very same Demi-Mortal Lord that Wei Wuyin had met when he first arrived. Clearly, he was deployed to this Battlefield as well. However, he was leading a different portion of his forces and wasn't close to Wei Wuyin's particular company.

The human was a grey-bearded old man dressed in scarlet-gold robes who carried a whisk that released gossamer strings that whipped wildly about like a violent octopus. They were extremely thin and scarlet. Their auras were absolutely vicious and vigorous, very similar to the ambient aura of the Scarlet Solaris Mountain.

"Oh? The titanic oafs brought a secret Spiritualist here? I wonder when you found the time away from your civil issues and declining birth rates," the old man smiled harmlessly, yet his words were a direct violation to the titan race's intelligence and means. Despite his status as an Ascended Highlord, clearly he had no issue throwing shade.

The star-pupil race's Ascended Highlord frowned, his aura pressed with greater strength as his eyes seemed to embody the essence of the stars. Most of it was focused on Battalion Commander Borus.

The old man laughed gleefully, seeming to have come to an agreement with the star-pupil race's Ascended without a single word or transmission. He diverted over 70% of his strings towards the titan.

Each lash split fixed space and could slice through entire planets. When they met the skin of the enlarged titan, faint bruises were made, yet they were unable to penetrate skin.

Battalion Commander Borus's expression grew slightly unsightly. He was aware that they were preventing him from interfering in the slightest for fear of him bringing the currently hunted Spiritualist away at a cost. As for the others, they were all just genuine Ascended at the lowest level, the Soul of Mysticism. They wouldn't be able to stop a fully enraged Demi-Mortal Lord nor would they dare considering they'd still be attacked by two other opponents.

This interference wasn't just occurring at their battle, but the Soul of Mysticism soldiers were also acting to deliberately hinder all titan allies. Some of the titans were even suffering from being ganged up on, yet fortunately, no one pushed it due to their wariness of the third opponent. If they showed an opening, two might die, not one.

None of them were allies.

Yet the human and star-pupiled race would have no issue with someone taking out a Spiritualist of their enemy, especially since the cost of doing so was drastic. But since they didn't have to shoulder such a hefty financial loss, who cares? They could just aid them indirectly.

While the Ascended in this area was thinking this, on another Battlefield not too far away, the humans were suffering catastrophic losses as the Demi-Lord for titans and the star-pupil race split instantly upon Jing Jiu's female companions departure, outright injuring or killing human Ascended soldiers. There was no one to protect them.

Yet there was no way the titans or star-pupil race would allow the humans to push out aid, and even Battalion Commander Borus realized this, focusing more of his explosive strikes towards the old man. While he had that harmless smile, the old man's eyes glinted with an uncomfortable light, wanting to urge that female to be swift!

While all this took a while to explain, these thoughts and actions occurred in the brief time that Wei Wuyin released his spiritual aura.

At this moment, there were cyan-colored cracks emerging on his grey-scaled body, from his forearms to his torso to his neck. Wei Wuyin held a painful scream in his throat, feeling as if every passing second was an internal explosion. If he kept this up, his fleshy container wouldn't be able to hold his spiritual strength!

Jing Jiu's female companion, named Cai Liuyang, was watching Wei Wuyin push himself. She merely stood there, watching with seething hatred in her eyes. It was as if she wanted Wei Wuyin, who was a total ant in her eyes, to try as hard as he could yet experience the most brutal death. Her eyes betrayed her sadistic intentions.

Wei Wuyin wasn't surprised. He had learned everything about her from Jing Jiu's memories, including her habit of torturing those she hated, including allowing them to feel the utmost despair, hatred, regret, and helplessness just prior to their deaths. It was a habit that allowed a few enemies of Jing Jiu to escape.

Perhaps the Heavenly Daos deliberately fostered such a personality habit in her due to her vastly terrifying strength, wanting Jing Jiu to eliminate or overcome these obstacles in his own stupendously fast rise. Regardless, it was something well within his calculations. If not, he would've staked everything on a single assault.

Cai Liuyang wasn't concerned that others would interfere, knowing the particulars of the Battlefield, unless the Demi-Mortal Lords that she had held down were to come, no one else would be free to halt her vengeance. Her beautiful figure waved her hand, causing Jing Jiu's corpse, which was seemingly healed by her, to move behind her as if it was laying on a bed.

From his rosy complexion and cleaned attire, one would think he was merely sleeping. This woman had, in her murderous pursuit, found the time to perform this task! This clearly meant she hadn't given her all towards killing Wei Wuyin. Even in the face of his Spiritual Strength being pushed to untold levels for an Astral Core Realm cultivator, she remained entirely unaffected.

Wei Wuyin laughed wryly in his heart. Cai Liuyang was a Demi-Mortal Lord, with a genuine Demi-Mystic State, and a physique infused with Mystic Intent. She wasn't someone an Astral Core Realm cultivator could imagine killing or hurting, especially a measly Gravity Emission Phase cultivator.

Wei Wuyin wasn't delusional about the vast difference. It wasn't a matter of foundation, but aspects of her cultivation levels that made her invincible to the typical Astral Core Realm cultivator.

Fortunately, Wei Wuyin wasn't the typical Astral Core Realm cultivator, so he wasn't without options.

After reaching this point, Wei Wuyin deeply roared, his eyelids pushed upwards as a wave of gushing spiritual light exploded outwards and inundated hundreds of miles in its radiance. As he did, he felt as if his eyes were at the precipice of disintegration.

The Celestial Eyes of Spiritual Divinity was deeply connected to his Spiritual Strength, being a Spiritual Cultivation Method and all, yet this also became a core issue when his Spiritual Strength exceeded its limits. Unable to regulate itself, he had to deliberately impose restrictions on his spirits. Yet even after sealing three, a single one was enough to cause them to reach their limits.

The Celestial Eyes of Spiritual Divinity elevated alongside his cultivation base, much like an Astral Core, the seals etched in his Sea of Consciousness, Pupils, and Mind's Eye had limits. However, unlike the Astral Core, these limits weren't affected by the quality of his energies. It just had hard limits.

However, who would've thought he would touch this limit? He didn't even know it existed before! Unfortunately, ignorance was not an excuse. Left with risking the shattering of the three seals, he faced this Ascended without a single ounce of fear in his heart.

He formed a hand-seal and executed a Spiritual Spell!

Cai Liuyang's perception was awashed with spiritual light, yet she remained entirely unaffected as she conjured a transparent barrier that prevented the light from reaching her. She narrowed her eyes and observed Wei Wuyin's actions.

Abruptly, all the spiritual light pouring out was instantly condensed in a split second, almost as fast as the movement of light itself. Cai Liuyang was taken aback by this rapid development.

A small orb of cyan-color emerged before her, hovering almost harmlessly before her. Seeing this, she sneered. Her hand was like lightning as she reached out, the orb struggled as it tried to detonate, but she had already grasped it entirely. With her hand engulfed by mystic power, she completely controlled it.

Wei Wuyin's eye sockets were profusely leaking out, grey blood poured out like a river and he stumbled in mid-air, his Infinite Void Wings trembled slightly as he sank a few meters before stabilizing. His aura was bereft of spiritual strength. On his grey-scaled body were noticeable cracks where his spiritual strength was originally leaking, unable to heal.

"That's all?" Cai Liuyang asked. She squeezed lightly against the spiritual sphere, and it shattered into bits and pieces, scattering with the wind. While the spiritual strength was imposing and mighty, before an Ascended's might, it was only sand in their palms.

Wei Wuyin heaved out a series of heavy breaths, faintly smiling as he gazed at Cai Liuyang.

Cai Liuyang frowned slightly.

"I win."

Wei Wuyin took a commonly said word from Jing Jiu's life, a phrase Cai Liuyang had heard many times and of the same cadence, and spoke them. To her, his words invoked memories of what she had, of what she lost, and why she was currently seething with rage!

Yet her thoughts stilled.

SHIIING!

Wei Wuyin immediately brought out Element, his Nascent Saber Soul, with extremely practiced swiftness and drew upon all the power of his Divine Saber Astral Soul, every last freaking drop of its tremendous World Sea's astral force was gathered into Element. All of this, both his gathering of Spiritual Strength and saber force had been deliberately done while he was running for his life, in preparation for this single moment!

He sliced out vertically, releasing a one meter thin, yet thousands of kilometers long slash that tore apart the murky skies and sundered the earth beneath. He used all of his eighty-one centimeter-sized World Sea of King, the full maximum of his current cultivation limits, without holding back a single thing! Even his Saber Heart Intent was activated, causing the space that the heaven-splitting pillar of saber light to absorb the ambient essence and energies and grow even sharper.

Cai Liuyang's mind, body, and soul felt affixed to a specific point in time. As if all of her existence was unable to muster a single movement. All she could do was watch as Wei Wuyin brought out his saber, unleashing a heaven-reaching ray of saber force into a thin line that bore down upon her.

For the briefest of moments, fear welled within her heart as she regretted not killing Wei Wuyin immediately! She regretted crushing the trap of a spiritual orb! She regretted letting Jing Jiu die while she fought in the skies!

The expressions of all the Ascended nearby changed.

Wei Wuyin smirked.

For a moment...

Then his smirk froze.

An icy jade-colored light erupted.

The pillar of saber light conjured by Wei Wuyin's strongest might at present, rushed forward, yet at that icy jade-colored light, its sky-splitting sharpness, seemingly unstoppable forward momentum, and gushing waves of power froze!

It was halted!

A fair palm that released icy jade-colored light held onto the saber light as if it was nothing!!! The endless saber howls did little to push it forward, and the saber light distorted slightly as the fingers of that palm moved.

"..."

"You win? You don't deserve to say that!"

Chapter 722: Soldier Of War, Unsurpassable Difference

"You win? You don't deserve to say that!" Cai Liuyang's glacial tone resounded like thunder, and those delicate looking fingers clenched viciously! The sky-splitting saber light twisted, contorted, distorted, and howled as if it was in pain. A single second later, it exploded into bits of light that littered the skies.

The old man's harmless smile grew a little mocking, "Before absolute power, all tricks and schemes are useless." While he was shocked by Wei Wuyin's tactics and strength, finding it incredibly impressive, he was still a mortal. It was best if such a terrifying genius was killed in its cradle, especially since it belonged to those oafs.

So he was happy to see Cai Liuyang invoke her Demi-Mystic State!

The other Demi-Mortal Lords were extremely shocked that a measly Astral Core Realm cultivator could actually cause an Ascended to utilize their Demi-Mystic State. That state was special, and required an immense amount of mystic energy to utilize, and after usage, even an ordinary Demi-Mortal Lord might have to spend decades to recover their expended mystic energies without external support.

If Wu Yu hadn't had a high-tier, ninth-grade product forged by Wei Wuyin, he would've had to spend years recuperating.

Wei Wuyin seemed exhausted, huffing and puffing heavily with a bitter smile. Alongside his closed eyes, it was almost as if he was ready to sleep.

Cai Liuyang soon came into full view after the spluttering show of saber light ended. There were still small bits of saber light lingering in the air, like miniaturized stars. They were the bits that remained due to their permanence, unable to be dissipated until they were destroyed.

Cai Liuyang's current figure was exquisite. She seemed like an animated sculpture of icy jade. Her eyes were like jewels and her skin was utterly flawless. Some might consider this beautiful, but in truth, she came off a little strange as if she wasn't a living being, but a stone creation given the breath of life.

Cai Liuyang seemed to no longer feed her ill-habit. Her movements were insanely swift, like a comet of icy light, she arrived before Wei Wuyin in a mere blink of a mortal eye.

Wei Wuyin kept breathing heavily, looking pale, defeated, and frustrated. He tightly clenched his fist as Element became a ray of light that entered his dantian, storing itself within the empty Astral Core of King. He smacked his lips, his wings flapping weakly.

Lifting his head to 'look' at Cai Liuyang, Wei Wuyin hoarsely said: "I tried." After saying this, he released a sigh of resignation as his head lowered. Directly after, his True Draconic Form receded, leaving only faint outlines of his Infinite Void Wings that kept him afloat. That unearthly handsome visage of his that carried a zenith degree of masculine charm was fully revealed yet also shattered beneath his current image, lacking confidence, charisma, calm, or energy.

Yet Cai Liuyang still couldn't help but subconsciously admire his looks. She reached out, and her slender palm grabbed Wei Wuyin's throat. He gurgled at her strength, feeling his airways constrict. All it took was one squeeze and surge of power, and his fate would become just like Yuan Longshi.

However, Cai Liuyang sealed Wei Wuyin's meridians and dantian. She was somewhat startled after noticing that he had two Astral Souls, finding his outrageous spiritual strength a little more believable. She still couldn't figure out why he felt like a Spiritualist yet wasn't one.

"A human serving the titans for the Battlefield? Pathetic," the Star-pupil Demi-Mortal Lord spat. He was of the belief that Wei Wuyin had knowingly chosen to participate against his own race, a despicable action.

After all, while the races were divided, not all humans, star-pupil race, or titans were under the same Ascended Sovereign. In fact, some of these titans, star-pupil races, and humans were amongst the same sect or force yet fought against each other on the Battlefield in a clear-cut racial divide.

The Ascended Sovereigns stealthily swapped between races to determine their disputes, so no one knew who really won until the full results were out. Without this knowledge, almost everyone was fighting for themselves and their own fortune.

Battalion Commander Borus's expression became slightly unsightly after hearing this. He kind of wished that Cai Liuyang killed Wei Wuyin so that his shameless action would be swept under the radar, but also wished he survived due to his terrifying strength. Since he came from a former titan-ruled region without any news, it wasn't impossible to use this opportunity to bring Wei Wuyin over to his own force.

"Why did you kill him?" With Wei Wuyin sealed and completely under her will, she relaxed. She even cancelled her Demi-Mystic State after ascertaining that Wei Wuyin's powers were exhausted. After all, each second of this state exhausted a tremendous amount of her own energy.

Her gorgeous appearance was revealed, completely unharmed by Wei Wuyin's sky-splitting saber assault.

Cai Liuyang felt that Jing Jiu's death made little sense. Why would Wei Wuyin be present on the battlefield, a human from the titan race, fighting against humans? It was almost as if someone had sent him directly, countering all of Jing Jiu's treasures and protections with precision. Furthermore, they even used highly refined time energies to prevent resurrection. It seemed all too deliberate.

Wei Wuyin's voice was strained as his throat was tightly grabbed. He couldn't speak and his spiritual energy was exhausted, so he couldn't send a spiritual transmission. Realizing this, Cai Liuyang loosened her grip, yet reinforced her restrictive spells two-fold to prevent him from escaping. She was extremely cautious.

Grimacing from the creation of spell formations in his meridians, dantians, and Sea of Consciousness, Wei Wuyin felt completely powerless. If Lin Ming were to learn that Wei Wuyin was subjected to this treatment, he might be laughing with joy. After all, Wei Wuyin had done the same thing to him.

"...Why?" Wei Wuyin asked in a strained manner. Why should he reveal why he killed Jing Jiu? From his perspective, his life was ending soon anyway? Even Cai Liuyang understood the meaning behind his question, and her beautiful eyes glinted with a flash of fury but also suspicion. Was there truly a plot behind all this? An assassin?

However, she didn't sense any indication of a Mystical Oath of Heavenly Oath.

Then, she revealed a faint smile that sent shivers down one's spine. It was extremely sinister, carrying a sadistic quality that relayed its brutal intentions. "If you don't tell me, death wouldn't just be a luxury for you, it'll be your greatest wish in your entire life."

Wei Wuyin's expression violently paled as he 'looked' at her, his eyes still closed. He gulped slightly. However, a trace of shaking yet unwilling to yield air reflected in that pale expression.

Cai Liuyang knew that Wei Wuyin was only grasping at his pride, but it was on the cusp of falling apart. She leaned into his right ear, lifting him like he was weightless, and spoke with a softest of voices: "If you don't tell me, I'll feed it to you. Then Time Revert it, then feed it to you again and again."

Feed it?

Wei Wuyin was confused until he felt a surge of energy erupt in his groin. His expression didn't just turn pale, it went outright horrified.

She added with a faint chuckle, "Have you ever tried to see how it feels inside you?"

This seemed to be the last straw that broke the camel's back, and Wei Wuyin folded without a single remaining trace of unwillingness.

"I was sent not to ki-kill! I wasn't!" He shouted out, causing the Demi-Mortal Lords to be startled by his panic and fear. They were amused with what Cai Liuyang said, and despite their still raging battle, they kept a bare minimum of focus on these events.

Cai Liuyang was fiercely startled by Wei Wuyin's statement. Her eyes were confused for a brief moment, and then outraged. "You weren't sent to kill?!" As if to disprove him, she brought over Jing Jiu's corpse.

"Do you think I won't! Before everyone fucking here!" A wisp of mystic power was sent to Wei Wuyin's groin again, and this time Cai Liuyang got a clear feeling of its size, weight, and shape.

She was startled for a brief moment, but regained herself.

Wei Wuyin shouted in horror, "I'm serious! I wasn't! I don't know who, but I was paid to capture his soul and bring it to the-"

"What?!" Not only was Cai Liuyang shocked, but every Ascended too. There was such a thing? The battles noticeably slowed down, and more individuals were intrigued by this development.

Cai Liuyang's eyes looked at Jing Jiu, her senses swept him, and she realized there was a trace of alchemical force within his body! Did this man use an alchemic tool to extract Jing Jiu's soul?!

"Where is it? WHERE IS IT?! WHERE?!?!" Cai Liuyang lost herself. She clenched tighter against Wei Wuyin's throat as if threatening to crush it. But it only caused him to wail fiercely, his voice unable to come out.

Wei Wuyin quiveringly touched his spatial ring. "The...the orb..." He pushed out with his greatest strength.

Cai Liuyang hastily inspected the ring with intense urgency, sweeping her senses throughout the ring and immediately found Jing Jiu's Soul Aura in a strange marble seemingly constructed in crystallized marble of void energy. Her hopes were alit.

If Jing Jiu's soul was intact, then this meant he could be fully resurrected! Her heart was brilliant with joy.

She brought out the sphere generated by Void Crystallization, sensing Jing Jiu's Soul Aura permeating the entire thing. However, she was afraid to inspect it closely or forcibly send her energy into it. What if that destroyed the soul inside?

Caution.

Yes.

Must be cautious.

She looked at Wei Wuyin with a cold gaze. "How do I extract the soul in this?"

After she asked that, she sent another burst of energy into Wei Wuyin's groin, reminding him of her original threat. Wei Wuyin didn't hesitate to tell her how to dispel as if he couldn't hope to do so sooner. A few Ascended couldn't help but shake their heads, despite his looks, he was so cowardly. There were soldiers that suffered far more and would never fold.

Cai Liuyang verified that this a void-type object and the method of infusion of spatial energies was consistent. After doing so, she looked at Wei Wuyin and her eyes grew brutal. Her fair and soft hands clasped his throat and then pressed down.

Wei Wuyin's limbs started to flail as he struggled to breathe. He tried his best to pull Cai Liuyang's fingers from his throat but to no avail. Eventually, the horrific sound finally occurred.

CRACK!

Wei Wuyin's neck twisted in an unnatural manner, and a burst of mystic power obliterated Wei Wuyin's Sea of Consciousness. He couldn't be anymore dead. As for his Astral Souls, they weren't irrelevant. It was customary to allow Starlords to become stars for the betterment of the Galactic Zone, so it was common practice to leave them untouched until they underwent Stellar Condensation.

Cai Liuyang was waiting for Wei Wuyin's body to lose its life force so she could store it in her spatial ring for further investigation, but she couldn't help herself to panic when the Void Crystallized orb Soul Aura of Jing Jiu started to flicker. She questioned if Wei Wuyin had tethered himself somehow, so she urgently used the method to dispel the Void Crystal and was going to use her own mystic power to secure his soul.

If it was temporary, Ascended could easily replicate what Wu Yu did for Hong Ru. She hurriedly dispelled the Void Crystal.

When she did, at that exact moment, Wei Wuyin's supposed corpse opened its eyes. One of its eyes was flickering with saber light, somewhat dim, while the other was suffused with elemental light. The first eye was harsh yet the second eye was playful.

"Tch."

"Hehehe!"

Two voices sounded from Wei Wuyin's 'corpse' at this moment that shook Cai Liuyang.

"We win!"

Yet before she could react, the Void Crystallization Orb was released, and alongside it, tens of millions of spherical objects effusing fiery energies! They were all pellets!

There wasn't even a single moment, a single instant, before they all...

EXPLODED!

Chapter 723: Soldier Of War, Explosion

Kuuuuuuu-BOOM!!!!

A few minutes prior, a female titan with a broken sword in hand stood back-to-back to her titan ally, Tai Hao. They were from the same unit, having trained for two years, and had an impeccable focus and timing. Relying on each other, they fought against the humans that aimed for their lives.

They were surrounded by these humans in robes and armors, many of their squad members and allies of the same company had fallen. Yet the two remained strong, their breathing heavy, their forehead wet with sweat, and their armor stained in multicolored blood, theirs and their enemies.

Tai Hao wielded a round shield made from a wooden material yet it gave off a metallic sheen that went against its nature. It was poked with arrows, like a porcupine. In his other hand was an inversely wielded dagger, and it glinted with a murderous light as he brandished it.

Observing the four that surrounded them, the many corpses that laid before their feet, the two were thoroughly exhausted. However, these humans were fresh and full of energy.

Tai Hao knew his life was ending soon, feeling a tinge of regret. However, he had a faint smile on his face behind his mask. "Zi Fu, let's take down one each, at least." He spoke out, his voice quivering from his heavy breath.

The female titan named Zi Fu's eyes were emanating an unyielding battle will. "How about two?" When she said this, she gripped her sword's hilt harsher than she'd ever done before. Her knuckles even hurt.

Tai Hao was briefly taken aback, but then laughed with heart. The fear and terror in his heart facing death had been abolished, and he owed that Captain his life, so he would definitely not waste it. "Two sounds doable."

The four humans were angling themselves in a battle formation, getting into a proper tactic to strike. They were clearly trained in fighting against four against two. And while they weren't in the same uniform, likely not of the same Battalion, they were of the same racial camps. They had very similar training with slight differences.

Unfortunately, a lot of their training in the Battlefield was irrelevant to those of their cultivation base. Yet it was sufficient to allow them to thrive and survive. With a heft of their weapons of war, they settled themselves in their diamond-shaped formation.

"Go!" A member of their formation shouted.

This caused the two titans to tense up, posturing defensive. However, there was no assault.

Woosh!

Without warning, one of the humans charged with a war cry. This took both of their attention as they prepared to defend themselves, but the human halted and shot to the side, startling the two.

"Ah!" Distracted, Tai Hao screamed in pain to find a throwing dagger lodged in his armor, piercing through it and gushing out his blood in copious amounts. It was almost as if it was sucking out his blood. Clearly from its penetrative power and blood-draining capabilities, it was not an ordinary dagger.

"Tai Hao!" Zi Fu realized their tactics caused a mental dissonance, dragging their reaction and delaying their actions. Such tactics could only be properly deployed by those very familiar with psychological reactions and understanding of time.

Zi Fu moved to stop an assault aimed to strike down Tai Hao, yet the assaulter retreated in a feint. This caused to react, looking elsewhere, but suddenly, she turned and barely blocked a sword strike from the initial attacker. She had almost been tricked, the blade of her enemy nicked her helmet.

"Argh!"

Zi Fu's heart tensed as she heard this deathly scream. She pushed her sword striker, turned and saw Tai Hao's dagger dripping blood. His attacker was holding his throat with wide eyes and blood stained face. That blood on his face was not his own.

She immediately realized that Tai Hao had used his large quantity of blood and directly blinded his opponent, striking in that small yet unexpected opening. Impressed, she turned and faced her previous attacker while paying some attention to the others.

Tai Hao held his still bleeding wound, yet his eyes beneath his helmet was brilliant and murderous. He spat out in a hoarse voice: "One left. You?" His voice contained some taunting as his opponent drew his last breath and fell—dead.

However, his blood loss was too hectic, too rapid. He could barely see and his vision was blurry. The gravity was affecting him and the murky air was tainting his body, unable to keep self-sustaining himself.

Zi Fu darkly replied, "Not yet. Soon."

Suddenly, a powerful spiritual strength descended. The three human soldiers that were about to launch their attacks were awed. Their eyes widened, and they simultaneously screamed out: "Spiritualist!" With their training in place, they acted immediately and departed in haste, leaving the two near-dead titans.

Zi Fu and Tai Hao felt it too, but it was extremely familiar to them. So they looked and saw Wei Wuyin's True Draconic Form soaring across the skies at exceptional speeds. In the briefest of moments, he had passed them like a speedy Skyship.

Woosh!

A blue radiance passed by, but it was far too fast for them to distinguish. Without their spiritual sense, they were clueless as to what it was.

"Let's go!" Zi Fu faintly smiled, and she hurriedly grabbed Tai Hao as they raced in Wei Wuyin's direction, but only until they found a squad that had an intact group to hide in. Due to Wei Wuyin's flight path, all those in it escaped with haste.

Tai Hao was currently treating his wounds, his eyes dim yet filled with awe. "I still don't know why a human is in our race's camp," he commented. It wasn't just him, everyone else thought the same, but they didn't fear Wei Wuyin's intentions. The Battlefield was too chaotic to take advantage of, and the War Spirit prevented all instances of friendly fire, so his Spiritual Strength couldn't affect them at all.

Act as a spy? No one would believe it.

A Spiritualist human working with the titan camp? Perhaps he was married to one. They didn't know. After all, its not like interracial marriages were out of place.

"Perhaps he wants to kill someone from the human or celestial race's camp," a male titan soldier of Squad 43 commented as she dressed Tai Hao's wounds.

"Perhaps," Zi Fu said dismissively. Her eyes were bright as she observed the direction that Wei Wuyin flew towards. Whatever the reason, he could fly, he had immensely powerful spiritual strength, and survived a fall that would've killed titans of her cultivation. He was astonishing.

She clenched her fists, 'I want to be a Spiritualist.' She dreamed of doing so, yet the sacrifice and method was far too intensive. She had the will, but not the resources or means. This was why she was on this battlefield, risking her life—to change her fate!

"Anyways, I'm sure he-"

Kuuuuuuuu!

They all felt it.

That moment before 'the' moment. Their hearts grew still. Their minds chilled. Their breaths stifled in their throats. Their eyes turned to a single direction, no matter how swift, how slow, or how delayed, they all turned their heads and eyes towards a single direction.

BOOM!!!!!!

The sound was like thunder, as fast as lightning, as terrifying as death itself knocking three times on your door. The fiery radiance in the horizon was wild, beautiful, and absolutely alluring. No one could turn their gaze away.

A storm of flames twisted and twisted until it touched down onto the ground. When it did, the earth shook in a minor manner, yet they all felt it. The heat was intense.

"What's that?!" Zi Fu exclaimed with widened eyes, yet the moment her last words finished, a torrential storm of rushing wind, dirt, earth, and fire raced towards her at such a fast pace that her body trembled from its force! Only her thoughts could react to the rapidly brightening radiance enclosing in.

'Is that a storm of flames? Is it coming here?' She felt the pushing force on her body, and the realization touched her heart with unerring accuracy. 'Oh. I guess I'm dead. Just like that? After all that? Huh...! don't accept it! I REFUSE TO ACCEPT IT!' Was her last thought as the flames gushed forward and enveloped her and her entire squad!

The storm of fire engulfed an area of two hundred miles! There was no safe zone within it!

Dzzzzzt!

However, it ended after a minute or so. When it did, the 43rd Squad, Tai Hao, and Zi Fu were standing there frozen, looking at their hands and armor, confused why they weren't burnt, why the metal wasn't melted.

The halo that settled on the heads was emitting a bright radiance.

Zi Fu looked upwards, shaken by its activity. According to her training, this halo was connected to the War Spirit, and the radiance it emits only occurs when friendly fire had happened. It would protect against it. This only affected those of the mortal-level. Ascended had the same protection for mortals and Ascended, but if they assault members of their camp, it does not activate. However, they would be disqualified from receiving rewards from the War Spirit. This was indicative that they were leaders, capable of delivering vicious punishments to their subordinates if they were of the same camp, yet also the leader's punishment for not fixing this issue non-violently.

Zi Fu turned, and she could see the once fighting titans in the distance confused, while there were melted and burnt corpses of humans and celestials, those star-pupil beings, littered for miles on end. Some were still being blown away by the explosion, being flung for miles further. Those soldiers all died a fiery death.

Tai Hao realized this. He couldn't help but say: "Holy...my...oh..." He was totally speechless, unable to finish any of his mental comments of shock and awe. That explosion had come without warning, and they didn't understand it at all.

However, Zi Fu instantly recalled that closed-eyed handsome human that could manifest wings, exert his spiritual sense, and was an abnormality in their lives. "Was it him? But how?"

"Was that...Mass Energy Detonation?" The male titan from earlier questioned in a ludicrous manner. This was a phenomenon when experts combined their energy or from highly powerful formations or arrays charged into a single point and released all at once. It was...explosive...

"Impossible! There's no way to establish a formation large enough to do so, and it'll be deeply suppressed in the Battlefield." Another titan rejected, but it truly did seem like a Mass Energy Detonation!

"Pellets?" A titan soldier that was an alchemist as an auxiliary field spoke out, finding the combination familiar.

"Pellets? Even more impossible! Energy is suppressed in the Battlefield, to create that, how many pellets would be needed? Millions? Billions? Furthermore, pellets can only be used if the alchemist that concocted them is in the Battlefield and activates them himself, otherwise the War Spirit will stop it!" The titan that rejected the earlier theory also rejected this one, yet there was little else to suggest as an alternative.

As if in panic after seeing everyone's skepticism, the titan added: "Even if it was pellets, what mortal-level alchemist could possibly concoct so many? And they would all have to be higher than eighth-grade, or Mystic-Earth grade and even then! It-its...Its just not possible!" He vehemently shook his head, yet the hellscape before him caused his heart to grow uncertain.

"You're right," the male titan who treated Tai Hao's wounds chimed in his agreement. "The Ascended of our race should have an answer."

The others nodded.

Battalion Commander Borus was still in his enlarged form as he watched the fiery outburst of flames slowly dissipate. The halo above his head was releasing a protective radiance, so besides the bright light, he didn't even feel the forceful winds. The halo had thoroughly protected him and everyone else of the titan race.

The only ones in the sky above the clouds were those of the titan race. Everyone else had either been incinerated entirely or falling as a burnt corpse.

No, wait...

"Uhh! Uhh!" Stifled coughs emitted from the old man, his whisk exuding a scarlet light that enveloped his entire body protectively.

When Battalion Commander Borus saw this, realizing the fragility of the light and his aura, his eyes brightened considerably. Without even thinking about it, all he saw were War Souls! His greed was intense, an innate feature of his truest nature!

"KILL ALL THOSE THAT REMAIN!" He shouted as his gargantuan form exploded towards the old man, his eyes effusing killing intent and greed.

The other titan Ascended realized that almost every powerful human or celestial race Ascended had survived, be it at the Soul of Mysticism or Demi-Mortal Lord. Some were terrifyingly burnt and scarred, barely on their last breaths as they fell from the skies. Others were protected by talismans or powerful mystic-graded armaments, yet their usage was either done or their armaments suffered tremendous damage.

Furthermore, they were outnumbered by the surviving titans!

The titans were shaken by Battalion Commander Borus's roar, and they turned their weapons against their enemies and blitzed them in groups!

While all this happened, beneath the clouds and far away from the Ascended conflict, a figure was enveloped in a ward of elemental origin intent that pacified all the fiery energies that was released, diverting it with his Elemental Origin Intent if he could, shielding himself if he couldn't.

At the moment, two Astral Souls returned as bright light. Along with their return, a spatial ring belonging to other than the Demi-Mortal Lord Ascended, the top-tier genius, the individual at the very center of the fiery explosion, Cai Liuyang!

When those two Astral Souls reentered their body, the figure sighed with relief.

Chapter 724: Soldier Of War, Praised

The figure that stood on scorched land, beneath the incinerated clouds and hot air was other than Wei Wuyin.

"Tactics and planning are irreplaceable in cultivation," Wei Wuyin softly stated to no one in particular. Those words, however, resonated deeply with himself. With sufficient understanding of your opponent, sufficient understanding of your own limits, there was no battle that was unwinnable. Even against an Ascended top-tier talent, they could still be led to their deaths through a mixture of psychological and spontaneous warfare.

From the very moment Wei Wuyin read Jing Jiu's mind, learnt of Cai Liuyang's personality, her extreme level of excessive protectiveness despite her reluctance to serve as a detriment or crutch to Jing Jiu's path, he knew that his true opponent was her. However, to face a Demi-Mortal Lord, no matter how restricted, was quite a distressing scenario.

A single mistake and his death was all but determined. There would be no amount of lifeforce or trickery that would save him. Just a single mistake and he would be permanently finished before the Calamities of Hell could even make their attempt to cleanse him.

Truthfully, Wei Wuyin felt invigorated and a tinge of excitement from this development. It wasn't just him, both King and Kratos were fiercely aggressive in their elation. It was as if they were unaware that his death was a single misstep away.

He had to exert all of his power, King, Kratos, Ori, and Eden to truly claim the only path of victory. It wasn't enough to use all of his fire-attribute pellets, from the seventh-grade to ninth-grade at once that he'd concocted in the last six years, he needed to catch a Demi-Mortal Lord completely off-guard, taking them down at their most vulnerable, careless moment.

If he just launched the pellets wildly, while they may suffer severe damage, he felt that there was no way he could take out a Demi-Mortal Lord level cultivator. If they had means similar to Wu Jiao of the Wu Country in the Myriad Yore Continent, capable of seizing the pellets and preventing them from activating, he would be thoroughly screwed.

Every step, every action, from the moment he crushed Jing Jiu's head to when Cai Liuyang released the Void Crystallized Orb, was perfectly calculated according to all the information he had available. Furthermore, he was fully aware that his actions would result in an overwhelming victory for his titan allies. After learning about the War Spirit and the War Souls bestowed, including their uses from Jin Jiu's memories, he had fully concocted a swiftly deployable plan.

While it wasn't all perfect, with many moments where it was a tossup if it'll work, he still decided to execute it.

"You liked my acting? Hehe! I was good right? Right?!" Ori excitedly asked, thrumming with elation.

"Tch," King chimed with his signature sound. However, there was a little dissatisfaction in his tone. Clearly, his full-powered attack hadn't even scratched Cai Liuyang in her Demi-Mystic State, and that severely hurt its pride as a saber. Everything should be brought to an end with its edge!

"Why are you so fussy? If you used arts instead of just sending out all of your power, you'd be several times stronger." Eden comforted and reasoned, but the pride in its own tone was unmistakable. It had created those pellets that annihilated a Demi-Mortal Lord! How could it not be proud?

"...Even before the eyes of a being like that, us Void Dragons are unable to be halted for a single instant." Kratos just randomly decided to brag, bringing in its own accomplishment.

Wei Wuyin smiled warmly. He couldn't have done it without all of them, be it Ori's control of the False God Avatar which was astonishingly exquisite, especially the vocal tone, dialogue, expressions, and emotions. It conveyed the realistic reactions of a human.

Or King's feint of going all out, trying everything to unleash a desperate attempt at life. It was extremely realistic.

Or Eden's replication of a perfectly normal Sea of Consciousness in his False God Avatar. If it wasn't for its extraction and subsequent infusion of Jing Jiu's Soul Aura originally from his glob of blue light, the final pieces of the plan would never have worked.

Or Kratos' Void Concealment ability, hiding him as he replaced himself with the False God Avatar. Even though Ascended had their Spiritual Sense, they were still severely restricted by the imposing suppression of the Battlefield. They couldn't reach greater than a few dozen meters without a special

spell or art. Cai Liuyang had used one to mark him. Fortunately, it was a spatial mark, and Kratos could push it onto another with a little effort. Such as the False God Avatar.

Thinking about how his first self-created Avatar Art had led to him defeating an Ascended left him feeling as if it was surreal. Additionally, Cai Liuyang was anything but ordinary.

Finally, compressing the vast majority of their Spiritual Energies into a Fixed Soul Spell layered with a trap mechanism. It was extremely difficult to do, conjured up on the spot, and put into practice at that moment. Even if it had failed, there wasn't much of an issue with proceeding with the plan, but that was plan C: severely injuring or killing Cai Liuyang in her frozen state.

However, it helped sell the idea that Wei Wuyin was a specialized cultivator sent to extract Jing Jiu's Soul. After all, spiritual energy was the closest thing to the soul. Proving his adeptness sold his story further.

Wei Wuyin spoke from the heart: "You all did amazing, every last one of you. Ori's acting was astonishing; King's power was incredible; Kratos, your concealment was key, without it of this worked; Eden..."

"Mm." Eden needed nothing else, relaying that it knew all that Wei Wuyin wanted to say and more. Wei Wuyin could feel the roots settled into his Sea of Consciousness shake with joy. Regardless of its aloof attitude, it still liked being praised all the same.

Wei Wuyin grinned. He felt blessed. Not for Karmic Luck or becoming a Bloodline of Sin Inheritor, but having the opportunity to once again have a family that would unhesitatingly give their all for each other. Facing Ascended beings, they would stand by his side. Facing Hell, they would stand by his side. Facing gods, they would stand by his side.

Could a man want anything more?

Wei Wuyin enjoyed this feeling as he stood in the midst of scorched earth, feeling comfortable and relaxed. With all the Ascended beings distracted and all the enemies cleared for so far, he was perfectly safe. After a few minutes of this, he started to make his way back to his remaining squad members. He was a Squad Leader, after all.

"The Battlefield lasts for just twelve hours, such a short period of time. However, I didn't expect the sheer scope of the Battlefield to be like this. Is it really that large? To span across hundreds of thousands of miles, divided into nine zones of war." Wei Wuyin still had his eyes closed, unable to view the horizon yet the bloody expanse of numerous battlefields echoed in his thoughts. While his spiritual energy was almost entirely exhausted earlier, the issue was never his spiritual energy, but the Spiritual Strength of his Astral Souls.

At the moment, all except Ori was sealed. Even still, it exceeded his limit. That limit was even further pushed than when Kratos was the leading Astral Soul. Ori's 'Divine' aspect was not for show. All things spiritual, be it pressure, energy reserves, strength, aura, or sense was several times that of non-divine astral souls of the same type and foundation. King was the same.

However, at the moment, Ori's wood origin astral force was thoroughly working to repair his muscle fibers, meridians, and fractured bones from the damage of unleashing his spiritual sense. In a way, he

was nearly crippled physically. He tried to use the Mark of Eden earlier, but when he unleashed a strand of lifeforce, it was sucked away by a strange power and vanished entirely.

It was likely due to the lifeforce being pure, unrefined life energy. The act of producing War Souls conflicted with it, so after testing it, he decided against trying to force it. He could only use the power that belonged to solely himself, so his ninth-grade pills and elixirs supplemented by Ori's wood origin force will have to do.

"I wonder if that female titan lived," Wei Wuyin asked himself as he walked slowly towards where he roughly remembered the former location of his cataclysmic fall... He added with a faint smile, "I hope she did; she had a courageous heart."

Chapter 725: Soldier Of War, Divine To Spiritualist

The remaining remnants of the 43th and 49th squad of the Helix-Titan Battalion had gathered with the others, forming a united front within the scorched field as they discussed amongst themselves, nursed their grievous wounds, and dwelled on their experiences. A few soldiers were off alone despite being physically present, their gazes absent and dazed.

Since the fiery explosion and almost instant transformation of the Battlefield's environment, resembling a mythical hellscape of burnt corpses and melted bones, the titans were animated in their actions. They awaited further orders from their leaders.

Tai Hao sat with his legs outstretched and his torso upright, holding his sides as he grimaced with pain from time to time. That human soldier had dealt him a serious blow, and his pale as snow expression was evidence of his blood loss. Fortunately, he was triumphant and had the last laugh. While he walked away with a bloody stab wound, his opponent walked away to the next world.

He had removed his helmet, revealing his full facial features. Despite his pale complexion, he could be considered mildly handsome, with slim-like eyebrows and an aquiline nose. This alongside his sharp features gave him the feeling of an ancient general or king of the mortal world. With his short, tousled black hair and wet with drying blood, the valiant image of a victorious yet deeply scarred warrior befitted him.

Zi Fu still wore her helmet, her features still guised under its metallic sheen, and she walked over to Tai Hao and patted his shoulder. Unlike the rest, she was ready for battle at all times, never letting her guard down no matter the circumstances.

Tai Hao lifted his gaze to see Zi Fu and he breathed out a small smile, "Yeah?"

"Thank you," she said with her heartfelt emotions fully imbued within each syllable.

Tai Hao was taken aback for a moment, and then his smile proceeded to enlarge, becoming slightly more brilliant. "You're my ally. There's no need." After saying this, he chuckled softly.

Zi Fu gave him a brief stare, then looked elsewhere. The hellscape of burnt earth and smell of roasted flesh was still lingering within the air. It caused slight discomfort to the nose. "You saved my life; there's always a need." If Tai Hao hadn't aided her, she would've long since met her end at the hands of those human or celestial soldiers. Perhaps he would've died too. But together, they had survived. So her feelings were genuine.

Tai Hao's smile lessened and he sighed, "You've always been like this, huh?" When he said those words, he lifted his gaze towards the murky sky and roiling clouds that showed signs of continued battle against their race's Ascended. However, his emotions were quite complex and conflicted.

In this Battlefield, these Ascended fighting to protect him, these soldiers that fought alongside him, were all his greatest support and cherished allies. Each life he saved could eventually lead to his own victory, yet outside of this Battlefield, if Tai Hao and Zi Fu were to meet, they might be forced to fight to the death.

The complex situation of the Battlefield versus the outside world was quite intense, a sharp contrast. There was no unquestionable racial solidarity there, only tangible benefits, division of loyalties, and interests. Out there, it would be in his best interest to bring Zi Fu's head to his clan. Here, he risked his own life to save her, fighting side-by-side.

He didn't know whether his thoughts were mocking himself, the Battlefield, or the outside world.

The two remained silent.

Just then, a faint spiritual strength swept them. Zi Fu's heart throbbed fiercely as she gripped her sword, looking around as she saw a figure garbed in black martial arts attire, completely unlike the battle robes or armor of the typical Battlefield participant.

Tai Hao exclaimed softly, grimacing as he tried to rise, "Spiritualist?" The others reacted too, with many entering a battle position as if on muscle memory or instinct. It was only when they saw the human figure that had shown up randomly, taken out a Squad Leader, and became one himself.

The handsome visage of this smaller-than-them human was in full view, and he carried the smallest of smiles that highlighted his appearance. A few hadn't noticed how otherworldly that face was, carrying with it a charm that could beguile all senses.

When Wei Wuyin walked over, he was given the full inspection by all these titans present. Unfortunately, the clarity of his spiritual sense was incredibly unclear, so he could barely make out their expressions. Still, he made his way there and arrived within the group.

"How many members of the 49th Unit are left?" Wei Wuyin directly asked, causing the soldiers to shuffle around and look at each other. It didn't take long for Tai Hao and Zi Fu, who was carrying the former, to come forth. It was just the two of them left.

The unit was already small with slightly over a dozen soldiers. To have two was already astonishing. Some entire units were eradicated, their corpses still littering the battlefield with lingering grievance and a want for life that'll never come.

Wei Wuyin inwardly felt relieved seeing Zi Fu, this female titan, survive. He wondered if his Karmic Luck had kicked in and allowed her to survive, or increased her chances of survival due to his interest or desire for her safety. He wasn't certain of the exact required parameters to be considered tied by karma. Yet it was a very appreciated sight.

Outwardly, his expression was slightly dark. In truth, this was mostly his fault. As a Squad Leader, he was to be the strongest member in the unit, protecting and directing them. Unfortunately, he wasn't familiar with titan-taught war tactics and combat formations.

Well, he thoroughly eradicated their enemies and allowed them time to rest and nurse their wounds, so he had done more than enough as a squad leader and a member of the Helix-Titan Battalion. After all, who knew how many would end up dying in the remaining time?

After all, there were still over eleven hours left. While most battles would've been decided by them, with a victor of a certain race decided long before then, from how this battlefield's trend was happening, the titans were not going to be the final victor. However, his actions led them to an astonishing victory.

Just surviving the battlefield gave War Souls, so this would be a boon to them all.

"Sir!" Zi Fu called out, clearly seeking permission to speak or ask a question. Regardless of what, she was quite well-trained to await her unit leader's response. Wei Wuyin acknowledged this female titan before him, and then said: "Speak your mind, Soldier."

Zi Fu said with a soft nod, "That explosion of flames, do you have any idea what happened?" This question was on the lips of everyone present. If it was caused by an Ascended, the War Spirit wouldn't have protected them. However, how could a mortal-level cultivator hope to generate such might, in the Battlefield no less?

With energy restricted, that explosion could've incinerated entire planets and a large swath of a starfield in an instant.

Wei Wuyin frowned slightly, uncertain if he should explain clearly or state his responsibility. While he was aware that every force and individual that participates in the Battlefield swore heavy Mystical Oaths tethered to unique items that reinforced their strength and elevated their punishment, to prevent external conflict, schemes, and revenge outside of the Battlefield, he wasn't certain if he should reveal his abilities.

He was exempt, however. After all, he joined through the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region, not a Azure-Prime Galactic Zone's controlled area.

In the end, he decided against explaining his capabilities. If anyone asked, he'll remain silent or use some random excuse that he was forbidden from revealing exact details by an oath similar to theirs. This will bring forth mystery to his identity, and if his play had worked, of the Ascended would think he was actually from the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region, but an assassin sent to kill Jing Jiu and Cai Liuyang.

There's no way an isolated and abandoned stellar region would deliberately plan to kill two prominently talented figures with such destructive means without reason. While he had his reasons, no one else was privy to them.

"It doesn't matter; let's help nurse the wounds of others." To these soldiers, however, he didn't need to use any excuse. He just outright shrugged it off with a darkened expression, clearly telling them that this information was sensitive and they weren't qualified to know.

A few titans gulped heavily. They felt as if they were drawn into some grand conspiracy against the human and celestial race. It was incredibly brazen to commit such acts in the Battlefield. They took heed of Wei Wuyin's nonverbal warning and stayed silent. The atmosphere grew tense.

Wei Wuyin didn't just wait around. He went to those injured and started to use wood origin force to heal, acting as a medic. According to Jing Jiu's memories, these acts could contribute to the amount of War Souls one would accumulate at the end of the twelve hour duration.

Every little bit helped, and he wasn't certain how much he'd receive or all the rewards that the War Spirit offered. Who knew if just one exact War Soul was enough to give him that exact reward or not.

Thinking like this, he couldn't help but slightly chuckle as he sent his wood origin force into the bodies of two wounded soldiers, Tai Hao being one of them. He was truly an Exploitative Blessed. It was a habit to maximize his gains and seek out greater benefits for himself.

However, a few titans were staring at Wei Wuyin in an absolute daze, especially Tai Hao who felt Wei Wuyin's pure wood origin force. He was flabbergasted.

Zi Fu couldn't hold back and asked, "You're not a Spiritualist?"

Wei Wuyin only gave her a brief smile with a lifted eyebrow, "Didn't I tell you I wasn't before?" After saying this carelessly, he focused on healing the two's wounds, and used water origin force in the hopes of replenishing their blood supply. It worked, so he was quite satisfied.

Zi Fu was speechless.

Spiritualists were beings that cultivated an extreme path, much like Purists, and they merged their Spirits of Cultivation with their Sea of Consciousness and Physique, changing their state of existence entirely. Their physical energies, mental energies, and stored essence energies such as innate fire energies, water energies, or wood energies within their bodies, were all spiritual energies.

Since spiritual energy originated from all three of them, it could similarly replace all three as the dominant energy source. Therefore, there's an extremely unique mind-body-spirit connection that was unrivaled. Furthermore, their Astral Core became a Spirit Core during this exceptionally extreme process.

A Spirit Core, like an Astral Core, had a World Sea. The difference was the metaphysical energy force that was stored within it. There was no astral force within a Spirit Core, just Spiritual Force. This vastly elevated a cultivator's spiritual aspects! Their Spiritual Spells, Spiritual Formations, and Spiritual Sense was unrivaled amongst those of their cultivation level!

Since that was unmistakably the case, Wei Wuyin shouldn't be able to use wood origin astral force in the slightest! He shouldn't have astral force at all!

Yet Wei Wuyin had proved he had just that! This overthrew their understanding for a moment, because they could clearly feel Wei Wuyin's spiritual sense enveloping them with a heavy spiritual strength. This was unfathomable! Unbelievable! What level was his Spirit Units at?

Wei Wuyin ignored their incredulous reactions. But when he recalled Jing Jiu's memories, his thoughts stirred. He knew why Spiritualists were so feared, given flee-on-sight orders.

They could still use spells in a location where Starlords were forced to fight like mortals. As long as one was in range of their spiritual sense, they could be subjected to spells that affected their senses, body,

or cultivation. They could even be outright crippled because their natural astral force and spiritual protections were severely weakened by the environment.

Not only was catching them off-guard entirely impossible here, they had a mind-body-spirit unity that made them terrifying just to fight. Furthermore, if they used concealment spells, they had the means to just assassinate anyone they wished. So if they revealed themselves for a moment, humans like Jing Jiu were taught to not engage, just flee, preferably in different directions to split focus and outrun their spiritual sense.

When he thought about fighting an opponent that could sense your every movement, affect your perceptions, or cripple you, and you had barely any defenses, even he shivered.

According to Jing Jiu's memories, he learned interesting details about the process of being a Spiritualist. All those who wished to become a Spiritualist must have forged a particular type of Spirit of Cultivation foundation before having any chance to succeed. And Jing Jiu knew the method to cultivate that type of foundation.

However, he was shocked to discover that...

The cultivation method was the 'Divine' spirit aspect he already cultivated!

Chapter 726: Soldier Of War, First Retreat Order

Wei Wuyin was enlightened by this discovery, finding the avenue of cultivation that was Spiritualism more feasible than before. Just from his perspective as an Alchemist and a cultivator of two Divine-type Spirits of Cultivation, he understood how and why.

As he finished healing Tai Hao and the other soldier, he slowly rose and moved to the next pair. He had plenty of elemental origin astral force to spare, capable of offering some stabilizing aid with swift precision. The soldiers didn't halt him at all, fully allowing him to send his astral force into their bodies.

They were awed by the sheer quantity and power of astral force that could be mustered from Wei Wuyin in the Battlefield. Furthermore, only life energy Cultivators, those often referred to as Medicinal Sages, were medics on the Battlefield. However, they were as rare as Spiritualists. These beings had very little to no combat strength, and the refinement of their bodies were severely lesser than others of more vigorous energy types.

Yet Wei Wuyin, being neither a Spiritualist nor a Medicinal Sage, had the means to fulfill both unique roles. This startled them and they looked at Wei Wuyin with amazement but also a tinge of frightful fear. How exactly did this man cultivate?

Wei Wuyin could feel the inquisitive stares, but he remained stoic outwardly. His mind was more focused on Spiritualists and how they were born, scouring through his memories of Jing Jiu's memories. Eden perfectly replicated all the details as he provided aid to the soldiers, recalling every single detail available.

According to Jing Jiu's thoughts, the Divine-type Spirit of Cultivation was just one of the three requirements. The second requirement was far more difficult to acquire than the first—an initiator.

There were two available initiators for the process that was known, yet both were outside of mortal means to do so. After all, Spiritualism defied conventions of cultivation at its core, being a rather unorthodox cultivation path. Whether this was good or bad in the far-off future, it was unknown, at least to Jing Jiu.

Wang Yutian had once said an Earthly Saint could help facilitate the growth of an artificial Domain Seed in those at the Fourth Stage of the Astral Core Realm, Spatial Resonance Phase, and that he had done so twice before. This broke conventions, and such required those beyond Mortal Limits.

The process of Spiritualism Conversion was no different. It needed an initiator, and that was typically a high-level cultivator of at least the Worldly Saint stage or a formation like the Engorging Foundation Evil Method. This was extremely difficult to acquire, especially since you needed the help of a Worldly Saint at minimum to truly and reliably pull it off.

After all, the Engorging Foundation Evil Method was a risky maneuver, and it resulted in the death of one and damaged souls of two, yet Lin Ming would still have to deal with all sorts of consequences. In fact, they all had the risk of dying right then. Be it in the matter of an artificial Domain Seed or Spiritualism Conversion, an expert uses the appropriate materials to refine them and oversee the process, ridding of most flaws and risks.

The second initiator was an alchemical elixir called simply: Elixir of Spiritualism. It was a peak-tier, Mystic-Earth graded alchemical product. It performed the job of a Worldly Saint, if not slightly better at higher qualities. It was one of the Mystic-Earth elixirs offered by certain sects and forces outside in exchange for earned War Souls.

The third requirement was luck.

A lot of luck.

Either of these procedures had their set of issues and this could eventually lead to losing one's Spirit of Cultivation, resulting in being crippled or experiencing cultivation deviation, resulting in possible death. It was not a safe avenue to explore. Of course, the failure rate for the Elixir of Spiritualism was far lower than at the hands of Worldly Saints.

Jing Jiu's memory also suggested that some Worldly Saints would offer their services to perform the act in exchange for War Souls, because Earthly Saints and above were unable to directly participate. This was the cheapest option as well, yet it carried the most risk. The peak-tier Mystic-Earth Elixir of Spiritualism was, however, extremely pricey—almost ten times as much!

Wei Wuyin was intrigued to realize that Alchemical Products were still as scarce and expensive as the Everlore Starfield or the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region. In fact, the general prices were extremely consistent across the board. While there may be some deviation, it wasn't a lot.

Wei Wuyin finished another pair, moving to another. His thoughts continued to stir as he thought about these War Souls. However, he was also a little dissatisfied. According to the Battlefield's rules, he would be sent back to where he came from, yet War Soul exchanges for the forces and sects of the Azure-Prime Galactic Zone occurred in an intermediary location where they originally gathered prior to being sent to the Battlefield.

Not every soldier had the same exchange options, limited to what their force or nearby allies forces offered. Since he would have to arrive at these locations with the War Soul in hand, he wouldn't be able to gain benefits from these forces. His only benefit was the exchange offered by the War Spirit. This didn't include anything within the Alchemic Dao.

So there would be no concoction methods or products he could claim, giving him a little bit of a heartache. It seemed if he wanted to expand his knowledge of the Alchemic Dao, he'll be forced to visit an alchemic association in the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region.

As for Jing Jiu, he knew little to nothing about the Dao of Alchemy or concoction methods, so he was left with no help from the deceased Blessed.

Regardless, the War Spirit offered incredible things, and his harvest thus far wasn't bad. Not bad at all.

A smile couldn't help but form on his face, filled with excitement and glee. While Jing Jiu's rings were mostly filled with a random assortment of things, Cai Liuyang's ring wasn't just filled to the brim with mystic stones, mystic-graded materials, pills, elixirs, and pastes, but the spatial ring itself was definitely Mystic-Grade!

Why?

Because it can store mystic-graded resources and materials!

There was even Terra-Mystic Ore within the ring! There was no repulsion force emitted, seemingly suppressed by some unseen power that exceeded Mortal Limits. Jing Jiu also had a similar ring, yet it was a third the size of Cai Liuyang's. He was a War Blessed after all. How could he store his mystic-graded loot from the corpses of his enemies if he didn't have the means to store them?

The size of Jiu Jing's spatial ring was more than enough to store the Terra-Mystic Ore that he'd acquired, let alone Cai Liuyang's!

Soon, he completed delivering aid to every remaining soldier within his Battalion's deployed company, including Zi Fu. He wasn't even the slightest bit exhausted.

Zi Fu stared at Wei Wuyin. From start to finish, her gaze beneath the helmet was watching him without pause. Her thoughts were a mess. She didn't know what to think, feeling as if the anomaly that was this human was far, far too incredible to be real. The questions she held in her heart were endless.

Just as she mustered the tinge of courage to speak her thoughts, a thunderous shout resounded throughout the Battlefield.

"All Members of the Helix-Titan Battalion! Retreat!" After saying this, a pillar of light shot into the sky from the ground, and within this light was the unique double-helix insignia of the Helix-Titan Battalion.

"All Members of the Demon-Source Battalion! Retreat!"

"All Members of..."

Commanding shouts rang out continuously ordering the remaining soldiers. There was an accompaniment of a surging pillar, thick and noticeable from a thousand miles away.

The soldiers roused themselves, ecstatic of this order. Typically this only happened roughly six hours in, not nearly an hour. This was a sign of the Battlefield, at least their particular zone, their particular area, had come to its first conclusion. Now their Ascended will protect them, and they'll survive until the end to earn War Souls. If they earned enough, they could freely retire and go home!

If not, a second round of war awaited.

Some were happy. Others? They wore dark expressions, their eyes reflecting their solemn attitudes.

Wei Wuyin glanced upwards.

Ohn!

A feeling surged through his mind and body, yet no influence sprung forth. Familiar with the Karmic Luck Deductions already, he was aware this meant someone he was tied to by karma had just received the benefits of his Karmic Luck Value.

Karmic Luck Value: 44,052.4.

First Calamity: Survived - 7/7.

Second Calamity: Claimed - 1/1.

Third Calamity: Suppressed - 16 Years.

-

Karmic Luck Value: 43,809.6

First Calamity: Survived - 7/7.

Second Calamity: Claimed - 1/1.

Third Calamity: Suppressed - 16 Years.

'242.8?'

Chapter 727: Soldier Of War, Returned

Marching along with the surviving soldiers, Wei Wuyin stood out from the giants that towered him by a few meters. However, with his eyes closed, his gait stable and calm, it didn't come off as strange or out of place at all. In fact, from his position at the forefront, it seemed that a human was the alpha of a pack of titans.

They moved together through the scorched lands, finding piles of burnt corpses and melted metal that didn't resemble a single living thing. There were a few corpses relatively intact, reaching or screaming out in pain or horror before being roasted black. They seemed like darkened statues.

"..." Tai Hao and the rest were silent when they saw these horrifically nightmarish figures. Their screams and clawing motions seemed as if they were shouting for mercy or clawing for life. It was eerie.

"These beings cultivated a fire-attributed physique. How unfortunate..." Zi Fu spoke out what everyone else was thinking. Refining one's physique with fire-attributed starforce or materials was extremely powerful, yet in this scenario, it allowed them to live just a little bit longer than the rest, suffer a little bit more.

Tai Hao softly sighed. The Battlefield was not merciful, kind, or forgiving. This was a phrase often said by those who survived to return home, bathing in their riches and acquired wealth, yet the glint in their eyes was never the same. Unfortunately, the Battlefield was the opportunity for many to strive to ascend. To grasp greater power, longer life, more riches, and higher fame.

To those who weren't beloved and cherished, born with a golden spoon or a powerful parental figure, talented and fortunate, they were left with taking what they could using their own hands and lives as the risk.

Wei Wuyin understood far more than he'd expected from Jing Jiu's memories. The Battlefield was an opportunity for the talented and prepared like Jing Jiu, blessed by the heavens, benefitting from conflict, yet it was a life-bet for others. A bet to grasp that opportunity.

However, he felt no pity for those who died. They fully understood the implications and fought for fortune and fame. Since they lost this bet, they could only accept the price. Every moment since he started cultivating, strove for more, he was ready to face death.

Even when he was just twenty-six years old, watching as he was beheaded, his thoughts towards death remained the absolute same. After facing the Second Calamity, he knew the dangers of regret and weakness. So no, he didn't pity those who died, but respected them for their willingness to try, not accepting fate and idling their lives away in agonizing regret.

As they marched onwards for half an hour, soon they saw other members of the Helix-Titan Battalion. They were of different companies, led by different Ascended titan's, and sent to a different region of the Battlefield. Their own company had 43 living soldiers out of the original 125, excluding Zun Torju.

However, when they soon all gathered, the squad leaders that survived, the Lieutenant Colonels that were Ascended, Wei Wuyin discovered that Zun Torju was nowhere to be seen. Since he wasn't here, then his life was claimed by the mercilessness of the Battlefield.

Wei Wuyin didn't know Zun Torju well, but he had given him the position as a Squad Leader. To only serve under him for a brief moment, it introduced complex feelings in his heart. It reminded him that while this was the Battlefield, those you meet could die at any moment in the cultivation world.

After another hour, more figures arrived. Wei Wuyin was given odd stares, but seeing his halo like theirs, there was no question that he was an ally. Unfortunately, only the members of Squad 40 to 50 knew of his status as a recently recruited soldier. As for his True Draconic Form, he was either too fast or far too different from that image.

Only the Ascended who watched as Cai Liuyang captured, interrogated, and then proceeded to kill his False God Avatar, was aware of his original human appearance. The Ascended were solemn, but glints in their eyes betrayed their excitement and elation.

Clearly, many of them experienced incredible windfalls of merits on the Battlefield. After Cai Liuyang left, with a free Demi-Mortal Lord for both titans and celestials, they instantly split themselves and slaughtered the humans. The Battlefield was incredibly balanced in deployment of Ascended, at least in regards to numbers, and it was extremely rare for Demi-Mortal Lords to fall, so this development was exceptionally rare.

There was no way any Demi-Mortal Lord wouldn't tie down their equivalent for fear of slaughtering their weaker soldiers. Furthermore, if one split off, the other would do so as well. The titan and celestial race's Demi-Mortal Lord formed a tacit agreement to assault only humans, because if they attacked the race's of the other, they'd have to tie down their opponent.

Thus, many of these Ascended had bountiful merits racked up, assisting or outright killing their equivalent in a cascading loss for the humans. As for those in the area where Cai Liuyang had experienced that deadly explosion, the Ascended of the titan race was even happier. They were outright smiling, even joking.

The scene was completely different than one would expect.

At the center of this was other than the seven meter tall, broad statured titan dressed in imposing armor befitting a Commander of a grand battalion—Battalion Commander of the Helix-Titan Battalion, Borus Yusang. While his aura was a little unsteady, with bloody air swarming around him, he still had exceptional presence.

When Wei Wuyin arrived, Borus, who was chatting with a few upper-ranking soldiers of his Battalion, froze almost instantly. He removed his helmet, revealing his bushy brows, a pair of sharply shaped eyes, dark complexion, and a confused expression. He couldn't be said to be ugly or handsome, yet he was certainly memorable.

"How are you alive?" Borus Yusang asked incredulously, his slightly gaping mouth and wide eyes were as if he just saw a ghost for the first time in his life. Seeing his disbelief, the other Ascended turned their attention to the human. A flash of hostility emerged in their eyes, but after seeing his halo matching theirs, that flash was replaced by noticeable bewilderment.

A human fought for them?

Some of the Ascended here fought in the same portion of the Battlefield as Borus Yusang, so they were similarly taken aback. They saw Wei Wuyin die; his neck viciously twisted and a burst of mystic power eradicated his Sea of Consciousness! While they didn't have their spiritual sense enveloping them, they could see all this happening!

Taking a step back, even if he survived that, how did he survive being at the epicenter of that explosive blast?!

"..." There was a moment of silence. Yet Wei Wuyin faced this with a faint smile, now knowing exactly how he was scammed by Borus Yusang, including why he felt there was something odd.

The tribute for entry into the Battlefield was not a Seed of War, it could be anything of a certain value, heavily dependent on a person's cultivation base and number of individuals. However, the key to activate the formation was to obtain a Mark of War and possess a Seed of War. According to Jing Jiu's

memories, a Seed of War was the formative stage of an advanced level of Will/Intent, something called a Law.

The value of a Seed of Law was exceptionally high. According to Jing Jiu, a Seed of War can be used in many ways, or developed into an actual Law of a cultivator, something that required immense talent and incredible comprehension that couldn't even be described. If done, it was rumored, not verified, that one could become a Heavenly or Ascended Saint. He wasn't certain which.

There was no force in their right mind that would offer a Seed of Law of any kind as a tribute. This was especially so for its main function. If refined, a cultivator could temporarily elevate their state of perception and grasp Intent to a higher level. With the right opportunity, they could reach the state of an Awakened Mystic Intent or comprehend World Heart Intent. This was godsend for any Demi-Mortal Lord!

Furthermore, Borus Yusang wasn't aware of it, but this wasn't an artificial Seed of War gained through the War Spirit, but a naturally-formed, absolutely genuine Seed of War formed by an actual cultivator through comprehension. It was ten times more effective! Perhaps even more!!

Wei Wuyin didn't fault Borus Yusang for his greedy actions. He saw an opportunity and took it, but Wei Wuyin wasn't going to simply allow him to have his cake. He waltzed towards the giant and 'looked' at him.

Borus Yusang was startled inwardly, unable to grasp what was happening, but he had some fear towards Wei Wuyin. That explosion earlier killed Cai Liuyang, and he didn't think he could survive. If Wei Wuyin decided to join the human camp and targeted him with similar means...

"My tribute, I'd like to change it before its submitted." Wei Wuyin only said these words as he walked to Borus Yusang, just three meters between them before he stopped. His manner of speaking wasn't haughty or subservient, just succinct.

Borus Yusang had to calm himself. The others were confused because they weren't aware of his actions, but he wouldn't be able to hide this if Wei Wuyin brought it to the surface. As for acting against Wei Wuyin, a person that survived that explosion and killed a top-tier Demi-Mortal Lord? The thought never crossed his mind, yet he was still unwilling to sacrifice this chance.

Unfortunately, he had to abide by Mystical Oaths he'd sworn to follow certain rules, such as not acting against a soldier without sufficient cause and following protocol. One of these protocols was the right of a soldier to reclaim their tribute and offer another if it hadn't been officially submitted yet.

He looked at Wei Wuyin and his fists clenched slightly, a tension in his mind was forming. In the end, he sighed in his heart. He earned enough in this Battlefield. From his self-calculated gains, he could exchange his own Seed of War from the War Spirit. He firmly nodded, "When we return from the War Spirit's Soul Bestowing Ceremony."

However, Wei Wuyin wasn't as ignorant as before in regards to the ways of the Battlefield thanks to Jing Jiu's memories. "I fear I won't get that chance. So I'll have to ask you to do so now," was his deadpan response.

Borus Yusang's expression changed slightly, his upper-lip twitching slightly. When did this person become so learned about the Battlefield? It seems his true purpose was to kill Cai Liuyang. How unfortunate for such a beauty to die by the machinations of her own race. He didn't even have Wei Wuyin swear any oaths...it was perfectly timed, perfectly executed.

'Was it a Heavenly Seer?'

A cold shiver was sent down Borus Yusang's long spine.

"Fine." He waved his hand and a barrier of mystic energy encapsulated them... That day, an illustrious Demi-Mortal Lord obediently handed Wei Wuyin back his possession, a mere mortal.

Chapter 728: Soldier Of War, War Spirit Altar

Since the exchange of tributes between Wei Wuyin and Borus Yusang, the discussions were non-stop. The Ascended that had witnessed Wei Wuyin's True Draconic Form and subsequent suicidal detonation using an uncountable number of pellets that instantly exploded left a heavy impression on their hearts, and to remove this weight, they spoke to their allies in a rambunctious and animated manner.

While Wei Wuyin sat calmly amongst the other members of his squad, namely Zi Fu and Tai Hao, there were glances levied his way without end. Even the other Battalions learned of this matter. They were involved and affected, and when news of Wei Wuyin's existence circulated, most notably his survival, he became an instant enigmatic sensation.

Borus Yusang was barraged with questions, including Wei Wuyin's origins and why a human had joined their titan race. The speculation was intense, and it further evolved when guesses that he was sent by a foreign human force to kill Cai Liuyang.

A few titans belonged to forces that were in direct opposition to Cai Liuyang's clan, so they wanted nothing more than for her to die. She was far too talented and demonstrated amazing combat strength alongside being phenomenally beautiful. There were far too many geniuses seeking her out. A few Ascended here belonged to clans that tried to initiate an interracial marriage agreement, but to no avail.

To these few, they thought it was an absolute pity that Cai Liuyang had met a fiery death. There were some who even speculated that Cai Liuyang survived, and that the explosion was a masquerade to capture her for another reason. Supposedly, she was born with a unique physique that was sought after by numerous male cultivators. However, her obstinate and cold demeanor left those suitors helpless.

The discussions lasted for hours. Considering the fiery explosion engulfed the majority of the Battlefield they were active in, eliminating a large portion of both racial armies, it made sense that the conclusion was a tad bit accelerated. Unfortunately, they still had to wait the full twelve hours until the War Spirit summoned them.

Wei Wuyin was quiet, observing the Identity Rune that was bestowed to him. During this idle time, he had tidied through Jing Jiu's entire life and all his knowledge. It was quite in-depth, far beyond his own. The experiences of a Blessed was quite varied and intricate, truly.

When he compared his own experiences to Jing Jiu's, he realized their lives were quite rich in events and developments. They've never stagnated unless it was deliberate. The most interesting detail of this was

the cultivation method that Jing Jiu took two hundred years to cultivate, delaying his rise to the Astral Core Realm.

The Cultivation Method was an ancient legacy that derived from some being that Jing Jiu speculated to be an Ascended Sovereign or higher. It was extremely difficult to cultivate, for him at the time. It was named: Forsaken Zenith, Unto Origin. Its was quite aptly put, and it caused Wei Wuyin's thoughts to fiercely stir.

This was a method to cultivate a Natal Origin Soul, shattering the limits of Zenith and Entering into the Origin. It was referred to as the Z.E.O Method by Jing Jiu due to it being unnamed, merely having a title that was more of a brief synopsis.

How could this not stir Wei Wuyin's mind? This was a self-cultivated method to exceed Zenith State and enter Origin State, the very same state that all his Astral Souls had evolved into after their deliberate interference and manipulation of the Sky World Lightning Tribulation!

According to the method, the user has to refine origin into essence, intermixing the 99 Qi Essences and 1 Mana Essence with 1 Origin Essence. However, this Origin Essence must be self-generated by slowly gathering and condensing ambient mana continuously. Essentially, exactly what those four knuckleheads had done by forcefully compressing the golden-colored lightning mana of his Sky Ruler Astral Tribulation.

This took Jing Jiu two hundred years to do as a Qi Condensation Realm cultivator, and Wei Wuyin had no doubt of the validity of this method. He had theorized something very similar, but he could never quite figure out how to replicate the phenomenon of Sky-World Lightning Tribulation. With this method, he realized his thinking was wrong.

He didn't need to replicate the phenomenon; he was the phenomenon! Despite this mind-blowing realization, to actually have others cultivate it themselves was quite difficult to navigate. That said, he now knew what the Origin State was and its benefits. It was a natural step of cultivation, but profoundly difficult to reach. According to this, its a crucial step to ascend to the Heavenly Saint Stage of the Mystic Ascendant Realm, the Sixth Phase.

Without it, failure was guaranteed. Furthermore, it allowed a cultivator to gain a form of higher control of the world's mana, elevating one's cultivation limits, and allowing for an easier time to comprehend Mystic Intent. To his surprise, according to this, Jing Jiu's Origin State was incomplete.

As for why Wei Wuyin hadn't experienced any profound insights to Mystic Intent, he truly needed to reach the peak of the Mortal Dao to have such rights. There was no way to break this requirement, because the Mystic Dao can only be touched by those at the apex of the Mortal Dao, according to the Cultivation Method anyhow. It was an annotation from another expert that explained, not outright written.

This might be entirely correct.

As for the incomplete Origin State, this was due to Jing Jiu lacking refinement of a certain material. It was called a World Gem and it contained Sky-World Lightning Essence. When Wei Wuyin learned this, he unintentionally made a strange face.

Ori was just gleefully laughing. Its tone was exceptionally mocking and proud, mainly because the Sky-World Lightning Tribulation offered this very material, yet the quantity was pitifully low. This was also mentioned in the method itself. But four Astral Souls of his went wild, elevating the Sky-World Lightning to the utmost limits and refined it.

They cultivated the method without knowing of the method. He was uncertain how to feel about this. Jing Jiu missed that opportunity because it just wasn't possible for him. How unfortunate was that? He sacrificed two hundred years to establish an unprecedented foundation that'll allow him an easier time to become an Earthly Saint, in theory, and the possibility to become a Heavenly Saint! It was totally worth it.

Knowing these benefits, Wei Wuyin felt even more thrilled at reaching the Star Core Phase in the future. The Zenith Origin State offered such advantages?! Mystic Intent? A crucial requirement for Heavenly Saint? These Astral Souls of his made their own fortune, directly snatching from the heavens to aid in their cultivation.

There was more as well; he discovered a unique set of arts and spells that used a bow and arrow, perfect for Yao Houyi. This Blessed really benefited him greatly.

After organizing his entire gains, Wei Wuyin lifted his head and felt that continuous gaze on his face. Zi Fu was still staring at him through her helmet. He was truly helpless against this, because she wasn't the only one, but she was most certainly consistent.

Wei Wuyin coughed lightly to clear his throat, turning to her and asking: "Is there something, Soldier?"

Zi Fu was silent for a long moment, not breaking eye-contact despite being confronted. With a deep inhale and soft exhale, she seemed to have made up her mind. "Can you-"

DZZZZZZT!

Just as she was speaking her mind, the halos above their heads started to rapidly buzz. A total of twelve hours had now passed!

All the titans stood up respectfully, standing upright and focused. Zi Fu halted her questions and performed a similar action, as if it was a form of salute or display of respect. Wei Wuyin wasn't certain of it due to Jing Jiu having no details regarding this event. He was new to the Battlefield as well, just recently earning the qualifications after becoming a Starlord.

If Jing Jiu was alive, this would be new to him as well. However, Wei Wuyin wasn't going to break away from the crowd and stood up, upright and tall. He looked at the buzzing halos that vibrated with a strange sound frequency.

RUMBLE! DOOOOOOSH!!

Without warning, a square platform fell from the sky like lightning. It was a cube, with stairs carved into its four sides leading upwards to the top. The cube itself was at least a hundred meters high and was a shade of white in color. It greatly resembled the white light from Long Chen's Seed of War.

It landed on empty space between all the Battalions present, as if predetermined, about a mile away from everyone. The tens of thousands of titans present all had their eyes brighten and excitement

exuded from their pores. A few were even grinning crazily as if they had witnessed the greatest event in their lives. These few were definitely Ascended who claimed the lives of other Ascended in their level or assisted in their demise. They were thrilled by this development like children being told the candy store was free for them.

Borus Yusang was outright losing his image as a Battalion Commander with his greedy grin. It was quite embarrassing, even slightly ugly. But not a single person paid any attention to him. They were all focused on that single cube.

Wei Wuyin was unable to see the cube, his spiritual strength and spiritual sense still wasn't at its fullest potential, especially since he resealed all his Astral Souls again. The mile long distance caused him to forfeit his ability to observe.

After the buzzing of their halos stopped, Borus Yusang regained his prestigious demeanor and imposing air, directly commanding with a thunderous boom.

"Alright! It's time to claim your War Souls! Remember, if you decide to store your War Souls and not trade them, use your Identity Rune! They're specifically designed to store them, and can be extracted and traded after your departure from the Battlefield. As a reminder once again, you must acquire ten War Souls to earn your right to leave! If ten War Souls are not earned, you will be required to remain in the Battlefield! Any deserters will be killed with EXTREME PREJUDICE!"

These words came from Borus Yusang, yet they were said by every Battalion Commander across the entire Battlefield, be it titans, humans, or celestials!

When those words were said, the halos of all the mortal soldiers started to rapidly thrum with a deep hum. The vibrations it emitted caused the bodies of these tall titans to tremble, yet this only caused these titans to become happier.

"First Squad! Ascend the War Spirit Altar!" Borus Yusang commanded, issuing that order. Those a part of the 1st Squad lifted their excited bodies and strode towards the War Spirit Altar with excitement, pride, conflicted emotions, some melancholy, and some anger.

Wei Wuyin watched as they began to ascend the stairs. It didn't take long before they reached the top. At that point, he expected a grand War Spirit to descend or a phenomenon exceeding the Alchemic Dao manifestations!

However, what happened left him feeling uncertain. After a few minutes, roughly five, the 1st Squad simply walked down. But not all of them, some weren't present. He expected this, but he didn't see any War Soul or grand phenomenon. Still, those that wanted to leave the Battlefield were sent back home. That much he knew.

A few amongst the squad had expressions of disappointment and frustration. Some were holding back their tears, revealing exhausted expressions, far from what they had shown when they walked towards the War Spirit Altar. They clearly did not reach the ten War Souls quota to leave or hadn't earned enough to acquire what they wanted. Unwilling to depart after learning this, they stayed to fight more in the hopes of obtaining more.

Borus Yusang then commanded the 2nd Squad to move. They did so but in lesser numbers. The other Battalions functioned the same way, sending one squad after the other. They were orderly and there wasn't much fuss, but the mood of others was starting to decline after the 20th Squad returned with almost all of them staying, unable to leave.

The benefit of a short run was a higher chance of survival, but it also cost many their chance to earn enough War Souls. This continued until Borus Yusang called out:

"49th Squad!"

Wei Wuyin's mind stirred into activity, expectations filling his thoughts. He brought his measly squad of three towards the War Spirit Altar. Just as he was about to take the first step, a voice sounded out from behind him.

"Sir!"

Wei Wuyin realized it was Zi Fu. He turned and gave her a lifted brow of curiosity. Zi Fu didn't hesitate, directly asking: "Can you, if you have enough, get me an Elixir of Spiritualism!" She spoke out her greatest desire, a desire she couldn't hope to claim on her own.

Wei Wuyin was startled.

Zi Fu realized her words were abrupt and selfish, so she hurriedly added: "I know what I'm asking of you is costly, but I-"

"No need to explain," Wei Wuyin interrupted her, continuing with a bright smile: "It takes incredible courage to make such a big ask from a stranger. However, I feel like we have some fate together. What do you think?"

Zi Fu was startled. Her breathing stalled for a moment. What? Fate together? While she was a soldier at heart, willing to fight for her desires and to grasp her own fate, even die for it, she was still a being with emotions and thoughts. Wei Wuyin's smile was astoundingly perfect. Her titan-sized heart raced slightly at the implication.

Wei Wuyin laughed softly, "If you agree to leave the Battlefield after, and take this-" flipping his palm to reveal a spatial ring after a pause, he continued: "with you everywhere, then I'll do it. As long as I have enough War Souls to give, of course."

Zi Fu was fiercely taken aback. She looked at the ring and beneath her helmet, bit her lips. She didn't know what the ring was, so she was unsure.

Wei Wuyin added, "It's not harmful to you, your force, or the titan race. You have my word. In fact, there's alchemical resources in here as well. I'm quite intrigued by the prospect of seeing a true Spiritualist. Or will you pass up this opportunity?"

Tai Hao just watched, totally shocked by this event. He didn't know how to proceed, so he just observed silently from the sidelines. However, he wondered if Zi Fu would accept or reject such a dubious condition.

Zi Fu didn't actually wait for long to decide. She grabbed the spatial ring and nodded, "I will. I swear t-"

"No need," Wei Wuyin interrupted again. She clearly wanted to swear an oath, but he didn't think it was important to do so. However, he hadn't decided what to do with Zi Fu yet, but this will open up some possibilities for him.

Then, Wei Wuyin turned to Tai Hao, flipping his palm again to reveal another ring, "This has ninth-grade products inside, of various tiers. You can take it and keep the ring on you at all times or refuse. Your choice."

Tai Hao was taken aback. He glanced at the spatial ring and didn't even need to think, grabbing it and inspecting its content. His eyes widened in disbelief. This was far more than what he could obtain from what he wanted from the War Spirit!

"I'll do it."

Wei Wuyin kept his bright smile, nodded, and started to walk up towards the stairs leading to the peak of the cube. When he did, he felt his halo vibrate. As he climbed further up, the halo on his head started to vibrate with such intensity that he felt his entire world throb!

DZZZZZT!!!

Then as he reached halfway, the entire cube started to wildly shake! Wei Wuyin sensed a large disturbance above, and he heard the outrageous exclamations from Zi Fu and Tai Hao, including those who shouted in shock, awe, wonder, surprise, and fear from afar!

He lifted his head and he felt his body lighten!

'So there is a phenomenon!'

Just as that thought shot through his mind, his body was engulfed by white light and shot forward, scaling the stairs in the matter of moments. Shortly after, the white cube started to emanate a radiance that blinded everyone! Including Ascended!!

Chapter 729: Soldier Of War, Bestowed Title

"What is happening?" A mortal-level soldier questioned aloud, shielding their eyes instinctively from the bright, scintillating radiance the War Spirit Altar emitted.

"Argh! WHAT IS THIS LIGHT?!" An Ascended soldier cried out in pain, the sounds of his eyes sizzling softly resounded. This particular Ascended soldier wasn't the only one who cried out in shrieking pain. They had, unlike their mortal-level counterparts, brazenly inspected the radiant cube with their eyes. This was a huge mistake.

Some of these Ascended soldiers were caught by surprise and stumbled embarrassingly, falling as they tried to withstand the pain they felt. They vehemently spouted curses while shielding their eyes with their arms and hands. They tried everything to prevent the light from scorching their eyes, even trying to dispel the light their eyes had unintentionally absorbed.

While this orchestra of pain occurred, Wei Wuyin was pulled to the peak of the cube by a foreign, invisible power. Even his own spiritual sense wasn't able to comprehend what was holding him, only feeling as if some godly hand had enveloped him, dragging him forward without any intent to harm. He didn't resist at all.

When his catapulting figure finally halted, he found himself above the cube, and all those who were originally there had been sent down and away by the same foreign power. He was being deliberately isolated by this invisible power. The development was unexpected yet Wei Wuyin remained calm.

Wei Wuyin temporarily expanded his spiritual sense to grasp the surroundings and was shocked to discover that the cube was almost completely empty at the top. There was only a single sanguine character etched on the entire surface that he was quite familiar with. It read: War.

He was brought to the center of the cube and the center of the character itself. The character might feel like just inscribed writing, but it pulsed in a consistent manner, much like a heartbeat.

Floating above the character, hoisted by that invisible power, Wei Wuyin felt his right hand start to vibrate and thrum out with the beating consistency of the character beneath him. They seemed to be resonating on some level. However, the Mark of War on his hand did not manifest itself, but the Mark of Annihilation instead!

"Hm?"

A soft sound resounded, shocking Wei Wuyin deeply. It felt as if the sound was directly beside him yet also incredibly far away, causing a dissonance of his senses as if time itself was twisted. He was discombobulated for a moment, losing his sense of distance and direction. A normal cultivator might outright experience severe panic after being thrown into this uncertain sensation, but Wei Wuyin merely steadied his breathing and regained himself. As someone who might've traversed through the rivers of time itself, he adapted quickly to such disorientating dissonance.

"Oh?"

The voice, androgynous in tone, resounded again. And once again, Wei Wuyin was descended into a confused state, unable to gauge close, far, past, present, or future. It took him a breathing cycle to regulate his mind, refocusing on what was happening.

When he finally gained himself, he felt the hard surface beneath his feet. He was no longer being lifted by the strange force.

"Soldier of the Mortal Dao, hear my proclamation of your glorious merits!"

The voice sounded out again. Wei Wuyin felt as if something was before him, something that exceeded the Mortal Limits. Unfortunately, his closed eyes made it impossible for him to inspect and observe the being that spoke. Wei Wuyin felt an urge to open his eyes, but he decided against it. He didn't know why he decided this, but it felt right.

"Victory Among Three Armies! Your selected army has led itself to victory within your Zone of War! Claiming victory against your enemies, you have earned the Merit of Dual Victory.

"Greatest Contribution of Victory! You have earned the greatest contribution of war, either in aiding allies, leading forces, or slaughtering enemies! Your actions directly resulted in your army's outstanding victory. You have earned the Merit of Greatest Contribution.

"Butcher of the Battlefield! You have slaughtered your enemies without mercy, taking their lives in a swift and brutal fashion! You have earned the Merit of Precise Slaughter.

"Violent Executioner of the Masses! You have killed the most enemies in the entire Battlefield! To slaughter more for the benefit of your army is worthy of incredible praise, soldier! Your means are violent, but your kills ring true to the soul. You have earned the Merit of Mass Violence.

"Demi-Being Slayer of the Mortal Dao! You have, as a mere mortal, taken the life of a being far beyond your limits. An act that defies the heavens! Your kills have no limits! Your weapon of war holds no discrimination! You have earned the Merit of Defiant Slaying!

"...You have healed...earned the Merit of Rejuvenating Sage.

"You have killed enemies beyond your...earned the Merit of Ascending Limits..."

Wei Wuyin listened. The voice's words were outrageously lengthy and flowery, yet spoken at a deep and rapid cadence. He almost glossed over all this as it felt as if it took an hour. All his actions were given some form of merit, and he found them a little uncomfortable to listen to, especially the thinly veiled praise for some of the more brutal announcements.

In the end, it took a seemingly long time to finish. When the voice concluded, it finally got to the meat of the matter.

"Your Merits and Acts of War have accrued you with the following rewards!"

Wei Wuyin's heart was filled with anticipation. From Jing Jiu's memories, the various forces offered things like mystic-graded items and products starting at five or so War Souls. To purchase a Worldly Saint to help with Spiritualism Conversion, one needed about fifty War Souls on average.

As for the uses of these War Souls, they were incredibly varied yet all useful. According to reports that Jing Jiu heard about from others, the War Souls could be refined by Spirits of Cultivation to elevate their Mortal State, even reaching the Zenith Mortal State. In a way, they were valuable as a peak-quality, ninth-grade Everlore Ascension Pill, but far easier to acquire if one lived.

Because to leave, one needed ten War Souls in the quota. This was the rules of the Battlefield, not the other forces.

But even if a soldier kept one for themselves and traded the rest, they now had the possibility to cultivate a Zenith Mortal State post-Qi Condensation Realm. The other notable uses were they could be used as materials to forge certain tools and armaments of a high-level or concoct certain alchemical products.

However, one of the things that shook Wei Wuyin was that the War Soul could act as a Soul Nourishing Material! These War Souls could elevate the soul's state, inducing an enlightened state where comprehensive abilities were temporarily increased!

Its ability to induce a state of enhanced comprehension caused its value to be bolstered to the limits by the cultivators of the Azure-Prime Galactic Zone. Besides a few rare treasures of heaven and earth, only some alchemical products have been known to perform such feats and they were typically limited to certain things, like mana, light energies, spatial energies, Intent, etc. However, these War Souls worked generally and for all things equally.

They were also a little peculiar. A cultivator could only refine a certain limit based on their cultivation base, anything beyond that was useless to them.

Considering comprehension was of the utmost importance in the Mystic Ascendant Realm, this was a godsend opportunity. Unfortunately for Earthly Saints or higher, they were barred from entering the Battlefield. If they weren't, they might have flooded the Battlefield and engaged in gruesome slaughter without hesitation.

However, the comprehension enhancement ability wasn't the most important aspect to Wei Wuyin. What was truly crucial, what made King stimulated with extreme excitement, was its ability to act as a soul nourishing material! Not just a normal soul, but items with structure akin to a soul!

For example...

A Nascent Soul!

A Nascent Saber Soul to be exact!!

Since he obtained Element, his Nascent Saber Soul, he was unable to find Soul Nourishing Materials, even scouring the entire Myriad Monarch Sect's vault and testing multiple materials to no avail, even Soul Ash of Divine Jade failed. These were products of the failed Soul Impartation of the Heavens! The only thing thus far that he knew that could strengthen or nourish a soul was the Soul of True Sin method left by the Scripture of Sin, and he wasn't certain if Nascent Souls were affected the same. He had only found recovering soul products or items, not nourishing products or items.

Not even Jing Jiu had memories of soul nourishing materials besides the War Soul, only highlighting that affecting the soul was an incredibly high-level feat.

Wei Wuyin awaited the announcement of his awards with bated breath.

The voice continued: "You, elite soldier of the Battlefield, have been bestowed the title: Soldier of War! You've earned the qualifications to fight for the right to observe the Obelisk of War! The Nexus Battlefield awaits, Soldier of War."

"..." Wei Wuyin froze.

...What?

The qualifications to fight for the qualifications to observe something? Soldier of War?! Nexus Battlefield? This was the first time he'd learned about any of this! Just as Wei Wuyin was about to speak out, not caring if this went against the order of things, the voice continued speaking on.

"From your participation in the Battlefield, your merits accrued thus far, you have earned..."

RUMBLE!

Wei Wuyin's balance grew unsteady as his words were caught in his throat. The 'War' character etched onto the platform started to rapidly vibrate. He felt a strange discomfort in his heart. Before he could get to the bottom of it, a wave of gushing power exploded from below, lifting him up a few feet once again.

He felt light and free, yet shocked by this experience. It almost felt as if he was being blessed by something! Suddenly, white orbs of baseball-sized light started to exit the 'War' character. They started to spiral around Wei Wuyin's body, forming a beautiful array of white trails of light. He was bathed in their brilliance!

"49,770 War Souls!"

Chapter 730: Soldier Of War, Spoils Of War

Wei Wuyin's mind went abuzz with shock. 49,770 War Souls?! This was unexpected, yet he didn't reject this gracious reward. After all, these were his spoils of war earned after expending enough wealth that buying a richly located Starfield wasn't out of the question.

Killing a Demi-Mortal Lord was not cheap.

Thus, he steadied his floating body the best he could and used his spiritual sense to observe the rapidly moving orbs of white light that flew around him like they were leaves blown in the unpredictable wind. He was unable to see these trails of light, but he felt a connection to every War Soul conjured. It caused his right palm to slightly itch.

When his spiritual sense met the orbs, his mind was infused with images that caused his expression to darken considerably. These War Souls contained spiritually animated depictions of his acts of war, which mostly consisted of a blazing death.

Coincidentally, he observed the scene of Cai Liuyang's fiery death. The entire scene was in slow motion, revealing the last acts she performed before she was vaporized by the extreme heat and explosive force. She held Jing Jiu's corpse and tried to protect it.

She held it so tightly that it seemed close to exploding. When the fiery blaze slowly burnt her skin, sundered her flesh in its explosive might, she seemingly realized that her efforts were pointless. She started to shift her protective power from herself to Jing Jiu's corpse...

"She wanted to keep his corpse intact..." When Wei Wuyin murmured this, he felt a mixture of complex emotions. The image of Cai Liuyang's attempt to protect Jing Jiu in her last moments invoked memories of his own past.

In the end, he could only sigh as her efforts did nothing. Shortly after her body was overwhelmed, slowly blown apart, Jing Jiu's corpse closely followed and was incinerated instantly. Her actions hadn't changed the outcome.

When he withdrew his spiritual sense, he inspected the other War Souls. He realized it wasn't just a coincidence that he witnessed Cai Liuyang's death. The vast majority of these War Souls depicted that moment. It seemed a large portion of them were generated due to her death.

War was cruel. But he didn't feel pity or sadness, nor something useless as regret due to this display. Just earlier, Cai Liuyang had killed celestials, humans, and titans alike in her raging pursuit of him. They had lives, families, lovers, and dreams. Were they less important than her? Did they have less potential? Lacked their own stories?

She ended them without a moment's consideration, and she had even crushed his neck and killed his False God Avatar. He didn't feel an ounce of emotion from her dying, just reminded of a moment in his own life that bore a remarkable similarity to it.

Wei Wuyin sighed as he kept that memory in his heart. Just as he was about to use the Identity Rune to store his War Souls, his mind stirred. He didn't trust this storage system. Even Jing Jiu was planning to store the War Souls in a different container, also skeptical of these Identity Runes.

Therefore, he brought out Jing Jiu's spatial ring and interfaced with his connection with the War Souls. They started to slow down and then rapidly flood towards him. He held out his ring and they funneled into it, disappearing like ghosts.

When he inspected the spatial ring's storage space, he realized that each of the War Souls were floating about yet remained relatively calm. They weren't sporadic in their movements, far more serene than before. However, just as he was about to wait for this to conclude so he could deliver the War Souls to the female titan, the voice sounded out:

"Spoils of War claimed! Soldier of War, deployment to the Nexus Battlefield shall begin in 10...9..."

When it started a one-sided countdown, Wei Wuyin's expression changed drastically. Wasn't this out of order? Shouldn't he be given a list of things to exchange? Also, Nexus Battlefield?! When did he agree to all this?

Wei Wuyin had satisfied his urge to fight, wanting to now return to the place he was before, and take on the Heavenly Daos' intended route for him. After learning about the Battlefield, he knew that he could exchange alchemical products for War Souls or other resources. He didn't need to fight this war! Or any war that wasn't started by him! It made no sense for the Heavenly Daos to send him here when it couldn't gauge his strength accurately.

A Gravity Emission Phase cultivator, totally unprepared in this Battlefield, Blessed or not, was absolute death. Just the oppressive gravity would turn ordinary Realmlords to bloody and broken mush. How could he hope to survive in the eyes of the Heavenly Daos?

He didn't want to agree to be shipped off to some Nexus Battlefield. What the hell was even that? Screw all that! He wanted to resist, but the invisible power that was lifting him was far too strong. He didn't realize this before, but it was terrifyingly oppressive!

After bit of struggle, he couldn't help but feel defeated.

But when did soldiers have the right to decide their deployment? They were sent wherever their commanders said, no questions asked. They killed whoever their commanders declared the enemy, no hesitation needed. This was why the Heavenly Daos judged the actions or sins of a soldier on the General, not the soldier themselves.

Wei Wuyin understood this concept as a commander and as an Inheritor of Sin quite thoroughly. However, it did little to console his fleeting aspirations of living a comfy life as an alchemist, supplying for those on the Battlefield from behind-the-scenes while avoiding possible death. He had expended almost six years of raw effort to kill a Demi-Mortal Lord expert, walking the very edge of death. One

mistake, his life would've ended in a swift twist. He wished he had conserved some fire-attributed pellets, but he wasn't certain what would work on a Demi-Mortal Lord, so he used all of it.

Just to make sure.

"7...6..."

Wei Wuyin deeply sighed in his heart. He wondered if this was Jing Jiu's opportunity. After all, with his weapons, talismans, and tools, he could've killed a Demi-Mortal Lord if they were weakened enough. This might have been the Heavenly Daos intentions for Jing Jiu, to become this so-called Soldier of War.

"Fine," Wei Wuyin conceded. If this was an opportunity, then he'll give it his all to claim every last drop of benefits available. That said, he hurriedly drew upon his void force, unsealing Kratos. He directly formed a connection between the space of Jing Jiu's ring and the female titan's spatial ring he gave. With their close proximity, he transferred two hundred War Souls after executing Void Crystallization on them. He found that the War Souls didn't repulse spatial energies like mystic-graded materials, so it was extremely easy to seal them.

"2...1..."

Wei Wuyin had done what he could. It was up to the female titan to become a Spiritualist.

At zero, Wei Wuyin vanished.

The phenomenon of white trails and bright, blinding brilliance soon subsided. The mortal and Ascended soldiers were startled by this development. Zi Fu and Tai Hao were the most startled initially, searching for Wei Wuyin's extremely noticeable figure amongst tall titans, but to no avail. They glanced at each other, noticing the confusion in each other's eyes. This was only exacerbated after several minutes and titans started to claim their War Souls again.

Unable to gain any answers, Tai Hao and Zi Fu left the Battlefield... They were going to go to their respective homes, both obtaining exactly what they wanted.