

PARAGON 741

**Chapter 741: Soldier of War, List of the War Spirit**

[Item]: (1 Unit) Essence of War.

[Exchange Rate]: 3 War Souls.

[Availability]: Soldier & Commander.

[Description]: Uniquely refined essence capable of morphing in structure and shape in accordance to a Soldier's Will. Suitable for armament creation. Grade of Material is dependent on Soldier's Will.

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[Item]: (10 Unit) Essence of War.

[Exchange Rate]: 25 War Souls.

[Availability]: Soldier & Commander.

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[Item]: (High-Grade) Martial Divinity Sphere.

[Exchange Rate]: 100 War Souls.

[Availability]: Soldier.

[Description]: A high-grade physique-refining treasure that can be used to establish a Martial Physique. An incredibly well-balanced physique in form and function. If successful in refinement, guaranteed success of 4th Rune Seed Ascension. Increased Chances in 5th Rune Seed Ascension.

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[Item]: (High-Grade) Yang Divinity Sphere.

[Exchange Rate]: 120 War Souls.

[Availability]: Soldier.

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[Item]: (High-Grade) Yin Divinity Sphere.

[Exchange Rate]: 120 War Souls.

[Availability]: Soldier.

[Description]: A high-grade physique-refining treasure that can be used to establish a Yin Physique. Elevates Dual Cultivation effectiveness. If successful in refinement, guaranteed success of 4th Rune Seed Ascension. Increased Chances in 5th Rune Seed Ascension. WARNING: Must have Primal Yin intact.

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[Item]: (Peak-Grade) Warring Martial Divinity Sphere.

[Exchange Rate]: 1,200 War Souls.

[Availability]: Soldier.

WARNING: Requires two or more Ethereal Intent at the Awakened Intent Stage to have a CHANCE at successful refinement.

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[Item]: (Artificial) Seed of War.

[Exchange Rate]: 1,500 War Souls.

[Availability]: Soldier & Commander.

[Description]: A uniquely refined Seed of Law. When refined into one's Sea of Consciousness, can elevate a Soldier's comprehension towards the Dao of War and World Heart Intent, including temporarily heightening their soul sensitivity towards the Mystic Dao.

WARNING(1): Refining more than three can induce Cultivation Deviation. Use at your own risk.

WARNING(2): This item CANNOT be used to nurture a Law.

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[Exchange Rate]: 1 War Soul.

[Availability]: Soldier & Commander.

[Description]: Contains information about a Soldier, including their merits and abilities registered by the Nexus Battlefield.

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[Item]: (High-Earth) Dawnbreaker Swordlight Method.

[Exchange Rate]: 900 War Souls.

[Availability]: Soldier.

[Description]: A cultivation method that exquisitely fuses Sword & Light energies to generate Dawnbreaker Swordlight Quintessence, suitable for any Sword Cultivator that has comprehended Awakened Sword Intent and White Primary Light. If cultivated to a high-level, a cultivator can establish a (High-Level) Dawnbreaker Physique using the Dawnbreaker Swordlight Quintessence and their starforce.

If successful in refinement, guaranteed success of 6th Rune Seed Ascension. Increased Chances in 7th Rune Seed Ascension.

[Item]: (Peak-Earth) Warring Soul, Triumphant World Method.

[Exchange Rate]: 8,000 War Souls.

[Availability]: Soldier.

[Description]: A cultivation method that involves merging a Seed of War into one's Spirit of Cultivation, transforming its essential nature into a War Soul. EXACT DETAILS UNKNOWN.

Sub-Method: A War Soul's Star Core can refine a (Peak-Level) World War Physique.

If successful in refinement, guaranteed success of 9th Rune Seed Ascension. Increased Chances in World Rune Seed Ascension.

WARNING: Refinement of Seed of War may cause extreme Cultivation Deviation, leading to loss of life and destruction of soul. Do not cultivate if you've Ascended the Mortal Dao. Cultivate with caution.

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The Soldier List. Wei Wuyin was fully awed. There were exactly eighty-one items listed in this, ranging from Essence of War, War Files, a locator to track allied Soldiers of War, to refinement treasures to entire Cultivation Methods! How could he not be awed? Astonished? Absolutely gobsmacked!

Furthermore, this was just the Soldier of War list. The Commanders of War, those who were leaders in the Nexus Battlefield, had an entirely separate list that was far more impressive. He had over 50,000 War Souls, but some of the things on the Commander's list were outrageous.

For example, they offered a genuine Seed of War! Supposedly, its over twenty times more effective than an artificial Seed of War and can guarantee success of a War Soul cultivation transition, even if they were Ascended Beings. This was outright allowing someone to redefine their cultivation path!

However, his paltry 50,000 was absolutely pathetic with the Commander's list. Despite offering eighty-one items as well, having absolutely spectacular items, and a few repeats of the Soldier's list, those that attracted Wei Wuyin's attention had reached beyond 100,000 War Souls or further. There was even one that required 5,000,000 War Souls!!!

It had no name, and its description was just a single sentence:

[Item]: --

[Exchange Rate]: 5,000,000 War Souls.

[Availability]: Soldier & Commander.

[Description]: Heavenly War Spirit.

There were methods titled (Low-Heaven). He didn't know what they were because the War Spirit spoke in Mysticism, the Language of the Mystic Dao. He could only make out a few things, such as the title and some words.

He was immediately vexed.

Since becoming an Alchemist with an Alchemic Soul, when had he ever been starved for wealth? Only now did he realize how poor he was in the grand scheme of things. While these things weren't capable of being exchanged for essence stones, it felt the same.

Still, there were a few items that intrigued him. For example, the Divinity Spheres. They were refinement treasures for physiques and could lead to a successful Ascension, and they had a wide

variety of them, including the nine elements, Battle-type Divinity Spheres, Slaughter-type Divinity Spheres, and Life-type Divinity Spheres.

Most of the eighty-one spots were taken by these Divinity Spheres. Considering the majority of Soldiers of Wars were Star Core Phase cultivators, this was quite appropriate. That being said, he had absolutely no idea what 4th, 5th, 8th, or World Rune meant. Were they like Mortal States? Were they forms of Mystic Intent? What did it indicate? Furthermore, were these like the six Mystic Runes he had in his World Sea? Or was he wrong about their existence?!

Once again, cultivation baffles. Once again, he was reminded of why cultivation was difficult. Despite talking to Wu Yu and Wang Yutian, a genuine Worldly Saint, neither of them mentioned a goddamn thing about these runes or even an Astral Idol.

He wasn't exactly certain if Wu Yu had even reached that level. He did ascend with the King of Everlore's help, but their resources were all mortal-graded, and he was distracted in his issues with lifespan and his own ascension. In all likelihood, Wu Yu or the rest might have never fully refined their physiques to the maximum limit of the Mortal Dao.

Actually, if he thought more about it, Wu Yu failed his Third Ascension to the Demi-Mortal Lord Phase, so his physique was definitely inadequate. Considering he was tooting himself as the strongest Ascended amongst the four, this was indicative of all their issues. He couldn't help but sigh in his heart. Wu Yu might seem strong, but he might be a fly to the truly nurtured and cultivated beings of the Azure-Prime Galactic Zone.

His expression abruptly changed. He wondered when the King of Everlore abruptly left, leaving for a greater world, and even left his entire entourage behind, was it because they were far beneath his d?r?d standard? Perhaps they were of very little help when he entered the Azure-Prime Galactic Region. Perhaps they knew and deliberately didn't follow. Perhaps...

It would be difficult to obtain an answer to this question unless he talked to them personally. They might not have known, abandoned due to their flaws that the King of Everlore didn't wish to solve, or couldn't solve.

This list had spurred on far too many questions. He had leapt past his limits, being exposed to aspects of cultivation far exceeding his current ability, yet he only kept having more and more questions. This entire Nexus Battlefield was a VERY large question.

He deeply sighed again, feeling tiny. Extremely tiny. He felt his Astral Souls pulsate with comforting intent, knowing his pains. Just two decades ago, they were ignorant of many things in cultivation and then were viciously pushed into the greater world, facing the Heavenly Daos, becoming an Inheritor of Sin, and trying to survive Calamities of Hell. Most cultivators of his age or cultivation base weren't remotely exposed to such trials and tribulations.

"The most frustrating thing?" Wei Wuyin spiritually communicated with them all. But they already knew what he wanted to say, because they were all looking for it too. Something, anything, just a clue he was closer to the Realm of Sages and what it is. A cultivation stage? A cultivation realm? A unique title granted by something?

Wallowing in the bleakness of that reality, he heard the voice of the little girl once again.

"Soldier of War, have you decided?"

### **Chapter 742: Soldier of War, Crucial Questions**

Wei Wuyin settled his turbulent emotions. The world had always been vast, piled with mysteries and secrets, not just about cultivation but about many things. The only way to grasp these truths, he had to continue his acts of cultivation, surviving the worldly dangers that sought to halt his journey, and snatch the rightful qualifications to know.

"This Battlefield..." Wei Wuyin didn't answer the War Spirit directly, merely considering a single item amongst the eighty-one items in the Commander's List. While most were currently beyond his means, solely for the Mystic Ascendants, there were a few useful tools similar to the War File and Map of War, which were very useful in gathering information for recruiting and having an awareness of the Battlefield's state.

The Map of War could pinpoint the location of each Soldier of War and Commander of War on the Battlefield. This was likely how Guan Yu found him. If it wasn't for his intentions to hide his in-depth knowledge of the Battlefield, he might've taken it out to hunt others.

The War File, however, wasn't complete. The first thing he did was purchase a War File. When he did, according to the War Spirit, he could select any Soldier of War on the Battlefield and grasp their merits and abilities. However, it was only the abilities shown on the Battlefield.

Guan Yu had likely inspected the War File shortly after meeting him. Otherwise, he wouldn't have dared to face him after learning about the terrifyingly high number of premium merits he had earned in the Battlefield.

In the file, it lackingly described his Spatial Beast Bloodline. It was described as such, completely not specifying which beast or how developed the Bloodline was. It also had something that said: "Grenadier." He had no idea what that meant.

Fortunately, the War Spirit was telling him about the War File's contents, otherwise he wouldn't even be able to read these details. From the War Spirit, he learned it was a type of Soldier of War that used external devices, be it pellets or talismans, as main sources of combat strength. Considering his actions, this rang true.

There was also an item that intrigued him.

[Item]: Summons of War.

[Exchange Rate]: 50 War Souls.

[Availability]: Commander.

[Description]: Can not be used during times of active war. When used, it releases a bright signal to all Soldiers of War to gather. Those who resist the summons are penalized with summary execution.

When he first arrived and met Guan Yu, the scarlet-eyed sinner was shaken when Wei Wuyin suggested they were allies. Clearly, he was aware of this original purpose. And after hearing about the Nexus Battlefield details, Wei Wuyin's first decision was to summon forth the loose Soldiers of War into an

organized army. Since the 10,000 Spirits of War were undefeatable existences to mortals, perhaps an army of them might have a chance. He later realized his thinking was incorrect.

There was no way even 100,000 Mortals would claim victory over an Ascended Legion of 10,000. It just wasn't practical. Clearly from Guan Yu's explanation, the focus and purpose of the Nexus Battlefield had become muddled after a long time, with Ascended no longer striving to arrive in the Nexus Battlefield and Soldiers of War sent here were actively slaughtering each other to accumulate enough War Souls to depart.

This item proved that the Soldiers of War were all allies. It was just unfortunate how viciously distorted the Nexus Battlefield had become.

It was truly unfortunate that it was limited to Commanders of War, and a Soldier of War like himself doesn't have the qualifications to gather and lead other Soldiers of War, according to the Nexus Battlefield at least. With that, even if he intended to gather all the Soldiers of War, even with the Map of War, convincing them and forcing them to submit wouldn't create a cohesive team.

When they start to get slaughtered en masse, they'll easily desert the army, fearful of losing their lives. The sadistic woman and Guan Yu's mentality offered him a glimpse into the thoughts of other Soldiers of War. They'll think it's impossible—a fool's dream. That plan simply wasn't feasible.

"Soldier of War?" The War Spirit inquired, seeing Wei Wuyin pausing for an extremely long period of time. Its voice, however, was disguised at this moment, so it would've induced some dizzying temporal and spatial dissonance. As for the question itself, Wei Wuyin wouldn't have heard it, just aware that the War Spirit was seeking him out.

Wei Wuyin broke out of his thoughts, unaffected thanks to Kratos, asking directly: "Can a Soldier of War initiate the Nexus Battlefield?"

"Initiate the Nexus Battlefield?" The War Spirit actually questioned curiously, but its voice was still disguised. Clearly, it wanted to keep an all-knowing, imposing, and mysterious image. Wei Wuyin found it a little funny hearing the voice.

Wei Wuyin furthered his question, elaborating: "If I wanted to face the ten thousand Spirits of War in battle, to obtain the right to observe the Obelisk of War, can I do so? Is a Commander of War required to declare war?"

"..." The War Spirit was stumped. It wasn't that Wei Wuyin's question wasn't a logical one, but that it was one that no one had ever brought up, not even the creators of the Battlefield had thought about this. A Soldier of War? A mere cog in the grand scheme of things? Asking to declare war? When would this question have ever come up. Most would have a heavy laugh from just the mention of it, finding it an hilarious joke.

Fight 10,000 Spirits of War? All which were Ascended beings, alone? Declare war as a MERE Mortal?! The War Spirit truly couldn't even fathom the possibility of this occurring nor formulate a response.

"So it's never been considered. There must be some way to declare war. There's no item limited to Commanders for it, so it doesn't seem restricted to them. Can you tell me how?" Wei Wuyin deduced with a contemplative expression.

The War Spirit was still dazed by the question, unable to grasp a reason as to why this question even existed. However, it was trained to respond to Soldiers and Commanders of War, and there had been Commanders who had asked about this detail in their ignorance or to see if they could take advantage of the initiation.

"To begin the Nexus War, one must issue a declaration of war to the Obelisk of War. Then, the 10,000 War Spirits will be summoned. Afterwards, they'll fan out to the Zones of War. There is no restriction on the established rank to do so." The War Spirit's answer caused Wei Wuyin to frown.

He wondered if ancient members of the Battlefield tried to launch an assault at the time of their summoning. But that wasn't actually very smart at all. An army was at its strongest together, so it was foolish to face them as a singular whole. It would be better to divide and conquer if one had a proper army.

However, this meant Commanders had a choice. They could face them in direct battle or launch all types of warfare, such as guerrilla tactics, subterfuge, environmental manipulation, and various fielding movements of forces to gain an advantage.

It verified his own assumption, causing him to sigh with relief. If the Spirits of War were automatically dispersed through spatial shifting to populated locations, equalizing the battlefield like the original Battlefield, then summoning the Spirits of War would be a death sentence to everyone here and he'd be forced to escape.

He had two plans; neither worked if the Spirits of War were segregated from each other. This meant he had a window of opportunity.

"Next question: the Spirits of War, are they real beings? Are they subjected to exhaustion, confusion, frustration, incorrect decision making, real-time decision making, or vulnerable to energies, poisons, and hazardous environments?" This question was absolutely critical.

The War Spirit wasn't foreign to this question either. While most of the time it was divided, it hadn't skipped a beat before answering: "The Spirits of War are designed to react as Ascended beings would. There is no difference between them and yourself in the foundation of your weaknesses and strengths."

Wei Wuyin nodded elatedly. "Two more questions: Eliminating Spirits of War accrue War Souls, correct? And will I have the opportunity to use my War Souls after I observe the Obelisk of War?"

"Yes, to both." The War Spirit answered succinctly. It further added, "Claiming victory also rewards War Souls."

Wei Wuyin expected that, so he delved into his last question: "How many acts of killing allies forfeit my life?"

"..." This was the first time the War Spirit was asked this, and if Wei Wuyin could see its expression, he would be quite amused. On the Nexus Battlefield, all Soldiers of War were allies, and typically, killing your allies was a sin punishable by summary execution in an army. However, accidents occurred and friendly fire happened.

Thus, there was certainly leeway to the act. In the chaos of the battlefield, in the thick of the bloodshed, accidents were bound to happen.

The War Spirit, however, answered after recomposing itself: "The act of fragging is limited to eight times. Not counting accidental, honestly judged upon mistakes. However, the life of a Soldier of War and Commander of War has value on the Battlefield. They will not be subjected to punishment as long as they contribute to the Nexus War. In the case of their departure prior to earning contribution, upon submitting one's leave of the Battlefield, one will be judged. Then, the Soldier of War will be executed promptly."

Wei Wuyin wryly smiled. This was consistent with his own assumption. That sadistic woman or Guan Yu will likely be executed upon attempting to leave, but those outside would just assume they were killed by others. It was the distortion of the Nexus Battlefield, suffused with desperation, that led people to do this. That said, it didn't mean it was allowed.

"Most would escape, however," Wei Wuyin commented to himself. Killing the sadistic woman was sufficient to depart without any issue. As long as someone killed one or two soldiers that had killed two or one soldier respectively, one would be beneath the threshold even if they killed minimal War Soul new arrivals.

However, those who actively hunted others, such as Guan Yu and the sadistic woman were going to die. Considering Guan Yu hunted newbies, having over a thousand War Souls, chances are he was marked for execution.

Unless...he contributed to the Nexus War, fighting against the 10,000 Spirits of War. Which was another death sentence in and of itself.

"I seek to return to the Nexus Battlefield, War Spirit." Wei Wuyin hadn't bought anything, merely gaining knowledge of what was available. Why? Because he had too little War Souls at the moment, and the things on the Soldier's List weren't worth it in his eyes.

"Leave?" The War Spirit was stunned. It had spent all this time explaining things and listing out all the available items, then he sought to leave? Just like that? It was a little peeved. It harrumphed out, and this would've certainly induced a massive headache to Wei Wuyin, but due to the filtering, all he heard was an adorable little girl harrumphing in a minor tantrum.

It was unbearably cute.

Before he could react, he was engulfed by multicolored light.

### **Chapter 743 - 738: Soldier of War, Taste of Death**

The pellet alongside Wei Wuyin's excitement caused the woman to become thoroughly confused. However, when she looked longer at the white pellet, her expression slowly started to change until it dawned on her! That was her Myriad Gravestone Poison! Was that seven-colored light Alchemic Energies? Had this handsome man condensed her Myriad Gravestone Poison into a pellet?! But...how?

What she thought directly conflicted with what she knew, furthering her confusion and uncertainty. The restrictive limitations in this Nexus Battlefield were quite extreme towards spiritual aspects and astral force. While those who've refined their bodies to their limits could manifest their Astral Idol, that was exceptionally rare. And those who could, often had chosen weaker physiques and Astral Souls, so it was easier for them to do so.



She and Guan Yu might have experienced the elevation of their physiques to match the quality of their innate physical energies, but that wasn't close to reaching the absolute Mortal Limits of their physique. It was this very detail that had confused Wei Wuyin earlier.

Guan Yu was unable to convey that Mortal Limits was not a consistent baseline. It wasn't like the boiling point of water across the board. Even if one cultivator was water then another could be soybean oil. The former's Mortal Limits is roughly one hundred Celsius while the latter was three hundred Celsius. Very few Astral Core Realm cultivators were aware of this fact, even finding it an extremely contradictory statement.

But such was cultivation.

The woman hadn't reached her limit, yet she spoke earlier as if she had. She was bluffing, of course. After all, this was a Battlefield, if her opponent overestimated her, then that could be pushed to a psychological advantage. If she displayed a fearsome quality prior, this would instill further hesitation in her enemies. Unfortunately for her, her efforts didn't affect Wei Wuyin at all.

"Is that a pellet?" She inquired out of sheer curiosity. Since they were speaking, she might as well.

Wei Wuyin didn't hide it, nodding: "A pellet of your Myriad Gravestone Poison. Your poison isn't able to affect those Ascended beings, but this certainly will." As he spoke, he tossed the Myriad Gravestone Pellet in the air to gauge its stability and weight, and then he abruptly tossed it towards the woman.

It was extremely quick. The woman was shocked as the streak of white crashed at her feet. She screamed slightly as she tried to back away, absolutely terrified by the speed of the throw, yet she was instantly engulfed by a small cloud of white mist.

She immediately broke out of the white mist with haste, running further away, but after a few steps, her steps became unsteady and flustered. "What...what did you do to m-" Her words came to an abrupt halt. A soft thud resounded as heavy, laboured breathing rang through the air.

Her voice became weak alongside her breathing. Then, a heavier thud resounded followed by shallow breathing.

Wei Wuyin heard this and nodded in approval. "Guan Yu!" He called out to the scarlet-eyed soldier. The soldier hadn't left far, observing the developing situation. When he finally saw the woman was engulfed by a white mist, ran off, and then collapsed like a ragdoll with horror in her bloodshot eyes, his own heart started to race. What was this?!

He cautiously made his way over.

Wei Wuyin couldn't help but ask after hearing him reach a few meters away from him: "Is she beautiful?"

Guan Yu's expression became strange, a flicker of disgust in his eyes. "I guess? Why?" While he didn't know if Wei Wuyin had intentions to spare her or do some unsavory things to her if she was, it made him feel disgusted at the question being asked.

However, Wei Wuyin's next words startled him. "That's horrifying," after saying this, Wei Wuyin walked towards the collapsed woman with a steady gait. However, he was shaking his head slightly.

Guan Yu was unable to understand what Wei Wuyin meant. He followed along, his bident still tightly gripped in his hand and his other covering his nose without any gaps. It was clear he was still hesitant to be here. However, the floral fragrance had vanished entirely. But not every poison had a fragrance.

"What did you mean by that?" Guan Yu couldn't hold back his curiosity.

Wei Wuyin halted roughly ten meters away from the woman's collapsed body that was barely breathing. He 'looked' at Guan Yu and gestured towards the body, "Go and grab her face." His bodily posture was as if he was saying: "If you're curious, go and find out."

Guan Yu felt uncertainty swell within his mind, but the curiosity took over. "Is she out? Like really out?" He questioned. How could he not be cautious?

Wei Wuyin chuckled amusingly, "She's out. If she wakes up, you can just stab her with that weapon of yours. At such a close range, don't tell me you can't kill?"

Guan Yu scoffed, "Of course I can kill. Alright!" He moved slowly towards the woman, staring at her beautiful countenance with a wisp of admiration, lust, and praise in his eyes. It was very unfortunate that this woman seemed to have a screw loose somewhere, or she would make a gorgeous bride.

He reached out to touch her smooth skin, but when he felt its fleshy tone, he was a little shaken. So soft! However, he blushed as he was slightly embarrassed by his thoughts. Just earlier he was feeling disgust at Wei Wuyin's question, yet he was touching an unconscious woman's face without her permission. If it was in battle, then he was well within his rights to viciously plunge his bident into her face, but not...in this situation.

Wei Wuyin shouted out: "Pull!"

"What?" Guan Yu was bewildered, turning to Wei Wuyin.

Wei Wuyin gestured with a pulling motion, "Pull it." He was quite animated with it, even faintly smiling. It was a little too bad he couldn't see what was about to happen.

"Pull it?" Guan Yu whispered softly to himself. But he relented and did so, and he pinched her soft cheeks and pulled. At first, it was nothing, just the normal tug of the skin you'd expect from pulling someone's face. But as he pulled harder, his eyes widened as he noticed her scalp move in an unnatural manner.

Curiosity lit ablaze, he pulled even harder.

Tssskkkk!

"WHAT THE FUCK!" Guan Yu jumped back, his eyes wide and his mouth gaped. In his hand was a face. No, it could be more to say a flap of skin. There was no blood, but some strange translucent substance adhered to its opposite side. But that wasn't what caused him to go crazy with fear, jumping and cursing!

It was the skeletal head with multicolored orbs for eyes, no pupils or irises, just various vibrant colors that swam within the eye-shaped orbs. The scalp of the skull even seemed shaven down to be perfectly flat, as if her brain wasn't there. He was horrified. He was disgusted. He wanted to vomit!

He retched to the side and brought his hand to his face, about to cover his nose again. But he realized the skin that was the woman's originally gorgeous face was still in his hand, he yelped and tossed it aside. His entire body felt uncomfortable and icky.

He looked towards the smiling and chuckling Wei Wuyin. He knew! But he couldn't help but think about this. "Did you do this?" When he thought about Wei Wuyin's pellet, the white mist, and the skin peeling off one's face, he was terrified. Could it make someone lose their skin? 'Oh my heavens! Was I going to lose my face?!'

Wei Wuyin shook his head amidst his amused laughter, "Of course not. She used a poisonous cultivation method to refine her innate physical energies, and this was the effect. I studied the poison a little. There should be no way skin doesn't experience rapid deterioration in long-term exposure. However, if she's beautiful that means she has skin, and if she has skin then-"

"Then it wasn't hers," Guan Yu completed the sentence begrudgingly and retched a little to the side. Whose skin did she use? He couldn't tell the difference, so it couldn't be artificial, no? He hoped it was...because if it wasn't...

"Urgh!"

Wei Wuyin had his fun, but it was time to proceed with his plan. He walked forward and arrived beside the woman's faceless body, still sounds of faint breathing within her voice. But there was also chaotic whizzing, and this was a sign that her death was very near. The only reason she was still alive was due to her poison resistance.

Wei Wuyin had no intention to recruit this woman, merely use her for his own goal. So he didn't hesitate to use his finger and jab into her exposed skull until it pierced all the way through. Her body squirmed a little until it fell still.

"You probably don't deserve a merciful death, but since you'll be helping me I'll acquiesce. I wonder if you liked its taste though," Wei Wuyin commented after remembering what she had said before... Suddenly, the world once again froze. The rewards for slaying a sinner was about to be bestowed!

Chapter 744 - 739: Soldier Of War, Sky-World Essence Crystal

Karmic Luck Value: 43,809.6

First Calamity: Survived - 7/7.

Second Calamity: Claimed - 1/1.

Third Calamity: Suppressed - 16 Years.

Karmic Luck Value: 44,122.9.

First Calamity: Survived - 7/7.

Second Calamity: Claimed - 1/1.

Third Calamity: Suppressed - 16 Years.

The flow of the world resumed.

The Bloodline of Sin's tattoo had changed. Wei Wuyin experienced the same thing he felt when he touched Bai Lin after her subsequent slaughter of the Trueborn, an obscure and elusive Evil Organization operating within the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region, and the destruction of one of its bases in the Ninestar Starfield.

Still unable to visually inspect the tattoo, Wei Wuyin accurately felt the elevation of Karmic Luck solely based on its aura. His awareness was developing as he kept experiencing the mysterious ways of the Heavenly Daos with each contact.

"313.3..." Wei Wuyin was amazed, then baffled almost immediately as he took a short breath. He thought for a moment before he clenched his fist tightly, only unclenching it after a while. This burst of Karmic Luck infusion could be considered extremely massive, absolutely outrageously high.

Bai Lin's actions had almost netted him over thirty-thousand Karmic Luck Value in a single burst. However, the Shadow Egg was festering with those with Karmic Sin, so this was terrifyingly massive, yet this was spread out over millions of cultivators, and while they might not all be Sinners, there was bound to be more than a few.

This woman either must've performed sinful acts on the regular to accrue an immense amount of Karmic Sin or there was a reason he earned a low-by-comparison score for Bai Lin's actions. 'Could secondhand killing of Sinners give reduced returns for Blessed or will some of it remain with the killer?' When this thought struck, a heavy weight was slowly pulverized from his mind. Either way, both explains why there was a stark contrast. The only issue was that he didn't know how much he claimed from Bai Lin if it was the latter.

"Did you kill her?" A voice sounded from behind Wei Wuyin, catching his attention.

"Yeah, she's dead." Those words leaving his mouth were emotionless and unfeeling. This gain of Karmic Luck Value verified his theory, sort of. "Do you have something in your possession that reveals your knowledge of the War Soul Exchange and the Nexus Battlefield, enough to gather an overview of this place?"

"Anything like that?" Guan Yu was shocked when Wei Wuyin said this, and for a moment, his expression became guarded and fearful, but then it struck him that this monster of a being had already deduced the existence of the War Soul Exchange and he had told this information to Wei Wuyin already.

Since this was the case, that question likely didn't contain any ill intent. Guan Yu replied after that brief pause, "Maybe. Why?"

Wei Wuyin sighed. "Let me see," he gestured as he stood up, holding out his hand towards Guan Yu. Guan Yu frowned, contemplating the pros and cons, then he saw the dead skeletal being with a hole in its skull. Clearly, Wei Wuyin wasn't against killing. He was spared because he was different from this sadistic woman, so he gulped slightly and sighed.

Guan Yu withdrew a jade tablet of sorts. It was palm-sized rectangular and had strange esoteric markings at the four edges, on both sides. "This is a Recording Jade Plate. The information here is two hundred thousand years old. However, unless you know the power secret spell that corresponds to it, it's impossible to access it." After explaining this, he hesitated briefly before arriving beside Wei Wuyin and handing it to him.

Wei Wuyin held out his hand and reached out to its general location, grasping the smooth jade tablet. He felt a strange mana within. He thought for a moment and then activated his Mana Dominance of his Zenith Origin State. Suddenly, the four esoteric markings started to morph and spiritual light flitted through the surface of the tablet.

A series of written characters manifested.

Wei Wuyin 'looked' at Guan Yu, as if saying: "Secret Spell? Impossible? Really?"

Guan Yu, however, had his jaws dropped and his eyes bulging. His voice cluttered in his throat as he stumbled over his words, unable to process what had just happened. He looked at Wei Wuyin with a level of incredulity that was nearing the zenith that his expression allowed!

Wei Wuyin scoffed softly, touching the characters with his hand and reading it. Jing Jiu had cultivated an incomplete Origin State, but he still possessed the ability of Mana Dominance. While it might not be on the same level of his own, it was still a centric aspect of the Origin State.

After reading everything, he handed the jade tablet back to Guan Yu. 'Well, this proves that both of them were Sinners deliberately sent on Jing Jiu's path. I no longer have any doubts that Jing Jiu was destined to either obtain immense benefit here or the right to observe the Obelisk of War. In fact...'

"After a Soldier of War leaves the Nexus Battlefield, can they return here?" Wei Wuyin asked, unable to find this piece of information in the jade tablet.

"Return?" Guan Yu was still out of sorts, unable to fathom how Wei Wuyin unlocked the jade tablet without possessing the secret spell to do so. Moreover, he had done so instantly without any indication. It was as if the jade tablet automatically opened to its king.

"Uhm...No? Well, not as a mortal being. Many have tried, every last one of them failed. You'll need to attain qualifications as an Ascended being to do so, but that's impossible. I guess?" Guan Yu was inspecting the tablet with a sharp gaze, even waving it around, and turning it over. What the hell did Wei Wuyin do?!

Wei Wuyin thought about this and frowned. It wasn't realistic that Jing Jiu obtained the right to observe the Obelisk of War as a mortal being, that was clear from the 10,000 Spirits of War that must be defeated and the total lack of Ascended beings present here.

However, if this was just an opportunity to gain awareness of its existence and later return to claim the right after he Ascended, then this made some sense. He couldn't be certain, but Jing Jiu lacked the means to weaponize the Myriad Gravestone Poison, so there's no way for him to benefit from it like him.

He 'looked' towards the woman and frowned. He reached out and took her spatial ring, inspecting it and noticing there was a seal upon it. Additionally, it was mystic-graded. He thought for a moment, and wryly smiled. The Heavenly Daos truly had a way about things.

The seal was mana-based. Once again exerting his Mana Dominance, he unsealed the spatial ring without an issue. Was this the culture of advanced societies? Using mana-based seals to restrict things? If that was the case, Jing Jiu had the literal skeletal key. Well, so did he.

However, thinking about it, recalling Spiritualist and high-end cultivators, as well as the Origin State being something to ascend to the Heavenly Saint Phase, the Sixth Stage of the Mystic Ascendant Realm, it made sense to use fortified mana-based seals to protect possessions.

After doing so, he swept his senses into the ring and discovered that it was roughly half the size of Cai Liuyang's ring. Was this Jing Jiu's upgrade? That was truly a little unfair. How much Karmic Luck Value did Jing Jiu use for the Heavenly Daos to deliberately set forth these convenient events for him? No wonder he gave so little in his death.

"Oh?! That's a little too convenient, no?!" Wei Wuyin exclaimed. He had originally thought the poison was Jing Jiu's reason to fortune, but that was dismissed after realizing he didn't have the means to weaponize it, but this ring actually contained the exact thing that Jing Jiu needed!

SKY-WORLD LIGHTNING ESSENCE!

This sadistic, death-loving, poison-exuding woman had a hexagonal crystal that contained the extremely rare, almost impossible to acquire Sky-World Lightning Essence, the only thing that could make Jing Jiu's incomplete Origin State complete. If he completed it, he would gain the ability to comprehend Mystic Intent with greater ease and elevate his limits of cultivation!

Considering Jing Jiu was at the peak of the Mortal Dao, this was timely. Extremely timely.

"..." After regaining himself, Wei Wuyin inspected the rest of her possessions and discovered what he was looking for. The Myriad Gravestone Poison, enough to create a large-sized lake. Since this woman used Myriad Gravestone Poison to cultivate her body, then she must be in possession of some for emergency recovery or cultivation.

It was similar to the Draconic Blood Pearls that he kept in his possession at all times for the purpose of restoring his Bloodline Source if exhausted or damaged.

However, if there was no more, he would be left with having to refine her entire body. This was one of the reasons Wei Wuyin didn't treat her like Guan Yu. And she was a poison expert, so he didn't feel like dealing with some absurd trump card she might possess.

'Well that settles it. Jing Jiu's fortune is not to obtain the right to observe the Obelisk of War,' Wei Wuyin determined. Because even with a complete Origin State, he wasn't able to take down 10,000 with his means, and Wei Wuyin was aware of all his means. It might be possible if he tried to ascend here, but according to the Nexus Battlefield info of Guan Yu's clan, doing so here was extremely fatal.

Since Jing Jiu would've gained the same information, then there was no way he'd risk it. It was far more likely that he'd come back after ascending to the Demi-Mortal Lord Phase as a prepared Battalion Commander, observe the Obelisk of War and gain whatever benefits it provided.

"Did you find something?" Guan Yu asked after calming his mind, keeping the jade tablet.

"Sure," Wei Wuyin indifferently said. He inhaled deeply and softly sighed, "I, Soldier of War, seek to exchange my War Souls! Heed my desire for war and victory, War Spirit of the Nexus!"

Guan Yu's expression changed.

Dzzzt!

Chapter 745 - 740: Soldier Of War, War Soul Exchange

The halo linger above Wei Wuyin abruptly expanded from its slightly below head-sized length to reaching slightly beyond his shoulders. The halo proceeded to descend, a layer of multicolored light covered the gap, and Wei Wuyin was directly swallowed by it.

Before Guan Yu's eyes, Wei Wuyin vanished after the halo swallowed him entirely, leaving a faint halo of light trembling on the ground. Guan Yu stared at the halo, then the skeletal faced corpse, and his expression eased. He looked around cautiously and withdrew a large-sized compass-like object. This compass didn't have directional indicators but a map that denoted the nine zones of the Battlefield. There were flickering dots of lights on the map, numbering above ten thousand.

After discovering that there weren't any lights nearby, Guan Yu nodded, and then sat down to meditate. He'd just wait. He had a feeling that staying with Wei Wuyin would offer him unimaginable benefits. After all, the man was heaven-defying. Not even his war file remotely hinted at his ability to do the things he'd done.

He muttered disbelievingly to himself, "Could he really be at the Eighth Stage?" Guan Yu realized that Wei Wuyin lacked basic knowledge of the Star Core Phase because he hadn't reached that stage yet, which blew his mind entirely. However, if he'd known that Wei Wuyin wasn't a Timelord, but a Gravity Emission Phase cultivator, his mind might never recover.

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A world of total whiteness. There was no horizon. There was no solar star. There were just walls of whiteness and these walls emitted overbearing radiance that could easily blind anyone who stared at them for a long period. In this world was a cube that was the size of a small mountain. It was of the exact design as the War Spirit Altar, even the 'War' character was etched on its top alongside the gambeson wearing figure that blinded with the whiteness.

Wei Wuyin was unable to be blinded with his eyes already closed, but he felt the scintillating light try to pierce through his ocular seals. This light was extremely terrifying since that same seal was keeping his overbearing spiritual light from pouring out of his eyes, bringing immense pain to the core locations of his three Celestial Eyes of Spiritual Divinity formations.

When he thought of this spell, he thought about his currently sealed eyes. Wei Wuyin had wanted to open his eyes long ago, especially after learning that his physique was refined to its physical limits. However, just before doing so, Eden had warned him to stop immediately. It was nestled in his Sea of Consciousness, and it confirmed that the cause of all this, the breaching of limits regarding his Celestial Eyes spiritual formations that enable the three abilities—Eye of Truth, Eye of Illusions, and Eye of Immortality—hadn't been solved. Not even close.

If he removed his ocular seals and unleashed his Celestial Eyes, his Sea of Consciousness, Mind's Eye, and eyes themselves would be experiencing immense suffering of unbearable levels, just like before and he'd be unable to use his Celestial Eyes or visually see regardless. This had caused him to feel depressed. No one, especially a cultivator, would want to be blind by choice.

This was even worse when he considered the Battlefield that hellishly restricted his spiritual sense, his secondary visual perception, leaving him at a great disadvantage.

The only foreseeable conclusion was to elevate his cultivation, but he wasn't sure if that'll be a solution. Neither was Eden. His cultivation foundation was maximized to their limits, and at the moment, beyond his limits and barely being kept together. If he ascended to the Realm World Phase, his cultivation aspects will all elevate alongside it, and this might not equalize. This being more so since the Realm World Phase fused everything into a Domain Seed; his Soul Idols, Spatial Resonance, Primary Light, and Gravitational Central Mass into a single whole, far stronger than the sum of its parts.

To put it simply, he might be visually blind indefinitely.

This was the cost of pushing his cultivation far, far beyond conventional limits. Furthermore, his Astral Souls didn't wish to stop. They wanted to refine transcendent Spatial Divine Resonance Pills before ascending. They were unwilling to halt. But how could he fault them for this? Blame them?

Their opponents weren't any mortal beings or Ascended beings, but the Heavenly Daos, the Calamities of Hell, and the unknown future! If he said he didn't feel the pressure to be at his greatest possible state while facing these challenges and enemies, he would be lying to himself. They just felt what he felt. They wanted what he wanted—to survive.

He couldn't settle.

He wouldn't settle.

Wei Wuyin just hoped that this wouldn't eventually lead to his untimely demise due to an accident. For example, King, Ori, and Kratos all wanted to consume more transcendent Soul Deity Invoker Elixir. Fortunately or unfortunately, Eden explained that each of his Astral Souls were uniquely marked and unable to use the same means to summon forth another replicated tribulation.

However, its tone was incredibly depressing as it explained this dejectedly. Wei Wuyin was speechless then.

He could only warn them not to push things too far, or else the Calamities of Hell might not even have the opportunity to claim his soul if it explodes with theirs.

"Soldier of War!" That voice from earlier, androgynous and instilling sensory dissonance, resounded once again. It caused Wei Wuyin to frown, but he had adapted extremely well to its voice's effects. After a short moment, he breathed out a breath and all things regulated.

"That bastard! I won't be affected again! I won't! I won't!!" Kratos roared angrily at the voice, feeling as if its pride as a Void Dragon was being challenged with every syllable of this voice. The three Astral Souls cheered from their locations, also pissed by this nauseating feeling. After all, it wasn't just affecting Wei Wuyin.



"You have summoned the War Spirit to exchange your War Souls for the prospects of victory! The Nexus of the Battlefield heeds your call. Make your choice: Soldier or Commander!"

Wei Wuyin's expression immediately became extremely strange.

This...was this...what...

The voice was female! Furthermore, it was extremely sweet and gentle, like a little girl speaking in the most adorable manner. While the words it spoke were powerful, the voice itself was contradicting to say the least. How could he not be taken aback?

"Hahaha! Its just a little girl!" Kratos triumphantly laughed. Since it was continuously exposed to the dissonance, it had sifted through the effects and effectively blocked out the cause from affecting them. In a way, this dissonance was nestled in the forces of Chaotic Spatial Energies, so it wasn't hard to unravel if given enough time. It was a Void Dragon, after all!

Fixed? Stable? Chaotic?

It was the Void! Which of these did it not govern?! Which of these did it not have dominion over? Even the Heavenly Daos can't trap it! A child challenging a master! Nothing more.

Wei Wuyin could feel the torrential wave of pride emitting from every resoundingly powerful heartbeat of his. He couldn't help but smile, deeply amused. To think this so-called War Spirit had the voice of a little girl. He wondered if he opened his Celestial Eyes and observed the War Spirit, would he see the image of a little girl?

Regardless, Wei Wuyin decided to not expose the clearly heavy attempts to disguise itself, and just answered: "Both." He didn't just want to see what Soldier offered but Commander as well. He was bestowed an abnormal 49,770 War Souls for his feats and merits on the Battlefield. After giving the female titan two-hundred, and obtaining close to two thousand from the sadistic woman, he had 51,341 War Souls.

"As you desire, Soldier of War!" The War Spirit sounded out. Then two panels silently formed in front of Wei Wuyin. They listed all the products of Soldier and Commander. After a minute, Wei Wuyin's expression changed.

"War Spirit?" He called out.

"Soldier of War! You may request any of your desires!" The little girl's voice and the words caused another type of dissonance to form.

"When will I get the lists?" Wei Wuyin asked.

"Hm?" The War Spirit curiously hummed. "The lists are directly before you, Soldier of War! You may speak out your desire and exchange the appropriate number of War Souls!"

Wei Wuyin's expression became slightly unsightly. He waved his hands in front of himself yet he felt nothing, passing directly before the list like they were ghosts.

"Are you sure?" Wei Wuyin questioned doubtfully.

"I am sure, Soldier of War."

He kept waving forward and nearly lost his balance.

"..." War Spirit.

"..." Wei Wuyin.

There was a long silence. These lists were clearly made from the same type of power as the halo, and he couldn't sense it with his spiritual sense nor touch it with his mortal body. Thus, he was left awkwardly standing there.

"Can you tell me what is on these lists? I'm sorta blind at the moment..."

Wei Wuyin felt a presence arrive directly in front of him after those words. It wasn't something he sensed with his spiritual senses or caught with his other senses, more like an intuition. Like something was inspecting his face with immense doubt. It was a little uncomfortable. This lasted for a long, very long period before it abruptly vanished.

"Okay, Soldier of War! I shall explain the contents of the lists and its prices, but only once." As the War Spirit spoke, Wei Wuyin could've sworn that he heard it grumble out some curses. This might be attributed to Kratos dismantling its vocal disguises, but it still felt unclear and distant. If it wasn't for its adorably cute voice, this might cause shivers to run down one's spine. Instead, Wei Wuyin warmly smiled.

It repeated: "Only once."

"First Item: One unit of Essence of War, priced at 3 War Souls. Second Item..."

Chapter 746 - 741: Soldier Of War, List Of The War Spirit

[Item]: (1 Unit) Essence of War.

[Exchange Rate]: 3 War Souls.

[Availability]: Soldier & Commander.

[Description]: Uniquely refined essence capable of morphing in structure and shape in accordance to a Soldier's Will. Suitable for armament creation. Grade of Material is dependent on Soldier's Will.

[Item]: (10 Unit) Essence of War.

[Exchange Rate]: 25 War Souls.

[Availability]: Soldier & Commander.

[Item]: (High-Grade) Martial Divinity Sphere.

[Exchange Rate]: 100 War Souls.

[Availability]: Soldier.

[Description]: A high-grade physique-refining treasure that can be used to establish a Martial Physique. An incredibly well-balanced physique in form and function. If successful in refinement, guaranteed success of 4th Rune Seed Ascension. Increased Chances in 5th Rune Seed Ascension.

[Item]: (High-Grade) Yang Divinity Sphere.

[Exchange Rate]: 120 War Souls.

[Availability]: Soldier.

[Description]: A high-grade physique-refining treasure that can be used to establish a Yang Physique. An explosive physique with heightened rejuvenation abilities of stamina and innate physical energies. Elevates Dual Cultivation effectiveness. If successful in refinement, guaranteed success of 4th Rune Seed Ascension. Increased Chances in 5th Rune Seed Ascension.

[Item]: (High-Grade) Yin Divinity Sphere.

[Exchange Rate]: 120 War Souls.

[Availability]: Soldier.

[Description]: A high-grade physique-refining treasure that can be used to establish a Yin Physique. Elevates Dual Cultivation effectiveness. If successful in refinement, guaranteed success of 4th Rune Seed Ascension. Increased Chances in 5th Rune Seed Ascension. WARNING: Must have Primal Yin intact.

[Item]: (Peak-Grade) Warring Martial Divinity Sphere.

[Exchange Rate]: 1,200 War Souls.

[Availability]: Soldier.

[Description]: A top-tier physique-refining treasure refined by a Seed of War and a Martial Divinity Sphere to establish an exalted Martial Physique of War. Despite its well-balanced nature, its physical attributes provided are all extremely high-level. If successful in refining, guaranteed success of 7th Rune Seed Ascension. Increased Chances in 8th Rune Seed Ascension.

WARNING: Requires two or more Ethereal Intent at the Awakened Intent Stage to have a CHANCE at successful refinement.

[Item]: (Artificial) Seed of War.

[Exchange Rate]: 1,500 War Souls.

[Availability]: Soldier & Commander.

[Description]: A uniquely refined Seed of Law. When refined into one's Sea of Consciousness, can elevate a Soldier's comprehension towards the Dao of War and World Heart Intent, including temporarily heightening their soul sensitivity towards the Mystic Dao.

WARNING(1): Refining more than three can induce Cultivation Deviation. Use at your own risk.

WARNING(2): This item CANNOT be used to nurture a Law.

[Item]: War File of the Battlefield.

[Exchange Rate]: 1 War Soul.

[Availability]: Soldier & Commander.

[Description]: Contains information about a Soldier, including their merits and abilities registered by the Nexus Battlefield.

[Item]: (High-Earth) Dawnbreaker Swordlight Method.

[Exchange Rate]: 900 War Souls.

[Availability]: Soldier.

[Description]: A cultivation method that exquisitely fuses Sword & Light energies to generate Dawnbreaker Swordlight Quintessence, suitable for any Sword Cultivator that has comprehended Awakened Sword Intent and White Primary Light. If cultivated to a high-level, a cultivator can establish a (High-Level) Dawnbreaker Physique using the Dawnbreaker Swordlight Quintessence and their starforce.

If successful in refinement, guaranteed success of 6th Rune Seed Ascension. Increased Chances in 7th Rune Seed Ascension.

[Item]: (Peak-Earth) Warring Soul, Triumphant World Method.

[Exchange Rate]: 8,000 War Souls.

[Availability]: Soldier.

[Description]: A cultivation method that involves merging a Seed of War into one's Spirit of Cultivation, transforming its essential nature into a War Soul. EXACT DETAILS UNKNOWN.

Sub-Method: A War Soul's Star Core can refine a (Peak-Level) World War Physique.

If successful in refinement, guaranteed success of 9th Rune Seed Ascension. Increased Chances in World Rune Seed Ascension.

WARNING: Refinement of Seed of War may cause extreme Cultivation Deviation, leading to loss of life and destruction of soul. Do not cultivate if you've Ascended the Mortal Dao. Cultivate with caution.

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The Soldier List. Wei Wuyin was fully awed. There were exactly eighty-one items listed in this, ranging from Essence of War, War Files, a locator to track allied Soldiers of War, to refinement treasures to entire Cultivation Methods! How could he not be awed? Astonished? Absolutely gobsmacked!

Furthermore, this was just the Soldier of War list. The Commanders of War, those who were leaders in the Nexus Battlefield, had an entirely separate list that was far more impressive. He had over 50,000 War Souls, but some of the things on the Commander's list were outrageous.

For example, they offered a genuine Seed of War! Supposedly, its over twenty times more effective than an artificial Seed of War and can guarantee success of a War Soul cultivation transition, even if they were Ascended Beings. This was outright allowing someone to redefine their cultivation path!

However, his paltry 50,000 was absolutely pathetic with the Commander's list. Despite offering eighty-one items as well, having absolutely spectacular items, and a few repeats of the Soldier's list, those that attracted Wei Wuyin's attention had reached beyond 100,000 War Souls or further. There was even one that required 5,000,000 War Souls!!!

It had no name, and its description was just a single sentence:

[Item]: --

[Exchange Rate]: 5,000,000 War Souls.

[Availability]: Soldier & Commander.

[Description]: Heavenly War Spirit.

There were methods titled (Low-Heaven). He didn't know what they were because the War Spirit spoke in Mysticism, the Language of the Mystic Dao. He could only make out a few things, such as the title and some words.

He was immediately vexed.

Since becoming an Alchemist with an Alchemic Soul, when had he ever been starved for wealth? Only now did he realize how poor he was in the grand scheme of things. While these things weren't capable of being exchanged for essence stones, it felt the same.

Still, there were a few items that intrigued him. For example, the Divinity Spheres. They were refinement treasures for physiques and could lead to a successful Ascension, and they had a wide variety of them, including the nine elements, Battle-type Divinity Spheres, Slaughter-type Divinity Spheres, and Life-type Divinity Spheres.

Most of the eighty-one spots were taken by these Divinity Spheres. Considering the majority of Soldiers of Wars were Star Core Phase cultivators, this was quite appropriate. That being said, he had absolutely no idea what 4th, 5th, 8th, or World Rune meant. Were they like Mortal States? Were they forms of Mystic Intent? What did it indicate? Furthermore, were these like the six Mystic Runes he had in his World Sea? Or was he wrong about their existence?!

Once again, cultivation baffles. Once again, he was reminded of why cultivation was difficult. Despite talking to Wu Yu and Wang Yutian, a genuine Worldly Saint, neither of them mentioned a goddamn thing about these runes or even an Astral Idol.

He wasn't exactly certain if Wu Yu had even reached that level. He did ascend with the King of Everlore's help, but their resources were all mortal-graded, and he was distracted in his issues with lifespan and his own ascension. In all likelihood, Wu Yu or the rest might have never fully refined their physiques to the maximum limit of the Mortal Dao.

Actually, if he thought more about it, Wu Yu failed his Third Ascension to the Demi-Mortal Lord Phase, so his physique was definitely inadequate. Considering he was tooting himself as the strongest Ascended

amongst the four, this was indicative of all their issues. He couldn't help but sigh in his heart. Wu Yu might seem strong, but he might be a fly to the truly nurtured and cultivated beings of the Azure-Prime Galactic Zone.

His expression abruptly changed. He wondered when the King of Everlore abruptly left, leaving for a greater world, and even left his entire entourage behind, was it because they were far beneath his desired standard? Perhaps they were of very little help when he entered the Azure-Prime Galactic Region. Perhaps they knew and deliberately didn't follow. Perhaps...

It would be difficult to obtain an answer to this question unless he talked to them personally. They might not have known, abandoned due to their flaws that the King of Everlore didn't wish to solve, or couldn't solve.

This list had spurred on far too many questions. He had leapt past his limits, being exposed to aspects of cultivation far exceeding his current ability, yet he only kept having more and more questions. This entire Nexus Battlefield was a VERY large question.

He deeply sighed again, feeling tiny. Extremely tiny. He felt his Astral Souls pulsate with comforting intent, knowing his pains. Just two decades ago, they were ignorant of many things in cultivation and then were viciously pushed into the greater world, facing the Heavenly Daos, becoming an Inheritor of Sin, and trying to survive Calamities of Hell. Most cultivators of his age or cultivation base weren't remotely exposed to such trials and tribulations.

"The most frustrating thing?" Wei Wuyin spiritually communicated with them all. But they already knew what he wanted to say, because they were all looking for it too. Something, anything, just a clue he was closer to the Realm of Sages and what it is. A cultivation stage? A cultivation realm? A unique title granted by something?

Wallowing in the bleakness of that reality, he heard the voice of the little girl once again.

"Soldier of War, have you decided?"

Chapter 747 - 742: Soldier Of War, Crucial Questions

Wei Wuyin settled his turbulent emotions. The world had always been vast, piled with mysteries and secrets, not just about cultivation but about many things. The only way to grasp these truths, he had to continue his acts of cultivation, surviving the worldly dangers that sought to halt his journey, and snatch the rightful qualifications to know.

"This Battlefield..." Wei Wuyin didn't answer the War Spirit directly, merely considering a single item amongst the eighty-one items in the Commander's List. While most were currently beyond his means, solely for the Mystic Ascendants, there were a few useful tools similar to the War File and Map of War, which were very useful in gathering information for recruiting and having an awareness of the Battlefield's state.

The Map of War could pinpoint the location of each Soldier of War and Commander of War on the Battlefield. This was likely how Guan Yu found him. If it wasn't for his intentions to hide his in-depth knowledge of the Battlefield, he might've taken it out to hunt others.

The War File, however, wasn't complete. The first thing he did was purchase a War File. When he did, according to the War Spirit, he could select any Soldier of War on the Battlefield and grasp their merits and abilities. However, it was only the abilities shown on the Battlefield.

Guan Yu had likely inspected the War File shortly after meeting him. Otherwise, he wouldn't have dared to face him after learning about the terrifyingly high number of premium merits he had earned in the Battlefield.

In the file, it lackingly described his Spatial Beast Bloodline. It was described as such, completely not specifying which beast or how developed the Bloodline was. It also had something that said: "Grenadier." He had no idea what that meant.

Fortunately, the War Spirit was telling him about the War File's contents, otherwise he wouldn't even be able to read these details. From the War Spirit, he learned it was a type of Soldier of War that used external devices, be it pellets or talismans, as main sources of combat strength. Considering his actions, this rang true.

There was also an item that intrigued him.

[Item]: Summons of War.

[Exchange Rate]: 50 War Souls.

[Availability]: Commander.

[Description]: Can not be used during times of active war. When used, it releases a bright signal to all Soldiers of War to gather. Those who resist the summons are penalized with summary execution.

When he first arrived and met Guan Yu, the scarlet-eyed sinner was shaken when Wei Wuyin suggested they were allies. Clearly, he was aware of this original purpose. And after hearing about the Nexus Battlefield details, Wei Wuyin's first decision was to summon forth the loose Soldiers of War into an organized army. Since the 10,000 Spirits of War were undefeatable existences to mortals, perhaps an army of them might have a chance. He later realized his thinking was incorrect.

There was no way even 100,000 Mortals would claim victory over an Ascended Legion of 10,000. It just wasn't practical. Clearly from Guan Yu's explanation, the focus and purpose of the Nexus Battlefield had become muddled after a long time, with Ascended no longer striving to arrive in the Nexus Battlefield and Soldiers of War sent here were actively slaughtering each other to accumulate enough War Souls to depart.

This item proved that the Soldiers of War were all allies. It was just unfortunate how viciously distorted the Nexus Battlefield had become.

It was truly unfortunate that it was limited to Commanders of War, and a Soldier of War like himself doesn't have the qualifications to gather and lead other Soldiers of War, according to the Nexus Battlefield at least. With that, even if he intended to gather all the Soldiers of War, even with the Map of War, convincing them and forcing them to submit wouldn't create a cohesive team.

When they start to get slaughtered en masse, they'll easily desert the army, fearful of losing their lives. The sadistic woman and Guan Yu's mentality offered him a glimpse into the thoughts of other Soldiers of War. They'll think it's impossible—a fool's dream. That plan simply wasn't feasible.

"Soldier of War?" The War Spirit inquired, seeing Wei Wuyin pausing for an extremely long period of time. Its voice, however, was disguised at this moment, so it would've induced some dizzying temporal and spatial dissonance. As for the question itself, Wei Wuyin wouldn't have heard it, just aware that the War Spirit was seeking him out.

Wei Wuyin broke out of his thoughts, unaffected thanks to Kratos, asking directly: "Can a Soldier of War initiate the Nexus Battlefield?"

"Initiate the Nexus Battlefield?" The War Spirit actually questioned curiously, but its voice was still disguised. Clearly, it wanted to keep an all-knowing, imposing, and mysterious image. Wei Wuyin found it a little funny hearing the voice.

Wei Wuyin furthered his question, elaborating: "If I wanted to face the ten thousand Spirits of War in battle, to obtain the right to observe the Obelisk of War, can I do so? Is a Commander of War required to declare war?"

"..." The War Spirit was stumped. It wasn't that Wei Wuyin's question wasn't a logical one, but that it was one that no one had ever brought up, not even the creators of the Battlefield had thought about this. A Soldier of War? A mere cog in the grand scheme of things? Asking to declare war? When would this question have ever come up. Most would have a heavy laugh from just the mention of it, finding it an hilarious joke.

Fight 10,000 Spirits of War? All which were Ascended beings, alone? Declare war as a MERE Mortal?! The War Spirit truly couldn't even fathom the possibility of this occurring nor formulate a response.

"So it's never been considered. There must be some way to declare war. There's no item limited to Commanders for it, so it doesn't seem restricted to them. Can you tell me how?" Wei Wuyin deduced with a contemplative expression.

The War Spirit was still dazed by the question, unable to grasp a reason as to why this question even existed. However, it was trained to respond to Soldiers and Commanders of War, and there had been Commanders who had asked about this detail in their ignorance or to see if they could take advantage of the initiation.

"To begin the Nexus War, one must issue a declaration of war to the Obelisk of War. Then, the 10,000 War Spirits will be summoned. Afterwards, they'll fan out to the Zones of War. There is no restriction on the established rank to do so." The War Spirit's answer caused Wei Wuyin to frown.

He wondered if ancient members of the Battlefield tried to launch an assault at the time of their summoning. But that wasn't actually very smart at all. An army was at its strongest together, so it was foolish to face them as a singular whole. It would be better to divide and conquer if one had a proper army.



However, this meant Commanders had a choice. They could face them in direct battle or launch all types of warfare, such as guerrilla tactics, subterfuge, environmental manipulation, and various fielding movements of forces to gain an advantage.

It verified his own assumption, causing him to sigh with relief. If the Spirits of War were automatically dispersed through spatial shifting to populated locations, equalizing the battlefield like the original Battlefield, then summoning the Spirits of War would be a death sentence to everyone here and he'd be forced to escape.

He had two plans; neither worked if the Spirits of War were segregated from each other. This meant he had a window of opportunity.

"Next question: the Spirits of War, are they real beings? Are they subjected to exhaustion, confusion, frustration, incorrect decision making, real-time decision making, or vulnerable to energies, poisons, and hazardous environments?" This question was absolutely critical.

The War Spirit wasn't foreign to this question either. While most of the time it was divided, it hadn't skipped a beat before answering: "The Spirits of War are designed to react as Ascended beings would. There is no difference between them and yourself in the foundation of your weaknesses and strengths."

Wei Wuyin nodded elatedly. "Two more questions: Eliminating Spirits of War accrue War Souls, correct? And will I have the opportunity to use my War Souls after I observe the Obelisk of War?"

"Yes, to both." The War Spirit answered succinctly. It further added, "Claiming victory also rewards War Souls."

Wei Wuyin expected that, so he delved into his last question: "How many acts of killing allies forfeit my life?"

"..." This was the first time the War Spirit was asked this, and if Wei Wuyin could see its expression, he would be quite amused. On the Nexus Battlefield, all Soldiers of War were allies, and typically, killing your allies was a sin punishable by summary execution in an army. However, accidents occurred and friendly fire happened.

Thus, there was certainly leeway to the act. In the chaos of the battlefield, in the thick of the bloodshed, accidents were bound to happen.

The War Spirit, however, answered after recomposing itself: "The act of fragging is limited to eight times. Not counting accidental, honestly judged upon mistakes. However, the life of a Soldier of War and Commander of War has value on the Battlefield. They will not be subjected to punishment as long as they contribute to the Nexus War. In the case of their departure prior to earning contribution, upon submitting one's leave of the Battlefield, one will be judged. Then, the Soldier of War will be executed promptly."

Wei Wuyin wryly smiled. This was consistent with his own assumption. That sadistic woman or Guan Yu will likely be executed upon attempting to leave, but those outside would just assume they were killed by others. It was the distortion of the Nexus Battlefield, suffused with desperation, that led people to do this. That said, it didn't mean it was allowed.

"Most would escape, however," Wei Wuyin commented to himself. Killing the sadistic woman was sufficient to depart without any issue. As long as someone killed one or two soldiers that had killed two or one soldier respectively, one would be beneath the threshold even if they killed minimal War Soul new arrivals.

However, those who actively hunted others, such as Guan Yu and the sadistic woman were going to die. Considering Guan Yu hunted newbies, having over a thousand War Souls, chances are he was marked for execution.

Unless...he contributed to the Nexus War, fighting against the 10,000 Spirits of War. Which was another death sentence in and of itself.

"I seek to return to the Nexus Battlefield, War Spirit." Wei Wuyin hadn't bought anything, merely gaining knowledge of what was available. Why? Because he had too little War Souls at the moment, and the things on the Soldier's List weren't worth it in his eyes.

"Leave?" The War Spirit was stunned. It had spent all this time explaining things and listing out all the available items, then he sought to leave? Just like that? It was a little peeved. It harrumphed out, and this would've certainly induced a massive headache to Wei Wuyin, but due to the filtering, all he heard was an adorable little girl harrumphing in a minor tantrum.

It was unbearably cute.

Before he could react, he was engulfed by multicolored light.

Chapter 748 - 743: Soldier Of War, Raw Poison Mixture

Dzzzt!

Guan Yu's eyes opened as he looked at the halo quiver and rise, revealing the figure of Wei Wuyin in all his pure white-dressed, extremely handsome-faced, and closed-eyed glory. Guan Yu was interested in what Wei Wuyin purchased with his War Souls. He hurriedly rose and walked over, about to ask this question.

"How many Soldiers of War have you killed?" Wei Wuyin interrupted his curious approach with this direct question. This startled Guan Yu. Then, his expression shifted with a trace of fear.

"I'm not like that woman. I give my enemies the honor of a swift death, if possible. If...if you want my War Souls, I can give the excess and help you gather more!" Guan Yu hastily said, fearful that Wei Wuyin was about to act against him out of greed. Considering that Wei Wuyin had just been to the War Soul Exchange, he must've sensed how incredible those items were.

He gulped heavily, halting his steps and slowly moving to a defensive posture. If Wei Wuyin struck, he was fully intending to run to the edges of the Nexus Battlefield with all his might and escape.

"Just answer the question," Wei Wuyin said with a soft sigh. This Guan Yu was both brave and a coward, perhaps he was just practical and understood his circumstances, but it was still quite a character flaw.

Guan Yu went silent for a brief moment, then answered hesitantly: "I killed th-"

"Don't lie to me," Wei Wuyin abruptly added, his tone becoming glacial.

Guan Yu's heart raced and his blood felt as if he was being eyed by a beast, a judge deciding his life or death. If he decided to lie, he might forfeit his life entirely. With another heavy gulp, he took a deep breath and calmly said: "Nine. I've killed Nine."

Wei Wuyin looked at Guan Yu. This Guan Yu was marked for death already, so meeting Jing Jiu was just a quicker end. Who knew how many lives he'd taken if he wasn't placed on Jing Jiu's path? Furthermore, to accrue a sinful aura, what other despicable acts he must've done?

"I won't lie to you; you're marked for death. You've reached the maximum limit of kills before the Nexus Battlefield's War Spirit executes you for your crimes against your allies." Wei Wuyin didn't hold the truth back.

"WHAT?!" Guan Yu was caught off-guard. His first response was denial, "Impossible! Where are you getting this information? Do you think that...my clan has known about the Nexus Battlefield far longer than you ever have! Execution? Ha! If you want to use an excuse...if..." Guan Yu shouted and shouted, but Wei Wuyin just faced him with a neutral expression. The more he spoke, the more Wei Wuyin's face remained unchanged, the more Guan Yu became unsettled.

"No, no, no. It's not possible. People have killed far more than me, yeah. Yeah, way more. And what allies? Each one of these people are my enemy! That...wom-woman, if you can call her one, was certainly not my ally! She would've killed us if we hadn't...if you hadn't..." Yet the more he spoke, the more his mind slowly processed the situation. All the thoughts Wei Wuyin had, all the knowledge of the Nexus Battlefield that he had Guan Yu had it too.

The most crucial of which was: "The purpose of the Nexus Battlefield."

"NO! No..." Guan Yu's stance lowered, his eyes became dazed, and his expression slacked.

He realized it.

Wei Wuyin heavily sighed in his heart. He knew this feeling all too well, and it had shattered his Heart of Cultivation. The Calamities of Hell was a force he felt he was unable to fight against and he knew his life was going to end. How could a mere mortal survive the trials and tribulations of Hell? The cleansing power of the Heavenly Daos?

Guan Yu did not have the power to resist the War Spirit or the strange forces of this world; his life was forfeit. The Heavenly Daos knew it, the War Spirit knew it, Wei Wuyin knew it, and now Guan Yu knew it.

Wei Wuyin let the realization settle in, focusing on the Myriad Gravestone Poison in the spatial ring. Even when Guan Yu spoke the words to leave, arriving at the War Soul Exchange, likely to question the War Spirit, Wei Wuyin kept making his preparations.

The Myriad Gravestone Poison could be considered a peak astral-grade poisonous fluid that was airborne. It was colorless, traceless, avoided spiritual sense, and can adhere to energies to infect a cultivator. When he first smelled the floral fragrance, he knew it was poison. It had invaded his body and tried to exert its toxic effects, but Kratos was actively aware of every cell and particle in his body.

Before he could experience the effects, Kratos had already started gathering the poison as it entered his body, isolating and accumulating it in a small and spatially isolated location.

The reason he decided to walk towards their battle was to discover its source. Because after a brief inspection, he learned that this poison was a weakening agent for innate energies, affecting all four types eventually—Physical, Mental, Essence, and Spiritual.

It was parasitic in nature, devouring these energies and strengthening itself. It was also very, very difficult to isolate using normal means, because it ate at the four types of essential energies of a cultivator.

At first, he thought this was Jing Jiu's lucky chance, a way for a mortal to obtain the right to observe the Obelisk of War, but he was wrong. Jing Jiu's fortune was War Souls and Sky-World Lightning Essence in that woman's possession. All to prepare him to ascend to the next realm in his potential peak state. The Heavenly Daos were too kind.

And it seemed that he was right to come to that conclusion, because this poison wouldn't affect Ascended beings, because it eats at four types of energies, yet Ascended grasped a fifth—Mystic Energy. Without that, they could easily expel this poison upon noticing it, because it was just a weakening agent.

That said, it didn't mean there wasn't a way. During his experimentation with transcendent products, specifically refining mystic-graded materials into mortal-graded materials, he discovered a very interesting detail regarding this process. While he still couldn't actively refine them into pills, elixirs, and paste, because they needed continuous processing of the Seven Aspects of the Alchemic Dao.

But pellets were far, far simpler despite needing the same.

Because it just required the extraction and infusion of the material's essence and energies into a single whole, carefully balanced and sealed. While he wasn't able to sense mystic-graded materials' essence and energies, that didn't mean he couldn't introduce the entire thing into the eventual product and hope for the best.

It was crude. Incredibly raw and unrefined. In fact, it wouldn't even allow him to successfully concoct a product in accordance with the Alchemic Dao. The eventual pellet would just be a strange mixture of materials without much elegance, just raw chemical reactions, like mixing dried milk with water. That wasn't remotely close to being alchemy.

Shortly after personally meeting the poisonous woman, Wei Wuyin had an ingenious thought after Eden was capable of inspecting its contents and essential composition. With that, he recalled all the mystic-graded materials he obtained from Cai Liuyang's possession. Fortunately, she was quite detailed and kept all her materials organized and named, including listing their effects in various jade boxes.

With roughly forty different mortal-graded materials including a single petal of the World Devouring Rose, a mystic-graded material, he refined the Myriad Gravestone Poison once again, and concocted himself strange, raw-type of poison!

This poison was what he used on the woman, and all her energies, lifeforce, and Sea of Consciousness was being devoured to fuel its toxic weakening power. She was too weak to resist, so her life was slowly going to an end. While it wasn't close to being at its full potential due to the lack of proper refinement, it was enough.

The World Devouring Rose wasn't a poisonous material, but it had the effect of absorbing every type of energy source in the world, including mystic energies and blooming into a unique flower with a specific affinity. At its base form, it was a high-grade Mystic-Earth material. But if one feeds it pure fire energies, it'll eventually become a World Flame Rose, a peak-grade Mystic-Earth material, and suitable to be used for cultivation or alchemical concoction.

With this, he now had an opportunity to fight an impossible war...

And win!

But only the opportunity to fight, not a guarantee for victory. That part was going to be a little risky and...brutal to achieve.

Dzzzt!

Guan Yu returned. His expression was extremely dazed, his eyes glossed over in defeat and weakness, and he seemed to have aged ten years. He didn't try to speak or move, just fell flatly to the ground with a soft thud, looking at the sky.

Wei Wuyin looked at his dejected form. The thought of killing him for Karmic Luck was faintly wiggling in his mind. Yet, in the end, he decided against it.

"There is a way for you to survive." Like a devilish existence promising endless riches and immortality, Wei Wuyin spoke those eight words that drenched one with desire and hope. To the desperate, it was like golden honey no matter how it was said.

Guan Yu's eyes immediately cleared, his head turning to Wei Wuyin with flickering hope. If there was any chance, he'd grasp it no matter what!

Chapter 749 - 744: Soldier Of War, Mysterious Woman

"You're totally serious, aren't you?!" Guan Yu cried out as he leaned his bident against the back of his neck, hanging his arms from its sides, a position he seemed to find enjoyable to be in. Unlike the despondent and lifeless form he had been in before, he was presently filled with life.

Wei Wuyin beside him, distanced by a few meters of open space. They walked the Earthen Horizon Zone together, side-by-side. However, Guan Yu was clearly following along. Wei Wuyin was absorbed in his thoughts, head down, brows furrowed, and outright ignoring the exuberantly astonished Guan Yu.

Guan Yu, however, was fine with being ignored. The tether to life was before him, so as long as it could pull him from the clutches of certain death, he didn't mind any form of abuse. And this was merely being ignored, so he wasn't offended at all.

Step! Step! Step!

A series of rushed footsteps resounded, approaching the two with determined swiftness. The air of blood lingered, growing stronger by the second. Guan Yu glanced at the direction of the sound and a figure soon came into view. The figure saw the two of them from afar, buddied together as if they were allies. The expression of the figure immediately changed, and then their eyes glinted with a dark and heavy light, clearly preparing for a fierce fight that might end up in its loss of life.

Guan Yu frowned while Wei Wuyin ignored this development, his thoughts and focus elsewhere. Guan Yu casually shrugged with indifference in his eyes, "You can leave."

Those dismissive words startled the figure for a moment, looking at Guan Yu and then Wei Wuyin. These two seemed unhurt and gave off a strange feeling. The figure realized that pushing the issue might be unwise. They proceeded to retreat cautiously, their eyes never leaving the two potential enemies. After shuffling back for a bit, seeing the two not pursuing, the figure turned and rushed off with maximal effort. A one versus two battle was not something the figure wished to engage in.

Guan Yu watched the figure scurrying off in a hurry, "I wonder if they'll be executed when they leave..." A forlorn emotion suffused his low tone, remembering that many talented soldiers were caught in the ignorance of their ancestors, misunderstanding the purpose of the Battlefield and suffering unfair deaths as a result. They sought a better future with greater rewards, but all they'd receive was death in the false mental triumph of victory.

"Doesn't matter," Wei Wuyin indifferently commented. "Those capable will think for themselves. Those incapable will die unjust deaths. Those capable and willing to ignorantly indulge earned their deaths."

Guan Yu's expression drastically changed, becoming incredibly ugly and twisted. Wasn't he a full-fledged member of the third type? After all, he had the means and knowledge, yet he didn't have the forethought to ask a single question or think for himself, following the teachings about the Battlefield left by his clan. However, he couldn't refute. He firmly fit that description.

Wei Wuyin and Guan Yu continued onwards at a steady pace. That little encounter hadn't just happened once, but multiple times since they departed for the central area of the Nexus Battlefield with multiple different Soldiers of War. They had been walking slowly through the Earthen Horizon Zone, making their way towards the center of the Battlefield where the Obelisk of War was standing tall. Wei Wuyin used this period of travel to slowly and efficiently refine that new poison of his.

While doing this, King and Ori were pulsating within his Dantian. Kratos pumped fiercely as his fleshy heart and Eden stretched its roots deeply within his Sea of Consciousness. With his newly refined physique, he could handle the base limits of their spiritual strength, so he felt far better than before with all four unsealed. Since they were crucial to the final phases of his plan, he decided to see where his bodily limits lie.

Guan Yu's expression had eased considerably since Wei Wuyin's brutally honest comment. When they reached the edges of the Earthen Horizon Zone, seeing a field of dense trees ahead, Guan Yu used this opportunity to start another conversation.

"What do you think the Heavenly War Spirit means?" Guan Yu was well aware of all the pricing and offering of the Nexus Battlefield's War Soul Exchange. This particular detail had been theorized by his clan for over two hundred thousand years.

When Guan Yu first learned of this, learned about the typical population size of the Nexus Battlefield, he believed the Soldiers of War all had sufficient War Souls to pay the 5,000,000 price tag. But he'll have to slaughter half the Nexus Battlefield to obtain it. That or ask very nicely, of course.

Unfortunately, Guan Yu also knew that War Souls not earned by oneself were unable to be traded in the War Soul Exchange, it was only useful to be traded outside the Battlefield, so that crushed all his

dreams. It wasn't just the end of that dream, but the majority of the exquisitely high-level items available were unable to be purchased. They could only be looked at wistfully.

It was unfortunate too, because one could only enter the Nexus Battlefield as a mortal once, and upon leaving, they'll have to wait until they become an Ascended. Because of this, those cultivation methods like the Swordlight Dawnbreaker Cultivation Method requiring 900 War Souls, a method that far exceeded even his own, could only be stared at with frustration and desire.

The more he thought about it, the more frustrated he felt. That Warring Soul, Triumphant World Method was outrageously valuable. To think it guaranteed the establishment of a physique capable of handling a 9th Rune Seed Ascension, even giving the chance to ascend using a World Rune Seed!

However, it was limited to the Soldier's List! So even Commanders, those Ascended beings that might have the slightest chance of landing here with that amount, were unable to purchase it for their forces.

There was once a sect from his stellar region that had luckily obtained a High-Earth Method from the Battlefield. In a thousand years, they had matched the previously strongest force. In another thousand years, they became the absolute rulers of the stellar region. While certain things happened that eventually led to its demise, that force had sparked legends towards the Battlefield and its offered treasures. This was just a cultivation method too.

Wei Wuyin sniffed slightly. He smelled the scent of wood and foliage. A forest was nearby. According to Guan Yu, this forest was called the Forest Horizon Zone; the Nexus Battlefield wasn't very creative. It was very close to the Obelisk of War.

"It doesn't matter," Wei Wuyin answered Guan Yu's question after a long delay.

"How can you say that? Come on, you must have some ideas. I've never met someone as logical and smart as you, and I've met a lot of cultivators. Come on, you must have a guess at least!" Guan Yu egged, lavishing praise onto Wei Wuyin's ego, trying to rid himself of his vexed thoughts.

Wei Wuyin sighed. That statement definitely wasn't true, but he didn't feel like calling out Guan Yu for his nonsense and pitiful attempt at persuasion. "My guess? It's the War Spirit itself. "

"War Spirit?" Guan Yu was baffled for a moment, then his eyes brightened considerably. "THE War Spirit? Isn't that the ruler of this entire chaos realm?! That can't be, right? If one can own the War Spirit, wouldn't that mean ownership of the Battlefield?! AND everything in it?!"

Wei Wuyin didn't respond, merely gave an indifferent smile. It didn't matter what he or Guan Yu believed to be true. Unless they could afford it, none of it mattered. That said, he was already exposed to Spiritform beings, such as Wang Yutian.

According to Wang Yutian, his lifespan and soul had been transformed by the King of Everlore somehow, becoming essentially immortal and a new lifeform. This unique state afforded Spiritform beings further, more profound, advantages very suitable for overseeing realms. The various cultivators of the Everlore Starfield, such as Divine King Han Xei had implemented such means to leave behind legacies and regulate the stability of the realm.

Despite this being his guess, he wasn't absolutely certain about it. There were a few peculiarities if this was indeed the case, leaving too many unanswered questions. But at this moment, Wei Wuyin simply wanted to focus on the upcoming task, not delve into the incredible mysteries of the Battlefield.

"Earning the qualifications to observe the Obelisk of War is my only priority," Wei Wuyin reminded himself.

As an Exploitative Blessed, he was exceptional at grasping opportunities amidst difficulty and dangers. And as an Inheritor of Sin, it seems his ability to snatch the fortune of other Blessed was a destined occurrence. While this wasn't his fortuitous chance, he sought to make full use of it.

The two trekked across the Forest Horizon Zone, meeting a few Soldiers of War along the way, but their united presence led those lone soldiers to depart in haste. None of these warriors wanted to risk their lives in an uneven fight, so they turned tail at the first opportunity.

The two soon arrived at the very center of the Nexus Battlefield. If Wei Wuyin could see it, he would instantly recognize it as the monolith he saw after acquiring the Mark of War.

"We're here," Guan Yu said, his expression darkening considerably.

Wei Wuyin nodded. To be honest, Guan Yu was a valuable asset. While he wasn't very strong, he had two things that Wei Wuyin lacked at the moment: sight and direction. If he had traversed alone, it would've been a hellish hassle. To begin, he didn't even know which direction was the center, and if he interrogated others, they might lie to him out of grievance, seeking to take advantage of his current state.

Moreover, with the two traveling together, he didn't have to deal with others assaulting him without rest.

"Are you really serious about this?" Guan Yu solemnly asked, lacking the exuberant demeanor he had earlier. There was true skepticism now that he faced the Obelisk of War, now that he was truly here.

"Serious about what?"

The two immediately turned their heads, with Guan Yu visually seeing the presence of a young woman a dozen or so meters away, her hair was white, and her eyes were dark grey with multicolored flecks of white, black, and even a bit of orange. It reminded one of an uninhabited lunar satellite. She was slim in physique, roughly five feet and four inches in height, and dressed in form-fitting white and black robe.

While Wei Wuyin heard nothing, not a heartbeat or sounds of breathing coming from that direction. So when he heard that voice, his expression changed slightly, becoming dignified. Eden's roots quivered within his Sea of Consciousness.

"Guan Yu," Wei Wuyin called out.

"...Yeah?" Guan Yu's eyes were honed intently on this woman that had just spontaneously arrived. Her face was blurry and a little painful to look at. She was clearly using a strange tool to conceal her facial features. A strange action in this Nexus Battlefield. Still, from her body, and the contours of her face, it was highly possible she was a beautiful existence blessed by the heavens.

"She's an assassin," Wei Wuyin stated.



"What?" Guan Yu was startled. However, he understood Wei Wuyin's intentions, and he prepared himself for any sudden assault.

The white-haired woman seemed entirely unbothered by their exchange of cautionary words, standing completely still while observing them. "I'm harmless, with no ill-will to speak of.. I'm just curious why you're here. So, what are you serious about?"

Chapter 750 - 745: Soldier Of War, What I Want

"I'm harmless, with no ill-will to speak of. I'm just curious why you're here. So, what are you serious about?" While the words of the mysterious woman lacked any aggression, her appearance instilled heavy vigilance in the male duo. Guan Yu held Wei Wuyin's warning with great importance, his eyes not leaving the mysterious woman's figure for a split second.

An assassin was deadliest when one's guard was lowered. Furthermore, this was the Nexus Battlefield. It would be foolish to think that her intentions were pure and harmless. After all, all these Soldiers of War must obtain 1,000 War Souls to attain the qualifications to leave.

Besides earning that prior to arrival, there was no other way to obtain it except from the corpses of others. While this might not be the intention of the Nexus Battlefield, the cage it formed had left them with little choice but to resort to such violent actions. It was either that or staying in this restrictively harsh environment until the limits of their lifespan were reached.

Guan Yu whipped his bident about, brandishing it slowly as he firmly held it in a defensive position. "It's none of your business. So carry on," Guan Yu replied with a hint of solemnity and aggression.

"..." The mysterious woman remained silent in the face of Guan Yu's statement. Her stance was neutral and facial expression and countenance was concealed behind a blur, so one was unable to catch a glimpse of her thoughts or reaction.

Wei Wuyin felt Eden trembled again, including Kratos' heart race slightly. They both sensed the extremely faint, almost impossible to detect killing intent. In terms of quantity, it was extremely minute, but its quality was the greatest he had ever felt before, far exceeding that poison cultivator. The killing intent, however, lasted for less than a picosecond, so it was almost impossible to grasp through one's normal senses. To the vast majority, they might not even be able to register its existence.

Wei Wuyin couldn't help but bitterly smile in his heart. Why were the women he had met thus far so outrageously dangerous? First, the sadistic poison woman. Then, this curiously mysterious woman. While the former wasn't much of a threat, his current situation limited his senses. If she had struck while he was completely unaware of her existence, he couldn't be certain if he could've reacted in time.

"I just wanted to know? Is that so wrong?" The mysterious woman asked gently, her tone made it seem as if she was pouting, almost as if she was being bullied for her ignorance. Guan Yu was struck with a faint feeling that if he could see her facial expression, he might be struck with an internally crushing feeling of pity and guilt.

Wei Wuyin audibly sighed. He lifted his right arm and pointed towards the direction they were walking towards, "You see the Obelisk of War? We-"

"A little to the right," Guan Yu awkwardly interrupted. Right now, Wei Wuyin was trying to point at the Obelisk of War, but he was a little bit off.

"..." Wei Wuyin was silent for a moment, then repositioned his arm slightly. Then, he continued: "The Obelisk of War, we-"

"You're still a little off. More to the left," the mysterious woman added.

"..." Wei Wuyin sighed again. He 'looked' at Guan Yu's direction and said: "Point to the Obelisk." Guan Yu was momentarily stunned, but he eventually did it. Not only did he do it, Guan Yu saw the mysterious woman do it too, causing his brow to be lifted curiously, as if asking: "What are you doing?"

"The Obelisk of War, we're going to be challenging it. You should leave before you accidentally get caught in this." Wei Wuyin finally got out his words, warning the mysterious woman as well. He decided to not lie or waste time with this.

"Challenge it?" The mysterious woman paused for a moment, yet Guan Yu and Wei Wuyin could feel a sharp gaze sweep upon their bodies during this pause. It felt sort of uncomfortable, akin to an ocular spell being deployed. However, such skills were heavily restrained in this environment, so it shouldn't be remotely possible. Still, Guan Yu frowned and tensely clenched the shaft of his weapon.

The mysterious woman disbelievably said, "But you're both Mortals. And you're clearly blind." From the tone of her voice, there wasn't just skepticism, but a tinge of anger as if they were trying to trick her. This emotional anger was more readily apparent, unlike that elusive killing intent before.

Wei Wuyin felt that this emotional response was falsified. This belief wasn't based on anything except a feeling of his. It caused him to grow a little curious about this assassin.

"Aren't you a mortal as well? So what of it?" Guan Yu bit back. Since the beginning of this encounter, he had always been on-guard against this woman. If she acted, he planned to fully unleash the maximal extent of his abilities to bring a battle to a swift end. He had no mercy towards the fairer sex, especially after witnessing the false skin of that sadistic woman from earlier.

Hearing this, the mysterious woman lowered her pointing hand, yet this simple movement caused the atmosphere to abruptly chill. "I don't like being treated as a fool," the mysterious woman's tone was not glacial or violent, but extremely indifferent. It felt even more terrifying than a voice infused with murderous rage.

"Whether you believe us or not, it doesn't matter. If you wish to risk your life to stay here, then so be it. We won't interfere. I imagine your abilities won't be able to escape the senses of other Ascended beings." After saying this, Wei Wuyin ignored the woman and made his way towards the Obelisk of War.

"..." The chilled atmosphere heated up, normalizing in ambience.

'I didn't think it'd be true, but I guess that makes sense.' Wei Wuyin's thoughts were stirring with various thoughts. When he deduced that this was Jing Jiu's fortuitous event, that eventually he'll return to observe the Obelisk of War, he felt that the chances of facing 10,000 Ascended in a trained army alone wasn't very practical. There might be others to support him. Others he might meet prior to leaving.

However, that gaze, those words of hers, the location she was at, all of it alluded to a single conclusion: She was an Ascended being!

It didn't make sense that outstanding Ascended beings weren't able to claim the right to enter, even Guan Yu's ancestor accomplished it. It was possible, but very unlikely, that he was the first, but he certainly wouldn't have been the last. These Ascended beings would've been explained the rules of the Nexus Battlefield as Commanders of War. Perhaps they would've learned that the act of fragging meant certain death. With the high number of War Souls needed for their escape, they certainly wouldn't try to kill Soldiers of War. Thus, they would be left with two choices: live out the rest of their lifespan here or challenge the Obelisk of War.

Those who challenged the Obelisk of War would almost certainly die. After all, it was one against ten thousand. As for those who decided to live out the unfortunate remainder of their lives here...

Wei Wuyin had his speculations at first, but the mysterious woman's existence all but verified it. Her piercing gaze, his inability to sense her existence on any level, and her ability to affect the surrounding atmosphere with just her emotions. This was all indicative that her powers exceeded Mortal Limits.

Guan Yu was still boggled by the narrow-minded belief that Ascended wouldn't ever descend onto the Nexus Battlefield, so he hadn't figured it out yet.

"Wait," the mysterious woman called out. Her tone carried a heavy trace of interest, far more genuine than before. It wasn't a byproduct of her mind-numbing boredom being transformed into curiosity, but sparked by something else.

Wei Wuyin halted his steps. He 'looked' towards the direction of her voice. It didn't take long for her to arrive directly in front of Wei Wuyin, and Guan Yu's expression grew tense. The mysterious woman was merely a few feet away from him, but Guan Yu didn't believe Wei Wuyin was incapable of handling himself.

Wei Wuyin allowed her to approach. In truth, he didn't have much confidence in dealing with an Ascended in a direct battle without unleashing all of his trump cards, but if she put herself in range of him, he had roughly a dozen ways to defend or eliminate her instantly. This would be even more so if she underestimated him.

Just as Wei Wuyin was waiting for Eden to alert him of any ill-intent, ready to instantly retaliate, he instead received no response from Eden as he felt a hand press softly against his chest. The hand caressed his chest, causing his expression to change.

"This is at the quasi-level of Mystic-World grade. World Heart Intent? Such a high-level World Heart Intent, and yet you're only a mortal." The mysterious woman kept touching, feeling the gambeson's texture and structure, alongside Wei Wuyin's firm chest.

"..." Seeing the mysterious woman touch Wei Wuyin in such a manner, Guan Yu was quite shocked, but then immediately awkward. He could hear the interest within her voice, alongside the astonishment and deepening allure.

Her hand trailed down from his upper torso downward, passed his dantian and then neared his...

Wei Wuyin reached out to grasp her wrist, stopping her from doing as she pleased. He didn't know what was going on in this woman's mind, but he had no intention of being taken advantage of so blindly, even if he was technically blind at the moment.

The mysterious woman was entirely unbothered by Wei Wuyin's haltingly grab, offering no resistance to it. However, she reached out with her other hand, and attempted to touch his face. Wei Wuyin's brows instantly furrowed, using his other hand to stop this action.

It was one thing to allow her to draw close to formulate better retaliatory conditions, but another entirely to allow an Ascended of unknown strength to touch his exposed skin. While he was confident in his physical body and its currently refined state, he had no intention to allow this woman to test it in a sudden assault.

While he felt she was an Ascended, that she wouldn't act to kill allies while being aware of the rules, his feelings weren't an absolute certainty. Still, with their current position, Wei Wuyin was confident in curbing this Ascended instantly. Especially in this heavily restricted area like the Nexus Battlefield.

However, the mysterious woman still seemed entirely unconcerned as Wei Wuyin held both of her wrists. "You truly intend to challenge the Obelisk of War, don't you?" She softly asked, but her voice felt different than before. Carrying admiration and something else that was difficult to pinpoint.

"Yes, I do." Was all he replied with.

"..." There was a long pause. The atmosphere became awkward, especially for Guan Yu. The last bit of conversation felt like a wife questioning her husband's decision, yet the husband instantly replied with the utmost resolve and courage, reflecting his strong will to march out to war.

"What do you want?" Wei Wuyin decided to not keep this going any longer. He didn't have all day to wait, and he needed to challenge the Obelisk of War. If his planned actions don't work, he decided in his heart to depart the Nexus Battlefield immediately. Since he could outrun Cai Liuyang, he felt confident that he could outrun other Ascended in this small environment, reaching the Nexus Battlefield's walls.

The mysterious woman stayed silent for a while, but then she slowly twisted her wrist out of Wei Wuyin's grasp. Wei Wuyin let her go.

"What do I want?" She said, looking down at the ground. Despite her blurred expression, the level of internal conflict and sadness borne from this action could be felt, even by the blind. "I want to leave here."

Wei Wuyin frowned upon hearing this.

So did Guan Yu. He was still of the belief that she was a Soldier of War. Was she aware of the execution rule? He felt horrible if this was the case. Wouldn't this mean he was truly incapable?

Wei Wuyin clarified, "What do you want from me?"

While the woman's facial expressions were blurred, if one saw the position of her head, they could roughly guess that she was staring intently at Wei Wuyin's face. She slowly said, "I've met few that could comprehend World Heart Intent as a mere mortal. I've met even less that were men, and none as incredibly handsome as you. While you might be blind, your body, instincts, and face match my

preferences perfectly. You even discovered that I was an Ascended. No one else besides the others has yet."

"..." Wei Wuyin's mind stirred. Earlier, he had said 'other' Ascended beings in hopes to provoke a vocal confirmation, preferably an exclamation of surprise. He didn't expect it to lead to nonconsensual touching. More importantly, this indirectly confirmed that there were other Ascended present.

"What do I want?" The woman said through a strange smile, "I don't want to die an unloved, bitter and miserable virgin in some godforsaken Battlefield of archaic design, impossible to escape, and unable to ever see the stars again. I want a handsomely talented, intelligent, and courageous man to take me, allow me to experience how it feels to be a woman at least once. You fit that image perfectly."

Wei Wuyin's mind stirred even fiercer, but his surging mind soon calmed down, halted by his own beliefs and principles.

"I'm offering you the Primal Yin of a Demi-Mortal Lord beauty, free-of-charge with no obligation, are you willing?"

Guan Yu's voice resounded, "I'm willing! I'm ABSOLUTELY willing!"