

Chapter 761 - 756: Soldier Of War, Death

Invincible.

On a battlefield where the beings present hadn't exceeded the Demi-Mortal Lords Phase, an Earthly Saint was just that—Invincible. Not a single person questioned this statement in their minds, fully believing in its truth. And it was the truth.

The Legion Commander's cold eyes behind his fearsome helmet swept the horizon, observing the far-off beings that were gawking onwards with fear and shock. He had slaughtered the chicken, scaring all these pathetic monkeys. An extraordinarily effective tactic.

However, this moment of superiority was not enough to alleviate his feelings of losing his entire army. If it weren't for that dastardly poison, this never would've happened. If it wasn't for one particular mortal with strange and unique abilities stuffed into a single existence, how could he suffer this catastrophic loss?

His eyes left those gawking, insignificant insects that were like loose sand, focusing on the figure lying within the crater of its own making. The falsely blind mortal soldier that rampaged throughout, causing unimaginable carnage. His steps were slow as he approached, but every step pressed heavily against the onlookers' hearts.

They knew that when Wei Wuyin died, the challenge would end. Yet after experiencing his god-like assault, taking down 9,999 Ascended beings as a mere mortal, sentiment for his survival was strong and firm. However, few felt willing to throw their lives away.

Clearly, from all the incredible things, such as the four thirteen-ringed Soul Idols, rapid movements, fierce attacks, and unleashing that last devastating attack that turned the remaining soldiers into ash, that mortal was a spent force. No matter how one looked at it, no matter what treasures, tools, and talismans he had used to conjure such astonishing heaven-defying things, they should all have a price.

If Wei Wuyin knew that the vast majority of cultivators concluded that his four Soul Idols were manifestations of unique treasures, his feats were contributed by external means; he wouldn't know whether to laugh or shake his head. However, the cultivation world was just like that.

Just like how it wasn't normal in the Scarlet Solaris Sect that he comprehended his high-grade Steel Metal Intent or cultivated so rapidly without some strange treasure to support himself in the eyes of those elders and disciples. Similarly, it wasn't normal to have four independent Astral Souls, all of which were pushed to the thirteenth-ring and facing 10,000 Ascended beings with one's own power.

To them, he had to have belonged to a peak-tier force and unleashed the protective and planned methods of his parents or force. Some of the younger ones might even harbor greed in their hearts, thinking of obtaining these treasures from his corpse after his death. While the older ones wouldn't dare, not wanting to bring trouble. Too bad those older were all trapped and unable to escape.

Their only chance was to kill the Legion Commander in front of them, but that existence was a legitimate Earthly Saint! Even the extremely aged Ascended Commander sighed with heavy pity, realizing his fate was to die here after all. There would be no overturning of his fate.

Guan Yu's grip tightened around the mysterious woman's hand.

She turned to face him: "I'm not going. Your orders were to not get involved at all cost?" When she asked this question, Guan Yu's expression eased. He regained a little bit of his nerves and nodded.

"I-I...He said that no matter what, I must not approach until the Legion Commander is dead—No matter what." He emphasized those words in the same manner and tone that Wei Wuyin had informed him. The severity with which these words were spoken was unfathomably high. Guan Yu, however, neglected to say that Wei Wuyin said this was the only way for him to escape alive.

Any deviation was similar to forfeiting his own life. How could he allow this woman to ruin anything? Even if her status was special, he outright refused even if he was killed. Because he would die regardless. That's why he was so strongly against her taking action. His life was at stake.

Perhaps he would've allowed her to go as an Ascended, especially since Wei Wuyin seemed like a spent force who failed in using his final trump card, but after seeing him take down 9,999 Spirits of War with precision and tactics, he no longer doubted a single word. Everything thus far went exactly how Wei Wuyin said, down to the evisceration of the battlefield from those void flames.

The woman stared at Guan Yu for a long moment. In the end, she sighed to herself. Turned to the slow-moving Legion Commander as if he was a war god walking the mortal realm, imposing and invincible, and softly muttered to herself: "If you can pull this off..."

She decided something in her heart but didn't dare to voice it out to the world.

The Legion Commander continued his leisurely walk, already just a few dozen meters away from the crater. At this moment, an armored hand pushed out of the earth, causing him to look towards it with caution. Wei Wuyin was a being who seemingly had endless tricks; he refused to be one-upped by carelessness, so he remained vigilant. It was the core reason why he was moving so slowly.

The hand, however, caused his eyes to brighten beneath the helmet! That hand was familiar, from its aura and size! Then, his eyes brightened further as he replayed the battle and realized it belonged to a soldier by the name of Han Yixin! In that exact same location, that soldier had fallen through the earth.

He was extremely elated! To discover that there was another living soul had eased his own rage, but just barely. However, no one could tell from his expression of his intense emotions and bright smile behind his dragon-head helmet. With a few steps, he arrived and grabbed the hand. He verified the person's Soul Aura, feeling even more elated.

When he pulled, it revealed a heavily armored figure covered in dirt who was barely conscious. When the Legion Commander saw the contours of his face, the familiarity of his aura, sensed the unique traces of a Spirit of War's lifeforce, he heavily sighed with relief at finding another survivor.

He placed him down carefully, gently laying him on his back, speaking some consoling words to the half-conscious soldier. The last of which was: "Stay here; I'll finish this and we can go home soldier."

A grunt of instinctive agreement resounded.

The Legion Commander turned to Wei Wuyin's hole, his will for vengeance renewed. He soon arrived at the edge, seeing the unconscious figure in the crater, lacking all signs of energy and power. Absolutely drained. In fact, he seemed barely alive.

Considering Void Flames was an existence that was in the top five most dangerous, catastrophic existences in his knowledge, this fate felt consistent with his own thoughts of a mortal trying to harness its might. Furthermore, so much of it was released and controlled to not spread chaotically throughout the battlefield. There had to be a cost.

And he felt that he was seeing it. Behind his helmet, he sneered mockingly.

The woman's eyes lit. Perhaps this was a possum-play waiting for the Legion Commander to get close, setting him up for a trap! The moment he entered the crater, it would unfold and end it all. Her excitement was spurred, and she watched with bated breath. So did the others. No way this mortal soldier had just this, right? If you couldn't deal with the leader, what was the point of it all?

But then the Legion Commander did something that dashed their hopes. He took out his weapon, similarly a saber but far more curved than Wei Wuyin's. Its length was shorter, but its bent spine produced a cold chill to its edge. Then, he cocked his head to the side and without hesitation, he threw the saber!

The blade rocketed forth like a missile, penetrating the unconscious body of Wei Wuyin! It pressed accurately against his neck, and the head was severed!

The others didn't see what had happened, but they could guess...

The Legion Commander summoned the head with a beckoning gesture, flying into his hand as he observed that incredibly handsome visage. All the spectators could see it. The exhausted expression, the severed neck dripping with crimson blood.

Guan Yu's expression paled.

The woman's eyes widened.

Was he dead?!

Just like THAT?!?!

SHIING!

Chapter 762 - 757: Soldier Of War, For The Head

SHIING!

A familiar saber howl resounded, causing the hearts and minds of everyone to halt. An armored figure rushed towards the back of the Legion Commander with extreme speed! With a saber in hand, he sliced it forward with indomitable might!

It was the Spirit of War!

"As if I believed you," the Legion Commander's voice exploded throughout the world, and he turned completely around like an eerie phantom, reaching out to grab the wrist of the armored soldier's saber wielding hand.

NO!

They all paled.

The Legion Commander didn't hesitate to drop the head in his hand, turning palm into a saber; he thrusted fiercely towards the mere mortal before him, plunging his hand into his heart. A splash of gray blood sprayed out uncontrollably!

"That's more consistent," the Legion Commander sneeringly mocked. After all, Wei Wuyin's blood was gray! When that arrow hit him, the impact caused him to spit out bits of blood and it wasn't crimson! As for pretending to be his ally, he figured it out the moment he noticed the body beneath wasn't moving the slightest.

However, he must applaud the effort and planning. Wei Wuyin's tactics would have been somewhat effective if it not for this easily overlooked detail! Whether it was timing or execution, Wei Wuyin was absolutely flawless. That saber was just a single centimeter from the Legion Commander's chest. If he had been immersed in his emotions of fulfilled vengeance, perhaps it would've worked.

While he didn't know how Wei Wuyin perfectly disguised himself as a Spirit of War, it was an impeccable, indistinguishable disguise. Unfortunately, before intellect, instinct, and power, all these schemes were useless. And the Legion Commander lacked none of it.

"Still a young fool, a tiny mortal. Even if you stabbed me in the heart, I'd have lived. I am not a typical being, my heart is no longer my vital organ. You should've at least gone for the head." As if a wise sage teaching a student, the Legion Commander said. As an Earthly Saint, his existence had changed on a fundamental level, even Mystic Star Phase cultivators couldn't be easily killed by piercing the heart.

The disguised Wei Wuyin as a Spirit of War fiercely yet futilely struggled as the life force slowly seeped out of his body. He even went so far as to spit out wads of gray blood in the Legion Commander's face. Yet this only accelerates the blood loss, yet he vomited out more fluids that drenched the Legion Commander as his eyes seemingly bulged almost out of his sockets. Those black irises of his staring daggers at the Legion Commander!

The Legion Commander only indifferently watched, allowing him to witness the last moments of the one who caused his army to fall. The Legion Commander couldn't help but feel emotional. This was a terrifying talent of war, completely devastating an elite army alone. It was too bad that he couldn't take that final step. Too bad.

The body in the hole stopped squirming, completely lifeless. Feeling the lack of resistance, he felt neither euphoric nor at peace, just...empty. He lost his entire army, his whole family, and the one responsible had perished by his hands justly. Yet he felt hollow.

What was victory if it cost everything? It was his uselessness as a Legion Commander that caused this disaster. He decided to reflect on himself, and when given a new army later, he'd be sure to train them

correctly. If one thought he should follow along with his fallen soldiers due to his responsibility, they wouldn't be wrong, yet the Legion Commander felt hollow, not remorse or sadness.

His army was a tool of war just like any other, and so were their lives. He didn't blink as they died or tried to save a single being by risking his own life despite having the greatest combat strength even while subjected to the poison mixture, all so he didn't suffer an unexpected demise.

Just as the forlorn emotion swelled in the hearts of every last being, the sounds of faint breaking earth resounded from a location extremely close to the Legion Commander. This caused the Legion Commander's breathing to halt; he turned to see a figure that should be dead!

Wei Wuyin's handsome visage was slowly revealed, slinking upwards from the earth as if he was one with it, sporting his signature pristinely white gambeson, saber, and all! Furthermore, he seemed relatively unharmed! Moreover, his eyes were tightly shut.

"Thanks for the advice," Wei Wuyin honestly said. The Legion Commander turned his head, and his eyes widened slightly. Two decoys? What?!

However, he felt that Wei Wuyin was incredibly foolish to reveal himself while he was entirely unhindered by that strange poison!

Wei Wuyin only said four words, "Worked once, worked again." When those words were said, three imposing auras simultaneously manifested in the sky above the two figures in close proximity!

Eden!

Kratos!

Ori!

King!

The last originated from his saber; all thirteen rings formed and spun wildly!

Five seconds...

That was all he had left. With a single step, he executed the Fixed Soul Spell. This action caused the Legion Commander to circulate his mystic power, his body about to unleash an extremely oppressive force upon Wei Wuyin's mortal body yet his body unnaturally halted.

No...

Oh no...

No no no!

When he felt the poison acting up within his body, triggered by his own actions, his eyes bulged as even he felt the World Devouring Rose and Myriad Gravestone Poison raw mixture activated. Furthermore, it seemed far, far more concentrated and potent than before!

Confused, his eyes bulged as the edge of a saber came into his view, aiming for his neck as he had advised. The more of his energy he tried to exert, the more was devoured and the weaker he became. He felt unfathomable fear!

Then it dawned on him.

He felt the warm gray blood on his face, on his skin, dripping down his armor. He had thought Wei Wuyin was dead! Furthermore, he had established safeguards; how did this happen?! Why was he so careless?! How could this have happened?! He couldn't understand or accept it at all!

WHY?!

SHIING!!!

A dragon-head helmet wearing head shot into the air, inundated by saber light and thoroughly annihilated.

The last Spirit of War, an invincible existence on the battlefield, met its end at a mortal's saber.

The world was utterly silent.

Chapter 763 - 758: Soldier Of War, Victorious

Huuuuuu!

Haaaaaaa!

A deep inhale of air followed by a heavily exhaled breath of tumultuous emotions and intense stress resounded. Wei Wuyin's Soul Idols vanished. His body and mind felt unbearably exhausted, thoroughly drained. If it weren't for his sheer willpower, the pain emanating from every cell in his body would've been more than enough to justify going unconscious.

He sheathed his saber, unbothered by the awed gazes that he felt on him. Without his spiritual strength bolstered by his Soul Idols, he was once again blinded to the visual beauty of the world. Yet, he was incredibly relieved. His eyes no longer felt as if they were bursting. He knew that if it weren't for his Eye of Immortality sustaining his eyes' physical form, they would've long since been eviscerated into nothing.

"While using force to seize victory felt amazing, although briefly, I'll never escape the practicality of tactics and well-executed schemes." Wei Wuyin wryly smiled in acceptance of his defeat by his inner nature, recalling his enlightened emotions when he first stepped onto the Battlefield, and everything the things that had happened since.

From facing Jing Jiu, taking down Cai Liuyang, then challenging an army of 10,000 Ascended beings, to killing an Earthly Saint with his saber, all of this couldn't have been done without extremely calculated moves at every step. Not even factoring the means deployed facing the ten thousand Ascended beings, drawing out almost all of his trump cards from his freakishly incredible Soul Idols, the Fixed Soul Spell, and his strongest Bloodline Ability: Void Breath.

"I must say: the False God Avatar is my first invented art, yet it's absolutely phenomenal. It's still earning its dividends to this day," Wei Wuyin sighed in sheer admiration at his younger self's genius. He was so

ignorant then, unaware of the limits of cultivation, yet he turned a simple matter, such as producing an Avatar, into all sorts of other ideas.

For example, the False God Avatar involved the idea of severing a portion of his Sea of Consciousness and placing it within a falsely conjured body to act as a perfect, indistinguishable avatar that he could control remotely. This very method was deployed on two corpses, even capable of integrating into a dying Spirit of War.

The first was a cadaver in the crater, merely a replica of a human body modeled in his image, a long-forgotten test subject for an attempt to cultivate using separate bodies that he had initiated long ago. It wasn't efficient or practical. But to serve as a replacement to falsify his death, it was absolutely perfect.

He switched out with the corpse after creating a wave of concealing dust from his fall; Wei Wuyin then slipped into the earth using his Elemental Origin Intent, merging with it perfectly like a fish in water. Finding one of the few spacious pockets he deliberately left with a crippled and weakened Spirit of War, he hurriedly eliminated their Sea of Consciousness, and placed a segregated portion of his own. With this, he could shortly control the living body for a brief moment.

He didn't need to modify the soul aura, lifeforce, or anything of the Spirit of War. This was extremely convenient. After that, he swiftly injected draconic void energies to artificially recolor its blood, purposely leaving the other corpse unchanged and then injecting highly-concentrated liquid poison mixture into both bodies.

The Legion Commander was only familiar with its gaseous form, not realizing it could be transmitted via blood or that someone would dare try to do so. While the Spirit of War was bound to die, as this was an absolutely lethal move to take, it was extremely effective in lowering his enemy's guard. In truth, even he wouldn't have thought of it if it wasn't for that sadistic woman.

To infuse that type of poisonous chemical into your body was the same as suicide unless you slowly accumulated it and gained an innate resistance, forging a poisonous physique. But how could a poison that can affect Ascended be refined and resisted by a mere mortal? Even he didn't blame the Earthly Saint for his carelessness. After believing that Spirit of War was a disguised version of himself, the Legion Commander was far too confident after confirming his theory triumphantly.

As for bleeding gray blood after being impacted by an arrow, that wasn't deliberate. It had only dawned on Wei Wuyin that this was a chink in his plans after he started the process of infusing his Sea of Consciousness underground, hence why he had to keep one unchanged and could only change the other. He didn't think it would fully contribute to making the Legion Commander believe he had won far more than the cunning false disguise would.

Sometimes, small details could ruin or amplify the effectiveness of any plan. This was just a little bit of luck on his part.

Thud!

The body of the Legion Commander finally dropped to its knees, its stump of a neck leaking white-colored blood. The skeletal warhorse followed its master in its demise, bursting into flames and vanishing with a final woeful neigh. Wei Wuyin felt awed about the Battlefield. He knew that if this had been in the actual world, without all these absurd restrictions, forcing even Ascended to fight like just

enhanced mortals, he wouldn't have been able to resist a single Ascended at the Soul of Mysticism Phase, let alone slay an Earthly Saint.

Beings of this level could lightly breathe on him in the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region and obliterate his entire existence. However, in the Nexus Battlefield, these insurmountable, invincible figures could be brought down by all sorts of ingenious methods and tactics.

"Perhaps that's the purpose of the Battlefield," Wei Wuyin lifted his head and once again inhaled deeply. When he exhaled out, he felt his mind grow clearer. While an Earthly Saint was terrifying, and the Nexus Battlefield somewhat restricted cultivators to only the Demi-Mortal Lord Phase, then only by using these unique tactics, environmental advantages, and straight-up coordinating strikes, it was technically impossible to claim victory.

Well, war wasn't a matter of one versus one to begin with, so this made perfect sense. At times, the weaker side can claim victory through various means. In war, victory was never just decided by the strongest.

Boosh!

The Earthly Saint's body fell forward and crashed into the ground, utterly lifeless.

Those observing were all in disbelief. The mortal had done it. He had taken down an Earthly Saint! They didn't know what happened, but the flying head engulfed by saber light detailed the conclusion of it all.

The extremely aged Ascended Commander looked on with his dimly lit eyes, almost as if it revealed death itself. Yet as time passed, it gradually started to change. It became brighter. It became livelier. It reflected true happiness!

"We-We're Free...We're free! WE'RE FREE!" An Ascended Commander that had been here for nearly five thousand years shouted with unfettered exhilaration, shouting in glee! They were all told that the condition to leave was either to obtain ten thousand War Souls, ten times the amount as those Soldiers of War, or challenge the Obelisk of War and become victorious!

The former wasn't possible for them, because killing your subordinates without cause was grounds for immediate execution without exception. As for betraying a fellow Commander of War, the outcome was the same! They couldn't collect War Souls from Soldiers of Wars either nor kill their fellow Ascended! They weren't afforded such luxuries as friendly fire with their power.

They weren't mortals. Mistakes were far harder to explain.

With all these unfair restrictions, albeit they were also fair, they were all trapped unless they decided to gather mortals to fight against 10,000 Ascended. Poison? Who hasn't thought of poison? But the 10,000 Ascended army had their own poison experts, so that wouldn't be effective to eliminate them all!

If they did it poorly, they might even sign their own death warrant.

But now, with the Legion Commander's demise, they were free.

They were VICTORIOUS!

The pure elation was unnatural, and hot tears streamed down the eyes of every last Commander of War. Truly, truly exceptional.

Wei Wuyin could hear faint sobbing sounds and the exclamation of joy, his expression changing slightly as he sighed soon after. These individuals were idiots, absolute fools.

He waved his hand around, trying to call Guan Yu to arrive. Wei Wuyin could only hope Guan Yu wasn't slaughtered by accident. Without his guide, he would truly be a little lost.

Still, he felt his palm pulsate as the Mark of Annihilation throbbed. He knew that all he had to do was declare victory, and the war would end, especially since there was no Legion Commander to contest his claim.. The Obelisk of War and the right to observe it, including War Souls, all of it would be his spoils of war.

Chapter 764 - Soldier Of War, Promised To You

"You really did it!" Guan Yu rushed over with a pep to his step, rapidly shifting between the closed-eyed Wei Wuyin to the decapitated corpse of the Legion Commander, an illustrious Earthly Saint.

Accompanying him was the mysterious woman, her facial features still blurred, yet her focus was quite apparent to the casual onlooker. She was unblinkingly inspecting Wei Wuyin, keenly with clear interest.

Like the others, she was of the thought that Wei Wuyin's victory was not attributed to his own personal abilities but to his background in the forms of treasures, tools, and pre-planned tactics of extraordinary experts. It was hard to grasp the idea that Wei Wuyin's actions were a product of solely his own power and means. In fact, it was downright impossible.

The four Soul Idols that had all reached thirteen rings were already otherworldly, absolutely mind-blowingly difficult to comprehend. If it was all due to Wei Wuyin himself, then that meant he had four different Astral Souls, all of which had been cultivated to that state somehow, and he wasn't an expert at the Realm World Phase, but a cultivator at the Sixth Stage of the Astral Core Realm, the Gravity Emission Phase, at the highest and the Soul Idol Phase at the lowest.

It was impossible for that to be correct. If one considered his feats alongside just his presence in the Nexus Battlefield, then one would find it increasingly difficult to accept it as truth. Regardless of all this, the mysterious woman's opinion of Wei Wuyin had changed significantly.

"WOOOO!"

Guan Yu turned to see a figure leap excitedly about like a rabbit in the far-off distance, hollering out elated exclamations. The joy and excitement were incredibly infectious, and he could resonate with such intense feelings. He had just learned his death was all but decided, but Wei Wuyin had offered him a lifeline, so he felt as if he was thoroughly saved from the icy pond of death. How could he not understand those exhilarating feelings?

The woman turned to look too. She shook her head, but it was rather half-heartedly, and even her body language betrayed her own internal excitement. While Wei Wuyin had given her ten thousand War Souls, this was merely enough for her to escape. She had made several friends during her time here, so she was naturally happy that they could escape too.

Guan Yu's eyes brightened; he turned to Wei Wuyin excitedly with an idea flickering within his eyes: "Why not try to befriend some of these Ascended? They'll surely be excited to speak to their savior. Perhaps promise certain things." As if his idea was extraordinary, he praised himself with a series of claps.

The woman was startled for a moment, but then she realized this was indeed a good idea. She added, "They'll certainly not refuse." While those were her words, she kept staring at Wei Wuyin and appraising him. Besides a layer of exhaustion covering his facial expression, he was relatively unharmed. One wouldn't think he had fought an arduous battle against 10,000 Ascended beings.

Wei Wuyin sighed softly. If he was just described as exhausted, it'd be the understatement of the millennium. "How many?"

"Hm?" Guan Yu reacted to Wei Wuyin.

"Not you; how many Ascended are here?" Wei Wuyin asked the woman. She was a long-time resident, long enough to seek out sensual pleasures from a complete stranger as her first time. Indicative of her unnaturally extended stay and willingness to move past this life without regrets. She might've been intent on taking her life even.

The woman was taken aback, but then she thought for a moment and calculated a few things in her mind, lifting her fingers and lifting them up and down as if recalling certain details to add or subtract certain individuals. After a short moment, she answered: "About one hundred and twenty-four Ascended, including myself. Give or take a few."

Wei Wuyin fell silent and contemplative. Then he followed up with another question: "How many are members of the human race?"

Guan Yu unhesitatingly intervened in this question with confusion, "Human race? We all are. There are no other races besides humans here." His confusion was rightfully so because he hadn't expected Wei Wuyin to be ignorant of this. Even the Spirits of War were in the image of humans.

This was the Nexus Battlefield for the human race after all.

It was Wei Wuyin's turn to be surprised. He was with titans, and while Guan Yu was human, even that sadistic woman, he just considered it a consequence of probability, not a fact of absence.

This was an issue.

The woman felt that something was wrong, feeling that Wei Wuyin wasn't very excited at this discovery or opportunity before him. She directly asked: "What is it?"

Wei Wuyin just wanted to sit down and rest. Yet he could not find a suitable location to rest his weary body, only able to deal with this troublesome matter. "The celebration is a little too early. I'm unsure, but I don't think those who did nothing to fight will earn qualifications to observe the Obelisk of War, let alone escape."

"..." Guan Yu.

"...!" The woman.

Their reactions were different, but one thing was similar between them—they were stunned! While Wei Wuyin couldn't verify this detail, they immediately realized that this was almost likely the case. After all, these so-called Soldiers of War and Commanders of War had done shit all in the battle against 10,000. No, they did do something...

They watched with excitement, awe, and hope in their hearts! Praying that someone else risked their lives to secure freedom for them!

Wei Wuyin continued, "I've only kept sixteen Spirits of War. If one needs to contribute, I'd imagine killing one of these Spirits of War is a minimum requirement. That said..." He lifted his hand; traces of Grand Earth Intent surged through his fingers as wisps of brown-colored light and then seeped into the ground. A faint rumble occurred, and then a head popped out from the ground, half-conscious with their energies entirely devoured by the raw poison mixture.

This Spirit of War had been one of the unlucky few who exerted their powers and activated their latent poison. Wei Wuyin had skillfully selected them and dropped them into the earth through abruptly manifested holes. They were still alive and incredibly weak.

This particular Spirit of War was roughly equivalent to a Mystic Star Phase cultivator, the first stage of the Mystic Ascendant Realm, if one considered the Battlefield's standards.

"Go on," Wei Wuyin gestured to Guan Yu. This was his only way to allow Guan Yu to gain contributions, and he wasn't totally confident if it'll work. Guan Yu's eyes brightened instantly, and he didn't hesitate. He brought his bident forth and lifted it above the protruding head, and with a ferocious grunt, thrust the sharp two-pronged blade into the skull of the Ascended.

A blood-splashing, bone-slicing sound occurred. Suddenly, Guan Yu felt his palm heat up, and the Mark of War miraculously manifested. Elation suffused his eyes. He felt as if he was a part of something greater. Did this mean he gained qualifications to observe the Obelisk of War upon victory?

Wei Wuyin couldn't see it, but he felt as if his own Mark of Annihilation had suddenly reacted.

The woman saw all this, and her body language noticeably changed so drastically that one could almost read her thoughts. "Sixteen? Only sixteen?"

"Only fifteen," Wei Wuyin corrected. The idea of gaining favor from all of the Ascended present would be impossible to pull off with his limited sacrifices. Additionally, he hadn't cared about or considered this before. Not because he wasn't willing to do so, but because he didn't feel the need to. He was still a minor figure in the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region, a mere mortal, and establishing relations with these Ascended that may or may not be a part of the wide, expansive, and diverse territory of the Azure-Prime Galactic Zone was too far-sighted and unnecessary.

Furthermore, he didn't want to deal with all the issues that came with selecting. He was about to just slaughter the rest of the Spirits of War to eliminate any potential conflict. However, he was halted by the voice of the woman.

"Can you leave the choice of those fifteen to me?" Her question was direct, and some might even consider it rude of her, yet she asked it regardless.

Wei Wuyin 'stared' at her in silence.

Then, she said something that shook both Guan Yu and Wei Wuyin. "Isn't it just this little? After all, I'm yours. So what is this small request?"

"Mine?"

"Yes, yours." The woman clarified without hesitation, causing Guan Yu's eyes to widen. He wanted to speak, but the woman sent a gaze in his direction and those words that wished to come forth were choked in its cradle, never to be told to the world.

The woman added determinedly, "I've decided; I promise myself to you. As long as you ascend, you can seek me out, and I'll be yours. Even in death, I'll not look at another male as a partner. I can swear an oath of this to the heavens if you want."

Wei Wuyin rubbed his chin thoughtfully, giving her a 'look' and faintly smiling. "What if I have no intention of marrying you?"

"...Then, as long as you accept me and have the ability to remain unmarried after, then I'll be your concubine. If not that, then I'll be your maid. Or you can throw me away after using me, it's up to you." The woman was straightforward with her words, incredibly calm with every shocking syllable spoken.

Wei Wuyin was startled by how calm she was speaking about this topic, but he wasn't ignorant enough to not notice the ensnaring layers in her sentence. He had to have the means and ability to remain unmarried after, which was an interesting and insidious detail. If her backing was too strong, he'd suffer a forced marriage. Furthermore, his life could be at risk if her family, clan, or force was extremely protective of her.

He also had to ascend successfully, so there's that. Such an arbitrary condition after almost giving herself entirely to him earlier.

Wei Wuyin turned to Guan Yu and asked: "Is she beautiful?"

Guan Yu was startled. Without the slightest hesitation, he answered with vigorous nods: "Yes, absolutely!" He seemed to say these words earnestly, and since they were all human, even if Guan Yu's tastes were strange, this didn't mean it should be too far off from normal aesthetically pleasing standards.

"Sure." He didn't ask why she was willing to do this, just accepted her conviction and decision wholeheartedly. As for the difficulties that might manifest later? He'll deal with it as they come. If she thought he would refuse her due to this challenge, she didn't know who he was. He truly wished to see when his potential and status were fully realized whether her words would remain true. Be a maid?

While he had thoughts of having Mei Yang as one when he was younger, still considering it, he had no issues with having another, and a Demi-Mortal Lord cultivator to boot. That would be quite exciting.

Just when Wei Wuyin was about to speak about his thoughts concerning the Spirits of War, he felt a rush of wind, and then a soft pair of lips pressed against his own!

Chapter 765 - Soldier Of War, Sleep

Wei Wuyin handed the matter of the fifteen remaining Spirits of War and their buried locations to the woman. Fortunately, he buried them shallowly, so it would take very little effort for Ascended beings to dig them up.

Guan Yu was overly excited, cheerful, and lively. With the emergence of the Mark of War, he felt that not only did he contribute to the Nexus War, thereby allowing him to survive, but obtain the right to observe the Obelisk of War amidst Wei Wuyin's victory. Earlier, he had the thought that remaining with Wei Wuyin was going to be incredibly beneficial. He certainly wasn't wrong.

When Guan Yu glanced at the fleeting figure of the blurred-faced woman, he couldn't help but say, "She certainly changed her tune."

Wei Wuyin decided to just sit on the ground, lying with his back to the ground and his face towards the sky. The rippling pain and incredible exhaustion he felt was almost too much. While he had just accomplished an extraordinarily unimaginable feat by challenging and claiming victory against 10,000 Ascended beings, the cost wasn't small. His refined physique had hairline fractures throughout his entire skeleton from the stress his spiritual strength imposed on him.

The thirteenth-ring Soul Idols were the very reason why his spiritual strength had elevated to such unnatural limits that his Celestial Eyes of Spiritual Divinity was pushed far beyond its limits, causing his currently ocular-sealed state.

'Primary Soul Light, inactive Mystic Runes, and Thirteen Soul Rings...' The Alchemic Dao truly broke the conventional limits of cultivation. These aspects of cultivation were the direct effect of consuming three different transcendent Mortal-Rank alchemical products. He had directly jumped beyond True Light, comprehending the Origin of All Light that didn't come from the stars or some unseen divinity but the soul itself.

He had Mystic Runes in his World Seas, a total of twenty-four, despite being a mere mortal. And, he had leapt past eleven and twelve Soul Rings, jumping to thirteen. His mind was wistfully thinking about all the possibilities that transcendent-quality products brought, and what could Mystic-Rank alchemical products bring?

But according to Wu Yu, mystic-graded products were unable to be refined by Mortals, and this was a tried and true tested theory that almost always led to the mortal refiners' death or crippling, no matter the product's effect. So perhaps transcendent-quality was the true limit of the Mortal Dao.

Fortunately, even his four Astral Souls, as reckless as they were, refused to even entertain the idea of consuming a Mystic-Rank Product. This was greatly attributed to Eden's verification that their current spirit states were thoroughly unsuited for refining products of this level.

Guan Yu noticed that Wei Wuyin was within his own thoughts. So he moved over and sat beside him, holding his bident within arms in an upright seated position.

"She certainly changed her tune," Guan Yu repeated, giving Wei Wuyin a curious glance.

Wei Wuyin groaned inwardly. He didn't even bother moving an inch due to his condition, slowly saying: "Is there something you want to tell me?"

Guan Yu's eyes lit momentarily, then became a little sly as he looked in the mysterious woman's direction to ensure she was far enough. After verifying this, he said in a soft voice, "She was willing to give herself to you as a mortal earlier, but now, she wants you to ascend? Don't you find that strange?"

Wei Wuyin deeply inhaled, then softly exhaled out his response: "Is there something you want to tell me? There seems to be something you want to tell me." How could Wei Wuyin not notice the strangeness of her change? But that was likely due to her situation changing as well. After all, she was definitely seeking to make an irreversible choice after she had lost her virginity, fulfilling a life-goal of hers. Now, she had hopes to leave and regain her life; why would she make the same choice?

Guan Yu glanced in the mysterious woman's direction again, seeing her having conversations with the jubilant Commanders of War from afar, and he gulped slightly. "I-"

"Wait," Wei Wuyin interrupted, "I don't care." He slowed his breathing and tried to rest. He wished he could use the Mark of Eden's lifeforce and wood energies to heal; then, he wouldn't have to deal with this extremely slow process.

His response took Guan Yu by surprise. "You really don't want to know?"

"...Know?" Wei Wuyin asked rhetorically. "Know that she's someone you recognized? Respect? Fear? Know that her status isn't small outside the Battlefield? No. I don't really want to know. Because: I don't care." After saying this, he directly focused all his attention on recovering.

"..." Guan Yu was speechless.

An hour passed before things started to settle down. There were still some jubilant figures in the distance waiting for Wei Wuyin to recover, observing his almost-sleeping state with rapt attention, but they remained observers. The woman's discussions and negotiations soon concluded, and the fifteen Spirits of War soon met their inevitable end.

There was zero left.

She made her way over with fourteen Commanders of War, all of which, including herself, had pulsating Marks of War on their palms, indicating their participation in the Nexus War. They had earned their right to leave; if the instructing words of the War Spirit were to be believed.

Amongst these fourteen Commanders of War was an extremely aged figure that seemed to embody the image of death. Guan Yu saw this figure that was almost all skin and bones and felt a cold shiver course down his spine.

The woman's eyes seemed to glint as she observed Guan Yu, causing the latter's face to gradually become ashen. Clearly, she was aware of his attempts to inform Wei Wuyin about her origins. He had almost forgotten that Ascended beings' hearing was far more impressive than his own. Lucky for him, she ignored him after a brief look.

The woman saw Wei Wuyin's sprawled figure, lazily basking in the artificial light of the Nexus Battlefield. She was amused that such a powerful figure was willing to show such a side. Typically, experts and geniuses refused to look weak or exhausted, even feigning good health for the sake of their image.

"I'm done," she said.

Wei Wuyin sleepily moaned out a response, "Five more minutes."

The expressions of her entourage of Ascended had varied reactions to this, finding this somewhat surreal. Was the mortal who took down 10,000 Ascended beings, gave them a chance at life, like this?

The mysterious woman was clearly rendered speechless, but she only walked forward and sat next to Wei Wuyin. Then, without hesitation, sprawled next to him in a similar manner. "You can rest for as long as you like." She, too, closed her eyes and seemingly rested on the spot.

Guan Yu was taken aback by this, but he sighed in the end. He was on the other side of Wei Wuyin, so he sprawled on the ground as well, deciding to go with the flow.

"..." The Ascended glanced at each other.

"Seems fun," an aged voice resounded. The extremely aged Ascended stepped forward and stood beside Guan Yu, causing the latter to shiver slightly, and he slowly laid flat on the ground too, closing his eyes as if sleeping. A few might even be afraid that he won't open his eyes after.

The fourteen Ascended were all taken aback, but after a while, a pretty female amongst them, petite and spry looking, walked next to the mysterious woman and performed the same thing with a soft chuckle. Like a domino effect, almost as if peer pressured, they all started to find spots to lay down at, resting without any rhyme or reason.

Just because.

The onlookers were disturbed. Why were these people all lying down? Was this a ritual or something?

"Is this how one observes the Obelisk of War?" The Soldier of War asked curiously. Considering they were all within the sights of the Obelisk of War, this made some sense. Why else would these Ascended beings and that incredible mortal man lay down on the dirt like mortals? Almost everyone caught that question as discussions began. An excited Soldier of War decided to test it.

That person found a place not too far or too close from the eighteen lying down and laid down alongside them in the same sprawled out position. A larger domino effect began at that moment. Several waves of individuals from all directions began to walk up to a respectful distance and began to lay down.

After three minutes, almost every last Soldier and Commander of War was on the ground, their eyes closed, and their breathing smooth as if trying to comprehend the secrets of the heavens in their dreams.

Wei Wuyin's rest went undisturbed, so he naturally just slept.. It was the most comfortable, relaxing, and peaceful sleep he had ever had in recent years.

Chapter 766 - Soldier Of War, Fully Recovered

The Nexus Battlefield was utterly silent. All its soldiers and commanders laid on the solid ground, surrounding the Obelisk of War, quietly resting in unison. If those outside were told that Ascended and mortals alike were resting, they wouldn't know whether to laugh or cry.

There were talented geniuses, brutal characters, vicious experts, yet they were all simultaneously resting on the ground. While the vast majority expected this was the method to observe the Obelisk of War, this didn't lessen the ridiculous situation at all.

"..." After about ten minutes, an Ascended opened their eyes and lifted their head to observe his surroundings, finding that others were similarly looking about to inspect what was happening. But when they saw the group of Ascended laying on the ground diligently, with the main man himself, that unimaginably extraordinary mortal, they clenched their teeth and went back to attempting to comprehend something.

A period of complete silence followed. Those skeptical about the way to observe the Obelisk of War would lift their heads and notice the majority was still in their resting position, so they laid their heads back down, closed their eyes, and focused harder, not wanting to waste a single minute. Who knew if this observation required a period of serenity, hence this strange position. If they lost this opportunity due to that, how infuriating would that be?

Before long, the strange state caused a few to simply fall asleep. They were all cultivators with abundant mental energies, cultivation techniques to rejuvenate their mental energies and thus remain awake and conscious eternally. The only time sleep was had by some of these individuals was after strenuous dual cultivation sessions.

There were even some cultivators that outright snored, breaking the silence. Yet after a brief moment of being disturbed, these figures tried harder to calm their minds, cursing those idiots for sleeping. Did they not know that this might be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity?

An Ascended sneered, feeling as if they had comprehended some profound insights into his cultivation technique. They had never progressed so fast in their comprehension in this state, so he was extremely excited. They weren't the only ones to experience this. The tensionless situation induced a serene mental state for some. Their rate of cultivating insights of their Intent, Arts, Spells, and Methods accelerated.

During their many years of cultivation, some of them had never truly realized in their cultivation path, so when they thought this was a requirement to obtain benefits in their cultivation path, it greatly supported their endeavors to acquire insights. Their thoughts flowed smoothly and their worries were eradicated. A few even had their aura of Intent flare as they reached the Awakened Intent level.

This disturbed a few but only reinforced the idea of this amazing chance. They tried even harder to relax!

If Wei Wuyin were to realize that his exhaustion-fueled sleep helped most attain higher levels of insight, who knew what he would think?

This period lasted for a full eight hours.

"Hmmm..." Wei Wuyin smacked his lips, touching his face while grabbing around with his other hand. He immediately felt something semi-soft. There was a distinct warmth and a familiar feeling to his hand.

That was...

WOOSH!

Wei Wuyin's upper body rose at an astonishing speed, pulling his hand back in horror. He turned to 'look' at the one he had grabbed, and his expression was extremely dark and ugly.

There was a soft moan. The sign of someone waking up. It was a male! They slowly opened their eyes and lifted their head curiously, touching their groin curiously. *'What was that?'*

Without hesitating, Wei Wuyin used his palm and pushed out viciously in the direction of that person.

"Ahhhhh!" An explosive 'pah' sound erupted, following alongside a horrified scream and a crashing thud in the distance. That voice was quite familiar, and Wei Wuyin had heard that pained cry before, and it belonged to none other than Guan Yu!

'Who the hell told this fool to sleep next to me?' Wei Wuyin's thoughts stirred. That ugly expression grew uglier. He inspected his body and realized that the hairline fractures in his body had been healed, the damages to his muscles were repaired, strengthening him even. While he rested, Ori and Eden were arduously healing the damage to his physical body and Sea of Consciousness.

That said, he wasn't without defenses. Kratos and King were always on full alert and ready to handle any abrupt changes or hostile intent. This was the benefit of having sentient Astral Souls that could operate with their autonomy at times. He could wholeheartedly cultivate or rest without needing to worry about being caught off-guard.

Sleeping had rapidly accelerated the rate of his recovery.

"You're finally up," the mysterious woman said beside Wei Wuyin. When Wei Wuyin noticed the woman was to his left, he cursed his right hand and then cursed his left for moving to his face.

"Yeah," Wei Wuyin breathily responded. With a hearty stretch of his limbs, he slowly rose and felt invigorated. "Did you handle the Spirits of War?"

"She did," an aged voice resounded. A wisp of admiration and respect leaked from this voice. Wei Wuyin turned to the woman, frowned slightly, and felt like something had happened while he was asleep, but he couldn't quite put his finger on it. "Were you watching me rest?" He wouldn't admit that he was sleeping, at least not directly.

"We didn't watch you rest; we joined you," the mysterious woman corrected. She seemed unbothered by this, but Wei Wuyin's thoughts stirred. He communicated with Kratos and King. Kratos was far more aware of ambient spatial movements, so it was given the task of watching and warning of any approaching threats.

When he learned that a little over a dozen Ascended nearby, but when they approached, they grew still and lacked all signs of aggression, Wei Wuyin could only sigh.

"What was that for?" Guan Yu stomped back with a strained voice. Clearly, he suffered injuries from that palm attack. Wei Wuyin's facial expression grew dark, but it eventually eased into a serene calm.

"I didn't expect anyone to be that close to me. Did you forget this," Wei Wuyin pointed at his closed eyes. This caused Guan Yu to stiffen. He had almost forgotten that Wei Wuyin was blind, feeling a little guilty for his actions.

"Are you really blind?" A soft, feminine voice asked skeptically. It belonged to the petite, pretty young woman that had been brought along as one of the fourteen Ascended beings.

Wei Wuyin wryly smiled. He didn't answer. He wasn't genuinely blind, but if he opened his eyes, spiritual light would flood out and engulf his entire visual perception, effectively blinding him.

"Do you think he would feign blindness for fun? Think he gets a kick out of it, huh?! Such an idiotic question." Guan Yu bit back, defending Wei Wuyin from this skeptical woman's curiosity. It caused the petite woman to grow silent, but her sweet-sounding voice became cold as she snorted aggressively.

Pah!

"Argh!" Guan Yu cried out in pain for the second time, following a harsh slapping sound. His body was sent flying, crashing heavily into the ground, eliciting an even heavier cry of pain, and then a series of groans and spitting of blood.

This caused Wei Wuyin's eyebrows to furrow deeply. He hadn't been able to see what happened, but what happened was clear. Without hesitation, his hand touched his saber's hilt. There was saber light that beautifully flowed across his right hand and forearm.

"Whoever just attacked, stand out," Wei Wuyin demanded.

The atmosphere became thick and tense; faint sounds of saber howls resounded.

"..." There was silence.

"Why?" The mysterious woman asked. Seeing Wei Wuyin's aggressive stance, she realized that young woman's actions that they might casually dismiss, an Ascended disciplining an insolent mortal, had provoked an issue.

"Your hand or your life—you can choose," Wei Wuyin indifferently stated in a glacial tone. There was no other option given.

"..."

If a mortal typically said this normally, these Ascended would laugh, but Wei Wuyin had just slaughtered an entire army and an Earthly Saint that had one-shotted a Demi-Mortal Lord. There was no way that they took those words lightly.

Guan Yu's pained cries still resounded in the distance. An Ascended was an Ascended, so being slapped by one was terrifying. Half of his face was slightly deformed, and his right eye was leaking blood and fluid, stressed to the point that it nearly exploded. It was disturbing to see.

"He-" The mysterious woman was about to speak, but she couldn't get out more than a single word before being interrupted.

"I will kill everyone here if that person decides to not choose," Wei Wuyin's voice became vicious, lacking the slightest bit of warmth. This instilled a chill in the hearts of everyone. He didn't care why this person did what they did, or if Guan Yu deserved it. Guan Yu had spoken on his behalf and he had plans for Guan Yu. As for these Ascended?

They were inconsequential.

"..." The silence became stifling.

"It was me," the petite woman eventually spoke up. Wei Wuyin couldn't see, but all of the Ascended present were looking at her with admonishing looks. This was her fault, so she should take responsibility. In their eyes, she had become a detriment to their chances at freedom. And if Wei Wuyin truly decided to act, could any of them stop him? None of them wanted to die because of her. So what if she lost an arm? As an Ascended, she could recover that.

The moment her words sounded, Wei Wuyin moved with unbelievably quickness, his saber left its scabbard, and the edge sliced into the direction of the voice without hesitation. A series of surprised gasps resounded, but Wei Wuyin's saber edge eventually halted.

"Wait!" Was the prompt that led to his saber stopping, belonging to none other than Guan Yu. If he hadn't spoken, a petite Ascended would've lost her head. She hadn't even reacted before Wei Wuyin's saber edge arrived, causing her heart to pound thunderously.

While the 10,000 Ascended beings were restrained by poison, that had little to do with their physical abilities and reflexes. These attributes of theirs went unhindered, yet who knew how many Demi-Mortal Lords met their end at his saber? This was attributed to Wei Wuyin's physical body being extremely refined. Be it his physical strength, endurance, flexibility, or speed, they were all unbelievably high.

In this restricted environment where cultivators were forced to fight in a similar manner as mortals, he reigned supreme.

Guan Yu rushed forward, giving the petite woman whose expression was insanely pale a look. Her life had flashed before her very eyes, and the glint of saber light emitting from the edge caused her to heavily gulp. Wei Wuyin never intended to give her a choice, only kill the one responsible without mercy! It was only now that she realized why he could dominate the battlefield. How domineering and decisive!

"Please don't kill her," despite holding his face and speaking awkwardly, Guan Yu still pleaded. This caused Wei Wuyin to frown, but he didn't hesitate. He fixed his stance and sheathed his saber.

"Alright, let's bring this to an end." Wei Wuyin didn't ask why Guan Yu asked to spare her life, it didn't matter to him. He didn't know that this simple action of his had established a tie between that woman and Guan Yu, a tie that would eventually lead to an unexpected, surprising event.

Wei Wuyin asked Guan Yu, "Where's the Obelisk of War?"

"Directly in front of you," the mysterious woman answered. Her voice was a little softer, but if Wei Wuyin could see her expression, they would be able to see fascination and excitement. Only a domineering man met her standards. To decide death with a single word and spare it with the next.

Wei Wuyin nodded and then walked forward. He lifted his hand up and calmly stated: "I claim victory against the Nexus!"

Dzzzt!

Chapter 767 - Soldier Of War, Obelisk Of War; Spoils Of War

The Obelisk of War wasn't large, yet it was the entire centerpiece of the Nexus Battlefield and its most crucial item within. Because every last individual here, be it a Soldier or Commander, was here to fight for the right to 'observe' it.

It was thirteen meters in height, roughly as thick as an adult oak tree, completely obsidian black. There were mysterious, unidentifiable silver characters that seemed alien to mortals and Ascended beings alike etched all over its surface. It was clean. Unnaturally so.

It felt pure and unable to be tainted by the slightest turbid quality in existence. Wei Wuyin had seen this exact structure before. When he had received the Mark of War, he was shown a bloody battlefield of blood, chaos, and death in a vision.

This Obelisk of War wasn't the one he saw before. There was one of these at every battlefield, including the original Battlefield he first arrived in. These monoliths were all situated at the center point of the battlefields without fail. They had very similar designs with faint differences in the unidentifiable characters etched on its surface.

The Obelisk of War began to thrum deeply like a heavenly organ of music. The droning sound had quieted down gradually, replaced by that new sound. Those who were still trying to 'observe' the Obelisk of War by meditating while on the ground were all awoken by the sonorous sound. They rose and looked at the Obelisk of War, their jaws simultaneously dropping.

At this moment, seventeen figures were engulfed by their halos of light that became a hollow pillar that reached the sky. The Obelisk of War's silver characters started to emit a faint glow and animatedly move about.

"Oh no!" Someone immediately discovered that their halos remained silent, including the vast majority of cultivators present, but those seventeen figures, Wei Wuyin included, were engulfed by light! He realized the truth! He hurriedly rushed forward at his maximum speed. He was an Ascended being who had been trapped in the Nexus Battlefield for nearly three thousand years. This was his chance at freedom! This was his ONLY chance!

Why only those seventeen?

WHY ONLY THOSE SEVENTEEN?!

He roared out aggressively as he reached out in the hopes of touching the pillar of light. It took a mere moment for him to reach the others, touching the pillar of light, and faintly smiling as he felt warmth engulf his body. With a holler of excitement, he moved to wrap his arm around the pillar.

Dzzzt!

PUUSH!

The steps of the other individuals, slower ones, came to an abrupt halt after witnessing that Ascended had exploded directly into bloody mist. Like a bag of blood and water, he was without bones or flesh. He was liquefied and exploded!

The horror!

"..." The stifling atmosphere became heavier and heavier. Just moments ago, they were all happy at the chance to observe the Obelisk of War. As for the Ascended, they simply wished to leave and escape, return to their homes and families. They're hearts and hopes were crushed.

Was this it? Why was this happening? Perhaps there was a delay! Maybe there was a chance!

The thought process of many went this path, yet the tower of hope in their hearts was destined to collapse like a pile of flimsy cards against a gust of wind. The seventeen figures encapsulated by a cylindrical pillar of light were slowly lifted alongside the monolith, slowly rising, spinning while releasing deeper sound. Then, those figures shot into the sky alongside the monolith and vanished into the chaos beyond the boundaries of this world.

They vanished. The others were saddened, looking lifeless and lost. But then a familiar sound resounded.

Dzzzt!

From below, another monolith ascended to occupy the exact same space as before. These silver characters were different from the one before, but similarly unable to be deciphered. The Commanders of War were given a reiteration of the rules by the same War Spirit voice, the very same dissonance and headache-inducing voice as before.

It repeated that they could challenge the Obelisk of War, face 10,000 Spirits of War, claim victory, and observe the Obelisk of War. It was a tragedy to many, while the Soldiers of War were confused, feeling cheated. But those a little smarter thought it made sense; they hadn't contributed anything to eliminating the other Spirits of War.

It was just a pity they hadn't realized this. They might have helped Wei Wuyin during his battle. This was a fleeting thought, however. After all, it was incredibly unrealistic to risk their lives against 10,000 Ascended beings and expect to claim victory over them, including an Earthly Saint-level figure.

The Soldiers of War eventually separated once again. Perhaps in a short period of time, another battle of carnage between mortals will once again begin. A battle to escape this cage of war and death.

Wei Wuyin felt it again; the feeling of shifting through chaotic space coursing through his bloodline. He had adapted since last time, so he spent this time trying to feel the flow of chaotic space more thoroughly. It didn't last long, however.

He soon found himself touching a solid surface, feeling a strange pressure engulf him. It wasn't oppressive or strong. It felt more like a gust of wind from every direction without end.

"...I hope I don't need to see to observe this Obelisk of War." Wei Wuyin was truly worried about this point. The monolith he had seen in his vision had unreadable and unrecognizable silver characters etched on its surface. It seemed more like esoteric runes intermixed with characters than strictly characters.

"Soldier of War, you have earned the right to observe the Obelisk of War." Kratos auto-filtered the voice, causing the sound of a little girl speaking imposingly to be heard. Kratos continued to laugh, causing his heart to erratically beat out of rhythm. It seemed to find this hilarious.

Wei Wuyin hadn't seen what happened or where he was, but he had been brought along through chaotic space and arrived at a strange dimensional space without any boundary and coated in pure white. The ground wasn't ground, but some translucent glass-like substance. It reflected the white light and flickered with rays of multicolored light resembling spatial energies galvanized into action.

This was an unusually tiny Chaos Realm. At the center of which was a white monolith without any characters etched on its surface, an almost exact physical copy of the other obsidian obelisk from earlier. However, the top of which lacked a pyramid. It had a spherical object that was pearl-like, transparent like a bubble, and within was a floating cyan-colored character of 'War'.

The entire Chaos Realm was no more than a few dozen meters in all directions, being extremely compact.

Wei Wuyin couldn't see any of this, so he didn't move to explore or approach the obelisk before him. After a minute of silence, Wei Wuyin asked curiously: "How am I supposed to observe?"

"..." The War Spirit didn't respond.

Wei Wuyin grew tense. What if there was a time limit? He hurriedly tried to walk forward and touch around, unable to sense anyone or anything. Almost everything here exceeded his senses; even Kratos was unable to inspect the surroundings. He was completely blind.

This was growing increasingly frustrating to deal with. He decided to invoke his Soul Idols, elevating his spiritual strength to the limits to extend his Spiritual Sense outwards.

"..."

A long, long moment passed. Nothing happened. He instantly realized that this space was even more restrictive, even with his strength and means, and as a result, he was unable to manifest his Soul Idols or exert any type of power.

"Damn it," he cursed. After a little bit of waving his hands in front of him, he finally touched the obelisk with his hands, and the Mark of Annihilation manifested itself, pulsating and thrumming fiercely. A scene of excitement emerged on his expression, he happily pushed his palm forward.

Crack.

Wait...

Crack. Crack! CRACK!!!

Wait!

Wei Wuyin felt the spider-web-like cracks spread out as he touched the obelisk. They were minute but numerous until he felt as if the obelisk was slowly moving. It wasn't actually moving, but it had been shattered to such an extent that his palm's weight was moving the barely connected pieces.

BOOSH!

Without warning, the obelisk exploded, and Wei Wuyin felt it topple in front of him like sand. He could even feel the grains seep through his palms as he tried to grab them.

"What the hell?!" Wei Wuyin felt frustrated to the utmost! He had fought 10,000 Ascended beings for this? There better be a world-defying treasure hidden within this crumbled obelisk!

"Congratulations; you have observed the Origin of All Light! Congratulations; you have gained Insight into the Heart of the World! Congratulations; you have merged your Soul Light with the Mark of Law!" Three series of congratulations were announced by the War Spirit, causing Wei Wuyin's expression to darken considerably. Was this a scam?!

Origin of All Light? He comprehended that years ago! Heart of the World? He comprehended two separate versions of them, Saber Heart and Element Heart! Soul Light merged with the Mark of Law? Wait, Mark of Law?

He caressed the Mark of War mark on his palm. This mark had changed to the Mark of Annihilation after King had taken action earlier, transforming its essential structure and aura. When this had happened, he was curious how or why this occurred or if it'll offer any benefits. He even felt that it could've benefitted him tremendously when he eventually observed the Obelisk of War, perhaps causing a mutation of some sort!

Considering when he obtained the Mark of War, he also saw the vision of the Battlefield and the obelisk itself. This was a logical conclusion. And he was right, but...

"Haaa..." He sighed heavily.

How fucking unfortunate.

"Jing Jiu would've obtained World Heart Intent and comprehended the Origin of All Light. No wonder this wasn't 'my' lucky chance," Wei Wuyin laughed mockingly to himself. Everything Wei Wuyin wanted to obtain from the Obelisk of War, he had already acquired, meeting the requirements exactly. If he had been another cultivator, these benefits would've be legendary, heaven-defying actually, especially for a mortal being. But towards him, they had already been accomplished thanks to the miraculous means of the Alchemic Dao and his own skill, talent, and effort.

Was this because he was too outstanding? Or was the Alchemic Dao far more beneficial than the Heavenly Daos' assistance?

Regardless of his mixed feelings, he lifted his palm to feel the pulsating mark.

The Mark of War, or the Mark of Law, had transformed into a Mark of Annihilation. Did this mean he could comprehend the Law of Annihilation in the future? Will this mark help?

"Soldier of War, hear my proclamation of your glorious merits in the Nexus Battlefield!"

"..." Wei Wuyin groaned. Not this again. He couldn't help but ask, "Can we skip this part?"

"..." The War Spirit went silent just as it was about to begin a long, tiring list of astonishing merits. Considering he had done everything, that was bound to be an extremely long list.

"...Your Merits and Acts of War in the Nexus Battlefield have accrued you with the following rewards! You have earned..."

As if heeding his wish, the War Spirit skipped the merits!

"**13,450,324** War Souls!"

Chapter 768 - Soldier Of Annihilation, Champion's List

"13,450,324 War Souls!" The War Spirit grandly announced.

Wei Wuyin's mind stirred, not from the astronomical amount awarded—that was entirely expected—but at the calculations of merit and the corresponding awards. He had slain 9,984 Spirits of War himself, even slaying the Legion Commander, yet he was given 'just' a little over thirteen million War Souls.

Unfortunately, he was unable to glean the calculation method of War Souls due to the random merit bestowal factors that might contribute, so finding out how much each Spirit of War earned him was outright impossible. That said, he rubbed his chin thoughtfully with his eyebrows furrowed deeply. It was a while before they eased, returning him to a calm, neutral expression.

The War Spirit wasn't finished dealing out rewards, continuing: "You, Soldier of War, elite soldier of the Nexus Battlefield and greatest contributor of victory, have earned an emblem of grand merit, obtaining the rank: Soldier of Law!"

When this happened, the entire tiny-sized Chaos Realm started to quiver uncontrollably, but Wei Wuyin remained upright and unsettled. This was a result of spatial fluctuations, a summoning of sorts, so Kratos instantly counteracted the disorientating force with ease.

A hole with the a circumference of a few inches appeared in the ceiling of this Chaos Realm. From it, a bright teardrop-like light descended. It emanated a light of warmth. Wei Wuyin felt his Mark of Annihilation pulsate stronger than ever before.

He wasn't able to inspect the emblem that had arrived before him, but he felt its warmth and aura. He instinctively reached out and grabbed a solid object into his right palm. The emblem was a hexagonal-shaped obsidian coin that was blank on both sides of its surfaces. Yet when his Mark of Annihilation began to react strongly, two characters etched into the coin.

One of its sides read: "Annihilation."

The other read: "Soldier."

Wei Wuyin felt this emblem's aura had replicated his Soul Light's. It felt like an extension of King, his Nascent Saber Soul that had comprehended the Annihilation Saber Soul Light, the pinnacle Primary Light of cultivation.

Wei Wuyin wasn't just accepting all these things without consideration. With all the information he had gained thus far on this trip, no matter how scattered, was enough for him to conclude the general purpose of this Mark of Law and Emblem of Law, including the Origin of All Light and Heart of the World.

The latter two were absolutely essential to comprehending this so-called Law, while the Mark and Emblem served as items to help one do so. Unfortunately, he was just a mortal being. He was unable to

sense the profound intricacies of these items, and his low-starting point and lack of proper cultivation teachings led to him being mostly ignorant of all this.

Considering all this, these must be crucial tools to forge a future cultivator with incredible potential. Why? He didn't know, but the entire Battlefield felt very similar to the Grand Spirit Trial and Elementus Chosen Trial. This might be a trial established by a powerful being, just like the Elementus Chosen Trial had been.

If so, he wondered if he was being watched by beings far beyond his current comprehension and strength. He lifted his head unnaturally, 'staring' at the ceiling of the Chaos Realm, feeling as if that possibility had an extremely high chance of being true.

Wei Wuyin was unaware, but his action of staring directly upwards had caused a few observers from far, far away to jolt from incredible shock.

Unbeknownst to him that this inadvertent action caused immense ripples in numerous hearts, Wei Wuyin slowly lowered his head. *'Even if it is a trial, there's likely another purpose to it.'* He always felt curious about the Divine King Han Xei's intentions in the Elementus Chosen Trial.

From Wang Yutian, he had learned about Secondary Overseers consistently sent to maintain the Elementus Chosen Trial by the True Element Sect. And yet Divine King Han Xei had been said to be missing for nearly a millennia in the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region. At the very least, he was unseen by the masses.

Why divert such resources to a small, insignificant starfield? Furthermore, why were the rewards so abundantly rich and restricted, as if to serve as a powerful driving force for a cultivator? It felt extremely odd. After all, wouldn't it have been better to establish this type of trial in the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region? Why the Everlore Starfield?

A declining starfield that you, as a powerful Ascended being, tried very little to intervene in. Those hegemonic figures, excluding Wu Yu, surely could have returned to the starfield at any time in the eight thousand years, supporting its environment and improving its circumstances. Yet they left it untouched, going as far as maintaining their trial. It's not like they simply forgot.

It was this detail that generated doubt and suspicion in his heart. These thoughts served to fuel his suspicions about the Battlefield and its purpose.

He decided to dismiss these thoughts. After all, he was far too weak at the moment to even investigate the Divine King Han Xei, let alone the Battlefield and its purpose. So he just took his spoils for his efforts, claiming it all, and moved on.

After pocketing this Emblem of Annihilation, Wei Wuyin wondered if his other three Soul Lights—the Shifting Elemental Light, Seven Source Light, and Unseen Divinity Light—fulfilled the requirement for specific Laws as well. If only he understood more about what these Laws were, feeling that his previous information about them being advanced versions of Intent was correct yet also incorrect.

They just seemed...different.

After all, why hadn't he become the Soldier of Sabers? Why Annihilation? Was there a Law of Alchemy? If so, why didn't he develop a Soul Light of Dragons or Void from Kratos. He just grew confused the more he thought about it. The most critically confusing detail was the difference between a Dao and a Law.

"Haaa..." He sighed. Cultivation was difficult.

"Soldier of Annihilation, shall I return you?" The War Spirit asked, her tone was revealed and was faintly nervous. Wei Wuyin wouldn't have heard this if it wasn't for Kratos' filtering, but it stoked his curiosity. Was this War Spirit anxious about something?

His heart stirred with intense excitement. The Heavenly War Spirit! This thing cost 5,000,000 War Souls, and he had over 13,000,000 War Souls at the moment! Furthermore, it was fully available for Soldiers to exchange!

Just as he was about to ask if he could exchange things in this space, he paused suddenly. "As a Soldier of Annihilation, can I purchase from the Commander-restricted List?" There were certain items limited to Commanders, so he hadn't been able to even entertain the idea of obtaining it as a Soldier.

"...Yes, Soldier of Annihilation. Your current position is a victor of the Battlefield, all three lists are available to you." The War Spirit confirmed, a faint ripple in its voice.

"Haha! Yes, then I-" Wei Wuyin hadn't been excited like this in a long while. There were a few items restricted to Commanders that he wanted, and now that he had such astronomical wealth, what couldn't he obtain? But he halted mid-sentence, "three lists?"

"Yes, Soldier of Annihilation; three lists. They are the Soldier's List, Commander's List, and Champion's List. The last of which is only available to those who have contributed the most to victory in the Nexus Battlefield." The War Spirit explained, its tone growing increasingly indifferent.

Wei Wuyin experienced shivers when he heard the emotionless voice of a little girl, it felt strange and uncomfortable. However, he couldn't discover why the change in attitude. Was it because he hadn't bought the Heavenly War Spirit immediately? Was this Champion's List expensive? Priceless?!

"Can you tell me what's on the Champion's List?" Wei Wuyin asked. Fortunately, the War Spirit seemed used to Wei Wuyin's circumstances and proceeded to explain the details of the items, its tone becoming so indifferent that it felt lifeless and mechanical.

There were only three items on the Champion's List.

[Item]: Obelisk of Law.

[Exchange Rate]: 3,000,000.

[Availability]: Champion.

[Description]: A monolith that has been forged by the Origin of Brilliance, All-World Gem, and Tear of the Golden Koi. When observed, a cultivator can perceive into their Soul, Spirit of Cultivation and all connective parts, also elevating their mind into a heightened state towards the world itself. Extremely beneficial to one's comprehension of the Origin of All Light and Heart of the World.

Can only be observed by Eighty-One Cultivators. After full usage, the Obelisk of Law will crumble into World Sand. This can be used to forge Mystic-World tools, talismans, and armaments.

Only (3) Available.

-

When Wei Wuyin heard this, he didn't hesitate to touch the ground, feeling the pile of collapsed sand-like material, and hurriedly brought it into his Spatial Ring even while the War Spirit kept talking.

The War Spirit hadn't even finished telling about the price of the second item before the sand was all taken; not a single grain remained. After this, he nodded his head with satisfaction, rising up and listening again as if nothing had happened.

[Item]: War Talisman.

[Exchange Rate]: 1,000,000.

[Availability]: Champion.

[Description]: A talisman forged by a supreme expert of war. All 10,000 Spirits of War defeated in the Nexus Battlefield can be summoned by one's behest, following one's complete command. The talisman can be upgraded through infusing War Souls or refining Soul Light into it.

Only (1) Available. The talisman can be repeatedly used indefinitely. All destroyed Spirits of War can be restored after destruction at the cost of War Souls or Soul Light.

-

"...!" Wei Wuyin's heart raced. Wasn't this the same as an entire army of 10,000 Ascended?! This included an Earthly Saint! And if they weren't restrained by the Nexus Battlefield, how powerful would these beings be?!

[Item]: World-Defying Celestial Heart.

[Exchange Rate]: 8,000,000 War Souls.

[Availability]: Champion.

[Description]: Can be refined by Soul Light. A second chance at life in the face of death.

-

"..." Wei Wuyin now realized why the War Spirit became terrifyingly indifferent. Was it expecting him to purchase it? But before these items, especially the World-Defying Celestial Heart, who would even consider exchanging for it? While he didn't know what the World-Defying Celestial Heart entailed, he could guess based on its absurd price. Even if that was removed, buying three Obelisk of Wars and a War Talisman would already be enough to drain his pockets, making it impossible to buy the Heavenly War Spirit.

The Obelisk of War could grant an unprecedented opportunity to establish elite forces and nurture extraordinary talents. The War Talisman granted one a loyal army. Perhaps to the Azure-Prime Galactic

Region, 10,000 Ascended Army wasn't much, especially with one Earthly Saint, but in the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region, it was almost invincible!

The World-Defying Celestial Heart seemed to be a second life. That was priceless. No further explanation was needed. There was no way a cultivator would end up buying the Heavenly War Spirit without any description while facing these items. Even if they only had 5,000,000 War Souls, the Heavenly War Spirit wouldn't even be considered as an option. A single Obelisk of War and upgradable War Talisman was too good to pass up on.

Wei Wuyin couldn't help but chuckle after some thought, "You're so cute." He spoke from his heart, feeling that this War Spirit was quite interesting. He heard a faint exclamation of shock, followed by a harrumph. Yet this sound wasn't cold, even giving one a feeling that it was blushing through its voice.

"Buy it! Buy it! Buy it!" Ori excitedly repeated.

"Tch," King added. While it was essentially saying nothing, it still added its opinion. Whatever that was.

"Woah! Woah!" Wei Wuyin hastily tried to halt Eden and Kratos from intervening. He didn't need to be convinced here. But he was unable to do so.

"Who needs this Obelisk of War?" Eden asked indifferently. It embodied the Alchemic Dao. Wasn't the transcendent World-Light Refraction Elixir capable of already performing a third of this? In the future, it would be able to do these things and more, and with far less cost or limited usage.

"ROAR!" Kratos released an offended roar. World-Defying Celestial Heart? As a True Void Dragon, there was no place it couldn't enter and no place it couldn't leave, so even if it arrived in Hell, it'd just leave. What was death but a vacation?

Wei Wuyin could feel its sentiment and felt extremely taken aback. Oh my heavens, he was growing concerned about Kratos' confidence. However, as he facepalmed himself, he realized that Kratos had the ability to interfere with the Heavenly Daos' power within its mortal state. Could it one day travel to Hell and back?

This thought was like a series of firecrackers in his mind. How outrageous was this possibility? Could he one day invade Hell?

In the end, he had to calm himself down to not dwell on this far-off and nigh-impossible scenario.

"Can I make exchanges here?"

"Yes," The War Spirit responded softly.

"Then, here's what I wish to exchange..."

Chapter 769 - Soldier Of Annihilation, Return

"How frustrating," Wei Wuyin scowled as he sat in a beam of light, traversing through the fixed space at an extraordinarily swift pace. At the moment, his current emotions were fueled by anger and vexation, cursing at his Sea of Consciousness.

"You couldn't have been a little clearer on what 'return' meant?" Those words were mentally spoken. To be exact, it was sent directly to a golden-colored egg that resembled a pigeon's. It had strange silver characters of an unidentifiable, undecipherable nature, greatly resembling an Obelisk of War. These characters were etched on its smooth surface, and it was enveloped by seven-colored roots that was Eden's Spirit of Cultivation's form.

This egg was nestled firmly within his Sea of Consciousness, floating within the refined mental energies of his and slowly absorbing bits of it. It was like a thirsty bird as it somehow sipped at his mental energies with a strange gusto. The egg acted as if his mental energies were an exceptional delicacy for it.

"..." Wei Wuyin was left with no response, in spite of his discontent. The golden egg was the so-called Heavenly War Spirit that cost a whopping 5,000,000 War Souls. After obtaining it, the War Spirit had asked if he was ready to return very excitedly, furthering Wei Wuyin's assumption that the Heavenly War Spirit was the War Spirit itself, likely one of many. He decided to stay for a while and made a series of pricey exchanges. The three lists still had many things he wanted, such as the War Talisman and Seed of War, the genuine article.

Wei Wuyin had spent the vast majority of his War Souls on various exchanges, leaving quite satisfied. While the second life was enticing, he decided against using 8,000,000 War Souls on the purchase. There were far too many other things he could exchange and actually use.

That said, he was currently 'returning' to the location where he had departed from—Planet Blueglow. Supposedly, after finishing a war, unless one was selected to participate in a greater battlefield, like the Nexus Battlefield, returning meant the end of service. A retiring soldier.

This meant he'd lost his chance to make last-minute contact with Guan Yu and the mysterious woman. He still hadn't learned her name either. Fortunately, he had given Guan Yu a spatial ring and informed him to keep it on his person or in a safe location at all times. If Guan Yu lived in another Galactic Zone than the Azure-Prime Galactic Zone, as he expected, then that would serve as a beacon to locate him.

The reason why he didn't bother asking more questions about Guan Yu's homeworld and circumstances was purely due to his thoughts being hyper-focused on maximizing his benefits in the Nexus Battlefield. He had also assumed that after the Nexus War, they'd have time to talk for a long period of time.

It was unfortunate that he was wrong. Additionally, when he saw the Obelisk of War and understood what it was for, then Guan Yu and that mysterious woman could be cultivating for years, perhaps even decades. He didn't doubt this possibility. Thus, he decided that this might be best.

Moreover, returning to the titan's camp might cause him to be interrogated about his purpose in the original Battlefield. After all, he had detonated far too many pellets.

"It is what it is," Wei Wuyin finally calmed himself down long enough to reflect on all these events. Even if one expected to do something, it didn't mean they would be able to. Life was just like that.

He began to assess his gains in this trip, finding himself quite satisfied. The most significant and readily apparent benefits were certainly the mystic-graded spatial rings. He knew from Wu Yu that these things were practically non-existent in the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region. This was clearly different in the Azure-Prime Galactic Zone.

Then, his learned knowledge was the second greatest benefit. The most notable of this category was cultivation knowledge, including knowledge of Astral Idols and requirements for certain stages of the Mystic Ascendant Realm.

For the Worldly Saint Phase, one of the keys to reaching it was World Heart Intent.

Thanks to the Z.E.O Method—Forsaken Zenith, Unto Origin—he obtained from Jing Jiu, he knew that an Origin State was needed for the Heavenly Saint Phase and the benefits it offered. With it, he would have an easier path to the Earthly Saint Phase.

The next were the methods themselves, such as the Z.E.O Method that could be used to establish an Origin State with one's Spirit of Cultivation. He had also acquired numerous methods of varying grades from the War Soul Exchange that he fully intended to explore, including the Mystic Methods that he intended to have Wu Yu decipher.

Since they were written using characters of Mysticism, a strange language meant for Ascended, only Ascended beings used it. Still, he was baffled by why Wu Yu or Wang Yutian never mentioned it. He knew there might be more to it. After all, he could barely understand some of it. This might have to do with the Mystic Runes within his World Seas.

Lastly, the materials and treasures, including the War Souls themselves. Despite going on a massive shopping spree, Wei Wuyin decided to keep a little over two million War Souls for his own uses. The use of a War Soul was not to be underestimated, especially its ability to induce a unique state of enhanced comprehension. That'll go a long way to developing a strong force and nurturing talents.

After all, they can be used to elevate a cultivator's Mortal State, the same as an Everlore Ascension Pill, a ninth-grade product. They can also be used as forging materials or a concoction ingredient, so he was ready to experiment freely. Not to mention the most important aspect: It was a rare Soul Nourishing Material!

Ever since he obtained his Nascent Saber Soul in the Myriad Dao War Palace from Wang Yutian, he hadn't developed it since. The severe lack of soul-nourishing materials was a glaring issue that stumped him. Regardless of where, he couldn't find anything of use in the Everlore Starfield. While the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region might have something, he didn't believe it would be as effective or numerous as two million War Souls.

"The Essence of War is the true treasure," Wei Wuyin caressed his gambeson and the hilt of his saber. He had kept it! They both were his. He didn't expect to be given such incredibly flexible and high-quality essence so cheap. That said, he wasn't a fool; the level of Intent heavily affected the end result, and it couldn't effectively be used by others. However, Mystic-Earth materials for any World Heart Intent was quite mind-blowing.

However, he didn't care much about this. He cared about its ability to go from mortal to mystic. This ability was incredibly fascinating and had given him many unique ideas regarding the Dao of Alchemy. He was thrilled to experiment and test his wild ideas. Since he had plenty to supply, he could surely be a little reckless.

While all these gains were massive to his path of cultivation, the greatest benefit was the refinement of his physique through that unique power in the Nexus Battlefield. While it wasn't remotely close to being his maximum potential, it had allowed him to bring out his full strength, albeit temporarily.

He felt that this karmic luck deduction was beyond worth it. Content, he decided to enjoy his ride with some light reading of materials. No longer in that restrictive place, he could now utilize his spiritual sense freely. Thrilled, he began to read the Dawnbreaker Swordlight Method.

He muttered thoughtfully to himself: "This method truly seems suitable for her. So detailed. But is this 7th Rune Seed Ascension a hard limit? And what is it? Can alchemical products elevate this chance? I really need to see if there are any unique alchemical products in this stellar region."

WOOOOOOSH!

A cascading beam of multicolored light impacted the surface of Blueglow. Its range was much narrower than before, not extending for a mile, a necessary size to carry an expected army, but accommodating for a single individual. The beam quaked the planet.

After a brief period of rumbling ruckus, a figure could be seen in the cylindrical pillar of light. As the light started to dissipate, a pristinely white-colored dressed figure was fully revealed. An extremely powerful spiritual sense expanded in a rushing wave of inspection.

Wei Wuyin's heart stirred. What he saw of Blueglow was not as he last saw it; it was scorched entirely—a barren planet. There wasn't a single life signature on its surface. The air was crispy, and the atmosphere was devastated. This planet lacked the ability to host life.

Wei Wuyin furrowed his brows heavily, "Where is she?"

Just as he said this, he felt a tremble from beneath the planet. Cracks formed, pieces of large earthen pieces lifted and twisted, and a clarion cry shook fixed space!

KREE!

Chapter 770 - Afterword & Alternative Event

"Alright!" Wei Wuyin hadn't hesitated to accept Kratos' declaration. Even if the entire asteroid lost its natural formations, thus its ability for benefits in the far-off future, what did it matter to him? He was already on a clock!

Even if he could take a hundred more than what the Heavenly Daos intended, he would accept that without hesitation. He couldn't help but laugh. The Heavenly Daos wanted him to depart with just a small taste of this reservoir of resources? Foolish!

Briefly, he ran a few calculations in his mind and felt calmer as a result. The method of instantly causing all the asteroid's force to dissipate was to destroy its core. Usually, finding its core was a difficult task, but that was for others. For Wei Wuyin, it was a matter of moments.

Spiritual Spell: Eyes of Divine & Truth!

He executed his most optimal perceptive spiritual spell. Unlike other sensory spells, this was ocular based, hence entirely internal. Even the cold aura and corrosive substance couldn't hinder his penetrating eyes. The Heart of Saber and Elements intent were thoroughly infused within, allowing him utmost penetrative prowess and clarity towards the natural elements.

As he gazed downwards, he noted that the rock still had a basic elemental composition of the elements, such as traces of earth, metal, water, and ice. His gaze revealed all. Immediately, he noticed an abnormality amongst the various substances. It was spherical about three thousand kilometers below his feet.

With a cold smile, he leapt above. After reaching a sufficient height, he dived downwards in a swimmer's posture, both his arms pointed and hands like a sharp spear.

While he leapt upwards, he was noticed by those keeping a keen awareness towards abnormalities. Liu Shaokun turned his gaze to a gray figure shot upwards. "What is that?!" He exclaimed, bringing the attention of Liu Baili and Liu Mulan. They simultaneously looked to see Wei Wuyin's figure within the dark void. Their eyes were honed by all sorts of energies, yet they couldn't quite make out details of that figure.

"Is it a winged beast?" Liu Baili noticed outlines of wings that were unfolded. His question was immediately answered when the figure unfurled its wings, and revealed a thirty meter-wingspan. Just as he was rummaging through his memories to grasp at a correlating existence, the figure turned and dove downwards.

"What!" They all gasped in shock, an uncomfortable and uncertain feeling in their hearts. There were quite a lot of oddities in the dark void, including abnormal beasts that could survive in the void. Usually, they were mindless and lacked intelligence. To those who had the protective and offensive means of the Valiant Sky Starship, they weren't worried by an attack.

However, to plummet into the asteroid was an unexpected outcome. In the matter of moments, they couldn't react before the figure silently entered the depths of the asteroid.

"This...what is that?" Lin Mulan questioned. Just like Liu Shaokun, her heart felt unsure and worried. Despite those feelings, she couldn't help but repress her thoughts of ill-events occurring. After all, this asteroid's core would require a Mystic Ascendant Realm cultivator to destroy it. As the empowering unit for a natural Mystic-Level gathering and refining formation, how could it be easy?

A few seconds passed, then minutes, and then an hour, yet nothing happened. This relaxed their troubled hearts. "Perhaps this asteroid is the abode of a void creature?" Liu Shaokin said. This was indeed a possibility.

After all, asteroids were numerous and many void creatures would carve out dwellings within them. If that was the case, then they shouldn't be startled. In the future, when excavating the asteroid, they could handle it anytime they wished.

However, Liu Baili felt an even greater feeling of uncertainty and even a hint of danger within his heart. This feeling was like a whisper constantly telling him that his things weren't safe. However, it didn't offer any solutions, simply that he needed to act. It wasn't truly clear, as if it was transmitting it through a medium of some sort. It was far yet ever-present.

He couldn't help but think about Liu Ming. This was his adopted grandson, who displayed an exceptional talent and potential that exceeded his younger peers. He rose up from being a cripple to an outstanding talent and future leader of the Skyrend Sect and Liu Clan. His ambitions, instincts, and tools were all outstanding for a young man like himself.

In fact, it was one of his tools that inadvertently discovered this asteroid. Just as his thoughts reached this point, he said, "We'll deal with that creature first! Have the surveyor team inspect any dwelling in the-"

Bang!

As he was giving his orders, a rumbling quake erupted from the asteroid, vigorously shaking the starship. Even he had to use his astral force to maintain his balance, his eyes widening in disbelief. What is happening?!

"Grand Elders! The asteroid has experienced a change!!" An urgent voice filled with rapid breathing and exhausted panic resounded within the transmission crystals of the Grand Elders simultaneously. It was obvious the voice originated from someone running away. It belonged to one of the surveyor captains.

"Change? What changed?" Liu Baili immediately sent back. However, even after a few seconds, there was no response. They waited as the rumbling and quaking of the asteroid continued to intensify. In fact, their breathing halted as they awaited the news.

"The, the...the asteroid's crumbling! Help! HELP ME!" The surveyor captain wailed. He seemed to be too far and his fear had reached an unfathomable level.

Currently, this captain was dodging with all his might as the asteroid started to disintegrate. With the Void-Walking Armor, they could walk and survive within the dark void's environment, but their astral force was still restricted. Without their cultivation base at their fingertips, and with the dark void's impossible-to-control ambient mana, they couldn't fly on their own.

Therefore, he sprinted wildly like a mortal. The asteroid topography was constantly changing. One moment, the space before him was flat, and then turned into a sharp, jagged mountain. Other times, a path would collapse inwards to an unfathomable depth. He didn't dare try to leap a chasm, so he could only halt and travel around.

He was in full panic as he dashed forward.

A fellow surveyor in the distance saw him at one point and attempted to get to him. Unfortunately, a piece of the asteroid shot out at a speed he could barely perceive and penetrated that surveyor's armor. He didn't die from the penetration, but the cold armor and unrefined mystic essence entered his body instantly.

He died screaming and wailing. It was a very long, excruciating way to die. This scene soaked his back in cold sweat. The Void-Walking Armor not only had excellent survivability capabilities, its defenses were also top-notch. Unless one was a Realm Lord-level expert, breaking through it was a difficult feat. Since the dark void restricted astral force, that made it even more difficult to deal with.

Yet...the armor was penetrated like paper.

Those fragmented pieces escaping were propelling at ridiculous speeds! He intended to send a message saying the asteroid was going to explode, but if he did that, the starship would leave and his life would be forfeit.

Therefore, he screamed that the asteroid was going through a change in hopes the starship would pick him up, saving this life of his. While this would put the starship in danger, he didn't give two shits about that. It wasn't just him, the other surviving surveyors were in similar thoughts. They knew what was happening and the consequences, so they all sent messages for help, but not explaining the situation clearly.

The three Grand Elders were confused. A change? Crumbling? What can cause the asteroid to crumble? Could the void creature be instigating environmental changes in hopes they'll leave?

Because of the vague explanations of the surveyor team, they didn't assume the asteroid's core was destroyed, that the asteroid was about to explode into fragmented bits soon.

"We should swiftly collect the surveyor team first," Liu Mulan suggested. A few members were a part of her direct ancestral lineage. Even if the Liu Clan were one whole, many had different lineages directly connected to their ancestors or even themselves. After all, they were three thousand years old. The Liu Clan's cherished members were usually their descendants or a part of their direct family tree.

Liu Shaokun frowned. He said, "Maybe we-"

BOOM!!

Before his words could be said, a hell-rising explosion occurred. This startled them. The dark void lacked sufficient environmental qualities to transmit sound. The first sound was the impact transmitted through the various formations of the starship, but this one felt incredibly different! It was...spiritual?!

They turned their heads simultaneously towards the sound. It originated from directly outside the various Valiant Sky Starship's defenses. Every crewmember and Grand Elder widened their eyes as they felt an imposing spiritual aura descend. They saw a form they couldn't believe!

Dragon!

It was a thousand meters in size, emanating an endless majesty. Its gray-scales and silver eyes seemed to collect the void itself and dominate its existence. Its teeth were like rows of swords and grand mountains. It rose its head and roared.

BOOM!!!

The spiritual formations of the Valiant Sky Starship were once more impacted by a resounding, hair-raising explosion.

"Is that a Soul Idol?!" Liu Shaokun shouted. It had a faint translucent figure, but it was the most realistically structured soul idol he'd ever seen and the largest! The true indicator was the ten-rings that circulated around it ceaselessly.

"A ten-ringed Soul Idol?!" Liu Mulan exclaimed in disbelief. To reach a ten-ringed Soul Idol required taking a Spiritual-God Ascension Elixir at the Third Stage of the Astral Core Realm, and it had to be a peak-quality one at that. Even legitimate Saint Alchemists would be hard-pressed to concoct one. This meant only those of an incredible backing from birth could even hope to take one and reach ten-ringed Soul Idol.

Liu Baili was stunned. He couldn't understand what was happening. How could a Soul Idol exist in the dark void environment and who did this Soul Idol belong to?

"There it is!" A voice resounded from inside the Valiant Sky Starship, and it attracted everyone's eyes. They witnessed a gray-scaled winged creature holding the helm of the skyship. It had half a face, only one wing, and its right arm was just bones. The majority of the gray-scales on its body seemed to have been destroyed, dripping with fresh gray-blood in its place. It was a gruesome appearance that caused their hearts to lurch.

They wanted to say a thousand different things, take a million different actions towards this unknown creature, but almost instantly they felt their bodies be imposed by an unfathomable force.

Wei Wuyin coldly smiled as he directly integrated with the helm, where he left the rest to Eden. The seven traits of Alchemical Energies allowed for various changes, and right now he was simply changing one thing - the key to the Starship.

The original key is in the possession of Liu Baili, and others only possessed temporary authority to control it, but it goes through Liu Baili's formation key. He similarly had the original key of his starship, but originally, there was none.

While he was unconscious on the Four Ways Continent, Eden had repaired the ancient starship's formations and refined a key. According to the Alchemic Eden Soul, he connected with the formations and simply redesignated the key to whatever he refined. If he could do that, it meant he similarly severed the original key's connection.

Eden's means and methods were insanely quick. It just needed a few uninterrupted seconds. With the Eyes of Divine & Truth, he easily found a way to bypass and slip through the defenses of the starship amidst the confusion and chaos.

As for Kratos' Soul Idol, it was meant to distract while he grasped the central formation at the helm. In truth, his Soul Idol was being constantly resupplied with spiritual energies otherwise it would've long since dispersed. In fact, those few seconds had already drained his spiritual energies reserve by twenty-percent.

This was from someone who had four Astral Souls, one of which was an Alchemic Eden Soul of the Mind Dao that continuously expanded and empowered his sea of consciousness, and consumed countless spiritual improvement products. The consumption was impossibly huge.

If it was any normal cultivator, let alone manifesting their Soul Idol in such a hostile environment, they wouldn't even be able to send out their spiritual sense for a few inches.

He recalled his Draconic Void Soul Idol and coldly smiled towards the gawking crewmembers and Grand Elders. He didn't know who these people were, but he felt their star cores. In that case...

"Please get off my ship."

"Your shi-?!" Liu Shaokun shockingly bellowed with rage, but once again was interrupted as he was pushed out.

Wei Wuyin activated the ship's internal repulsive formations. Without fail, before they could even react, they were pushed out by an ever-expanding barrier from the core of the ship and directly expelled, regardless of where they were.

He didn't hesitate. He retracted the anchor and the movement formations of the starship. It took off swiftly.

"Shit!" Liu Baili, Liu Mulan, and Liu Shaokun were stunned, but only briefly as countless harrowingly frightful wails and screams shouted endlessly. Only those who were at the Star Core Phase had the ability to resist the corrosive aura. They acted instantly upon noticing the unfavorable position and started to evoke their domains encapsulating the departed members.

When they collected the other members into their domains, they shrunk it and kept everyone in close proximity. This was to reduce the cold aura's effects. While they could resist the unrefined mystic essence corrosive effects, the cold aura was a threat. They had to lower their consumption to the maximum.

Wei Wuyin didn't stay to hear their curses or questions, but directed the starship to escape, an incomparably large smile on his face. It was filled with pride.

"You got it all?" Wei Wuyin anxiously asked Kratos.

He had to spend nearly an hour crushing the star core of the asteroid, suffering great external and internal wounds when it exploded. Half his face, his right arm's scales, flesh, nerves, and only the bones were left, and one of his wings had vaporized. The backlash from its explosion left him, who had a body that could resist mystic power, half-dead.

"All!" - Kratos.

The satisfied tone of the Astral Soul left his spirits feeling relaxed and comfortable. A starship and a few hundred thousand refined mystic stones, a few of which were high-grade! This was his best lucky chance yet! The Heavenly Daos wanted him to obtain a dozen or so? Well, fuck you! I'll take everything!!!

He couldn't hold it in anymore.

"Mwahahahahahahahahaha!" He madly laughed endlessly.

Ka-BOOM!!!

The asteroid...was gone.

"Hahahahahahahahahahaha!"