

PARAGON 961

Chapter 961: SCR Summit, Creation of Echoing Stars

Wei Wuyin lifted his right hand, his eyes misted over with whiteness, invoking his Elemental Heart Intent. The ambient energies around his palm were infused with his will, converting it into Elemental Origin Energies. It was one of the purest and most natural forms of energy in the Mortal Dao.

According to various collaborated records, it only existed physically during the initial creation of a stellar region. All other forms of Elemental Origin Energy were an artificial mixture, tainted by various processes that birthed Solar Stars and other celestial bodies such as planets. If extracted, it was no different than the energy of an Elemental Origin Soul generated by a cultivator's four essential energies.

This power of Wei Wuyin was treated as legendary throughout the history books. It was a power that the vast majority of cultivators wished to grasp but found obscenely difficult to attain. It was one of the most complex Intents to birth, and throughout the tens of thousands of years of recorded history, he wasn't the first—he was the third.

The first was a Sage-level alchemist of the Seven Sages Tower. The Sage was heavily regarded as the core pioneer of the Echoing Stars of Vastness Pill and a large variety of other products requiring Solar Stars' core.

The second was an Ascended vagabond that vanished shortly after manifesting his Elemental Heart Intent during the last Imperial Clan's era. There were only brief mentions of him through any records, and solely because his Elemental Heart Intent had created a 'natural' Solar Star. Supposedly, it was speculated to have been used as the basis of the Supermassive Solar Star in the Aeternal Sky Starfield. Whether this was true or not, none of the dairies knew.

Wei Wuyin could be said to be the third. There were rumors of another before him, yet it was never proven.

Wei Wuyin knew that this power could produce a Star Core that could be considered 'natural', but it would require a lot of time until it was considered a mature Star Core. He needed to find an alternative.

And so, he spent the last two months, before Yue Songli's rescue operation, ruminating on the topic. He kept conceiving ideas but felt that they weren't reliable. While he didn't shy away from plundering, the act of stealing Star Cores from others using his Ascended subordinates, stripping them away, and trying to change their fundamental characteristics through Elemental Heart Intent and erase the Mystic Dao's influence was a little problematic.

It wasn't that he couldn't do so. Make no mistake, Wei Wuyin was not a saint; he would hunt down Trueborn's Starlords without the slightest sign of mercy, acting with extreme prejudice, accumulating Star Cores and Karmic Luck all at once, but he had a problem:

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The Mythical Oaths established could forcefully make himself an enemy of the top-tier forces of the stellar region, especially if Trueborn is as ingrained in the world's forces as it seemed. It would be foolish to act during this time. He could wait five years, but that was a huge waste of critical time. Moreover, this would only solve his temporary needs. Trueborn's Starlords weren't infinite, and unless he decided

to outright slaughter the innocents without a conscience, he wouldn't find enough to fit his needs eventually, forcing him to once again be left with this issue.

Temporary solutions were just that...

"This is so frustrating," Wei Wuyin ruffled his hair in vexation as he spent three whole days pondering. "An alternative? Does the Echoing Stars of the Vastness Pill need a mature Star Core? How can I bypass that..." Just the thought of finding an alternative energy source was more possible than waiting until Starlords grew, and he abhorred the thought of establishing a farm to harvest Star Cores from cultivated Starlords. It sickened him a little. Even if he went with the normal method of killing existing Starlords for their cores, he would be left with waiting a long time to develop each one.

But, even if he did, he wouldn't be able to concoct a limitless amount of pills of a single star, and nowhere near the amount to suit his goals and needs. He had to nurture thousands upon thousands of Solar Stars into maturity, and then countless more during his Temporal Phase and Star Core Phase. How many Starlords could Trueborn possibly have?

And neither the darkest option nor the normal one would allow him to create enough products in his lifetime, especially without his roughly two thousand or so years of soulspan.

"I can't make copies..." A sullen light suffused Wei Wuyin's eyes, realizing that besides an alternative to using Solar Stars, one that was easier to use, the idea was impossible. He would be forced to take the years to decades to centuries route of stuffing his Astral Souls with inferior products.

In his frustration, he pulled out the concoction method of the Echoing Stars of the Vastness Pill and tossed it to the floor. It was in a relatively plain scroll, hand-written, clearly forgotten, and deemed irrelevant to the current society of cultivation. Since the pill was essentially extinct, it made sense that it was treated so carelessly despite its imaginary 'pinnacle-tier' labeling.

Besides the Star Core, he had all the other materials in copious amounts, almost excessively so. If it wasn't for the core material, this pill would've elevated the stellar region's standards by itself. In truth, it had made an era-changing impact when it was popular.

"Leave this stellar region, find other Solar Stars, and take them!" Kratos roared arrogantly. It felt that all this thinking about an alternative was pointless. To it, taking the path of those from the Seven Sages Tower was correct. Just take! Take! And take!

Why wait? Why nurture? Take what you need now, and figure it out after.

"..." For a moment, Wei Wuyin considered this. He could take Wu Yu and leave, find a Stellar Region with a natural Solar Star, and have Wu Yu haul it away or refine it right there.

"That doesn't solve the issue, right? It doesn't, right? Right?" Ori chimed in its confusion. After all, the Solar Stars quantity was the issue. Even if one forgot about the difficulty of snatching or refining a Solar Star, if it was controlled by an Earthly Saint or protected by a Mystic Radiance Belt, then there was a heavy degree of danger involved. Moreover, what if it attracted the attention of stronger beings?

They were all aware that the stellar region was a part of the Azure-Prime Galactic Zone ruled by three Ascended Sovereigns, and even the King of Everlore was a Heavenly Saint Alchemist that ruled over his

starfield. Wu Yu's strength or the War Commanders wouldn't save him if Worldly Saints took action or true elite Earthly Saints with tens of thousands of years of genuine cultivation involved themselves.

"The only way is to find an alternative material," Eden echoed Wei Wuyin's thoughts. Wei Wuyin had carefully thought out the entire process from every angle, in many different ways, and his path required an alternative, not a limited, depleted resource. He was right: he couldn't copy Solar Stars.

He had to substitute the Star Core. He contemplated using the Astralis Ultimate Star, but he only had a very limited quantity of it, and only half. To frustratingly add, he had plans for it. Unfortunately, it was the best alternative material on hand, and it could be used to cultivate an Astral Idol, mimicking many of the unique properties of a Star Core.

"Doesn't solve the issue," Kratos growled.

"Haaa..." Wei Wuyin felt an urge to sleep and let this be a problem for the future Wei Wuyin. Tempted, he closed his eyes and heaved a sigh. He slowly leaned back until he was flat on the floor, his limbs sprayed out. If the world of dreams wanted to take him, he would appreciate it.

"You need an alternative; it must come from within." A voice sounded out from Wei Wuyin's Sea of Consciousness. It was the Heavenly War Spirit.

Slowly opening his eyes, he audibly asked: "What do you mean?"

"If you can produce it yourself, then you can generate it endlessly. I've watched your externalization cultivation method with your Astral Souls, and their recovery rate is exceptional, matching some unique Devouring Spirits of unique races." Listening to the Heavenly War Spirit, Wei Wuyin frowned slightly.

Devouring Spirits?

He faintly smiled as he considered her words, closing his eyes again. "I can't create a Star Core at my cultivation level, and even if I could, it would take years to refine one until it became a Dwarf-sized Star Core, the minimum requirement with their recovery rate. I can't implode the Star Core with energies to force its growth, it might veer to an unnatural state or require Ascended beings to help or it'll certainly veer off into the unnatural."

The Heavenly War Spirit went silent as if acknowledging his words. Wei Wuyin was extremely well-researched by now on the topic of Star Core creation.

"Figure it out!" Suddenly, a pissed voice sounded from the egg, similarly frustrated by Wei Wuyin's dilemma.

For the first time, Wei Wuyin realized the Heavenly War Spirit was similarly helpless. Guess its knowledge wasn't too thorough and all-knowing, capable of solving every problem he met with ease. Despite his thoughts, the Heavenly War Spirit's words resonated with his Sea of Consciousness.

He needed an alternative—an undeniable fact.

If it relied on his cultivation—he could solve the limited quantity issue.

"Tch." King's signature sound echoed in his flowing thoughts, and as if a lightning strike streaking through his mind, his eyes shot open and glowed with silver light. The Celestial Eyes of Spiritual Divinity grew abnormally active.

"It's too big. It's too big! IT'S TOO BIG! " Wei Wuyin lifted himself off the floor, his eyes intensely staring at the ceiling, observing the vast Dark Void. He was thinking too big!

With a wave of his hand, he brought the concoction method of the Echoing Stars of the Vastness Pill to himself and inspected it once again. His thoughts began to clash wildly. According to his research, a Solar Star's core was considered 'mature' when it reached the minimum Dwarf-size, relative to the actual Solar Star's Dwarf-size. This was a process that would take numerous years.

However, the concoction method only said a 'natural' Solar Star's core was needed. It was a minor difference, but King's reminder had caused him to compare them. He was genuinely thinking too big.

"I just need a viable natural Solar Star, not a Dwarf-sized one." With that single sentence, he felt as if the obstacle was blown away by a gushing force. All of his thoughts from the beginning to end, all of the issues, all of his means, had collided to a single solution.

"Old Ma!" Wei Wuyin called out, and like lightning, Ma Zheng arrived outside his alchemic room alongside the shadowing Huoyan Liulan. She refused to let him leave her sight.

Wei Wuyin opened the door, seeing the two Earthly Saints together, and his eyes became a little strange as he noticed Huoyan Liulan's aura. It felt a little chaotic. Ignoring this, Wei Wuyin asked Ma Zheng the most crucial question.

"Can you create the basic infrastructure of a Solar Star's creation? But small, tiny enough to fit in one's palms." As only Ascended beings had the means to generate Solar Stars by themselves, he had to ask if it was possible.

"Infrastructure?" Ma Zheng slightly frowned.

"A tiny Solar Star?" Huoyan Liulan was interested, and as she spoke, she revealed a little bit of her abnormal breathing. A strange thing for an Ascended, let alone an Earthly Saint

Wei Wuyin gave them both a look and then nodded. "Is it possible?"

Ma Zheng opened his palm, his mystic power forming to create the fundamentals of the Mortal Dao's Star Creation process. A spark of light soon was enveloped in elemental, spatial, light energies, gravitational forces, and a variety of other components that intermixed into a palm-sized yellow Solar Star.

In a matter of sixty seconds, the Solar Star had been completed! Of course, this was billions upon billions of times smaller than a Dwarf-sized Solar Star, and as such, required billions upon billions of times less effort and energy. It was extremely quick.

Wei Wuyin reached out and grabbed the palm-sized Solar Star with ease, his physical body more than enough to resist the gravitational forces and heat emitted from the star. It was 'artificial' and unable to be considered 'natural', so he was left with the same dilemma that he had thought of before.

Fortunately, he had a solution. Wei Wuyin's eyes misted over with pure white color, effusing Elemental Heart Intent. He began to infuse his will into the Solar Star's core, which was as small as a walnut shell.

"Oh?!" Both Ma Zheng and Huoyan Liulan's eyes brightened as they felt the will of the Elemental Origin Intent merge with the world in such a perfect manner. Huoyan Liulan's hands began to shake slightly out of agitation. She had heard that Wei Wuyin had comprehended Elemental Heart Intent, but only those who witnessed Neo-Origin's transformation could be sure of it.

To see such a legendary ability before her, she was both excited and awed despite being an Ascended. It was simply that rare and powerful.

It took three hours before the Solar Star's light energies grew richer, its rotations on its axis seemed more natural, and it perfectly adjusted to the world's ambient mana with ease. There was not the slightest bit of disharmony emanating from this Solar Star.

"A Natural Solar Star?!" Huoyan Liulan gasped out loud. Who didn't know the history of the War of Fallen Stars and Seven Sages Tower? If Wei Wuyin could transform a palm-sized artificially created Solar Star into a natural Solar Star, then...

The implications were endless.

"Don't overthink it; It took a lot just to do this," Wei Wuyin wryly smiled after seeing Ma Zheng and Huoyan Liulan's excited and hopeful expressions. It took a lot out of him to exert his Intent onto the Solar Star and bring about this astonishing change. He might never be able to do it on the scale of a Dwarf-sized star unless he spent years or decades on it. It was best to create a Solar Star and mature it gradually lest he found himself wasting his life away before he knew it.

"Wei Wuyin, you-" Ma Zheng was about to speak with a concerned expression before Wei Wuyin interrupted.

"Old Ma, I need you to create more, leave them outside them all when you're done. I need as many as you can conjure." After saying this, he hurriedly returned to his room and shut the door leaving Ma Zheng and Huoyan Liulan stunned. Inside, Wei Wuyin's eyes were unbearably bright. "Using Elemental Heart Intent to infuse externally is too difficult, takes too long, but..."

Wei Wuyin's Eye of Creation activated, targeting the Solar Star, causing his black pupils to change into a yellow color. While the Solar Star was a powerful existence, it was still within the range of the Material Dao and Mortal Dao. As such, he didn't have to refine it externally! Using the Divine Seed of Creation within his Eye of Creation, he could nourish the Solar Star, directly transforming it from artificial to natural. Moreover, he might be able to apply Infinite Variations to the Echoing Stars of the Vastness Concoction Method, introducing his unique Intents, and increasing each pill's effectiveness by a few times on his Astral Souls! The thought excited him to no end.

After a few minutes, and a bit of spiritual energy exhausted, the yellow Solar Star in his hands had turned to dust. Then, a white-colored Solar Star took its place, emanating a rich elemental aura, with far higher quality! The Eye of Creation had created an Elemental Origin Star!

Unbeknownst to Wei Wuyin, his innovative actions would inevitably bring about a great change and an even greater catastrophic calamity to the Grand Cyclic Stellar Region.

Chapter 962: SCR Summit, Outdated

Saint Cyclic Renewal Summit's Inverted Stage.

After the devastating loss and untimely demise of Lu Wenhai, the Chosen of the Li Golden Palace, the overall situation within this evaluation began to develop a consistent direction of ongoing flow.

"Core Disciple of Abstruse Sword Sect. Age: 83. Cultivation Realm: Astral Core. Cultivation Stage: Three. Entity Level: Mortal, Lesser Realmlord." Originating from the All-Fury Starfield's(8th) Mystic-Tier Abstruse Sword Sect.

"Prime Disciple of Highlord Wayland. Age: 98. Cultivation Realm: Astral Core. Cultivation Stage: Three. Entity Level: Mortal, Lesser Realmlord." Originating from the lineage of a Highlord of the Treasured Light Starfield(12th).

"Core Disciple of Frigid Snow Palace. Age: 131. Cultivation Realm: Astral Core. Cultivation Stage: Fourth. Entity Level: Mortal, Greater Realmlord." Originating from the Gaia Prime Starfield's(10th) Mystic-Tier Frigid Snow Palace.

Those top-tier Chosen of the various forces did not step forward, setting the pace, establishing dominance, and making themselves known as many had expected after the first few showings. Instead, they sat back and observed those who had the courage and willpower to risk their lives and prove their talents. It could have been construed as these Chosen were all giving these lesser-known talents a chance to shine in the spotlight; unfortunately, the truth was a bitter pill—they were fodder.

"Prime Disciple of Venerable Lightseize. Age: 184. Cultivation Realm: Astral Core. Cultivation Stage: Fourth. Entity Level: Mortal, Transcendent Realmlord." Originating from the lineage of a Venerable of Beyond Light Starfield(9th).

The reason for this was simple. The initial requirements for Chosen were too egregiously high. Why? Because the Ever-Domain Pill's False Worldly Domain had consistently proven itself as being severely lacking. The World Armor or rawly used False Worldly Domain designed and believed to nullify the advantage of the Realm World Phase, elevating the overall talents of an era, was showing consistently underwhelming performances.

To put it simply, it kept failing against powerful entities, shattering and leaving few with their lives. To these prospective Chosen labeled as 'Core Disciple' or 'Inheritor' of their respective forces, they kept meeting failure. The lucky few realized the abnormality and summoned their courage to surrender before the crowd of elites was taken away, losing their chances of cultivating in these amazing grounds.

The regret in each of their eyes was extremely high.

The challenges slowed down to roughly three within any 24-hour timeframe, and as such, after an entire month, barely a hundred geniuses challenged the stage. Very few had any delusions left in their minds, fully knowing that they simply weren't qualified to enter the Main Hall. They, under their senior's orders, cultivated diligently.

The spiritual projections before them emitted such rich energies that a single day of dedicated cultivation here exceeded several weeks in most of their sect's greatest cultivation grounds. The

disparity made quite a few disciples' lips curl with dissatisfaction while the Elders and Leaders could only helplessly smile inside their hearts.

The Everlore Association was simply that wealthy. It was ridiculous to compare, yet seeing the sneaky gazes of their juniors, clearly questioning whether they were getting the 'best' treatment in their sect despite all the promises of nurturing them wholeheartedly, they felt speechless and inadequate.

As for those elders themselves, the senior cultivators, the Starlords' of silver-rank forces, Venerables, and Highlords, some challenged the stage with confidence, carrying with them the pride of their past reputations as strong existences.

"3rd Runic Ascension; Venerable of Ascension. Age: low-5,000. Cultivation Realm: Mystic Ascendant. Cultivation Stage: Second. Entity Level: Ascended, Pinnacle Soul of Mysticism."

"Invalid Runic Ascension; Exalted of Demi-Ascension. Age: high-800. Cultivation Realm: Quasi-Mystic Ascendant. Cultivation Stage: First. Entity Level: Ascended, Lesser Soul of Mysticism."

A Mystic Star Phase expert at the edge of their lifespan decided to accept the challenge, simply to test the scaling system. She lost her life to the entity without being able to react immediately after the announcement finished.

Her valiant sacrifice allowed others to shockingly know that, while the Mystic Star Phase wasn't categorized at the Tenth Stage of the Astral Core Realm, they were considered Demi-Mystic Ascendant in terms of 'cultivation realm', and an Exalted of 'Demi-Ascension'. It was quite derogatory.

"3rd Runic Ascension; Highlord of Ascension. Age: low-12,000. Cultivation Realm: Mystic Ascendant. Cultivation Stage: Third. Entity Level: Ascended, Pinnacle Demi-Mortal Lord."

Without fail, they all died.

Not even able to cry out a surrender, they were severely lacking in comparison to Huang Xiaolong. There were even discussions taking place that, unlike they expected the younger generation's standards to be lowered, the older generation's standards were being elevated with each subsequent loss. Moreover, their status, position, or starfield wasn't taken into account.

Unfortunately, they had nowhere to cry to; their lives were no longer theirs, but in the hands of heaven, ready to push them into a proper afterlife. The sight of watching their idolized seniors and heroes die right before their eyes left an irreparable scar in the hearts of many youngsters, shattering the invincible image that these Ascended beings possessed in their minds.

An icy chill swept their souls with realization—the past era isn't that great. It was as if the Everlore Association, no, all the Earthly Saints deciding these standards were giving these young, developing minds the chance to expand the breadth of their horizons, telling them that the old generation was outdated!

This Saint Cyclic Renewal Summit's purpose was growing abundantly clear. The qualifications screening was brutal and enlightening, tapering the expectations of everyone, and slowly allowing them, from youths to old foxes, to see the writing on the wall.

The era was changing.

They will either fade into obscurity in their era, unlike before where these Core Disciples enjoyed countless resources and respect, or rise to shine brighter than ever, eventually holding the entire world in their hands.

As such, the first month was filled with these Chosen, Saintesses, and Heroes cultivating and receiving instructions, while observing the failures, analyzing the few successes, and readying themselves.

Yet that didn't solve the weighing issue of the Ever-Domain Pill's False Worldly Domain. It was like an external tool, and therefore had various instability issues, and was nowhere near as strong as the Neo-Dawn Eclipse. Many seniors were heavily regretting not doing everything they could to seize a pill for their younger generation.

Many Chosen beneath the Realm World Phase were sweating bullets. A dreadful fear swept their hearts, hence the praying hope that the failures of these lesser forces will force the Everlore Association to lower the standards of entities, granting them increased odds of success.

Within the True Element Sect's section, the three Chosen and various prospective Chosen were solemnly cultivating. They circulated their cultivation methods as they wholeheartedly absorbed the elemental energies from their sect's symbol. The symbol floating above them, increasing their strength, felt as if a sign of inspiration and purpose.

Lin Xianxian, on the other hand, wasn't cultivating. She looked at the inverted stage with a glint in her golden-colored eyes. This glint carried various emotions, including a little hesitation. She glanced at her daughter, a frown forming.

"Xianxian, you—" She began a spiritual transmission, but Lin Xianxian looked towards her and sent her own, disrupting her slowly emotion-charged message.

"I know, Mother. I know." Lin Xianxian wasn't a fool; the stage was too difficult to complete. As for Su Mei, Xue Yifei, Wu Baozhai, and Na Xinyi, they were all abnormal freaks of the utmost, and they all had one thing in common: Wei Wuyin.

There was a reason why Chosen at or above the Realm World Phase hadn't challenged the inverted stage yet—they refused to be the opening fodder. And they were all older, their entities were bound to be many, many times more challenging than the others. It was extremely unlikely that they would get the softened cushion of reaching beyond their prime.

The Saint Cyclic Renewal Summit was meant to devise Chosen standards worthy enough to exceed previous expectations, likely succeeding in the Chosen King Competition of the King of Everlore, a title yet to be claimed despite the thousands of years and dozens of times it was held.

They, like their seniors, were outdated. Their ages were too high, their cultivation realms were too low, and the younger generation will have a much greater foundation and strength going forward using the Ever-Domain Pill or Neo-Dawn Eclipse Pill. Regardless if it was cultivation strength, speed of cultivation progression, or speed of refinement, the Neo-Dawn Eclipse Pill's effects have shown heaven-defying changes to these categories.

Ma Luling, the Ma Clan's prospective Chosen, took five years—FIVE YEARS—to go from the Soul Idol Phase to the Gravity Emission Phase, and she was barely fifty. She would have fifty years of a False

Worldly Domain's benefits, especially the refinement speed before she ever reached the Realm World Phase.

It was one hell of a jumpstart.

This stage wasn't for them, and it was mind-numbingly frustrating. Not even Lu Wenhai or the Prime Disciple of a genuine Ascended was capable of reaching the Sixth Stage of the Astral Core Realm, the Gravity Emission Phase, before a hundred. Despite having three years left, it was almost impossible for Lu Wenhai to accomplish that feat.

The Chosen title had an age limit of five hundred years, solely because it was recommended to attempt to ascend at this age at maximum. It was to ensure some breathing room in case of failure. They then would have some time to refine life force increasing products, if they have the means, to try a second attempt at the Mystic Star Phase. While extremely pricey as a Mystic Ascendant, even a Mystic Star Phase cultivator, needs hundreds of times more life force to accumulate the same value as a mortal's year.

While less than 1% got the chance to reattempt their challenge, it was still better to hold out hope.

But this age limit was now a fatal rope on their necks, threatening to tug if they overstep their might. The vast majority of Realm World Phase challengers were over two hundred years old.

Lin Xianxian and Lin Xianxue knew that if the latter decided to challenge the stage, her life might very well be forfeited to a Soul of Mysticism level entity.

Suddenly, San Luoyang's voice resounded after a month and two weeks passed, and for the last three days, not a single individual attempted the challenge.

"To all invited on the Immortal Saintess Rankings and Immortal Hero Ranking, in fifteen days, you may enter the Void Gate without further screening. Cultivate well." San Luoyang's voice was like cold heavenly water in the blazing depths of hell. The splash brought surprise and indescribable relief!

Those on the Immortal Rankings weren't there due to their combat strength, but backing, talents, and looks. It was very superficial. There was a reason why none of them, except the Dragonborn Saintess and Extreme Yin Saintess, dared to face the challenge for the last month and a half. While there was some overlap here and there, this was coincidental, with very few Chosen being in the Immortal Rankings.

Lin Xianxian revealed a relieved smile, her worries dissipating into smoke. It was likely the Earthly Saints merely wanted to give the Saintesses and Heroes a chance to display their worth, but seeing them refuse to step up, they decided to push them through.

Lin Ming heaved a sigh of relief too. He greatly feared that his Lin Xianxue would die if she tried to challenge the stage, but he didn't know how to tell her to sit back without hurting her feelings.

"It's almost time," Lin Ming reminded himself.

In a place far, far away from the Saint Cyclic Renewal Summit, there was a tiny-sized rogue planet that hurtled through the Dark Void's Void-Blank Space between the Ninestar Starfield and Star Sanctum Starfield, their eastern neighbor.

The dead husk of a planet would expand and contract rhythmically. Within its depths where its planetary core once was, a figure of handsome visage and a regal demeanor was quietly cultivating with slow, steady breaths. Each inhale coincided with the planet's contraction and each exhale with its expansion.

After a strong, powerful exhale that caused the rogue planet to expand to its limits, the figure opened its eyes to reveal a starry expanse.

BOOM!

The rogue planet exploded and the figure was revealed to the Dark Void. With a grin, the figure inspected his hands that effused out white specks of light.

"Incredible."

Chapter 963: SCR Summit, Archaic Chosen Enters the Fray

The figure was none other than Wu Yu, the Grand Knight of Neo-Dawn, and Wei Wuyin's first Alchemic Knight. After the rescue-and-ambush operation had succeeded, the Soul Saint King had arrived, and while discussions were happening, Wu Yu experienced a wave of enlightenment towards the Blood Origin Method. Conscious of this opportunity that could slip away, never returning, Wei Wuyin sent him away.

While Wu Yu had his misgivings about this due to the arrival of the Soul Saint King, he still followed Wei Wuyin's orders and left to cultivate, meditate on this profound insight, and reach the third stage of the Blood Origin Method.

This was the first mystic-graded cultivation method that he'd ever had the luxury of practicing, and its profoundness was tremendously high, allowing him to easily establish an Internal World while greatly enhancing his powers. According to the base descriptions that Wei Wuyin had inscribed on the plate in Mysticism, the Blood Origin Method was Low-World in terms of tier, and it could cultivate a Secondary Dantian.

Wu Yu had spent the last two months unifying his Mystic Soul, Origin Essence, and Blood Essence inside his heart, allowing it to undergo a drastically heaven-defying, mind-shaking change that he had never expected!

While it briefly mentioned evolving the flesh and blood heart into a Heart of Origin, the exact benefits hadn't been very detailed. As for the process, it was extremely detailed, but it didn't delve into the intricate results of each stage or their benefits.

The Blood Origin Method was divided into three stages: Tri-Blood Stage, World-Blood Stage, and Heart-Blood Stage.

The first stage intermixes Origin Essence, Blood Essence, and Mystic Intent into a single entity, increasing the blood's quality and capacity to store mystic-graded physical energies including its

resonance and affinity with the Way of Mysticism. This greatly increased a cultivator's chance of reaching a higher Runic Ascendant State.

The second stage, World-Blood Stage, commences the initial transformation of a Heart of Origin, allowing the heart to generate blood that can convert into low-grade Origin Essence.

At first, when Wu Yu read the descriptions, he thought the best stage was the second stage, the World-Blood Stage. But after reaching the final stage, the Heart-Blood Stage, he knew why it was considered the last stage!

Wu Yu inspected his beating heart. Within was a dantian-like environment, containing its mystic energies that flowed alongside his blood in perfect harmony, causing his veins and arteries to become channel-like dantians as well, storing unique vats of mystic energy. The mystic energies within his heart, veins, and arteries far exceeded his original dantian by quite a bit. Furthermore, a second Internal World had formed inside his heart, even stronger than his first but smaller in size.

While this was already outrageous, there was a fault. There was no Mystic Soul or Mystic Core in this interconnected, body-spanning dantian, so he had to refine and supply all his energies using the one inside his original dantian. A tall order if he was exhausted completely. Of course, that was a difficult feat to achieve for any enemy.

"..." Wu Yu's expression grew solemn as he reached the center of his heart. There, a blood-colored Mystic Rune formed. However, it wasn't like any of his other Eight Runes of Mysticism. It emitted a strong, strange world aura that far exceeded the quality of a Worldly Domain.

It felt like...

"World Intent?" Wu Yu had witnessed Wei Wuyin's Worldly Intent on a few occasions, so he was extremely familiar with its aura, and how it emanated a Worldly Will that could dominate everything it encompassed. The power of World Intent was conversion and control, instilling the Will of water to transform ambient earth into water capable of being considered one's strength. It was one of the greatest profound powers and mysteries of the cultivation world, greatly exceeding a Worldly Domain.

However, it didn't seem to have any particular focus. It just felt like...World Intent of Mysticism?

Wu Yu's frown deepened. If Wei Wuyin was to see this rune, if he could see it, he would be extremely shocked! He had birthed a World Rune Seed that acted as a nucleus for his eighty-one Mystic Rune Seeds. But what would shock him wasn't the rune, but its position, and how Wu Yu still had eight Mystic Runes, subverting his presumption of order.

"It feels very external. Is this the final result of the completed Blood Origin Method?" Wu Yu felt very confused. There was no mention of this rune anywhere, and it wasn't his 9th Rune of Mysticism; moreover, the rune was located in his heart, not in his dantian with the others. He was deeply, indescribably confused.

Left without answers, Wu Yu decided to put it aside for now. It was best to regroup with Wei Wuyin first. After a brief spiritual transmission, he gained the location. A little confused why Wei Wuyin didn't just Void Portal him over, he flew towards the coordinates.

Since San Luoyang's announcement of allowing all those on the two Immortal Rankings to freely enter the Void Gate in fifteen days, the stage was still silent. It's been three days, yet no one had decided to challenge the stage. Certainly, 99% of cultivators of the younger and older generation have given up after witnessing the brutality of their peers and seniors' lives end.

While being a crucial existence in the upcoming era was important to them, their lives were vastly superior in worth. This mentality forced this stale atmosphere.

Suddenly, San Luoyang's voice resounded once again, bringing forth another announcement!

"Due to inactivity, if the stage has no successful challenges after two hours of the last successful challenge, the qualifications screening will come to an end. All those left will be relocated to the viewing stadium. All those on the Immortal Rankings will be brought to the Main Hall."

"...!" The crowd slowly roused into an uproar. The rich cultivation environment was exceptional, and to lose this opportunity caused them to grow pale. Furthermore, those Chosen that hadn't dared to challenge felt pressured. They could no longer just wait until the Earthly Saints lowered the requirements.

"Why couldn't they make it two hours after each challenge? Successful challenge?! That's too difficult!" A youth that wasn't a Chosen or prospective Chosen, yet could enjoy the tremendous resources that he would certainly never enjoy outside, screamed in frustration. This sentiment of his echoed in the minds of many others.

Suddenly, Lin Ming rose from his seated, cultivating position. His actions caught the notice of a curious Lin Xianxian, Lin Xianxue, a despondent Bai Yuxi, the Zhang Chosen duo, and all the rest of the True Element Sect.

Lin Ming looked toward Lin Xianxue and smiled, exuding confidence and youthful brilliance. "I'll see you in the Main Hall," Lin Ming's words were spoken with unquestionable belief as if those words were now going to manifest into reality just by speaking them aloud.

WOOSH!

SHATTER!

Without giving them a chance to react, he leaped upwards and breached the artificial gravity. With a smooth twist of his body, he landed on the stage with his eyes facing the Void Gate. Those grey eyes of his were suffused with battle intent.

The crowd was instantly shaken! This was the first cultivator from one of the Aeternal Sky Starfield! And, he was from one of the upper sections, meaning he came from a top-tier force! The excitement began rising amongst everyone.

A wave swept against Lin Ming, and then San Luoyang's voice resounded!

"Archaic Chosen of True Element Sect Age: 46. Cultivation Realm: Astral Core. Cultivation Stage: Sixth. Entity Level: Mortal, Pinnacle Timelord."

Chapter 963: SCR Summit, Heroic Air

Archaic Chosen?

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While they were all wondering about its meaning, Lin Ming's rising momentum was disturbed, and his left eyelids spasmed slightly. Similarly, the True Element Sect's members were all shaken by the unique title. They were fully aware of its origins. Amongst the various Chosen, Lin Ming was the sole Chosen granted access by archaic standards from long ago, an ancient trial that he passed. It wasn't updated nor heavily regulated, honoring the intentions of the Nine-Elementus Divine King.

After arriving at the sect, there was a lot of push back towards Lin Ming's status from all sides. Initially, few openly objected due to the Guardian of the Elements, Han Yuhei, stating its legitimacy, but as the truth of his succession came to light, the title changed in its meaning, becoming a jeering term of derogatory meaning by those who disliked Lin Ming.

As such, the True Element Sect's members all had strange expressions. Lin Xianxian's expression was overcast, her eyes flickered with indescribable emotion. "It's the Golden Gate Pavilion," she softly whispered to her mother, feeling certain of this.

It could already be seen that the Everlore Association was using Heavenly Seers to glean information from the challengers, and determine truth from lies. After all, just because someone arrived with a specific force, that didn't mean they were a part of that organization. They needed to sift through that.

Shockingly though, the Everlore Association didn't use their Heavenly Seers but the Golden Gate Pavilion's Seers. The relationship between the two wasn't very good, at least to the public. It might be possible that the Golden Gate Pavilion had offered their services. This felt like the only way that made sense, given the Everlore Association's prideful nature.

"It's just a title," Lin Xianxian flatly said. She realized the intricate layers that this detail revealed. Fortunately, she didn't think the Golden Gate Pavilion would act unfairly against Lin Ming despite this little act of theirs. It didn't seem like they had affected the entity level. It felt roughly appropriate given the previous challenges.

That said, she felt that the standards had been lowered by a considerable degree after so many failures, or else Lin Ming might have faced a stronger level.

"I hope so," Lin Xianxian softly said as she gazed at the figure standing on the stage like an upright spear. She hoped it was only that and nothing else.

"..." Within the vast crowd of elites and elders, there was an outlined area meant for vagabond cultivators without a specific organization and bronze-rank forces that vastly overestimated themselves, hoping to experience a growth in their horizons. They got extremely lucky and were rewarded for their gumption.

It was the largest area in the entire area, occupied by the most people, and a sphere of random energies above carrying all nine elemental energies. Huang Xiaolong had occupied a spot here, isolated by himself with his disciple, and a few others as well. They took it upon themselves to make individual imaginary areas of friends and allies, separating from enemies and competitors.

A hooded figure cloaked in grey was meditating silently, their breathing steady yet powerful. Instinctively, everyone gave this figure a wide berth. When Lin Ming's aura seethed, becoming the central focus of this world, the figure lifted its head slightly, revealing a pair of scarlet eyes. There was a feral, savage light within, and it was not that of a human.

Within their jet-black pupils, the image of an inverted Lin Ming solely existed. Then, the figure stood upwards. As he did, those nearby felt waves of goosebumps surge throughout their bodies, as if a predator had set their sights on them.

The figure lifted their feet. Suddenly, a shadowy mist swirled around them, causing the figure to pause slightly. They looked downwards towards the misty shadow that quivered from time to time. After a brief period, the misty shadow faded while the hooded figure's scarlet eyes never left Lin Ming's figure.

Calmly, the grey hooded figure sat down, closed its eyes, and entered a strange, hibernation-like state.

In the Boundless Martial Sect's designated area, there was a woman taller than most looking at Lin Ming, her golden eyes attached to Lin Ming's figure. She remembered him in the War Devil Realm and Grand Spirit Trials. In the end, she shrugged, pouting and muttering softly: "Why can't I just challenge this thing?"

She recalled her master's orders and felt frustrated. She was the valiant type, filled with fighting spirit and a need for a challenge, so having to hold back caused her to itch uncomfortably. However, her master insisted. If she went against her master, she was bound to be brutally crushed beneath those small heels of hers once again. With an aggrieved sigh, she tightly clenched her fists impatiently.

In the area of the Tang Clan, one of the eight Noble Clans, a beautiful figure lifted her bright eyes to see the figure that occupied her dreams. She finally saw him again, and he possessed the same heroic air as that day. A graceful smile surfaced on her face.

Back to the stage, Lin Ming frowned heavily. He didn't know if this was simply a jab at him or an incident due to this nickname becoming extremely popular in the True Element Sect. Regardless, he swore to himself that one day, this title will be regarded with reverence by the entire world.

With refreshed thinking, he didn't let the title bother him, merely considering it a process of walking on his cultivation path. He brought out his signature Origin Spear, the white shaft of it emanated a powerful elemental aura. It had been elevated a level, reaching the peak astral-grade.

"Do you wish to continue?" The voice asked again! However, the tension was entirely different than before. This was the first Chosen of the Aeternal Sky Starfield to act! They had anticipation of a resounding success or a spectacular failure.

"Yes," Lin Ming declared.

When everyone looked to the jet-black obelisk to see the entity that would form, San Luoyang's voice resounded again.

"Archaic Chosen, have you used the Ever-Domain Pill or Neo-Dawn Eclipse Pill to form your Domain Seed?"

The crowd was taken aback by the question. Why were they asking Lin Ming this?

When Lin Xianxuei heard this, her pupils constricted slightly. This shameful incident implicated a few forces, namely their own, and Bai Yuxi's complexion grew ashen. She had used the Engorging Foundation Evil Method to help Lin Ming find a loophole in the Archaic Trials set by the Nine-Elementus Divine King, costing her, Tang Xingyun, and a maidservant dearly. The last one lost her life.

She had to resort to her grandfather's help to recover the damage to her soul, but she was told her soulspan had been reduced by a fourth, irreparable even with an Earthly Saint. She might encounter various difficulties in her future cultivation efforts, solely due to the drawn out time between recovery and affliction of injury. If only she had gotten the ninth-grade product from the Elementus Cache, none of this would've happened.

Why were they asking about this?

Even Lin Ming was confused by the question. His expression darkened. "Why does it matter?" He asked instead of answering.

Surprisingly, San Luoyang explained! "Due to the past results, the preliminary discussions have led to another layer added to determine entity-level based on the origins of one's False Worldly Domain." While he didn't go into too much depth, it was clear that both pills had their advantages and disadvantages—availability versus quality. The vast majority of Chosen used Ever-Domain Pills to form their Domain Seed.

It was clear that one of these products was vastly superior!

Lin Xianxian was shocked before she inwardly sneered, "The Everlore Association must be seething." Due to the majority of the Earthly Saints using the Ever-Domain Pill for their Chosen, they might have been forced into adding this layer of differentiating. It was no different than a slap in the face! An open admission of inferiority!

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"..." Lin Ming's expression became strange. Shouldn't they uniformly judge everyone by the lowest decided rubric? Why the differentiation? It wasn't just him who thought this, everyone else did too.

"They must be trying to find a middle-ground since the Neo-Dawn Eclipse Pill isn't freely available, but they didn't want to lower the standards, having one group of people dominate the others without fighting back. It might very well render the entire summit as pointless. This was especially so if the set standards was exceeded by a single pill. Moreover, this pill was one of the core reasons for its existence." Lin Xianxuei acutely gleaned. They likely learned that the only four success stories had all taken the Neo-Dawn Eclipse Pill, yet thus far, not a single Ever-Domain Pill had succeeded!

Moreover, the Saint Cyclic Renewal Summit's reasoning heavily relied on the Neo-Dawn Eclipse Pill's existence!

"Answer the question." San Luoyang's firm voice resounded, clearly seeking out an answer. To everyone present, it was rather strange that the Earthly Saints couldn't tell how Lin Ming formed his Domain Seed. That confused most.

In the end, Lin Ming could only answer: "I did not use either pill to form my Domain Seed, but a unique cultivation method with the support of others." He didn't go into much detail.

"Oh? He formed his own?" This information instantly caused a commotion! If he formed his own, then what criteria will he be judged by?

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Chapter 964: SCR Summit, Heroic Air

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Lin Xianxei's eyes furrowed slightly, and then her heart shook as realization dawned on her. With frightening swiftness, her eyes widened. She began to move!

Chapter 965: SCR Summit,Whisperings of Death

Lin Xianxei's eyes furrowed slightly, and then her heart shook as realization dawned on her. With frightening swiftness, her eyes widened. She began to move! But, just as she took her first step, an unfathomable, irresistible power descended on her body and restrained her. A voice echoed in their area, "Due to special circumstances, no allied support will be allowed in this challenge. Please refrain from disturbing the scene."

Lin Xianxei's eyes shook violently as she tried to muster a little bit of resistance. She wanted to shout out to Lin Ming: "It's a trap!" But her voice was suppressed, her spiritual fluctuations would be blocked to prevent outside interferences during the challenge, and she was unable to fly towards Lin Ming; she couldn't give him any alerting expressions.

Why would they give you a choice?!

Lin Xianxian realized this peculiarity and caught on after seeing an unfathomable force envelop her daughter. Alas, she wasn't able to do anything.

Lin Ming frowned. He was pondering which he should choose. It was clear that the Ever-Domain Pill was weaker, and likely easier to overcome, while the Neo-Dawn Eclipse Pill will certainly be more difficult. It would be best to choose the former. However, doing so equated to admitting to his inferiority to Wei Wuyin.

Lin Ming couldn't help but recall the Grand Seer's words from all those years ago. It was like a haunting ghost's claw, tugging against his heart with an icy touch. If he took a step back here, wouldn't that mean he would agree that he was only worthy of the lowest level of Chosen?

As he thought more on it, his aura began to transform, emitting a valiant air befitting the fearless. With bright grey eyes, he refused to back down and admit his inferiority to Wei Wuyin, not even his pills. For a moment, to the audience, he felt like a peerless hero willing to face titans.

"I choose the Neo-Dawn Eclipse Pill."

"So be it."

"Archaic Chosen of True Element Sect Age: 46. Cultivation Realm: Astral Core. Cultivation Stage: Sixth. Entity Level: Mortal, Lesser Starlord."

"Do you wish to continue?"

In the Main Hall, Wu Baozhai and Xue Yifei were watching a massive, multi-view spiritual projection that revealed every detail of what was happening in the other area. They sat on golden mats, wisps of multicolored energy seeped into their pores without them actively doing so.

They saw Lin Ming accept the newly revised version, and the two looked at each other. This might seem like a play on Lin Ming, but it was a targeted move against Wei Wuyin and the Ninestar Starfield! Lin Ming simply got caught in the crossfire. Their expressions gradually grew solemn.

Wei Wuyin sat within his alchemy lab with a feverish expression, his silver eyes inspecting the brewing cauldron with eight alchemic stars in each eye! After several minutes, a burst of alchemic power surged, attempting to manifest an illusory phenomenon of the Alchemic Dao.

In the end, it was suppressed by a powerful formation. Wei Wuyin heaved a heavy sigh of relief, reaching in and pulling out a seven-colored pill that heavily resembled a Solar Star.

A Ninth-Grade Pill!

"Finally, I did it." After over a month, Wei Wuyin finally succeeded in reaching his goal. The Echoing Stars of the Vastness Pill here wasn't just lacking impurities, Wei Wuyin succeeded in concocting that on day four, nor was it just peak-quality, Wei Wuyin achieved that on day nine, but had been changed to grant it an Infinite Variations form!

That took nearly a month to complete, finally using the conjoined power of a modified Solar Star by the Eye of Creation, and the Infinite Dao Soul Ash introduced into the concoction method. The change to the method was a truly difficult step, needing a different ratio of certain materials to accommodate. Regardless, he had succeeded!

The Echoing Stars of the Alchemic Vastness Pill. And it was at the peak-grade!

Without being able to revel in his success, an illusory root directly manifested from his glabella and brought it into his Sea of Consciousness. Then, Eden began to ravenously refine the pill. It was at least four times more effective to an Alchemic Soul's Domain Seed than a normal soul. Due to its alchemical properties, it was harmless and could be devoured directly in the Sea of Consciousness without externalizing.

Wei Wuyin sighed a little.

He inspected his Domain Seeds with rapt focus, a glint of burning excitement in his eyes. After an entire month, his Domains had consumed dozens of peak-quality Echoing Stars of the Vastness Pills. They still refused to refine anything less than peak-quality, causing him to have an excess of these pills at low and high qualities.

The growth of his Domain Seeds was monumental, truly justifying the pill's imaginary tier as 'pinnacle-tier'. The Domain Seed was the eventual 'core' of a Star Core, so it greatly benefited from its effects. Furthermore, the primary effect of the pill elevated all his energy sources, including the four essential and light, spatial, and gravitational forces, thereby causing his foundation to thoroughly rise.

Wei Wuyin began to meditate after his success, feeling the strange power flowing through his meridians, Sea of Consciousness, and Dantian. It was loose, free, and without a tether. It was time energy! Wei Wuyin realized that if it wasn't for his True Void Dragon Bloodline, the time energy might ravage his body without the necessary cultivation base.

He realized he couldn't give this to those beneath the Temporal Eye Phase, the eighth stage of the Astral Core Realm, lest they suffer consequences from the uncontrolled time energy that might rapidly siphon their lifeforce or slow down their circulation of energies.

"I'll just make an accompanying paste that can expel or extract the time energy from their bodies during refinement. Refine the pill; soak one's body; cultivate without worry," Wei Wuyin decided in his heart, not allowing conventional cultivation limitations to halt his ability to rapidly develop his forces. He hadn't noticed but he was showing the true signs of an Alchemist, deciding to devise specific products to overcome specific obstacles. Almost all of his created products were due to sudden inspiration.

Wei Wuyin stood and stretched his tense bones. While his concoction speed was heaven-defying, it still drained a lot out of him to do so. It was just fortunate that his mental and physical energies were absurd. The slight movement of his body caused space to distort.

"Hm?" Wei Wuyin finally noticed the drastic changes in his physical body. The peak-quality effect of the Echoing Stars of the Vastness Pill was purifying the body and refining it with the unique energy within a Solar Star's core. This heavily resembled a Star Core, so it greatly benefited one's attempt to manifest or elevate Astral Physiques.

Wei Wuyin was at the Realm World Phase, so he was two stages from using starforce to refine his body, manifesting his Astral Physique, yet the pill had greatly strengthened his body's foundations. This wasn't related to physical energies, but the constitution of each cell, from muscle to blood, to bone, to brain cells. All of them had increased.

Wei Wuyin's facial expression grew odd. He realized the capacity of energy that his Sea of Consciousness and body could contain had roughly doubled. This was extremely excessive considering his previous limitations, and it was still growing.

"The limits of my foundation are increasing again..." Wei Wuyin softly muttered. He could only pray that by the time he reached his limits, he wasn't rendered blind again. How irritating would that be?

After another thorough inspection of his entirety, Wei Wuyin nodded approvingly. His Celestial Eyes held steady and firm despite the secondary effect of the pill increasing his spiritual strength, and there were no ill-adverse changes to his increased quantities of energies.

Suddenly, Wei Wuyin's saint ring glowed with the spiritual light of a transmitted message. He inspected it, and as he did, his expression grew darker by the second.

"Bai Lin."

Kree?

Wei Wuyin vanished. He appeared in another room, his eyes focusing on Bai Lin who was lazing around foolishly. Her golden eyes instantly honed onto Wei Wuyin's figure with a happy expression. While she hadn't grown an inch, a limitation of her racial features, her aura was completely different. She had finished refining the feather.

"We got a summit to go to," Wei Wuyin grinned.

"Finally!" Bai Lin felt exultant.

Back at the stage, Lin Ming was in the middle of facing this new challenge, his heroic air faded slightly as his expression grew uglier by the second.

The entity-level was Lesser Starlord? What type of bullshit was this?! Yet he chose this himself, so how could he back down? But as he was about to bravely, or foolishly, accept, a strong feeling of deadly crisis emerged in his mind, as if a guardian angel was whispering in his ear that something was amiss.

It was clear, causing his heart to shake violently. It was as if the voice was telling him that agreeing meant certain death! He clenched his fists tightly, defiance burning wildly in his eyes.

San Luoyang's voice resounded yet again, "Do you wish to continue?"

Special courtesy for a special circumstance!