Paragon of Sin Chapter 31 - 40

Chapter 31: Inferno Blazing Magma Qi

In a cavern near Mount Inferno, the sounds of heavy breathing and feminine moans echoed wildly in the air. At times it would be low and then abruptly rise in volume. There were even faint sounds of the word 'god' being uttered, always predicated by an 'oh'. The sounds continued for nearly an hour before ceasing altogether.

Outside this cave was a lit fire and a white crane resting near it. It seemed wholly unbothered by the intense sounds in the cavern. Near the fire, feeding it with dry wood, two figures sat away from each other with blushes.

The young woman and man from the Jade Lotus Sect were named Dai Qiuyue and Zhang Mu respectively. They were lofty core disciples who were traveling with their core elder. Originally, they were a group of six with three core disciples, each having their own core elder following them.

Unfortunately, they had split due to some internal sect drama, and now Zhang Mu followed Dai Qiuyue and Jiao Ning who was her supporter. His own core elder switched sides last minute, leaving him to rely on them.

"Should Elder Jiao be...doing this? I mean, isn't she, you know..marri-" Zhang Mu had an embarrassed look on his face as he thought of the actions of those two in the cave. He was fortunate enough to heal his jaw, and while his teeth would take some time and medicinal pills to grow back, he could talk normally now.

"Silence!" Dai Qiuyue angrily shouted with a pink blush. She knew that Jiao Ning suffered immense injuries to her left side. Her meridians and muscles were fiercely damaged due to

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that spear throw. It would be lucky if she could cultivate like normal or even move normally if it was not treated.

An injury like that, even the sect couldn't treat it fully unless one of the Mortal Gods of their sect decided to sacrifice their vitality and lifeforce to do so. Who would do such a thing for a married woman who'd reached the end of her potential? Without her primal yin intact, reaching the Yin Form Phase was as difficult as doing so as a man.

Not to mention, Jiao Ning's husband was weaker than her, weaker than them. What could he do?

Yet, this young, handsome man had approached and said he could heal her injuries in full for an exchange. Jiao Ning didn't even hesitate to accept after verifying his claims. If she was in her position, would she decline? Actually, would anyone?

If Jiao Ning went back to the sect in that state, her family, clan, and every friend she had weaker than her before may be targeted by her enemies. Her combat strength would be greatly diminished, her physical mobility shot, and her cultivation restricted. If before she still had a chance to reach the fourth phase, with her meridians damaged, that was a dream for another life. The sect would deem her 'totaled' and unworthy of future investments.

But with the miraculously powerful wood qi filled with lifeforce and a powerful vitality, her injuries healed in a matter of hours.

So, she couldn't help but shout at Zhang Mu. He needed to use his brain sometimes. Perhaps then he wouldn't have been betrayed by his core elder.

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After a few minutes of quiet, Wei Wuyin walked out of the cave with a hearty stretch. That itch in his heart had been scratched quite thoroughly. Now, he could focus on organizing his gains and deciding on his cultivation schedule before leaving for the next city.

He arrived next to the white crane who lifted its head and rubbed itself against Wei Wuyin's palms. "Rest up. You can go hunting if you need anything."

White cranes like her needed meat and had a big appetite. Normally, Du Leng would handle her meals, but now, she'll have to tap into her foraging instincts and find food for herself. He wasn't worried. With her strength and size, she was an expert that could slaughter Foundation Establishment Realm humans like swatting flies.

He looked towards the two disciples of the Jade Lotus Sect and smiled at them. If they had met any other Mortal God level figure from the Scarlet Solaris Sect, their fate would definitely be a whole lot worse. They lucked out meeting him.

With a leap, he went into another hewn out cave of his. This one was made for his own privacy, and the other was for them.

A few minutes after he entered the cave, Jiao Ning exited her cave. Her expression still somewhat flushed, but her complexion was more rosy than before. Despite not dual cultivating with Wei Wuyin, just normal relations had some benefits. He had a dense and pure yang energy, vitality, and lifeforce. She felt herself brimming with energy despite that exhausting activity.

"Elder Jiao!" Dai Qiuyue called out with emotion. She ran up and immediately wanted to make sure that Wei Wuyin hadn't done anything too intrusive or inappropriate. She was also showing her concern.

Jiao Ning saw her concern and felt warmth in her heart. It was unfortunate that their plans left them with nothing in the end, but the alternative was truly leaving with nothing. Not even their lives. So, she quickly came to terms with this.

"I'm fine," she warmly smiled. It wasn't like she was taken by force or blackmailed to do anything. This was a choice she made, and it was one she could live with. As for her husband? She didn't feel a bit of guilt in her heart.

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Perhaps if she was a mortal woman, but as a cultivator, she essentially was the breadwinner and protector of the entire family and her clan. If she was left with a serious injury that would put them in danger, perhaps it would be her weak husband who'd voice his dissatisfaction with her risky decision first.

That was just how the cultivation society was. If the situation was reversed, wouldn't it be the same? Would her husband keep his loyalty if a beautiful, top-grade woman was offering to heal him of a crippling injury for a night's worth of intimate relations?

Pfft. Fuck no.

"Let's eat," Jiao Ning calmly said.

Wei Wuyin had organized his newly acquired wealth. According to his rough estimation, the qi weapons and armor he obtained from the soldiers should be worth about sixty essence stones. The amount of essence stones obtained from them totaled only twenty-two.

If he added the pills, elixirs, materials he didn't need, and other oddities, he could probably receive twenty or so essence stones.

A little more than a hundred essence stones, but still worth it in his book. The true wealth was the City Lord and that profligate son of his. They had an immense wealth totaling about three hundred essence stones, with pure essence stones totaling fifty-seven.

The magma essence aside, if he included the vault's raw materials and valuables, he earned a total of eight hundred essence stones, or about.

He was shocked to find out the vault had no essence stones, but thinking about it. If the City Lord had just become a Mortal God, he would've taken all the essence stones out of the vault. Which explained why he had so damn much on him.

Even to a large sect, a hundred essence stones were a lot. That was the rough equivalent of one hundred Qi Condensation Realm warriors at the first phase, or one hundred inner disciples.

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"When I convert all of this into essence stones, I should have enough to reach the Sublime Qi Phase!" He was excited making this conclusion. With a cultivation base at that level, how strong would he be? He would be one step away from becoming a Mortal Godlord.

If he took that step, establishing his own sect wouldn't be an issue! The excitement caused his heart to pound fiercely. Even the Sect Leader, Su Lanyi, was only a seventh phase expert.

With two Hearts of Qi, the ability to refine separately, and their rapid rate of refinement, his speed of cultivation would be at least eight times faster than others. As he thought of this, his eyes lit up as he recalled the piece of Mount Inferno's heart.

He stored everything away, and retrieved the magma essence. The temperature of the cave increased by forty degrees instantly. He didn't mind that as he focused on the stone.

"If I can birth high-level Blazing Inferno Magma Qi, I would be one step away from cultivating the Divine Element Form! With a Divine Heart of Elemental Qi, who knows how strong I'd be!" His anticipation was palpable.

Even Jiao Ning who had a Heart of Wind Qi was three times stronger than her equal in terms of wind qi arts. Wouldn't all his qi arts receive an immense jump in strength? What about that Divine Heart said to benefit his four components of metaphysical qi: mind, matter, spirit, and essence.

While vague, he knew it would be miraculous. After all, Divine King Han Xei had cultivated this exact art!

In truth, unbeknownst to Wei Wuyin, Divine King Han Xei did not use all high-level elemental qi, but simply wanted his successor to. Even after three eras after his, no one had been capable of doing so. However, quite a few have developed Elemental Qi.

The state of cultivation in the present had changed heavily since the past eras. If Divine King Han Xei entered this time, his strength would be middling at best amongst the continent's top experts.

The grandeur people emphasized on past eras were mostly bullshit. They were rife with mistakes and cultivation advancements that had been fixed or missing in today's age.

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Wei Wuyin didn't know this and felt enlivened at reaching the heights of the Divine King Han Xei. He sat down and started to circulate his two Hearts of Qi independently. They each started to draw magma essence from both sides of themselves.

Time slowly passed.
An hour.
A day.
Three days.
A week.
Ten full days!
Wei Wuyin had cultivated without interruption for ten full days. When his eyes opened up a

Wei Wuyin had cultivated without interruption for ten full days. When his eyes opened up, a blazing heat and dark crimson light effused from his eyes. The magma essence stone had shrunk by seventy percent. Thirty percent was enough for several people to give birth to normal magma qi.

"I did it!" His heart felt deeply satisfied as he drew a trace of magma qi to his right hand and externalized it. When he gave it a spherical form and infused yin-yang energies within, it became a ball of molten lava. The lava was slowly turning from bright gold to dark crimson with a tinge of black. It grew more viscous and semi-fluid.

This was the state of magma. However, as it was created, the temperature of the cave jumped nearly five hundred degrees. The cave walls seemed to even show faint signs of melting.

While it didn't extend outward, this was an insane level of heat.

He infused more qi within and the heat jumped by double, reaching a thousand degrees fahrenheit and continued to rise steadily. The walls truly showed signs of changing colors and melting at this point.

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His eyes glowed with an even brighter dark crimson light. He knew this wasn't the limit of temperature it could radiate, but shockingly, he experienced absolutely no discomfort.

Absolutely none.

His body had been infused and tempered with magma energy, adapting to its potential heat. When he refined fire energy into his physique, he gained a bit of heat resistance, but also could sustain himself in cold temperatures for longer than normal humans.

Now, this took one portion to an absolute extreme. He was essentially immune to heat. His skin cells, muscles, hair follicles, protective eye layer, all of it! The heat did not affect him in any manner, not even his spiritual sense was distorted by the intense heat.

Blazing Inferno Magma Qi!

That wasn't all. He felt the durability and flexibility of earth and water emerge within the magma energy. As it tempered his body, those traits were enhanced too.

"The theory that advanced elements originate from extremes and portions of the four natural elements feels truer and truer as I birth more of them," he sighed with happiness as he dispersed his qi. The temperature dropped drastically as a result.

He recalled a qi art he had read. It was called Magma & Water Fusion Art: Explosive Rupture. It fused magma and water qi causing a destructive explosion.

It reminded him of the black skeleton image where he merged metal and lightning together into a single strike. He was curious after seeing that and entered the Scarlet Dao Temple to find it.

It was called Metal & Lightning Fusion Art: Controlled Bolt.

Normally, lightning was the hardest element to control and direct. In fact, condensing it was nearly impossible. However, by using metal qi in conjunction, lightning can be drawn in and directed with little effort. This added the two traits together and created an even greater power.

He would definitely need to spend some time on both of those arts. Who knew how much stronger it'd make him. That being said, he wondered why the previous him formed a Heart of Scarlet Qi...obviously inferior to the Heart of Elemental Qi he had plans for.

It didn't make sense to him, but that's the issue with looking at your future. The moment you do, it changes, and you won't know what your previous self experienced or thought of.

Shrugging, he stretched his body and left the cave. It was time to get traveling.

Chapter 32: One Strike

When he exited the cave, he fully expected the three members of the Jade Lotus Sect to have long since left. However, to his surprise, the two core disciples were cultivating near the camp while Jiao Ning protected them. Her wind qi circulated quietly within her body, ready to defend against any and all perceived threats.

Wei Wuyin frowned. He swept his spiritual sense outward and saw his crane using its beak to grab fish from a nearby river.

Fweet!

Wei Wuyin whistled, causing the crane to lift its head and excitedly return. The whistle broke Dai Qiuyue and Mu Zhang out of their cultivation states. They looked towards him and had very odd expressions.

He jumped and landed nearby. A brow of his formed an arch as he looked at them questioningly. Mu Zhang released a stifled cough as he looked away.

Wei Wuyin was only curious as to why they stayed.

In truth, they hadn't.

Earlier, they left. However, when they came across the news that the City Lord and his son were found murdered while the elite soldiers that had gone out earlier had also been found dead in a similar fashion - beheaded - this created all sorts of a commotion.

They soon realized that Wei Wuyin had killed them. To be able to do that, he had to be a Fifth Phase expert, or even a Mortal God!

Despite having such a strong, youthful lifeforce aura, he was such a high-level expert! They also realized that the Earthly Titan Sect had acted quickly. They had already locked down the surrounding area and were investigating the situation. After all, the City Lord was a recent Mortal God and a newly promoted grand elder of the sect.

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They had to take this seriously, if only for face.

They directly sent three Grand Elders and several prominent Core Elders to investigate. They were looking for a young woman with a Heart of Wind Qi. Therefore, Jiao Ning couldn't leave and was helpless.

They believed she was an accomplice, drawing the forces of the City Lord away before an assassin took his life. They predicted the person who did the act was a Fifth Phase expert, hence the need to kill in a stealthy manner.

So, they came back and hid here. If trouble came, Jiao Ning would do her best to get Wei Wuyin to help. In truth, they weren't looking for him, so he was safe. However, she was different.

Jiao Ning walked forward with a calm expression, but when she saw Wei Wuyin brazenly taking his full of her chest, she blushed slightly. She calmly explained the situation.

"Oh? So it's like that." Wei Wuyin realized these three could not catch a break. If at any time since their meeting he had decided to just not bother with them, their fates would've been horrible. Either death or worse.

The crane arrived near him and stretched out her head. He rubbed it softly and pondered on the situation. This white crane was a signature beast for those in the Scarlet Solaris Sect. Considering the two territories were neighbors, it could be taken as a coincidence of him being here. However, if word of his Fifth Phase cultivation base had spread and his identity was discovered, then he would immediately be suspected.

This made things difficult. Of course, he could just avoid the lockdown and escape, but the crane would be left alone and he wasn't willing to abandon it. Worse was these three, if he left, they would soon be discovered and killed or worse.

After all, it was likely that she was the only person who had a Heart of Wind Qi in the immediate area that was not a top-tier Earthly Titan Sect member. She wasn't a suspect, she was the immediate culprit upon discovery. After interrogation, it's likely they would learn of his identity and involvement.

Killing a grand elder figure were grounds for war, and with him being so exceptionally talented, they would probably want to capture him to kill or trade for a vast amount of concessions and resources from the Scarlet Solaris Sect.

The politics of the situation was troublesome.

His mount wasn't fast enough to escape the pursuit of the Earthly Titan Sect. He wouldn't even be able to escape now with the crane.

He felt like he was in a bind. He subconsciously looked towards his right arm and checked his karmic value: 162.5.

"Still 162.5. Guess no luck-" His eyes widened in abrupt and mind-shaking shock as he looked at the number again. His pupils trembled as they focused heavily on the numerical text written on his right arm.

162.5.

It was 162.5.

How the fuck?

Wasn't it 162.4?

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When did it change? How did it change? No one voluntarily gave him their karmic reincarnation value, right? Right?!

Because he didn't know when it had increased by 0.1, he didn't know why this happened. Could it be an inverse response? If he suffered bad luck, he gained more karmic value as a result? That didn't make sense at all, but was it the case?

The three watched Wei Wuyin stare at his right arm in disbelief. Like he didn't notice his flawless skin or toned muscles before. This caused them all to have various expressions, mostly confused and awkward ones.

Ignoring them, Wei Wuyin swore to check his karmic value more often.

"Yeah, the situation is a little much. However, we only have a few limited choices, don't we? First, wait and hope we can dodge their inspection. In a few weeks, maybe they'll leave and forget. Second, try to avoid their lockdown efforts and leave. Third, take the direct approach and plead our innocence." Wei Wuyin surmised.

Jiao Ning agreed. There were other choices, but none of them left a safe option. These were the three non-violent options, but even still, they didn't seem like very good ones.

If they find them hiding, they're suspect #1. If they get discovered trying to bypass the lockdown, they're suspect #1. If they get called on their bullshit, they're suspect #1. It really was a thin tightrope to walk.

"Hm, why worry about those things?" Wei Wuyin slightly smiled as he leapt onto the white crane's back.

He looked towards the trio, "You coming or not?"

They stood stunned. He was going to just leave? But what about the lockdown?

"If you're not going to speak, I'm leaving in five seconds." His words were swift and direct.

Jiao Ning directly grabbed Dai Qiuyue's slim waist and leapt onto the crane's back. Zhang Mu hurriedly followed suit after a bit of a daze. If he was left behind, where would he go?

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"Let's go." The crane flapped its large wings and took to the skies. Without a word, it traveled east.

In the skies, Earthly Titan Sect disciples littered about on their mounts, hovering idly while other disciples commenced their searches. They mounted eagle-like mounts similar to the variant eagles used by inner disciples of the Scarlet Solaris Sect. However, they were far bigger and their colors were brighter in comparison.

Atop a particular eagle larger and more dominant than the rest, a large man towering nearly three meters and wore nothing but loose pants tied by thin straw stood atop his hovering bird while vigilantly glancing at the surroundings. He had no facial hair, bronze skin, and bulging muscles. The black hair on his head, however, was long and wild.

With his uncovered feet laid bare to the world, he gave off a fiercely savage and natural feeling. Whenever the disciples glanced at this man, there was undisguised respect held clearly within their eyes.

His name was Gu Futu, a Mortal God and Grand Elder of the Earthly Titan Sect. He possessed a Heart of Earth Qi and had a unique feral bloodline that gave him stronger than average senses, heightened natural instincts, and stronger physique. There were rumors he was raised in the wild by wolves, devouring human flesh in his youth.

The dozens of elders and disciples stood in a blockade formation. With them hovering, no one would be able to leave without their permission.

Kree!

Suddenly, an avian cry sounded that drew their attention. In the distance, a bird flew towards them. It was shrouded in violet lightning and wind qi, concealing its racial identity and passengers well. It was moving swiftly like a miniature thunderstorm.

"What is that?" A disciple asked.

"Is it an attack? Are they fools?!" Another disciple cried, a hint of a sneer on his lips.

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"They're only coming to their deaths, perhaps they're the ones responsible for the murders," an elder coldly spat, his gaze mostly indifferent. With Gu Futu here, he felt confident any enemy could only wait for capture or death.

When Gu Futu saw this, his eyes narrowed sharply. He sent his spiritual sense outwards. When it came in contact with the shroud of qi resembling a thunderstorm, his pupils contracted.

"Retreat!" His expression turned fierce and solemn as he coldly ordered with haste. His order came abruptly, but the disciples and elders acted almost without conscious effort. They retreated away from the shroud of gi's path.

Gu Futu stayed in the path of the shroud and his aura erupted. The winds raged, the temperature fluctuated, the earth trembled, and the world felt heavier. He was influencing the world's natural elements with just his presence. The False Reality Phase was exceptional. As he stood there, he seemed like a savage god from legend.

Within the shroud, Wei Wuyin slightly smiled. The Jiao Ning trio panicked as they immediately recognized the identity of Gu Futu. Every Mortal God level character was widely known, such as the Helios Witch.

He sent the order for the crane to stop before Gu Futu. The shroud of violet lightning and wind qi kept their identities concealed. As they stopped, he waited for Gu Futu.

Gu Futu's eyes became like a wild beast as his spiritual sense tried to penetrate the shroud of violet lightning and wind qi, but there was a terrifyingly powerful spiritual strength preventing his entry. He frowned, his canine teeth showing with a growling aggression.

"How cowardly. As a Mortal God, do you need to hide yourself?" Gu Futu coldly asked.

"What?! That's also another Mortal God level character? Who?!"

The crowd of Earthly Titan Sect members went into an uproar. No wonder Gu Futu had them retreat. In a battle between Mortal God level experts, they could only be easy kills or in the way. If Gu Futu had to worry about them, his combat prowess would drop. That was an unnecessary risk.

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Wei Wuyin didn't respond, but the faces of the Jiao Ning trio changed into wonderous expressions.

"A Mortal God?!" Zhang Mu shouted almost instinctively.

Dai Quiyue had her eyes shine with an odd light, she looked towards Jiao Ning and felt envious. She had actually enjoyed a period of intimacy with a Mortal God, and a handsome one at that!

Jiao Ning was silent. She looked at Wei Wuyin's tall and strong back and couldn't help but recall their previous actions. There was a faint hope that kindled in her eyes as she tried to recall if Wei Wuyin had been satisfied before. The thought of her husband faded out of her mind.

In the Wu Country, there were tens of millions of cultivators. A majority of them were in the Foundation Establishment, with hundreds of thousands of Qi Condensation experts. A majority of those were in the First and Second Phase as they just required accumulation and essence. With time and effort, every cultivator who reached eighty years of age would break through to Qi Condensation, even with horrible talent and no resources.

The ambient Essence of Heaven and Earth was enough.

The number of Mortal God and higher stage characters in the Scarlet Solaris Sect numbered less than twenty. This was a decent average, so within the Five Great Sects of Wu Country, they had merely a hundred or so. This was why keeping track of them was exceptionally easy.

In the entirety of Wu Country, there were no more than three hundred of these experts.

Wei Wuyin threw a transmission crystal out of the shroud towards Gu Futu.

Gu Futu frowned and grabbed the crystal. He read the message and frowned.

"You say you're on a secret mission and can't reveal your identity, wanting to pay me off for passage. You dare be so brazen and arrogant in the Gaia State, in front of the Earthly Titan Sect?! You can reveal yourself voluntarily and stay until I say otherwise, or I'll rip your concealment and you don't even need to think about leaving with breath in your lungs and

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warmth on your flesh." He snarled out viciously. Gu Futu looked as if he was insulted and disrespected at the same time.

Wei Wuyin helplessly smiled. He wanted to avoid suspicion and a war, if possible. This was the most direct way - lying and bribery. Unfortunately, he met a direct man like Gu Futu.

He sighed.

He sent out another message, "One strike."

When Gu Futu read this message, his eyes suffused a battle lust and fiercely roared like a ravenous beast. His bloodline seemed to boil as his aura spiked. He brought out a large, three meter long blood-red saber with a serrated edge. It looked like a monster with teeth and exuded blood qi.

Wei Wuyin didn't have any other alternatives but using brute force. If he proved to be superior in combat, then Gu Futu would have no choice but to concede the way. That being said, the two other grand elder figures had certainly been notified the moment he arrived. Even if Gu Futu didn't personally send a message, the other members should've.

He had about a minute before being forced to face three Mortal Gods. He needed to strike and severely injure Gu Futu, if not, he needed to display a sufficient amount of strength capable of acting as a deterrent to prevent them from chasing or forcing him into a corner for fear of their own lives.

After all, in the face of a true life or death battle, to hell with face, their lives were far more important.

Furthermore, he wanted to display absolute strength. The Ash Dragon City Lord was a newly ascended Mortal God who was killed in a sneak attack. If he showed strength that made the action itself pointless, when he departed, they would rule him out.

Wei Wuyin clenched his right hand into a tight fist and gathered his qi.

"Ha!" Without any arts, he unleashed his full cultivation base with the myriad of elemental energies fueling it. His earth, water, fire, wind, metal, lightning, wood, and magma, yin-yang

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qi were all conjured and condensed into a solidified image of a clenched fist. Its manifestation was over ten meters tall and wide.

Steel Metal Qi, Violet Lightning Qi, Life Meadow Wood Qi, and Blazing Inferno Magma Qi were imbued within this single fist to its maximum. Nearly thirty-percent of his qi was injected into this direct strike.

A large fist rivaling a one-story building formed from vibrant yin-yang energy and caused the world to shift, even the sky grew darker from its influence. It was like the entire world was using all its means to kill! It may be missing Ice Qi, but it contained nearly every element of the natural world.

Gu Futu's eyes became like full moons, a fierce, never-before felt deadly sense of crisis emerged in his heart and detonated in his mind. His wild instincts informed, no, screamed with its entire might, that he needed to flee!

Flee! FLEE!

FLEEEEEEE!!!

The fight or flight response that he hadn't felt since he became a Mortal God went into overdrive as his brain became overly panicked. And, when that fist that seemed to contain the world emerged from the shroud like a fist of god and flew towards him like a myriad of elements in full fury, he did something unexpected.

He froze.

Yes.

He froze like a deer in headlights.

While many didn't realize that there's a third response to fight or flight - freeze, there was. One's brain would become overloaded with emotions and thoughts that they simply couldn't process anything in a rational or appropriate manner. For a human, this was rare, but inherently an ever-present possibility.

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Boom!

The fist comprised of various elemental qi heavily smashed into Gu Futu's unprotected, burly body without the slightest of resistance. His skin, muscles, bones, and organs started to disintegrate beneath the sheer force of that fist. In moments, he was engulfed and his body vanished within the qi. Not even a whimper was heard as the fist continued to blaze through the skies.

Wei Wuyin's eyes widened in undisguised shock and utter disbelief. Even his mouth was agape, feeling as if his reality had been altered somehow. However, the truth pierced into his eyes, with Gu Futu's body dispersing beneath his attack and his senses, as Gu Futu's lifeforce aura had abruptly ceased.

No fucking way!

From this moment on, he knew, the legacy of the Mortal God Gu Futu was no more.

Chapter 33: Will, Void, & Weapon

Silence. Complete and utter silence.

Wei Wuyin's eyes flashed with enlightenment and swiftly acted. With a shouting spiritual command, he instructed the crane to immediately depart while the awe-factor was still in effect.

The crane cried and flew forward with haste. The remnant elemental energy that crackled, sizzled, swished, and whistled was the only evidence to the death of a Mortal God. A lofty Mortal God.

Wei Wuyin felt that he should've mounted a tombstone there, saying: "Here lies Gu Futu. He died as a lived, as a stupid beast."

Gu Futu belonged to the Earthly Titan Sect and just like the Jade Lotus Sect, the Scarlet Solaris Sect weren't allies, so he didn't feel an ounce of pity in Gu Futu's sudden demise. In fact, if he informed the sect of his exploits, he would be deeply rewarded.

He coldly laughed inside as he left the murder scene behind. They departed without a single person attempting to stop them. Even if they weren't shocked frozen, they still wouldn't try as Wei Wuyin could easily kill them in a blink of an eye. Why throw away their lives?

After Wei Wuyin was out of visible sight, several eagles soared towards the area. Two of them were riding two huge eagle beasts. They exuded auras of strong yin-yang, setting them apart from normal cultivators.

They arrived with solemn expressions. The dumbstruck members of their sect left them both confused. One of them asked, "Where's God Gu?"

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A beautiful woman's expression in the crowd had turned exceptionally ugly. Her face seemed like it became twisted and sour, fear and despair surfaced in her eyes. She was Gu Futu's third wife, an expert at the Elemental Birth Phase. Usually, she was arrogant and haughty. There was no lack of enemies she possessed and even her clan relied on Gu Futu's influence.

Now that he was...he was gone, what would become of her?

What would become of all his wives? All his concubines? All those women and children of his who relied on his peerless strength and ferocity. Many of them hadn't even entered the third phase yet, and some kids weren't even in the Qi Condensation Realm.

Let's not even mention the hatred within the harem itself.

This...

A disciple who had a little more courage and a whole lot of fearlessness said, "He was killed! We must get revenge, God Jin, God Nui, I beseech you to hunt down and slay our sect's vile enemy!" His rage was palpable, but it didn't incite the boiled blood and rallied mentality he hoped for.

There were quite a few people who looked at him like an idiot, as if saying: "Did you not see Gu Futu get one-shot? He couldn't even defend himself!"

God Nui's, a thin and middle-aged man, facial expression had changed upon hearing this. He shouted, "Explain clearly what happened!"

The courageous disciple stepped forth and explained what had happened from beginning to end without embellishment, but it was only from his point of view. He couldn't deduce what

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messages were exchanged, except that Wei Wuyin had said he was here on a mission and couldn't expose his identity. However, Gu Futu refused and was then killed swiftly as a result.

"..." God Nui's expression turned ugly. Gu Futu was the strongest Mortal God of the three. He wasn't foolish enough to chase after the enemy, but if he didn't, the culprit would have escaped without a clue to their identity. As for relying on the energy signature left behind, that's beyond his level. Only a Godlord would be able to track someone off their spiritual signature. At that level, their gi enabled stronger spiritual spells.

However, Godlords were Ancestral-level figures to sects. The Earthly Titan Sect only had one.

God Jin was silent as well, but wore a contemplative expression. Swiftly, he withdrew a transmission crystal and sent out a message. It was to a fellow Mortal God, a Sublime Qi Phase expert. The message was brief:

"Gu Futu is DEAD! Storage, take!" After sending that brief yet concise message, he used his spiritual sense to establish a spiritual spell. A surging stream of spiritual energy exited his body before encapsulating everyone present within a spherical barrier. This barrier effectively locked down all spiritually transmitted messages.

God Niu ugly expression turned uglier witnessing this, "What do you mean by this?"

God Jin said with a serious and intense expression, "How do we know the expert left this area? I think its best everyone stays where they are and make sure none of these disciples are allied with that expert! Gu Futu could've been poisoned, that's why he was so easily killed!"

God Jin didn't even try to make sense or keep a linear reasoning. The amount of bullshit he spat was tremendous, but he had no shame and a thick skin. He looked towards the disciples with a fierce glare.

They all shivered.

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God Niu felt as if he had gone stupid and realized his shock had led to him missing an insane oppportunity. He was considering whether he should fight God Jin to send out a message, but considering this would likely lead to other disciples with connections and a brain to also send out a message, he decided against it. Instead, he sent his own transmission from within the barrier to God Jin:

"Five percent, and I won't disturb your plans!"

While transmissions within a certain range would be intercepted, those outside that range would be sent out fine.

God Jin thought for a moment and slightly nodded.

God Niu then shouted, "I agree. Let's inspect to ensure no spies or traitors are in our midst."

All the disciples' expressions changed upon hearing this, feeling something amiss, while the elders quickly realized the situation. Gu Futu's spatial ring had been destroyed. If they claimed his storage container and said everything was "missing," blaming everything on the murderer, they could get away with so much wealth. However, they didn't dare say anything.

If they did, maybe they wouldn't live beyond today.

God Niu sent another message, "Gu Futu's Third Wife is mine!" A lustful gleam appeared in his eyes as he looked at the beautiful woman with the ugly and panicked expression. When she wasn't making that expression, she was quite a beauty.

God Jin didn't care. He sent: "We'll make her an accomplice of the murderer as a spiteful, jealous woman, you can do what you wish to her then!"

God Niu coldly grinned.

Wei Wuyin and the Jiao Ning trio were flying leisurely on the white crane without a shroud. They were already hundreds of miles away from Ash Dragon City and Mount Inferno, so they were in the clear. Even if they were chased, there were other mounts flying in the sky, those stronger than the white crane, so suspicion would be difficult to place on them.

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Wei Wuyin meditated on the white crane as his thoughts simulated various scenarios. He hadn't realized his strength before, but now he had an idea of it.

He had a physique tempered by four natural elements, four advanced elements, pure yin, pure yang, and yin-yang energies. He had risen so quickly that he couldn't get an appropriate measure of his strength.

The Yin-Yang God Sphere contained such pure yin and yang energies that his spiritual sense, mental abilities, physical senses, stamina, and healing factor had shot through the roof. With his eyes closed and his ears honed, he could hear faint conversation a mile away through the rushing wind. He felt god-like at the moment.

He had read and been told that those who ascended using the Yin-Yang God Sphere were stronger by several-fold, in comparison to someone who hadn't. This was most certainly true.

He also hadn't thought about the true benefits of two Hearts of Qi, but he now realized it wasn't limited to energy reserves, cultivation speed, and recovery speed. The amount of tempered energy coursing through his body was doubled as well.

He had two-fold the physical attributes and qualities of someone with his elemental energy types. The two separate minds allowed him to do two things at once. He now knew why Godlord Lin was willing to marry anyone who could cultivate this technique!

This didn't even factor in his high-level elemental qi that numbered four. They were top-grade qi! His strength was extraordinary to say the least.

"I should be as strong or stronger than a seventh phase expert. I don't even know if Gu Futu could've blocked my attack even if he defended himself. He instantly evaporated upon contact. That's definitely not normal!" A joyful grin tugged at his lips.

"God Wei...I...Where are we going?" Dai Quiyue respectfully said, her voice tinged with fear and inferiority. With Wei Wuyin's identity as a Mortal God revealed, she changed her form of address.

Wei Wuyin didn't even look towards her as he said, "Golden Milk City."

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"Oh."

Golden Milk City was a nearby city that dealt with high-end trades and resources. It also had a lucrative black market within, allowing one to sell off undesirable merchandise without revealing their identity.

He had a vast amount of pills, elixirs, weapons, armor, and materials he didn't need and had to sell off. What he needed now was refined essence stones. If he could gain a thousand stones, he might just enter closed door seclusion immediately and strive to ascend into the Seventh Stage of Qi Condensation, Sublime Qi.

It was the true phase of accumulation. But most importantly, he hoped to find a high-level Ice Essence there. If he could purchase it, he would be on the path of establishing his Divine Heart of Elemental Qi. At that point, he was certain that he could face Godlord characters!

He licked his lips. A surging heat scratched at his heart. He opened his silver eyes and glanced with a side-eye at Jiao Ning. However, he decided he would resist his thoughts. He remembered the promise he made to himself as a child when he had just started the path of cultivation.

He didn't want to become someone who slipped into habits of debauchery. Even if he gained absolute strength, he needed a code of principles and limits as to not lose himself.

Jiao Ning said, "God Wei, can you take us to the border of the Jade Lotus Sect's domain?"

Wei Wuyin thought for a moment. He considered his direction and realized there was an interconnecting point that hit the border of the Jade Lotus Sect's domain nearby. He nodded.

A sigh of relief emerged in Jiao Ning trio's heart simultaneously. They didn't know if Wei Wuyin would let them leave or take them back to his sect as slaves. After all, that wasn't unheard of.

While they wouldn't argue if he did, they definitely liked their freedom and status that was accompanied by family, lovers, and authority. If they became slaves, they'd lose all of that.

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Wei Wuyin pouted his lips and thought, "Let's check and see what's in the second layer of that Three-Layered Spatial Ring." He removed the spatial ring and sent his spiritual sense into the second layer.

He had done so before, but because there were only two things inside, he didn't put too much emphasis on it. After all, they weren't essence stones.

He inspected both items. The first was a pendant. It was of a silver crescent moon with characters etched into it without any specific order. When he tried to read it, he realized it was nonsense. It didn't have an aura and the materials were something he didn't recognize.

He grabbed the pendant and frowned. However, he liked its color as it matched his eyes, and the material was cool to the touch. The necklace was made of silvery silk. It seemed to have been twirled around continuously until it became thick enough. It felt soft to touch. He placed it around his neck.

Nothing happened.

Shrugging, he checked the second item. It was a manual. When Wei Wuyin picked it up, there was a description on the front page:

"To those who are fearless. To those who wish to be free amongst the starry skies. To those who are willing to die for that freedom. Those without bravery, concede and depart. You are not chosen."

Wei Wuyin frowned. The title of the next page caused his heart to fiercely tremble.

"Will."

Only a single word. The manual was thin and lacked any substance, but he continued to flip through the pages. Each page had a title, but underneath that title was a vast blankness.

There were three thick pages and three titles.

"Will."

"Void."

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"Weapon."

He frowned. Was this it? Was he missing something? A unique sensory method, perhaps?

He searched his spatial ring and tried to find the unique spiritual spell used by that commander, but he found nothing remotely close.

"Could he have hidden it away for his family in case of his death? Or placed it in a different spatial storage? Or...did he burn it after memorizing it?" Unfortunately, he would never know.

Shrugging, he placed the manual back in the three-layered spatial ring. He took out a single essence stone and held it in his hand.

He learned from the Ash Dragon City's Lord that wholehearted cultivation without the appropriate protection was suicidal. That being said, he didn't want to waste his time while traveling.

He divided his mind, one focused on his Hearts of Qi as it absorbed the essence within, while the other mind's focus was on his surroundings and spiritual sense. The Hearts of Qi once more split the essence between them.

When the Jiao Ning trio noticed Wei Wuyin started to cultivate, their expressions changed, but they remained silent in the end.

Chapter 34: Golden Milk City

Name: Paragon of Sin Author: Kevinascending

+ - Turn off Reset

The border of the Gaia State & Jade Lotus Domain.

Wei Wuyin had decided to firstly drop them off. In the end, he didn't want them accompanying him. Not to mention, their weight slowed down the crane's traveling speed.

The Jiao Ning trio was shocked that Wei Wuyin had made them a priority. They had assumed he would go to the Golden Milk City first, and then send them away.

Jiao Ning had an odd expression. Was this it? As she fantasized various scenarios, she had left her heart open to all sorts of possibilities, but none of those scenarios happened.

"Is he tired of me?" She felt somewhat down. She attributed Wei Wuyin's desire to hurriedly drop them off by her own inability to seduce and please.

"You all can leave," Wei Wuyin casually said.

Dai Qiuyue looked at Wei Wuyin's visage and felt like she was losing an opportunity. She couldn't help but ask, "Will this be the last time we see each other?"

"..." Zhang Mu frowned as he saw Dai Qiuyue's eyes and how she looked at Wei Wuyin, but he didn't say anything. The way he softly bit his lower lip, however, was very telling of his current emotions. He swore to himself that he would one day become a God level figure.

"If our sects ever go to war again, probably not," Wei Wuyin jokingly said. However, the expressions of the three changed drastically. They had almost forgotten! Wei Wuyin was a Mortal God of the Scarlet Solaris Sect, their enemy!

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Perhaps it was because of his calm, casual way of interacting with them or him having saved their lives several times, did they forget who he was!

Seeing their dejected expressions, Wei Wuyin sighed. He couldn't give them anything like a transmission crystal or some way to contact him. If he did and the sect found out, theirs or his, it could lead to assumptions of spying or being a traitor. Otherwise, he would give them a transmission crystal to keep in contact.

In fact, he decided to avoid too much contact and send them to the border mostly because of this. If they stayed for too long, developed true feelings, then if their sect ever went to war, Wei Wuyin would suffer internal conflicts.

Now, as they didn't have much interaction, Wei Wuyin could still coldly kill them one day or watch them die if required. His session with Jiao Ning was one of mutual exchange and temporary lust, it held very little importance in his heart.

He also felt that she had a potent yang inside her body from constant contact. She could be married or have a lover already. Of course, he didn't judge. If he was nearly crippled and was given the same choice, he would choose to save himself and send loyal thoughts to the back of his mind.

After all, without strength, how can you keep what you have? Mei Mei knew this, and that was likely why she received the help of the Helios Witch. The cultivation world was just too cruel.

After dropping them off, he gave them a few pills, elixirs, and a bit of wealth to make their way. While he didn't have any feelings for them, he didn't leave them high and dry.

As he flew away, they all looked towards the sky with varying emotions.

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"Wei Wuyin...God Wei..." Dai Qiuyue softly said as she looked towards that fleeting figure. She got lucky, and she knew that. It was her who set up a plan to rob the Ash Dragon City, so she knew the responsibility of it all fell on her shoulders.

Zhang Mu clenched his fists. He had interacted with a Mortal God up-close and saw one die. His horizons had been broadened and his will for power awakened in his heart. As his eyes looked at Dai Qiuyue, a passionate gaze filled with resolve appeared.

Jiao Ning bit her lips and said, "Let's return." Her fantasies were impossible. They were enemies to begin with, and why would he ever fall for her because of one session of relations? She realistically set her goal to continue with her life and hope her children could reach the Mortal God level one day.

A city with grey walls that were thirty feet high and several meters thick appeared on the horizon. On the back of the white crane, Wei Wuyin had finally arrived.

He looked at this city and spotted a glimmer of gold. He already knew where this originated from. A statue that reached two hundred feet high was constructed from gold. It was of a cow and looked incredibly realistic, like taxidermy was used before being dipped in gold. Even the hair follicles were there. While they were stiff, they existed.

"Golden Milk City, the City of Nourishment. It is Gaia State's most well-known trade city and possesses a black market suitable for all types. It has a no-extradition policy against the Earthly Titan Sect, so many criminal cultivators reside within and hide from the sect.

"They know this, yet can't do anything about it. That's because they possessed the backing of a Godlord!" His eyes brightened as he recalled the various bits of information regarding the city. The total number of Godlords known in the Five Great Sects amounted to six, with the Sky Sword Sect possessing two.

However, while there were no more than three hundred Mortal God level figures in the entire Wu Country, there were exactly nineteen Godlords.

Godlord Lin was a mystery, as even he hadn't heard of her before. It's possible she originated from another country, power, or was a lone cultivator outside of the Wu Country.

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The Wu Imperial Clan had the highest number of Mortal Gods and Godlords, with about one hundred and thirty and eight respectively. Their total strength eclipsed the entirety of the Five Great Sects. If you included Wu Xinghong, Ancestral Elder of the Scarlet Solaris Sect and member of the Wu Imperial Clan, then they had nine Godlords total.

However, with fourteen, there were still five Godlord characters left unaccounted for. There were three lone cultivators that established cities of their own, and the Golden Milk City was one of them. The others were in the Aqua Echo Domain and the Sky Sword Domain.

The last two established clans, the Ji Clan and the Bai Clan. They lived in their own domains, but they were much smaller than the Five Great Sects, but had better cultivation environments.

Wei Wuyin expected there could be more, but those are all that had been made public and were active in their operations.

When Wei Wuyin arrived before the gate, he saw many cultivators flying in the sky on mounts. They exited and entered the city in vast quantities. The high amount of traffic gave Wei Wuyin a look of awe. The population was dense and its people lively and vibrant.

In his life, he hadn't traveled outside of the Scarlet Solaris Domain. Even his Clan was a subordinate of a subordinate of the Scarlet Solaris Sect and within their territory. Therefore, his horizons were being broadened with each mile.

The freedom and variety made his heart grow wild with excitement. While finding Mei Mei was a priority, it had never been his top-most priority. He wanted to cultivate and see the world.

After all, it had been a year or so since he made the massive leap from a second phase expert to a Mortal God level character who had killed two Mortal Gods. It was a wild ride, and knowing that there were calamities that could descend and take his life at any moment, he wished to make the best of his time.

Who wouldn't?

As he entered the flying gateway that resembled a circular ring, he was paused at the gate by a guard on a platform embedded in the ring. He stopped at the platform.

The gate guard's eyes seemed arrogant, but he didn't attempt to extort Wei Wuyin. Instead, he said, "Price of admission for all Qi Condensation experts is one essence stone."

This took Wei Wuyin by surprise, but he softly sighed. This wasn't the only guard on the ring as others arrived too. When they arrived, many had already prepared an essence stone.

An essence stone was a tremendous amount of wealth and could total an entire First Stage of Qi Condensation expert's wealth. At least, the average cultivator at that stage had no way to enter.

He removed an essence stone and handed it over with a hint of unwillingness. The guard retrieved the essence stone, took out a tool with a spiritual formation inscribed within and briefly waved it over the stone. The stone flickered with a faint white light, and then he waved Wei Wuyin forward.

"They have to verify the authenticity of the stone?" Wei Wuyin proceeded forward as he couldn't help but be shocked. He hadn't even known an essence stone could be faked. With his spiritual sense, he would never mistake a true essence stone for a fake.

The skies of the Golden Milk City had aerial lines that directed traffic. Wei Wuyin quickly understood the logic and traveled accordingly. This was the first time he had seen sky roads, but he had read about it.

Sky roads had a formation that separated aerial travel from grounded travel and unless in designated locations, one couldn't recklessly land. In fact, if they tried, a formation would produce wind energy that would keep one afloat and ensnared.

That person would be met by the local authority and be given a hefty fine on the spot. You had to stay above a certain altitude. He followed that rule as he looked around.

The foot traffic and roads were heavy and wide. The buildings were mostly square in design, and left him in awe. The buildings were very close, with narrow alleyways between them. It seemed space was important here, so much so that traveling outside of the main roads was restricted.

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He also located several figures above the sky roads, they hovered around and glanced downwards from time to time. They were the Golden Milk Authority. They upheld its laws and prevented crimes.

Since criminals had a habit of entering and staying, they kept an iron fist on their rules.

He flew for a bit until he found a mount stable nearby. It was wide and spacious with various avian and four-legged beasts idling about, eating, walking around, or sleeping. He directed the crane downwards and landed at the designated spot with a bright orange circle.

A middle-aged woman arrived swiftly. She smiled and Wei Wuyin looked at her with interest. This woman had a good set of breasts that, while covered, didn't hide its size. Her looks weren't bad either.

"Greetings! Thanks for choosing Orange Circle Services! If you would..." she started to quickly explain prices, discounted deals, and various packages within, clearly ignoring Wei Wuyin's inspecting gaze. Quite the professional.

He then learned that he had to pay by the hour, with deals starting at subscriptions for a full day. He realized that air travel was likely the most suitable form of transportation, so hourly pay was normalized. However, for those who want to house their mounts and have them taken care of for extended terms, they had that option too.

He smiled and chose the three full days package with all features, including top quality feed, resting area, and spacious storage. The white crane cried in delight and caused Wei Wuyin to pet her softly, "Only the best."

The middle-aged woman's attitude brightened and she seemed more friendly, "that'll be two essence stones or two thousand Milk Coins."

He didn't hesitate and paid in essence stones. For the white crane, this was a small price to pay for top-quality treatment. However, it was still a frightening amount of wealth.

He also learned that essence stones weren't the most common form of currency in Golden Milk City. There was another currency called Milk Coins, but he didn't like it very much. Outside of Golden Milk City, they were essentially worthless.

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While you could exchange essence stones for Milk Coins, you can't do the inverse. You could only get food and other services available. It was a privatized currency with limited uses, but unless you paid for everything with essence stones, services were far more expensive with Wu Country's currency.

After settling everything, he also received a complementary map and locations of interest. He realized that these locations were shops and restaurants, and only a few were listed. They likely pay a small fee to be added to this map, so those who use this service will be more likely to use their service.

This was the first time he was exposed to such business practice. The world was truly expansive and filled with all sorts of things.

He left through the streetway and located a shop, "Surabhi Emporium. Weird name...I haven't heard that naming sense before. It is the largest and central store of goods. They also bought products at a decent price. If they bought everything I have at a good price, I won't need to go to the Black Market."

He made his way there, his eyes wandering to and fro.

Ohn!

Chapter 35: Myriad War Dao Palace

His brows twitched in pain as he looked at his right arm. The karmic value had experienced a change: 162.5 -> 162.4.

"The value lowered by 0.1?" Wei Wuyin's eyes lit up as he recalled the Yin-Yang God Sphere. Meeting that elf man and receiving the sphere was considered a 0.1, but he had turned it into his greatest lucky chance to date. Could he do something similar here?

What type of lucky chance would it be? Spontaneous?

Just as he thought this, someone bumped into him. It was a teenager who looked anxious and wary. It was a young boy with grey eyes and black hair. He wasn't particularly handsome, but there was a certain quality to him.

He apologized with panic and left, constantly looking back in fear.

Normally, he would ignore this. After all, he had already seen three separate incidents of people bumping into others, and he had bumped into a person before. However, because of the timing, he grew suspicious. Wei Wuyin frowned as he swept his spiritual sense towards the boy.

Tiss!

A feedback he hadn't expected stung him. His spirit shivered.

"A spiritual sense prevention formation?" He was shocked. This was his first time coming into contact with one, and it prevented even him, at the Sixth Stage of Qi Condensation Realm, a Mortal God, from sending out his spiritual sense.

He had a far stronger spiritual sense than normal too. No wonder people bumped into each other by accident. He frowned instantly, as he looked at the boy's back. He didn't feel a sudden desire to follow the boy, so perhaps the lucky chance is easily presentable but still left for one to grasp?

My first 0.1 was finding an essence stone and using it to propel me to the Qi Condensation Realm. The second was receiving the Yin-Yang God Sphere for comprehension, what I gained from it was dependent on myself. Could it be a true chance where a slight decision or inability in discernment leads to failure? As he thought of this, he couldn't be absolutely certain.

However, with two minds processing his thoughts at its fastest speed, he had already decided to follow the boy. He lowered his presence and used his keen physical senses to follow along. He also noticed three sets of footsteps following along the same path without fail. They were also following the boy.

After a while of observing, he realized the boy was injured. A faint smell of blood wafted out of his abdomen area. The three men also had a faint blood smell, but they didn't seem to be wounded.

He wondered if the authority was watching this, and if the boy was in trouble, why didn't he make a show of it? It would've saved him at least.

It was only when the boy had traveled for two hours trying to dodge their pursuit that the men were soon lost in the crowd and all the zig-zags. Besides a little cursing, they redoubled their effort to find him, but since they lost him, finding him was going to be difficult.

After another hour, the boy ensured that he wasn't being followed. He was paranoid as he would take the narrow alleys and spontaneous turns, seeing if anyone else was following. With Wei Wuyin's sense of smell, he could track the boy from a mile away indirectly.

So he just stayed away and kept his trail. Nightfall soon came, and the boy seemed satisfied and entered an abandoned building.

Wei Wuyin frowned. The Golden Milk City looks so prosperous and active, with every space treasured like gold, but there was an abandoned and tattered building here? This didn't make much sense.

When the boy entered the door, he vanished.

Literally.

Wei Wuyin lost his scent trail and it was as if he had just vanished. He couldn't even hear footsteps within the building. As he approached the building, he entered the door. However, he just passed through it like it was a normal door. Inside, there were dusty and old areas within.

"Suspicious..." Could he have been fooled and given the runaround? Thinking about it, he didn't find it too likely.

"Think about this logically. Without your spiritual sense, what could you have missed? What could cause a person to vanish? An illusionary formation? No, it couldn't hide from my sense of smell unless I entered it beforehand. Even if I did," as he pondered, he picked up an object and crushed it.

The objects were real. An illusory formation that could fool his senses would need to be of the highest level, established by someone who reached the Godlord at least.

He shook his head.

What else could cause one to disappear suddenly and why did he need to lose people? There has to be a way for anyone to enter, otherwise, just entering here was enough to lose any pursuers. What was the point of all that then?

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"Could he have been obliterated? No, no remnant energies of any type to feel. Wait, to feel?" As he thought about this particular bit, he frowned. He had tempered his physique with qi and eleven-types of energies, so he was sensitive to them all.

The one energy he wouldn't be sensitive to would be...

He went out and stood where he last saw the boy. His spiritual sense didn't exit normally. Instead, he used his hand to grab the doorway and sent his spiritual sense through his body and channeled it into his fingertips. Using direct contact, he sent his spiritual sense into the doorway in much the same way as interacting with a storage ring.

A faint ripple he hadn't noticed before formed.

Then, he appeared elsewhere.

He had entered a different location. It was like another world. In fact, as he looked at the sky, his pupils constricted to its limit in shock.

The sky looked like the sky, but there were hexagonal outlines that made it seem more like a reflection than a true sky. The sky was a dome!

He quickly calmed himself down as his two minds worked in conjunction, "A spatial gate? It was far larger than a spatial ring and could transport living creatures! Who could set something like this up?!" He looked and saw a silver pillar behind him.

That must be the spatial gateway medium. If he sent his spiritual sense inside, would he be sent back? He frowned but didn't test it yet.

He looked around and sent out his spiritual sense. Almost immediately, he realized this place was mostly barren except for a single palace. Everything else was grassland and the sky was clearly fake.

The palace, however, was dilapidated and ancient.

"Could this be his lucky chance? I had the slightest of opportunity to grasp onto it? In fact, if I didn't notice my karmic value drop, I wouldn't have been suspicious. However, if I smelled his blood, noticed people following him, and had good intentions to help the young boy, I

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could've also been brought here, no?" As he pondered the scenario, he felt that the situation was to benefit the good-natured, but a piece was missing.

How many people did this fellow bump into and lost their karmic luck value because they decided to not help? How many people lost karmic luck value just from interacting with this kid?! They sinned because they kept to themselves? How hilariously ridiculous.

As he thought of this, he ruefully sighed. He wasn't good-natured and definitely wouldn't have helped otherwise. In fact, he would have only helped because his karmic luck value dropped.

This palace had definitely been established by an ancient and powerful figure, and it had a great opportunity within.

He walked forward until he arrived at the palace. It had ninety-nine steps. He stepped towards the first step. When he did, his vision blurred slightly and a figure emerged in his vision.

It was a short old man that had a low opacity blue body, eyes, and hair of different shades. He hovered off the steps like a ghost and had a smile on his face. Wei Wuyin started.

The blue ghost kept smiling and said in a monotone voice, "To ascend to the Myriad War Dao Palace, you must select your Dao."

It was robotic and a sharp contrast to his lively and smiling appearance.

Myriad War Dao Palace?

"My Dao?"

He heard of the Heavenly Daos, and had been in places such as the Scarlet Dao Temple. He knew that Dao meant a way of life. The Heavenly Daos supervised life's morality, placed sin and gave luck on those it deemed worthy, having lived a past lifestyle of their liking. The Scarlet Dao Temple contained the cultivation dao, where all its qi arts, spiritual spells, cultivation methods, and information about the cultivation world was gathered.

So he knew it meant a way of life, a path to follow and it was broad and limitless.

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The blue old man said, "There are three Daos to choose from: The Weapon Dao, the Mind Dao, the Material Dao."

Wei Wuyin's eyes brightened. So archaic! He now knew what the blue old man meant.

Weapon Qi was an Ethereal Qi born from one's self. He had never heard of Mind Qi, but there were many ways to temper the mind's eye, and even the Haven Heart Qi Method cloned it. The Scarlet Qi was a Material Qi, birthed from the world(external) and not one's self.

It must mean the cultivation of the weapon, mind, and world.

"Can you explain what each meant in-depth?" He asked to see if the blue old man could explain. He was just trying his luck, but shockingly it yielded fruit.

"Yes. The Weapon Dao encompasses all forms of war. The Mind Dao encompasses all forms of enlightenment. The Material Dao encompasses all things born from the celestial bodies." The old man did not specify as much as he hoped, but it answered his guestion.

Heart of Scarlet Qi. Heart of Elemental Qi. Heart of Aquatic Qi.

Those were three material forms of qi he was familiar with. They were all born from the world itself, essence and matter.

Heart of Battle Qi. Heart of Spear Qi. Heart of Sword Qi.

Those born from belief, memories, and experiences. They originated from the mind and spirit.

He contemplated what he should choose. Since he was striving for a Heart of Elemental Qi, the Material Dao seemed like the best choice.

However...

"I'll choose Weapon Dao."

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The blue old man nodded with his static smile and said, "Please choose amongst the three thousand Weapon Daos."

Wei Wuyin was taken aback, but not by the multitude of choices, but by the limited number of.

The Heavenly Daos had three thousand commandments.

Was three thousand the ultimate limit of a Dao?

"Saber Dao," he answered swiftly.

The blue old man nodded and vanished.

Suddenly, Wei Wuyin felt that a myriad of ghost-like sabers floated at the base of each step. He took his second step and an illusory saber turned into a ray of light and entered his glabella.

He trembled briefly.

After a few seconds, his eyes widened in disbelief and excitement! That was a trace of a saber spirit and intent! It entered his mind and spirit with the intent to slash and destroy them both, but his mind was two-fold and so was his spirit.

It barely left a scratch.

With dense and pure yin energies bolstering his mind by a decent amount while his pure yin-yang gave his spirit boundless potential by subtly influencing his soul, he didn't fear this type of attack. He also realized that faint traces of saber intent lingered in his mind and spirit due to its failure.

He had no doubt that failing this meant death of the mind and spirit. If he chose Mind Dao, would he receive pure mind attacks? If he chose Material Dao, would he need to use his qi and body to resist?

He took a deep breath and felt relieved that he hadn't taken either of those options. While he was confident in surpassing the Mind Dao, that would never be his choice, only Material and Weapon. He didn't know if the Material steps scaled off cultivation or was flat for everyone.

How would he compare to ancient cultivators?

He took another deep breath and entered the third step. Two saber images entered his glabella and he trembled. His eyes grew brighter as he continued taking step after step absorbing the saber intent within.

As he reached each step, the sabers would double. By the time he reached the tenth step, he had to deal with 512 saber images.

Looking at all ninety-nine steps, he realized that the difficulty was insanely high...but he strived forward fearlessly. This was an opportunity! This gave him a chance of giving birth to an Ethereal Qi! If his spirit and mind gave birth to a saber seed, he could use his meridians to create saber essence, convert that into energy, and use it to refine his Heart of Qi or produce saber qi.

Even if he doesn't use it to form a Heart of Saber Qi, he could still use saber energy to temper his spirit, mind, and produce saber qi!

He continued pushing forward.

By his seventy-seventh step, his spirit and mind shook. His eyes flashed as he entered a state of enlightenment. A grand saber formed in his mind's eye and even his spirits transformed into sabers. They were valiant, ferocious, and commanded respect. They were peerless in their killing potential and had no equal!

Haughty, murderous, without limit, and extremely forceful!

It was like he had become a saber. He was the saber and the saber was him.

He hadn't formed a seed, but the constant tempering of saber intent had allowed him to direct birth his own intent, to mimic its state.

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He straightened his palm and slashed forward. The faint illusory image of a saber's edge flashed and completely replaced his arm for a moment.

After that moment vanished, his eyes flashed with a domineeringly saber light. It was fierce and murderous! There was no elegance, only battle and slaughter! In comparison to the myriad of forms and elegance a sword possessed, it was single-minded and basic. Most sabers were similar, while swords can be wildly different in size, shape, and structure!

"So this is Saber Intent!" He marveled as he felt his spirit return to its original state, his mind's eye changed. His arming sword had changed. It was reshaped into a saber, symmetry be damned, but it was perfect! It was as if his two minds had become perfectly connected by the saber intent.

As he released his saber intent, the saber images fell flat, all their tips pointing towards him, as if he had become their new king. They were bowing before their new king!

The seemingly countless sabers were all bowing!!

He felt an incomparably majestic feeling surge within his heart. This moment would never fade from his memories for as long as he existed.

The blue old man appeared abruptly beside him. "You have formed a Saber Dao. Completion: Seventy-Seventh Step. Initial State: None. Grade: Astral Star Talent." The robotic voice echoed out and Wei Wuyin smiled. He didn't understand what an Astral Star Talent meant, but he felt proud.

What he didn't know was that he had gone from no saber intent to forming it in seventy-seven steps, a feat that hadn't been performed since the creation of the Myriad War Dao Palace. While there have been people who used less steps, they were already nearing forming an intent at step one.

"You have no need to enter The Forge. Your reward: Nascent Saber Soul."

"What?" Wei Wuyin felt his body ripple with spatial energy. He was going to be sent away? The Forge? Was that the palace? What's a Nascent Saber Soul? Why can't I enter? He had so many questions, but before he could get any words out, an egg the size of a walnut entered the glabella.

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Then, he felt his surroundings shift.

When he blinked, he was right outside of the abandoned building.

He hastily tried to re-enter, but his spiritual sense was rejected. He stood there frozen.

"What?!"

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Chapter 36: Surabhi Emporium

Wei Wuyin hated abrupt endings. After a bit of sulking, he calmed himself down and shrugged. What happened had happened. He had formed his saber intent, with his Heart of Qi, he would be able to convert essence into saber essence, saber essence into saber energy, and saber energy into saber qi.

If he wished, he could use the saber qi to transform either heart into a Heart of Saber Qi. However, he didn't do that, nor did he have plans to do so. He'd much rather have two Divine Hearts of Elemental Qi than one Heart of Saber Qi and one Divine Heart of Elemental Qi.

After deciding this, he found himself a nearby Inn and rested.

"A Nascent Saber Soul. Hm." He sat in his cultivation stance as he slowly considered the previous events. He had definitely piggybacked on that young man's lucky chance. However, was he supposed to find the palace or befriend the boy?

Was he an expert in the making? As he thought more about it, he felt more certain of this possibility. He wasn't supposed to find the boy's lucky chance but befriend him with good-natured actions.

"The Forge. It sounded like a place to temper and train. It's likely that the boy chose a Dao and didn't form his intent or reach completion, so he gained access to the tempering grounds. The reason I was sent away was because I had finished forming my intent, skipping the seed form of intent." As he started to ruminate further, he had a ninety percent belief that was the truth.

He sighed.

He checked his karmic luck value: 162.4.

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So, piggybacking on someone else's lucky chance doesn't decrease or increase one's karmic value? Then...how did I increase it before without voluntary transmission?

This question still bothered him. At first, he thought it was killing others to steal their luck, but he killed a Mortal God. His karmic luck couldn't be zero, right?

"Let's just move on, it'll make sense sooner or later. For now, the Nascent Saber Soul." He opened his mind's eye and connected his spirit to his soul. When he did, he saw an egg-like object.

He touched the egg with his mental and spiritual senses, but nothing happened. He frowned.

Oh!

He formed saber intent and touched the egg. It then trembled and started to crack. In a split second, the shell faded away and a saber appeared. It had the shape of a chinese saber, the curvature of its spine and sharpness established a raw potential within.

When the saber formed, it emitted a light that embraced his mind's eye. Information started to stream into his mind, enough to rival the scriptures he had obtained before.

"A saber soul!" He exclaimed with a tinge of excitement. He had obtained information about its origins and uses. It was a literal soul of a saber spirit born from the Dao of Sabers. Its rarity was beyond imagination and the creation of which was heaven-shaking.

It had no memories outside of its birth and it possessed a will. This will was what Wei Wuyin connected with when his saber intent merged into it. Now, its will was his will.

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He exited his mind's eye and started to cultivate. The Essence of Heaven and Earth entered his meridians. This time, he had his saber intent flare within his meridians, allowing the essence to inherently be imbued with saber qualities. It was transformed into saber essence. Then, it was directed to his dantian.

After his Hearts of Qi sensed the minute saber essence, they drew it in, absorbing it into their cores and refining it into an energy form. A pure energy form. Because of the saber intent, this energy took the characteristics of a saber, sharp and forceful, and became saber energy.

With a thought, the saber energy was refined into Metaphysical Qi, merging with the cyclones that spun continuously around the cores. In a blink of an eye, that newly produced saber qi was directed outwards and manifested itself in the air from his palm. A miniature saber formed.

"This is Saber Qi! According to the Ethereal Qi guides, Ethereal Qi gave benefit to the mind and spirit, not the body. Material Qi affected the body and spirit. Mind Qi must affect the mind and spirit.." He had already experienced a change in his mind's eye. With a thought, his spiritual sense swept out.

The formation that had prevented him from sending his spiritual sense outwards interfered once more. However, how could it be so easy to hinder the movements of a saber? It was peerlessly sharp and fierce beyond description!

His spiritual sense sliced through the formation's restrictive force and exited outwards to flow freely.

"My spiritual sense now has saber-like qualities! If I used offensive spiritual spells, I can only imagine its power!" As he marveled at his newfound power, he felt awash with pride.

He stretched out his palm and started to circulate the core energies within his Heart of Qi. All thirteen-types of energies, including saber and basic essence energy, were drawn out as a whole.

A trembling emerged in his soul as he called out with his spirit. "Saber Soul!"

Suddenly, he found himself holding a saber. It was pure white and of solid form. This was his Saber Soul! In fact, this was its material body!

He used his various pure energies to create a body for his Saber Soul to enter and materialize into the real world. He grasped it and felt the myriad of energies within, but the most dominant and leader of all these energies were the saber energy laced with saber intent.

This wasn't qi, but pure, refined energy of its highest quality, completely controlled by saber energy and intent. They were obedient like good children.

"I need soul nourishing and strengthening materials to refine you. Unfortunately, I don't think the Wu Country has such things. But from now on, I can use you in place of a true saber. As long as you become stronger, so will !! As long as I grow stronger, so will you!"

According to its memories, it was a Level One Saber Soul. It was at its most basic strength, but it possessed the inherent ability to materialize using a body of pure energy. As it grew stronger, new and greater abilities would be unlocked as well.

Taking a deep breath, he swung the saber lightly. A trace of multicolored light lingered in space like a comet's tail. The energy of the world was being subtly influenced. It was likely due to all the elemental, yin, yang, and yin-yang energies used in its creation. It was nearly the ultimate elemental saber.

"I'll call you Element." Since it was close to possessing all the natural and advanced elemental energies in the world and led it with saber energy, he felt the name was befitting. It would soon become its own element, a king of other worldly elements!

With Element in hand, his eyes flashed with anticipation.

He wanted to fight!

However, he knew that was currently unlikely. He may have been sidetracked due to events, but he came for a reason. With essence stones in both hands, he decided to cultivate till morning.

When morning arrived, he immediately left and made his way to Surabhi Emporium.

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The Surabhi Emporium was impressively massive. It was a complex that stood nearly twenty stories high and was as wide as a football field. Wei Wuyin was struck speechless by its sheer enormity of its existence. Even the Scarlet Solaris Mountain, which was many times its size, hadn't brought him to such an awed state.

The only reason was because of its status as a building. This was the tallest and widest building he had ever seen built. From afar, it didn't look impressive, but as he stood at its base, and looked up, his eyes shook with amazement.

"Incredible!"

Even though he was a Mortal God, capable of creating rivers of fire, water, magma, and lightning, he still felt that child-like awe one experienced when coming across something new. Before, this type of existence wasn't a part of his natural beliefs.

Now, it was material and before him.

It took him a few minutes to adjust and regain his calm. A smile on his lips as he felt satisfied in his decision to experience the world. However, he was soon struck speechless once more.

When he entered the Surabhi Emporium, his eyes widened. It was so spacious, dazzling, and fancy!

There were glass chandeliers, expertly crafted statues radiating power, a fountain that spat clear water containing dense water energy, and there was a huge opening in the center with interconnecting bridges and kiosks set up on those wide bridges.

The true stores were all placed near or inside the walls, and there seemed to be a vast variety of them. They had bright signs radiating neon lights and various attractive energies. It was as if they were begging for his attention.

was as it they were begging for his attention.	
He walked in and saw stairs.	

Wait.

No.

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Those stairs were moving on its own!

As he watched the constantly rising stairs, he realized a unique earth qi formation was set to carry one upwards naturally to any floor they wished.

It was like a complex maze with people traveling to and fro with ease!

He gulped.

Looking at those sturdy bridges, he counted the amount that connected the second floor from the eight cardinal directions. Any bridge could take one to the other area. There were four full bridges, all of which merged together at the central point.

The central point, from below, he could only see stone as there was a platform. It was circular and large, capable of fitting hundreds of people at a time with enough space to spread one's arms.

Many of the largest kiosks that sold a variety of food and simple merchandise were set up here. This continued throughout the nineteen floors. The final floor above, the twentieth, had no bridges and was just a normal floor.

He basked in amazement as he looked all around. There were kids, the elderly, and adults going places, arriving, and leaving. They chatted and talked, some sat at tables and ate as if it was a restaurant.

"That's convenient!"

His mind spiraled as he nearly got a culture shock. He felt like a country bumpkin in comparison. What was this? Why didn't the Scarlet Solaris Sect have one?

Did they have one?

As he asked himself that question, he was approached by what seemed to be a female attendant assigned to help and assist others. It was likely his gaped expression and bright eyes of wonder and ignorance that brought her his way. When he saw that young twenty or so young woman, he similarly gawked at her outfit.

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Before he could completely take in the cute outfit, which seemed like a uniform, the woman asked in a friendly voice, "Sir, do you need any help?"

He cleared his throat as he realized he had lost himself like a child at a candy store. How embarrassing. If this woman knew he was a lofty Mortal God, where would his face go?

"Yes. I want to sell materials, pills, elixirs, weapons, and armor for essence stones. Where can I do that?" He calmly asked, trying to regain his composure.

The young woman was shocked at first, but quickly said, "There are many stores here willing to do trades, and finding speciality stores would be the best. If you're selling high-level things, I believe you should make your way towards the thirteenth floor. They specialize in high-level sales, like qi weapons and energy pills. Those mid-level sells such as low-grade pills and high-grade crafted weapons, you can take it to the ninth floor.

"As for low-level sales, the fifth floor will handle your needs. Is that all?" The woman answered with a good attitude.

Wei Wuyin memorized that and felt that he needed to make a trip to all those floors. His materials were all over the place in quality, and he wanted to sell it all.

"No, is there a place I can buy high-level Ice Essence?" He directly asked.

Her eyes lit up and she nodded. "Things like that are up on the fifteenth floor and higher. You may have to check all the stores suitable for it. You can try King Essence or Kosh's Energy. Those are at the fifteenth and sixteenth floor respectively. You can find them by their signs."

Wei Wuyin had never been helped in such a clear fashion, so he thanked her and gave her an essence stone for her troubles. After all, good service deserved to be rewarded. Shockingly, she refused.

"I can't accept gifts or tips. I'm merely doing my job, Sir." She declined with a gentle smile and followed up with, "Do you need anything else, sir?"

"..."

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Impeccable.

This place's standard was exceptional. She didn't even accept a reward because it was her job in the first place. He sighed and realized this place was toppling his beliefs and faith in the world.

He had to praise the creator of this place. It was perfect.

He shook his head and she properly said her goodbyes before saying that if he needed anything else, he could come to her or those dressed in similar outfits. He nodded and she left him to his own devices.

The next couple of hours were truly a frightening shift in his perception of business. There were some areas that accepted some materials for higher or lower prices, so he had to run around and get the best prices and estimates, but it was worth it.

At the end of the day, he had unloaded all his unwanted materials and received eight hundred and thirty-seven essence stones. It was far greater than what he originally believed, but going to the highest buying places truly gained him a decent profit.

He felt drenched in wealth and wanted to cultivate almost immediately. With what he already had and this, he neared a thousand essence stones. That was more than enough to cultivate to the Sublime Qi Phase, but instead, he decided to see about the high-level Ice Essences available.

He had already tried King Essence and came up short, so he went to Kosh's Energy. When he arrived, he saw a familiar figure.

Chapter 37: Meeting Her

It was a woman.

She had ocean blue eyes that seemed to contain a dense spirituality, long, brunette hair cascaded down her back like a perfectly gentle waterfall and split at her shoulders. Those strands of hair seemed to be perfect, and they led one's gaze to an utterly mesmerizing valley that was her chest.

Her height wasn't impressive, being average, but her slim, bottle-like frame, incredible curves, and flawless jade skin left one breathless and desiring to see more. Her long, thin eyelashes and phoenix-like eyes that seemed to carry profound truths of the world drew one further into the abyss that was her beauty.

Godlord Lin!

When Wei Wuyin saw her, he stilled. She was gorgeous and seemed to be even more so than before. He had never expected to meet the possessor of the Haven Heart Monolith here of all places.

She had a beautiful frown that made one wish to eliminate all that could cause it. When he had first seen her in the Scarlet Solaris Sect, he was only at the Fourth Stage of Qi Condensation, nothing worthy of her notice, but now, he had become a Mortal God.

He often recalled what would happen if he told her about his successful cultivation of the Haven Heart Qi Method. Actually, that's not true. He had changed the fourth level and directly bypassed the fifth level. What he successfully cultivated could be considered a unique, more perfect version of the technique.

Would she stay true to her words and become his? This thought crossed his mind like a pervasive lightning bolt.

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He saw another beautiful woman standing next to her. This woman was more modest and, while beautiful, had a very holy feeling to her. He could've sworn that she was emitting faint traces of intent that subdued the spirit. It felt transcendent and sacred.

When he looked at that woman again, he couldn't help but marvel. His first impression had changed immediately. She was a heavenly beauty, her blonde hair and blue eyes were perfect. She was shorter than Godlord Lin, but her physique was shapely and her breasts and ass were perky and tight.

One can tell she had an exceptionally powerful body beneath those white robes of hers.

He licked his lips unintentionally as a fire was lit in his heart. He had the urge to strike up a conversation, but then he recalled Godlord Lin and his mind cleared up. He chuckled to himself and inwardly shook his head.

He didn't want to die by making rash decisions with foolish confidence. Shu Yang was a constant reminder to him that things needed to be taken slowly.

He took a deep breath and walked up to the counter. The two ladies didn't even notice him as Godlord Lin had a frown and a look of contemplation while the blonde haired woman was silently waiting, her eyes shone with a faint want.

That faint desire almost made Wei Wuyin loudly gulp a wad of saliva, but he suppressed it. His heart was burning for her. It was like her every action could tease a man dry, birthing an intense desire of conquest.

The store clerk was a thin-looking, bearded man who was looking at the two with glowing eyes. When Wei Wuyin arrived, he shot him a brief glance and thought for a moment. He

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looked at the two women, but seeing that they were still thinking, he politely called out, "Excuse me."

The two didn't even react to his words. The clerk, however, made his way over with a smile, but Wei Wuyin could sense a tinge of impatience within.

Wei Wuyin smiled and said, "I'm looking for high-level Ice Essence, do you have any?"

The clerk's eyes shined and he nodded, "I have top quality ones! If you gave birth to their qi, you would reach the heavens in a single leap!"

Wei Wuyin became excited. He needed a high-level Ice Essence. He thought he would need to wait for a lucky chance, but he forgot that the world didn't revolve around lucky chances. Instead, it was more tangible and consistent. The things you're looking for, others could have them, and they could be ready for purchase.

After all, the sect had violet lightning crystals, no?

The clerk smiled and listed off his Ice Essences, "There's the Everfrost Ice Essence. This ice essence can give birth to qi that is difficult to melt even at high temperatures! If you birth Everfrost Ice Qi, your advantage against fire arts would be absolute! I have two stones, worth forty-two essence stones each!"

Wei Wuyin frowned. The Everfrost Ice Essence could be considered a high-level essence, but it was rather weak. While it was resilient to heat, it was fragile in terms of offensive and defensive means. It couldn't even win a battle of attrition. It was only a counter-type essence.

Observing Wei Wuyin's expression, the clerk snorted inwardly. "There's an exceptional Ice Essence even better than the Everfrost Ice Essence, the Cryo Life Ice Essence! If birthed as a qi, it can seal lifeforce! If you use it to temper your body, you'll extend your life! I have three stones of such, worth seventy each!"

Wei Wuyin was shocked that he had such an ice essence, but he still frowned in the end. The issue was that it could seal lifeforce but it required an immense consumption of qi daily, lowering one's combat efficiency. It can also contain life energy and be used to store it, but

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unless you reach the Godlord level, the Eighth Phase, Infused Spirituality Phase, you can't have it leave your sight.

The uses were limited and if you wanted to trap someone, putting them in ice was pointless. They would become icicles, and they'd either die or live anyhow, so sealing their lifeforce was pretty irrelevant.

The clerk smiled witnessing Wei Wuyin's high standards, "Those two give you a higher chance of birthing ice qi. The next essence is impossible to birth as qi."

"Impossible?" Wei Wuyin became intrigued.

"Yes. Impossible," he said with a sigh.

"I'm interested!" Wei Wuyin stated.

The clerk gave him a long look, but coldly smiled inwardly. "The price is incredible and its very, very, very dangerous! I recommend you pick one of the other two." He informed with a helpless expression, as if to say: "You can't do it."

"I said I'm interested." Wei Wuyin knew what the clerk was doing, playing upon his ego to bait him, but he didn't care. He was curious about this last essence, and he already had some ideas of what it was.

"Okay! The Absolute Zero Ice Essence. It is so deadly that touching it can freeze your blood in an instant. It has the highest frost energy purity out of any ice essence and is the coldest essence rumored to exist. There have been many who've tried to refine it, but everyone who's tried has died!" The clerk said solemnly.

"This!" Wei Wuyin's eyes brightened. Absolute Zero Ice Essence?! That was said to be the coldest form of ice in existence and takes frost energy to its extreme. It was rumored that it can flash freeze literal fire. However, he also knew that what the clerk said was the truth.

No one had ever succeeded. It didn't have a talent requirement, but because it was truly dangerous and lethal. Absorbing that pure frost energy was as dangerous as absorbing pure yin and pure yang. In fact, pure energy in general was fatal. However, frost energy can instantly kill, making it especially dangerous.

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Wei Wuyin had to say that, if he compared all his elemental energies, none of them matched the pure frost energy within a single Absolute Zero Ice Essence.

He closed his eyes in thought.

"How much?" He asked.

"I have only one stone, it's worth one hundred and fifty essence stones." The clerk said with a little mocking in his voice, as if saying: "I told you, you won't do it. Know your limits."

Wei Wuyin wasn't provoked by the man but he was calculating. Calculating his possibility of success with a single stone and survival chances.

He had two Hearts of Qi, and it contained twelve types of energies, excluding the most basic type, and he felt it could work. A single stone may be little, but he had to try at least. If he could only birth a normal ice qi, he would just come back and buy one of the other two.

He decided to purchase it.

"I'll take it."

The clerk's eyes lit up and he ran off to the back in a hurry. When he came back, he brought a child-sized blue box. It emitted frost energy and the temperature of the room dropped by sixty degrees, even with the box blocking off a vast majority of frost energy.

Comparing it to the Blazing Inferno Magma Essence, who increased the temperature by forty without being sealed, there was a clear difference!

After ensuring that the item was the actual item, without any tricks, Wei Wuyin made the purchase. The clerk was happy. He had just sold off a product no one wanted! He felt like laughing, but it would be a little much with those two guests here.

Wei Wuyin placed the ice box in the second layer of the three-layered ring. Only the weird book was there, and the paper won't suffer from the temperature drop.

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Just as he was about to walk out of the shop, the blonde woman abruptly said, "That stone is a calamity. There is no fortune there."

Her voice was like a beautiful lark, and it caused his body to shiver. He didn't turn around. Instead, he asked, "How do you know?"

The woman was silent for nearly a minute, but Wei Wuyin wasn't willing to leave without an answer. The word calamity was like a trigger to him. The Eighteen Calamities of Hell was constantly lingering over his head and left him desiring strength to overcome it.

Then, she spoke, "The world says you, at the Fifth Phase, can not overcome it. It is certain failure, certain death." As she said that, her eyes turned around as those blue eyes suffused with a trace of heavenly karma.

Wei Wuyin stilled instantly.

What?!

Then, he abruptly laughed. He laughed loudly and with heart. An amusement suffused his entire body. This came from his very soul, as if it considered his words an absolute joke.

She was a fortune teller? Seer? Oracle? He had read about them in the Scriptures of Sin. They were beings who could peer into the Heavenly Daos. No, the truth was that they can ask them questions and receive vague answers, sometimes in words, sometimes in images.

For example, if Wei Wuyin had asked her if his mission against the Ash Dragon City Lord would be successful, she could only give an idea of what the heavens arranged. The Heavenly Daos had an improper understanding of his abilities and strength to begin with, so it would've been considered as a high risk, small window of opportunity, but a tiny chance for great benefit.

Instead, it was exceptionally low to no risk, there was no time window, and the benefits were incredible.

This was why she got his cultivation base wrong. His cultivation was powerful and pure yin-yang energy was stored in his Hearts of Qi. Unless he revealed his strength by using yin-yang qi, at most, they would assume he was at the Fifth Phase. This was why Wu

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Xinghong, the Ancestral Elder of the Scarlet Solaris Sect, was also unable to determine his cultivation base with a glance.

The heavens would also assume wrong because he wasn't guided to have two Hearts of Qi that helped refine the Yin-Yang God Sphere, and it couldn't properly judge him due to the Bloodline of Sin. So it's going off a fool's assumption.

It likely didn't even realize he had a Nascent Saber Soul.

"Do you care to make a bet?" Wei Wuyin turned around and looked at her directly in those beautiful eyes.

She frowned, "I was only warning you. Heed or not, it's your future." To her, she was doing Wei Wuyin a kindness. If he wanted to throw his life away, she couldn't do anything about that.

With her eyes, she could see the flow of karmic fate interlaced in the heavenly daos of people and events. She knew that according to karmic fate, Wei Wuyin wasn't destined to succeed in refining the Absolute Zero Ice Essence, if he tried, he would without a doubt die. He didn't have sufficient luck or ability to succeed in that endeavor.

"Scared?" Wei Wuyin coldly mocked.

The blonde woman frowned. Scared?! Do you not see that I'm just trying to save your life? If you don't want to listen, then don't listen! Why would I bet with a dead man? She screamed internally, but only pouted on the surface. Her pouted lips were exceptionally cute, causing Wei Wuyin's heart to stir.

"I'll give you a piece of Blazing Inferno Magma Essence, if I fail, you can keep it." He withdrew a piece of magma essence causing the temperature to abruptly rise.

The store clerk and blonde woman were shocked as they looked at the dark crimson stone. Moreover, Wei Wuyin was holding it with his bare hands. The stone itself definitely burned hundreds of degrees, yet he held it with ease.

That stone was rather large and was definitely enough for multiple people to birth the rare magma qi.

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A tinge of desire entered her eyes. If she had that, and was lucky enough to birth Blazing Inferno Magma Qi, then the long-term benefits were immeasurable.

"..." She bit her bottom lip, her eyes suffused with temptation.

When Wei Wuyin saw that action, a fire was lit in his heart once more. This woman may come off as sacred and holy, but she had the looks of a temptress.

Godlord Lin noticed the sudden shift in temperature and saw Wei Wuyin. She frowned as she saw his silver eyes, handsome visage, and confident smile.

"Aren't you?" She thought for a moment and recalled, "You're that boy who reached the fourth phase in his mid-twenties, the Scarlet Solaris Sect's disciple."

Wei Wuyin slightly smiled after finally grasping Godlord Lin's attention. He greeted her with a slight bow and clasp of his hands, "It is a pleasure to meet you again, Godlord Lin."

The blonde woman was surprised that the two knew each other.

"Agree to the bet," Godlord Lin casually said. She trusted the blonde woman's deductions and didn't care about Wei Wuyin's fate. Why not benefit from an idiot's confidence? Recalling Shu Yang who she crippled, her impression of the Scarlet Solaris Sect disciples was that they were rash, hasty, arrogant, and stupid.

The men thought too much with their lower head and not their upper one. She clearly saw Wei Wuyin's lust and wrote him off.

"I don't usually like doing something like this, but sure." The blonde woman lightly shook her head and sent out a trace of qi to retrieve the magma essence.

Wei Wuyin let her take it, shaking his head inwardly at her confidence. "I haven't even said what I want if I win this bet and succeed, no? That's some confidence."

The blonde woman just gave an indifferent smile. She stopped caring about Wei Wuyin, so she didn't care about the condition. To her, he can't win because he can't birth the Absolute Zero Ice Qi without dying.

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Godlord Lin interjected, "There should be a time limit. A month is enough."

Wei Wuyin knew why she would say that. If he waited until he became a Godlord and birthed it by some godforsaken luck, then the losses wouldn't be worth it. He had to refine it in that short period otherwise her prediction would fail.

"I agree, but If I win. I think I want you as a..."

"You shouldn't demand what you shouldn't demand," Godlord Lin interrupted, her eyes flashing with a dangerous intent. Wei Wuyin stood there stunned. Weren't they certain he would lose? Why can't he say what he wants to say?

The blonde woman chuckled softly. She seemed to grow excited by Godlord Lin's actions.

With a sigh, Wei Wuyin said clearly, "Fine. You must listen to my every order for an entire day. I won't force you to become a slave forever, give up your primal yin, force you to marry, and I also won't order you to bring physical harm to you or put you in harm's way for that entire day. However, besides that, anything goes. Is this good?"

Godlord Lin's eyes frowned.

"Sure!" The blonde woman cheerily agreed. She had already stored the magma essence in her storage space with a holy smile.

"Swear an oath on your spirit!" Wei Wuyin said. A spirit oath was a serious internal promise. If broken, one's spirit would shatter. Only Qi Condensation experts can make this promise, and without one's spirit, well...

Boom.

"Hmph. I swear an oath with my spirit that this bet will be upheld." She swore.

"I swear an oath with my spirit that this bet will be upheld." Wei Wuyin also did so. A formless pressure enveloped his spirit.

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This wasn't the first time he had swore an oath. However, he was shocked to discover only one spirit had the restriction! If he broke the bet, he could abandon a Heart of Qi and survive.

His eyes flashed and he smiled.

"One month. I'll be here in exactly one month from today!" He said, taking his leave.

The two didn't seem to care. Godlord Lin had already turned away and went back to contemplation while the blonde woman smiled with glee at her sudden windfall. She didn't care if Wei Wuyin became an icicle, it was his own fault, no?

Chapter 38: External Heart

After departing from the emporium, Wei Wuyin immediately made way to the Orange Circle Service and purchased a month-long subscription for the white crane. It was a little pricey, but he felt intent on making heavy achievements during this month, and knowing the crane was enjoying a luxurious stable left him feeling at ease.

While he wasn't sure if he could reach the Sublime Qi Phase in a month, he could at least attempt to refine the Absolute Zero Ice Essence. Even if he failed, the bet would only give him a small loss. The magma essence was definitely worth a few hundred essence stones and had its uses, but he didn't value it too much.

If he could form a Divine Heart of Elemental Qi, he could bolster his allies' cultivation bases and give them a high chance of birthing any elemental qi. This was one of the undisputedly prominent abilities known to those who transformed their Heart of Qi into a Heart of Elemental Qi, let alone a Divine Heart of Elemental Qi devised from high-level advanced elements.

If he wanted, he could sell his services to others and earn quite a fortune. In the long run, he could earn tens of thousands of essence stones, so this loss wasn't huge.

Wei Wuyin searched the map and realized there were locations suitable for secluded cultivation. As a city of cultivators, how could such an establishment not be made?

These locations offered protective and preventive formations, closed off rooms, and dense Heaven and Earth Essence. There were those suitable for cultivation of one's realm and those suited for cultivation of spiritual spells and qi arts.

After finding one listed that had a decent overview description, he made his way over.

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The establishment was called Road to God. It was a very apt name as it focuses on selling rooms that were effective in the cultivating of one's realm, so it inspired desire and ambition. The reason why people cultivate was to reach supposed godhood and gain immortality, no?

The location wasn't very wide like the emporium, but it did have many floors. He could tell it had a total of nine floors and as he looked up, he could see a gathering of essence that even condensed into a state of mist. Of course, flying up there was an illegal action, so it was likely there just for the attractive qualities.

When he first saw the dense mist, he wanted to see how thick and pure the Essence of Heaven and Earth in the upper floors were. As a cultivator, those areas had an incomparably irresistible allure.

When he entered, he was met with a rather fat man who had a jovial smile and bright eyes. He had that harmless aura that made one lower their guard and treat him kindly.

"Greetings!" The man asked, "How may I help you today?"

Wei Wuyin asked for various information about the rooms. There were eight floors and each floor had eight rooms. Therefore, the space was limited. However, generally, those who cultivated here were attempting to reach a breakthrough, so they didn't stay long.

The environment was decent and the materials that constructed the walls of the room were called Darkmist Steel. It had an inherent ability to restrict spiritual sense probing and could contain energy rather well. The durability was extraordinary and even those at the Fifth Phase would find it difficult to breach in a short period of time. It offered privacy and safety.

A month's rent for the second floor was only three essence stones. As one rose up, the prices also did as well. At the top floor, thirty essence stones was the price.

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Wei Wuyin didn't need dense essence energy, but it couldn't hurt, so he purchased the fifth floor for ten essence stones. The jovial man laughed and gave him all the necessary materials, including the key to the room, and formation flag to the spiritual formations within.

After taking this, he made his way up. The density of essence was truly higher than below. Even though he hadn't entered his room yet, he could already see faint signs of essence mist lingering about.

When he entered the room, the mist was visible and his Hearts of Qi became hungry beasts. They drew the essence within and refined their cores even though he hadn't taken any action. It was as if they could cultivate without him. This caused him to freeze for a moment, but he dismissed the ludicrous thought.

Settling in, he calmed himself down and removed the child-sized box storing the Absolute Zero Ice Essence. The temperature dropped dozens degrees instantly. A chill entered the air and frost energy flowed out of the box.

"According to the records, one of the most dominant characteristics of Absolute Zero Ice Essence is its flash freeze ability. It makes harvesting it incredibly delicate and incomparably dangerous. A single touch of its pure frost energy can freeze one's blood and lifeforce, deteriorating it instantly, leading to death.

"There's also mention of a material change in physical composition. It could turn flesh into ice, which can shatter instantly. That had to do with the inherent moisture within, right?" As he recalled the various forms of information about the essence, he couldn't help but feel some concern.

He actually had a few ideas as to how to approach the refinement, but he wasn't sure if they would work. Firstly, he thought of using magma or fire qi as a counter to reduce the frost energy's lethality, but if he did that, the frost energy would be diluted at best, contaminated at worst. Even if he refined it, he'll be lucky to birth normal Ice Qi, let alone Absolute Zero Ice Qi.

Another idea was to let his Hearts of Qi do the job and pray, but considering how the frost energy had to come in contact with his meridians and flesh, that wasn't very smart. Rushing in blindly and hoping for the heavens to keep you safe was ridiculously stupid.

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Immediately, his eyes widened as he thought of a crazy, absolutely insane idea!

If the pure frost energy came in contact with his flesh, moisture in his body, or lifeforce, it could flash freeze and end up harming or even killing him instantly. But what if it didn't come into contact with his body?

What if...he externalized the entirety of his Hearts of Qi and absorbed it directly?

Usually, essence was filtered through the meridians and refined, then directed to the dantian to be absorbed via the Hearts of Qi cores. However, refining the frost energy with his meridians was the same as destroying them.

Pure yin and yang energy was equally dangerous because of the implications they had with prolonged influence when in contact with the body. They could induce mutations and physiological responses that could lead to violent and life-threatening conditions.

Even a trace of yang energy can influence a woman's innate libido, and yin energy can turn a man impotent. That's if it was improperly handled or wildly refined through the meridians.

If he directly absorbed them through his Hearts of Qi rather than his meridians, wouldn't he bypass the possibility of all those complications?

A Qi Method that he had never seen or heard of before was slowly taking shape in his mind as an idea, a radical concept!

"However, if I extract my Hearts of Qi, could I still control it? What about the qi that's constantly circulating in my body?" He pondered these things. Without the spine and brain center that was the Heart of Qi, a person's body of qi would undergo a state of unrest and uncontrolled behavior, leading to qi deviation.

"Wait! I can just extract one, and leave the other to handle the qi in my body. That's right! I have two, not one, so I can do this without exploding!" Realizing a crucial benefit of having two Hearts of Qi, he became more brazen in his thoughts. If he had one Heart of Qi, while he could theoretically externalize it, he had a near-certain chance of undergoing qi deviation.

Taking a deep breath, he considered multiple points and felt that this line of strategy was his only choice.

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"I can do this!" He felt more confident the further he pondered on the situation. His Hearts of Qi contained twelve-types of energy, excluding basic energy, and he believed they couldn't be flash frozen so easily.

He started meditating. Slowly, he considered the various points of egress for his Heart of Qi. The Heart of Qi's size was very difficult to determine by standard means, but it could be said as roughly the size of a tennis ball.

"Mouth." He decided.

When he had this thought, he communicated with his spirit that controlled his Heart of Qi. Shockingly, it trembled with excitement! He didn't hesitate for a moment as he opened his mouth. Before he could even use his qi to guide the Heart of Qi outside his dantian and out of his mouth, it started to move on its own as if aware of his thoughts.

It shot out like a bullet, passing through his body with an unprecedented familiarity. Only now did he remember that metaphysical qi and the core was constructed with his matter composition in mind. His Heart of Qi was more familiar with his body than him.

He couldn't help but warily laugh as a multicolored cyclone shot out of his mouth in a flash.

When he saw it, his eyes lit up. This was the first time seeing an externalized Heart of Qi! It was very transparent-looking, but also gave off an impeccable level of realism.

"Metaphysical Qi!" The concept of metaphysical is related to reality, both false and true. It manifested reality and thought into one. He had never understood why it was dubbed metaphysical until this very moment.

It was absolutely beautiful as the cyclone surrounding the core was shockingly symmetrical in shape. He could see that within the core were various images flashing of elements, sabers, memories of his very soul and thoughts were present. When he looked deeper, he saw his very first sexual experience and defining moments in life.

It was like looking at a movie of his own life in a third-person's perspective. He could even see himself via a bird's eye view. Was the surroundings real or based on his memories and

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beliefs? It was as if what he felt and experienced, so did his spirit. As he thought about this, he felt an urge from his soul.

The spirit of his Heart of Qi informed him that being externalized was a temporary state. It couldn't stay outside for long, so he needed to be quick. It exhibited mutual excitement at refining the Absolute Zero Ice Essence. It was like a reflection of himself, a clone.

It was only now did he realize the Heart of Qi was a clone of himself in energy form, with his thoughts, personality, and memories. After all, it was condensed from his mind, matter, essence, and soul - creating the spirit itself.

He didn't hesitate any longer. He shrouded his body in a qi ward infused with all of his various qi types, which produced a multicolored ward.

Then, he opened the box.

Woosh!

A wave of pure frost energy froze the walls and floors instantly. A dense mist of frost emerged in the air as white wisps fluttered about. Wei Wuyin was shocked at how quickly the ice essence shifted the environment. It turned the room into a winter wonderland of sorts.

With his protective ward, the pure frost energy couldn't penetrate or harm him. That being said, if he absorbed it through his meridians, there would be no protective layer.

Glancing at his Heart of Qi, he found that, like his qi ward, it was similarly unharmed. A level of excitement rarer than anything he'd experienced before was birthed in his heart.

"Go!" He instructed. The Heart of Qi entered the box with a swishing sound. Wei Wuyin couldn't tell what was happening, but he could see the pure frost energy diminishing rapidly.

His expression changed instantly.

This was too fast, no?

Before a minute had passed, the frost energy that had shifted the environment was all drawn into the box and disappeared entirely.

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His left eye and eyebrow twitched.

Then, after a while, he felt his soul scream with content. This scream originated from his spirit, the spirit of his Heart of Qi.

Woosh!

The Heart of Qi swiftly exited the box. Without him having time to analyze it, it shot into his mouth with haste. His head tilted back in recoil and he had a weird expression.

Before he knew it, his Heart of Qi was in his dantian. He realized a bridge of qi had been immediately formed upon its arrival connecting the two Hearts of Qi. This bridge carried faint traces of icy-blue energy like a tube. It went from one cyclone to the other.

They...

His mouth was agape.

That icy-blue energy was Absolute Zero Frost Energy! It was as pure as his yin and yang energies! This...

He calmed himself down and started to feel the changes in his Hearts of Qi. This was the first time he didn't need to comprehend an energy source and its composition, absorb the energy, and replicate its features so it would become self-creating.

This was why talent and comprehension was required for elemental birthing. The self-creating energy wasn't automatic. One had to understand the composition, differences, and traits of a certain specific type of element so it can auto-convert. Otherwise, one would just give birth to lightning qi instead of violet lightning qi, or fail giving birth to it altogether.

Essence into energy, energy into qi.

After several hours, his Hearts of Qi had finished their exchange. His silver eyes now exuded an icy aura, and sparkled with pure frost energy. Within his mind, all sorts of insights into Absolute Zero Ice Energy emerged.

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"I've actually birthed Absolute Zero Ice Qi with such relative ease..." At this point, he didn't know if the circumstances and his innate talent attributed to it all, or if it was because his karmic luck was absurdly high. It was utterly laughable how easy it was.

Moreover, Blazing Inferno Magma Qi was far more difficult to birth, no? It took a full ten days! However, when his Heart of Qi absorbed the energy directly, it took less than a minute!

He inspected his body and felt an astonishing feeling of comfort. His body was still being tempered by the refined Absolute Zero frost energy, and there was no harm. In fact, he couldn't physically feel anything but warmth now. He wasn't entirely sure, but he had the feeling that regardless of which spectrum of temperature he faced, he would constantly feel this level of warmth.

Like a permanent homeostasis.

Was this what immune to heat and cold meant?

As he pondered on his state, he recalled something. A grin formed on his lips suffusing a victorious excitement.

"I won! Haha!"

Chapter 39: Elemental Lesson

One week later.

Wei Wuyin's athletic figure was surrounded by mystical energy, white and pure, light and free. He deeply inhaled, and the energy entered his nostrils, openings of his closed eyelids, mouth and ears. It was as if every orifice of his body was breathing as the energy used any means to enter his body.

When the energy had been fully consumed, Wei Wuyin's closed eyes snapped open. A scintillating multicolored light effused from his eyes, bathing the world in variety. A shimmering mixture of colors were beautiful and majestic.

A soft exhale later, and he spat out a wad of purified essence. There wasn't a hint of turbid or tainted essence within that breath of his. It was exceedingly pure and could be used by others to cultivate to great effect.

"Extraordinary!" Wei Wuyin excitedly exclaimed as he analyzed the myriad changes occurring in his body, in his qi, and in his spirit.

During this week, he had designated a majority of his efforts to fuse his fire, water, earth, wind, metal, lightning, wood, magma, and ice energies into one. It was the initial birthing process of Elemental Energy.

Condensing elemental energy wasn't difficult. In fact, the most difficult portion was birthing nine elements rather than combining them into one. That was because the nine elements were like pieces of a puzzle, and with all nine, one can easily fit them into a single whole.

Therefore, creating elemental energy wasn't difficult. Neither was transforming one's Heart of Qi. The sole reason why he took a week had to do with the Qi Method he was cultivating: Divine Element Form.

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The Divine Element Form didn't just require the birth of elemental energy, but required the transformation of the core within the Heart of Qi. The core contained its quintessence, all of its energies, all of its substance, and was the hub that housed the spirit.

The 'Divine Heart' aspect referred to fusing all the nine-types of elemental energies within the core into true elemental energy, replacing the nine-types entirely. At that point, he would no longer possess Absolute Zero Frost Energy or Life Meadow Wood Energy, but Divine Element Energy.

Divine Element Energy contained the inherent abilities of all his elements and advanced elements multiplied by several-fold in terms of intensity and might. Therefore, the inherent vitality and lifeforce within was far stronger than before.

He had spent an entire week on this fusion process, making that completed puzzle into a single whole picture. There was no longer a way to disconnect or segregate them.

His core was no longer multicolored, but a pure white color. He could still feel yin, yang, yin-yang, and saber energies within, but its substructure had become true elemental energy.

The elemental energy generated Elemental Qi that swirled within the cyclone surrounding the core. From this cyclone, streams of white qi circulated throughout his body and tempered it as per usual.

He felt an exceptionally powerful strength emerge from his body with each tempering cycle completed. The attributes of his body from before had jumped considerably! He squeezed his fists and felt like he had endless and boundless power within.

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"I have two Hearts of Qi, but only one has been thoroughly transformed into a Divine Heart of Elemental Qi. Now, it no longer contains basic energy or qi, just elemental energy and qi." As he muttered this, he checked his other Heart of Qi. Its core wasn't white, but multicolored containing all the thirteen-types of energy, including basic energy.

"I can produce elemental qi with either core, but the elemental qi from my Divine Heart is far stronger. Is this the inherent difference between a transformed heart and a standard one? One contains the energy, and one becomes it!" As he regarded these differences, he couldn't help but sigh in amazement.

He was originally planning on transforming both of his Hearts of Qi with elemental energy, but he stopped himself. In the end, he decided against it completely.

At first, he wanted two Divine Hearts of Elemental Qi, but now, with the Nascent Saber Soul, he felt the need to strengthen his saber qi. Therefore, he needed a Heart of Saber Qi.

However, he didn't want an ordinary one! He wanted a Divine Heart of Saber Qi! He planned to transform his core in much the same way as the other one, completely and on a fundamental level!

His decision was reinforced when he realized the benefits a Divine Heart gave his spirit, essence, matter, and mind! He had never felt so clear-headed, so physically empowered, and so hungry!

His meridians had experienced a change on a fundamental level, allowing him to absorb and refine elemental energies as easy as breathing oxygen itself. His spiritual sense now embodied the characteristics of all nine elements, and none of them could hinder his perception, either physical or spiritual!

As for his physique, each element had benefits when birthed and tempered one's body and qi.

Earth: Durability & Strength.

Water: Flexibility & Fluidity of Movement.

Wind: Ease of Control & Movement Speed.

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Fire: Resilient to Heat & Cold.

Metal: Toughness, Durability, & Fluidity of Form.

Lightning: Reaction Speed, Reflexes, & Movement Speed.

Wood: Flexibility, Adaptability, & Strength.

Magma: Immunity to Heat(to a certain degree), & Fluidity of Movement.

Ice: Immunity to Cold(to a certain degree) & Toughness.

These were the specific benefits of an elemental birth outside of the overall general increase in physique with each inclusion. While they all increased physical attributes, some enhanced certain aspects more than others, such as magma may increase physical strength higher than ice.

If he included the benefits of his high-level essences, such as the Life Meadow Wood Essence's vitality and lifeforce, he realized that all of those traits had been increased by nine-fold, at least!

Wei Wuyin felt truly empowered! He knew with just his physical strength, he could kill a Mortal God level expert! He was absolutely certain of this.

If he created a Divine Heart of Saber Qi, who knew how powerful he would become!

He took a deep breath and started to remove the essence stones from his bag. He was going to transform his Heart of Qi at this very moment! Wei Wuyin had no intentions of settling, and was going to go for broke.

Sixteen days later.

A ferocious saber qi was born! It released a sharp keen of slaughter and ferocity! A hymn of sabers permeated the air as the surrounding space was sliced apart without mercy.

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Wei Wuyin stood up, in his right hand was Element. Its long body, curvature of the spine, and sharp bladed edge carried a trace of slaughter.

"So this is what a Heart of Saber Qi can do!" Wei Wuyin grinned, excited. He had been making huge leaps in cultivation one after another, but he still felt pressured by the Eighteen Calamities of Hell. If it wasn't for that, he would've set his personal strength as a lower priority, but now, it was his greatest priority.

With a Divine Heart of Elemental Qi and Divine Heart of Saber Qi, he realized his entire aura had changed. He had a natural, attuned with the world, yet boundlessly overbearing and fierce aura.

A pure qi circulated around Element. It no longer left a trace of multicolored light as it moved, only a white streak.

This white streak was elemental energy of the highest purity, formed by the combined force of high-level elements. Even Divine King Han Xei hadn't reached this level!

His Divine Heart of Saber Qi still had elemental energies within, but they were thoroughly under the forceful lead of the saber energy. They could only bolster its strength and follow it into battle.

Wei Wuyin had also realized an inherent issue with Ethereal Qi Hearts. When he relied solely on his Divine Heart of Saber Qi, he couldn't execute any standard elemental qi arts. It wasn't that he couldn't create fire, but that it would always take the form of a saber, possessing an inherent saber quality. The saber intent birthed was exceptionally overbearing, forcefully inserting itself into everything.

Even movement arts were transformed, and with saber qi as its lead, it made controlling and regulating the qi arts according to its described ways difficult, if not impossible. This flaw was likely why there were no Divine Heart of Saber Qi Methods, or any 'Divine' Heart of Ethereal Qi in the Scarlet Dao Temple.

Luckily, he hadn't transformed his Hearts of Qi into only saber qi.

Fortunately, his elemental qi could execute any elemental art and increase its base strength by nine-fold! The difference was clear. It was already far stronger than normal Elemental Qi

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Hearts, as even Jiao Ning, who possessed a Heart of Wind Qi, could only increase her wind qi arts strength by three-fold.

"It's just unfortunate," he sighed. "I used six hundred and thirty-two essence stones to help transform my Heart of Qi." Wei Wuyin didn't need those essence stones for the Divine Heart of Elemental Qi. After all, his qi and core was already the nine elements to begin with. All that was required was a process of fusion and refinement.

This was why cultivating the qi method was too easy, but saber qi needed to be refined by his intent and infused. Luckily, his new Externalize Heart Qi Method sped up refinement speed by a tremendous amount. After all, essence stones were already refined essence to begin with, so it didn't need to enter his meridians.

He learned that using this method, he could drastically increase his cultivation speed and eliminate possible complications of pure energy or impure essence circulating within his body. Of course, there were downsides.

His Hearts of Qi were incredibly fragile to begin with. If he suffered an attack while cultivating while externalizing, it would be as easy as breathing for other cultivators to eliminate them. Therefore, he decided to only use it when he was absolutely assured of his safety.

Also, if he absorbed the Essence of Heaven and Earth, his Hearts of Qi would also absorb the impurities, bits and pieces of taint that would usually get filtered out by his meridians. This could lead to it becoming ill, slow in circulation, or weaker. Therefore, he couldn't rashly absorb the ambient essence from the world, having to rely on refined essence stones.

At the moment, he had barely any relations with anyone in Golden Milk City and no enemies, which was why he felt assured to take such a risk. However, in a place like the Scarlet Solaris Sect, even if he had a 99% assurance, he decided to never take it.

The price for a slight mishap was far too heavy.

After completing his transformative cultivation, he still had a few days before the month's due date was over. He used the Exteralize Heart Qi Method to rapidly absorb the remaining four hundred and so essence stones. He split the stones in half, and checked his progress.

If the False Reality Phase had percentages of development towards Sublime Qi Phase, then he was about forty-percent of the way there with both Hearts. He now knew that he needed about five hundred for each Heart of Qi.

Noting this, he finally left.

When he arrived at the Surabhi Emporium, it was still filled with a lively aura. He truly had nothing but praise to the one who devised such an establishment. It was suited for all needs, and sometimes, you might even discover something you didn't even know you wanted.

He even saw that friendly attendant just idling away, waiting patiently for confused or questioning arrivals. He softly smiled and went to Kosh's Energy.

Wei Wuyin saw the clerk who just sat in a chair with a look of boredom. Wei Wuyin realized that such an expensive shop didn't have a swarm of customers daily. After all, high-level essences weren't something just anyone could afford. Those who didn't have a strong backer or high cultivation base could only rely on lucky chances to obtain one.

The sheer prices were incredibly expensive, and if asked a year ago if he could buy a high-level essence stone for one hundred and fifty stones, he would've laughed and called the person nuts.

When the clerk saw Wei Wuyin arrive, he slyly smiled with eyes containing a slight trace of mocking. Wei Wuyin didn't bother with him, as he just stood in a corner and quietly waited.

He paid attention to the time and waited. It should be an hour before the total time of a full month ends. In the cultivation world, every month was determined by thirty solar and lunar cycles. When the sun and the moon descends and ascends.

Therefore, he didn't hold any doubt about the time of the meeting due to the agreement.

Soon, the minutes ticked away.

Then, an hour arrived.

Abruptly, two hours came and went.

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Wei Wuyin's expression turned uglier by the passing second. He had already thought of the various one-day orders he would ask for. He had a belly full of dark desires yet no outlet.

Three hours passed.

Wei Wuyin's eyes were closed and the rage in his heart was becoming murderously fierce. Who liked waiting for someone? He sure as fuck didn't.

"You know, those two had already left the city. If you're thinking of begging for your magma essence back, you're out of luck." The clerk finally said after realizing the aura Wei Wuyin was emitting felt a little dangerous. At first, he found it funny, but Wei Wuyin's aura was causing him to shriek in fear within his heart.

"What?!" He whipped his head fiercely towards the clerk. "They left?!"

The clerk took a step back, awkwardly laughing in hopes of defusing the tense and uncomfortableness in his heart, "uh, yeah. They left the day of. I saw them leave the city, and I don't think they intended to come back."

"..." Wei Wuyin's eyes were wide, disbelief at their gall and the utter shamelessness. You make a bet and then depart? Aren't you just cheating people? Can you even call yourself a Godlord?!

The respect he had for Godlord Lin dropped to the lowest possible point.

"Where did they go?!" He was going to get his victory.

"Uh, northwest, I think. They should be heading to the Wu Empire's Capital City, Wudao." The clerk answered sheepishly.

"...Northwest? Fuck!" Wei Wuyin viciously stomped his feet. An aura of white elemental qi entered the air. The world became cowed as the various natural elements went awry, matching his anger.

The wind currents became enraged, chaotic and everflowing. The moisture condensed into ice droplets and steam vapor. The floor softened, hardened, cracked, and shifted. A slicing air surged, overbearing, imperious, and murderous.

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The disturbance caused all those on the above and below floors to feel like an earthquake was happening. There were yelps of panic, fearful shrieks, and confused questions slinging from the crowd.

Wei Wuyin rarely ever lost his cool, but the fact they essentially cheated him made him feel stupid and naive. In fact, he was essentially robbed, and he gave it to them with the utmost confidence. How could he not be angry? How could he not be enraged?! His trust in the honor of a Godlord had vanished into thin air.

Zroom!

He felt a spiritual sense sweep towards his area. This spiritual sense stopped on him. It was penetrating and daunting. A strong taste of metal entered his mouth, and faint tingling itched at his skin. He could feel a hint of qi within.

He calmed himself down after sensing this spiritual sense linger on his body. As he did, the manifestations of elemental chaos and slicing currents subsided.

"Thanks for telling me," he said, looking dejected. He directly left the emporium before the situation devolved into Mortal Gods descending to investigate. The spiritual sense followed him out and then withdrew itself.

Whoever that spiritual sense belonged to, he knew it belonged to a Godlord. That expert was likely the Godlord who ran the Golden Milk City. Wei Wuyin had no desire of enraging someone who's qi were infused with their spiritual strength.

He heavily sighed in his heart, his emotions already soothing out. He knew that overconfidence was a weakness, yet he was overconfident. He also knew that people were unreliable, yet he trusted people. The prestigious title of Godlord had blinded him.

"Tch. Lesson learned. Take it as a learning experience." Was all he could say to comfort his heart.

However, he will have his victory...one day.

Chapter 40: Rite of a Sinner

On the broad back of the white crane, Wei Wuyin soared through the air. Golden Milk City had already become a small blip behind him. Having left, he headed east, not northwest.

He still had a sense of priority, so he would first make way for the Helios Witch's territory within the Mystic Elven Forest. For that, he would need to leave the Wu Country and travel further east, bypassing the Clear Sky Mountain Range to enter the forest itself.

It had nearly been two months since Mei Mei's disappearance. He had made significant progress in his cultivation during this period. The only path left to him was reaching the next phase of cultivation. Therefore, he had no need to delay any longer.

Whether he could find her was still an unlikely possibility. After all, even if he went to the Helios Witch, his only lead, it wasn't a definite possibility that she had something to do with it.

That was Wei Si's deduction based on his keen sense of smell. He didn't actually see her get taken. In fact, Mei Mei could've been practically disintegrated like Gu Futu. If so, he could only find out why and if it had anything to do with her dealings with the Helios Witch.

This was why he didn't feel an immense amount of pressure in finding her or searching. His only clue was vague anyhow. Not everything would just lay below his feet, pointing towards what happened. He wasn't that naive.

If this turned out to be a deadend, it's likely the story of Mei Mei would end up unsolved, regardless of his emotions or desires.

The journey there was no longer filled with detours or lucky chances. His karmic luck value had remained the same, and he hadn't met anyone outside of the traveling cultivators. As they were on their way somewhere, there was no need to bother each other.

It was a boring cycle of fly for nearly ten to twelve hours, eat, rest and recover, and repeat.

Wei Wuyin had stopped a few times in towns and cities, but besides finding a brief and comfortable bed to rest on, he didn't interact with the locals or other travelers. While there were bandits who stayed in the shadows and attacked travelers and merchants, the white crane could rival First Stage of Qi Condensation experts, so there was barely any need for him to do a thing.

Any cultivator who could enter the Qi Condensation Realm would have their entire life changed in the Wu Country. Resorting to banditry to rob mortals for silver and gold was fruitless.

In that realm, mortal wealth was no longer an issue.

You had the opportunity to become a guard of a grand city like Ash Dragon City or Golden Milk City. A single day's pay could encapsulate the entire lifetime wealth of a mortal.

You could establish your own clan, have dozens of wives, and hundreds of children and make sure each was fed and taken care of.

Therefore, Wei Wuyin didn't need to bother with those trifling matters. And while there were cultivator bandits, they wouldn't target those with powerful mounts, but those too weak to afford to raise or train mounts.

Before long, three weeks zipped by.

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Wei Wuyin, atop the white crane, could see a mountain range in the distance. It was a series of tall mountains that went up two kilometers high. It was like jagged teeth, rising and falling, with spaces in between. In certain angles, they seemed to be connected and alive, like the jaws of a shark.

Then, as one looked up in the sky above those ferocious mountains, they would see a clear sky. There were clouds in the nearby area, but above those mountains, there was an obvious lack of them. Even when the clouds floated towards it, it seemed they would never touch that distinct portion of clear sky; they never did.

Wei Wuyin felt enlivened at finally seeing this mountain range. Having traveled for so long, he knew his goal was on the other side. Luckily, the white crane could easily fly over that range.

If it was any other mount whose strength was below that of a Qi Condensation cultivator, the mysterious force surrounding the mountain would impede them all.

Wei Wuyin had read about this mysterious force, but most of the information was vague detailing of the mountain's characteristics. There were some who theorized that the mountain range was a piece of a jaw from a divine beast, others believed it was formed by an expert who could travel the stars.

There were other theories, but those two were the most grand. The rest were more mundane and didn't leave much to one's imagination. He knew that one of those mundane theories was likely the truth behind the mountain's mysterious force and horrific shape, but he had always enjoyed embellishments of a story.

Rubbing the white crane's feathers, he grinned and urged it to travel faster. Now that he was here, he wanted to see this mountain's force! A throb of excitement entered his heart at the unknown and new.

BOOM!

Just as he felt that throb, an explosive sound erupted nearby. Wei Wuyin frowned, the sound came off kind of muffled and indistinguishable, but he knew its location. He turned north and frowned.

Kree!!

Suddenly, the crane cried in a heartrending shriek. It flapped its wings fiercely and soared towards the direct south. Its speed had nearly doubled. Wei Wuyin was caught off guard, but with his cultivation, how could he be thrown off because of this?

He placed his hand softly on its back and a trace of qi attached him to the crane. Then, when he was fastened, he sent it a spiritual communication.

Fear.

When he received a reply, that was all he felt. He couldn't actually talk to the crane, but he knew its feelings and emotions. The emotions it projected was fear and abject horror, a strong sense of instinctual danger on the horizon.

"Horizon?" Wei Wuyin frowned, looking north with his eyes. There was nothing there. Why was the...

"Wait...what's that?" Wei Wuyin's eyes narrowed to near slits. At the horizon to the north, a small distortion was coming into creation. It was slight, not even something noteworthy, but then it started to expand.

"A heatwave?" The distorted sight looked like the simmering of heat, like the birth of a mirage in a desert, or the fumes of hot gas in the air. It was that shimmering of one's vision that would make one question if what they saw was actually real.

Kree!! Kreeeeee!!!

The crane's speed abruptly increased. It had directly entered its fastest state, fully intent on running away. A deep, absolutely horrified feeling emerged in its heart. Wei Wuyin could tell the stress of this flight was even causing some of its feathers to dislodge and its muscles to tear apart.

"What are you doing?!" Seeing its self-destructive state, Wei Wuyin screamed. He took his eyes off the north and used his elemental qi to enter the white crane's body. A dense vitality and lifeforce entered its body as he executed the Earthly Wood Heal Qi Art.

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With elemental qi and a high-level wood essence, the effectiveness was dozens of times greater than described. In a split second, the crane's body was healed and filled with powerful strength.

However, instead of stopping, the crane started to overdrive its entirety. Its lifeforce started to burn as it traveled faster and faster.

It was actually burning its lifeforce!!

Wei Wuyin was driven speechless from shock. He considered knocking the crane unconscious. Subconsciously, he turned his head back to the north and when he did, his pupils shrunk!

That invisible distortion had become a rolling cloud of dust, rocks, winds, and trees. It was coming at him like a gigantic, godly hand was pushing the earth and sky towards him. It was several miles high and he could even see wildlife being flung upwards.

"How?!" He had taken his eyes off it for a few seconds, how did that even happen?! What the fuck is happening?!

He didn't have time to think. The crane's actions were right, but fruitless. It wasn't fast enough. The wall was traveling at least a tenth of a mile a second. This went far beyond the crane's speed.

"Stop! I'll protect you!" He shouted, not giving the crane enough time to react as his qi entered its body and rendered its body immobile. He jumped and grasped the air.

A hand of elemental qi formed, large enough to encapsulate the crane entirely. It clenched itself softly around the crane's body, and Wei Wuyin grabbed it and dove directly towards the ground.

His movement speed was far faster than the crane. He carried the crane, using his elemental qi, he executed the Thunder Step Qi Art the moment his foot touched the ground, exploding forth with thunderous momentum.

Boom!!!

The earth was destroyed where he stepped, a huge crater formed in the earth that went as deep as five meters. He traveled a hundred meters in a blink. He continuously executed the art, pushing it to its limits.

"What?! That's all?!" Wei Wuyin was deeply shocked. He had only traveled about a hundred meters each time, but the wall moved about one hundred and sixth meters a second at least. Even though his speed was far surpassing his current cultivation base, he still didn't travel far or fast enough.

When he turned back to take a look, his vision became filled with the scenery of a magnificent wall. He couldn't see its end. This wall was made of dust, of earth, of rivers, of animals, of trees, of clouds, and even people.

He could see a middle-aged woman's body being pushed along in the middle of this wall, but no lifeforce emitted from her body. She was dead.

His heart pounded with intense fear.

"Was this the first calamity?!" The thought surged a deep unwillingness in his heart. He had just become a Mortal God, had just reached a level of a true genius, and was still young!!

There were things he hadn't accomplished yet. He wanted a proper harem, to have ten women at once! He wanted children who he could be proud of! He wanted a city like Golden Milk City, rich and filled with creativity! He wanted his own sect, one that could rule an entire world! He wanted more! He needed more!

"Aaarghhhh!" He violently roared, his eyes fierce and ruthless. With that roar, his two Hearts of Qi sent their strongest sources of qi for his usage, even drawing upon their quintessential energy to the maximum disregarding the cost.

"Element!" He called forth his saber soul, forming its body with the purest elemental and saber energies. Grasping it, he didn't turn back and fight, but continued running.

He knew that the wall pushed forth an absolutely destructive amount of force within, uplifting the very earth and rivers of the world, and a mysterious energy was carried with it. This energy was destructive and fierce, but not to the flesh or its state. The middle-aged woman

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wasn't the only corpse he saw. There were others, and each one had dead eyes and exuded no lifeforce, but their bodies were completely intact and undamaged.

This force uplifted the world and destroyed all life!

How could he fight something he didn't understand?!

Instead, he summoned Element and sliced ferociously in front of him. A slicing wave of qi cut through the air, removing air resistance for a brief moment. Then, he drew upon his strongest energy and all his elemental energy.

He didn't rely on elemental qi to execute Thunder Step, but he used another movement art. One he had just invented, because he needed to!

Elemental Saber Life Securing Art!

This was the name of the art he had just made up. Making up this name was like marking the world, saying: "I will survive!"

He drew upon his entirety, both of his Hearts of Qi, and most of their energy. He grabbed the white crane, hugging it tightly. No longer would he use his body to move forward, but let the elements do it.

"Ahhhhh!!!" He shouted with his life on the line, slicing Element out once more! He turned into a comet of elemental saber qi and fired off. In a blink, his speed and form reached a miraculous state. He was no longer moving with mass or a body, but with the elements, with the world, with the saber.

Woosh!!

The wall was just a mile away from him. Just his actions alone wasted so much time that the wall was already so near.

Now, in the world, there was one wall and one comet of white light. One chasing and one running away.

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As he ran, his body underwent numerous changes due to the stress, his meridians and flesh were meshed together with his elemental and saber qi. It was monstrously painful and yet, he did not let up for a single moment.

This continued for forty-nine seconds. From the moment he activated his art, Wei Wuyin had already ran for a full forty-nine seconds!

Then, it dissipated abruptly. The wall collapsed, leaving just a strip of clean land, and a pile up of corpses, rocks, and trees.

"Argh!" Wei Wuyin exited the art immediately after it stopped. He tumbled, his head, arms, legs, flailing wildly as he was rolled forward like a dead body. The impacts towards the ground barely hindered his momentum, and only when he smashed into a mountain, digging in nearly three hundred meters deep, did he stop.

Luckily, his body had been tempered by elemental energy, so he barely survived. Unfortunately, his bones were broken, his muscles and skin ripped, even several of his teeth had fallen out.

As for his hair and clothes, he didn't have any.

Anywhere.

In the depths of the mountain, he crawled out. It took him an hour before he escaped, landing heavily on the ground with a thud. When he did, he heard a cry of a bird nearby.

The bird flew beside him and used its beak to softly peck at his naked, hairless body, as if trying to verify its guess.

"I-it's me..." Wei Wuyin said in an exhausted and pained voice. The white crane's momentum had been halted with his remaining energy. While he had a faint chance at surviving the momentum, the crane did not.

He realized only after the fact how stupid he was. The last bit of energy would have ensured his survival without the risky tumble, but he used it on the crane instead, and nearly lost his life in the resulting crash.

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"Haha," he had tried everything to survive, even drawing upon the quintessence energy of his Hearts of Qi, causing them to nearly destabilize, but in his last action, he saved the crane instead of himself.

It was truly laughable.

Zsst!!

"Argh!" A burning sensation stung his skin. He weakly lifted his head and looked at his right arm. He saw blood-colored lights erupt from his skin.

In a portion of the tattoos that were originally empty, a series of new tattoos formed. He couldn't actually read it, but he knew what it meant:

Rite of a Sinner.

First Calamity: Awakened.

"..." Wei Wuyin groaned in agony and pain. What the fuck was this?

This...this wasn't the first calamity?!?!

In the scriptures, it had described that those who hold the Bloodline of Sin must pass a trial against heaven. It wasn't a normal heavenly tribulation, but one filled with the intent to kill you and anything around you.

After successfully obtaining the rights, only then can one undergo the Eighteen Calamities of Hell.

He didn't expect it to be so out of nowhere.

Wei Wuyin laid flat on his back, his eyes blurry as he stared up at the sky. A wave of exhaustion flowed through his body as he felt like sleeping.

Before then, he used his all to raise his left hand, stuck only his middle-finger to the air and yelled weakly, "Fuck you heaven, fuck you hell, fuck you first sinner! Fuck you all!"

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Before he could curse more, his hand fell nearly lifelessly as his eyes closed.

The white crane grew terrified. Hastily arriving next to her master as she tried to wake him up, even faint traces of tears formed in her eyes. This master gave his life to save her! She was filled with sadness.

Wei Wuyin twitched abruptly, scaring the crane, and then started to snore.

"..." The crane.