

## Chapter 101 -: Meeting Her

"Yes!" Wei Wuyin reveled in the sensation of his success.

He was a true King Alchemist!

He looked at the nine finished Astral Dipper Fountain Pills, a seventh-grade low-tier pill. Not only that, thanks to his powerful alchemic qi, they were all at the high-quality. While he had failed a few times prior, this was his first time succeeding in performing the Earthly Nine Concoction Method, where one concocts nine pills simultaneously.

According to the Eden Earth Sect's Sect Master, to perform this successfully was a sign of one reaching great heights in the dao of alchemy, becoming a true King Alchemist. In fact, he had dozens of other single concocted pills, a few failed, but most were a resounding success.

But he never doubted that he could succeed where his predecessor failed. He wanted to perfect the Earthly Nine Concoction Method. Even the Sect Master couldn't perform this method successfully. It was why he never publicly declared himself as a King Alchemist. While this was an arbitrary limitation he had placed on himself, it was an admirable one.

Now that he had finished this exceptional milestone, he felt deeply refreshed in his heart and soul.

WHOOP!

Abruptly, a faint pdd sound occurred as he felt his hand become noticeably lighter. With a curious glance, he looked at the pills that should've been next to him and his eyes nearly popped out of their sockets!

"What the fuck?" He nearly flipped the cauldron as he looked for the pills. They were just there! Even the low-quality ones!!

As he inspected everywhere outside, his eyes widened as he turned his senses inward. He saw his Spirits, outside of his Alchemic Spirit, were ravaging something using their spiritual forms. It was his pills! There were exactly 48 pills, most were low-quality, and a few were high-quality! He wanted to wail and cry, seeing his hard-work vanish almost instantly.

How did they devour it all in such a small amount of time? It's been only six days since he started concocting?! Did they devour them the moment they came out?! He felt as if he was about to kill someone.

He felt robbed, yet he wasn't robbed. It was a very odd, strange, and unnatural feeling. Did he rob himself? No...well, yes? No!

...YES?!

In the end of his constant flipping of answers, he bitterly sighed. He could feel his Spirits held no remorse, as if they knew that it was meant for them. In fact, he should be happy, but he wanted to wallow in his pride for a second longer.

At least he wasn't alone in his burning anger. The Alchemic Eden Spirit was raging mad. It spent its energy to make these pills and they were taken by others, they were all meant for it!

Bah!

It wanted to leave his sea of consciousness and bite the others. The trembling caused Wei Wuyin to be unsure if he should laugh or cry. If others knew of his situation, who knew how they'd feel?

He sighed as he looked at the nine high-quality Astral Dipper Fountain Pills. He inspected the progress of his Draconic and Divine Spirits.

When he did, he was startled! It was obvious they hadn't devoured an equal amount, some low, others high quality, and indivisible by three, but he was truly shocked by the progress.

According to the recipe, even a low-quality pill was sufficient for seven motes of qi essence, while high-quality could only mean more, never less.

48 should, at minimum, register as 336 motes.

However...

His eyebrow twitched.

They were nearly done with the pills, but they were not even close to that number.

Divine Saber Spirit: 13 Motes.

Divine Elemental Spirit: 6 Motes.

Draconic Blood Spirit: 4 Motes.

The shocking thing was that it was obvious that the Divine Elemental Spirit had consumed at least half of the 48, its innate refinement speed exceeded the other two greatly. While the Draconic Blood Spirit was second, so it must've devoured more than saber, but less than Elemental.

He could only sigh but he was also happy, Saber required less expenditure than the other two. This meant less money needed.

However, he immediately became gloomy again. There was still the Alchemic Heart.

Alchemic Eden Spirit: 0 Motes.

"I don't even need to absorb world force, they do it naturally. That is incredibly shocking. Am I even cultivating or are they?" Now, he truly didn't know if he should laugh or cry. If he wasn't actually cultivating, did that mean his duty was relegated to pill dispenser?

At least he wasn't alone, right Alchemic Eden Spirit?

Bah!

The Alchemic Heart could no longer restrain its anger as it directly left Wei Wuyin's sea of consciousness, a strand of eden qi reached into his dantian and pulled out the two still eating Divine Spirits.

They were startled, dragged out before they could even react.

Two condensed strands of eden qi were produced by the Alchemic Spirit.

Pah!!

Pah!!

It slapped both spirits, sending them flying for nearly half a mile. It trembled and started producing an odd noise but flew after them.

Wei Wuyin's eyes widened in utter, unfathomable disbelief as he felt life had turned upside down. When did his spirits become this sentient and intelligent? Holy shit, it was about to deliver an ass-whopping! Proper and deserving, hmph.

Go Alchemic Spirit!

His Draconic Spirit wasn't touched, but he didn't know why. Maybe the Alchemic Heart gave its junior permission to eat, but not the other two, his seniors?!

Luckily, otherwise, if it was also pulled out, Wei Wuyin would undergo qi deviation and explode.

It was only after a while, and likely quite a mouthful, did they return. He realized that the pressing time limit for externalizing for the Alchemic Eden Spirit had been dealt with. Perhaps its the combination of spirit and core into one that allowed it to do so.

The two Divine Spirits were sullen, but the trace of energies made them look like two kids receiving the belt for stealing cookies, but still had the half-eaten cookies in their mouth as they returned.

"Hahaha!" He laughed wildly.

They made a soft,whimpering-like sound and re-entered his body and sea of consciousness.

He shook his head as he carefully kept the nine pills and looked at the surrounding area. When one creates seventh-grade pills, various phenomena occur. The most notable was the aurora borealis that lingered nearby like mist. It was also vanishing, but the thickness would still last an hour due to the high volume of pills he created.

He sighed as he started to recover. Only after the manifestation faded did he remove the spiritual ward that prevented leakage of energy and inspection. Stretching, he felt refreshed. Having officially reached the King Alchemist level, he felt the desire to treat himself.

"I should've brought Jiao Ning or Bai Fei," he licked his lips slightly as he remarked.

It's been a month since he'd last enjoyed a woman's touch. As a man of principle, he disliked sleeping with those he had authority over, or stood in a position that influenced their decisions. For example, there were maids waiting at the snap of the finger as long as he just said the word. While it wasn't their explicit job, they weren't in a position to reject him for fear of a bad fate.

The thought of doing something like that was unappealing.

Jiao Ning was originally a mutual exchange and Dai Fei had offered herself. He held no power over their decisions or lives, and as long as he didn't make any menacing threats, he was fine with accepting them.

In fact, he preferred women who knew what they wanted. Mei Mei, Xing Fu, and Bai Fei were all women who knew what they wanted and went for it. He respected that greatly.

"But my position is special..." He felt a headache.

"Lord Wei," Su Mei called out.

Wei Wuyin turned towards Su Mei, inspecting her state, he smiled. "You've established a good foundation." He could feel her yin-yang energy was purer than normal. While it couldn't reach Yin-Yang God Sphere levels, it was remarkably close.

She was also cultivating a Divine Heart of Qi, so her strength was not to be underestimated.

"Have you thought of your Heart of Qi attribute?" He asked, walking towards her.

Su Mei nodded, "Saber Qi."

Wei Wuyin nodded. Saber Qi was not a bad choice, but it required saber intent. She hadn't developed it yet, so she'll need to work hard. Regardless, she'll possess a Divine Heart of Saber Qi when she matures. Her strength will be extraordinary.

Not only that, she had already condensed metal qi. He had Elemental Origin Energy, and with it, he could bestow various elemental energies to his allies, increasing their chances of birthing the qi. This benefit was boundless and one of the reasons Wei Wuyin decided to embark on the Elemental Qi path.

With enough time, she'll birth the other elemental energies as well. With Saber Qi backed by elemental energies, her strength would be top-notch within her phase. While it may seem as if she was following his steps, that wasn't by any means a bad thing.

In fact, it made her own path easier, as he could offer guidance and support where needed.

Of his four hearts, he knew his Divine Spirit of Saber was the weakest. As for the strongest, he wasn't sure.

Elemental Origin, Draconic, Saber, and Eden were Material, Beast/Bloodline/Myth, Ethereal, and Mind respectively. He wasn't sure of Draconic, but he knew it wasn't either of the three, Ethereal, Material, or Mind.

He also knew his saber intent could elevate, thereby enhancing his saber energy quality and purity. He just didn't know what was after saber intent or how to develop it further.

Su Mei felt a surge of fervor in her heart due to Wei Wuyin's praise. She was going to go for excellence.

Just as Wei Wuyin was about to give her further instructions on cultivation, his eyes flashed. He turned towards the north and he frowned.

"I'll be back," he calmly said before vanishing like a shadow. Su Mei couldn't even catch his figure as he left. Her heart nearly jumped.

So fast!

Wei Wuyin was fast. Bypassing the various spiritual formations within the Royal Palace with a single dash, he arrived outside the Royal Palace and his eyes focused on a nearby public street. His eyes were sharp, saber intent flickering within.

"Jiu Lang?" With narrowed eyes, he felt her aura. That aura was unmistakable. She contained a unique wood essence and yin aura that made her unforgettable.

"She should've been enslaved by the Elven Race, likely dead by now. Especially after what she did!" He clenched his teeth as he felt murderous desire swell up in his heart. Regardless of whether he was far, far above her in power, he will not blink in slaying her in the most horrific manner imaginable!

In his years in the Scarlet Solaris Sect, she was responsible for many of his troubles and even his friends and allies fell to her machinations. He hoped to cripple her and send her to the dirtiest brothel he could find, and have her service men for free for years!

Others may not know the things she had done, but he was acutely aware. He was far too aware!!

With eyes filled with murder, he waltzed towards the street and silently followed her trace aura. He followed it slowly, allowing himself to feel the chase and build up his many cruel ideas. When he approached a corner that entered an alley, he turned to see a young woman shrouded by a veil and standing with her back to him.

An unfathomably pure and chaotic desire to commit all sorts of vengeance emerged in his heart. He was not above anything when it came to Jiu Lang!

He clenched his right fist tightly enough for creaks to resound from his bones.

"Why are you following me?" A serene voice filled with a natural flavor resounded. It was unfamiliar to his ears.

"Huh?"

## **Chapter 102 -: Qing Qiumu**

"What?" His rage was dispelled as he heard this voice. He deeply frowned. That wasn't Jiao Ning's voice. It wasn't the voice that he wished to shriek in pain and horror at nights.

He wasn't shocked she noticed him; he wanted her to. The issue was that only ten years had passed, how was it possible for her voice to change so drastically? In fact, he used his spiritual sense and knew it wasn't altered by any arts.

"Do you want to harm me?" The woman's voice was lovely and seemed to be birthed from nature itself, warm and serene. Her question made Wei Wuyin's heart deeply surge like a cannonball smashing into the ocean.

He sighed. His anger and rage, his past trauma had formed a heart-devil and he was conforming theories to facts, rather than facts to theories. There were others who could have a similar aura. After all, if two people cultivated the same method, their auras would also be very similar.

He just wanted to kill Jiao Ning himself, make her suffer. An unresolved desire, that was all it was. The moment he inspected the woman before him a little more, he realized this was the truth. How woeful that he couldn't rip out Jiao Ning's bones and sinews himself.

"Apologies, I mistook you for someone else." His words were calm, but a tinge of defeat was within. He realized he needed to further refine his mental realm. A cultivator's mentality was important and could impact cultivation, even leading to qi deviation. He had reached an unfathomable level before he became an Inheritor of Sin, capable of concealing his hatred and murderous desire even though Jiao Ning had been directly before him numerous times.

He had always acted with intelligence when needed and with decisive force where required.

"Mistook?" The voice was surprised. The figure turned around, she kept her concealed weapon and faced Wei Wuyin.

She wore a veil that covered her entire face, but he could see her emerald-colored hair and eyes. His physical senses were so powerful thanks to the Draconic Bloodline that with a little focus, the veil was nearly pierced without a hint of spiritual sense.

"You?!" He was startled.

Beneath the veil, the figure frowned. Her aura was ready for battle at a moment's notice.

"You're..."

This was the woman from his future or past? Past and future! Jiao Ning had kidnapped this woman and stole her heart blood essence, refining it into herself. No wonder their auras were similar.

In his old future, she was responsible for the destruction of the Scarlet Solaris Sect. He had always assumed she had died during that alternative future and thus the elves encircled and killed their way into the sect for revenge.

Luckily, he had told the sect about Jiao Ning and the girl's status as a high-ranking elf; thus, the calamity was avoided by his actions.

He had done it for two reasons: To punish Jiao Ning, hopefully, and to starve off his own foreseen death.

He recalled the cultivator in the black martial robe that beheaded him mercilessly while Jiao Ning begged for his protection. At the time, he had, by some unfathomable reason, decided to protect Jiao Ning despite their immense differences and his boundless hatred. The issue was...he didn't know why he had done it or cultivated Scarlet Qi or decided to do so.

The him of that future was an enigma. An existence that had experienced things he hadn't.

His attitude bettered, "Sorry. My name's Wei Wuyin. I remember you from the incident in the Scarlet Solaris Sect." He was honest and upfront, startling the young woman.

Her eyes beneath the veil widened, narrowed, grew confused, and then enlightened.

"Wei Wuyin? You're the one who saved me?!" Her words were filled with shock, as if seeing a person who rose from the dead.

"Haha! Yes, you can say that." He rubbed his head softly and chuckled.

Taking a deep breath, revealing the contours of her ample breasts, she bowed slightly, "Thank you."

Wei Wuyin didn't reject her thanks, "It was my pleasure."

Her attitude towards Wei Wuyin lightened. There were only a few people who knew about the incident before, and only Wei Wuyin could recognize her so clearly, at least in her opinion. Despite not meeting the man before, she knew of his outstanding talent and reputation.

A twenty-six year old at the Fifth Stage of the Qi Condensation Realm, birthing two high-level elemental essences, Steel Metal Qi and Violet Lightning Qi, while being without any real background. He had a blessed talent that many attributed to a cultivation treasure. However, she knew that cultivation wasn't so easy.

"My name's Qing Qiumu," she formally introduced herself.

Wei Wuyin liked her name. It felt fitting towards her aura and origins.

However, now that all was said and done, he didn't know how to proceed.

Witnessing Wei Wuyin's awkwardness, she smiled and said, "I'm happy to see that you're alive. Do you want to find someplace to talk?" She invited him kindly. Now he was in a good position to press forward or retreat with reason if he wanted.

Wei Wuyin was gracious of her offer. After all, it felt odd to follow her and invite her to another place, even if he had mistaken her for someone else. He accepted her offer, wanting to know quite a few things about her.

They left the alley, walking within the crowd until they found a restaurant. Wei Wuyin could eat, so could she, so they thoughtlessly entered.

It wasn't long before they started to have small talk, discuss events. According to her, Jiao Ning died a horrible, gut-wrenching death eight years ago. This appeased his mind as he became invested in the how. It truly felt comfortable hearing it.

As for him, he wasn't direct with what happened during the last eleven years, but he did say that he had left the sect, was traveling with a companion to see the Wu Country's landmarks. It was only a coincidence that they arrived at the Royal Palace so quickly.

When Qing Qiumu heard the story about his departure, and how it dealt with a jealous lover and an ex, she felt there was more to it, but she didn't prod. Instead, she asked about his visits thus far.

It's been awhile since he had sat down and had a casual conversation with a woman in such a fashion or anyone for that matter, so he went into detail, making snide comments and throwing shade at the Warring States Pagoda, eliciting chuckles and laughter. His momentum in the conversation was quite impressive. While not everything was directly truthful, they were interesting.

He twisted certain details or omitted a few, but he knew she was engaged. While others couldn't see her expressions or beautiful face through that veil, he saw every bit of it. She was relaxed and enjoying herself.

He also felt relaxed. It was a comforting feeling.

"Did you run?" Qing Qiumu asked in concern. It seemed she forgot he was talking about the past.

"Of course not! I'm the Saber Ascendant, how could I! I stood my ground, faced him with my saber in hand, and slashed!" He vividly started retelling his brief encounter with Hu Jiwei. While he edited some details, he kept the truth in it.

"What happened?!" She leaned forward, her fragrant smell and ample bosom bounced, but Wei Wuyin wasn't noticing these mind-drolling moves, he just saw her starlight eyes and genuine interest and became even more vivid and lively.

"What else? With one slash and one strike, we exchanged blows! As for the end, I'm here, no? Hehe."

Qing Qiumu sat down and smiled. Right. The telling of meeting a young master, being hunted down by odd, creepy assassins, then meeting their supreme leader who shimmered into being like a shadow threatening to end even his family, how could she not be invested?

She thought for certain the young master and his two guardians were going to die after being outnumbered, but they persisted enough for him to arrive on the scene as a savior! Truly, an invigorating story.

If she knew the full truth, who knew how she'd think.

Wei Wuyin rubbed his nose, he looked outside and realized it was dark. They had been talking for hours, the time had zoomed away without him noticing.

Qing Qiumu was also shocked when she noticed the time. They had met mid-day, to think so much time had passed. It's been quite a while since she last enjoyed talking to someone this much. Perhaps it's because he saved her life, but she felt close to him. Her demeanor was completely relaxed, and his refreshing act of being unbothered by her bodily features or beautiful allure was truly enjoyable.

Wei Wuyin smiled, noticing Qing Qiumu staring at him, "It's late. I'll take you to your lodging."

She was startled, but realizing the time, she nodded in agreement. They left, paying the bill, and Wei Wuyin left a generous tip as well.

As they walked the moonlit path, Wei Wuyin asked her about a few things about the Mystic Elven Forest, expressing his desire to one day travel there on his journey.

She smiled and told him a bit about all the mysterious and beautiful places there. Including the forbidden areas he should avoid, but seeing how his eyes brightened with the child-like spirit of adventure at any mention of danger, she couldn't help but chuckle.

Normally, she didn't like talking about her birthplace, but she wasn't shy about discussing it now.

Before they knew it, they had arrived at her inn. It wasn't a good one or a bad one, despite being in the central area of Heavenly Wu City, it was very inconspicuous. He didn't comment on it except she could do better.

To which she replied: I know.



They laughed together.

When their laughter subsided, he looked at her emerald eyes and felt a feeling of comfort within. He had never thought he would meet her of all people, and enjoy his time too.

She maintained a happy smile beneath her veil. Her thoughts were a mystery, even to herself.

"Qiu'er," a voice called out.

### **Chapter 103 -: Long Chen**

Wei Wuyin's gaze was drawn away from Qing Qiumu's emerald eyes hidden beneath her veil and saw a figure nearby. He was walking over calmly, his stance upright, his eyes pure and black, his hair short yet wavy, and his figure slim yet toned.

Wei Wuyin felt that he had a special handsome quality about him, entrancing and alluring to all sexes. While it wasn't the typical gorgeous appearance, it was quite impressive nonetheless.

Wei Wuyin himself was more muscular, was taller, had resplendent silver eyes that contained shining brilliance, and hair that had a hint of sharpness at its edges. He was handsome, and aesthetically speaking, Wei Wuyin was far more pleasing to look at and overall better looking.

Even with his Draconic Bloodline seething within his mortal body, he felt like a calm ocean.

This man had called out to Qing Qiumu with an 'er' in her name. It was also shortened which alluded to their relationship. Not to mention, this man was a human, like himself, so it wasn't possible they were related.

Qing Qiumu also turned her gaze towards the mysterious man, her eyes a little curious as to why he would wait for her, perhaps something urgent happened? As she thought about the recent happenings and events, her eyes dulled a bit and she gestured towards Wei Wuyin.

"Long Chen, this is Wei Wuyin. The one who reported my capture, saving me as a result. We met by chance," her words were honest and straightforward. "This is Long Chen," she added.

Wei Wuyin took a look at Long Chen and was outwardly calm. He clasped his hands in greeting, but his mind swirled as if a storm had just been created within.

This was the cultivator who beheaded him!

He would never forget that face nor the sword he carried on his back. That was the sword that slayed him, reaped his life away, brought an end to his journey...

However, he had no inherent fear because of his knowledge of a future that can never come. At the moment, he had Four Spirits at the Eighth Phase of Qi Condensation. That alone meant he wasn't the same person before.

"Oh? You're Wei Wuyin? It seems the heavens truly do treat geniuses well," Long Chen commented, but his tone was odd and off. It wasn't filled with jealousy, but there was an aggressive edge that was obviously held back.

Wei Wuyin didn't consider him jealous either. In fact, regarding Qing Qiumu, his thoughts towards her were strange and oddly pure. Seeing her as a friend rather than a love interest. Perhaps that's how the best relationships start, but he hadn't considered that.

In fact, he didn't want a wife or dao companion. He had thirty-nine years before his highly likely demise. There's no way he would do that to someone he actually cared about.

Qing Qiumu noticed Long Chen's tone and frowned. She glanced at Wei Wuyin and saw that he hadn't taken offense, a soft sigh of relief resounded in her heart. She knew he noticed, he was perceptive at the very least.

Long Chen frowned slightly. A hint of discomfort emerged in his heart. How could it not? Wei Wuyin was unnaturally attractive for a male and his reputation was not lacking. He immediately added, "How's Na Xinyi doing?"

Na Xinyi!

Wei Wuyin's pupils shrunk. When they returned to normal, he looked at Long Chen with a motionless gaze.

"Na Xinyi? They know each other?" Qing Qiumu was surprised. She knew Na Xinyi. She was a woman who had a Three-Point Yin Body. It was a fascinating physique with powerful innate yin energies. Just that alone made her an astonishing genius.

However, she had suffered tragedy in her past. She was used and discarded after her sect had been destroyed. It was the Scarlet Solaris Sect who had done it. It was then she realized why Long Chen held his current aggressive attitude.

Since Wei Wuyin had come from the Scarlet Solaris Sect, he likely pushed them together in his mind. In fact, Long Chen had sworn to Na Xinyi to get revenge for her, killing the person responsible.

She hastily said, "Wei Wuyin has departed from the Scarlet Solaris Sect. He's now a lone cultivator, traveling the lands freely."

Long Chen's eyes narrowed.

Wei Wuyin sighed.

He knew.

Na Xinyi to him was an important lucky chance which he took, but he had also taken her innocence. It was his first time forcing someone to sleep with him. Even the woman who had serviced him during the Violet Moon Sect eradication mission, the one wanting for her lover's rescue, he hadn't forcefully taken purity against her will. In fact, he expressed his interest, and she replied with consent, even if she only did so to starve off torture and prolong her life awaiting her partner. Wei Wuyin didn't know this at the time.

He disliked using his position to claim others, so he made it clear, yet she still tried to use him to survive. After all, if she didn't come to him, she would either be killed or enslaved - her life far worse.

Even if she was waiting for her man, to think she would do all those things...

Anyhow, Na Xinyi was definitely a black mark on his sexual relationships. The only one he couldn't take his time with.

If he did, while at that moment it was uncertain, the next coming events only solidified the fact that he would've died.

In the cultivation world, there was no right or wrong. There was only power and principles. Morality was ambiguous due to the ability to cultivate. Even a First Stage of the Qi Condensation Realm cultivator can become a King in the right location, getting away with everything, and their word becoming absolute law.

Even the Heavenly Daos rules were cold and unfeeling to the plight of others. If he were to tell Na Xinyi that even the heavens didn't consider her fate a sin but gifted her to him specifically, would she become enraged and curse the heavens?

He sighed thinking about these things.

Long Chen watched Wei Wuyin, his hand rubbing his storage ring, and his eyes were sharp. He had promised Na Xinyi to get revenge on the one who wronged her, and he was right before him.

If Wei Wuyin knew that the reason Long Chen entered the Scarlet Solaris Sect in his alternate future was because of Na Xinyi, not Qing Qiumu, he would be startled. In fact, Long Chen had snuck into the sect specifically to kill Wei Wuyin in that timeline. As for Qing Qiumu, she was dead.

Wei Wuyin hadn't avoided the calamity by informing the Scarlet Solaris Sect about Qing Qiumu's capture, but leaving the sect to save Mei Mei!!

His hasty actions may have been directly influenced by the Heavenly Daos thanks to his Karmic Luck Value!

Qing Qiumu saw the mood was becoming tense, so she interjected, "Wei Wuyin is a friend, Long Chen." After stating that, she realized Long Chen's eyes hadn't lost its sharpness.

"Wei Wuyin, what about leaving for now?" She offered, hoping to dispel the situation. Wei Wuyin sighed inwardly and nodded. Qing Qiumu added, "Thank you for escorting me here. I had a nice time."

Wei Wuyin warmly smiled, "I did too. Have a good night."

With that, he turned away and left.

Long Chen quietly watched his fleeting back, his heart wanting to strike at this very moment, but then many of his plans could come collapsing down. While he didn't consider Wei Wuyin his match, killing him wouldn't go unnoticed in the central area, where experts were all around.

Qing Qiumu admonished Long Chen slightly for his behavior, but then she grew shocked.

Long Chen only said one sentence to send her into that state: "He's responsible for what happened to Na Xinyi!"

Qing Qiumu's eyes clouded over as her mind became chaotic. Wei Wuyin felt nothing like someone who would do such a thing, and he was her savior. She owed him deeply.

Long Chen turned towards Qing Qiumu and saw her internal struggle to reconcile with what he said, "I didn't strike because he saved you, but only once! I made an oath on my dao, I'll kill him for Na Xinyi! I apologize..."

Qing Qiumu's shock lasted for a bit longer, but she soon regained her calm. The world was like this, and sometimes, people have masks. She had no right to ask Long Chen to stop or for Na Xinyi to throw away her grievance. As someone who knew the hatred of having yourself abused and used, she, more than anyone, would be able to relate.

Jiao Ning had kept her prisoner for over a year, extracting her heart blood and treating her like a cow. While the situation was different, the feelings were similar. Humiliation, disgrace, rage, despair, frustration, and helplessness. Those emotions overwhelm you, but the most lasting one was fear.

Na Xinyi would never be the same, never trust a man the same way as she could've before. She may never find love or treat others with trust. If it wasn't for Long Chen's ways and their adventure together, it's unlikely she would have opened up to another man.

All those who took away the dignity of others, they all deserve death.

Turning to where Wei Wuyin walked off, her eyes felt hollow and her soul felt drained.

In her mind, she couldn't help but echo her sentiment: Why did it have to be him?

#### **Chapter 104 - Revelation**

In the morning, the day after, Wei Wuyin was meditating next to his pond filled with various fishes. His eyes were somewhat dull and his aura was chaotic. There were a lot of things on his mind, and even his mental realm was deteriorating.

"Do I regret it?" As he recalled Na Xinyi, he shook his head. He had asked himself this 2,341 times since that day. Each time, he pondered, then decisively said no.

How could he?

She had saved his life. If it wasn't for that yin energy, he would've been dead. If he hadn't discovered her yin physique, she wouldn't have obtained her freedom. Instead, she'd have been relegated to a slave or worse. With her cultivation likely crippled or a spiritual spell meant for permanent enslavement embedded into her.

After all, she was a captive.

Her life would've been worse. This wasn't even a question, but a statement of fact. In fact, she could've been dead by now.

The most ridiculous thing was:

The Heavenly Daos literally gave her to him. How ludicrous was that?! How fucking ridiculous was that?!?!?

How many times have the Heavenly Daos forced two people to pair, with one side essentially doing it without the other's consent? What miraculous occurrence must happen for that to work?

He felt disgusted, but also a little relieved. The cultivation world was cruel, humanity was cruel, living beings were cruel, how could the Heavenly Daos not have factored this into its nearly ambiguous and inane rules? It surely accounted for these factors, which is why things were likely structured the way they currently are.

"In the grand scheme of things, we're all just pieces on its board." He felt a supremely burning rage blaze within his heart and soul. A rage for the heavens treating living beings like game pieces, treating the entire world it governed like a game!!

No wonder the First Sinner rebelled!

Even he wanted to!!

"I...already am, I guess..." He felt like he had hit a profound connection with the First Sinner. He didn't feel bad about what he did or all the things he did. His character wasn't inherently malicious and evil. He had his own code of morality and set of principles he lived by, but did it matter?

Yet he still felt divided in mind, but also a sensation of enlightenment approach. He felt like he had to ask himself whether taking advantage of one girl in exchange for her freedom and life was bad, but never once did he regret or question the numerous lives he'd taken.

The woman who abused Su Mei.

The pair of lovers.

Chu Yan.

Ash Dragon City's guards, commander, city lord, his son.

Gu Futu.

Shu Ancestor.

Those assassins, Hu Yao, and Hu Jiwei.

This didn't factor in those he ordered to be killed or enslaved in his time as a core disciple, those Bai Lin killed under his orders, or those he was directly responsible for in regards to death or a life worse than - such as Gu Futu's family or that one Jade Lotus Sect clan. He didn't even remember the name.

In fact, he didn't even know the clan name or the one he killed.

He had no regrets over the numerous lives he ended or ruined that numbered tens of thousands or far, far more via the effect of causality, yet...this single incident caused him to question for over two thousand times.

He shook his head and calmed his breathing.

That's right. He was being an idiot. Cultivation was a struggle for life, not a path of regrets. You can only move forward, and thinking about the past was worthless and only served to delude your state of mind.

If Long Chen killed him, would he ponder how Su Mei or Bai Lin would be affected? If he had kids or a family, would he care?

Cultivation was inherently selfish to begin with. It's about snatching from the world to empower yourself and reach greater heights, to dominate that same world. As long as you live by your heart, however that may be, then who cares about the rest?

Thus far, he had always followed his heart. Therefore, he will move forward.

As for the Heavenly Daos, fuck it.

"I'll do what I want, when I want, and the heavens can piss right off. Now I see why pain is accompanied by karmic luck decreasing, to ensure a clear head on whether to accept your influence or not. It's to give free will, to become a rogue piece on your gaming board.

"Who knows, one day, I may just flip the board and start a new one, with new rules, ones that conform to my principles and beliefs or none at all. Give the entire world back its right to choose without external influences." His words were tyrannical, filled with heretical virtues and beliefs.

For this moment, he had forgotten about the Calamities of Hell or his likely death, all that existed was a defiant will. Wei Wuyin felt a throbbing in his right arm as he said this, but it was brief.

Reclaiming his peaceful state of mind, he readjusted his position and decided to once more concoct pills. He erected a spiritual ward and retrieved his cauldron. Perhaps concocting a few pills would be beneficial.

Just as he was about to indulge in the Dao of Alchemy, Su Mei arrived. He immediately noticed her, "What is it?"

"I was gathering information on the capital to compile a dossier for you, Lord Wei, but..." She seemed hesitant to elaborate. Wei Wuyin could feel a hint of guilt in her voice as well as desire.

He stood upright, properly keeping the cauldron, and said: "What did you find out? Speak your mind."

Su Mei took a deep breath, exhaled all her worries and soon regained her calmness. "There's an emporium called the Life World Emporium. It's run by the Life World Pavilion."

Wei Wuyin's brows perked. The Life World Emporium! How could he not know about it? It was the number one merchant force within the Wu Country. It had endless prestige, an unfathomably deep and reliable reputation, far-reaching influence, and the wealth that was envy inducing.

This was because of the Life World Pavilion. It was an organization that existed in all seven countries, and at the head of which was an expert at the Astral Core Realm. A true elite powerhouse that can rule a country with their impressive powers.

They were renowned for not just selling materials, armaments, and essential information (Even about cultivation), but they also created the various ranking lists that were a talking point all over the Myriad Yore Continent. This included the top Beauty Ranking for the seven countries individually and the entire Myriad Yore Continent.

Su Mei didn't need to explain this, so she readily explained her purpose. "The Life World Emporium has recently acquired a Saber called the Darklight God Saber. It's a peak-grade qi weapon."

"Ah," Wei Wuyin now understood her guilt and reluctance. She didn't want to seem selfish in wanting this saber for her own. In truth, he controlled the majority of the wealth and resources they possessed.

Wei Wuyin let loose a hearty laugh, "Perfect! You're cultivating Darkness and Light Qi, perhaps the Life World Emporium will have some high-level essences. Furthermore, I've been seeking to update my knowledge of the beauty rankings." He rubbed his chin in thought, there were also a few products and resources he could exchange for.

After all, this was society. Killing and robbing for a living was a very low-grade manner to live life, not worthy to exemplify his life or dignity. While a thief may become wealthy in his own backyard, it was limited by the wealth of that backyard. As an Alchemist, he can concoct products that could allow him to reach all corners of the world.

With that thought, he said with an impassioned voice, "Let's check it out!"

Su Mei felt her heart shudder with relief and warmth. Wei Wuyin hadn't even hesitated to think about buying the saber she desired or find other resources for her. Just so it was known, a peak qi weapon was suitable for Mortal Godkings. The price would be out of this world.

Fortunately for her, Wei Wuyin was a local moneybags with the wealth of an entire domain and sect in his pocket, and his own products to boot. He was essentially wealthy to the point that he could be considered the single most wealthiest man alive.

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In the Royal Capital, flying was prohibited without explicit permission or being royalty. Therefore, Bai Lin was forced to stay in the courtyard. However, she didn't mind as she simply slept in peace after eating a gourmet meal worthy of a crane that weighed a thousand or so pounds.

After a rather annoying walk, Su Mei and Wei Wuyin arrived at the Life World Emporium. When Wei Wuyin saw the building, even from afar, his eyes were shining and his mouth was spewing all sorts of wondrous praise. The Golden Milk City and its Surabhi Emporium lacked in comparison.

Firstly, it was massive. A literal freaking skyscraper that reached a total of forty stories and was as wide as two Surabhi Emporiums combined. He gulped as he traced his eyes up and down, analyzing the intricate yet symmetric design of this building. It was like a steel rectangular block, but stood on its ends.

It had a white purest type of color to it, seemingly without a slightest taint on its surface. The metal that constructed it emanated an aura that caused Wei Wuyin's metal energies to stir. It was likely fully reinforced by a high-level essence material even greater than Steel Metal Essence.

The windows gleamed with faint glows that seemed to reflect sunlight, causing the insides to be unable to peer inside. It added an alluring mystery to what and who was inside this grand, majestic, domineering building.

At the forefront of it was a large, wide, and impressive four-sided sign that situated itself at its highest point, but enough to be seen from even forty miles away. It said: Life World Emporium. The calligraphic aesthetic was pleasing to view and the color was noticeable yet not overbearing. When you looked at it, it made one want to know more.

This was a form of spiritual aura that he felt. It seemed the sign itself was created with spiritual energies and inscribed with a unique spiritual spell or formation capable of enticing cultivators. It was subtle, but his keen senses immediately noticed.

At the top of this sign, seemingly within the gap of the four-sided sign was a planetary structure that resembled the moon in the sky. It flashed intermittently with light. In the morning, this was a negligible display, but at night, this low light would act as a guide.

"This is the most impressive building I've ever seen." He truly felt awed. One day, he wished to create a building even more impressive.

Su Mei nodded in agreement. When she first arrived, she too was caught off-guard. Despite seeing it from afar, it was only up-close that one could understand the utter grand existence that was this skyscraper.

They followed the normal traffic and approached the two-door entrance. When they were merely two meters away, the door opened automatically and caused Wei Wuyin to start. He had never witnessed self-swinging, self-opening doors. He hurriedly used his spiritual sense and saw evidence of an array and formation working in conjunction.

The former opened the door, the latter was triggered by the presence of spiritual strength and activated the former. It was embedded just beneath their feet all the way to the two doors.

"So intricate!" He praised again before walking inside. He was immediately greeted by a world similar to the Surabhi Emporium, but with an air that smelled like mint. At the entrance were expertly chiseled and crafted statues of the sun and moon. But when he lifted his head, the expected opening with interconnecting bridges, kiosks, and foot traffic was absent. Only a patterned ceiling was there. It was the ceiling for the first floor.

"So, how did you find out the existence of this saber?" Wei Wuyin finally asked as a hint of interest merged in his eyes.

"I—" Su Mei was just about to answer, but a voice interrupted her.

"I was the humble servant who informed her."

### **Chapter 105 -: Life World Emporium**

"I was the humble servant who informed her." The voice sounded wizened and amicable. The moment one heard it, they would feel a refreshing feeling within their heart and mind. Wei Wuyin's brows lifted slightly as his eyes shifted to observe a man dressed in a very clean and crisp black and blue suit.

He seemed to be about forty or fifty years old by appearance with hints of wrinkles emerging on his face, slightly droopy eyes, and a white smile with an imperfect set of teeth that gave him a more earthy feel. His smile pulled his wrinkles upwards and revealed that this man was likely quite handsome when he was younger.

The black hair with greying temples and highlights were quite aesthetically pleasing and fit his overall appearance perfectly.



"You are?" He was shocked to see this man dressed in a suit and tie, tight-fitting, and form-shaping. With his upright back, he truly gave him a feeling of a professional. However, Wei Wuyin wasn't used to such dressings. While he knew that suits and tuxedos existed, they weren't basic cultural and traditional wear.

Most cultivators wore robes, dresses, battle armor, or simply a basic shirt and pants combo. He mostly wore tight-fitting martial robes with combat accessories. This was more akin to the world's standard.

The old man didn't find Wei Wuyin's reaction unexpected. Those first-timers often find a suit and tie dressing quite odd, so he merely smiled: "My name's Han Bo, I'm the Manager of the 22nd Floor. It is my pleasure to meet you." He bowed slightly with the utmost poise and grace.

Wei Wuyin gave a faint nod in response. A Manager of a floor must be quite an impressive position. Furthermore, he felt trickling waves of qi that seemed to have reached a sublime state from Han Bo's body; he was at least at the Seventh Stage of the Qi Condensation Realm, Sublime Qi Phase, and a peak-Mortal God.

"I am-" Just as he was about to introduce himself, Han Bo interrupted.

"The Saber Ascendant, Wei Wuyin. I've heard quite a lot about you, Godlord Wei." His wizened eyes brightened as he revealed an intelligent glimmer.

Wei Wuyin was momentarily shocked. Then, recalling the purpose of the Life World Pavilion and their ability to gather, regulate, and disseminate information meant they likely knew of his actions in the Jade Lotus Sect. But what truly shocked him was their ability to know his cultivation base.

At the moment, his control over his aura was impeccable. As long as he willed it, not even a Godking could determine his cultivation.

"I see," in the end, he was mostly indifferent. Instead, he said, "Since that's the case, the Darklight God Saber, where is it and what's the price?" He was direct, intending to conduct the transaction quickly before moving on to his own priorities.

Su Mei stood quietly behind Wei Wuyin.

"Yes, yes. The Darklight God Saber. How about we move to a more comfortable setting before discussing this?" Han Bo spoke as he glanced at the surroundings. Currently, they were at the entrance of the emporium with heavy traffic. There were quite a lot of cultivators exiting and entering, here for all sorts of business, both mundane and unique.

Wei Wuyin nodded in agreement. At Han Bo's lead, they traveled the floor for a while. The first floor was mostly a directory and customer service-type service. There were dozens of workers idling about, both male and females, uniformed and good-looking, that were available to answer questions or directly act as a guide.

If he was an ordinary customer, he could choose one and have him or her escort him to his designated floor with introductions and such. This type of service was first class. From the sheer size of this building, there must be hundreds of these workers. If he designed this, and each floor had a specialty, then that floor would have specialized guides.

Just as he believed, Han Bo proceeded to explain the layout and structure of the Life World Emporium. He had a calm pride resonating with every syllable.

According to him, the Life World Emporium had three thousand employees total. Each employee was at the Third Stage of Qi Condensation and below the age of a fifty. This meant they had vigor, looks, and talent. In fact, many of them were members of the Life World Pavilion.

Under his constant explanations, they arrived at a sealed door. Wei Wuyin found that the door frame was odd, as the door was further inwards than the frame. Furthermore, the door didn't have any handles or notches to open. It was constructed with Hygh Steel, a steel known for its incredible durability and conductivity towards formations and arrays.

"This...?" With a raised brow, Wei Wuyin inspected the door's contents and found it to be an empty room with four sides and no exit. "A trapped room?" He had faint suspicions that this was a trap, but then Han Bo executed a handseal and a surge of spiritual energies entered the door frame.

Ooom!

An odd sound occurred, followed by the activation of the various spiritual formations within. These formations triggered various arrays and then a square-like container descended from above. While the door was closed, Wei Wuyin paid rapt attention to the events with his spiritual sense.

When the container approached at rapid speeds from several floors up, it slowed down until it came to an abrupt stop. Then—

Ding!

Woosh!

The door separated at its middle and vanished into the frame. Wei Wuyin's eyes widened for a moment, his hand reached towards the door frame and saw the door embedded perfectly into it. As for the inside, the container that had descended had arrived. It was similarly made with Hygh Steel.

"Please enter," Han Bo said with a smile.

Wei Wuyin gulped slightly and entered the container, his eyes constantly roaming about and examining every facet of the area, including the various formations and arrays that seemed to enable vertical movements in an ascending and descending direction.

Su Mei followed, but her awe wasn't there. It seemed during her travels earlier, she had already known about this miraculous contraption. Han Bo entered too, performing another handseal that closed the doors. The container started to move upwards.

"We'll be going to the 22nd Floor," Han Bo said. Wei Wuyin's eyes were bulging out of his sockets. They were ascending upwards but he didn't feel the increase in velocity that rising would usually be accompanied by. Before he could truly figure out the reason, they arrived at the 22nd Floor.

"The 22nd Floor deals in high-end Qi Armaments. From swords, sabers, shields, armor, or even rope. We have everything with the most top-tier blacksmiths at your disposal for custom products." Han Bo explained as he walked out into the floor.

The floor didn't have an incredible amount of people, but each person, be it man, woman, child, or granny had excellent cultivation bases for their age and exuded wealth and prosperity. He had even found a few alchemists roaming about. While these alchemists didn't have an Alchemic Heart of Qi, they cultivated alchemical energies and Alchemic Qi. They would retain their combat ability but be dozens, if not hundreds of times, less effective. This was how the vast majority, if not everyone except a few, cultivated in the Eden Earth Sect, including the Sect Leader.

Wei Wuyin similarly cultivated Alchemic Qi while he was an inner disciple of the Scarlet Solaris Sect. He recalled the cauldron of his, the one that he treasured, was destroyed by those assassins.

Those alchemists might not have an Alchemic Heart, but due to their constant conversion of Qi into Alchemic Qi, they carried a faint alchemical aura that couldn't be disguised. Moreover, they wore this aura with the utmost pride.

"Here," Han Bo led both of them to a storefront embedded into the wall of the emporium. Despite saying it was embedded, it was quite expansive and could be considered a building in its own right. There were a variety of Qi Weapons on display. Some emitted Sublime Qi, while others had Spiritual Qi.

These were Mortal God & Godlord-tier weapons suitable for them. They were inscribed with all sorts of arrays and formations that could amplify both spiritual spells and Qi Arts that agreed with their attributes. Yan Zhu used a Scarlet Qi weapon without a Heart of Scarlet Qi, yet the weapon would allow her to match those with it.

Like cultivators, these Qi Armaments were defined by rankings, usually determining the suitability of the weapon to cultivators. An eighth-rank Qi Weapon was suitable for Godlords or Eighth Phase experts. With it, their strength could double, even triple in some cases. If they used a weapon beyond their cultivation, they could reach untold levels of strength.

"I wonder, for the exalted manager of this floor himself to seek out my subordinate and lure her here with the promise of a weapon that she couldn't possibly afford, and then await for my arrival, what's your intention?" Wei Wuyin had a quiet smile as he directly put Han Bo on blast.

This was an obvious ploy to get Su Mei to ask Wei Wuyin for wealth, but how could any leader mindlessly hand their subordinate that level of wealth to handle? They could get swindled or worse.

Han Bo wasn't ashamed. Neither was Su Mei. She understood the intention, but she also knew that regardless of her actions, Han Bo would scheme to bring Wei Wuyin here somehow. Luckily, Wei Wuyin's strength was unprecedented and absolute. In truth, she had a faint hope they had ill-intentions so Wei Wuyin could topple and rob the entire Life World Pavilion.

But that was just a minor hope.

There's no way someone would go to this level of trouble to get Wei Wuyin's attention.

Han Bo calmly nodded, but he wouldn't offer Wei Wuyin praise for his deduction. If he couldn't deduce this much from the beginning, then he was entirely unworthy of his cultivation base.

"Apologies for this roundabout manner. I wanted to ensure success, and my old heart still has the need to plan everything carefully."

"You mean scheme everything to your favor?" Wei Wuyin softly chuckled.

Han Bo laughed in response, completely unaffected by Wei Wuyin's burning comment. "Godlord Wei, I've long since heard of your name and seek to make an exchange. What do you think?"

"Depends on what you seek from me," Wei Wuyin responded flatly.

"This exchange would include the Darklight God Saber and Yang-Aegis Robe. They are both top-tier eighth-rank armaments. The Darklight God Saber contains a mixture of pure Light and Dark Qi and a unique array that can converge and merge its strength, producing Darklight Qi. As for the Yang-Aegis Robe, it was a defensive battle robe that can refine the body by absorbing yang energies from sunlight and refine the physical body." Han Bo said.

Wei Wuyin merely responded with: "Depends on what you seek from me." His tone the same, seemingly disinterested in his words.

Han Bo felt his heart sigh. The Yang-Aegis Robe was a treasure that required immense effort and decades to create. It was well-known amongst cultivators as the strongest battle robe for males, its defensive abilities can even rival ninth-rank robes.

It was unfortunate for Han Bo that Wei Wuyin had no idea about Godlord-level armaments, so they couldn't move his heart to reveal any anxiety.

"Godlord Wei, I know you're an Godlord Alchemist with an Alchemic Spirit of Qi. I wonder, are you capable of concocting peak-tier sixth-grade products?" Han Bo asked, finally revealing his purpose.

During his clash with the Jade Lotus Sect, he revealed his pure Alchemic Qi during the process of surgically altering Jiao Ning's memories. This would've been witnessed by many, whether they understood the importance was up in the air.

Wei Wuyin pondered for a moment and nodded. "I can."

A light of elation flashed within Han Bo's eyes. "Good, good, good. I have a recipe here called the Spirit Earth Life Pill. It can—"

"It's primary effect is to help the process of restoring a damaged or crippled spirit. Its secondary effect can help boost one's lifespan. I know the pill." Wei Wuyin unapologetically interrupted. Not only did he know it, he concocted a few during his experimentation of peak-tier sixth-grade products. He had seven low-quality, three high-quality, and two peak-quality pills.

In truth, he had a lot of products that were mostly useless to him or highly specific. This was because, when he was trained in the Eden Earth Sect, the mantra of the Sect Leader was: "Always be prepared." Who knew if he'd need it for himself, Su Mei, or someone else he considered important.

Han Bo felt even more elated. But just as he was about to speak to seal the deal, Wei Wuyin interrupted him once more.

"I can exchange the pill, but two Godlord-tier weapons seems too little, no?" A grin surfaced on Wei Wuyin's face. And it screamed: "Open your wallet. It's about to feel real empty soon."

Han Bo's heart felt an ominous chill.

## Chapter 106 -: Has It Appeared Again?

A pill like that required an experienced and exceptional Lord Alchemist to concoct. Even then, without an Alchemic Heart, their success rate would be abysmal, like all other products. In fact, not only would the success rate be less than a percent, but it could take decades to succeed. Only a King Alchemist, someone who can concoct Seventh-Grade products reliably would be able to reduce the time and increase the success rate to reasonable levels.

Unfortunately for the Myriad Yore Continent, especially the Wu Country, there was no King Alchemist.

Therefore, the price of a single peak-tier sixth-grade product, regardless if it were elixir, pill, pellet, or paste, it would cost an absolutely astonishing fortune to purchase. There was a reason that alchemists were so wildly popular despite non-Alchemic Heart alchemists' utterly abysmal success rate and long time to concoct these products.

The Myriad Yore Continent didn't lack alchemists or materials, but it lacked product. It was a scarce market only saturated by the lack of product. Everyone desired products that could stimulate or advance their cultivation, but there would never be enough to satisfy the vast numbers of cultivators. Therefore, only the rich could afford them.

If they were talented, capable of etching out some time to practice alchemy, they could do what Wei Wuyin did as an inner disciple. This was both a way to support one's cultivation and make money.

A single fourth-grade Essence Pill was worth a single essence stone, but a single essence stone and a few common materials can make a total of a hundred Essence Pills. As long as one's success rate can exceed one percent, they can profit. The only issue was time to make.

For non-Alchemic Heart alchemists, they might spend a few days trying to concoct a single Essence Pill. Whether they succeeded or not was up to fate, but if they didn't, they could lose those days without profit. It was even possible for a complete failure leading to an exploding cauldron and subsequently death.

This was why those with Alchemic Hearts were treated like jewels. Those who had the potential to birth one would never be neglected, but their free-will and life purpose would be to concoct, as was his when he was a part of the Eden Earth Sect. Anyone with a brain could understand why.

As for the Spirit Earth Life Pill, it was a peak-tier sixth-grade pill that could uncripple a cripple. It was a miraculous product, but in the entire Myriad Yore Continent, excluding the now deceased Eden Earth Sect's Sect Leader, you can count the amount of people who can concoct it on one's fingers—literally.

The fact that Wei Wuyin was a rare Godlord who had an Alchemic Heart was a fact that could not be underestimated in value or importance. Amongst all the Alchemic Hearts in the Myriad Yore Continent, not a single one was a Mortal God or higher. Usually, they would spend most of their time concocting with forcefully risen cultivation bases that left no room for improvement or die in their rooms from overwork.

It was simply the fate of those blessed with that specific talent. An unfortunate, depressing fate.

Therefore, Han Bo had kept this quiet as he sought to procure this pill. His spies had been in the Jade Lotus Sect, quietly gaining information. When he learned of this, he decisively acted and eliminated all other potential spies to seal this information so that only he knew of Wei Wuyin's identity.

The only people he couldn't influence was Qin Feng, but as he was always cautious and saw the bigger picture, he too would've silenced all forms of information from leaking. Luckily, Han Bo spies were a little quicker.

In the end, regardless of what reason he needed the pill, he knew Wei Wuyin wouldn't hold back. As for trying to capture and force Wei Wuyin to concoct pills? Even though Wei Wuyin had an Alchemic Spirit of Qi, he was still a Godlord with Spiritual Strength and immense spiritual energies.

His spiritual spells could still be used. While it wouldn't have offensive strength, it could be used to disorientate, bewilder, or suppress. As for escape? If he reached the Godlord level at this stage, how could he not have a thousand and one trump cards?

All decent alchemists were rich, but those Alchemic Heart alchemists who had full control over their own wealth were stupid rich.

In truth, Wei Wuyin knew of the value of alchemical products, but it was only while he was extorting Han Bo that he realized his vast overestimation of their value. Since the beginning, he had always used the market price as a baseline.

The market price?

Utter bullshit.

Most products, especially high-grade ones at the fifth and sixth phase were hundreds, if not, thousands of times worth their market price. Yes! Thousands!

Only then did he realize he was stupid for exchanging market price with Qin Feng, the Jade Lotus Sect Leader. His eyes nearly turned red as he briefly estimated his losses from those exchanges. His agitation even led Han Bo to suffer further loss as he panicked that Wei Wuyin's frustration was due to his unwillingness to pay more.

At the end of the deal, Wei Wuyin had delivered a single low-quality, sixth-grade, peak-tier Spirit Earth Life Pill for a Darkness Rising Spirit Battle Armor, an eighth-rank Qi Armament, the Yang-Aegis Robe, Darklight God Saber, and True Steel God-Slayer Saber, another eighth-grade Qi Armament. The True Steel God-Slayer Saber was a saber refined with high-quality saber energy and True Steel metal energy for a decade and forged with the bones of a Godlord who cultivated a True Steel Metal Body.

It was incredibly powerful, and the perfect host for Element, Wei Wuyin's Nascent Saber Soul. As for the Darkness Rising Spirit Battle Armor, it was a set of light-armor that amplified Dark Qi Arts and resisted attacks. With it and the Darklight God Saber, Su Mei's strength would reach unfathomable levels for an early-Mortal God.

Despite being extorted for all this, Han Bo had a large toothy grin on his face as he received the pill. While in the grand scheme of things, it might seem as if he suffered a loss, he was willing to pay any price for this pill.

Wei Wuyin didn't leave the emporium after that. Instead, he asked Han Bo if other managers would want to exchange items for products. Han Bo was hesitant for a moment, but considering Wei Wuyin's intent, he proceeded to introduce him to all the available managers.

It was on that day that the managers of the Life World Emporium were left with a helpless fate. Without a single exception, Wei Wuyin essentially raided everything he needed for products he didn't even need or had an excess of.

Spiritual Qi Arts? Get.

Spiritual Formation Designs? Get.

Qi Arrays? Get.

Siphoning Darkness Essence? Get.

Formless Light Essence? Get.

Information on all Mortal Gods, Godlords, Godkings of the Myriad Yore Continent? Get.

All details regarding landmarks and interesting or forbidden locations in the Myriad Yore Continent? Get.

"Is there a reason to rob when you can just buy everything you want?" With his hands on his belly, he bellowed out a hearty laugh of contentment. He had obtained so much for so little that he now realized why there were so many non-Alchemic Heart alchemists: Wealth Ruled All.

Su Mei was similarly astounded at the events that were happening. She never expected Alchemy to be such a valued commodity amongst top-tier experts. They were willing to give an arm and a leg for a single sixth-grade product. It was somewhat embarrassing as all of these managers were Mortal Gods.

After an entire day of shopping, Wei Wuyin immediately wore the Yang-Aegis Robe and placed the True Steel God-Slayer Saber and its scabbard on his hip. The Yang-Aegis Robe's dark-gold colors with a black trim exemplified Wei Wuyin's already mind-boggling good looks, and its form-fitting design displayed every contour of his sharp and domineering muscles. The saber at his hilt had a silver scabbard with a black hilt.

"I feel like some rich young master showing off his wealth with this gold...but it still looks quite awesome!" He flourished his sleeves and observed himself, not holding back his praise. He could already feel the yang energies stored in the robe were already refined from sunlight, ready to be absorbed into his body at a mere thought.

"I think Lord Wei looks nice," Su Mei said. As for her, she had a set of black battle armor that seemed as if shadows were lurking within. The darkness of the armor would get darker and lighter, making it seem alive and moving. As for her saber, it was in a grey scabbard specifically designed to prevent darklight energy from spewing over.

She looked like a demonic heroine, with her black hair and pure black eyes, calm and sharp eyes roaming the world. The more she cultivated, the more her aura was invigorated and her features became perfect. Her skin lacked a single blemish as vibrant yang energies supported her body and yin energies help promote her feminine features, such as her curves.

Just as Wei Wuyin was about to compliment her, Han Bo arrived. They were currently a little away from the Life World Emporium. When Wei Wuyin saw him, he was a little surprised.

"Godlord Wei! There's a piece of information that I'm not certain if you would be interested in or not," Han Bo said and his expression truly did betray his hesitation. It wasn't fearful, but uncertain.

"Oh? What is it?" Wei Wuyin was quite intrigued.

Han Bo thought briefly and said, "I've received reports that at the eastern border of the Wu Central Lands, a number of people have mysteriously vanished...without any trace..." Han Bo spoke softly as he observed Wei Wuyin's expression. In truth, he wasn't certain if the Wei Wuyin before him was the Wei Wuyin who went missing and was later confirmed dead by the Scarlet Solaris Sect, but from the images of their appearance, it seemed possible.

After all, Wei Wuyin from the Scarlet Solaris Sect hadn't evolved his Heart of Qi yet from the information eleven years ago, so it was still possible. The only issue was Wei Wuyin's jump in skill and cultivation in a mere eleven years seemed skeptical.

According to the reports, the old Wei Wuyin nearly went through cultivation deviation after a series of people inexplicably went missing. While they were later found without incident, there were countless suspecting details around this. After his disappearance then, it was said he returned to the sect and then abruptly vanished. If the incident was connected, perhaps Wei Wuyin would be interested.

Wei Wuyin was calm, nearly non-responsive. He thought for a moment and calmly said, "Give me all the information you have on these disappearances." He withdrew a sixth-grade high-tier pill called the Spirit Bonding Pill. It could increase the chances of merging Spirit with Core, reaching the Eighth Phase and becoming a Godlord.

When Han Bo saw this, his eyes flashed with a bright, intense light. He hastily compiled everything into a jade. He forgot about his goal of seeing if the two Wei Wuyins were the same.

Wei Wuyin was lost in his thoughts, "Has it appeared again? Is it another Inheritor of Sin?"

## **Chapter 107 Eliminating Possibilities**

Woosh!

Wei Wuyin swiftly left the Capital City and made haste towards the eastern border on foot. His sprint was accompanied by the crackling of lightning and whistling of wind.

*「Elemental Qi Art: Wind-Lightning Soaring Steps」*

After some consideration, he decided to leave Su Mei and Bai Lin in the Royal Capital to investigate. If this abrupt disappearing event of random cultivators and Wu Country civilians had anything to do with the Black Skeleton, it was best if they remained safe.

After all, his end goal was to demand answers; to seek a path of survival for himself—no matter the cost. He had to. This lit a tiny flame of hope within his heart. This tiny flame flickered brilliantly and contained his hopes and dreams of the future.



"According to Han Bo's agents, the disappearing event was being suppressed by the Imperial Guard as they investigated this quietly so as to not spark mass panic. If that's true, they'll likely have a clearer idea of what was happening." Wei Wuyin's thought process was simple: If the Imperial Guard was unable to find a single clue, then it was likely the Black Skeleton.

However, if evidence alluded to another culprit, then it was not her, it, or whatever the Black Skeleton was. Furthermore, perhaps his Inheritor of Sin tattoo on his right arm would react due to close proximity. He wasn't sure of the specifics, but since the Black Skeleton said it had activated his Bloodline of Sin before his time, it should have some profound connection to the First Sinner.

It might actually be the First Sinner. While it sounded ridiculous to think, he had no idea what to believe or accept regarding this mysterious force that fell into his fate.

Like a bolt of lightning, Wei Wuyin traversed a considerable distance. He stayed away from populated areas in his route to avoid causing a disturbance. After all, he was like a loose bullet as he blazed the world. His trail contained traces of lightning and wind scars.

With each step, a crater would form and propel him further. He had never gone this fast or far on foot before, and it was invigorating as he used his Divine Spirit of Elemental Qi and Draconic Spirit of Blood to its maximum. The sheer amount of physical strength he was outputting could cause the collapse of small hills and distort environments.

"Woohoo!" He couldn't help but exclaim with wild abandon! The wind brushed against his face, his body piercing the void with exceptional speed. It felt liberating and empowering. In a fight, a single saber could bring an abrupt end, but the feeling of exerting his cultivation base continuously brought him back to his early days.

Those days he struggled and fought using every ounce of his being. Since his Inheritor of Sin title was bestowed to him, the Heavenly Daos lucky chance had supported his rise to an existence that could one-shot a Godking in such a short period of time. To be fair, a large reason for his immense success was capitalizing on his chances to the maximum, such as using tens of thousands of years of pure, raw lifeforce to refine his True Dragon Bloodline, or birthing high-level Elemental Qi.

Despite that, he had no longer found a match during his journey. There was a time where his blood, sweat, and tears were drawn out while his life was on the line, and he had to fight to win. If he lost, his life would end there. Such days were a harsh struggle, but also an incredible delight.

When he was at the Fifth Stage of Qi Condensation with merely two Hearts of Qi, he had instantly claimed the life of a renowned Mortal God. Then, he reached the Godlord level and could dominate Godkings. And that was before his breakthroughs of Four Spirits of Qi/Blood with high-level elemental energies bolstering each, and they were all individually fantastic and exceptional.

This was his first time exerting his all. Each step took him across two miles in an instant. This speed was unfathomable. When he was running away from the Wall of Heaven, he barely reached one hundred meters with each step. Now, with each movement, he blazed through the world effortlessly.

On foot, he was far faster than Bai Lin. The only consequence was his usage of Spiritual Qi. But, with his four Spirits, he could recover his lost Spiritual Qi easily. He could keep this up for weeks without exhausting himself.

"Oh!" Sweeping his spiritual sense around, he discovered that he had already passed the area of the disappearances. With a pivot of his foot, he returned from the way he came. In a few seconds, he halted and observed the surroundings.

"This is the border of the Wu Central Lands..." the entire area of the Wu Central Lands were hundreds of thousands of kilometers, exceeding even the vast Sky Sword Domain. Its territory was also much richer in resources and lush in environment. The ambient essence, even in the borders, were about thirty percent denser and purer than in the other domains.

The border of which was often regulated by a patrol unit called the Entry Guardians. They're average strength was in the Fourth Stage of the Qi Condensation Realm. While Wei Wuyin's current cultivation was advancing by leaps and bounds, that didn't mean the universal law didn't apply to others: Cultivation is difficult.

Those at the Fourth Stage of the Qi Condensation Realm could become rulers of hundreds of miles of area, becoming Sect Leaders of third-tier forces, and receiving critical acclaim and respect from the majority of cultivators.

Even in the Five Great Sects, they were Core Elders. They were the pillars of the sect and handled the majority of the affairs. And the Entry Guardians were sent to ensure that large groups weren't entering the village or to investigate odd events, such as the disappearances.

When Wei Wuyin swept his spiritual sense earlier, he noticed nearly a dozen of them within this area, exhibiting vigilant and battle-ready states. Their seriousness and subconscious leakage of qi shadowed the area with a tense, heavy aura.

He also spotted several villages nearby. These were small locations that clans would often house themselves in, to cultivate themselves and produce a profit by agriculture of heaven and earth materials. They were the main force in producing products for cultivators or even food for consumption.

They were usually called Common Growth Villages. The Imperial Clan freely allowed them to use the fertile lands while taxing them. Furthermore, these Common Growth Villages rarely owned the land they were on officially, and they had to apply for permits for usage. The taxes were a little harsh, but if you're a growing cultivation clan without any foundation, this was the ideal start. Not only could you produce cultivation resources for your descendants and clan, you had a safe location to practice cultivation.

Those Entry Guardians were not just for looks.

Unfortunately, Wei Wuyin could sense the deathly quiet and shut-in villagers hiding within their huts and houses. Even the assurance of the Entry Guardians existence seemed unreliable in ensuring their peace of mind.

"They're terrified yet unable to leave. If they did, they'd be unable to generate enough resources to pay taxes and would be forced out of the land." Wei Wuyin calmly inspected these villages and a frown formed on his face. This frown was not because the villagers, their choices were their own, but towards his inspection.

He couldn't find any evidence of demonic aura lingering in the air. If a demon was responsible, he didn't believe he wouldn't find some indicative factors.

Demons were humanoid, yet somewhat animalistic, creatures that were born in the Myriad Yore Continent. They were similar to the Elven Race, but unlike the Elven Race, demons had their own unique cultivation energy. This was Demonic Energy. It would give birth to Demonic Qi.

Unlike humans that can choose as they wish, a demon's cultivation path was determined by their bloodline. This also served as a limitation to their potential, but their unreasonably strong bodies and Qi that can influence the mental and physical state of others made them quite difficult to handle.

It was their varied appearances that seemed like creatures from hell, the way they made others queasy with their presence, and legends of their terror that instilled a prejudice of demons in the hearts of humans, unlike the Elven Race which were beautiful and secluded creatures.

"Demons have Demonic Hearts of Qi...so their every action and aura would exude demonic energies. This is like how an Alchemic Heart alchemist would exude pure alchemical energies with their every breath." Wei Wuyin pondered this. If these disappearances did occur, they were not the acts of demons.

Eliminating this possibility caused a flow of relief to surge into Wei Wuyin's heart. As for considering if demons concealed their auras and energies, acting under complete stealth, he didn't believe his spiritual sense that now could cover over a hundred kilometers would miss a demon, hidden or not, especially with his sense that can sharply penetrate concealments thinks to his Saber Intent. Even those hidden in the elements couldn't escape his senses.

That being said, he didn't stop frowning. "I don't sense an abnormal gathering of unconscious or entrapped individuals in this range...was this truly the work of the Black Skeleton?" If these people were trapped or dead, there would be a hint of evidence in that too.

There was no death energy formed from the continuous and rapid extermination of lifeforce or buried corpses in his sensory range. His thoughts started to circulate as he tried to think of alternatives.

If all else failed to make sense, then it could only be the Black Skeleton!

For an hour, he ruminated on various possibilities and eliminated each with various spells. "There are only four possibilities: One, the Black Skeleton took these people and was currently taking their Karmic Luck to bestow to another abrupt Inheritor of Sin. Two, they entered a separate spatial dimension like the Myriad War Dao Palace. Third, a fourth cultivator whisked them away without a trace. Fourth, an Evil Cultivator..."

His eyes narrowed at the last possibilities. Evil Cultivators could conceal themselves rather well, and his unfamiliarity with Cultivation Methods of Evil Cultivators could be why he couldn't discern their existence. They were capable of all sorts of eccentric and abnormal means.

The third choice was also a possibility he couldn't ignore. If he wanted, he could snatch a few people abruptly and without leaving any evidence. This would require him to essentially seal their aura to prevent a trail from forming.

While Wei Wuyin was busy trying to figure out ways to further eliminate these possibilities, a group of individuals from the Imperial Clan, the Imperial Guard, had entered the area in great numbers. They exceeded a hundred cultivators, all of which were at or beyond the Fifth Stage of Qi Condensation.

They were the most elite unit of cultivators that the Imperial Clan had nurtured and rarely were they sent out. Since they were, the Imperial Clan was obviously taking this matter very seriously as it was happening within their borders, albeit at the edge.

They arrived with an imposing air, causing quite a few Entry Guardians to arrive to greet them. They were all outfitted in white armor with the Wu Clan's symbol etched on their chest plates, protecting their hearts.

At the lead was a young man whose green eyes flared with battle-tested light. His sharp chin and tiger-like eyes gave him a ferociously terrifying aura that could cause grown-men's knees to grow weak with a glare.

His cultivation was the highest amongst the group. His aura felt sublime with spiritual qualities, a byproduct of the Eighth Phase of Qi Condensation—A Mortal Godlord!

When they arrived, they similarly scanned the surroundings and immediately noticed a lone man standing there quietly. His aura was reserved and he seemed lost in his own world.

"I said no one was allowed entry!" An armored woman shouted from the right of the man. But the Entry Guardians were puzzled. When their spiritual sense descended on Wei Wuyin, their expressions became ugly and fearful. Someone had actually bypassed their blockade? This was a severe degree of negligence on their part.

The armored woman grunted, stepping forward and arriving a few hundred meters away from Wei Wuyin in a flash.

"You there! Identify yourself!" A booming wave of air erupted, blasting towards Wei Wuyin who held two fingers on his lips in thought.

### **Chapter 108 -: Familiar Aura**

The vocal shockwave amplified by raw power caused the grass to be uplifted and the wind to rage. Wei Wuyin's thoughts were forcefully interrupted. His silver eyes moved seemingly slowly towards the incoming wave. His next movements were the epitome of casual and serenity. He simply used his hand to perform a shoo'ing motion.

The surging wave that could topple a brick house into dust was met with a similarly powerful air current that smashed it.

Pow!

An air versus air explosion occurred followed by a brief spell of rumbling gust that was harmless to the environment. This startled the Imperial Guards and Entry Guardians. Wei Wuyin's actions were only capable of being accomplished by a superior cultivation base. Furthermore, his action wasn't accompanied by the slightest trace of qi. It was pure physical power.

The armored woman's expression drastically changed, becoming slightly vigilant. The young Godlord, however, merely frowned. With a soft stride, he flashed before Wei Wuyin, traveling hundreds of meters instantly.

His green eyes were fixated on Wei Wuyin. "Identify yourself," the young-looking man's voice was reverberating with a concealed force and open threat. His aura may seem steady, but his Spiritual Qi needed but a moment to erupt into a disastrous, earth-shaking storm.

Wei Wuyin lifted his gaze to observe his surroundings. These men were all wearing armor with the identifying sigils of the Imperial Clan. "They must be the Imperial Guard sent to investigate." According to Han Bo, the Imperial Clan had sealed off the spread of information regarding the incident and even sent the Imperial Guard to handle the matter.

It seems they were taking this seriously. If they were, then this incident must be something they're invested in. It was highly unlikely for them to send a Godlord to investigate the disappearance of a few farmers and lowly cultivators, no matter if it was within their borders or not. Even the Scarlet Solaris Sect only took action after tens of thousands of people vanished, and merely because they were requested to. At that time, they sent one Core Elder, a Fourth Phase expert.

They must be here for a specific reason.

"So it's not the Black Skeleton?" He didn't believe the lowly Imperial Clan, who had one Astral Core Realm expert and no one at the Realm of Sages, to be aware of the Bloodline of Sin, its envoy, or the First Sinner. This was his earnest belief.

However, the severity at which they treated this merely eliminated the possibility of the Black Skeleton taking action. This meant there were only three possibilities left.

The Imperial Guards and Entry Guardians were shocked by Wei Wuyin's lack of urgency and response. He merely looked at them calmly one by one, the light of contemplation flashing within his gaze.

"Haaa...it seems this trip will be concluded quicker than I originally thought," the young-looking man spoke as he sighed with a little disappointment. From those words, it seemed Wei Wuyin was pinned with the crime of being the person responsible for the disappearances.

Therefore, his Spiritual Qi started to roar to life. The ground beneath his feet exploded and was depressed downwards, creating a deep crater that extended to Wei Wuyin's feet. However, as it tried to expand beyond that point, the crater's growth abruptly ceased.

The young-looking man's eyes twitched minutely, but his intent to kill was still there. However, Wei Wuyin unmoved. His eyes were calm as he continued to think, ignoring the threatening gesture of a Mortal Godlord.

"So they think a cultivator is responsible. That leaves only two possibilities." This was all that was in Wei Wuyin's mind at the moment, not the awe-inspiring and storm-inducing cultivator before him. The dimensional space was likely, but only if someone brought them away.

The information he obtained from Han Bo was truly limited as it merely stated what had happened and the location of the sealed-off area, not the number taken or incident reports from witnesses. Hence why he was acting off of very little information, trying to gather as much as before.

In truth, he felt his original purpose to be here—the Black Skeleton—had already been removed as a possibility. So, he could simply leave. Actually, that was his intention.

He smiled in the face of the raging, battering storm of Spiritual Aura that wished to exert a pressure upon him. "I'm simply passing through," was his response. That smile accompanied by his complete disregard for these Imperial Guards and Entry Guardians made these elites somewhat anxious. While their status was high, they similarly understood that there were cultivators beyond them.

This was especially so for the young-looking man. While his confidence in his cultivation base was absolute, he knew that Godkings existed. They were Kings of Mortal Gods, and their Spiritual Qi was empowered by Qi Essence. An iota of their strength might rival his full-powered strike.

Furthermore, even now, Wei Wuyin was unfazed by his actions and treated him like an afterthought. He couldn't determine his cultivation base, so it was best to act with prudence.

Therefore, when Wei Wuyin's words were said, he calmed down and reined in his killing intent. He inspected Wei Wuyin and tried to figure out his identity. When he observed his robe, his eyes shrunk slightly.

"Yang-Aegis Robe?" That was a peak eighth-rank Qi Armament. It could strengthen the physical body by absorbing yang energies from sunlight and funneling it into the body, and had a defensive quality that somewhat rivaled ninth-rank Qi Armaments. It was hellishly expensive and required a decade of effort and a top-tier tailor and Formation Master.

Even if he paid his entire wealth, it was unlikely he could acquire one.

It was then that he realized that Wei Wuyin had to be a Godking!

However, Wei Wuyin didn't care. He was just about to leave without interacting with these individuals, returning back to the Royal Capital.

But, fate had other plans.

As his spiritual sense swept the area once more for a last time, his heart throbbed as he noticed a very, very familiar aura within one of the Common Growth Villages. This aura was hurdled with others, so it required him to do a more thorough sweep to discern it. Also, he hadn't felt this aura in so long.

His eyes shifted as a complex light emerged in his eyes. Without bothering with these elites, he lightly shot off. He wasn't fast, simply traveling casually towards the village. The Imperial Guards and Entry Guardians were startled by Wei Wuyin abrupt departure.

Even the young-looking man was taken aback. This was truly the first time in his life that he was truly ignored! Yet while his heart raged, his brain wouldn't act to address this without proper information. Cultivation was difficult, and reaching this point required endless resources, time, and blood. If it all came to an end due to his need for face, how unfortunate would that be?

That being said, he couldn't simply allow Wei Wuyin to act wilfully. He was still a suspect. He would report this to the Imperial Commander, the Mortal Godking of the Imperial Military and their undisputed leader. He sent a transmission out.

Then, he looked towards the female who shouted earlier, "Follow him."

"En!" The armored female Imperial Guard assented and shot off to follow Wei Wuyin. Her eyes were filled with vigilance and anger towards Wei Wuyin's disregard of their authority and presence.

Wei Wuyin soon arrived at the village, fully ignoring his tail. His silver eyes were fixated on a Common Growth Village with a population of three thousand. They seemed to have been developing for a decade or so.

A glimmer of complex emotions surfaced within those eyes of his. A tinge of bitterness leaked from his heart as he softly said, "...Dai Lin?"

Dai Lin!

In the village, there was a middle-aged woman who seemed to be in her mid-thirties. Her cultivation base was at the Foundation Establishment Realm, the Dantian Establishment Phase. She was donned in a humble dress, a light blue that matched her eyes. Her hands were calloused hands produced from diligent work with those hands.

Her blonde hair was tied into a modest pony-tail, but her hair merely reached her neck, but her bangs covered her forehead perfectly. She wasn't a beauty at her age, but she could still be considered pretty.

"Dai Lin?" The armored woman heard Wei Wuyin speak and echoed in uncertainty. This brought Wei Wuyin's attention to her, his eyes caused her heart to shiver. She halted her attempts to get closer, remaining a dozen or so meters away.

With a sigh, Wei Wuyin ignored her. He simply stood there as his memories emerged one by one like a cinematic film.

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A young girl, no more than eight years old, with blonde hair, blue eyes, and dimples smiled and giggled. "You really think you can do it?" Her words were soft and comforting to hear, but the teasing tone in it echoed clearly.

"Of course I can! I'll one day travel the country, see all the sights and become like Big Bro!" A young voice resounded, originating from a silver-eyed and black hair young boy. He was merely ten years old this year, but his ambitions weren't small.

"Are you going to do it alone?" The girl asked.

Rubbing his nose, he evaded her gaze as he softly said, "I wouldn't mind having a companion."

"A companion? You aren't going to take your wife?"

"M-my wife?! O-of course I'll take my wife!" The boy was flustered as he spoke.

The young girl slyly smiled, "Then, what about taking me?"

"...!" The boy was rendered speechless.

"Hehe, just kidding!" The young girl stuck out her tongue and giggled, walking away with skips.

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"Dai Lin, I don't believe they're all bad." A teenager spoke, his resplendent silver eyes and black hair was more defined in his features as the making of an unearthly handsome appearance was emerging.

"Wei Wuyin, I...they hurt people! They...they look like monsters, how can they be good?" The young girl had now transformed into a budding woman, her eyes clear and alluring. But her words were tinged with disbelief and a hint of anxiety.

"I..." the young man was speechless, uncertain how to respond.

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"I love you, Wei Wuyin!" The young girl had become a young woman and she laid naked in the bed, sheets on her sweaty body. Her blue eyes gazed at the eyes of the young man's with intensity.

"I..." the young man was once more rendered speechless.

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"I hate you! You disgust me!!" The young woman shouted, throwing objects as she pushed herself away. "I never want to see you again! It's all your fault, your fault!!"

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Back in the present, Wei Wuyin returned mentally to the present. Those events the past marred the light within his eyes with turbidity. An unfathomably deep sigh left his throat, and he turned to leave.

He shouldn't be here.

"Kekekeke! The prey have finally arrived!" An eerie laughed erupted and the skies darkened abruptly.

### **Chapter 109 -: Phantom Rogue Of Evernight**

The eerie, ghostly laughter was like a peal of thunder, it robbed one of one's breath and stilled the heart. This combined with the skies darkening in an instant was a horrific and terrifying experience. This was especially so for the frail and weak civilians within the Common Growth Villages.

The children were bawling their eyes out, while grown men soiled their pants, and women clutched their knees, children, husband, or source of solace within their lives.

Wei Wuyin's eyes lifted as he observed the skies that had darkened a considerable degree. What was originally daytime had nearly been reduced to night. The sunlight seemed to be trying to enter the world but was blocked with merely a little making it way through. From what he could see, it extended for at least a dozen kilometers.

"A Spiritual Qi Array?" Wei Wuyin frowned as he regarded the skies. He had seen an Astral Array within the Yuhei Clan's shelter. It was their last resort and had an unfathomable level of power. This array was etched in the skies and was nearly impossible to sense unless one's cultivation exceeded the Qi Condensation Realm.

A Spiritual Qi Array was similar, in that it was insidiously hidden within the skies, but its power was at the very peak of the Qi Condensation Realm, not the Astral Core Realm. It was something only a Godking could hope to construct.



He felt the darkness energies start to gather towards the skies, causing the amount of light that could penetrate to gradually decrease. If this continued, the area which this array covered would descend into a state of utter darkness. Furthermore, this would also mean that Darkness Energy within the array would be at its all-time high.

"What's happening?!" The armored woman exclaimed in shock. Her eyes were filled with uncertainty as her heart turned cold. "A Spiritual Qi Array?!" Those words left her lip like a quivering child, uncertain and afraid. Her fear couldn't gather for too long as activity pulled her focus.

**RUMBLE!!**

A chaotic sound erupted from not-too-far away. An aura spiked to an incredible degree. The armored woman called out, "Captain Sheng?!" This aura was familiar to her as it belonged to her Captain, Sheng Jiu. He was the young-looking, green-eyed Godlord who confronted Wei Wuyin earlier.

She didn't hesitate as a sense of duty swell within her heart. With a violent and forceful kick, she darted towards the action without fear. Her qi was flaring, erupting in gentle blue light that was brightening her surroundings.

Wei Wuyin lifted his palm towards his face and felt that the energies emitted by the array was suppressing his spiritual sense. While it did little to him now, with each passing second, not only did the darkness continue to set in, but the suppression of his spiritual sense strengthened.

"Darkness Qi..." he quietly said as he thought about the events. It seemed this was a ploy by an Evil Cultivator. With a click of his tongue, he felt a little irritated to have been caught up in this issue. As he turned his gaze towards the village and felt the shivering aura of Dai Lin, his irritation only grew to become bitterness.

With a soft sigh, he started to contemplate his next decision. Right now, his goal was to enjoy life, not be embroiled in these schemes and plots. Earlier, he had been unintentionally drawn into the assassination attempt of a prince. He foiled this plan, killing the Godking behind it.

This wasn't his intention, but life pushes it onto him. Now, he was drawn into a plot to slaughter the Imperial Guard. How ridiculous. He will leave and simply let their fate be theirs. As for Dai Lin, this woman who had taken his young heart and his first time, he had long since severed relations with her.

Her fate was her own.

Just as he was about to find a path out of this array, a shadowy three-dimensional hand formulated above him. It was clenched into a fist and had the size of a house. He lifted his head to see this fist smashed towards him with immense force.

He sighed.

"This has to be a joke?" He laughed bitterly to himself as his body emanated crackling lightning and whistling wind.

**BOOM!!**

The fist smashed into the ground. Spider web like cracks appeared for tens of meters with a massive indentation where the fist impacted. After this strike, the fist dissipated like dust into the wind, as if its mission was accomplished.

"Evernight Qi?" A few dozen meters away, Wei Wuyin witnessed the energy composition of the shadow fist. Evernight Essence was a Darkness Essence. It wasn't particularly high-level, but it had a suppressive effect on spiritual energies and was imperceptible in utter darkness.

If this array prevented sunlight from penetrating through, and spiritual sense was suppressed, every strike of Evernight Qi would be invisible, soundless, intentless, and swift. It would be impossible to defend against and the cultivator would have the absolute advantage as they could hide and be anywhere.

"Arrrrggghhhh!" A scream of death resounded. It was pitiful and pathetic. Wei Wuyin turned with squinted eyes. It seemed he wasn't the only one hit with an attack. A mere hundred or so meters away was an Entry Guardian. At least, he thinks it was. At the moment, all he saw was shattered pieces of armor, gushing and splattered blood, bones, and organs.

The person had been smashed into bits by a shadow fist. It seemed he tried to resist, but failed to last long as merely a scream was all he could muster in the last moments of his life.

In the distance, Sheng Jiu was like a bright light-bulb in the darkness as green light flowed ceaselessly around his body. This was the basic color indicator of wind-type energies. It was acting as a pseudo-light source for the moment. Before him was a figure wrapped in a jet-black robe and hood. From the hands that were shriveled and the figure's body type, it could be deduced to be an elderly man.

His aura was difficult to discern, but considering that he didn't lose out to Sheng Jiu, he was definitely a Mortal Godlord or greater.

Sheng Jiu seemed to know who this man was as he faced off against him. "Phantom Rogue! You filthy rat, to think you're behind this. You sure have quite the gull to act within our borders!" Sheng Jiu spat out through clenched teeth. His eyes were blazing with rage and killing intent.

"Kekeke," the one called Phantom Rogue laughed in response. "Little Jiu, it's been a while. It's good that it was you who followed my trail." Beneath the hood, a row of pearly white teeth revealed itself in a sinister grin. From his words, a history seemed to exist between the two.

*「Galewind Qi Art: Storm's Descent」*

Sheng Jiu coldly snorted. His aura continued to ascend as he gathered his Spiritual Wind Qi. He clenched his armored fist and threw it forth with tremendous force. A violent gale storm several hundred meters was conjured and pressed forward.

Phantom Rogue lifted his head a little, a series of eerie chuckles resounding. "Why spend your cultivation to look young? You're only wasting your power. Tch, tch." As he lectured this, the black robe started to wildly flap about. From the sleeves and openings of the robe, rivers of darkness were summoned that circulated until it matched the incoming storm in size.

*「Evernight Qi Art: Rivers of Darkness」*

The two forces clashed violently, darkness and wind qi surging and devastating the surroundings.

"If it was a hundred years ago, perhaps you would be my match, but today...today, you're my prey!" Phantom Rogue's voice echoed throughout the world as his aura started to rise. His spiritual qi seemed to embody the world, exuding a dominating world force within.

Wei Wuyin's eyes brightened as he observed this clash, "Qi Essence?" This was the aura of a Godking!

Sheng Jiu's eyes narrowed in shock as the clash that seemed to be even took a sharp turn. Before he could react, the darkness overwhelmed his attack and smashed against his body. He was sent flying like a rocket as the darkness trailed and attacked him without end.

"Well, he's dead." Wei Wuyin commented. However, Sheng Jiu seemed to wish to defy fate. He withdrew a small pellet the size of a marble. There was no aura or light emitted by the pellet, but all those here could feel its presence.

*「Evernight Qi Art: Sphere of Night」*

Phantom Rogue clenched his fists and pulled them to his body. The darkness attacking Sheng Jiu retreated and encompassed his body protectively. In the blink of an eye, he was shielded by his Evernight Qi empowered by his Spiritual Qi Array, the Evernight's Fall Array!

Sheng Jiu sneered, "Die!" He crushed the pellet within his palm. Then, the world seemed to quake. It was a quake that affected everything within a hundred miles. But what came next was truly earth-shaking! Within his palm, a dark-brown light surfaced that contained an immeasurable amount of earthen energies refined and focused. It was without an owner for a moment before Sheng Jiu's aura integrated into this energy and his aura seemed to spike to unfathomable heights.

This aura wasn't his, but from the combination of earthen energies and spiritual strength.

He chucked the light within his palm towards Phantom Rogue. A sound resembling a raging and endless stampede resounded. The earthen energies and spiritual strength shot outwards and transformed into a thousand dark-brown oxen that stomped viciously forward.

Each ox was at least ten meters in height and with a thousand of them in a uniformed group stomping forward was a majestic and frightening sight.

The oxen crashed into Phantom Rogue's darkness barrier and crushed it in the matter of moments. Before long, only specks of evernight qi remained, the remnants of Phantom Rogue's protection.

Wei Wuyin felt his heart tremble slightly. Pellets were one of the four products of the Dao of Alchemy. Unlike Elixirs, Pills, or Paste which was suited for internal usage, pellets were expendable concoctions of alchemists. The basis of the Dao of Alchemy was the refinement of essence, energy, and material into a unique product with effects beyond its individual component.

Pellets focused on energy. Alchemists refined energy into a pure state, sealing it within a pellet. While this energy can sometimes be given shape or form, other times it can just be chaotic and unfocused like an explosion. Pellets can be defensive, offensive, or even movement-oriented, and they were the only combat tools for the Dao of Alchemy.

The cultivator would crush the pellet and integrate their spiritual energies, strength, and aura into the energies and utilize it as they saw fit.

"The Thousand Oxen Earth-Crushing Pellet! A sixth-grade, peak-tier pellet that can even rival a full-powered strike of a Godking!" He was truly shocked by Sheng Jiu's means. In fact, sensing the energy, he had already retreated some distance away.

"Unfortunately..." a tinge of pity was in his voice. As if solidifying the truth of his pity, "Kekekeke! You shouldn't just blow your load like that." The voice of Phantom Rogue resounded and from the dark sky, he descended unharmed.

Sheng Jiu's eyes shrunk to needlepoints. Without any hesitation, he shot off and attempted to flee. He had already been injured by Phantom Rogue's earlier attack, and against a Godking, he had zero confidence.

In truth, if this wasn't within Phantom Rogue's Evernight's Fall Array, perhaps he would've been able to cause severe injury or even death to Phantom Rogue. Unfortunately, he could hide within the darkness and give him an empty target thanks to the dense ambient darkness energy.

"Sorry Little Jiu, but I need you." With a maniacal laugh, he exploded with a raging storm of darkness qi as he seemed to become darkness itself. He shot forward in pursuit.

Wei Wuyin softly sighed in his heart.

"Hey! You!" A voice called out to him, drawing his attention. It was the female guard who was assigned to follow him. At the moment, she had removed her helmet to reveal her features. Beneath her armor, she was quite pretty.

Her short-brown hair and light-brown eyes were very harmonious with her jade complexion. This coupled with her sharp features, such as those eyes and chin revealed a valiant and courageous bearing, the makings of a heroine.

Wei Wuyin couldn't help but give her a second look. To his eyes, this was an attractive woman worthy of his notice. However, he didn't seek to ingratiate himself into her good graces or tried to establish a notable impression. Instead, he waited for her to speak.

The woman, Sheng Xinmei, walked towards him with her spiritual sense scanning the area wildly. It seemed she had been assaulted by that shadowy fist as her armor had cracks, and it seemed her helmet was shattered. A line of blood flowed down from her forehead to her left eye, which only heightened her valiant appearance.

She wiped off the blood and said, "You're an expert, right?" While her voice seemed fearless, Wei Wuyin could sense the taint of fear within.

"I can be considered as one," as he spoke, a loud explosion from a clash of powers erupted from the distance. A tornado formed and ravaged the world, but it was being assaulted by rivers of darkness that blended further in with the world that was being filled with darkness energies. A little bit longer and the Evernight Qi will be practically invisible.

Sheng Xinmei felt her heart throb with hope when Wei Wuyin casually emitted this. She asked with a tinkle of ferocity within, "Help us delay until the Royal Commander arrives! If you do—"

Boom!

A raging storm swept the world. They were bombarded by the shockwaves and Sheng Xinmei lost her footing, her legs weakly collapsed and she nearly kneeled. It seemed her injuries were intensive, and her current display lacked substance.

Wei Wuyin acted swift, grabbing her armored waist.

Sheng Xinmei was startled. But she couldn't speak as the shockwaves continued to occur, the sign of Sheng Jiu's all out effort to repel and survive. The smell of desperation lingered in the air. As for the Imperial Guards, that shadow fist was more than enough to crush any early-Mortal God and lower, so he had no support.

"I think you're a little too late. This cultivator needed something, and he obtained it." Wei Wuyin's expression changed as he saw with his extraordinary senses the Phantom Rogue drawing out a translucent figure from Sheng Jiu's stomach—his Spirit of Qi!

"What?!" Sheng Xinmei felt panic set in.

Before her fear could cement itself, the dark sky went quiet. They and all living creatures in the area looked up at this exact moment in a synchronized fashion.

"How fearless!" Wei Wuyin exclaimed.

### **Chapter 110 - A Terrifying Tribulation!**

"Well, this just got dangerous." Wei Wuyin's casual demeanor was discarded as a sharp seriousness surfaced within his eyes. A solemn light emerged and his heart was no longer steady and without ripple. That was because of the environmental shift!

He felt the atmosphere be enveloped by a world-halting force that brought everything to a stop. His eyes looked upwards, but he saw nothing above besides darkness. Yet he knew that there was something there, gathering and condensing! It was formless, invisible to outsiders, but it definitely existed.

He saw the black-robed Phantom Robe floating in the sky like a ghostly immortal, surrounded by rampant Evernight Qi. His Spiritual Evernight Qi was erupting with astonishingly forceful power.

"Kekekeke! I've been waiting for you!" Phantom Rogue cackled and roared at the skies, the darkness energy of the world started to converge towards him like a magnet. Despite this, the world didn't brighten but became even darker. An abyss-like darkness was influencing the flow of light in the immediate area, barring its invasive nature.

"What...what's happening?!" Sheng Xinmei held Wei Wuyin as her injuries seemed to force her body to be without strength. She could only grip onto his shoulder and arm in an attempt to stand.

"He's assailing the Astral Core Realm, facing Astral Tribulation." Wei Wuyin explained. Sheng Xinmei's face turned deathly pale as ash.

As a Ninth Phase expert, even though he was an Evil Cultivator, he still had the qualification to challenge the Astral Tribulation. His cultivation base was like an endless well of Evernight Qi. All his life's cultivation was condensed around his Spirit of Qi, and with this, he would fight for his chance to stand at the top of the world.

"Stop him!" Sheng Xinmei screamed in horror.

Wei Wuyin softly sighed. He infused Sheng Xinmei with elemental wood qi with dense vitality within. She started as a foreign qi entered her body. But it was warm and gentle, her body lapped up every last drop to help promote her healing.

With that, he let her stand on her own strength.

Sheng Xinmei's eyes glowed as hope filled her heart. If Wei Wuyin was a true expert, perhaps he could stop Phantom Rogue from ascending!

However, what happened next shocked her. Wei Wuyin didn't rush forward with ferocity or attack from afar. Instead, he flashed away and disappeared from her sight. Within this world of darkness, she couldn't see him.

Indeed, Wei Wuyin had directly left. He left her and those people to their own devices and fate.

He wasn't a saint nor did he have a grudge with Phantom Rogue. Why would he interfere? The reason he stayed was because of the little possibility of courting Sheng Xinmei, but the moment he would refuse to act the hero was the collapse of that wishful thinking.

He observed the incoming Astral Tribulation with rapt attention from the edge of the Spiritual Qi Array. If Phantom Rogue succeeded, he would retreat without hesitation.

There was another reason why he didn't interfere. At the moment, Phantom Rogue's strength was condensed and gathered, his entire lifetime's worth of cultivation was being shown today. It was as if he was fully igniting his Spirit of Qi and detonating himself all at once, without the consequence of death or cultivation decrease.

His current strength was beyond the Qi Condensation and just below the Astral Core Realm! It's possible that only Astral Core Realm experts would have a chance to interfere with this tribulation. As for him? If Phantom Rogue decided to truly put his life on the line, he wasn't confident of leaving without injury. While he could ensure his life, who knew if this arriving Royal Commander might take advantage of this?

"Kekekeke! Come!" Phantom Rogue was invigorated as he faced his astral tribulation. The first Astral Tribulation was called the Mortal Star Formation Tribulation, and was the first tribulation one faced in their entire life of cultivation.

**BOOM!!**

Wei Wuyin's eyes widened as Phantom Rogue's body erupted with a spiraling tsunami of darkness. It was as if a black ocean was raging about, clashing endlessly with another force above. If Wei Wuyin didn't see the darkness be obliterated and dispersed after reaching a certain point, he would truly think Phantom Rogue was going batshit crazy fighting the sky.

The repeated collisions of darkness and this unseen force was vicious and explosive, causing the surrounding kilometer of distance beneath them to become a hundred meter deep crater, eradicating all life in that area.

"Is the tribulation this fierce?" It was merely thirteen seconds in, yet Phantom Rogue's aura had dropped seventy percent. However, the aura of the world that he felt had barely subsided. It seemed unconquerable!

"He's going to fail?" This thought entered his mind. But Phantom Rogue removed his hood, revealing a wrinkled brown-skinned face with bright eyed and pearly white teeth. His forehead was drenched with fresh blood and he looked ghastly as his body trembled, but his eyes were fearless!

"Did you think I'm this useless?! Kekeke, I'm an EVIL Cultivator! Do you understand?! We fight against fate and forge our own path on the corpses of others. I will not fall today! YOU WILL LOSE!!" Those words were spoken with a dauntless air, invigorated by an unbreakable belief in one's cultivation.

Evil Cultivators cultivated methods deemed 'evil' by normal standard. Unlike typical cultivation which refined energies from the essence of heaven and earth, Evil Cultivators refined energies from other living creatures. They used beasts, humans, demons, or elf! It did not matter.

They used their yin, yang, physical, mental, spiritual, and elemental energies for themselves. The act of stealing Yin from females and Yang from males was deemed an act of evil.

Ming Li's sister had her unique physique stolen by Evil Methods. To others, it was horrifying and malicious, deserving death and damnation. They were worse than beasts, but to these so-called Evil Cultivators, they were cultivators willing to climb upon the bodies of others to achieve their goals! Many lacked innate talent or supporting background, left with this choice, how could they not choose to do so?

Wei Wuyin's eyes glimmered with inspired light as he realized that even those who stooped to being cannibals and monsters were cultivators at heart, with the belief to press forward for cultivation!

Did he not have the same heart before? Since learning of his nearly impossible to complete Calamity, his Heart of Cultivation had dwindled greatly, seeking excitement and satisfaction in the present rather than the possibilities of the future.

Yet, he still could not remove this shackle.

At least, not now.

There was no hope in his heart for success, and whenever it was birthed, it would be doused by reality. Only those who cultivate the Soul of True Sin could survive failing a Calamity, and even they failed often. These were experts at the Realm of Sages! Perhaps to them, an Astral Core Realm expert was an ant.

Luck played a factor before, but will it again? Can he rely on this and pray for luck? The Heavens could not help him in the Calamity of Hell, after all...it doesn't even know he's an Inheritor of Sin. And even if it did, perhaps it would help eradicate him instead.

He sighed, but he didn't allow his eyes to lower as he witnessed Phantom Rogue fight with his everything. The Phantom Rogue waved his sleeves and tens of thousands of lights emerged before him. They were shaped as orbs and were a variety of different lights, sizes, and intensity.

Wei Wuyin's eyes widened. "Hearts of Qi!" This madman had brought out tens of thousands of extracted Hearts of Qi! Within this massive number of Hearts of Qi were three Spirit of Qi. Among these three was Sheng Jiu's Spirit of Wind Qi!

"This is my life's worth! I've gathered countless Hearts of Qi for this moment. Kekeke, take this!" Phantom Rogue laughed brilliantly as he pushed forward. Each Heart of Qi contained a trace of refined spiritual strength that belonged to Phantom Rogue. They listened to his commands as they shot forth to face the Astral Tribulation.

"Explode! Explode! Explode!!!"

**BOOM! BOOM!! BOOM!!!**

The world shook as devastating explosions started to occur above the skies. A colorful sheet of violent qi and energies blanketed the sky and pushed upwards against the invisible force that was the Astral Tribulation. This continued for an entire minute of ceaseless explosions.

When it all ended, Wei Wuyin's eyes widened even further. "Impossible!" That assault was capable of severely injuring or even killing him, yet the Astral Tribulation was still present and merely reduced in presence by half.

"Terrifying!" Wei Wuyin felt his heart genuinely shiver with soul-shaking awe and mind-numbing terror. This was the Mortal Star Formation Tribulation?! How ferocious, how incredible!

"..." The Phantom Rogue no longer cackled or revealed courage befitting a valiant warrior fighting tirelessly against fate. His entire aura became destitute and his eyes were wide, fear, disbelief, and hopelessness were the only emotions present within. Wait, no, there was unwillingness.

"Thi-" Wei Wuyin wanted to speak, but a whistling force ripped through the sky and headed towards Phantom Rogue. He saw the visible depression of space from this force. It was terrifyingly powerful!!

Phantom Rogue didn't even get a chance to gather his strength once more in retaliation. The force collided with his fleshy body and he met a mournful, soundless death. His demise was only evidenced by the burst of blood, bone, and brain matter that splashed and fell.

"..." Wei Wuyin stilled.