

Chapter 51 - 51: News Of A Decade

Wei Wuyin stood beside the crane with a tinge of shock in his eyes. The crane from before and the one now was vastly different. Not only did its body enlarge by several-fold, but its eyes and beak radiated a mystical golden light. When he fixed his spiritual sense on her, he discovered that even her blood had transformed into a golden color.

Despite that, her expressions and emotions were of joy and happiness. She stretched her long neck out and placed her head near Wei Wuyin's hand. This was an action it had done quite often to display its affection. A warm sensation emerged in his heart as he softly caressed her now-larger head.

A sensation of nostalgia and warmth emerged in his heart, nearly invoking tears. He had been through so much, but this crane had also undergone a similar experience.

Ten years was a vast amount of time, and while they were separated for about eight years within those ten, he felt it.

He deeply desired to know what happened to Wei Si, the latest news on the Scarlet Solaris Sect, or even if Mei Mei was still alive or not. Given that so many years had passed, she was either dead or absolutely safe. His mission of traveling heroically to save his former lover felt hollow and without purpose now.

If it had been before, he would've retained his youthful vigor and impulses, but now, he just felt tired. He wanted to return home, just as much as the crane before him.

He gently smiled, "Let's go home."

Those three words incorporated his strongest emotions and feelings into one.

Kree!

The crane cried joyfully. She had spent bitter years without seeing her family or friends. After all, she was born and raised in the Scarlet Solaris Sect, a domesticated beast given to Wei Wuyin as a reward for his ranking as a core disciple.

They had met shorter than they've been apart, but those years of carefree safety and free food were the best days of her life. Since leaving, she had to learn how to find her own food, carry strangers around, run away from a wall of invisible death, watch her master slowly lose himself because of his actions to save her, discover the cruelty of humanity, and fight.

Well, in truth, the fighting and killing was quite fun.

Wei Wuyin leapt on her broad back and looked at the sky. He knew he was in the Xin Country, in the area known as the Eden Prefecture. The structure of these two countries were slightly different, but not by much.

He just had to travel north and he'll enter the Wu Country sooner or later.

The crane gave a powerful avian cry before flapping its gigantic wings, causing the ground to compress and the wind to rage, and with a whoosh, it took to the skies. Its speed was many times faster than before.

Wei Wuyin, relieved, sat down. This, what felt like a brief but frustrating interlude, was finally over. It passed by like a literal blink of an eye, and he was now returning. When he left, he thought he would fight elves, see demons, engage in clashes of gods, and reclaim his former lover's hand valiantly.

However, heaven gave him a rightful subversion of his beliefs with a square kick in the ass. That being said, it wasn't for nothing. One of his many minds had learnt the secrets of alchemy, the Eden Creation Method, and helped develop a third Heart of Qi.

In fact, given his cultivation base rise, not in cultivation stage, but in quality, he felt satisfied with his gains.

And then, there was this:

Karmic Luck Value: 602.8.

First Calamity: Survived - 7/7.

Second Calamity: Suppressed - 41 Years.

Before his accident, he had a karmic luck value of 164.5, a +0.1 due to some unknown circumstances. When his other 'self' had completed the first Calamity, that had risen by 490.

Somehow, during his ten years, he had expended 49.7 points in value. He also knew that he had several distinct feelings of karmic luck reduction, but his other selves didn't know what that meant, so they never could fully utilize the chance, and sometimes, they would pass it up entirely in ignorance.

Lucky chances are opportunities. They were not certainties and what came from them was determined by yourself. This was his conclusion when he found the Myriad War Dao Palace instead of befriending a stranger and when he refined the Yin-Yang God Sphere, allowing him to rise to the Sixth Stage of Qi Condensation, False Reality Phase, and become a Mortal God-level figure.

It's a matter of effort and willingness. He felt unjustly robbed, but thinking about how he likely would've died from the first Calamity if he hadn't lost himself, he felt quite content. After all, a boost of 440 karmic luck can't be too bad, no?

"Oh, wait! I'm forgetting something!" Wei Wuyin's eyes lit up as he recalled a matter. With haste, he checked his ring on his finger on his right hand. There were two rings, the first was the three-layered ring on his index finger, and a dark green one on his middle-finger.

Inspecting it, his eyes became even brighter. That's right, his resources were all in an isolated section within the now-collapsed Eden Earth Sect, but it would've been incredibly secured and likely set off-base! Unlike others, he shared the same privacy and safety as the Sect Leader himself.

No way a collapse of the Tree of Eden would've destroyed it! In fact, all his herbs, finished pills, elixirs, pastes, and pellets were within this ring's storage space. Without any hesitation, he proceeded to swap all its contents into his three-layered ring's first layer. Then, he threw the ring away.

If he was privy to the knowledge as to where the secret stash was, he would rush right over, but unfortunately...

That being said, he had an absolute massive amount of pure essence stones. Due to them wanting to show their 'sincerity', the sect gave him a portion of the profits of his sales. Therefore, he felt satisfied.

Moreover, these essence stones weren't originally his, but only given to him on the surface. After all, neutral essence stones weren't that useful to Qi Condensation cultivators unless they were in the First Phase, Sixth Phase, or Eighth Phase, attempting to reach the next.

As for him using these stones to buy things, with his position, someone without any combat abilities, what would he need to buy? The sect provided any and everything he needed. As for protection? He would mostly stay within the sect's territory or be protected by Grand Elder-level characters. What better protection was that?

As for the essence stones, they were an empty gesture. The 'Wei Wuyin' at the time didn't care. He was like a blank slate that was going with the flow, but now! Wei Wuyin had a vital need for the thousands of essence stones within his ring.

The raging greed inside him was sated by his newfound wealth. With this, ascending to the Seventh Phase, Sublime Qi, was a certainty now. With his Externalize Heart Qi Method, all except his Alchemic Heart of Qi would reach that level very shortly.

In a city within Wu Country, Jade Lotus Domain, Hollow Way City, a rest area for weary travelers and traders, a young man dressed in dark brown robes sat in a particular restaurant. With a cup of tea in hand, he sat alone and quietly waited.

A few minutes later, a young waiter arrived, his eyes respectful and his movements practiced. He didn't speak, placing a thick menu in front of the young man and walked away with a smile.

This young man was Wei Wuyin, and this menu wasn't a menu, but a dossier of information regarding the events of the Wu Country in the last ten years. It's been six days since the collapse, and he had gone to great lengths to find an info hub to purchase news from.

He had found this restaurant in his search and knew it dealt in information and other shady dealings. Those included purchasing and selling illegal materials or even slaves. However, despite being shady, he was satisfied with their due diligence in their performance of given tasks.

He opened the dossier and read it silently. From time to time, his expression would brighten or grow darker, other times he would smile or frown. After finishing the entire dossier, he only sighed.

While the dossier contained an enormous amount of information, the vital parts weren't much. First and foremost, the Scarlet Solaris Sect was safe. Well, in a relative term. It had engaged in many battles

against the Jade Lotus Sect and Earthly Titan Sect as of late. Furthermore, the most vital aspect was the full blown war it had against one of the two great clans, the Ji Clan.

The two great clans were the Ji and Bai Clans. Their individual standing was high and even slightly exceeded the Five Great Sects reputation and strength. These clans were notable because of their Godlords.

However, the conflict with the Ji Clan seemed to originate from the Young Master of the Scarlet Solaris Sect. When he recalled that this very young master was the reason the Violet Moon Sect was wiped off the face of the earth, he understood that a woman had to be involved.

The Violet Moon Sect was annihilated only because of a beautiful woman that he wanted, but didn't respond well to him. Whenever he recalled this, he felt a feeling of pity for all those people. They had died or suffered worse fates because of a woman they likely didn't even know.

A large amount of his flamboyant and aggressive actions had to do with his backing. His father was a Godlord while his mother was the Sect Leader of the Scarlet Solaris Sect. He also had numerous connections with the Wu Imperial Clan, giving him quite the overall status of importance.

It seemed that over the years, he had become more and more aggressive with his actions. In fact, he suspected Jiu Lang had a relationship with him in some way. Otherwise, how could a beauty like that escape his eyes?

The other piece of news startled him greatly: Mei Mei had returned six years ago!

Not only did she return, she had become a Mortal God, reaching the Sixth Stage of Qi Condensation, and became the disciple of the Helios Witch, who recently broke through to become an official Godlord! The Helios Witch also relocated to the Scarlet Solaris Sect! With an additional Godlord backing, its no wonder the young master of the Scarlet Solaris Sect became even more brazen.

This nearly caused his head to spin. He had complicated feelings in his heart, not knowing if he should sigh with relief or bite his lower lip in frustration. Recounting his suffering, he felt that holding those feelings were irrelevant. He only just sighed, deeply sighed.

Supposedly, Mei Mei had become the most talented disciple in the Scarlet Solaris Sect's history, reaching the Mortal God status before the age of sixty, and it even stated that she was in the top three characters of the younger generation in Wu Country. The other two were members of the Sky Sword Sect and Wu Imperial Clan.

Her status had risen so much that they gave her a new title rank within the Scarlet Solaris Sect: Chosen.

Chosen was a very interesting term used in the previous era to denote individuals of outstanding talent that were 'chosen' by their sect to be fully cultivated with everything they had. It had faded with time, but it had once more resurfaced in the world.

There was also news of him. Five years ago, it was said that he had died after venturing outside the sect. The details weren't very specific, but it was a confirmed fact. He didn't know why that was the case.

"Haha, I guess I kind of did, huh?" Shaking his head, he rose from his seat. While ten years had passed, much of the information wasn't important to him. He needed to figure out what happened to Du Ling, Su Mei, other members of his faction since his disappearance, and see Mei Mei personally.

"I'll prepare some gifts!" When he thought about seeing Mei Mei once more, he wanted to impress her. That was the least he could try to achieve given the circumstances. Also, the incident where their trust had shattered still made him feel slightly insecure.

He departed after leaving an essence stone on the table.

Chapter 52 - 52: Return

Entering the Scarlet Solaris Domain, Wei Wuyin sat atop the crane, his eyes flashing as he meditated on various things.

A thought emerged in his heart as he caressed the crane's back.

"What do you think about receiving a name?" He asked with a warm smile, his spiritual sense communicating its intent and readied to receive her response. A startled cry emerged from the crane, her eyes filled with remembrance.

When she was with Chu Lingxi, her name had been Aria. When she joined that musky man and his son, she was called Guan. She didn't like either names.

"What do you think about Bai Lin?" Wei Wuyin asked.

The crane's heart shook, and it slowed its flight speed. It felt like this moment was of the utmost importance to her, despite having other names before. It was like...this was it for her. Her 'true' name.

Bai Lin.

Bai.

Lin.

She liked it. With a joyful cry, she smiled with her eyes.

Wei Wuyin replied with a hearty smile of his own. This crane had saved his life and allowed him to break free from whatever sealed his mind before. She had accompanied him since he truly started his journey in the cultivation world, and perhaps, if immortality doesn't exist, she would accompany him at his end.

With a content laugh, he nodded. "Bai Lin!" The name felt right and he was satisfied with it. Seeing that the feeling was mutual, he was relieved.

As they flew through the skies, Wei Wuyin sent his spiritual sense outwards and was constantly battered by a wave of nostalgia. At times, when he noticed a building or town was no longer there, he felt melancholic. While a person may not change, the world will surely move on.

It didn't take long before they saw the Scarlet Solaris Mountain emitting faint scarlet light in the distance. When Bai Lin saw this, her speed increased as the rumbling wind in Wei Wuyin's ears became heavier. However, he was just as excited.

His heart was pounding with excitement. It felt like a literal blink of an eye, a short matter to him, but he knew a full ten years had passed. In his mind's eye, trapped in his sea of consciousness, he couldn't appropriately gauge time and so it felt like both a blink of an eye and an eternity. It created a disparity of surrealism and perception.

Kree!

Kree!

Kree!

He looked around and saw various variant eagle and crane mounts in the sky, being rode on by disciples or members of the Scarlet Solaris Sect. Sometimes they were alone, sometimes they traveled in groups, but they all noticed Wei Wuyin and Bai Lin.

Her pure white color, golden beak, and golden eyes was a distinctive difference between them. Not to mention her size was greater than theirs by several-fold.

Bai Lin communicated with her fellow cranes and beasts, speaking to them in the human equivalent of basic greetings and small talk. She was telling them that she, Bai Lin, had returned.

In fact, these beasts had great lifespans. Many of them go through entire generations of families before dying, becoming legacy beasts that could protect low-level cultivator clans for centuries.

Bai Lin, for example, was given to Wei Wuyin while she was young, but she could easily live for three hundred years. Cultivators at the Fifth Stage of Qi Condensation, Yang Growth Phase, had a lifespan of about two hundred years.

As for Mortal Gods? Even Wei Wuyin wasn't entirely sure. It was rumored to be around three or five hundred years, but it wasn't very well-defined. The prevailing theory was that lifestyle and purity of refined energies determined one's lifespan. For example, those who birth wood qi usually gain an extra fifty or so years.

While the goal of cultivation was power and immortality, most just want longer lifespans to see and experience more of the world.

Whoosh!

Suddenly, a group of variant eagles took to the skies and came their way. Their momentum was fierce and valiant. They were the Scarlet Solaris Sect's Aerial Guardians, and they defended against unannounced arrivals and possible aerial strikes. As they were in a time of war, they were quite cautious.

As they watched the skies regularly, they immediately noticed Wei Wuyin's arrival and his unusual crane. They shot to the skies in full armor, ready to deal out death.

Bai Lin hovered in the sky under Wei Wuyin's order.

Wei Wuyin took in a deep breath and looked at these Aerial Guardians. Each of their cultivations were at least at the Second Stage of Qi Condensation. Their ages were beyond fifty, but they were powerful in the cultivation world. With their skills in aerial combat, no one would ever underestimate them.

A larger variant eagle appeared, atop which was a woman in full armor. Her armor was definitely of a high quality and had faint scarlet qi emissions. She radiated an air of elemental energy and revealed a mystical aura.

Her cultivation was the highest, being at the Fourth Stage of Qi Condensation, and her stance and armor showed her importance.

She was the Captain of the Aerial Guardians.

When Wei Wuyin saw her, he felt a distinct aura of familiarity from her.

There was an exchange of stares as he looked into her helmet that covered her entire face outside of her eyes. Her eyes were black and clear. When he tried to recall who this woman was, he froze.

"You..."

When those words escaped his lips, the captain removed her helmet to reveal long black hair and jade-like skin. Her hair swayed with the wind as faint signs of tears were at the corner of her eyes.

"Su Mei!" He exclaimed softly, recalling the young girl who had clear black eyes and short black hair. As their two images superimposed upon each other, he realized they were one and the same.

"Lord Wuyin!" Her voice was suffused with stuffed and intense emotion as her heart beat seemed to be carried along with it.

When those incomparably familiar words entered his ears, he warmly smiled.

Ten years.

In those ten years, Su Mei had accomplished the difficult feat and ascended to the Yin Form Phase without her primal yin. Her talent had always been extraordinary, noticeable enough for Wei Wuyin to give her many roles of importance and treat her very well.

Not only had she grown more powerful, she had even developed. While her armor was covering most of her figure, he could tell she had become more womanly and her breasts had even increased in size. Her skin was like jade and her aura told the world that she was a strong woman.

Before he could say a word, he felt himself being embraced. A set of armored arms wrapped around him and a soft face embedded itself into his chest. He felt wetness through his robes.

"You're alive!" She cried, her emotions all over the place. To her, Wei Wuyin was her savior. She had been nothing more than another man's plaything struggling in a weak, insignificant harem.

That day, he arrived with a thundering blow and pulled her out of a pit filled with despair and unimportance. She grew and developed with his lessons and life story as a guide.

She idolized him.

From the honorary disciple, he rose without a single backing, and even though he was met with tragedy within his family, he still stayed strong and true. Those words he said to her that day, that day he saved her, still lingered in her heart.

She had never stopped being hungry. Hungry for a better life!

The guards who were watching were stunned, and many members of the crowd stopped. They stopped what they were doing and watched the crane above. The usually cold and heartless Captain of the Aerial Guardians was crying in the arms of an unknown male.

They all had confused looks and once more looked at Wei Wuyin, their eyes analyzed his everything.

Wei Wuyin didn't mind. Right now, the only two people that mattered were him and Su Mei.

He caressed her hair and held her in his embrace. Two people, a subordinate and a leader, had a heartfelt moment.

"Come, let's go." He said, letting her lift her face that had lines of tears running down. Seeing his warm smile, she nodded and removed herself. She didn't ask how or why. The fact he was alive was enough.

She returned to her eagle, "We need to report this to the Sect Leader." Turning her eagle, she flew towards the Scarlet Solaris Sect's Scarlet Palace.

Wei Wuyin nodded as he followed along as she acted as an escort.

After he left, a middle-aged honorary disciple exclaimed as he recalled something. When he was a young man, his mentor informed him of a man, one who was a legend that rose up from an honorary disciple to a core disciple, subverting the beliefs of many people.

Wei Wuyin!

"That's Wei Wuyin! He's alive!!" He screamed aloud, his voice reaching many people's ears. When that was said, it was like a spark went off in everyone's mind. A figure of legend emerged and superimposed on the brief image of the current Wei Wuyin.

An uproar was ignited!

While the crowd were going wild with realization and speculation, Wei Wuyin followed Su Mei from behind. She was diligent in her job as she didn't turn around and ask any questions despite definitely having a number of them floating in her heart.

In truth, it took every fiber of her willpower to not do that. She had to constantly remind her that Wei Wuyin needed to meet the Sect Leader before anything else.

At the top of the Scarlet Solaris Mountain was a grand palace reminiscent of immortal abodes of legends constructed of pure scarlet stones. It exuded an exceptionally fierce and aggressive aura that left one in awe and fear.

The scarlet qi roiled off the palace walls. It was so dense that the qi had transformed into a mist that flowed with the wind itself.

This was the resident of the true upper-echelon members of the sect.

When they arrived, Wei Wuyin saw two guards stationed there, both emitting dense elemental energies. These guards had been here the last time he was here and their cultivation bases weren't much different.

Wei Wuyin instructed Bai Lin to land. With a powerful landing, she drew the attention of those stoic guards. Su Mei looked at Wei Wuyin and landed next to Bai Lin. Her eyes were filled with suppressed emotions.

Wei Wuyin jumped down from Bai Lin and stretched his limbs a little, limbering his body. "I'll be fine. We'll talk more after I've officially returned." He comforted and assured her.

He walked up to the grand palace doors that radiated dense scarlet qi. The two guards wildly inspected him with their spiritual senses and were visibly shocked. One of them even exclaiming, "Wei Wuyin?!"

According to the sect, Wei Wuyin was confirmed dead. Emphasis on 'confirmed'. This meant a high-level figure deemed him deceased on credible information. If that's true, how could he be standing before them now?

"I ask for an audience with the Sect Leader." He stated calmly.

They went blank for a moment before regaining their calm. One of them nodded saying, "I'll inform the Sect Leader of your arrival." As a guard with decades of experience, he knew when to be stunned and when to do his job, and it was never the time to be stunned.

Turning around, he placed his hand on a specific location on the door and sent in his spiritual sense, obviously sending a message directly to the Sect Leader inside.

After a minute of exchanges, the guard removed his hand and stepped back. The door proceeded to open.

"You may enter."

Wei Wuyin nodded and walked in.

He had returned.

Chapter 53 - 53: Wu Chen

Entering the palace, Wei Wuyin was calm. His footsteps were leveled and his silver eyes shone with a light of intelligence.

The last time he entered this place, he was a Mortal God who had recently achieved godhood. His reverence for those with this title was at an all time high and his belief in the strength of the upper echelon was that they were invincible.

However, his mindset had experienced an intense shift. Not only did he no longer feel that those elder Mortal Gods were beyond reach, his personal confidence in prevailing in battle was at its utmost highest.

Gu Futu, a Mortal God of the Earthly Titan Sect, had died by his hands from a single blow. At the time, he had just birthed his magma qi. The strike he launched didn't incorporate a single art, but pure qi, yet it had annihilated him into dust.

Now, he had the Nascent Saber Soul - Element, a Divine Heart of Elemental Qi, a Divine Heart of Saber Qi, and a spiritual sense that went beyond normal limits.

Therefore, he walked with a degree of confidence.

The first person he saw caused eyebrows to lift briefly.

"It's him?" He thought as he recalled who this person was.

Before him, standing in the center of the palace hall, was a young man with scarlet hair and scarlet eyes. He was exceptionally handsome, with a square-cut jaw and thick eyebrows. He was fit, his muscles defined even through his scarlet robes, but he wasn't bulky like Wei Si. It resembled Wei Wuyin's physique, except he was shorter. Despite being shorter than Wei Wuyin, he was still taller than most men and released an imposing aura of existing within a different height.

At his forehead was a crown, much like his father, with several jewels inlaid within it, and the centerpiece was a scarlet jewel that radiated a powerful scarlet qi. He felt like a prince charming from legends, upright and noble.

The only thing that gave one pause was the light in his scarlet eyes that gave one a somewhat sinister tingle.

"Young Master Wu Chen," instinctively, he called out in greeting, clasped his hands, and bowed slightly. Despite his change in temperament, his loyalty and beliefs towards the Scarlet Solaris Sect remained. Personal impressions aside, he had to appropriate respect in greeting the Young Master of the sect, as a member of the sect should.

Wu Chen smiled, revealing a handsome visage. His eyes were bright as he analyzed Wei Wuyin openly.

"You're truly alive," Wu Chen said in wonderment.

Wei Wuyin replied simply, "Yes."

Wu Chen's eyes flashed with subtle interest. To him, Wei Wuyin and himself had very little interaction before, but he was responsible for many records and achievements worthy of notice. According to the reports, he had reached the Fifth Stage of Qi Condensation at twenty-six years old.

There were also wild rumors that he had some cultivation treasure. Even he had some avarice towards that fabled item, but even his father and mother's personal investigation revealed nothing. This only showed his innate talent in cultivation was unimaginable.

If it wasn't for his relationship with Jiu Lang and their agreement, he would've wished to draw Wei Wuyin to his side. Unfortunately, Jiu Lang was intent on killing him at the time. It wasn't just her either, Lang Yi had personally asked for him to take action after Wei Wuyin had Jiu Lang taken by the elves and revealed his immense talent.

She was scared that he would seek revenge for her 'alleged' actions if he matured fully.

It was truly unfortunate that when Mei Mei returned with Godlord Helios Witch, she decisively and openly beheaded Lang Yi. Laughable. Her previous actions had set her execution.

"Wei Wuyin." A voice sounded that was filled with power. Su Lanyi arrived. She wore a simple scarlet robe, had phoenix eyes, thin eyebrows, cherry lips, a lithe figure, with her hair tied in a bun.

She was as beautiful as Wei Wuyin remembered.

Wu Chen smiled, turned to face his mother and greeted, "Mother."

Su Lanyi acknowledged him and turned her attention to Wei Wuyin. She frowned, "How are you alive?"

"..." Wei Wuyin stilled. How was he alive? That was such a direct question that immediately caused him to think. Why was she so certain he was dead? His heart quivered as his mind developed suspicions. Was there a plot underneath this? Was he marked for death?

As these thoughts surfaced, his heart grew cold, and his eyes became vigilant. "What do you mean, Sect Leader?" He cautiously inquired.

Su Lanyi and Wu Chen remained silent, both gazing at him oddly. Those gazes told him that they had the highest belief that his life had come to an untimely end. There was no question about that.

When he focused on Su Lanyi, he even noticed a degree of shock and disbelief as well as confusion and doubt. For someone of Su Lanyi cultivation to reveal even a minute degree of her thoughts were telling how serious the situation regarding news of his death was.

It was like they saw his cold corpse.

A scarlet mist started to seep through the walls. Wei Wuyin's guard was instantly raised.

"We were told you had died."

A male voice resounded this time, the mist gathering to a single location near Su Lanyi. It congregated and started to rapidly condense until a silhouette formed. This silhouette became dense as it transformed into an undefined figure of humanoid shape. A moment later, the figure gained defined features to reveal a man.

He was quite handsome and dressed in scarlet-colored robes befitting an emperor and a golden crown with a ruby embedded within. This ruby was like a neon object, shining ever brighter, effusing all sorts of light like a red sun. A dense aura of scarlet qi flowed around him naturally.

This was Wu Xinghong, the Scarlet Solaris Sect's Ancestral Elder.

"By whom?" Wei Wuyin immediately questioned after seeing Wu Xinghong appear. It seemed his return had even drawn the Ancestral Elder and Godlord of the Scarlet Solaris Sect out.

"An oracle."

Another voice, this time sounding like a lark, soft and gentle, but elegant and beautiful. It resembled structured music, the hymn of ancient feys, and sounded as if it was produced by nature itself.

This voice belonged to a woman. She was dressed in short sleeved white cheongsam with golden images of the sun and vines embroidered on its surface. It was tight-fitting, accentuating the slim figure and defined curves of her figure. Her long pale white hair and golden highlights was perfectly matching her dress and highlighted her natural beauty.

With soft, gold eyes, pink lips, and jade skin made her look like a fairy from another world. As she walked, her gentle aura attracted all eyes.

Wu Chen turned his gaze towards this woman, his eyes revealing a brief moment of intense lust swiftly hidden. He revealed a respectful expression, one commonly seen from a son to its step-mother.

Wei Wuyin's focus was completely on this woman. Even Wu Xinghong and Su Lanyi had seemed to be less dominant in the room when she arrived. They seemed ready to let her lead the conversation upon her entry.

Wei Wuyin noticed all these things and his heart grew curious and anxious, but her words left him in thought.

"An oracle?" When he heard this term, he recalled that golden-haired, blue eyed, holy beauty that had been with Godlord Lin. He had nearly forgotten about her existence, but when it entered his mind, he felt like clenching his fist and crushing something. This woman left in such a shameless way after they made that bet. They had even wagered their spirits with an oath.

In fact, he was somewhat happy and awaiting for her to meet him again. At that moment, the spirit oath would invoke, and her future would not be well. The thought of seeing her cultivation deviate from the norm and even explode made him feel a little pity, but he still wished for it.

If she decided to accept his victory and condition, he was going to have her do very, very dirty things. Her dignity will be thrown in the trash. While he had stipulated that he wouldn't do certain things, he had worded it in such a way that it was open to many, many things.

That being said, if an oracle had foretold his death, then he understood why they were all shocked and interested in his return. This was like defying fate!

"However, it seems that oracle was wrong. You're not only alive, you're thriving. I'm quite curious, what is your reasoning for not returning to the sect in ten years?" The mysterious woman said.

Wei Wuyin calmed his heart. Now was the moment. He knew from the moment of his return, he would have to explain himself, so he decided to tell the truth.

"Ten years ago, I learned from Wei Si, my cousin, that Mei Mei, a core disciple of the sect, had been abducted with barely any evidence. He had a unique physique that increased his sense of smell. He informed me that Mei Mei had been taken by the Helios Witch of the Mystic Elven Forest." He started from the very beginning, but when he said his last sentence, the expressions of Wu Chen, Wu Xinghong, and Su Lanyi changed.

He didn't take this as anything special as he continued, "He had informed the sect prior to myself, but no action was taken, so I took it upon myself to travel to the Mystic Elven Forest as swiftly as I could. Due to

certain circumstances, I had stopped in several cities and towns on my way there, but soon I made my way to the border of the Clear Sky Mountain Range in a little under two months.

"When I reached there, something was birthed by the world and, like a giant hand of god, was pushing all things and destroying all life it touched. Luckily, I escaped."

When he detailed his escape of the Rite of a Sinner, leaving out the actual aspects and claiming ignorance of what it was or how it was born, the expressions of all four listeners changed drastically.

Wu Xinghong interrupted, "The Wall of Heaven. An unnatural phenomenon that wiped out all life and destroyed several hundred miles of land. Many sects, clans, and cities in its path were annihilated in the blink of an eye."

When he said those words, a trace of trepid fear emerged in his voice. He seemed to have been thoroughly shaken before. Hearing his description, Wei Wuyin also shivered. That wall nearly took his life!

As he suspected, the death toll was incredibly high. However, when he thought of the collapse of the Tree of Eden, he knew the death toll was little to nothing in comparison.

"At the time, I drew upon my quintessence of my Heart of Qi, barely escaping, but when I did, I lost control of my ability to stop moving. I crashed heavily and suffered a head injury that affected my memory, which resulted in amnesia. I didn't have the ability to return as I soon found myself in the Country of Xin.

"I had been enrolled into the Eden Earth Sect as a disciple due to this amnesia state where I trained for several years. I soon regained my sense of self due to the help of resources from the sect, and immediately decided to return. Unfortunately..."

Just as he was about to detail his close shave at escaping the Eden Earth Sect's catastrophe, the mysterious woman interjected, "The Tree of Eden collapsed and killed millions."

Wei Wuyin looked at this beautiful, mysterious woman and gave a solemn nod. There were various complicated emotions in his heart. While 'he' wasn't a disciple of the Eden Earth Sect, his other self had various memories and brilliant achievements that left one filled with sadness.

All his friends: Dead.

He knew that a part of him would forever feel a sense of sorrow and loss, but to himself, it would feel empty and hollow like deaths read from a book, stories of challenges and hardships overcome with friends, and achievements of glory gained through talent.

They weren't 'his' memories, nor were they 'his' emotions.

"You escaped the Wall of Heaven that claimed hundreds of thousands of lives, devastated tens of miles of land, and appeared suddenly without warning or reason. Then, regained your memory and left the Eden Earth Sect just before it collapsed. An event that brought death to millions of people." The mysterious woman had an incredibly beautiful smile as she said, "No wonder you could escape an Oracle's prediction, you must be a blessed individual."

"..." Wei Wuyin stayed silent.

"I find no fault with your story. It lines up well with what we understand, and I sense no intent to lie. While you didn't go too in detail, all cultivators have their own secrets and adventures, I don't believe its anyone's right to pry those from you." The mysterious woman turned towards Su Lanyi and Wu Xinghong, "What do you two think?"

Su Lanyi and Wu Xinghong, "..."

In truth, they had their own suspicions and doubts, but with those words, they felt it was inappropriate to ask. While Wei Wuyin likely didn't lie in his recount, he definitely left out critical details. It was like seeing the summary of a book, but incapable of reading the pages.

In the end, Su Lanyi softly nodded. "You're right. The important matter is that you've returned. There will be deliberation amongst the Grand Elder Council as to how to move forward. Whether you'll be reassigned the title of a core disciple or given the designation and duties of an Elder will depend on that. Do you understand?"

Wei Wuyin naturally understood, so he swiftly nodded and said his thanks.

He knew the intricacies of a cultivation base, and because of the aspect of yin-yang energies being fully kept within the Heart of Qi, it was difficult to determine his true cultivation level. In fact, with their level of spiritual sense, they could only determine that he had reached the Fifth Stage of Qi Condensation, Yang Growth Phase by the natural emissions of his yang energies.

With his age being thirty-six, fourteen years off from the required enlistment as an Elder of the sect and his recent return, they would decide whether it was best suited to place him as an Elder early or keep him as a disciple.

"Congratulations!" Wu Chen interjected, he warmly smiled as he walked towards Wei Wuyin. He was just about to give Wei Wuyin a warm pat on the shoulder when the mysterious woman spoke.

"Wei Wuyin! I recall the name now. You were once Mei Mei's lover, no?"

That hand froze. The eyes of Su Lanyi and Wu Xinghong froze as well. It was as if this reveal was a thunderous secret that disturbed any and all who heard it.

Wei Wuyin noticed this, and came to the quick conclusion that now Mei Mei had reached the Mortal God level and deemed an absolute talent, a Chosen in fact, they were startled by this news.

In truth, Mei Mei and his relationship had always been secret. They had engaged in sexual acts over the few years in small number, small enough to count on one's finger. However, to him, each time was intimate and filled with passion, enough that it never felt like a 'one-night fling' such as with Jiao Ning.

It felt visceral and true. It was unfortunate that the day Han Yu self-destructed himself on stage, nearly killing her, Mei Mei had decidedly distanced herself from him.

At first, he was going to deny it, but considering who he suspected the mysterious woman may be, he nodded.

The hand that Wu Chen reached out with trembled, his eyes flashed a dense scarlet light, and his aura roiled within his body causing the atmospheric pressure to grow tense.

Frowning, Wei Wuyin took a step back and paid rapt attention to Wu Chen. His reaction to this piece of information was rather odd. After all, it wasn't like Mei Mei didn't have other lovers. At least, she didn't have her primal yin when they slept together.

In fact, he knew she had relationships with other men, even when they were doing their own acts. Who she slept with was not his responsibility or concern. After all, they weren't in an official relationship. Why would Wu Chen, the young master of the sect, someone who could easily gain this type of information, react so strangely?

A soft laughter echoed in the tense hall, "Indeed. Then, I should introduce myself, yes?" The mysterious woman walked forward and stood a few feet away from Wei Wuyin and Wu Chen. A playful yet charming glint flickered in her eyes.

She spoke clearly, "My name's Mei Yang, but others call me by another name: Helios Witch."

Chapter 54 - 54: Dao Companion

"What?!" Wei Wuyin was deeply shocked. What gave him this shock wasn't the revelation of her identity. From her attire, her physical appearance, how the others respected her words and acted with caution, as well as the news of the Helios Witch ascending to the Godlord status and residing within the Scarlet Solaris Sect, this was a conclusion anyone with half a brain could deduce.

However, what gave him a heart-throbbing shock was her name! Mei Yang!

Mei!

She was an actual relative to Mei Mei! This was his conclusion reached after learning how, not only did the Helios Witch help Mei Mei recover from life-threatening injuries, but took her without the sect taking major actions against her. After all, Mei Mei was a core disciple.

However, if she was a relative who brought her away for cultivation, then that made complete sense. She wasn't 'kidnapped by' but 'left with'.

However, he didn't lose himself completely, swiftly recovering, clasping his hands, and giving a deep bow. "Greetings, Godlord Mei."

In proper etiquette of address, it was respectful to refer to those who've attained mortal 'godhood' as God Or Godlord followed by their family name, not their known titles. This followed true for every instance: Godlord Lin, God Gu, etc.

While they each had a variety of titles, such as Wu Xinghong was known as the Scarlet Warlord, others directly addressed him as Ancestral Elder or Godlord Wu. If it was from a conversation, to avoid confusion with other God or Godlord Wu's, others would say The Scarlet Warlord or Ancestral Elder of the Scarlet Solaris Sect.

Even before, outside of a direct conversation, Wei Si and Wei Wuyin had always referred to Godlord(God at the time) Mei as The Helios Witch.

Even Su Lanyi had her own title. In fact, all Mortal Gods and higher at least had one. This was either chosen by them or the people based on their characteristics or accomplishments. It was a rite of passage of sorts.

Godlord Mei maintained her beautiful smile as she asked, "Do you have romantic feelings for Mei Mei?"

Wei Wuyin was thoroughly taken aback by her abrupt question. In fact, the tense atmosphere had grown even more silent, all eyes looked towards him with various emotions. When Wei Wuyin saw that beautiful smile, he felt that it desired to see the world in chaos.

Should he tell the truth or lie?

When he thought about Mei Mei, while she wasn't the most beautiful woman or even the purest, their acts of passion left marks on his heart. All things considered, he idolized her and deeply respected her.

Deep in his heart, he hoped to be her hero or avenger, to do right by her and win her eye. In fact, he had set aside several top-tier pills to do just that. These were most definitely considered romantic feelings, even if its not love.

He didn't feel like lying, "I do."

When those two words were said, Wu Chen's aura that had been oddly wild and uncontrolled grew still and calm. His smiling expression retracted and became neutral. There was no anger, hatred, or any sort of emotion revealed from his handsome face.

"Haha!" Godlord Mei covered her mouth as she laughed heartily, "Good! Good! Good!" Saying that three times, she glanced towards Wu Chen and then Wei Wuyin.

"Wei Wuyin, do you know what a Dao Companion is?"

"..." Wei Wuyin stilled. In the end, he sighed, now realizing the situation he landed himself in. With an indifferent expression, he answered:

"Dao Companions are two individuals who have pledged to the Heavenly Daos their loyalty through all of life and after death. While often associated with husband and wife, a Dao Companion is a single person for a lifetime. In one's life, there will only be one Dao Companion. There will never be a second.

"Dao Companions are even closer than husband and wife. All that they have is shared. They will walk the path of cultivation together and cultivate together. They will live and die for each other without question, and share their fortunes and misfortunes equally.

"It is a relationship attributed as equals in all things. In the mortal world, a man could have ten wives and three thousand concubines. In relationships like this, only a single partner retains a dominant power. They are relied upon, set the rules, and act as they wished.

"Dao Companions, all actions are mutual collaboration of the utmost. They pursue the Heavenly Daos, the peak of cultivation, and the essence of life together." As he finished, a light in his eyes grew with emotion. It flashed several times, and made him feel out of sorts.

While Dao Companions didn't necessarily mean a harem was impossible, if you wish to marry another, you must get full approval and acceptance from your partner. It was a truly equivalent relationship built on trust and respect.

It was a profound concept, rarely practiced. However, as he had read information regarding it, he felt an impending pressure within his heart.

One of the things that Dao Companions must do is a ritual called the Severing of Karmic Ties. Dao Companions could meet later in life, when they've had multiple children, lovers, wives, or even husbands. After all, a woman can get divorced or widowed and then remarried.

If this was the case, the two would undergo a mutual culling of their karmic ties. The partners would take responsibility to eliminate the other's karmic ties. To put it bluntly, they would kill all their Dao Companion's descendants, past lovers, wives, or husbands(ex's as well).

They would begin anew, fresh with their companion of the Heavenly Daos. The even worse part was that, in the Three Thousand Commandments of the Heavenly Daos, this action granted massive karmic luck in their next life. It even helped them be reborn in the same time and place, being close once more.

The very FACT he knew this made him feel disgust towards the Heavenly Daos. It advocated mass murder of countless people because two individuals decided they loved or needed each other so much that they wanted to give each other a special title and seek its approval.

Of course, if the Dao Companion couldn't complete this ritualistic ceremony, they would be classified as unfit by the Heavenly Daos. After all, the concept of Dao Companion advocated equality, and if you're unable to share the burden of your partner's karmic ties, then it wasn't meant to be.

As for why Mei Mei had never told them about Wei Wuyin and their relationship, well...he was already 'dead'.

Hence, he understood why the tension had built up and why everyone went silent.

The Helios Witch truly was a witch. She had ignited a bomb and wanted it to go off.

However, there was a reason why Wu Chen did not act immediately.

Firstly, Wei Wuyin ten years ago.

He was determined to be at the Fifth Stage of Qi Condensation, Yang Growth Phase, and birthed Steel Metal Qi and Violet Lightning Qi - two high-level qi.

The current Wu Chen only had a cultivation base of a Fourth Stage of Qi Condensation, having reached it recently due to the vast difficulties in reaching it for men, birthed no advanced elemental qi, but he did have his Heart of Qi transformed into a Heart of Scarlet Qi.

If it was Wei Wuyin from ten years ago and Wu Chen now, Wu Chen had very little confidence of winning, let alone winning against him after ten years.

Secondly, the Severing of Karmic Ties required him to do it himself with no outside help. While he could receive weapons, tools, etc for support, he had to use them himself.

Moreover, there was a nine years, nine months, and nine days limit before he needed to complete this, and he still had five years left. Therefore, he had no need to act rashly.

Lastly, he didn't actually need to kill Wei Wuyin himself. If someone else found a totally unrelated reason, as long as they did not do it for him or was spurred on by him, he could still be considered as having completed the task. That wording alone left many, many avenues that could be ventured.

He had already dealt with all of her previous lovers, having done so, he just waited for the time for the ceremony to end and they became true Dao Companions. Who would've thought this would happen?

"You're right," Godlord Mei excitedly exclaimed. Wei Wuyin's description was very apt and appropriate. It dissected straight into the essence and belief of Dao Companions.

Wei Wuyin looked at Wu Chen and sighed inwardly. Wu Chen's cultivation base was so low he could breathe on him and turn him into dust. He didn't feel fear, but pity.

"Mei Mei agreed to become Dao Companions with you?" He didn't know why he asked, whether for confirmation or he felt it was what needed to be done, but he did.

"Mei'er and I have accepted each other wholeheartedly," Wu Chen responded with zero emotion. There was no sense of triumph in his words or mocking at his victory of obtaining the girl. That was because Wei Wuyin's cultivation and talent placed a heavy burden on his heart. He had four years to end his life or...

"The Heavenly Daos sure are cruel," Wei Wuyin shook his head as he commented. Dao Companions could only be performed between two cultivators striving for the same goal. The most common goal was immortality, but that was wishful dreams. The true goal when they declared to strive for immortality wasn't to live forever, but to leave their legacy on the world forever.

The most notable example thus far was Divine King Han Xei who, after several eras came and went, his methods and legacy still lives on today.

However, there was a very distinct requirement for a Dao Companion, and that was a Spirit Oath. If one failed to achieve the standard to become Dao Companions, the one who failed knowingly will...well...

Boom.

Was there a need to say more?

The Heavenly Daos were cruel.

At this time, Su Lanyi spoke up, "Your matters have been heard and accepted. You can await for the Council to decide your status moving forward."

Wei Wuyin looked towards her. What was reflected in his gaze was a calmness unlike any other. This woman of extraordinary cultivation was a mother, and essentially, at this very moment, it was his life or her son's. How could he not understand the hidden meaning behind her words?

He glanced towards Wu Xinghong and saw a passive expression painted on his face. Furthermore, from his eyes, it was as if Wei Wuyin no longer existed, no longer mattered.

Wei Wuyin wanted to coldly laugh aloud.

Ten years ago, he helped the sect avert certain calamity, and now he was being regarded as air, a man that must become a corpse.

He sighed and gave a proper bow. With a glance, he looked at the only person smiling in the room, Godlord Mei, and inwardly in his heart marked the woman as a chaos loving witch.

If she hadn't spoken up just now, he was bound to hear about their Dao Companionship somehow and could've used that opportunity to slip away. After all, staying meant setting himself up against the head family of the Scarlet Solaris Sect.

However, now, he couldn't even leave. If he did, they could charge him with defecting the sect and send a kill order after him. He would definitely be under twenty-four hour surveillance to ensure he wouldn't leave the mountain. In fact, they could purposefully make life a living hell for him, attempting to force him to leave.

If he left of his own free will, and they killed him for defecting, it would still be sufficient. As they killed him for an entirely 'unrelated' matter.

He quietly left, cutting a remorseful figure.

His return that should've been filled with the excitement of returning home was...

Sigh.

Chapter 55 - 55: Sublime Ascension

Wei Wuyin's residence was a wide building with a single room and floor. In fact, it was previously a storage room that had suffered destruction recently and had yet to be worked on. There were broken windows, no front door, and dust everywhere. It was dilapidated, neglected for years, and barely standing on its foundation.

With a powerful gust, it could all tumble down into absolute chaos. The only benefit was that it was spacious enough to fit in Bai Lin several times over.

The sect had assigned him this location to reside in until the sect's Council determined his future. However, he knew from now in, he had no future with the sect.

In the center of this building of ruin, he sat with Bai Lin curled up beside him. Her eyes revealed a trace of sadness. Earlier, Wei Wuyin had explained the situation the best he could, so she understood the general gist of their situation. So, she was heartbroken.

The current situation was the son of the Sect Leader and Ancestral Elder of the Sect or his life. If he remained alive for a certain amount of time, the son would lose his cultivation and could even go BOOM!

This left her saddened as she understood that a choice was before her: Her master or her home. Was that really a choice? Without any hesitation, she remained by Wei Wuyin's side.

Wei Wuyin deeply understood her feelings, but he didn't have a say in the matter. A spirit oath was not an oath to be trifled with. Your spirit will be erased by the Heavenly Daos. You will absolutely lose control of the inherent energies in your core and qi that flowed within your body.

Unlike when Shu Yang survived, who had simply lost his mental control over his qi, causing it to go haywire, it would instead be like self-detonation. When done, it's impossible to turn back. While there were exceptions and solutions, these all included prematurely abandoning one's spirit, resigning oneself as a cripple for life.

As he thought about this, he felt various spiritual senses outside. They were both concealed and openly watching over his actions, likely with several spiritual formations furthering their reach and strength. The strongest spiritual sense nearby was recognized by Wei Wuyin. It was Su Lanyi, his Sect Master.

His own spiritual sense was far, far stronger than hers. Despite her wishing to hide it using a concealing-type spiritual spell, he noticed her surveilling actions almost immediately.

"Just like I assumed. They will be watching my every move until they've decided how to appropriately handle me without going against the Heavenly Daos stipulations. Since they can't directly assist Wu Chen, they need a 'real' reason to act against me. I feel as if I've walked into a tiger's den and not my home." He felt a bitter taste in his mouth.

"Should I reveal my cultivation base and just leave? If I find a secluded location, I could hide for the remaining years and then return." This thought emerged in his heart. If he took this course of action, he felt no one could stop him entirely. Unfortunately, there were still too many variables.

The grand spiritual formation of Scarlet Solaris Mountain and grand qi array that drew upon the mountain's inherent qualities and energies. He didn't have a good grasp of its strengths or weaknesses. In fact, besides understanding the general gist of it being used for defense, he didn't know much about it.

Spiritual formations required spiritual sense and spiritual energy to generate and function in performing specific, tailored duties. In the hands of a Godlord who's qi could contain this spiritual energy, it was maximized in their hands.

As for the qi arrays, they relied on the innate energies of stones or geographical locations like the Tree of Eden or Scarlet Solaris Mountain as fuel to activate. They just needed to be controlled, but can exhibit far stronger power than their wielder.

That being said, the expenditure for setting up a qi array was far, far greater of a spiritual formation.

"Remaining here isn't an option, at least." As he came to this conclusion, he felt it was correct. The truly unfortunate aspect of his departure is the fallout his previous members, like Su Mei, Xing Fu, and Wei Si, could suffer. They could be branded as aiding and abetting with various little truth to it and executed publicly.

If they wanted to draw him out, that's what he would do.

Therefore, the most correct option was also the one he couldn't afford to take. While he wasn't a saint, he cared about those close to him. If they died on a mission or in battle, then so be it, that was the cruelty of the struggle to cultivate; if they died directly because of him, then he couldn't accept it.

"I can't even let Bai Lin leave to warn the others. Who knows if they'll take action against her, killing her for ridiculous reasons to incite my fury and defection. Worse, it's unlikely they will remain passive. This gathering of the council is a stall tactic to find crimes or rules broken, legitimate ones, to hang me with."

An immense pressure stifled his heart. He had risen from an honorary disciple to the core disciple and had bent, or even outright broken, the rules due to his status many times over. An example of which was Su Mei. When she was being bullied by her fellow harem members, he had killed the lead attacker.

As a core disciple, his status was far beyond that woman, and so it was swept under the rug with ease. Obviously, this was against the rules. That was just one of many rules that were broken, and his subordinates would definitely spill their guts when interrogated.

They knew about his actions with the Three-Point Yin physique woman. While it was an archaic rule that no one really followed, one wasn't allowed to engage in those activities with prisoners of war, let alone let them go free after. The latter was far more damning than the former.

He could even be charged with murdering his own, killing Chu Yan who had plotted against him in the Violet Moon Sect's eradication operation. They could place collusion charges on all members of his faction, and killing an inner disciple was a heinous crime.

Even Han Yu's explosive act could be fabricated as under his orders with the right persuasion and misinformation.

"Haaa..." he inhaled, closed his eyes, and lifted his chin up. This situation was far beyond his expectations. Who knew that his hopes of returning a hero had been shattered by two words: Dao Companion.

"Huuuu!" Exhaling, he decided to focus on himself for now. While being watched, cultivation was quite difficult, but not impossible. He would be placed on a schedule before they reacted to hinder him in some manner.

If he estimated this, he would have at least two hours before they finish their investigation and found ample evidence of his illegal actions. At that time, the entire sect would be his enemy.

"I can't stop others from being implicated, but if I'm a great enough threat on the outside, a looming calamity, they would definitely not take action against others. Only through sheer strength and fear can I assure their safety.

"Actually, they could cripple Wu Chen's cultivation to prevent his death. Unfortunately, unless he could gain a second mind, physical essence, and meridian structure, it would be impossible to recultivate. His future would be wasted, but at least he'd have one!"

If anything was left unsaid, it was that he had no intention to die here.

"One hour! That's all I need. I'll ascend to the Sublime Qi Phase in one go!" The Externalize Heart Qi Method could rapidly absorb pure and refined essence energy like a whale drinking water. Since it was uncharted territory, he was going to take it somewhat slow and make preparations before taking that step, but now, he had no choice left.

While he was sure his strength was astonishing as a Sixth Stage of Qi Condensation Realm expert, he wasn't entirely confident if he included possible variables.

"Bai Lin, stay close." He communicated, causing Bai Lin's head to rise. She waddled over and used her large body to completely cover Wei Wuyin's figure. After, she rested in that state.

Wei Wuyin smiled. All he did was say stay close and yet she shielded him as if she understood his thoughts. How miraculously intelligent she was. Caressing her feathers, he felt emotional. This crane he had been assigned to at random had become one of his closest companions.

He executed a spiritual spell. With his spiritual sense enhanced by three spirits, an Eden Spirit, Elemental Spirit, and Saber Spirit, this spiritual sense was amplified far beyond his cultivation base. Even a Godlord who had developed their spiritual energies to infuse with their qi may not have a spiritual sense as powerful as his.

This spiritual spell shrouded his body in a dense dome of spiritual energy, preventing all forms of inspection. With Bai Lin's unique body as the first line of defense and this spell as the second, he felt reassured. While he couldn't set up any legitimate defenses, Bai Lin's willingness to use her body was already the best defense he could have.

"Externalize!" Wei Wuyin opened his mouth, two cyclones of qi the size of tennis balls rushed out in a flash. They hovered in front of him and stood at the ready. It was almost as if they were solemn.

"Could they understand the circumstances?" When he thought of how the spirits within the his Hearts of Qi acted nearly independent of himself, he couldn't help but marvel at them.

The Divine Heart of Elemental Qi was surrounded in white elemental qi, a trace of yin, yang, yin-yang, and saber energies within. The Divine Heart of Saber Qi was multicolored, but vaguely formed the shape of a saber, resembling his saber soul, Element, heavily.

With his Alchemic Heart of Eden Qi handling the flow of his internal qi to prevent deviation, he readied himself. He took out a few pure essence stones from his spatial ring. When he did, his Hearts of Qi didn't hesitate. They took the initiative and released a frightening suction force that drew in the pure essence stones into the cyclones.

They were directly refined and entered the core, enlarging it every so slightly.

When Wei Wuyin saw this, he grew invigorated! In a matter of seconds, several essence stones had been completely devoured and thoroughly refined.

"Did their refining strength increase?" As he thought of that, he looked at their cores. "They have alchemical energies within them?! No wonder their refinement speed is far faster than before!" Shocked, he nearly exclaimed in disbelief.

He had his two Hearts of Qi supplement his Alchemic Heart of Eden Qi with energy to further its cultivation base. Over the course of several days, it had already birthed the four basic elemental energies and qi, reaching the peak of the Third Stage of Qi Condensation. As it drew upon his own experience, despite its personal cultivation speed being slow, it had birthed as he would've if he restarted his cultivation.

He never suspected that they hadn't just given, but received energy. They had somehow contained the alchemical energies within their cores, accelerating their ability to refine essence.

However, he was hesitant. According to records, the presence of Alchemical Energies within Hearts of Qi made them harmless. This fear nearly overtook his excitement until he tried to utilize a portion of his qi. A strand of saber qi was sharp, and even cut a line on the tiled floor with ease.

This caused his heart to relax. It seemed only an Alchemic Heart of Qi held this particular disadvantage, likely due to alchemical qi being the forefront of its powers. However, his Divine Heart of Saber Qi produced Saber Qi, only enhanced by alchemical energies.

"Perfect!" No more hesitation existed in his heart after this realization. He pulled out stone after stone and fed it to them without stopping. They devoured and refined with their highest speed. Before, he estimated that he would need about four hundred essence stones to enlarge his cores from a fingernail to walnut-sized existence.

The Sublime Qi required the enlarging and enhancing of the quantity of energy it could store and the quality of energy it was composed of. Those at the Sublime Qi Phase had far stronger inherent qi and greater reserves to draw from.

As energy was converted into qi, they could be said to have dozens of times more qi than those at the Sixth Stage of the Qi Condensation Realm due to this.

With the difference in quality and quantity, it created a stark difference. Unfortunately, it required an immense amount of wealth and time to refine one's core. That was a monotonous and expensive expenditure that even Mortal Gods could barely afford.

If the average wealth of a Mortal God was measured, it would probably hover around hundred or so essence stones, and only with a powerful organization could they afford to refine such wealth.

Wei Wuyin received a hundred essence stones for helping avert a sect-destroying calamity, this clearly displayed the value of a hundred essence stones. As for high-level essences, their actual price didn't necessarily equate to market price. In fact, in an ideal world and fair trade, Wei Wuyin would have purchased that Absolute Zero Ice Essence with less than thirty essence stones.

Of course, rarity and convenience were unseen values that affected market prices.

Slowly, his two cores started to grow and the essence stones in his ring dwindled continuously.

Ten...

Twenty...

Fifty...

One hundred...

Three hundred...

As he watched the two devour the stones and rapidly grow, his eyes constricted. The number started to rise, from three hundred to six hundred to nine hundred!

"Wait!" Wei Wuyin's heart throbbed in shock. They were devouring far more than he estimated before! At first, he assumed it would require four hundred for each of them, but...

They had each already refined nine hundred, EACH!

They were money guzzlers and hadn't even come halfway close to reaching walnut-size!

As he started to panic, watching his wealth slowly deplete into nothing, he analyzed the situation.

"Before, I had a normal Heart of Qi! Now, they've both become Divine Hearts of Unique Qi! No wonder, no wonder!" As he realized the foundation of those two cores were far stronger than average cores, he came to an immediate understanding and calmed down instantly.

However, if someone had used the normal method of cultivation, even if they went into closed door seclusion throughout, cultivating one of these hearts could take literal decades! In fact, it would've taken him at least two decades just to reach this degree of refinement!

Gulping, he quietly watched and stifled the pain of his wealth depleting.

Two thousand...

Three thousand...

Four thousand!!

Wei Wuyin's eyes widened as he watched his cores grow! They went from the size of a fingernail to a walnut! As they reached the final stages of their refinement, luminescent light of white and multi-colored brightness started to rapidly effuse the surroundings.

The small gaps of Bai Lin's body made her seem like a disco ball. The lights penetrated outwards and touched the building. A formless, powerful aura was birthed. A myriad of bizarre signs manifested within the world, including silver sabers frolicking about like fairies and elements going haywire.

When this aura formed, in the Scarlet Solaris Sect's Scarlet Palace, Su Lanyi wore a calm expression and was listening to various reports from the Grand Elders. They had dug up enough crimes to charge Wei Wuyin with and justify execution.

She had a relieved light in her eyes after hearing this, "Wu Chen, I'll protect you."

Abruptly, her expression shifted. The spiritual formation she set up outside the building Wei Wuyin resided in trembled. She used her spiritual sense to feel the feedback and her eyes widened.

"This!? Sublime Ascension!" Her eyes trembled as she stood up. Her reaction caused the Grand Elders to become startled. That was until their own spiritual formations fed them information as well.

All of their expressions changed. One of them cried, "He's undergoing Sublime Ascension!" As those words left his lips, dense lights of disbelief and shock emerged in their eyes.

A scarlet mist appeared from the walls of the Scarlet Palace's hall, it congregated until it formed a figure, Wu Xinghong! His eyes were grave as he looked towards Su Lanyi. It seemed he had also felt this change. Unlike them, he was a Mortal Godlord whose spiritual sense was beyond their capabilities. He didn't need a spiritual formation to leave a strand of spiritual sense at any location. A single will was all it took.

"You need to take action, now!" Wu Xinghong coldly ordered. When Wei Wuyin was a disciple, he had high hopes for him and praised his talents endlessly, but now, he was inwardly terrified. His

responsibility as a father overtook everything else. He had one son from Su Lanyi, and he would not let him die or become a waste!

Chapter 56 - 56: Divine Heart Reveals Itself

Sublime Ascension was a phenomenon formed when a cultivator fully refined their Hearts of Qi to its maximum. Unlike all other phases, the Sublime Qi phase was a milestone and a critical point in one's cultivation. It solidified one's foundation!

It signified the future of a cultivator and thereby was followed by telling the world that today: I, cultivator, have truly started my journey!

Wei Wuyin felt this and knew his spirits were changing. His cores were transforming, no longer ovals or orb-like structures protectively shrouded by a cyclone of qi. His Divine Heart of Elemental Qi became a white mist of chaos, constantly becoming a world of flames, a world of water, a world of earth, a world of wind, a world of metal, a world of lightning, a world of wood, a world of magma, and a world of ice!

At times, they would all become one, become a true world within the white mist!

His Divine Heart of Saber Qi became a single saber, resembling Element, and within its depths were countless other sabers of all shapes and sizes. They flew about without restraint, suffused with killing intent, haughtiness, and domineeringness!

A profound sensation emerged in his own heart. He felt an inkling of the next path, the path of Infused Spirituality, the Eighth Phase of Qi Condensation Realm!

"Merge spirit and heart into one!"

The spirit was a brain center, the Heart of Qi, or the core, was its body! Essentially, it was the concept of merging mind with body!

In the cultivation realms, the Qi Condensation could be said to be a Realm of Accumulation, absorbing and creating various forms of energies. However, in critical areas, it was defined by comprehension and talent.

The first phase, condensing one's mind, matter, essence, and spirit into one to establish a metaphysical Heart of Qi.

The third phase, outside of the four basic elements, all advanced elements required an in-depth understanding to generate from the core endlessly and without restraint from pure essence. This is often done by absorbing the energy and comprehending it with one's mind and spirit.

The sixth phase, required comprehending the world's innate force that could merge energy together, producing yin-yang energy. There were too many ways to do this and one relied almost solely on their own comprehension.

The last phase of comprehension: The eighth phase, Infused Spirituality, required one to merge spirit with core. The act of fusion that was akin to merging mind and body into a perfect cohesive whole. It relied solely on comprehension and gated many Mortal Gods, but if one reached this level, they would be Lords of Mortal Gods - Godlords!

Wei Wuyin's eyes became brilliantly bright.

"Is this it?" As he thought about the circumstances of ascending to the Infused Spiritual Phase, he felt it wasn't difficult. In fact, he had already done it.

What was the concept of a Divine Heart? It is a refinement of the core to be better suited to the inherent energies within. It influenced the four aspects of cultivation at a higher level: Mind, Matter, Essence, and Spirit.

The crucial point that couldn't be overlooked was spirit! His spiritual sense, the sixth sense produced from the combination of his Mind, Matter, and Essence, had been refined by their respective qi qualities - Elemental and Saber.

Now that his cores were worlds of Elemental and Saber energy, was there any real difference between the two?

Of course not!

There was a reason why Divine King Han Xei was renowned in his time, capable of classifying Mortal Gods, Godlords, and even Godkings! Because he had reached those phases first!!!

This was why he had the title: Divine King!

The Divine Heart was beyond extraordinary, its inherent characteristics allowing a near-perfect synchronization between core and spirit.

Gruuum!

The world started to violently tremble. Wei Wuyin stood up, his sense of enlightenment was like a child understanding that two plus two equated to four. It was easy and simple, without any misunderstandings!

He looked at his two Hearts of Qi and felt a sensation of transformation from them. His eyes glowed brilliantly. They no longer had cyclones of qi surrounding them, but were a white mist and saber. A powerful trace of spirituality surged from within.

His spirits had already entered their respective cores! They were infusing energy with spirit, becoming one with their cores!

His spiritual sense started to rapidly expand.

Ten meters.

One hundred meters.

One kilometer!

Three kilometers!

Thirty kilometers!

Sixty-six kilometers!

He could 'feel' and 'see' everything within range! The clarity was so extraordinary that he could feel an ant breathing oxygen, its inherent flow of blood was like rushing rivers as he focused! This degree of clarity and distance exceeded his previous spiritual sense by a hundred fold!

The world felt as if it was opened. Before, he felt blind but now he could see. He could see the world's force that had been nearly invisible before, penetrate formations that once blocked his senses, and could touch the clouds with his spiritual sense!

"Was this what it meant to be a cultivator! An existence unwilling to be ordinary, unwilling to die an ordinary death, and unwilling to be unable to control their own fate! This was what it meant, this utter sense of freedom and light!" As he muttered these words to himself, his eyes became brighter with a glow of enlightenment.

Much like the transformation of the Sixth Phase, the Eighth Phase was subtle and difficult to sense unless one exerted their qi. There was no accompanying phenomenon that signified this milestone. After all, while the Seventh Phase determined the end of foundation building, the Eighth Phase was just the start of a true cultivator!

His eyes flickered as he looked towards a direction, his sense penetrating Bai Lin's body easily as he saw a group of figures flying towards his area with various mounts.

"I can see the world force within them?!" He could determine who was a Mortal God and to what extent. He had always been under the assumption that Wu Xinghong and Godlord Lin couldn't tell.

Wait, if they could tell, then Godlord Lin wouldn't have made that mistake in the Surabhi Emporium. Then, is it because of my Divine Hearts?

As he recalled the penetrative aspect of his saber energy, he realized that this was an effect of his overly powerful spiritual sense.

"Not only can I tell their cultivation bases, but even the faint aura of their elemental energies are revealed. I can tell what advanced qi they birthed!" As he explored this ability of his more, excitement grew. This degree of discernment was useful on so many levels.

Taking a deep breath, he turned towards his Hearts of Qi. Should he even call them that? Were they Hearts of Qi any longer?

As he thought about this, his eyes lit up in excitement.

"Divine Spirits of Qi!"

As he turned towards his Divine Spirits, he beckoned them to return. They responded swiftly, re-entering his body. They didn't do so by mouth, but directly merged with his body as if they were ghosts. He could feel them congregating at his dantian and resting there.

Strands and strands of refined qi replaced his old, weaker qi. As they were replaced, he felt his body become empowered by an extraordinary force. Clenching his fist, a powerful sensation emerged.

"Ascending to a Godlord so suddenly! Haha!" He laughed in joy. He felt far too powerful at the moment. It was as if the entire world was at his beck and call, and with a thought, he could crush worlds. While he likely couldn't, he truly understood the saying: "Feeling like a god."

"Bai Lin!" He communicated with Bai Lin. She immediately understood and unfurled her body to reveal Wei Wuyin.

His silver eyes looked at this doorless building of his and smiled. "Stay here. I'm going to stretch my limbs a little." A feeling of absolute confidence emerged in his heart.

As he walked out, he finally saw the group of eleven arriving with Su Lanyi at the lead.

Her eyes were solemn, but she knew what she had to do, and Wei Wuyin was just a newly ascending Seventh Stage Qi Condensation expert. To her, who has been in that realm for decades, she had confidence in her abilities. With ten Mortal Gods as support, she felt reaffirmed in her belief.

"Oh?" Wei Wuyin turned his gaze away from the eleven and looked at a spot not too far away. A person stood there, shrouded by a spiritual concealment spell. He hadn't noticed this person before, but now, she was clearly revealed. From the person's ability and aura, he knew who it was.

"Hm?" Godlord Mei was stunned when she saw Wei Wuyin stare at her location. She couldn't help but wonder if his new breakthrough allowed his sensitivity to increase by that much. It didn't even cross her mind that she was fully exposed.

"I never got to say this," he said, speaking directly to Godlord Mei who stood in the distance. His words weren't loud but it carried with the wind and entered her ears. He continued, "Thank you for saving Mei Mei."

"!" Godlord Mei was shocked, her heart trembling as the wind carried Wei Wuyin's voice to her. He knew she was here or was it just an assumption?

Wei Wuyin could feel from her aura that she was shocked. He shook his head, turned back towards the group of eleven, and his gaze relaxed. His Divine Spirits were converting their energy into sublime qi infused with spirituality, and pushing out his weaker qi. However, that would still take time before he had enough to execute qi arts.

He knew that this was the consequence of a recent breakthrough. They were often at their weakest in their phase, with the new replacing the old.

Still, he felt immensely powerful. For now, his physical body was sufficient.

He removed a top-tier pill meant for expediting the process of consolidation and consumed it. Taking a deep breath, he waited.

Before long, they arrived, jumping down from their mounts. The mounts flew away quickly as if understanding a deadly battle was about to erupt. Bai Lin was the same, hiding all the way in the back of the building.

Su Lanyi watched Wei Wuyin, but didn't immediately take action. A grand elder, a short, bearded middle-aged man shouted, "Wei Wuyin! Due to consideration of the council as to your future status in the sect, we have revisited your term as a disciple and discovered numerous crimes performed by you!

Including the murder and cover-up of Inner Disciple Chu Yan, the freeing of prisoners of war, insubordination, abandoning a critical mission, and many more!

"Your order of arrest has been issued. If you come obediently, we'll take that into consideration as to your sentencing and those who colluded with you!"

Wei Wuyin coldly laughed! When that last sentence was said, his heart became enraged. He knew the implications and how, if he resisted, his subordinates and Wei Si, would be tried for his crimes. Even if he did readily give himself up, those truly loyal to him would be removed systematically to prevent future issues.

That's how the cultivation world worked. While they may keep their lives if the sect felt benevolent, but they would be crippled thoroughly! A crippled life was worse than staying a mortal! With a portion of one's mind, body, essence, and soul destroyed, the resulting years would be horrendous.

He didn't have roads of retreat and any action he did would implicate his friends and family. He knew this.

Therefore, he had only one option: Fight!

Fight and prove that offending him wasn't worth a measly Wu Chen!

His gaze was cold like the frozen tundra. He exclaimed with the utmost calm, "The first one to act against me will be the first one to die!"

Chapter 57 - 57: One Try, One Die!

The elders were startled, some even growing enraged as a middle-aged woman with a beauty mark on her lower lip exclaimed with killing intent, "You dare defy the orders of the sect?! You dare threaten us?! Treasonous spawn!" Her words fueled the anger in the hearts of the other grand elders, igniting their fury.

They were renowned Mortal Gods, their names and status far-reaching and extraordinary. Moreover, this was their sect, their homeground! To be threatened so directly, how could they be cowed?!

Even if Wei Wuyin made a recent breakthrough into the Sublime Qi Phase, he did not have the qualifications just yet to say those words! They immediately started lunging all sorts of accusations, arguments, and justifications that leaned on Wei Wuyin's immediate execution.

"Enough sophistry to justify your ill intent. We all know these are minor excuses. I've long since decided to no longer be a part of the Scarlet Solaris Sect. If you wish to treat me as an enemy, then come. If one tries to take my life, then one will die. If two try, two will die." Wei Wuyin said calmly.

The coldness of his gaze and lack of emotion in his tone caused the grand elders' hearts to tremble. Too brazen!

"Laughable!" A man stepped forward. He was older looking than others, with bronze skin, and a thin frame. His eye sockets looked compressed inward, giving one a ghastly feeling. Those black eyes contained powerful vitality and countless images.

Signs of a Mortal God!

His title of renown was the Black Sea Ghost. His name was Shu Gui. Wei Wuyin recalled that he was the ancestor of Shu Yang and Shu Yin. His status and legacy was well-known and highly-regarded.

"Die!" He punched at Wei Wuyin from a distance. A black wave of water qi formed that surged forth like a grand tsunami attempting to swallow the earth. It sped towards Wei Wuyin with the intent to crush and kill. Wei Wuyin saw the inherent water energies within, but also a unique essence.

A low-level water essence called the Black Water Essence. It was thicker and denser than normal water, often used to crush its opponents completely beneath its dense and endless waves.

Wei Wuyin coldly smiled. He stood there without any protection, allowing the black wave to smash against his body, swallowing his figure entirely.

Bam!

A resounding quaking vibration erupted as the wave collapsed atop his body. The water flooded the immediate area for up to three meters in a three hundred meter range. Wei Wuyin's body couldn't even be seen due to the black color.

"Haha! You're still just a child!" Shu Gui coldly spat, his eyes filled with triumph. He was a revered Sixth Phase expert, a Mortal God who've trained for hundreds of years. What could a child like Wei Wuyin amount to in front of him?

"Really?" The black waters began to part as a figure breached its surface and slowly rose. Wei Wuyin walked out of the flood, his clothes not even drenched as he stepped upwards on water as if he was walking on stairs. He arrived above the water qi's surface and had a mocking look on his face, a sneer on his lips.

"Walking on Water Qi Art!" The short, middle-aged man exclaimed as he witnessed Wei Wuyin walk out of the water unharmed. The art of water walking was an advanced application of water qi that required an extreme degree of control.

Even many of the grand elders here couldn't do it.

It was an expression of talent and control one had with qi. Suddenly, many of the grand elders adopted wary expressions. Not only had Wei Wuyin survived an assault from a Mortal God unharmed, but he displayed astounding talent.

"Enough! I'll show you true power!" Shu Gui shouted angrily, withdrawing his weapon. An aquamarine spear appeared. He grasped it with both hands, his body erupting with black water qi, and he shot forward with an exquisite and practiced movement art. It was as if he was flowing water as he approached.

Wei Wuyin didn't bother to strike. Instead, he stood atop the water with an expression of mocking and utter ease.

Shu Gui lanced forward with his spear. A surge of black water qi exited his meridians and entered the air, creating a manifestation of a spear several times larger than his own. It, like a missile, shot towards Wei Wuyin's heart with the intent to puncture and pierce through his entirety.

Wei Wuyin placed his hands behind his back and calmly allowed the spear to collide with his chest.

Boom!

An explosion of qi produced hundreds of gallons of water. This directly increased the water levels by several meters. However, Shu Gui didn't stop here. With a harsh grunt, he flashed and moved to Wei Wuyin's back, his spear pointing towards his spine as he engaged in close combat tactics, actually stabbing his spear forward.

The spear glowed a faint aquamarine light and its tip struck Wei Wuyin's spine. A wave of explosive force was generated, sending all the nearby water away.

"What?!" Shu Gui exclaimed as he realized his spear had struck Wei Wuyin's spinal cord but couldn't penetrate a single millimeter forward. There was a soft indent from his back and the spear, but no skin was pierced - not even the clothes were pierced. It was as if he had poked Wei Wuyin with his finger.

"Are you done?" Wei Wuyin casually asked, yawning as he turned his head to give Shu Gui a side-eye glance filled with boredom and indifference. He seemed to completely disregard Shu Gui.

This level of attack was completely incapable of harming Wei Wuyin, let alone pierce into his flesh and bone.

Shu Gui's expression changed as he became angry to the limit, his blood boiled. To be looked down upon by someone not even a fifth of his age was humiliating. He refused to accept it.

He retracted his spear, retreated a considerable distance, and plunged the spear into the water. He removed his grip from the spear, but it remained perfectly upright within the water, nor did it sink.

"Let's see if you can remain smug with this!" He started to rapidly execute double-handed seals. Handseals were an expression of focus and support. While not necessary for all qi arts, it helped lessen the mental burden of qi control and quicken the execution.

The handseal itself was a communication method, a way to communicate with your spirit to perform a set of circulation tactics without delay. They were called Communion of Spirit & Qi.

Outside of raw arts, manifestations such as a simplistic wave of water or shaping a spear, these were mostly required. However, double-handed seals were the initiation of an overly complex, powerful art that often exceeded one's degree of control.

Wei Wuyin's eyes narrowed, but he maintained his mocking expression. He wanted to see how he would fare against a true, bonafide qi art.

Elemental Water Art: Black King's Eye of Death!

Zsst!

The water that Wei Wuyin stood upon started to seethe and bubble like it was boiling. He looked downwards and realized a tremendous amount of qi was being funneled from Shu Gui into the platform of water he created.

Pussstt!!

The water beneath his feet exploded upwards like a raging fountain. It started to rise in the air, creating a circular space deprived of water where Wei Wuyin stood. In an incredibly swift fashion, walls of black water formed on all sides of him while his feet had touched the actual ground.

"Die!" Shu Gui bellowed, continuing to perform handseals. The water started to rumble and rapidly shift in a clockwise rotation. Soon, a black whirlpool was birthed, rapidly circulating and rising up about thirty meters.

Wei Wuyin remained at the center, his eyes sweeping around as he analyzed the art used. This was an entrapping art, and while it took time to describe, the wall and forming of the whirlpool took a blink of an eye. The moment Shu Gui executed the art, escaping would've been difficult for any ordinary Mortal God. It required quite a bit of preparation, however.

"That's it?" If it was just a trapping art, he felt it wasn't anything special. That was until he looked upwards. A large spherical object formed above. It was over a hundred meters in size, causing it to block out a considerable amount of sunlight.

"Is thi-"

Woosh!

As he was about to say something, the spherical ball structured from black water qi dropped like a meteor to earth. Its weight was far greater than he could imagine water could be. This was the key aspect of Black Water Qi!

Booooooom!!!

It smashed on Wei Wuyin's body without mercy, inducing an explosive sound of cataclysmic proportions. The world temporarily became flooded with black water!

Soon, everything ended with only a calm flood of black water remaining.

Shu Gui sent his spiritual sense into the black water and felt no lifeforce. Wei Wuyin must've been crushed into nothing! He chuckled in relief, satisfied with his power. How embarrassing would it have been to be outclassed by a junior a fifth his age?

"I ask again, are you done?" A voice that, to Shu Gui, was like death itself, caused his body to shiver and his eyes to become full moons. Worst of all, the sound was right next to his ears!

A sensation of deadly crisis emerged in Shu Gui's heart. He immediately grabbed his spear, and retreated to distance from Wei Wuyin. His thoughts were chaotic as a single word entered his mind: "Impossible!"

An abrupt thought of regret emerged in his mind, causing his grip to loosen on his spear, and his mind to be filled with thoughts of retreat. That attack was his strongest qi art.

It did shit all!

He suddenly recalled something: he wasn't alone!

"Everyone, we ca-"

Shiing!

Shu Gui heard a sound, similar to a blade being unsheathed, and he felt ten times lighter. His eyes focused on Wei Wuyin who's back was facing him. That back slowly slid to the side, more and more until he saw the world turn upside down.

He soon saw his body which had fallen to its knees, blood spewing out like an endless geyser, dyeing the water qi a dark crimson.

"Why is my body there?" Was his last thoughts.

The world suddenly grew darker and everything ceased.

Plop!

"..." A wave of silence was birthed as Shu Gui's decapitated head entered his personal flood of water dyeing it. Its blackness made it incapable of seeing where he was.

"You're done, " Wei Wuyin softly stated. "One tried, one died. Who's next?" Wei Wuyin's eyes were like the reaper of death, cold and without a hint of emotion.

Chapter 58 - 58: We.

"You! You killed God Shu!" One of the grand elders exclaimed in disbelief. They didn't actually see much. Outside of a metallic sound in the air, they only saw the line of red appear on his neck and his head fall.

It was sudden and outside of their expectations.

Wei Wuyin's physical body had been tempered by alchemical energies, elemental energies, and saber energy. With a slight empowerment of a trace of spiritually infused sublime qi, he could forcefully take a Mortal God's strikes with his fleshy body.

He took the first blow to determine his durability and toughness, but after realizing how weak it was in comparison to a single strand of his sublime qi, he produced the weakest elemental qi ward possible and it couldn't touch his body.

It couldn't even scratch his ward!

At this moment, he understood the vast difference between cultivators with different foundations. Shu Gui had a Heart of Water Qi, using Black Water Essence, a low-level essence, to transform his Heart of Qi, but his attacks couldn't even penetrate his weakest elemental ward made by a single strand of elemental qi.

When he struck with a single strand of newly produced saber qi, Shu Gui couldn't even react. In fact, he wasn't even sure if Su Lanyi knew what had happened.

As he looked towards her, he was sure she didn't even see his attack. "The difference between spiritually infused sublime qi and normal sublime qi is vast! Let alone my double Divine Spirits of Qi!" His thoughts were correct.

In truth, he was an absolute monster with an incredible cultivation base. He had two Divine Spirits of Qi formed from Elemental Qi and Saber Qi. His elemental qi had been formed with five high-level advanced elemental essences.

"You're all not my match. The only one who has a smidgen of a chance to detain me is Wu Xinghong." He calmly stated with a voice infected with arrogance. He had to act this way, even though he much rather be low-key.

His departure from the sect was already a done deal, and killing a Mortal God cemented this. The only goal for today was to establish himself as a figure that should not be offended so that when he declared his threat of retaliation if his allies were attacked, they'd be forced to remain idle.

His spiritual sense swept the surroundings and his eyes glanced towards the Scarlet Palace. In the Scarlet Palace, there was a room that had a variety of spiritual formation and qi arrays. It was made to protect and conceal the activities or persons within.

He decisively penetrated those numerous barriers with his spiritual sense and entered it, causing all sorts of alarms to flare within, trying to inform the resident who resided there.

What he witnessed caused his expression to slightly widen in shock, his mind stunned.

He saw a pale-faced man, thin and sickly, laying on a soft bed with silk sheets. The breathing of this man was heavy and his lifeforce was aggressively diminishing at a noticeable rate. When Wei Wuyin saw this, his eyes lit up. This man was Wu Xinghong!

"What happened to him?!" He recalled seeing him in the Scarlet Palace when he returned, healthy and powerful. Now that he thought about it clearly, the scarlet mist from the walls became him at that time. Could that be a spiritual spell that used qi to create an incarnation or avatar?

He saw the ugly expressions of the grand elders and the gloomy expression of Su Lanyi. The fear in her eyes could not be hidden. It seemed Wei Wuyin's earlier display made her realize their disparity in strength. His earlier saber strike was like lightning before her eyes.

He deeply frowned.

Even with his outstanding performance, why did she seem so terrified as if she had descended into a nightmare? Even if Wu Xinghong was out of commission, she still had the qi arrays and spiritual formations of the Scarlet Solaris Mountain. These were mechanisms set-up using hundreds of years of effort and resources. Wei Wuyin would not underestimate the reserve power of the Scarlet Solaris Sect.

When his thought reached this point, he sent his spiritual sense penetrating the mountain into its essence. It couldn't block him from inspecting its entirety. He saw fragmented qi stones and shattered poles that had runic markings etched on their surface.

When he dove deeper, he saw a throbbing orb of scarlet essence that emitted scarlet qi. This was the quintessence of the Scarlet Solaris Mountain! It was dim, flickering scarlet light, and seemed fragile as if it was on its last few breaths.

"The numerous formations had been damaged and the qi arrays have been destroyed?! The quintessence of the mountain's power has been drained? Holy fuck, what the hell happened?!" He

hadn't noticed before due to all sorts of factors, but recalling the brimming scarlet qi ten years ago, the current scarlet qi was like comparing a pond to a lake.

As he came to this realization, he softly sighed. Was this heavenly fate? The Scarlet Solaris Sect was supposed to be destroyed ten years ago, a calamity averted by his actions, and now the sect had offended an enemy they could no longer fight against - him.

If he wanted, he could sweep the entire sect clean and rob it of its entire wealth with utter ease. He didn't feel that Godlord Mei had a strong connection to the sect. She was probably staying here to ensure the sect's survival according to an agreement. Otherwise, why publicly announce that she resided in the sect?

She lived in the Mystic Elven Forest and Mei Mei had been here for nearly five decades. If she wanted to help Mei Mei, she could've easily done so long ago.

"The damage to the mountain seemed to have been done about five to six years ago, about the time Mei Mei returned and Godlord Mei allied herself with the sect. Something big must've happened during that time!" He didn't know there was a mystery afoot before, so he didn't bother inspecting for clues, but now he was deeply curious and aware of their circumstances.

Thinking further on this, could this have been a calamity for him? With the sect weakened in such a fashion, he would have a slight chance of escape even if he was weaker. If it was a small calamity in which he had a slight chance to overcome it, this seemed to be a little too wrong, no?

"..."

He sighed once more, uncertainty drowned his heart.

He faced Su Lanyi and mockingly scoffed, "Your foundation is weakened, your Godlord is half-dead, and you try to kill me? Where's your priorities?"

"What? Half-dead?! Weakened?!" The grand elders exclaimed in shock. They all had looks of confusion and disbelief. What was Wei Wuyin talking about? The Ancestral Elder was fine nor were their foundation weakened.

However, many subconsciously looked at Su Lanyi and saw her distraught and fearful expression, the shock and disbelief in her eyes were far clearer than theirs. It was very telling.

"Impossible!" One of the grand elders cried.

Godlord Mei's heart trembled, "he found out?" Unlike the others, she knew the full story, and therefore was only shocked by Wei Wuyin's knowledge of it.

"Since you wanted to kill me, I guess I should teach you all a lesson." Wei Wuyin coldly smiled as he stepped forward. He explosively shot forward. His speed was like lightning, appearing in the midst of their group like the wind. In front of him was the middle-aged man who spoke earlier, listing his crimes and threatening his allies.

Pow!

He smashed his fist into the short, middle-aged man's abdomen. Like a missile, he shot backwards and smashed into the ground, producing a powerful explosion. Before the dust could even settle, he sent his leg sweeping in a kick toward another elder.

The sound of shattered bones, bruised flesh, and a cry of immense pain echoed as another figure violently shot away. The middle-aged woman with the beauty mark crashed into a nearby building, causing it to collapse on top of her.

Wei Wuyin stood within the former group of eleven, now a group of eight, with an upright stance and calm eyes.

"They spoke the loudest, no?" As he said that, the grand elders finally started reacting to what happened and nearly jumped out of their own skins in fright. They retreated away from Wei Wuyin with a variety of colorful movement arts.

Only Su Lanyi remained where she was.

Her expression was calm, no longer revealing a fear or an aura of gloomy. "You've grown strong," she remarked.

Wei Wuyin noticed her shift in attitude and softly sighed. She likely came to an understanding that Wei Wuyin was far beyond her in strength and abilities. In truth, with his current Eighth Stage Qi Condensation cultivation, he was. He was a Godlord, after all. They weren't termed Lord of Mortal Gods for nothing.

If it wasn't for his lack of condensed spiritually infused sublime qi, his strength would've been at least a dozen times stronger. At the moment, he could only rely on newly refined strands of qi and his powerful physical body, yet it was more than enough to sweep unchallenged.

That being said, Wei Wuyin knew that, while his strength was incredible, in front of a true Godlord with a full reserve of qi, winning was an unlikely possibility. At that point, quantity would definitely exceed quality.

If he threatened the sect, Godlord Mei might be forced, by obligation, to prevent his actions. He was confident in escaping, but there were just too many things he was ignorant of in relation to the abilities of a Godlord.

For example, Wu Xinghong's ability to create an incarnation from scarlet qi. He didn't know that was even possible. He had merely heard of their fabled abilities to scry the world, control minds, and shatter mountains.

"I won't kill you. Your actions are befitting a mother who cares for her child, I can't fault you for that. However, if anything happens to my subordinates and family because of you or the sect purposefully acting against them, I will raze the Scarlet Solaris Sect to the ground, hunt down and kill every last one of your subordinates, your family!" Wei Wuyin biting declared. This was his purpose.

He didn't go and round up all his subordinates. Many of them had families in the sect or the domain, some numbering thousands, they couldn't just uplift their entire lives and leave with him. He would never ask them to do that nor would he want such a vast responsibility.

All he could do was ensure they wouldn't be implicated by his existence. Anything else was unnecessary.

Su Lanyi looked at Wei Wuyin, gazing into his eyes with fearlessness and the readiness to accept death. It seemed her emotions had been deteriorated by all sorts of events. Deep within that fearless gaze was a nearly indiscernible light of exhaustion.

Fweet!

He ignored Su Lanyi, calling Bai Lin with a whistle. Bai Lin, with her huge form, flew through the roof of the dilapidated building, causing it to thoroughly collapse, and soared towards him.

He jumped up and landed perfectly on her back. Looking down, he saw Godlord Mei who had undone her concealment and revealed herself. She maintained that beautiful smile that could draw the world's attention. This woman was the cause of it all, and if it wasn't for the remaining respect he had for Mei Mei and her current cultivation base, he wouldn't have left so easily.

He would've killed her.

The thing he hated the most was being schemed against. If a situation like this happened again, he would make her understand what vicious meant.

"Let's go!" Wei Wuyin ordered. Having revealed the difference between them, he was satisfied.

However, his eyes became filled with complex emotions once more when he looked down at the Scarlet Solaris Mountain. His spiritual sense had encompassed a majority of the sect earlier and had gotten a good gauge of where his former subordinates and allies were.

Du Leng, that hungry fellow, now had a family, and was an Outer Elder of the sect. He was blissfully unaware as he slept with two beauties and had his own harem, his belly still round and his cheeks chubby.

He knew that if Du Leng saw him, he would abandon his family without hesitation and follow him. However, knowing that his life could be struck by calamity at any moment, it was best Du Leng continued living his current life in peace.

While this brought boundless sadness into his heart, he realized that the Calamity of Hell was a ticking time bomb. He had survived the first due to an absolutely miraculous accident, but the chances of that happening a second time was too low. He needed to reach the Realm of Sages to ensure a path of survival.

Otherwise...a few decades was all he'd have left.

He couldn't find Wei Si, this muscle-headed cousin of his, so he could be on a mission or even dead. He wasn't sure. However, knowing that big oaf of a man, he should be okay. At least, he hoped he was.

Xing Fu was pregnant, married to someone else. She already had a child who was three or four years old, waddling around yet still feeding on breast milk.

Ten years ago, she had a brief infatuation with him, but after those years, she had found another and settled down. He didn't expect her to be overwhelmed with grief and stay alone forever. In fact, he was happy for her and didn't wish to disturb that life selfishly.

He was but a mere blip in her life. If it wasn't for that Black Skeleton and him becoming an Inheritor of Sin, their paths would've never crossed. So many things wouldn't have happened.

Even Su Mei was a Captain of the Aerial Guardians.

He knew that with everything that had happened, his time in the Scarlet Solaris Sect was over. As long as he remained alive, Wu Chen would become a waste or dead. How could his mother and father allow the one responsible to walk freely? While he wouldn't directly perform the deed, the fault still laid with him in their eyes.

As he flew away, a sense of melancholy surfaced in his heart. However, as time passed, the world moved on with or without you. Isn't this why cultivators strived for immortality, even if it's just legacy.

"Goodbye," he whispered to himself. He had returned alone and as swiftly as he returned, he had to depart alone. Perhaps that would be his fate from here on out.

Screech!

The sound of an eagle echoed in the sky. Wei Wuyin turned his head to see a large variant eagle mount flying towards him. Atop this eagle was a young woman, her clear black eyes and long black hair gave her a sense of simple beauty.

She was dressed in a form-fitting martial robe, often worn by men, and had a very heavy expression on her face.

"Su Mei?" He was taken aback by her appearance. He told Bai Lin to slow down, allowing Su Mei to catch up. When she did, she stared at Wei Wuyin for quite some time before speaking.

"Mei Mei told me," was her words.

His heart trembled. These words had many different meanings, but his suspicions caused him to feel shocked.

Su Mei jumped off her mount and landed on Bai Lin's back. "She told me about Wu Chen and her Dao Companion ceremony. She said she would tell you so you could quietly leave before your past was known by others."

"..." Wei Wuyin was silent. Those words meant Mei Mei didn't want any harm to happen to him, but Godlord Mei had intervened and shattered her intentions abruptly.

Su Mei smiled mildly, moving a strand of her black, luscious hair away from her face. Her bright black eyes gazed towards the far lands away from the Scarlet Solaris Mountain. "Where shall we go?"

"We?" Wei Wuyin was startled. Did she mean...?

"We." Su Mei sat down and closed her eyes in meditation, obviously expressing her adamant stance: "Where you go, I go."

"We," he lightly laughed. It was filled with heart and warmth. Perhaps even with all the twists and turns, his life might not just be about surviving, but truly living. If there was a tiny chance, he'd have to grasp it completely!

With a pat, Bai Lin let loose a crane cry and sped away with both Su Mei and Wei Wuyin in tow. While his return was brief, his departure just as sudden, he now looked forward to his future.

Chapter 59 - Volume 1: Afterword

So here we are. A total 58 Chapters later, we've essentially reached the completion of an arc and the start of a new one.

When I started this novel, I wanted to start with something darker, grittier, and a novel that highlighted the cruelty of the cultivation world with a touch of realism. As some of you may know, Consuming Earths, Devouring Skies, my other novel, had the theme of a single person's journey to explore the universe and discover its mysteries, both within oneself and the various multiverses. Even today, it still remains the same.

So, when devising this novel's plot, I wanted it to be divided and clearly different from CEDS. I wanted it to be fresh with a lot more development in the world's state of affairs and growth of side characters with a unique twist. I think I accomplished that. I hope I did.

In this novel, in the future, you'll see a lot of involvement of other characters, and even their growth would be unconventional and different from the norm you're typically used to reading.

The introduction of Karmic Luck having value and the unseen godly heavenly daos influencing the world was an elementary idea practiced by essentially every novel aka plot armor. I wanted to highlight this in a more tangible term, even divide it. And so, the idea popped into my head! I haven't fleshed out on it yet, but it will come!

For the future, I want to explore more on this and others who are Blessed by this unseen godly Heavenly Daos, how they and Wei Wuyin interact with each other while bringing out more characters! Most importantly, my end goal for the next volume is to explore the world a little more. Soooo...it may be a little longer!

I'm seething with excitement! See you guys in the comments! Or better yet, in the discord!

Chapter 60 -: Myriad Yore Continent

The Myriad Yore Continent was a vast, daunting landmass surrounded by oceanic waters. It was divided into six countries, three mountain ranges, and one grand forest. Each country spanned millions of kilometers, divided into further various domains and states.

The Scarlet Solaris Domain was one domain amongst the nine total in the Wu Country, which was further divided into various lands of territory such as cities, towns, villages, lakes, and individual mountains - like the Scarlet Solaris Mountain.

It was a small blip in regards to the entirety of the Myriad Yore Continent.

There were seven others like it: Jade Lotus Domain, Sky Sword Domain, Aqua Lotus Domain, Hidden Shadow Domain, Gaia State, Ji State, and White Wind Valley.

All of these locations held Godlord-level figures standing behind them. The Bai Clan, one of the two great clans, controlled the White Wind Valley. The Ji Clan, also one of the two great clans, controlled the Ji State.

While the final power, the Hidden Shadow Domain, belonged to a loose alliance of cultivators who strived for independence within the country, far from accepting the power structure of the Five Great Sects & Two Great Clans.

They were the strongest power amongst the forces, with a Mortal Godking, a Ninth Stage of Qi Condensation Realm expert, holding down the fort and leading the way. Even the Wu Central Lands, and by extension the Wu Imperial Clan, avoided open conflict with the alliance.

Wei Wuyin sat quietly upon Bai Lin as she glided through the skies. Su Mei was next to him, her eyes closed. She was cultivating by absorbing the refined essence within an essence stone. Despite her vulnerable state, she cultivated wholeheartedly beside Wei Wuyin. To her, this was the safest place to cultivate.

They had been traveling for several days already, but there was a definitive issue that Wei Wuyin hadn't solved: where to go.

The Scarlet Solaris Sect had been his home, but now he was untethered and free. Before then...

His previous home was the Wei Clan. It was a clan located in Red Dove City. They were subordinates to the Saber Wolf Sect, a subordinate to the Scarlet Solaris Sect. However, the Saber Wolf Sect and Wei Clan had long since ceased to exist.

He was alone.

His eyes were calm as he recalled his past. A crushing sensation emerged in his heart, forcing himself to well up in a sense of despair and loss. These feelings and emotions were immediately pushed deep into his heart, hidden and suppressed once more as it had been before.

"The Wu Country is vast, and I haven't seen all of it yet. Leaving too early without doing all the things I've wanted to do since young would be too hasty." As he thought this, he looked at his right arm:

Karmic Luck Value: 602.8.

First Calamity: Survived - 7/7.

Second Calamity: Suppressed - 41 Years.

"...I have thirty-nine years before I face the second calamity, and I may not be as lucky as I was with the first." Wei Wuyin had this responsibility forced into his hands, unable to walk away or escape from the title of an Inheritor of Sin. However, according to the skeleton, it should've waited until he'd reached the Realm of Sages.

At that time, he could cultivate the third scripture, Soul of True Sin and could use sin to cultivate the soul. The only reason it interfered was because his natural karmic luck made it impossible for him to avoid his upcoming calamity, ensuring his untimely demise. Likely, since he didn't know what an Inheritor of Sin was, if he was killed, forget passing it along, he couldn't even curse his murderer.

Now, he was entirely inadequate to survive the trials. He had zero confidence in passing the second trial. Therefore, he decided to live like he had a clock on his remaining life: 39 Years.

"Since this is the case, I'll live as I wish. One of my goals is seeing the Imperial Capital City in the Wu Central Lands!" His eyes that had an innate calm quietly lit up with anticipation.

When he was younger, his older brother had always talked about the majesty of the capital. He was but a child when his brother had ventured into the capital, exploring the world, and lived his life to the fullest. His achievements and beliefs were why Wei Wuyin had become a cultivator, why he had strived without end for power and status.

"Brother, I'll finally see the capital!" He exclaimed in his heart. A gentle smile emerged on his face.

"Lord Wei," Su Mei awoke from her cultivation and saw Wei Wuyin's gentle expression. She had been stunned into a stupor, subconsciously calling out for him.

Wei Wuyin turned towards her, a rare warmth emerged in his heart. Su Mei had left behind everything without question to journey with him. He didn't know her feelings, whether romantic or strictly platonic, but he was grateful for her.

While he had Bai Lin, it would be lonely without human companions alongside him. Especially if these were his final four decades of life in this world.

"You don't have to address me as Lord Wei. You can call me by my name, Su Mei." His words held his truest feelings. In normal etiquette, calling your direct superior by his name was considered disrespectful and affront to their superior status.

However, they were no longer the leader and his subordinate in his eyes. He no longer had that status.

Su Mei calmly looked into Wei Wuyin's eyes. She didn't break away from her serene stare for a long time. "You misunderstand. When you took me in on that day, I swore to always follow by your side, as a soldier, maid, whatever you required. You'll always be my Lord, Lord Wei."

Wei Wuyin was taken aback when he heard this, recalling that day in a flash. He sighed with relief in his heart. He said with a hearty laugh, "Thank you. I won't disrespect your intentions then."

Su Mei smiled. She no longer was an average woman, possessing beautiful and a valiant look that could move the hearts of men.

Wei Wuyin understood what she wanted to convey, and it comforted his heart. Thinking a bit, he said: "Do you know what happened to Wei Si?"

Su Mei's smile froze unnaturally, and she softly sighed. This caused Wei Wuyin's heart to twitch, but he still wanted to know. Wei Si wasn't his true cousin, as in they weren't blood related. Instead, he was adopted by his uncle when they were younger. Supposedly, they had found him near a river when he was just a baby.

No one knew he would grow up with such a unique physique and appearance. While others had treated him as an outcast and outsider, Wei Wuyin had always seen him as the loveable and naive little cousin, and thus cared for him.

Su Mei answered, "When you left, Wei Si had waited for your return. He stayed and cultivated as you said, but after a while, you didn't return. When news of your certain death had been revealed, he went berserk. Something inside him...broke." At the end, her voice shifted in tone, sounding depressed and unsure.

"What?!" Wei Wuyin's eyes snapped open with a fiercely questioning glance. Wei Si and him were incredibly close, like brothers even. He had always taken care of him since young, guiding him and ensuring he had what he needed in life. His heart quivered when he learned he went berserk.

As if feeling his emotions, Bai Lin screeched with sadness and anger. Without being ordered, she slowed her flight speed in mid-air. She seemed ready to perform a u-turn and return to the sect at a moment's notice. She had met Wei Si and he was such a weird softy, and she would often play with him. Despite his large appearance, he was like a righteous and lovable teddy bear.

Wei Wuyin felt her emotions. His own was just as intense as his qi started to circulate faster. It was as if all Su Mei had to say was that the sect harmed Wei Si and he would return to the sect and slaughter them to the last. All of them. His eyes told that much as he looked to her for further answers.

Su Mei felt that intense gaze and slightly shivered from the suppressed killing intent. She felt as if her next words could determine the fates of millions, and this feeling was as vivid as her heartbeat.

She hastily explained, "I'm not sure what happened, but I do know the Scarlet Solaris Mountain suffered damage after. I can't say the extent, but the Ancestral Elder was said to have come out to prevent Wei Si from causing further destruction. However, in the end, Wei Si escaped."

"What?! The Ancestral Elder came out and he still escaped? How?" He couldn't hide his disbelief, even Bai Lin let out a confused whimper. After all, the Ancestral Elder was a legitimate Godlord while the Wei Si was only at the First Stage of the Qi Condensation Realm, with a body that could rival Third Phase experts. He was far from being his match, nor had the ability to retreat while facing such an enemy.

"I'm not sure on the details, because the sect formation activated and even I had to retreat. I do know, however, that someone had broken through the barrier and took him away," Su Mei said with helplessness. She had only heard the general recounting of the story, except for the last bit.

The formation had ceased abruptly and she personally saw Wei Si brought away by a dark brown ray of light.

Wei Wuyin frowned throughout her story, but the confusion piled on.

"I wonder..." he slowly pondered and then asked, "how long did this happen?"

"Five years and ten months ago," Su Mei answered swiftly. If Wei Wuyin wanted to know the exact day, she knew that too.

His pupils constricted, and he had an idea. Could it be that when Wei Si went berserk, he had called upon something? Whatever happened, in the end, he had escaped and broken the spiritual formations and qi arrays of the sect.

Wu Xinghong had to have been injured then, right?.

"Before Mei Mei returned?" He added on another question.

Su Mei nodded her head, then added: "Three months before he left, exactly. When she returned, the Helios Witch had also joined the sect in an official capacity."

"I see." He felt like he knew a little more about what happened, such as what was responsible for the Ancestral Elder's current state, and even the Helios Witch's return. In fact, he could've called in a chit of sorts to have her reside in until he recovered.

After all, the Helios Witch had to have some interactions with the Scarlet Solaris Sect if she had returned to heal Mei Mei before. While he knew he was still ignorant of quite a few things, he assumed some of the events.

He soft sighed. The only thing he could do was hope Wei Si was okay. However, if he was dead, then he was dead. If he was alive, then he would be alive. He didn't dwell. As someone with a ticking clock on life, he didn't feel the need to overreact or make any immature promises as he did before. While it might sound cold-hearted, he didn't have the luxury, time, or ability to search the world for him.

He softly rubbed Bai Lin's back. She promptly resumed her flight path.

"We're going to the Wu Central Lands!" Wei Wuyin said, his eyes glowing with anticipation.

Su Mei nodded obediently. Wherever Wei Wuyin would go, she would follow.

Wei Wuyin couldn't wait to see the landmarks known throughout the country, the Wu Astral Tower, the Jade Pearl Lake, and the Warring States Pagoda. These were just three of the many places he wished to see. Outside of those places, there were people.

In the Wu Country, there was a lifestyle-type force that ranked cultivators of prominent renown and status. It included any force that had a Mortal God-level figure standing behind it. One of these ranking lists was a beauty ranking.

According to the list, the top three beauties of Wu Country were the Granddaughter of the Aqua Siren, who was the descendant of the Godlord of the Aqua Echo Sect, the Bai Clan's White Holy Priestess, who was a Mortal God, and the youngest Princess of Wu: Wu Baozhai.

That was ten years ago. When he had learned those names still hadn't been moved from the ranking list, his desire to see them grew even further.

"Bai Lin, faster!" Wei Wuyin impatiently urged.