

ODYSSEY 1471

Chapter 1471: The Lu Surname

As Lu Yin thought about making some tea with the Root of Intelligence, he suddenly imagined how perfect his life would be if his die were able to duplicate items. Wouldn't that mean an endless supply of Roots of Intelligence?

While feeling a bit of both desire and anticipation, Lu Yin took a sip of the tea made from the Root of Intelligence.

He only had enough to make three sips of tea, just like last time.

Right after taking a sip of tea, Lu Yin raised his hand and struck out with a palm to begin deducing more of the Overlaying Stacks Path.

While he had comprehended 250 Stacks so far, his strength had far exceeded that level.

260, 270, 280, and then 290 Stacks. The first sip of tea allowed Lu Yin to comprehend up to 290 Stacks.

The further one progressed along the Overlaying Stacks Path, the more difficult it was to proceed. Lu Yin felt a bit of regret, but he was not surprised. After a moment's thought, he took another sip and continued.

The second sip of the tea allowed him to deduce up to 320 Stacks, but he found that he still had not reached the limits of his physical strength.

Lu Yin had only become a peak Hunter after entering the Perennial World. There, he had opened his lower meridian point and also tempered his body with dragon saliva. In the Hunter realm, Lu Yin estimated that his body could endure the stress of up to 300 Stacks. But after his breakthrough to the Enlighter realm, his physical strength had risen once more, and that was even ignoring the increase granted by the opening of his middle and upper meridian points.

After everything was taken into account, especially the increased strength from opening all three meridian points, Lu Yin did not actually know how strong his body had become. Regardless, he was at least confident that he could shatter the void with a punch. If Lu Yin had to fight Uncle Kuang again, a single punch would be enough to make the Envoy doubt his very existence.

The third sip of the tea made with the Root of Intelligence only allowed Lu Yin to deduce up to 350 Stacks, a total of a hundred more stacks than his previous limit. This was not a minor increase, and the strength of his attacks would be incomparable to before.

After reaching 350 Stacks, Lu Yin felt a bit of an ache in his arm, which indicated that he had reached his current limits. The Root of Intelligence had been enough for him to reach his new physical limits once more.

Lu Yin let out a long breath and looked down at this hand while a smile spread across his face. 350 Stacks was a scary thought. If he had possessed this level of strength before, he could have breezed through all of ZENITH and even the Forgotten Ruins without ever needing to use his God of Death Transformation. He was now capable of casually beating all of the Junior Progenitors!

250 Stacks had been enough to make the Junior Progenitors jealous, but they had still been able to disregard his Vacuum Palm after utilizing their visualization method. However, 350 Stacks was something that they could not ignore no matter how much they boosted their strength.

Lu Yin could not wait to test his new strength out.

He realized that he still had some extra time in the Timestop Space. He remembered that the Ghost Monkey had been able to appear in this space, so what about the people on Zenith Mountain?

As soon as he thought about it, Lu Yin brought Zenith Mountain out of his cosmic ring and examined it.

Eight people had been placed on the mountain, and Lu Yin could see that none of them were that close to each other. There was no evidence of fighting, but everyone was clearly wary of the others.

Lu Yin stepped forward and entered the mountain. The first person he went to find was Long Xi.

When she saw Lu Yin approach, Long Xi's eyebrows shot up. Her amber eyes instantly changed from calm to rage. She used the White Dragon's Transformation and instantly attacked.

Lu Yin pursed his lips and rolled his eyes. He flicked a finger, and there was a bang as Long Xi's spear shattered while his star energy suppressed the residual force of Long Xi's attack. She retreated a few steps and stared at Lu Yin in shock. "You- your strength?"

Lu Yin felt proud of himself. This was not something that he often exhibited in front of others, but he had an urge to show off a bit in front of Long Xi. "What do you think? Isn't it amazing?"

Long Xi was in shock. Although the person in front of her had been strong enough to confront the Junior Progenitors head on and even defeat them in a one-on-one battle in the Dominion Realm, his strength had only been on the same level as a Junior Progenitor before his strange transformation. However, at this moment, a casual response from him had shattered her spear, dispersed her attack, and even suppressed her follow-up attack.

This was something that was even beyond her big brother. Clearly, this person had improved tremendously.

"You're an Enlighter now?" Long Xi said solemnly.

Lu Yin smiled. "More than just that. I've opened all three of my meridian points."

Long Xi frowned. She took several deep breaths but stayed silent.

Lu Yin stared back at Long Xi. "You don't even want to know what happens after you open the third meridian point?"

"That has nothing to do with me," Long Xi replied indifferently.

Lu Yin felt helpless. This was a very boring reaction.

"How's my big brother?" Long Xi asked.

Lu Yin shrugged. "He's still stuck, but he's fine."

Long Xi stared at Lu Yin. "You'll only release us after you get back to the Forsaken Land."

Lu Yin nodded. "I can't keep you trapped forever, but also, if I can't go back, I can't let you out. But don't worry. You're my wife, so I'll always come to keep you company."

Long Xi became upset. "I am Long Qi's wife. I have no connection to you."

"I am Long Qi," Lu Yin retorted.

Long Xi snapped back, "No, you're not."

"Yes, I am."

"No."

"Yes."

Long Xi glared at Lu Yin. He actually shivered out of instinct, as he felt rather guilty. He had been intimidated by Long Xi in the past, and such guilt had become a conditioned response.

"Who the hell are you?" Long Xi finally asked. She had wanted to ask this question for a long time.

Lu Yin grew curious. "Unseen Light and the others didn't say anything?"

Long Xi fell silent.

Lu Yin stared off into the distance. Apparently, none of the people on Zenith Mountain had interacted after he had sent them here. Well, to be fair, Long Xi and the others could be considered prisoners, and that would not change just from interacting with Unseen Light, so any communication was actually quite meaningless. "My name is Lu Yin. I'm the master of the Outerverse in the Fifth Mainland."

Lu Yin? Long Xi was shocked, and she gazed at Lu Yin in surprise. "Your surname is Lu?"

Lu Yin smiled. "Thank you for not asking me my name in the beginning, as that would have been a big problem."

Long Xi studied Lu Yin, especially focusing on his face. Suddenly, his image overlapped with that of another person who was also surnamed Lu. The Lu surname... Could this be the same person? Long Xi had noticed a resemblance in the beginning, and this person could be him.

After observing Lu Yin for a long while, a wry smile suddenly appeared on Long Xi's face. How could Lu Yin be that person? He was already dead. He could never return.

While the Lu surname had been purged from the Perennial World, there should be many people with that surname in the Forsaken Land. Complicated emotions flickered through Long Xi's eyes; it would be wonderful if he came back.

Suddenly, beams of golden light appeared beneath Lu Yin's feet, and they quickly formed layers of light that wrapped around Lu Yin. They formed seven layers of ancient characters, and at the same time, smoke fell upon Lu Yin and formed chains that wrapped around the Literary Prison. Wen Diyi and Yun Tingting had appeared and were working together to trap Lu Yin.

"Princess Long Xi, hurry up and use White Dragon Surveying the Sky!" Yun Tingting shouted.

Long Xi did not move a muscle. In the past, she absolutely would have attacked, but was there any point at all given Lu Yin's current strength? They were even trapped within his treasure, so anything that they did was useless. Also, Lu Yin's true surname had eliminated Long Xi's desire to attack.

"PRINCESS LONG XI!" Yun Tingting shouted fiercely.

Lu Yin laughed. He merely clenched both of his fists, and there was a bang as the Seven-Layered Literary Prison shattered while the smoke was torn apart. Lu Yin casually swept the smoke away as though clearing away a piece of torn paper.

Some distance away, Wen Diyi and Yun Tingting were both startled. How was this even possible? Not even a Junior Progenitor could break free from their combo that easily. Bai Shaohong had once been sealed within a Seven-Layered Literary Prison, and it had taken him a bit of time to break free.

"Alright, knock it off. Your attacks are useless against me," Lu Yin said as he looked over at Wen Diyi and Yun Tingting.

Both of their expressions changed, and they helplessly glanced at each other.

"Long Qi, you don't want to take us to the Forsaken Land," Yun Tingting warned. She looked like a gentle girl with a mild personality, but her words were sharp.

Lu Yin laughed. "We're already in the Forsaken Land!"

"What?" Yun Tingting's face went pale as she glared at Lu Yin in fury.

Wen Diyi grew bitter. "I've entered the Forsaken Land. I'll never be able to return in this life."

Lu Yin felt rather curious. "Brother Wen, what is your impression of the Forsaken Land?"

Wen Diyi replied, "It's a place with no resources. There are diverse cultures and civilizations, but their cultivation is broken. It's an outside territory that belongs to the Perennial World, but it has been forsaken since it's a cultivation wasteland."

Lu Yin looked over at Yun Tingting.

Yun Tingting had fallen into a foul mood. "It's a place for people to sit around and stare at the sky."

Finally, Lu Yin turned to Long Xi, but she completely ignored him.

Lu Yin pursed his lips. "Actually, the Forsaken Land is a place formed from the fusion of five mainlands, and it has numerous inheritances."

"It doesn't matter. Their cultivation system is broken, so it's pointless no matter how many inheritances they may have," Wen Diyi replied.

Lu Yin stared at him. "Then what about me?"

The people were all stunned.

Lu Yin smiled casually. "Think about it. Is the Forsaken Land really the place that you've described? A cultivation wasteland? I, Lu Yin, stand above all of my peers in the Fifth Mainland. I have the highest level of cultivation of anyone in our generation in the Forsaken Land as well as here in the Perennial World. I have already opened all three of my meridian points. In the future, I'll become a Progenitor. This is one of the cultivators from what you refer to as the 'Forsaken Land.' The Fifth mainland has had many Semi-Progenitors, and even Origin Matter. In the future, we will give rise to more Progenitors, and even your Perennial World might not be able to defeat us in time."

After speaking, Lu Yin remembered what Bai Shaohong had said, and Lu Yin's eyes grew hard. "Maybe, you will end up being suppressed by us."

After that, Lu Yin disappeared.

Frozen in place, Wen Diyi shouted, "His surname is Lu?"

Yun Tingting's expression changed, and she turned to look at Long Xi. "Did you know that his surname was Lu before this?"

Long Xi answered softly, "I just found out, too."

Wen Diyi's expression grew complicated. While this person had the Lu surname, he could not be from that Lu family. They had already been exiled, and there were no survivors. The Forsaken Land most likely had many people with the Lu surname.

Wen Diyi shook his head. He could not help but think how great it would be if this Lu Yin was from that Lu family.

Lu Yin did not leave Zenith Mountain, but rather went to find Crown Prince Gui Qian.

The prince was capable of making the environment dark and gloomy wherever he went. Lu Yin looked and saw black air above his head, and even the stones had turned black. It was rather odd.

"Come out. This is my world, so I know exactly where you are," Lu Yin spoke in a casual tone.

Crown Prince Gui Qian emerged from the shadows. His strange eyes focused on Lu Yin, and he spoke with a hoarse voice. "Are we in the Forsaken Land?"

"No," Lu Yin said.

The prince stared at Lu Yin. "How did you manage to cultivate that power?"

Lu Yin countered, "Do you have to absorb your death energy, or are you able to produce it yourself?"

The prince stayed silent.

"You don't want to answer?" Lu Yin's voice grew cold.

"You have received the God of Death's inheritance," Crown Prince Gui Qian said. His strange eyes turned golden, and chills ran down Lu Yin's back. Suddenly, the black and white mist within his heart twitched, and the prince's body became shrouded with death energy. There was a pull, and the death energy was consumed by Lu Yin.

The prince was startled, and he immediately backed up while keeping wary eyes locked onto Lu Yin. There was disbelief and fear hidden deep within his eyes, as well as a strong reluctance.

Lu Yin moved forward step by step.

Chapter 1472: Sparring

Crown Prince Gui Qian stepped back once more. "What the hell do you want?"

"I already asked you a question. Do you absorb your death energy from somewhere else, or do you make it yourself?" Lu Yin asked coldly.

The prince gritted his teeth. "You have to absorb it. No one can make death energy."

Lu Yin frowned. "Then where did you absorb it?"

"Specter Abyss," the prince replied.

"And outside of Specter Abyss? Is there no other place in this universe where you can find death energy?" Lu Yin pressed.

Crown Prince Gui Qian gave Lu Yin a very odd look. "Seeing as how you're the God of Death's heir, and since he was the only person who was ever able to produce death energy, why are you asking me this?"

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. Producing death energy? He was not able to do such a thing.

"The God of Death is the source of all death energy. It's not something that naturally exists in the universe, and my clan just relies on the death energy that already exists. We're certainly not the masters of the energy," the prince explained.

Lu Yin remembered the Fifth Mainland's Specter Clan, and the same was true of them. The Specter Clan could transform ordinary cultivators and allow them to absorb death energy. In theory, anyone could absorb death energy, but they would lose control of themselves. The Specter Clan had been around for eons, and their descendants had grown more and more accustomed to death energy until they became a unique race. The same seemed to be true of the Perennial World's Specter Abyss.

It was even possible that Specter Abyss was the Specter Clan.

"You should go to Specter Abyss, as you could become the master of Specter Abyss," the prince suddenly suggested. There was a frenzied look in his eyes that made it look like he had just understood something and was getting more and more excited about it.

Lu Yin sneered. "Do you think that I'm stupid? If I go to Specter Abyss, my life or death will be determined by you."

The prince quickly responded, "You can't just obtain the God of Death's inheritance through cultivation. No one can seize that inheritance from you. Since you are the God of Death's heir, you are the master of my Specter Abyss. We're the only ones who can help in your cultivation. In the future, you will become a Progenitor just like the God of Death, who was the from the most ancient era of Progenitors. That person was truly an invincible powerhouse, so my Specter Abyss will do our best to help you."

Lu Yin did not believe this claim.

"Long Qi, believe me! Specter Abyss will truly help you!" the prince urged.

Lu Yin stared at him. "First, you were wary of me, but now, you're saying that you'll do everything possible to help me. Do you really think that I'd believe such a change?"

Crown Prince Gui Qian grew solemn. "I was merely unwilling to see the God of Death's inheritance that my family has been chasing after for countless years be picked up by an outsider like you. However, the God of Death's inheritance can't be stolen. You're the one who received this chance to become the God of Death's heir, so there is only one path open to my Specter Abyss: help you become a Progenitor. Once that happens, there will be no one in the entire universe who will be your opponent."

"I'm a trespasser from the Forsaken Land," Lu Yin argued.

The prince replied in a loud voice, "My Specter Abyss is feared by everyone in the Perennial World! The four ruling powers suppress us and prevent us from appearing in the open. We are constantly being watched by many Progenitors. Even if we have our own Progenitor, that person is not able to make a move. You're the only person—the only one!—who can lead us out into the open. What of the Forsaken Land? What does that have to do with us? Actually, to a certain extent, we share a common enemy: the four ruling powers."

Lu Yin still did not believe Crown Prince Gui Qian, and Lu Yin was actually wondering why this person felt that they could trick him with such an unreliable face.

However, what the prince had said about the God of Death's inheritance had caused Lu Yin to believe that his God of Death transformation was not truly the God of Death's inheritance!

If only the God of Death could create death energy, then what about the death energy that Lu Yin had managed to create by himself? Lu Yin did not continue the conversation with the prince, as he wanted to mull over this new information.

Instead, Lu Yin went to see Yuhua Mavis.

Yuhua Mavis looked up at Lu Yin. "Are we back?"

Lu Yin shook his head. "I can't go back for now since I'm being watched."

"Were you exposed?" Yuhua Mavis was surprised.

Lu Yin replied, "I don't know, but basically, I've got some strange old man keeping an eye on me."

Yuhua Mavis gave Lu Yin a strange look. "Why'd you come looking for me?"

Lu Yin smiled. "I've broken through and become an Enlightener, and I also opened all three meridian points. I wanted to test things out with you."

Yuhua Mavis's eyes narrowed. "You want to fight?"

Lu Yin's brows rose. "Are you certain?"

Yuhua Mavis snorted derisively, and grass spread out from beneath her feet. It grew quickly and then formed countless fists that fell.

Lu Yin showed a slight smile. "You should take this seriously. Even I don't know how strong I've become."

He then waved his hand, and a powerful wind swept out. It sliced through the void and shattered all of the grass fists.

In front of Lu Yin, Yuhua Mavis threw out a punch. Her eyes had grown heated, and she actually looked desperate. She was feeling quite offended. Lu Yin had become an Enlighter, and he had therefore sought her out to test his strength. He was using her as a scale to measure himself, which felt like he was looking down upon her. Her reflexive reaction had been to retaliate with her full strength.

Lu Yin raised a hand. He did not use a Vacuum Palm, or even the Overlaying Stacks Path. Rather, he merely responded with pure and simple physical strength.

There was a tremendous boom, and the void twisted as a shockwave spread out. Lu Yin had grabbed a hold of Yuhua's fist, just as he had done during ZENITH. The difference was that, previously, Lu Yin had also needed to throw Yuhua Mavis after catching her fist, and that was no longer necessary.

He had firmly grabbed her fist, and she was unable to break free of him. She stomped a bare foot against Lu Yin's chest in an attempt to pull her fist back in vain. Without any other choice, she gritted her teeth, emitted a green light that formed branches and leaves that covered her entire body, and finally, formed a leaf emblem on her forehead. She had used Infinite Power. The image of a tree appeared behind her body.

Yuhua Mavis let out a sigh and stomped a bare foot against Lu Yin's body once more in another attempt to break free. Lu Yin felt the strength of her kick, and ten lined battle force slowly spread across his arms.

Yuhua Mavis was still unable to break free, and her knee snapped up to strike Lu Yin in the face. He blocked her attack with his left hand and then flicked her knee with a finger. This tiny attack caused Yuhua Mavis's leg to go numb, and her movements faltered. Lu Yin took advantage of this opportunity to open his hand, and Yuhua Mavis collapsed to the ground.

She stood there, panting heavily as she stared at Lu Yin in shock. When had the gap between them grown so exaggerated?

During ZENITH, Yuhua Mavis had managed to fight off Lu Yin's 250 Stack Vacuum Palms by using Infinite Power. Lu Yin's improvement since then had been simply absurd.

Even if Lu Yin had not become an Enlighter or opened his three meridian points, his golden battle force alone was enough to create a distinct gap in their power. His breakthrough had amplified that difference to a frightening degree.

The gap between Lu Yin and Yuhua Mavis had become too wide for her to overcome.

She was no longer able to put up a defense that could resist his punches, and she could not even endure a single strike. If Lu Yin used 350 Stacks, it would shatter Yuhua Mavis to pieces.

"Monster." This was the only response that even Yuhua Mavis could come up with at this moment.

Lu Yin looked down at his right hand. "You're really strong."

Yuhua Mavis frowned. "Are you mocking me?"

Lu Yin smiled dryly. "Admiring."

"That's not what it sounds like," Yuhua Mavis replied, "If we haven't returned yet, then I'm going to go train."

Lu Yin felt somewhat torn. He had actually approached Yuhua Mavis with an ulterior motive, which was to take out a loan. She was still a member of the Mavis family, so she should naturally be quite wealthy. However, she seemed quite upset and offended due to his actions just now.

Lu Yin let out an awkward cough. "Then I'll stop by to see you next time."

Yuhua Mavis turned away from Lu Yin, not even wanting to look at him. If she was honest, their brief spar had been quite a blow to her confidence.

After Lu Yin left, Unseen Light appeared. "That really is a massive gap. Now, even if he doesn't use that transformation, he could still beat any of the Junior Progenitors."

Yuhua Mavis casually replied, "Just don't include him in any comparisons."

Unseen Light felt that that was only natural. He was rather shocked at Lu Yin's newfound strength.

Lu Yin put Zenith Mountain away and brought out his Champions' Stage. His second innate gift was something that he rarely used, as he could not use it in front of others, especially in the Perennial World.

Bai Shaohong had instantly confirmed Lu Yin's identity the moment he had seen the Champions' Stage. That had made Lu Yin quite confident that this innate gift was the symbol of the Lu family. If he revealed the stage, he would shock the entire universe.

"With my name, I summon a Champion," Lu Yin whispered. His star energy was sucked out of his body, and Bai Shaohong appeared in front of Lu Yin. The Junior Progenitor quietly stood there, looking exactly the same as he had before his death. However, he possessed no intelligence, and his body was formed from Lu Yin's star energy. Still, the Champion possessed the same strength as the deceased Junior Progenitor.

"Go!" Lu Yin ordered. Bai Shaohong's head snapped up, and he pointed a finger: Celestial Being Shows the Way. Lu Yin also raised a hand, and he flicked a finger. The wind from Lu Yin's finger shattered Bai Shaohong's attack, and in response, the Champion pressed a hand down. Clouds appeared in the sky and fell towards the ground. Secret Technique: Cloud Fall.

Lu Yin's star energy reserves plummeted when the secret technique was used. After all, every attack that Bai Shaohong used was powered by Lu Yin's own star energy.

The Cloud Fall Secret Technique froze Lu Yin, and the phantom image of the celestial pond appeared behind Bai Shaohong.

The Champion attacked with another finger attack, but this one was completely different from the previous one. Lu Yin watched as the water level in the phantom pond dropped at a noticeable rate.

As that occurred, Lu Yin's star energy dropped.

Facing a Celestial Being Shows the Way that was reinforced with Bai Shaohong's visualization method, Lu Yin lifted a hand and retaliated with a Vacuum Palm.

There was a snort as Bai Shaohong's finger shattered. The damage spread to his arm, and it eventually spread across half of his body. Even if Lu Yin had been against the original Junior Progenitor, this attack would have been enough to seriously injure Bai Shaohong.

In this instance, Bai Shaohong looked up and stared at Lu Yin. Lu Yin suddenly saw Ming Yan looking at him with sad eyes. Lu Yin's heart skipped a beat, and Bai Shaohong took that moment to unleash a Void Rip.

A black line swept forward. Lu Yin recited the Stonewall Scriptures to break free of Bai Shaohong's innate gift, and he threw out another attack, still using the Vacuum Palm.

During their previous confrontation, Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm had not been powerful enough to overwhelm Bai Shaohong's Void Rip, but at this moment, Lu Yin's attack twisted the Void Rip before finally tearing it apart. The shockwave proceeded forward and destroyed what was left of Bai Shaohong's body.

Complete suppression. That was Lu Yin's new evaluation of himself against a Junior Progenitor. Even though Lu Yin had only faced a Bai Shaohong who had been summoned by the Champions' Stage that had no intelligence, there was still a very noticeable gap in strength. Lu Yin believed that he would be able to completely suppress the Junior Progenitor now.

This was Lu Yin's new level of strength.

The summoned Champion and the battle had consumed almost a tenth of Lu Yin's star energy reserves.

He did some math. If a full powered Bai Shaohong that used his innate gift, secret techniques, battle techniques, and all his other abilities only drained about a tenth of Lu Yin's resources, then Lu Yin could simultaneously summon the Giant Emperor and even more.

Also, this was only taking into account Lu Yin's current star energy reserves. As they increased, he would be able to summon more and more Champions.

It had to be acknowledged that Bai Shaohong had not been an ordinary cultivator. He had actually been second only to Lu Yin within their generation. While Lu Yin did not know how much star energy it would take to summon an Envoy, he had his suspicions. Thus, he felt that he should find an Envoy to be his next Champion.

Chapter 1473: Unknown Informant

As he looked at his Champions' Stage, Lu Yin suddenly understood why the Lu family had been the original masters of the Perennial World. If all the members of this family had possessed this particular innate gift, then they would have been terrifying beyond belief. A single family member would have been able to stand against an entire force.

The scenery changed around Lu Yin, and he returned to reality. He let out a long breath. After this session in the Timestop Space, he had gained a much better understanding of his current strength.

It appeared that it was no longer reasonable for him to compete with his peers.

Two days passed by in relative peace, though people continued to apply to join Huaiyuan Gate. Naturally, this led to an improvement of Humility's Gate's forces.

After these two days, Cai Shu went to go find Lu Yin. "My master has asked that you return to Qing Chen Mountain to assist in the investigation regarding Yun Mubai's status as a Redback."

Lu Yin asked, "The Supervisor's returned?"

Cai Shuen just snorted before taking out a piece of white paper that he began to fold. Just like when Lu Yin had traveled to Huaiyuan, Cai Shu escorted Lu Yin back to Qing Chen Mountain.

It might have been because of the level of urgency, but the return trip was noticeably faster than their previous journey.

Ahead of him, Lu Yin saw the tall mountain. There were countless people trying their best to climb the mountain, hoping to be able to enter Qing Chen's door.

Lu Yin had been in a similar situation when he had first left the Great Yu Empire to participate in Astral-10's entrance exam. Upon arriving at the location of the exam, Lu Yin had been amazed by the number of participants who had come from the Vastdearth Sect, local filaments, and even nearby weaves. Countless talented youths had gathered there, and at the time, Lu Yin had seen the best that the Outerverse had to offer.

It had been a beautiful moment, as no one hated standing at the top.

"Is the entrance exam for Qing Chen Mountain difficult?" Lu Yin asked, feeling quite curious. This was because not only were there many youths participating, but also quite a few older cultivators.

Cai Shu smiled. "It all depends on the person. For you, the exam couldn't be easier, but for others, they'll never be able to pass the test throughout their entire lives."

Lu Yin looked down in time just to see an old man vomit blood and fall. His failure was quite tragic.

"Actually, most of the people you see here are from the Middle Realm's Nine Gates. The best way to enter Master's forces is by obtaining merit points within Humility's Gate. The other option is to gain Master's attention through nothing but raw talent. However, those with sufficient talent are usually more interested in joining one of the four ruling powers," Cai Shu said.

Before long, Lu Yin again saw Qing Chen, to whom he hurriedly bowed. "Your subordinate, Long Qi, Huaiyuan Gate Master, greets Lord Supervisor."

Qing Chen turned around and smiled at Lu Yin. "Long Qi, you've had a breakthrough and become an Enlightener. Very good. Your strength has taken a new leap forward."

Lu Yin solemnly replied, "Thank you for your praise."

Qing Chen nodded. "I went to go visit the four ruling powers."

Lu Yin's expression remained the same as he waited for Qing Chen's next words.

"Regarding your actions during this recent incident, while the results played out well and no one will cause trouble for you because of them, you were still too reckless in this matter. If word of stellar fluid being transported were to be leaked, there would be disastrous consequences. Did you ever consider how to deal with such a situation? If people had not listened to you and had tried to strike you down immediately, I might not have been able to stop them," Qing Chen explained in a low voice.

Lu Yin's eyes remained firm. "Your subordinate did not think about such things. After learning that Yun Mubai was a Redback, all I thought about was how to catch him. Every Redback is a terrible threat to mankind."

Qing Chen smiled gently. "I know your thoughts, as without such motivations, I would have never made an exception to allow you to become the Huaiyuan Gate Master. However, this incident still needs to be explained to the four ruling powers. It's not that your actions were wrong, but rather the process you took. That was the reason why I needed to give an explanation. Without it, someone might have eventually dragged out this incident to create a fuss."

Lu Yin understood what Qing Chen meant. It also was possible that the four ruling powers had not even requested an explanation, but rather that Qing Chen had wanted to offer one.

A mere Hunter had comprehended secret techniques and also possessed power vessels that were dangerous to Envoys, and more than one at that, a youth who had the courage to make threats with stellar liquid to scheme against the sect master of the Smokecloud Sect—ordinary cultivators were not capable of such things. In addition to all that, the question in most people's minds was about how Long Qi had even known that Yun Mubai was a Redback.

Previously, Lu Yin had come up with multiple possible answers, but he had never been able to frame a reasonable response. Since Qing Chen had called Lu Yin to Qing Chen Mountain, Lu Yin could not afford to make a mistake with this matter. An unknown source of information was no longer enough to justify his information.

In the end, Lu Yin had no choice but to trust the old man. That Semi-Progenitor had no reason to harm a youth like Lu Yin. Yun Mubai being a Redback had been an extremely close-kept secret, but the old man had been willing to reveal such a secret to protect Lu Yin from the four ruling powers. If this matter continued to be a problem, then hopefully, the jade pendant that Lu Yin had would be enough to save him.

Qing Chen stared at Lu Yin. He had to get a clear answer from this child.

The Supervisor would not have cared if Lu Yin's source of information had only helped him to capture a few traitors or some unimportant Redbacks, or even the occasional important Redback. However, the Sect Master of the Smokecloud Sect had been exposed this time. This changed everything. This person was a Redback who had been hidden even more deeply than the three Guan brothers, especially since the Smokecloud Sect was backed by the four ruling powers.

It could even be said that Yun Mubai had enjoyed a higher status in the universe than the Guan brothers, but the critical point was that he had been much more important than the Guan brothers. Yun Mubai had definitely been one of the most important Redbacks in the Perennial World.

Qing Chen had to find out what information source could gather information that was this well hidden so that he could give an explanation to others within Humility's Gate, and also to the four ruling powers.

Lu Yin felt helpless. This was a difficult matter.

Qing Chen asked softly, "Is it so difficult to explain?"

Lu Yin sighed. "The Supervisor has given an order, so this subordinate must obey."

After speaking, he took out the jade pendant and nervously handed it over to Qing Chen.

Qing Chen took the piece of jade and examined it. Suddenly, the pendant cracked and opened up a path to the true universe. The image of an old man and an emblem appeared, and Qing Chen's expression drastically changed in an instant. "A token from Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo?"

Lu Yin was shocked. What? This pendant was from Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo? Wait, could that old man actually be Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo?

No, wasn't Kui Luo already dead? Could that old man actually be a disciple or descendant of Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo? But that still did not seem quite right. After all, the old man was a Semi-Progenitor.

Lu Yin was quite confused for a while.

On the other hand, Qing Chen was not confused at all. He stared as the jade pendant broke apart, entered the true universe, and revealed the emblem. That emblem represented Realmless.

"You've been getting your information from Realmless?" Qing Chen said in surprise.

Lu Yin stayed silent, as he did not know how to answer. Was there a connection between Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo and Realmless?

"Was Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo a part of Realmless?" Qing Chen asked again.

Lu Yin still had no idea how to answer, and he secretly cursed that old man for not saying anything.

However, Qing Chen did not press Lu Yin any further. He saw how the youth hung his head, and the Supervisor assumed that the young man did not dare to admit anything. Qing Chen's tone of voice grew softer as he said, "Don't worry. While Realmless is an assassination organization and there is hatred between us and them, we are not mortal enemies. Thus, co-existence is not impossible. You used a token of Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo to extract information from Realmless, which is no crime."

Lu Yin let out a sigh of relief. "Your subordinate understands."

Qing Chen sighed. "I never even considered the possibility that Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo might be connected to Realmless, but you were able to get information from them with his token. It would appear that he does not lead Realmless, so it makes sense that you were not able to get too much information from them in the beginning. Redbacks actually usually hire Realmless to assassinate members of my Humility's Gate, and there are signs of Redbacks within Realmless as well, but we're lucky to get any information at all about those matters. You are truly fortunate to have gained Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo's inheritance, though it will also bring you much trouble."

Lu Yin had no desire to continue talking about Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo, as Lu Yin was afraid of having his secrets revealed. "Supervisor, if Realmless is able to find Redbacks, then why don't we just investigate Realmless?"

Qing Chen felt helpless. "This is something that we have tried to do several times, but Realmless is too secretive. Investigating Realmless is just as difficult as uncovering a Redback. Even after so many years of going over things again and again, it is impossible for us to completely eliminate Realmless. Also, the relationship between Realmless and the four ruling powers is a bit murky, but the takeaway is that you don't need to worry much about this."

Lu Yin spoke up in an angry voice, "Instead of helping humanity work together to defend ourselves, are there actually people in the four ruling powers who work with Realmless? That's shameful! Those people should be eliminated."

"Careful," Qing Chen solemnly warned. He looked at Lu Yin's face that was filled with anger and sadness. "I understand that you're angry, but there are certain matters that I cannot deal with, so just don't dwell on it."

Qing Chen then gave the jade pendant back to Lu Yin while saying, "All you need to do is continue harvesting information from Realmless and expose more Redbacks and traitors for Humility's Gate. That is enough."

Lu Yin replied respectfully, "Your subordinate hears his orders."

Qing Chen let out a sigh of thanks. "While many people will hate you for receiving Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo's inheritance, and even though you've also created a lot of trouble yourself, you have actually gained much from these difficulties, and you have removed many problems for me. I will report this matter to Lord Commander. Long Qi, continue to do well and gain merit, but don't do anything too outrageous. I cannot help you with the four ruling powers, but you can call me directly if anything happens in the future."

Lu Yin felt encouraged. "Yes, Supervisor."

Qing Chen was satisfied. The longer he observed Long Qi, the more satisfied he was with the youth. Everyone who joined Humility's Gate desired to serve mankind, but often, there were many schemes, and many people were not able to resist certain temptations. Not everyone had Long Qi's fearlessness.

Most people, even if they discovered that Yun Mubai was a Redback, would lack the courage to expose him? Many might even convince themselves that the truth was a lie instead of risking the wrath of the four ruling powers.

Long Qi was a rare person who was fearless. Qing Chen did not want anything untoward to happen to this child, if possible, but he was also the best option to lure out Shaman God.

"Long Qi, you must remember to always be careful and to not leave Cai Shu's protection. I hope that you will not always just be an acting Gate Master, but a true Gate Master in the future. In fact, I even hope for you to take over for me and become the Nine Gates' Supervisor. Do you understand?"

Qing Chen was speaking from the heart. Lu Yin felt the old man's sincerity and bowed low. "Your subordinate understands."

"Very well. Return and get some rest for the time being. Remember, call me directly if anything comes up." Qing Chen patted Lu Yin on the shoulder, which was a very intimate gesture towards a youth. Qing Chen had already come to regard Long Qi as one of his own. Qing Chen was actually struggling to endure, as he wanted to accept Long Qi as his own disciple, but he had to wait. After all, Long Qi was still the White Dragon Clan's son-in-law, which made this a very delicate situation.

As they returned to Huaiyuan Gate, Lu Yin noticed that Cai Shu's attitude towards him had changed.

The Envoy had always been kind to Lu Yin while maintaining a certain distance. This was normal behavior, as they two had not known each other for very long. However, Lu Yin found that this natural distance had now disappeared.

The most obvious example was that Cai Shu was expressing his personal feelings regarding how the four ruling powers harvested and used stellar liquid.

Chapter 1474: Dispute

"There have been many debates in the past regarding stellar liquid. Some people believe that it is not only the Mother Tree's nutrients, but also a shortcut specially provided to humanity to allow us to speed up our cultivation rate. Any Envoy can quickly and easily raise their cultivation level with stellar liquid, and all they need to overcome are their tribulations. However, more people believe that we should rely on ourselves to improve our cultivation and that stellar liquid should not be touched. They claim that if too much of it is gathered and used, it will cause the Mother Tree to wither."

"These two opposing sides have argued over this topic for many, many years, and supporters of both sides still exist now. However, in the past, the Lu family ruled the Perennial World, and their opinion was that stellar liquid could not be touched. No matter how convincing the arguments for the usage of stellar liquid might be, they were all useless. With the Lu family forbidding the use of stellar liquid, no one could touch it and all who did were executed, even Progenitors."

"However, with the Lu family's exile, the debate has ended. This is because those who support the use of stellar liquid have started secretly using it. There's no need for them to argue, as they only need to act on their desires..." Cai Shu slowly explained the history and controversy concerning stellar liquid.

Lu Yin listened in silence. It sounded like most of the people who promoted the use of stellar liquid were a part of the four ruling powers.

"If the Lu family still reigned, then the four ruling powers would not dare to touch stellar liquid even if their courage was increased a hundredfold," Cai Shu commented emotionally.

It was clear from his tone of voice that Cai Shu was of the opinion that stellar liquid should not be touched or used as it risked destroying the Mother Tree itself.

"If humans destroy the Mother Tree due to their use of stellar liquid, how is there any difference between us and those parasites in the Lower Realm?" Lu Yin asked.

Cai Shu agreed. "Yes. You, Master, and I, as well as most people in this universe, and even the exiled Lu family, all feel this way. The Mother Tree is the foundation of our very universe and humanity itself, but the four ruling powers are killing the Mother Tree by harvesting stellar liquid. They have no right to destroy the very foundation of our existence."

"And yet, there is no one who can stop them from doing so." Lu Yin smiled wryly.

Cai Shu fell silent. Then, he replied in a complicated tone, "Actually, there are people who cultivate with stellar liquid simply because they lack strength. They have no desire to kill the Mother Tree. Instead, they simply want to become stronger in order to fight against those monsters. Cultivating with stellar liquid in order to fight off those monsters or relying on the Mother Tree to fight them off are ultimately the two different paths that are at the base of all of these arguments."

Lu Yin suddenly asked, "Was the Lu family from back then very powerful?"

Cai Shu was shocked by the question, and he replied in a somber voice, "One person is as strong as a nation; one person can lord over all—this is a description of the Lu family. All of the family's direct descendants deserved this reputation, as the Lu family alone was able to suppress the entire Perennial World, which possessed a level of strength that shocked those monsters."

"If that's the case, then why did the four ruling powers exile the Lu family? How did they even pull it off? And why?" Lu Yin was impatient for answers.

Cai Shu shook his head. "It's impossible to predict people's hearts and ambitions, and no one can see through others. Also, the Lu family was always too arrogant."

After that, the Envoy would say no more.

Lu Yin did not ask any more questions, as he was afraid that further questions would betray his identity.

While Cai Shu had not been too open with his words, Lu Yin was still able to sense that the Envoy supported the Lu family. However, the current political climate meant that anyone with a connection to the Lu family would be carefully watched, and no one dared to say too much.

One person is as strong as a nation; one person can lord over all. Lu Yin had come from another universe, but he had never heard such a phrase used to describe anyone. For this phrase to have been common, then just how amazing had the Lu family been? It was clear that this was referencing the Champions' Stage.

Lu Yin's lost memories were definitely related to the Perennial World and the Lu family.

He clenched his fists tightly. He had to uncover the truth of what had happened back then, as well as who had been the hand in the shadows directing the Lu family's exile.

Upon returning to Huaiyuan Gate, there were already people waiting to meet with Lu Yin, even Envoys.

If Lu Yin had met such people before he had become an Enlightener, he would have been eager to gain such a subordinate, and he definitely would have taken the time to meet with the Envoy, but he no longer felt such pressure. Unless this Envoy was someone with the strength of Long Kui, there was no need to meet with them. Given Lu Yin's current status, would anyone dare to be offended by such rudeness?

Whenever powerhouses met Lu Yin, they all only wanted to ask him about Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo. But now, Lu Yin had become the curious one. Thus, as soon as Lu Yin returned, he went to find the old man.

"So? Did things go well?" the old man asked with a smile. He looked very happy.

Lu Yin replied with a question, "Who is senior? You wouldn't be Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo himself, right?"

The old man rolled his eyes. "That guy's dead. How could anyone stay alive after offending the entire Perennial World?"

"Then what's with this jade pendant?" Lu Yin wondered.

The old man replied. "It's just a token. Use it."

"Is senior is someone from Realmless?" Lu Yin stared intently at the old man.

The old man just laughed. "If I was a part of Realmless, you would've died a long time ago, kid."

Lu Yin frowned. What else could he ask?

The old man interrupted Lu Yin's thoughts. "Alright, that's enough questions. This old man's not even going to answer anything else you ask, I'll just tell you what I need to when I need to."

The old man then wrote a name in the air. "Go find this person. He's a traitor."

"No."

The old man gave a strange smile. "You don't want to go? Okay. Then this old man will go and tell this person that he's been exposed so that he can escape as soon as possible. Then, there will be rumors of how Gate Master Long allowed a traitor to escape. Maybe he was careless? Could there have been two? Or even three? Qing Chen will definitely come find you at that time, and those who are after you due to your connection to Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo will also find ways to make trouble, not to mention the four ruling powers.

"Humility's Gate always rewards those who accomplish great deeds, but they also harshly punish anyone who leaks information."

Lu Yin's eyes grew sharp. "How many hidden people could senior know of?"

"Not too many. Maybe a dozen to twenty."

Lu Yin was quite surprised, and he blurted out, "You're not a Redback yourself, right?"

This was the only explanation he could think of, as how else could this old man know about so many traitors? The other option was that the old man was part of Realmless.

The old man just rolled his eyes. "You're just guessing. This old man has been in this universe for so many years. Is it really strange that I managed to find a few traitors with my strength as a Semi-Progenitor? Do you have any idea just how many traitors Qing Chen exposes every year? At least thirty. Do you have any idea just how many traitors there are in this universe?"

At this moment, the old man suddenly grew serious. "No fewer than a couple thousand."

Lu Yin's fingers twitched.

"You know that humanity is in a tough situation. Those monsters are as intelligent as humans if not more, and they have many underhanded means as well. They're willing to brazenly raise Redbacks and traitors. Honestly, telling you that there are a couple thousand is just the most conservative estimate.

After humanity loses to those monsters, I don't have a clue how many Redbacks and traitors will reveal themselves. Why else do you think Humility's Gate possesses so much power and is even bold enough to challenge the four ruling powers? Why are there so many powerful Progenitors supporting this organization?" the old man challenged.

Lu Yin remembered the Neohuman Alliance. The Perennial World was not that bad. Redbacks and traitors hid themselves here, as they would absolutely be killed as soon as they were found. However, in the Fifth Mainland, those monsters had built up the Neohuman Alliance due to the number of Redbacks and traitors that they had recruited. Not even the Hall of Honor was able to stop the Neohuman Alliance, which was the saddest thing.

Even though the entire universe treated the Neohuman Alliance as an enemy, and any that were discovered were killed, what did it matter? The Neohuman Alliance still stood strong. Aeturnus Nation might have been destroyed by the Progenitor of Secret Arts, but Lu Yin was fully confident that the Neohuman Alliance would build another Aeturnus Nation soon. It was even possible that they had more than one to begin with.

"Supervisor Qing Chen arrests no less than thirty traitors a year?" Lu Yin asked.

The old man nodded.

Lu Yin pursed his lips. "Senior, you've been wasting your years if you've only exposed a dozen to twenty."

The old man choked. "This old man is humble! Don't you understand modesty?"

"So does senior only want this junior to gain achievements with Humility's Gate for now?" Lu Yin asked.

The old man arched a brow. "You don't have to do it—you can just give it a try. It's not a big deal, and this old man will just find someone else. As for you, hehe, you can just wait around for Qing Chen to start questioning you. Without this old man's help, I wonder how you'll explain yourself to him next time."

Lu Yin's eyes flickered. He thought for a bit, and then took a step to leave. "It's time to arrest a traitor."

"Good luck! By the way, don't try to be sneaky and run back to that place where you can return. This old man's watching you, haha!" The old man smiled, clearly proud of himself.

Lu Yin no longer cared about the old man's motivations. There was no downside to arresting traitors, and even if it did turn out to be a problem, Lu Yin could always just summon his master to settle the situation. For this next bit of time, Lu Yin intended to investigate what had happened to the Lu family, but there was something even more important to do; Lu Yin was broke again! And while he was arresting traitors, it should not be too difficult to make some money along the way!

Closeby Huaiyuan, and a bit to the east, was a place called Blue Moon.

The Middle Realm was massive, and Humility's Gate had divided the Middle Realm into nine regions overseen by the Nine Gates, but in reality, there was no exclusive jurisdiction within the Middle Realm.

In the Blue Moon District, there was a family surnamed Shangling.

On one particular day, a new person had risen to the top of the Shangling clan, and the new matriarch was a young woman named Shangling Wan.

It was normally impossible for such a young woman to become the clan matriarch, but the previous patriarch had died while fighting against other families for resources. Thus, Shangling Wan had been forced to take over for the deceased patriarch; otherwise, others would seize the position.

Shangling Wan was a young woman, and she was not even a Cruiser yet. She could not be considered an elite within her own generation, let alone strong enough to run her clan.

Naturally, she was harassed by the clan elders the very day that she took the position of matriarch.

Shangling Wan had a very ordinary appearance, and she looked like she was nothing more than the daughter of a rich household. This would be fine for a normal family, but it made her look unconvincing as the new matriarch.

"Matriarch, you and Xiao Tian were childhood sweethearts, and you've maintained a good relationship since then. It's not cheapening yourself should you choose to marry him," pressed one elder, Elder He.

Near the elder, there was a pale-faced young man. He had wandering eyes and eyebrows that were even more delicate than a woman's, which gave him a rather effeminate appearance. His clothes were red, and he was wearing a pair of red boots that were quite eye-catching. His name was He Tian, and he was He Lao's grandson. The young man was looking at Shangling Wan with a fervent gaze.

There were countless women, and he had chased skirts ever since he was a child. He did not feel anything for Shangling Wan, but that had all changed after she became the clan's matriarch. He never had savored the taste of a matriarch before.

He Tian smiled as he heard He Lao's words, and he spoke up. "Sister Wan, don't worry. If you marry me, I will treat you well."

Elder He smiled at her, and then his eyes swept over the others gathered around. The Shangling clan's elders were all present. Under Elder He's watchful eye, none of the elders dared to say a word. After all, he had the highest combat power of the Shangling clan, and it was akin to controlling the entire family.

Chapter 1475: You Are A Traitor

Shangling Wan's expression turned ugly and she turned to look at He Tian. He was already staring at her with eyes that blazed with excitement.

Shangling Wan frowned, and her expression fell. Naturally, she knew about He Tian. If she did marry him, her life would be over. However, if she did not marry him, he would never let her go. This matter would determine whether or not she would be able to maintain control of the Shangling clan.

The more she thought about her situation, the sadder she became and the more helpless she felt. Finally, she closed her eyes and agreed, "Alright."

Elder He's smile grew even more radiant.

He Tian became so excited that he was almost unable to resist taking Shangling Wan away immediately. The matriarch of a clan; how exciting!

Suddenly, the sky trembled. Visible shockwaves swept through the area, and the entire Shangling clan felt an overwhelming pressure. For a moment, all of them lost control of the star energy within their bodies. Some people tried to enforce their own control, but they ended up nearly vomiting blood.

Everyone grew pale. It felt as though the sky itself was collapsing upon them.

The only thing that Shangling Wan felt was infinite fear. Her fingers went white, and she subconsciously glanced over at Elder He, only to see that the elder was in the same condition as Shangling Wan. The old man looked terrified.

The very next instant, the pressure vanished.

Shangling Wan was soaked through with sweat and she was breathing heavily.

Elder He let out a sigh of relief and unclenched his fingers. "Everyone, don't worry. It was just an Envoy passing by. Such a powerhouse won't cause any trouble for our Shangling clan."

Hearing Elder He's words allowed everyone to relax.

"Are you He Yu?" A voice spoke up, startling everyone. They all spun around to stare at the corner where the voice had come from, and they saw a young man sitting there, watching the clan's gathering.

Shangling Wan was frightened; when had this young man arrived?

Elder He stared at the young man in shock. Fortunately, the old man's many years of experience allowed him to react quickly. His mind raced as he slowly stood up. He showed the slightest hint of a smile as he spoke in a respectful tone, "This little one is He Yu. Might I know what young master requires?"

Others stood up when Elder He rose to his feet. All of them continued to stare at the young man with fear and trepidation.

This young man was, of course, Lu Yin. The name he had received from the old man had been He Yu.

"So this is the Shangling clan? Looks like the information was right. Take him away," Lu Yin casually ordered.

Two members of Humility's Gate entered the door of the room. Both of them were Explorers who had joined Huaiyuan Gate because they idolized Long Qi.

Dozens of people from Humility's Gate had surrounded the Shangling clan's residence, and their appearance caused the clan members to start to panic.

Elder He's expression changed, and he quickly spoke up, "I don't know how this little old man might have offended the young master? I beg the young master to make my offense known."

Lu Yin just looked up and responded in a light tone, "You're a traitor."

Everyone in the Shangling clan was shocked by these words, and Shangling Wan grew pale as she turned to look at Elder He.

Elder He's heart sank. He immediately began to argue, "Young master, you can't be so vicious with your words. Little Yu'er has been part of the Shangling clan for hundreds of years, and I have never betrayed humanity. That's not to mention that Little Yu'er is only an elder of the Shangling clan. Even if I wanted to become a traitor, I don't have the means to do so, as I hold no value. The young master is too naive to try to use this claim to accuse me. Humility's Gate won't allow such an accusation to pass without evidence."

A smile spread across Lu Yin's face, and he suddenly attacked by flicking his finger. The wind from his finger warped the void before striking Elder He straight in the chest. The attack pierced his body and sprayed his blood onto the ground. Elder He's pupils instantly shrank. He was incapacitated by the first attack! He had been prepared, and yet had not been able to make even a single move before the youth had easily beaten him.

"I am Long Qi, acting Gate Master of Huaiyuan Gate." Lu Yin stood, his eyes suddenly solemn. "Does my Humility's Gate need evidence to take action? Take him away."

Elder He spat out blood and shouted in a hoarse voice, "You're from Huaiyuan Gate! You have nothing to do with this place! Gate Master Liu of the Blue Moon Gate won't let you get away with this."

Lu Yin completely ignored the old man. As Elder He's voice grew more and more distant, Lu Yin turned his attention to Shangling Wan, only to be rather surprised. "Are you the Shangling clan's matriarch?"

Shangling Wan had not said a single word throughout everything that had happened, as she had not had the courage to do so. The moment that Lu Yin spoke to the young woman, she hurried to bow and replied respectfully, "Yes. This small one is Shangling Wan, matriarch of the Shangling clan."

"At such a young age?" Lu Yin frowned. He had wanted to make some money from this incident, but the matriarch was such a young woman, and also only a Cruiser. It would be inhumane to try to get any money from her.

A bit disappointed, Lu Yin turned to leave.

"Young Master, please wait a moment," Shangling Wan suddenly spoke up.

Lu Yin stopped, rather puzzled.

Shangling Wan then asked everyone else to leave.

He Tian started to panic, and he spoke to Shangling Wan, "Matriarch, my grandfather-"

"Get out!" Shangling Wan shouted.

He Tian trembled, but did not dare say another word. He had always relied on his grandfather's strength and position to be able to act and didn't dare to say more. He has always relied on his grandfather's power to act without any restraint. He Tian was talented, but he was also known as a little tyrant within the Shangling clan. With his grandfather arrested, his support had disappeared. He could already imagine what the future held for him.

Lu Yin looked at Shangling Wan with interest as he sat back down.

Shangling Wan asked in a respectful tone, "Young Master, is Elder He really a traitor?"

"You're also wanting me to show evidence?" Lu Yin replied.

Shangling Wan quickly denied the possibility, "I would not dare. It's only that Elder He is my Shangling clan's most powerful expert, and his existence is what prevents the nearby families from being bold enough to attack us. My father was killed in a surprise attack due to Elder He's temporary absence. If I also end up being killed, my Shangling clan will likely not be able to survive."

Lu Yin's tone remained light, "None of this has anything to do with me."

Shangling Wan continued to speak respectfully, "Young master has made great contributions to humanity by capturing traitors, and this is naturally the most important thing. My Shangling clan has nothing to do with this, so all we can do is donate some resources to express our feelings.

"Could you wait for a moment, young master?"

Lu Yin grew emotional. Could things really work out so well? Freely offered resources? After thinking for a moment, he tipped back his head and closed his eyes to rest.

Shangling Wan's eyes lit up, and she quickly moved out to gather some resources.

She soon returned to see Lu Yin still resting and let out a sigh of relief. She placed ten cosmic rings on the table. "Thank you, Young Master, for capturing traitors and Redbacks to protect mankind. These gifts show the good will of my Shangling clan. I hope these please the young master."

Lu Yin glanced at what had been delivered and saw that he had been given a few hundred million star essence, which was an impressive sum. He remembered that the Blaze Realm had only possessed a comparable amount of resources, while the Shangling clan did not even have any Envoys. The two could not compare in power, and gathering so much money had likely forced the clan into poverty.

"The Shangling clan has a good heart. Not bad. Not bad," Lu Yin praised. "I will be sure to tell you what happens."

Shangling Wan remained constantly very respectful. "This is nothing much, but might it be possible for my Shangling clan to publicly claim to have discovered something wrong with Elder He and that we took the initiative to contact Young Master to come and arrest him?"

Lu Yin stared at Shangling Wan in amazement. This woman was very smart. She was intending to use Lu Yin's name to intimidate the family members, which would be much more effective than Elder He's presence. People would understand that the Shangling clan had discovered something wrong, and yet instead of contacting the local Blue Moon Gate, they had reached out to the distant Huaiyuan Gate? There could only be one reason for doing so: the Shangling family had an acquaintance within Huaiyuan Gate, or at least someone that they were familiar with.

The deterrence of this understanding would be powerful enough that not one of the neighboring clans would dare offend the Shangling clan.

Offering up a few hundred million star essence to ensure the clan's safety was certainly a cost-effective investment.

While their matriarch was a very young woman, the Shangling clan was still a family of cultivators, and they were not stupid and had some level of ability. The resources available to such a family could not compare to what ordinary people could access.

Lu Yin smiled. "I like dealing with smart people. Yes, but don't say too much, or else you'll face even greater trouble."

With that said, Lu Yin's body disappeared.

Lu Yin himself was no threat, but if Shangling Wan made too much of the matter, outsiders might think that there was a close connection between the two, and that would be dangerous for the young woman. Many people would move to make trouble for the Shangling clan, and none would be individuals the clan could stand up to.

Seeing the empty table, Shangling Wan blew out a long breath and smiled. With this, she would have enough time to develop her family, or at the very least, preserve her clan. She no longer needed to marry that beast He Tian and suffer from Elder He's oppression. This had truly been her lucky day.

There were times that a single thought could trigger a great number of events. If Shangling Wan had not specifically asked Lu Yin to wait, her Shangling clan would never have been able to endure the outside forces, and the neighboring families would have devoured the clan. Resources could be regathered, but there would be nothing left at all if the clan disappeared.

The Shangling clan alone had been able to give Lu Yin hundreds of millions of star essence, which left Lu Yin looking forward to his next arrests.

However, he was also aware that the clan had emptied their pockets to the point of exhausting all savings, and only by doing so had they managed to deliver such a sum. He would likely not be able to gain an equivalent amount from the next traitors he arrested, though it would all depend on whether the traitors belonged to large families or not.

While not many people in the outside world learned of Lu Yin's most recent activities, those within Humility's Gate all knew that he had arrested another traitor.

As Lu Yin made his way back to Huaiyuan Gate with Elder He, a man emerged from the void and blocked Lu Yin's path.

Lu Yin stepped forward as soon as he saw who was before him. "So it's Gate Master Liu. We meet again."

Lu Yin had been stopped by Liu Zhan, the Gate Master of Humility's Gate's Blue Moon Gate. This man was an Envoy, as well as a member of the Liu family which guarded the Sword Monument.

Liu Zhan was a serious person, and he had not said a single word when first meeting Lu Yin when Lu Yin had been on Qing Chen Mountain.

"Gate Master Long, are you certain this person is a traitor?" Liu Zhan looked past Lu Yin at the captive Elder He.

Elder He spoke up in a hoarse voice and yelled, "Gate Master Liu, I'm being framed! This person has no evidence against me! I'm really being framed! I'm not a traitor."

Lu Yin responded in a serious manner, "Absolutely certain."

"That's ridiculous!" Elder He screamed.

Liu Zhan stared at Lu Yin. "I don't actually care whether or not he's a traitor, but Gate Master Long, if you're making an arrest outside of your jurisdiction, shouldn't you at least speak to me first?"

Lu Yin immediately apologized, "I was inconsiderate and rash. If I move to arrest someone in your territory again, I'll make sure to speak to you first."

Liu Zhan nodded and then stepped into the true universe and left.

Lu Yin was quite surprised; he left just like that? Lu Yin had believed that Liu Zhan had appeared to make things difficult for Lu Yin, and the young man had even been ready to call Qing Chen, but Lu Yin had never expected the Envoy to leave so quickly. He had just wanted to state a simple request?

Elder He was stunned. To his knowledge, Lu Yin had crossed into another district to arrest the old man, which was something that should have offended Liu Zhan. The two should have fought each other both publicly and through hidden means, and Elder He could have benefited from such a conflict. It was frowned upon to arrest someone in another's district, especially without evidence, right?

Suddenly, Elder He remembered how the outside world viewed Humility's Gate: extremely protective of their own. That was it, protective of their own. Elder He started to grow desperate when he realized that these people did not care about him at all.

Chapter 1476: Seed Garden

Lu Yin had quite a good impression of Liu Zhan. Was everyone in the Liu family like this Gate Master? Did they all focus entirely on pursuing their goals and ignore plots and schemes?

Elder He was taken back to Huaiyuan Gate, and he confessed to everything within less than a day.

It really had been pointless for him to remain within the Shangling clan, but the Mother Tree was home to too many traitors and Redbacks. The moment something big happened, such hidden dangers would prove quite troublesome.

Lu Yin had arrested Elder He, and everything went smoothly.

The old man again found Lu Yin, and gave him another name. Lu Yin took a day to rest, and then went out to arrest the traitor.

Five days passed, and Lu Yin escorted another traitor to Huaiyuan Gate. This person had also been found within the Blue Moon District, but Lu Yin had given a warning to Liu Zhan, though the Gate Master had not given any response beyond a polite hello.

From the family of the second traitor, Lu Yin received more than 30 million star essence, which was not very much. This time he had been given the money to deliberately not announce the traitor's affiliation.

It would be possible for people to find out through an investigation, the Humility's Gate would not publicize the matter, which saved the family's reputation.

The old man immediately gave Lu Yin another name upon his return, and Lu Yin continued to arrest one traitor after another. Over the course of a month, Lu Yin arrested more than ten traitors, and all of them were from near Huaiyuan Gate. Lu Yin's success created quite a stir within Humility's Gate, but no one pressed the matter of how Lu Yin had learned of the traitors, and Qing Chen helped suppress people's curiosity.

At the same time, Qing Chen encouraged Lu Yin and reminded Cai Shu to protect the youth.

After arresting so many traitors, Lu Yin had managed to collect more than 400 million star essence, which was not bad at all.

"Hey kid, I heard that you've been accepting people's money, that right?" One night, as light shone through the water above Huaiyuan Gate and illuminated Huaiyuan Gate beautifully, the old man arrived in Lu Yin's quarters. There was a strange gleam in the old man's eyes.

Lu Yin remained completely calm. "That's not wrong. I do want money."

The old man carefully observed Lu Yin, amazed at this youth. "You should be the first member of Humility's Gate from the time of its founding to use arrests to collect money. Qing Chen hasn't said anything?"

"Not that I know," Lu Yin said. He gave the old man an odd look. "How did you find out about that?"

The old man drew himself up proudly. "There's nothing that this universe can hide from this old man! Still, are you that broke?"

Lu Yin nodded seriously. "I need a lot."

"Why do you need so much money?" The old man had become very curious.

Lu Yin fell silent. He caught himself making more and more mistakes when speaking to this old man. There was no way that the old man would be able to guess that Lu Yin needed star essence for his innate gift, but still, Lu Yin preferred the safety of silence.

"Fine, don't tell this old man. I found a big arrest for you: Seed Garden, at the Nong family's ancestral home," the old man commented.

Lu Yin was shocked. "There's a traitor within the Nong family?"

The old man smiled. "There's more than one."

Lu Yin became excited. This would be a really big deal. The Nong family was a power that was second only to the four ruling powers.

"Tell me," Lu Yin said.

The old man was completely unconcerned, and simply gave Lu Yin four names, which left Lu Yin speechless. "There're actually four traitors within the Nong family?"

The old man replied, "That's pretty normal. Don't you think that the Nong family is pretty weird?"

Lu Yin remembered the strange clothes that Nong Sanniang and Nong Lie had worn, as well as their odd behavior. Even their battle techniques had revealed an incredibly eccentric background.

"The Nong family is unique in the Perennial World, and no one dares to go up against them. Even the four ruling powers will make sure to show respect to the Nong family, and their eccentricities have even given rise to Progenitors. There are many people who are curious about the family, both openly and secretly. Many experts have been sent to investigate the Nong family, and even those monsters have sent people. Having four traitors within their numbers is actually pretty good. It wasn't that long ago that the Nong family discovered more than ten traitors on their own," the old man explained.

Lu Yin understood. The Nong family was viewed as a treasure, and they lured in countless people into their territory to investigate them.

"Both the Nong family and the Liu family try to deal with traitors on their own and avoid the need for Humility's Gate to interfere. You had to expose a traitor within the Liu clan in order to complete a mission for the Fourteenth Gate, but did you actually arrest that person?" the old man continued.

Lu Yin knew that the old man was referring to Liu Ke. After Liu Ke had been exposed, he had been instantly killed by the Liu clan's elders, which had made it impossible for Lu Yin to arrest the traitor.

"Reputation is everything for such organizations, so even if they do find a traitor, they'll deal with the mess internally in order to prevent outsiders from learning of their dirty laundry. This should let you understand how big a deal these arrests will be," the old man stated proudly.

Lu Yin took a deep breath. "Nong Lie once invited me to visit Seed Garden, and I received another invitation after exposing Yun Mubai. Looks like it's time for a visit."

The old man suddenly grew serious. "Don't waste your time while visiting Seed Garden. This old man's going to remind you again that there are many people who want to uncover the Nong family's secrets, and that should show you how important Seed Garden is. Keep an eye on things, and you just might find out why they're so important, haha."

The old man then left.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed. Could the old man have been waiting for Lu Yin to go to Seed Garden? No, that should not be the case, as the old man would then have pushed Lu Yin in that direction earlier. He would not have waited so long.

Regardless, Lu Yin needed to pay a visit to the Nong family.

Seed Garden was not like the small families that Lu Yin had visited before to make arrests. After deciding to go to Seed Garden, Lu Yin immediately contacted the Nong family. When Lu Yin had first been invited, he had been given Nong Lie's contact information. It was more convenient since they were both from the same generation.

Lu Yin spoke with Nong Lie, and the very next day, he led Shang Qing, Liu Tianmu, and Wang Dashuai towards Seed Garden while escorted by Cai Shu.

Seed Garden lay further away from Huaiyuan Gate than Qing Chen Mountain, so it took the youths nearly five days of travel to complete the journey.

During their travel, Lu Yin again saw Liu Ye and Fei Hua, which left him rather speechless. He did not know what the two wanted to ask him, but they were certainly persistent. Lu Yin ignored the two powerhouses, and it was clear that they were wary of his identity, as they did not approach.

Lu Yin realized it was becoming more and more difficult for him to return to the Fifth Mainland. On top of Cai Shu, Lu Yin also had Liu Ye and Fei Hua watching him, not to mention some weirdo Semi-Progenitor. Lu Yin came down with a migraine. It was starting to feel like he would need to rely on Mister Mu in order to return.

Before visiting, Lu Yin had held various assumptions about Seed Garden. It had naturally been impossible for him to guess that the name came from the environment. The name sounded like a large garden or nursery.

However, upon arrival, Lu Yin felt that he had been too naive. Seed garden really was a farm.

He came upon a vast stretch of farmland that spread out into the distance. There were many people working the land, but every single one of them was a cultivator.

He saw fish ponds off in the distance, and his eyes were even able to catch the sight of distant wheat fields. Seed Garden really was a farm.

"Each time I see Seed Garden, I feel relaxed and happy." The fatty let out a sigh. He sounded as though he was feeling quite complicated emotions.

"You've been here before?" Lu Yin asked.

Wang Dashuai replied, "I have followed my Junior Progenitor here once a bit before the Yuanlun Festival. Sanniang has a good relationship with our Junior Progenitor, and she invited Wang Su to plant her own plants."

"Plant her own plant?" Lu Yin felt confused.

The fatty explained, "Seed Garden's cultivators hold fast to a theory of the earth. They believe that every creature that is born from the earth should cultivate, work, rest, and even eat through their own labors. They claim that this allows a person to return close to the source.

"While it sounds quite reasonable, no one believes the theory except for Seed Garden's people. Still, Seed Garden has a Progenitor. Progenitors are uncommon, and countless people chase after the goal of becoming one for their entire lives chasing after the opportunities necessary to become a Progenitor. While people don't accept Seed Garden's beliefs, no one can deny that they have a Progenitor.

"Seed Garden's approved guests are allowed to plant their own plants here, and that plant will have its own energy. It's said that you can feel the earth's source through that plant, which can allow a person to get closer to the Progenitor realm. The Wang family's Junior Progenitor has her own plant here, as do the other Junior Progenitors. Since you've been given an invitation, I bet you'll also be given the same opportunity."

This was the first time that Lu Yin had heard such information. He was already close to the ground, so he moved down and landed on the soil. He looked around at the cultivators working in all of the nearby fields. It was clear that all of these people believed in the theory that Seed Garden promoted.

Nong Lie approached from the distance. He was alone, covered in sweat, and carrying a hoe.

Typically, this was a very rude way to greet an invited guest, but everyone was aware of Seed Garden's peculiarities, so no one was offended.

"Brother Long Qi, you're here, haha! I knew you'd come visit my Seed Garden." Nong Lie appeared to be quite excited.

Lu Yin felt a bit guilty facing Nong Lie. After all, Lu Yin had poisoned Nong Lie on the Junior Progenitor Planet. "Brother Nong Lie, it's been quite a while."

Nong Lie smiled. "Even though we haven't seen each other, I've heard quite a bit about you, Brother Long Qi. You've arrested so many traitors recently, which is amazing. You have Nong Lie's admiration, haha."

Lu Yin and Nong Lie exchanged a few more niceties before Nong Lie escorted the youths into Seed Garden.

Seed Garden was a place that was not concerned with etiquette as much as other powers. They had their own etiquette, which amounted to any respected guest being allowed to enter the fields.

Lu Yin soon stood in a field, holding a hoe with a blank look on his face. Behind him, Shang Qing, Liu Tianmu, and Wang Dashuai all held hoes as well. All of them were being treated with respect.

There were many cultivators all across Seed Garden who were fastidiously tilling the ground. There was a flock of birds flying through the sky, playing and releasing pleasant cries. It was a harmonious scene.

"Com'on, Brother Long Qi! I'll teach you!" Nong Lie raised his hoe and slammed it violently into the ground. A small section of the field was loosened up.

Lu Yin was caught off guard when he slammed his own hoe into the ground. It was so hard! It did not appear like Lu Yin used as much strength as Nong Lie, yet a large section of the field was loosened up.

Nong Lie was surprised. "Brother Long Qi is really strong. It shows that you absorbed dragon saliva and opened your lower meridian point. That was amazing."

Lu Yin pursed his lips. He had actually not even used a fifth of his true strength.

"Is Brother Long Qi surprised by how my Nong family treats our guests?" Nong Lie asked with a smile. He glanced over at Shang Qing and the others. He did not underestimate Shang Qing in particular. Nong Lie understood how difficult it must have been for Shang Qing to overpower all of the Celestial Frost Sect's youths in order to earn a spot on the team that entered the Dominion Realm.

Lu Yin gripped his hoe. "It's rather unique."

Nong Lie smiled. "Cultivating is like plowing the field; there's no end to it. Even after you've finished preparing an entire field, there will be another one off in the distance, and then yet another one after

that. Cultivating through farming is not as rigid as other methods. This way of doing things can bring us closer to the land while also opening our minds."

Chapter 1477: Lotus Vine Tree And A Blade Of Grass

Lu Yin thought for a while on Nong Lie's words. They seemed to be accurate. "The members of the Nong family have always been cheerful, at least as far as I have seen."

"Haha! Alright, just swing the hoe twice. If you're interested, you can come back here after you visit the rest of Seed Garden. There's no time limit." Nong Lie smiled. He removed the white cloth that covered his hair and wiped the sweat from his face and shoulders. He was sweating profusely.

Shang Qing calmly lowered his hoe, doing so without even wrinkling his clothes. Liu Tianmu had a calm expression, and she held the hoe as if it were a sword.

The fatty leaned over to Nong Lie. His eyes were sparkling and he had a big smile on his face. "Bro, can I get my own plant to raise here?"

Nong Lie shrugged. "I'm sorry, but only Brother Long Qi is allowed to do that. He was the one who was invited."

At this point, Nong Lie returned his attention to Lu Yin. "Brother Long Qi, do you want to plant your own plant?"

Lu Yin saw the fatty throw him a wink, and Lu Yin smiled and nodded to Nong Lie. "Thank you, Brother Nong Lie."

"Let's go. I'll show you around Seed Garden," Nong Lie offered with a smile.

Seed Garden was massive, and the atmosphere everywhere seemed idyllic. Many people lived on the farms, and most of them were actually ordinary people. The land that they passed over was not something that should be cultivated by ordinary people.

"The normal people have land that they can tend, while the cultivators have land that they can care for. The two types of land do not border each other," Nong Lie explained.

There was a gathering of strange creatures nearby that looked at Lu Yin and the others with evident curiosity.

Lu Yin grew more curious once he noticed the creatures. There was a walking tree root that had grass on its head while also having eyes and noses. Another was a walking fish, while another had its back turned to them. It had one of its branches shaped as teapot and was pouring tea out from it.

Lu Yin was not the only one taken aback at the sight, as Shang Qing and Liu Tianmu were also stunned.

Wang Dashuai whispered, "There are too many different weird creatures in Seed Garden. I don't know how they're raised."

Nong Lie spoke up, "My Seed Garden accepts all living things, no matter if they are creatures or plants. All are welcome to come and settle in Seed Garden. Over time, many strange creatures have come to

call this place home. Many of the creatures here would be treated as toys or pets in the outside world, and they would have no freedom. This place is their paradise."

Lu Yin vaguely understood the meaning of the name of the place: Seed Garden. This was a place that accepted the seeds of all things. Suddenly, he remembered Astral-10, and Boundless. The mad headmaster had once told Lu Yin that Boundless held the responsibility of delivering an inheritance and to preserve seeds. Seed Garden seemed to carry a similar purpose.

The passed by many more farms, and Nong Lie led them past fields of flowers and ponds full of fish, and many other sights that normal practitioners were not able to see.

"Up in front is the wheat field. Look, isn't it beautiful?" Nong Lie introduced.

Lu Yin and the others looked up ahead, and sure enough, there were endless waves of golden ears of wheat that were very beautiful. The golden waves formed and rippled from the blowing wind.

"We can only look at the wheat field from a distance. Do your best to not get close," Nong Lie warned.

"Why?" the fatty asked out of reflex.

Nong Lie explained, "Strange circles often appear in the wheat field, and if you enter one, you can become trapped and find it difficult to escape. I got trapped in one once as a child, and I had to ask my elders to get me out."

Weird circles? Lu Yin looked into the depths of the wheat field, Are there really things like that? Huh? Who's that?

Lu Yin found himself staring at a familiar back. There was a woman who was facing away from Lu Yin and the others, but her body was surrounded by stars: Cosmic Art.

"So why is someone out there?" Wang Dashuai had also seen the woman, and he had to ask for clarification.

Nong Lie shrugged. "Someone was unlucky enough to get trapped. My family's elders have repeatedly warned people to avoid the wheat field, so they'll leave her there for a while as a punishment."

Shang Qing and Liu Tianmu also noticed the woman stuck in the wheat field, and they also saw that she used Cosmic Art, which left them speechless for a while.

Lu Yin pursed his lips. Qiu Shi was truly unlucky. He believed that she must have fallen into one of the wheat field's strange circles when she had first entered the Perennial World, and she had not yet been able to leave. It was actually quite funny..

Lu Yin had no intention of trying to save Qiu Shi, as he did not have much influence in the Nong family.

"Once past the wheat field, there's a separate garden, which is where the plants Brother Wang mentioned are found. That is the place where you can grow your own plant. Brother Long, here." Nong Lie handed Lu Yin a seed. "This all-growing seed can give birth to a million different species of plant, and each person grows a different plant, just as each person themselves is different. Some people have grown trees shaped like a decagon that are tough and tall. Some people have grown plants that can be

used as medicinal materials and that are also a beautiful sight by themselves. Others have grown tall, lush trees that tower above all others. Who knows what Brother Long will grow."

Lu Yin took the seed. All-growing seed? Each person grows a different plant?

They gradually moved away from the wheat field and approached the inner region of Seed Garden. Not everyone was allowed access to this region of Seed Garden. There were Seed Garden powerhouses keeping watch over the area, and Lu Yin even noticed two Envoys.

The fact that two Envoys stood guard over a place amply demonstrated the importance Seed Garden attached to this particular place.

"Junior family member Nong Lie is to take Long Qi into Seed Garden. Please allow us to pass." Nong Lie bowed in a respectful manner outside the region. He did not dare act presumptuously in this place.

One of the Envoy guards replied, Permission granted."

Nong Lie bowed a second time, and then gestured to Lu Yin for them to enter. Nong Lie then turned towards Shang Qing and the others. "Please wait here. Only invited individuals are allowed to enter this section of Seed Garden."

Wang Dashuai was a bit upset. "I really want to go in and look around. There are plants in there that were planted by Progenitors!"

Nong Lie smiled. "You have a chance to enter in the future."

He then entered the garden with Lu Yin.

Seed Garden covered a vast area, and it was divided into many regions.

"Each plant will be arranged with other similar plants after it sprouts, and my Nong family will arrange a separate sourcebox array for each plant. This is also a matter of our respect towards those who plant each of these seeds," said Nong Lie.

"Seed Garden has been around for so many years that this isolated region must be massive," Lu Yin commented as he looked around with great interest.

"That's actually not the case. After all, each plant is a different size. There are some that are very large, but others that are very small. Also, some plants will be transplanted elsewhere after their cultivator passes away," Nong Lie explained.

Lu Yin nodded.

"What is that?" He saw a small bit of grass that swayed in the breeze. It only covered a very small area, but there was a certain radiance around it that clearly belonged to a sourcebox array.

Nong Lie replied, "Fox-Ear Grass. It's a very common and very resilient plant. This one was planted by a well-respected teacher from the Virtue Archives. Although that teacher had died right after becoming an Envoy, he had a respectable character, which was why my Nong family invited here to plant a seed."

Lu Yin grunted in response and quickly pointed elsewhere. "What's that?"

"That's Blotter. It's a noble flower. It will stain the soil around it white, and it will not integrate with the rest of the world. That one was planted by a senior from here in the Middle Realm who survived three tribulations. Like this Bai Tuo, he left no stains on the world."

"What about that?"

"That's a radish tree. It's very aggressive and domineering plant. It was planted by a senior who fought on the battlefield behind the Mother Tree. That senior fought for thousands of years and contributed greatly to the survival of this universe. I respect him as much as my Nong family."

...

As they walked along, Lu Yin saw countless plants, and he would occasionally ask about them. Nong Lie knew about all of them. He could tell Lu Yin who had planted each seed and what they had done to earn the Nong family's respect. Strength was not enough to give one the qualifications to plant a seed in this place.

"For example, there's a Semi-Progenitor by the name of Bai Laogui from the Celestial Frost Sect. He's visited Seed Garden multiple times, always hoping to be able to plant his own plant here in Seed Garden, yet he has always been turned down by my family. He has a personality that my family does not respect at all." Nong Lie showed incredible self-confidence; he had just insulted a Semi-Progenitor, and one from the Celestial Frost Sect at that. This demonstrated the confidence of the Nong family.

Lu Yin sighed in admiration. They walked further along and reached a place with no plants aside from a large tree that stood some distance away.

This tree was the largest plant Lu Yin had seen since entering this section of Seed Garden, and he was surprised to see it. "Who planted that?"

Nong Lie's expression fell. He stared at the giant tree with indescribable resentment and helplessness filling his eyes.

Lu Yin's curiosity increased. "Brother Nong Lie?"

Nong Lie blew out a long breath. "Bai Xian'er."

Lu Yin's eyes flashed. Bai Xian'er. It was this name again. Other people referred to her as an overlord. She was seen as a legendary figure, but Lu Yin did not actually know much about her. He had heard a lot about her, and yet had not really heard anything at all. Anytime that people mentioned Bai Xian'er, no matter if it was good or bad, there was always a certain, invariable reaction: awe.

The woman filled countless people in the Perennial World with absolute awe.

Even in Nong Lie's eyes, Lu Yin could see awe and powerlessness.

"Brother Long Qi, what do you see?" Nong Lie asked.

"A big tree."

Nong Lie pointed towards the top of the tree.

Lu Yin looked up in surprise and saw that there was a lotus flower at the very top of the tree. No, it did not seem to be a lotus, but maybe a vine? Something else? "Brother Nong Lie, what is that?"

"It's a lotus vine. It's an extremely domineering plant. From the moment that these seeds were developed and planted, not one person ever managed to grow this kind of plant until Bai Xian'er. She's the only person ever. Look around. Do you see even a single other plant within several miles?" Nong Lie asked .

Lu Yin took a look, but sure enough, there were no plants of any kind near the massive tree. This was at complete odds with the standard scenery Lu Yin had witnessed in Seed Garden thus far.

"The tree in front of us with the lotus vines is known as a lotus vine tree. The tree is already very oppressive on its own, as it absorbs all of the nutrients from the nearby soil. As for the lotus vine, it wraps around the big tree and suppresses the tree while absorbing the tree's nutrients. It's one phase after another of pure and unfettered domination. The meaning is readily apparent, and this is what Bai Xian'er planted. This plant has the exact same character as her," Nong Lie said solemnly.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed as he looked up ahead. This plant could actually be viewed as the master of Seed Garden. This vine had actually cultivated a massive tree, only to then absorb the nutrients gathered by the tree. This sort of behavior reminded Lu Yin of poisonous snakes. No, this was even more insidious than a venomous serpent. This was horrifyingly domineering.

"Brother Nong Lie doesn't seem to care much for Bai Xian'er. Doesn't she deserve our respect?" Lu Yin asked.

Nong Lie sneered. "Her? She's nothing but a clown sitting up on the clouds."

"Why was she allowed to plant a seed here in Seed Garden? Does the Nong family respect her so much?" Lu Yin pressed.

Nong Lie shook his head. "Don't mention her anymore, Brother Long Qi. Let's keep going."

Lu Yin wanted to ask more questions, but did not want to force the matter due to Nong Lie's reaction.

They walked past the lotus vine, and just as Nong Lie had said, there were no other plants for miles. Eh? No, was that a blade of grass? Lu Yin was surprised to find that there really was a tiny bit of perfectly ordinary grass that looked exactly the same as what people carelessly trod upon as they walked.

Chapter 1478: Thriving

Lu Yin froze for a moment after catching sight of that blade of grass. A fragmented memory came to surface immediately; it was a pair of hands that stretched out to plant one of the seeds and watered it. After that, a beautiful, pale hand reached out to hand that pair of hands a piece of silk handkerchief. The cloth was rather exquisite with images of clouds on it.

Lu Yin suddenly snapped back to the present; what had that been? An illusion? No. A memory? Lu Yin carefully reviewed what he had just seen, but he could find nothing at all from before or after that brief image.

"Brother Long Qi, what's wrong?" Nong Lie asked.

Lu Yin pointed at the small bit of grass. "What is that?"

Nong Lie's expression changed a bit. "That's another plant that was grown by an invited guest."

"Who?" Lu Yin asked, as he stared at Nong Lie.

Nong Lie shook his head. "I can't say. That matter is taboo for my Nong family."

Lu Yin turned back and continued staring at the blade of grass. It looked perfectly ordinary, and if it were placed anywhere else, it would never attract the slightest attention. However, given its location in Seed Garden's selective garden and growing close to the tree lotus vine, there was something special about this grass.

"Why can the grass survive so close to the tree lotus vine?" Lu Yin asked, as this seemed strange.

Nong Lie's smile turned bitter. "Don't ask me. I don't know. Anyways, after Bai Xian'er planted that tree lotus vine, all of the nearby plants withered, even the ones that were planted by powerful Progenitors. The only exception was that bit of grass which has shown no problems and has actually thrived."

"Thrived?" Lu Yin blinked. The blade of grass was no bigger than a person's palm; how could that be considered thriving?

"Before the tree lotus vine started growing, the blade of grass was no bigger than a finger and it didn't grow beyond that. After the tree lotus vine sprouted and forcibly absorbed all of the nutrients from the soil, that's when the grass started to grow. I guess I should say that it's stealing the lotus vine's nutrients from the tree," Nong Lie spoke in an odd tone.

Lu Yin found the entire situation rather amusing; a bit of what appeared to be the most common sort of grass was stealing nutrients from the overbearing tree lotus vine. This was an interesting situation.

Lu Yin felt that the image he had just seen was from his own lost memories, so could he have been the one to plant that bit of grass? Lu Yin pondered for a bit before speaking up, "Brother Nong Lie, can someone plant a second seed if they've already planted one before?"

Nong Lie smiled as he answered, "No one's allowed to plant a second seed, and doing so would have no meaning since a second seed would sprout the exact same plant as the first seed."

Lu Yin's brows rose, and his eyes flickered as he nodded.

"Brother Long Qi, let's go. We're close to the place where you can grow your plant," Nong Lie encouraged.

Lu Yin nodded again and followed Nong Lie's lead.

They did not travel very far when Lu Yin suddenly asked, "Brother Nong Lie, do you happen to know where Chi Shui is?"

Nong Lie was caught off guard. "Brother Long Qi knows Chi Shui?"

Lu Yin smiled. "Of course. He's the reason I'm here."

After a moment of confusion, Nong Lie seemed to remember something. His face grew sullen as he stared at Lu Yin. "You aren't here because of our invitation, but because of a mission."

Lu Yin nodded. "I first wanted to plant a seed before bringing this matter up, but I'm afraid Chi Shui will escape once he receives word that I'm here, so I don't see another choice."

"Chi Shui is a traitor?" Nong Lie was shocked.

Lu Yin nodded. "Both Chi Shui and Master Shi are traitors."

"Impossible! Master Shi has been part of my Seed Garden for hundreds of years. All he cares about is spending every day teaching others how to till the soil. He's never done anything else, and he's never even left Seed Garden! How could he be a traitor?"

Lu Yin shrugged. "Whether this is true or not, you'll know for yourself shortly. However, I, Long Qi, am almost never wrong about those I arrest."

Nong Lie and Lu Yin stared at each other for a moment, and then Nong Lie quickly called someone.

After a moment, he looked back at Lu Yin. "Father wants to see you. He's in a field with Master Shi."

Lu Yin nodded. The two youths did not continue walking through the isolated garden, and Lu Yin deliberately avoided planting a seed, as he was afraid that the image of planting the grass that he had seen had been his own memory. There would be big problems if his seed grew that same grass.

It looked like Lu Yin would need to investigate on his own to discover who had planted that blade of grass, and he might even uncover his own identity.

Lu Yin had yet to gain any understanding of his true identity, so he suppressed his anxiousness and followed Nong Lie out of the garden.

"Bro, what did you grow?" Wang Dashuai spoke up as soon as he saw Lu Yin, as the fatty was very curious.

Lu Yin's expression was somber. "Need to finish some business first."

"Business? What business?" The fatty felt rather lost. He had not known that this trip to Seed Garden had actually had the goal of arresting traitors.

Shang Qing put his hand on his shoulder and told him not to say more.

Nong Lie had been very enthusiastic when Lu Yin had first arrived, but that excitement was gone as the group returned to the fields. Nong Lie had been informed of a traitor to humanity within his own family, and Long Qi had arrived to arrest the traitors using his position as one of Humility's Gate's Gate Masters. It would be odd for Nong Lie to be in a good mood. After all, he seemed to have some bit of a relationship with Master Shi.

There was a rough looking man who looked to be in his middle years outside of the fields. His back was to the youths as he was staring out at the farmland. Nong Lie saw the old man and hurried forward.

"Father."

The man turned around and gazed upon Lu Yin and the other youths, but ultimately, his eyes landed upon Lu Yin.

"Junior Long Qi greets Senior," Lu Yin respectfully addressed the older man without saying anything about being a Gate Master from Humility's Gate.

This man was the master of Seed Garden: Nong Ya. He stared at Lu Yin with unconcealed admiration, though he also seemed rather somber. "You've recently become quite famous."

Lu Yin grew more serious as well. "I've merely arrested a few traitors."

Nong Ya remained serious. "The three Guan brothers and Yun Mubai were all exposed by you. Their arrests were a great boon to both Humility's Gate and humanity, especially for those of us who do not fear the four ruling powers' oppression. In fact, your invitation to Seed Garden originated from me."

"Thank you, Senior, for your care."

Nong Ya sounded torn as he continued, "I believe your claim that Chi Shui is a traitor, but as for Master Shi, is he really a traitor?"

"That's correct."

"Father, that's impossible!" Nong Lie spoke up. Nong Ya raised a hand to stop his son, and then turned to look at an old man who was diligently tilling a field. "That man is Master Shi. He has never slacked during his hundreds of years with my Nong family. Lie'er and Sanniang cannot stand the thought of him being interrogated, so if you are able to prove he's a traitor, just do it."

Nong Lie turned his eyes that betrayed his complicated emotions onto Lu Yin.

Lu Yin observed the old man in the distance. If Lu Yin were to be honest, the moment he saw this old man working the field, he felt like he should accuse the Semi-Progenitor of deceit. How could such a diligent old man who had spent his life tilling the earth be a traitor? It seemed impossible to believe, and Lu Yin could understand Nong Lie's reaction.

It was clear that Nong Ya held Master Shi in high esteem, and Lu Yin would not be allowed to take the old man away. This was the same as what had occurred with Liu Ke, and Lu Yin had no intention of trying to take Master Shi away.

"What is Master Shi's cultivation?" Lu Yin asked.

"About the same as Lie'er's," Nong Ya replied.

Lu Yin nodded. This should be easy enough.

The blazing sun illuminated the fields, and elders diligently cared for the crops. It was a harmonious scene.

Suddenly, the sky changed. A massive scarlet eye with a slitted pupil covered all of Seed Garden, and the place instantly collapsed. The farms and the wheat field were reduced to ashes at a visible rate.

Master Shi lifted his head and stared up at the scarlet eye in horror; was this?

"Children of my Nong family! Listen to me and obey! Take away the core of Seed Farm! Our ancestors have already sacrificed themselves, but the core of this place cannot be lost!" Nong Ya rushed towards the scarlet eye, only to be instantly consumed. The ground nearby shattered, and zombies poured out of the void and attacked Seed Garden. The blood of Seed Garden's powerhouses soon painted the sky.

Master Shi quickly found a place to hide, but Nong Lie suddenly approached from behind the old man. Half of Nong Lie's body had already been destroyed, and he grabbed hold of Master Shi's clothes in a miserable manner and gave the older man a cosmic ring. "Take this to the Liu family! Run away! Flee!"

Nong Lie's voice fell silent, and another pair of slitted, scarlet eyes suddenly appeared. The figure tore Nong Lie to pieces and then seized Master Shi.

Master Shi's pupils shrank to pinpricks, and he quickly shouted, "I'm one of you! I'm one of you! I'm a traitor who hid within the Nong family!"

Instantly, his vision changed once again, and the blood-splattered sky became clear and clean. The shattered earth returned to normal, and a frog-like creature was underfoot and releasing a cry as the wind blew by. Master Shi's back was drenched with sweat, and his head snapped around to see Nong Ya and the others staring at him with glacial glares.

At that moment, Master Shi remembered everything that had just happened. Had that been an illusion? He had been set up!

Lu Yin smiled. "Senior, this junior will take away this person."

At Lu Yin's words, Shang Qing deliberately walked towards Master Shi.

Nong Lie's face betrayed his utter disappointment. He had refused to believe that Master Shi could be a traitor.

Master Shi quickly spoke up, "Patriarch, someone put me under an illusion just now! I only spoke out of self-protection! I was ordered to protect the core of Seed Garden."

Nong Ya and the others were all taken aback; what was the core of Seed Garden?

Lu Yin pursed his lips. He had made the core up, as it did not exist. It had merely been used to distract Master Shi, and the name sounded important.

"Father, what's Seed Garden's core?" Nong Lie wondered.

Nong Ya shot a strange look towards Lu Yin.

Lu Yin coughed. "Take him away."

"Wait a minute," Nong Ya said. Shang Qing paused and turned back to look.

Lu Yin arched a brow and turned towards Nong Ya. "What do you mean, Senior?"

Nong Ya and Lu Yin both stared at each other. "Gate Master Long, could we talk a moment?"

Lu Yin had been waiting for this moment. "Given Senior's position, I don't dare refuse."

"Patriarch, I'm being framed! I've been with Seed Garden for hundreds of years! I'm one of you, Patriarch," Master Shi shouted, but no one paid any attention to him. "Little Lie! Little Lie, I'm being framed! It's me, Master Shi! Please help me. Talk to me, Little Lie."

Nong Lie frowned and looked at Master Shi. The youth wanted to say something, but could not bring himself to say it.

Nong Ya led Lu Yin to a small gully on the other side of the field. He looked down into the crystal clear water that ran through the gully and spoke in a solemn tone, "Everyone wishes for my Nong family to be open and aboveboard, easy to see through like the water here. If we really were that way, we cannot survive till this money."

Lu Yin said, "Senior, say whatever it is you need to say."

Nong Ya nodded. "Very well, I'll be blunt: you can't take Master Shi or Chi Shui away, nor can you even make public the matter of exposing traitors within my Nong family."

Lu Yin frowned. "Senior, you're making things difficult for me. I'm not here on a mission from Huaiyuan Gate, but on behalf of the Fourteenth Gate."

Nong Ya said, "I don't care who you're representing. Gate Master Long, it doesn't make much difference to you whether you arrest one more or one less traitor, but could it be that you're trying to use this matter to suppress my Nong family?"

Lu Yin smiled. "Senior certainly regards a junior like me very highly. Ignoring the fact that this junior has no motivation to suppress the Nong family, how could I suppress your family by arresting a few traitors?"

Chapter 1479: Big Faced Tree

"There are certain things that only need a small trigger. Do you know how many people are waiting to prey on my Seed Garden? All four of the ruling powers. None of them are easy to deal with, especially the Celestial Frost Sect. They've long wanted to move against my Nong family. Over the years, my Seed Garden has done its best to clean house internally, and I do not want to give the Celestial Frost Sect, or any other outsider, any excuse to intervene in my Seed Garden's matters," Nong Ya explained.

Lu Yin felt surprised. "Isn't Seed Garden in the same situation as the Liu family and the Virtue Archives? If the Celestial Frost Sect tries to do anything to the Nong family, won't they have to worry about the other three ruling powers making a move? There's still the White Dragon Clan, the Wang family, and Shenwu's Sky to keep the Celestial Frost Sect in check."

Nong Ya looked at Lu Yin with a bit of surprise. "I had thought that all you were thinking about was catching traitors, but your words show that you have a very clear picture of the situation in the Perennial World."

Lu Yin scolded himself for saying more than Long Qi should know. "I've just heard the rumors."

"Have you ever heard the phrase, slowly warm the water to boil a frog? The Celestial Frost Sect is slowly warming the water to boil this universe, and no one can escape. They will use any excuse, no matter

how small it might be. My Nong family is doing our best to avoid giving them any excuses at all," Nong Ya said.

Lu Yin sighed. "You're still putting this junior in a very awkward position. How am I supposed to explain myself to the Fourteenth Gate?"

Nong Ya replied, "When it came to Liu Ke, the Fourteenth Gate never said that you did not complete the mission, and the same will be true of my Seed Garden. Of course, to compensate you for the trouble, you can offer your conditions."

Lu Yin's eyes flickered. "Senior, in addition to Master Shi and Chi Shui, there are two other traitors in your Nong family."

Nong Ya instantly grew furious. "Are you certain?"

Lu Yin nodded as he looked at Nong Ya. "It's not easy to oversee Senior's family."

Nong Ya let out a long breath. "The Nong family accepts people of all backgrounds, so it's not unusual for spies to sneak in. We never let down our guard, but we'll also never be able to find all the traitors."

Lu Yin remained silent and did not provide the other two names.

Nong Ya was no fool. "Gate Master Long, cultivation is a struggle, and so if you need assistance from my Nong family, please feel free to speak up. My Nong family has an endless duty to provide for those who protect us."

"Senior, now you're being too courteous," Lu Yin stated politely.

"Gate Master Long is one of the most exceptionally outstanding young elites I've ever met. Helping to supply you with resources is no different than helping the human race. Naturally, our help will assist in the efforts to defend against those monsters. If you ever need anything at all, please just say it. You are always welcome here."

Lu Yin coughed. "Since that's how it is, this junior will speak up."

Nong Ya heaved a sigh of relief. He was unafraid of any request Lu Yin might make, but was terrified that the youth might insist on arresting a traitor, as that would lead to countless problems. "Please go ahead."

...

After Lu Yin and Nong Ya returned to everyone else, the perceptive fatty noticed that Nong Ya did not have a pleasant expression on his face, while Lu Yin seemed to be delighted.

Of course Lu Yin was happy. The four traitors in Seed Garden had just gained him 600 million star essence. That was 600 million star essence! While it might not be a large amount for the Nong family, and was pitiful compared to the resources on a Junior Progenitor Planet, everything was relative, and 600 million star essence was truly a large sum.

"Lie'er, entertain Gate Master Long," Nong Ya ordered in a deep voice before leaving. He shot Lu Yin one last glance with an odd glint in his eyes before disappearing.

It was incredibly rare for one of Humility's Gate's Gate Masters, not to mention someone from a branch family of one of the four ruling powers, to be so concerned with material wealth. Nong Ya could not understand Long Qi's motivation for asking for so much money. Was the youth broke?

Due to the matter regarding Master Shi, Nong Lie had little interest in his duties as a host, and he did not bring up the possibility of returning to the isolated garden in order to allow Lu Yin to plant a seed, though there was no mention of Lu Yin returning the seed he had been given.

Their subsequent tour of Seed Garden felt rather lackluster, but Lu Yin did not care. He had already achieved his goal for the visit, and it could even be said that he had exceeded his goals. Since he had seen that small patch of grass, his next goal was to learn about the person who had planted the grass, as well as uncover precisely what had happened to the Lu family in the past.

"Hey, is that Sanniang?" Wang Dashuai exclaimed.

Everyone turned and saw the Nong Sanniang and another woman traveling through the sky off in the distance.

Lu Yin went bug-eyed when he saw who was accompanying Nong Sanniang; was that Bai Xue?

He had never dreamed he might meet her in Seed Garden.

Long ago, both Bai Xue and Zhang Dingtian had disappeared into Jupiter. Later, Lu Yin had met Zhang Dingtian at the Liu family's Sword Monument. At that time, Zhang Dingtian had mentioned that he believed Bai Xue had traveled to the Higher Realm, and that she had likely joined the Celestial Frost Sect. So, why was Lu Yin seeing her in Seed Garden?

Bai Xue did not see Lu Yin. She accompanied Nong Sanniang, and the two women eventually disappeared.

"Brother Nong Lie, where are Sanniang and that other woman going?" Lu Yin asked curiously.

"They're going to see Big Face Tree."

"Big face tree?" Most of the people present had no idea what Nong Lie was talking about.

He explained, "There's a tree in Seed Garden that's lived for a very long time. It also has a fat face, so we call it Big Face Tree. Our ancestral records dictate that every junior of the Nong family has to frequently visit Big Face Tree to chat with it and keep it company."

"Can we go take a look?" Lu Yin asked.

Nong Lie nodded. "Sure. Let's go."

Big Face Tree stood in a distant location, and they had to cross almost half of Seed Garden. After half an hour of travel, Lu Yin and the others saw the so-called Big Face Tree, and it truly was a tree with a fat face.

There was a forest within Seed Garden that ran up against the bottom of a wet cliff, and the forest met a river. Big Face Tree stood at the bottom of the cliff, and the group found Nong Sanniang and Bai Xue there with their backs to the new arrivals.

Big Face Tree was big, but other than that it looked just like any ordinary tree. There was nothing surprising about the tree.

Nong Lie stopped a few kilometers away from Big Face Tree, a strange expression on his face. "Go on ahead and see. If you can't endure, just leave. It's not a problem."

The visitors were all stunned, and Wang Dashuai grew a bit nervous. "Why aren't you going any further? Is it going to attack us?"

"Of course not. It's just that Big Face Tree might have lived too long, and it—how should I put this?—it nags."

The fatty let out a sigh of relief. "What's the big deal? It's just nagging. This brother is the best at chatting with old people!"

After bragging, he was the first to step forward. Lu Yin followed close behind, and Shang Qing and Liu Tianmu quickly joined as well.

Nong Lie watched as the small group walked towards Big Face Tree. There was a glint of anticipation and schadenfreude in his eyes.

Just when Lu Yin and the others drew close to Big Face Tree, Nong Sanniang turned. There was an expression of pain on her face. She was surprised to see Lu Yin and the others, but she did not say a word and instead quickly walked away.

The fatty called out a greeting, "Sanniang, what are you up to?"

Nong Sanniang's face was pale. She looked like she had just survived a battle that had resulted in her crushing defeat.

Seeing Nong Sanniang's face left Wang Dashuai furious, and he stopped walking towards Big Face Tree. He instinctively looked over at Lu Yin. His intention was clear; he intended for Lu Yin to go first.

Lu Yin pursed his lips as he walked up behind the fatty. "Go."

"You go, Bro," the fatty countered with a smile.

Lu Yin smiled. He looked truly benevolent. Then, he shoved the fatty towards Big Face Tree.

At this same moment, it appeared that Bai Xue was unable to endure some sort of torture, and she also turned to leave, and she almost ran into Wang Dashuai. She was as eager to flee the area as Nong Sanniang, but she suddenly saw Lu Yin, and shock became written all over her face. Just like Zhang Dingtian, Liu Tianmu, and others, Bai Xue was absolutely stunned to see Lu Yin in the Perennial World.

However, some unseen agony roused her from her stupor, and she fled, chasing after Nong Sanniang.

Wang Dashuai was pushed all the way over to Big Face Tree, and there he saw two eyes, a nose, and a mouth on the tree. Most notable were two fat cheeks that bulged and looked very fat. Was this Big Face Tree?

"Hey, another newcomer's showed up! Hey kid, how's it going?" the tree said. His mouth continued to move nonstop, but only the fatty heard anything at all. Lu Yin and the others heard nothing.

When Big Face Tree spoke, the fatty felt like someone had taken a hammer to his head. Every syllable felt like an explosion within his brain. Just a single sentence was enough for Wang Dashuai to nearly pass out, and yet the tree just kept talking. "This kid's face isn't looking too well. Is he feeling sick? Alright, Uncle Tree will teach you an exercise. You-

As the tree spoke, the fatty grew dizzy and he started bleeding from his seven orifices.

Lu Yin was startled to see this change, and he grabbed the fatty and threw him away from the tree. Shang Qing and Liu Tianmu had both been behind Lu Yin, and they fled at top speed, leaving Lu Yin on his own.

Big Face Tree turned both eyes over to Lu Yin. Lu Yin happened to already be looking at the tree, so the two locked eyes. The tree smiled. "You're here again."

Lu Yin had been just about to leave when he heard those words. He froze and turned to look at Big Face Tree in shock. "Do you know me?"

Big Face Tree grinned. It actually had teeth! Although they were very yellow, it still cracked a big, toothy smile. "Don't underestimate Uncle Tree! While Uncle Tree's lived for a long time, he still has a good memory! I remember it wasn't like this the last time you came to see me."

Lu Yin was instantly able to feel what Wang Dashuai had experienced. Every word Big Face Tree spoke felt like it was shattering Lu Yin's brain and felt like lightning erupting inside his head. It was no wonder the fatty had passed out and Nong Sanniang and Bai Xue had reacted in such a strange manner; none of them had been able to endure the tree's words.

Lu Yin estimated that Nong Sanniang was able to hear a few sentences at best, while Bai Xue might have only heard one or two. As for Wang Dashuai, he should be about the same as Bai Xue, or possibly had endured a bit more.

"In that case, do you remember my name?" Lu Yin asked.

Big Face Tree's eyes darted about. It was clearly thinking hard.

Lu Yin stared at the tree.

The tree then looked up at Lu Yin and smiled as it replied, "Little one."

Lu Yin was left speechless.

"Little one, after the last time we spoke, Uncle Tree still missed you for a while. You're one of the few who's able to chat for a bit with Uncle Tree. Same with that girl who came with you that one time. What about her? It's been a long time since I last saw her. She was really beautiful..." Big Face Tree spoke, but did not finish.

Lu Yin wanted to stop the tree from speaking, but instead just listened to it. Lu Yin exhausted all of his strength, and then tried to use the Inception Array. Unfortunately, Lu Yin was not facing a spiritual force attack, so the sourcebox array proved pointless.

"Let's get down to business. The last time we spoke about the Third Mainland's war, right? I remember mentioning something about a little guy named Ce Wangtian. That kid is incredible! He's the poster child for shamelessness, and he can certainly claim to be the master of his generation. He's especially shameless when it comes to playing chess and withdrawing his moves. He had even created a secret technique for it..."

"That old monster who destroyed the Third Mainland shouldn't have noticed that Ce Wangtian slipped away. Who knows where that little brat had gone, but how could Uncle Tree not know? He had to have gone to Immemorial Citadel. Everyone tried their best..."

After the Third Mainland was mentioned, Lu Yin could no longer digest anything else that Big Face Tree said. It took all of Lu Yin's mental strength to avoid passing out and remaining conscious. As he did every time he encountered a bizarre situation, Lu Yin quickly decided to recite the Stonewall Scriptures.

Chapter 1480: History

Big Face Tree continued speaking, but only to itself as Lu Yin was completely focused on reciting the Stonewall Scriptures and was unable to hear anything the tree said.

Off in the distance, Nong Lie and others were stunned. "How can he last so long? Even my father wasn't able to endure so long."

Nong Sanniang was truly shocked. Long Qi kept delivering more surprises. In the past, Wang Su had managed to endure five sentences. Bai Shaohong had also visited, but he had not lasted for more than a few sentences. And yet Long Qi had already managed to endure for several minutes. This was beyond a matter of several words or sentences. How was he doing it?

Bai Xue's eyes were locked onto Lu Yin's back; Why is he here? Don't mention your surname!

"Uncle Shu told you..." Lu Yin suddenly let out a low growl as an astral chessboard appeared beneath his feet. He used the Ce Secret Art to move himself, and escaped.

Back where Lu Yin had disappeared, Big Face Tree was shocked, and its mouth dropped open. "Shameless rascal! Kid, you've fallen."

Lu Yin moved right next to Nong Lie and the others with the Ce Secret Art. This was the first time that Nong Lie and the others had seen this secret technique, and it shocked all of them.

Lu Yin supported himself with his hands on his knees as he gasped for breath. He looked up at Big Face Tree off in the distance with eyes full of fear. Every word that tree had spoken had carried a shocking power. Having a conversation with the tree had felt like confronting death itself. It had been terrible.

However, Lu Yin had a vague impression of hearing something about the Third Mainland. Had that just been a delusion?

"How are you feeling?" Nong Lie asked. He was feeling a bit better after seeing Lu Yin's misfortune. After all, with Master Shi being exposed as a traitor, Nong Lie's mood had soured. It was clear at this moment that he was feeling much better.

Lu Yin rolled his eyes. "You knew before we got here."

"Didn't you want to come and see Big Face Tree? My Nong family's ancestors teach us that every disciple should occasionally chat with Big Face Tree. I spoke with it just a few days ago, so you can see your suffering won't last," Nong Lie said with a smile.

Shang Qing grew curious. "What just happened?"

Lu Yin retorted, "Go find out for yourself."

Shang Qing stopped talking. Try it himself? He was no idiot. Liu Tianmu did not even ask any questions after seeing what had happened to Wang Dashuai, not to mention that not even Lu Yin had been able to endure whatever the two had just suffered.

"Very few people can walk away from Big Face Tree their first time speaking with it, and even fewer can spend that much time chatting with it. You really surprised us, Long Qi." Nong Sanniang mentioned as she walked over while looking at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin smiled. "Maybe it's because I was born with bad ears."

Nong Sanniang smiled. There was no way she would believe such an excuse.

Lu Yin looked over at Bai Xue. "Who's this?"

"My name is Bai Xue, and I'm the one in Seed Garden who's responsible for taking care of Big Face Tree." Bai Xue answered with a small smile. Her voice was gentle, and she had always been a beautiful woman. Back on Earth, Zhou Shan had admired her beauty, and at this moment, when she smiled, she radiated a pure type of beauty.

Shang Qing stared at Bai Xue. He had seen many, many beauties, a large number of whom looked quite similar to Bai Xue. Even Starsibyl was objectively more beautiful than Bai Xue, and yet, for some unknown reason, Shang Qing found Bai Xue inexplicably beautiful at this moment, Her pure nature was very attractive to him.

"Bai Xue? Are you part of the Celestial Frost Sect's Bai family?" Lu Yin acted surprised.

Nong Lie was the one to respond, "Of course not. There are many people in the Middle Realm with the Bai surname, just as there are many with the Liu and Xia surnames. Bai Xue is just a regular cultivator. My Nong family coincidentally rescued her, and she's since stayed to care for Big Face Tree."

Lu Yin nodded. "I see."

"Long Qi, I heard you came here to arrest a traitor?" Nong Sanniang interjected.

Nong Lie's expression instantly soured. "Sister, I'll tell you about that later."

He then turned to Lu Yin. "Let's keep going. My Seed Garden is quite vast."

Lu Yin refused, "No. I still have tasks that need to be done, and so I need to get back to Huaiyuan Gate."

Nong Lie nodded, but did not try to convince Lu Yin to stay. "Since that's the case, I'll see you off."

Nong Sanniang watched as Lu Yin and his group left, and then turned to look back at Big Face Tree. She was still stuck on the scene of Lu Yin chatting with the tree. If one could spend so long with the tree, what kind of information would they be able to receive?

"Sanniang, who's that Long Qi?" Bai Xue asked.

Nong Sanniang explained, "He's the son-in-law of the White Dragon Clan's main family. He seems harmless at first, but he hides his strength very well. He's already exposed more than just one Redback, and he's bold enough to stand up to even the four ruling powers and risk becoming their enemy. He's-

At this point, Sanniang hesitated to consider her words. "He's a very kind man, and since he qualified to be invited to visit Seed Garden, he's also allowed to grow a plant from his own seed.

"Actually, I don't know what plant sprouted from his seed. I'll ask Nong Lie in a bit."

Bai Xue stared off into the distance with a strange look in her eyes. The son-in-law of the White Dragon Clan's main family? Him? He was part of the White Dragon Clan? That was absolutely incredible.

Lu Yin saw Cai Shu as soon as he exited Seed Garden. Cai Shu had not accompanied Lu Yin inside despite Nong Lie extending the invitation.

"Supervisor Qing Chen asked Senior to keep me safe," Lu Yin joked.

Cai Shu smiled gently. "If something went wrong in Seed Garden, my presence would not matter at all. What happened in there?"

Lu Yin shrugged. "I didn't plant a seed. I forgot about it."

"You forgot?" Cai Shu was stunned. How was this even an answer?

Wang Dashuai finally woke up, and he rubbed his temples and ears. "It hurts! What's wrong with me?"

Lu Yin replied, "You spoke with Big Face Tree."

The fatty then remembered, and his face went pale. He was quite frightened by the memory. "That thing's terrifying! It's a tree that can kill people by talking to them! Why is it that there are so many freakish creatures in Seed Garden?"

"Big Face Tree? You saw Big Face Tree?" Cai Shu asked.

The fatty replied, "I saw it, and I heard a few words, but I can't remember what was said."

Cai Shu laughed. "Few people dare speak with that old tree."

"How long has that tree existed?" Lu Yin felt curious about this detail, as he had clearly heard the tree mention the Third Mainland and Ce Wangtian.

Cai Shu thought for a while. "Master said that the old tree was already there when the Daosource Sect was first established."

Lu Yin grew horrified; the Daosource Sect? That was truly, amazingly old.

"The Daosource Sect? Was that the former ruler?" Shang Qing asked. It was unusual for him to break his silence.

Cai Shu nodded as he stared straight ahead. "That's right, it was a former ruler. Back then, when the Daosource Sect still existed, so did the Lu family and the ancestors of the four ruling powers. There were those who fell, and others who were born, but at the peak, they formed the Nine Mountains and Eight Seas."

Lu Yin's heart skipped a beat; the Nine Mountains and Eight Seas? That had been the peak power of the Fifth Mainland's Daosource Sect! Did that mean that the Perennial World had once been connected to the Fifth Mainland? Or, could it be that the Perennial World was born from the Fifth Mainland?

Regardless, there were Nine Mountains and Eight Seas, and people guessed that there had been nine powerful Progenitors. At the present moment, in the Perennial World, the four ruling powers all had their own Progenitors, as did the Liu family, the Nong family, Specter Abyss, and there was also the Commander of Humility's Gate. The number of Progenitors between the ancient past and the present seemed quite similar, so why was Cai Shu waxing nostalgic? Could there be another secret to the Nine Mountains and Eight Seas?

"Wait, the Daosource Sect was the ruler? I thought it was that family?" the fatty spoke up.

Cai Shu explained, "You're talking about the Lu family. The Lu family was indeed the ruler of the Perennial World, but during ancient times, the branches of the Daosource Sect ruled over all of the Mainlands. How the two had shared the rule they had... Just forget it. These are matters that are too ancient. I've also heard Master say something about it, but not even Master knows too much about such ancient history, so don't get too caught up on such things."

...

"Senior Cai Shu, we shouldn't be too far from Twin Mansion right now, right?" Lu Yin suddenly asked during their trip back to Huaiyuan Gate.

"That's right, we're not far. Do you need something there?"

"There's a traitor there," Lu Yin replied.

Cai Shu stopped being surprised. Lu Yin had already arrested a great number of traitors in a short amount of time, and the Envoy had grown numb to such revelations.

The traitor in Twin Mansion was another person whose identity had been revealed to Lu Yin by the old man. The Semi-Progenitor had asked Lu Yin to arrest this specific traitor on the way back from Seed Garden. This traitor had only been mentioned in an off-handed manner by the old man.

If people in Humility's Gate were told about a traitor in such a casual manner, they would curse the informant.

Twin Mansion was a small place, and much like the Shangling family, Lu Yin had no interest in making the arrest himself. His rewards from Seed Garden had left him uninterested in such a small place, so

after arriving, Lu Yin told Wang Dashuai the traitor's name. With that, the fatty, Shang Qing, and Liu Tianmu took action.

At this time, Lu Yin's communication crystal vibrated, and Lu Yin answered the call. He saw the image of a middle-aged man appear. Lu Yin was shocked to see this particular man; was this really Long Ke? He was the patriarch of the White Dragon Clan!

It was a huge honor to have the patriarch of one of the four ruling powers take the initiative to call someone.

Lu Yin quickly bowed. "Long Qi greets the patriarch."

Long Ke's eyes swept the area and fell upon Cai Shu.

Cai Shu nodded politely and moved away.

"Long Qi, what should you call me given your relationship to Long Xi?" Long Ke said in a low voice.

Lu Yin quickly changed his term of address, "Father-in-law."

Long Ke snorted. "You've been quite busy lately."

"It's my duty to arrest traitors."

"In the past, in order to expose Yun Mubai as a Redback, you threatened to arrest people who were transporting stellar liquid. Of the two people you arrested, one of them was working for my White Dragon Clan," Long Ke casually mentioned.

This felt like settling matters from the previous debacle, but why had it been delayed for so long?

Lu Yin maintained a respectful tone, "I ask father-in-law to deliver his judgment."

Long Ke showed a slight smile. "Is it a crime to arrest a Redback?"

"Thank you, father-in-law." Lu Yin acted relieved.

"You just visited Seed Garden?" Long Ke asked.

"Yes."

"The Nong family. How many traitors were hiding there?"

Lu Yin thought for a moment, and though he had promised Nong Ya that he would say nothing, it was clear that Long Ke already knew about the matter. "Four."

Long Ke showed no surprise. "The Nong family has accepted too many outsiders, so it's nothing unexpected for them to have four traitors in their midst. In that case, what about my White Dragon Clan? Are we hiding any traitors?"

Lu Yin felt puzzled. "Father-in-law, what's this about? What are you talking about?"

Long Ke and Lu Yin stared at each other, and the patriarch spoke earnestly, "I represent the White Dragon Clan. Do we have any traitors or Redback among us?"

Lu Yin felt taken aback. What did this mean? Was Long Ke going to feed Lu Yin information like that old man and allow Lu Yin to accumulate more achievements?

"There must be at least one Redback within my White Dragon Clan. Long Qi, given your source of information and your innate gift to see through people, do you believe Elder Long Quan to be a Redback?" Long Ke continued.

Lu Yin's mind raced, and he quickly understood; the patriarch wanted to frame someone.

He had already heard long ago of a discord between the White Dragon Clan's branch families and the main family. Of the dissidents, Long Quan's branch family was the most prominent. Long Ke was clearly hoping to use Lu Yin's recently gained reputation to frame Long Quan and eradicate that particular branch family.

From the time Lu Yin had first joined Humility's Gate, he had directly and indirectly been responsible for the arrests of dozens of traitors, as well as the three Guan brothers and Yun Mubai, all of whom had been famous and held elite statuses within the Middle Realm. Long Qi was already known to be someone who did not fear the four ruling powers, as his efforts to expose Yun Mubai had led countless people to approach Long Qi or follow him, and he had even received a formal invitation from the Nong family.

At the moment, Lu Yin was quite famous for arresting Redbacks and traitors, and Long Ke wanted to capitalize on Lu Yin's momentum and finish the matter of Long Quan's branch family.

Lu Yin's head hung low. This was a vicious method to employ on anyone, and Long Ke wanted to do this to someone from the same clan. Lu Yin believed that Long Ke must have already compiled some evidence before even reaching out. Once this evidence was revealed, Long Quan would have nowhere to run.

Lu Yin had used a planted scarlet eye insignia when he had accused the Guan brothers of being Redbacks, but that had been under the premise that he had already known that they were Redbacks. On the other hand, Long Ke was deliberately framing someone. This was a completely ruthless move.