

ODYSSEY 1481

Chapter 1481: Heavy Feelings

"Long Qi, tell me, is Long Quan a Redback?" Long Ke asked again. He stared at Lu Yin with blazing eyes.

Lu Yin's scalp went numb. "Father-in-law, this-"

Long Ke interrupted in a low, insistent voice, "When you were doing your best to expose Yun Mubai as a Redback, Elder Long Quan repeatedly tried to stop you. Have you had your doubts about him since then?"

Lu Yin was left speechless; Long Ke had even found motivation for Lu Yin to move against the elder.

"You suspected Elder Long Quan from that moment, and you used your intelligence sources that support you to look into matters until you finally discovered proof that Elder Long Quan is a Redback. Correct or no?" Long Ke asked loudly.

Lu Yin's gaze grew sharper. Was this the right choice, or not? This was a dilemma. Lu Yin did not actually care at all about whether Long Quan lived or died; the elder was either Lu Yin's friend or his enemy, but the same was true of everyone in the White Dragon Clan. Even though Lu Yin had yet to uncover the truth of the past, the White Dragon Rolls Over had exiled the Lu family. This was indisputable. There was also the fact that Long Xi's family had not originally been the White Dragon Clan's main family, but had overthrown the main family because of a major incident, and the most obvious event was the Lu family's exile.

Long Ke had taken the position of patriarch of the White Dragon Clan by way of exiling the Lu family. This meant that Long Ke was more of an enemy to Lu Yin than a friend.

While everyone in the clan was his enemy and Lu Yin did not particularly care about what means he used to deal with them, it was still too early to get involved in the White Dragon Clan's internal disputes.

When Lu Yin had arrested the mule transporting the stellar liquid, Elder Long Quan had eagerly spoken up for the transporters release, which indicated that the stellar liquid was most likely going to be used by Elder Long Quan's backer, who was at least a Semi-Progenitor. An elder in the White Dragon Clan had to have a Semi-Progenitor behind them, and that meant that it would not be easy to frame Long Quan. If anything happened, Lu Yin would take the blame, as it would be impossible to pin anything onto Long Ke.

"Long Qi, I asked you a question!" Long Ke shouted.

Cai Shu looked over from where he had retreated. He was not able to hear anything that Long Ke said, but the Envoy was able to discern that Lu Yin was being placed under a great deal of pressure. Cai Shu looked at the image of Long Ke in disgust. The four ruling powers were utterly revolting.

Lu Yin lifted his head and spoke somberly, "At the moment, there is no evidence suggesting that Elder Long Quan is a Redback."

Long Ke frowned and his eyes grew cold. "Well then, regardless of whether or not you've found any evidence, just tell me simply: do you believe Elder Long Quan is a Redback?"

Lu Yin frowned. It was quite uncomfortable to be hounded in this manner. Lu Yin was the acting Gate Master of Humility's Gate in Huaiyuan. While Long Ke had told Lu Yin to address him as father-in-law, the older man's tone was no different than scolding a grandson. The more Lu Yin thought about his situation, the more upset he became with it.

Suddenly, Twin Mansion collapsed and sword qi shot into the sky. Lu Yin spun to look. Liu Tianmu had attacked? Twin Mansion was resisting the arrest of a traitor?

The sword qi tore through the sky and ripped through the earth to reveal underground cells. Lu Yin saw that they held numerous girls imprisoned, and they all looked up. Seeing the outside, hope overtook the despair on their faces.

Lu Yin's pupils instantly shrank. There was a certain face he saw among the girls, and he instantly ended the call and vanished.

Cai Shu was startled by the sudden change, and he looked down to see that Lu Yin had appeared within the shattered underground section of Twin Mansion, right next to a group of the female prisoners. "Luo Shen?"

The girls who had been imprisoned beneath Twin Mansion were trembling as they looked up. Lu Yin had suddenly appeared, which had left them even more frightened. However, after he spoke, one woman quivered, and then looked up. Her eyes flushed red when she saw Lu Yin, and she tried to speak, only to be cut off by Lu Yin, "I am Long Qi, Luo Shen."

The woman was Luo Shen, and she had been held prisoner beneath Twin Mansion.

Lu Yin had truly never expected to find Luo Shen in the Perennial World. He had not been nearly so surprised to meet Bai Xue in Seed Garden, but how was Luo Shen in this universe?

Luo Shen was instantly ecstatic when she saw Lu Yin, and she leaped into his arms.

Lu Yin held Luo Shen and felt the warmth of her body. Many questions burned deep in his heart, but he knew that this was not the time to ask them.

"You need to remember that my name is Long Qi," Lu Yin reminded her. He looked down, only to see that Luo Shen had already fallen asleep.

Liu Tianmu appeared above Lu Yin. Her sword was in her hand as she looked down at Lu Yin. "Twin Mansion has been destroyed."

"Reason?" Lu Yin asked as he walked out of the cell while holding Luo Shen.

"They had lost their humanity," Liu Tianmu casually replied.

Lu Yin nodded. He had seen that the eyes of the girls imprisoned in the underground cells had been full of despair, and one could only imagine what Twin Mansion had done to them.

Shang Qing then approached. "All of these women were going to be sold, and some of them were even intended to be used for experiments."

Lu Yin choked back the words he had been about to say. "No need for too many details. It's has already been destroyed."

Shang Qing appeared calm, but given his status as the first Honor Chosen of the Hall of Honor, naturally he had witnessed something like this before.

Lu Yin's communication crystal trembled again. Long Ke was likely calling back.

Lu Yin did not answer the call. The White Dragon Clan's patriarch wanted to oppress Lu Yin, but given Lu Yin's current reputation and status, it would not be easy for even Long Ke to do anything.

"Hey, who's that? You know her, Bro?" Wang Dashuai approached and was instantly curious about the girl.

Lu Yin answered, "She's an old friend."

Shang Qing and Liu Tianmu glanced at each other; old friend? Another person from the Fifth Mainland?

"By the way, where are the resources that belonged to Twin Mansion?" Lu Yin asked after suddenly remembering.

Cai Shu was the one to answer, "Since Twin Mansion has been destroyed, their resources cannot be touched, as doing so would cause people to believe that we moved for their wealth."

This was unfortunate for Lu Yin. "Then let's head back."

He then set Luo Shen on the transport made from the folded white paper.

Twin Mansion's destruction was a minor matter for the Middle Realm as a whole, and it only affected the local region, not a widespread area. Thus, no one questioned the matter at all.

The next day, after they all returned to Huaiyuan Gate's headquarters, Luo Shen awoke. She had been completely exhausted, and she had also lost weight.

Lu Yin had stood guard over her.

The moment she saw Lu Yin, tears sprang up in her eyes. "I thought it was a dream! I never expected it would actually be you."

As Lu Yin looked at Luo Shen, he felt his heart squeezed. He softly asked, "Why are you here?"

Luo Shen pursed her chapped lips, which caused blood to ooze from them. Lu Yin quickly wiped it away.

"I- I- You disappeared into Jupiter, so I tried to find you," Luo Shen whispered.

Lu Yin had to ask, "You were able to get close to Jupiter?"

Luo Shen shook her head. "Not at first, but I returned every day. Maybe it's just a coincidence that I ended up here."

Lu Yin's heart trembled as he looked at Luo Shen's nervous expression. However, he did not know how to feel when he saw the unrestrained delight in her eyes when she saw him. In the past, this woman had

blocked an attack intended for Lu Yin, and she had then gone to Earth to wait for his return. She had even chased him to the Perennial World, which weighed heavily on Lu Yin.

Both of them stayed silent for a while.

Luo Shen looked at Lu Yin and saw the complicated emotions flickering through his eyes. She quickly said, "I- I didn't mean anything further! I just wanted to know that you were safe. Don't overthink things."

Her words amused Lu Yin, and he stretched out a hand to rub Luo Shen's head. "I didn't think much of it. Rest well, and you have to remember, I'm Long Qi."

Luo Shen nodded, suddenly serious. "I remember."

Lu Yin knew that this woman would remember every word he said to her. She looked at him with a gaze that made it clear that she would remember for the rest of her life. This expression troubled Lu Yin quite badly.

"Rest well," Lu Yin said before turning and leaving the room.

After Lu Yin left, Luo Shen buried her head in the blankets and wept for joy. Finally, she had found him. He was still alive! This was wonderful!

After leaving Luo Shen's room and returning to his own quarters, Lu Yin felt rather drained. Luo Shen's feelings would make other people happy, but they weighed heavily on Lu Yin. Too heavily.

"Sigh, women," Lu Yin heard the old man's voice.

The sound startled Lu Yin, who was already in a bad mood. "Couldn't you knock or something?"

The old man showed his strange smile. "Kid, are you exhausted because of a woman?"

Lu Yin subconsciously nodded, but then suddenly felt that there was something slightly off about the old man's words, though Lu Yin could not quite find what was wrong.

Seeing the old man's strange smile, Lu Yin's voice grew more casual. "If you have something to say, just say it. I'm not in the mood for word games."

The old man stretched. "That girl reminds this old man of years gone by. Youth... Can't get it back."

Lu Yin was speechless. "You eventually have to admit that you're old. What do you miss about your youth?"

The old man sighed emotionally. "Kid, you'll understand when you get old that once you're old, memories are your greatest joy."

Lu Yin looked outside the room.

"You want some news about another Redback?" The next time the old man opened his mouth, he said something that startled Lu Yin.

Redbacks and traitors were two completely different things, and arresting even a hundred traitors could not equal the credit received for exposing a single Redback.

Lu Yin stared at the old man. "You have more information about Redbacks?"

The old man proudly replied, "Of course! Kid, this next Redback will be enough for your reputation to rise once again, and might even get you a meeting with the Commander of Humility's Gate."

Lu Yin started thinking about the implications.

"Aren't you excited?" The old man was caught off guard at Lu Yin's reaction.

Lu Yin quietly answered, "It's not good for a tall tree to attract too much wind."

The old man rolled his eyes. "Who told you that you need to be the one to expose this Redback? Sell the info to Qing Chen."

Lu Yin was taken aback at this suggestion. "Sell it?"

The old man smiled. "You can call it a sale, but it's really just exchanging resources. You tell Qing Chen that you'll give him the information about this Redback in exchange for whatever resources or information you want. It's just a transaction."

Lu Yin was swayed. This seemed like a good option. If he arrested another Redback, those monsters would likely see him as a thorn in their side, and Lu Yin had no desire to have to constantly be on guard against assassins. Not to mention, those monsters were sneaky and unpredictable. Lu Yin still wanted to survive long enough to return to the Fifth Mainland.

This option of selling the information to Humility's Gate and allowing them to arrest the Redback would not only allow Lu Yin to remain hidden, he would also be able to receive whatever resources he wanted, which would be killing two birds with one stone.

Some people needed reputation in order to have their status rise, but Lu Yin had no need for such things while in the Perennial World.

After thinking about it, Lu Yin's eyes filled with excitement and he looked at the old man and gave the man a rare smile. "I'll ask Senior to share his information."

The old man laughed. "Kid, you're too much of a flake! This old man shows you a clear path, and you instantly change your entire attitude."

Lu Yin pursed his lips. This really was a clear path forward. He would sell the information to Humility's gate anytime he received such information in the future, and besides, he did not need to continue with this method. A billion star essence could tide him over for a while.

The old man snickered at Lu Yin, but then he quickly grew serious. "This Redback won't be as easy to catch as the others, and even this old man needs to confirm some things. Tell Qing Chen that there are traitors in the Crimson Garden, but you need to confirm some information first. You'll need to find a certain person in the Crimson Garden, and with that information, this old man will be able to determine the location of the Redback."

Lu Yin had to ask, "The Crimson Garden?"

"It's a weird place up in the Higher Realm. Most people never even hear of it. Qing Chen can get you there," the old man explained.

Lu Yin grew embarrassed. "So it's a hassle?"

The old man did not know how to respond. "It's not as much of a hassle as it is to expose a Redback! This old man can tell you that this Redback is even more important than Yun Mubai. As long as you confirm the target, this achievement will allow you to be able to walk sideways in the Higher Realm. Humility's Gate will absolutely become your greatest backer, and the credit from this will be enough to get your name recorded in history."

Lu Yin considered the matter for a bit longer. "Will Supervisor Qing Chen be willing to take me to the Crimson Garden?"

"Without a doubt," the old man affirmed. He then created an image in the air of a person. "Make sure that this person is in the Crimson Garden, and this old man will be able to confirm the identity of the Redback."

The old man did not see it as he was focused on his drawing in the air, but as he sketched out a figure, Lu Yin's face changed in an amazing manner.

Recently, Lu Yin had survived several disasters, and had also met with Bai Xue and Luo Shen, and each encounter had been startling. However, nothing could compare to the shock that this picture caused to Lu Yin. Wasn't it a picture of the grandpa from Driftcharge Planet?

Chapter 1482: The Crimson Garden

Lu Yin's pupils fluctuated. The shock he felt was indescribable. The grandpa from Driftcharge Planet had some connection to this universe? And Lu Yin was finding out about it from a Semi-Progenitor! What was happening? How were the two connected? Lu Yin had initially believed that old man had been from the Neoverse. After all, that grandpa had asked Lu Yin to take the Stonewall Scriptures and a series of numbers to deliver to someone in the Neoverse.

How could that grandpa have anything to do with the Perennial World?

The old man turned to face Lu Yin. "Will you remember it? This is the person."

Lu Yin dropped his head the moment the old man turned around. "I'll remember."

The old man frowned and pressed Lu Yin in a somber tone, "Did you look! It's critical that you clearly remember this man's image."

"I'll remember." He then lifted his head, as his expression had returned to normal. "Who is this person?"

The old man responded in an indifferent manner, "No one you need to worry about. If you see him in the Crimson Garden, don't say anything, don't ask anything, just get back here and let me know."

"Where's the traitor?" Lu Yin asked.

The old man rolled his eyes. "How can I simply find a traitor every time I make a move? Qing Chen already understands this."

Lu Yin nodded. The image in the air gradually faded, and the old man reconfirmed. "Do you remember the face clearly?"

Lu Yin said, "Perfectly."

"Draw it for me," the old man ordered.

Lu Yin suspected that this old Semi-Progenitor had been deliberately raising Li Yin's prestige within Humility's Gate for precisely this task. If the old man had drawn someone else's image, Lu Yin might not have worked with the old man, but since Lu Yin had seen the image of the grandpa from Driftcharge Planet, things were different. Lu Yin wanted to satisfy his own curiosity and uncover that grandpa's real identity.

Lu Yin believed that he had only survived for so long and reached his current heights because of that grandpa he had met on Driftcharge Planet. Without the Arcane Art - Fatal Revival and the Stonewall Scriptures, Lu Yin would have died long ago.

The old man clearly did not have much trust in Lu Yin, but because he was worried that Lu Yin would grow suspicious, the old man refrained from saying anything more.

"When should I reach out to Supervisor Qing Chen?" Lu Yin asked.

The old man replied, "Keep that girl company for a few days before moving out."

Luo Shen was doing much better the following day. Humility's Gate had no shortage of medications, as well as natural treasures to promote health and energy. Lu Yin had prepared quite a few for Luo Shen, though she only took a small amount.

Lu Yin felt his heart ridden with guilt as he looked at Luo Shen's bowed head as she smiled and happily ate.

Lu Yin did find Luo Shen to be a beautiful woman, and she was also the biggest celebrity in the Outerverse who was even qualified to be the Great Eastern Alliance's spokesperson. However, beauty would always be regarded highly, and Lu Yin could not help himself from appreciating beauty when he saw it.

As for Luo Shen, Lu Yin did not have particularly strong feelings for her, but he found it difficult to reject her. She had sacrificed a great deal for him, and had even been willing to give up her life to save him.

"Your High...", Luo Shen was about to shout, but then she remembered something. "Brother Long, could you look away from me?"

Her request startled Lu Yin. "I'm sorry."

He had been lost in his thoughts, and had subconsciously been staring at Luo Shen without even realizing it. Naturally, it was embarrassing to be stared at while eating.

Luo Shen smiled. "Thank you."

Lu Yin turned to look outside.

It did not take long for Luo Shen to speak up again, "I finished."

Lu Yin looked back to see that the table still held a great deal of delicious food, so he encouraged her, "Eat some more. Your body needs to restore itself."

Luo Shen replied, "Alright."

She sat back down to continue eating. It took quite a while for her to finish all of the food, as she did so slowly and each move was graceful.

"Let me show you around," Lu Yin offered.

Luo Shen nodded. It seemed as though she would not refuse anything that Lu Yin suggested.

He led her around, and she did not resist, as she was happy to follow Lu Yin anywhere he went.

"How long did you visit Jupiter?" Lu Yin asked.

Luo Shen thought for a moment. "I started going right after you disappeared."

Lu Yin secretly let out a sigh. "When did you get to this universe?"

"A few days ago. I was captured the moment I arrived." Luo Shen still felt a little traumatized.

"You aren't hurt?" Lu Yin asked.

Luo Shen shook her head. "My body's rather weak, but I didn't suffer any injuries."

The two fell silent. Lu Yin was not used to escorting a woman in this manner. If he was with Ming Yan, he would be very happy, but she was his lover. The current atmosphere was too heavy.

"Brother Long, I really don't need anything at all. All I wanted was to see for myself that you're alive and well," Luo Shen whispered. Her voice was soft, but her tone was firm.

"Thank you." After a moment's silence, this was all Lu Yin could say.

They were then approached by a group of people, who were led by Wang Dashuai. He acted like a little tyrant in Huaiyuan Gate.

The fatty saw Lu Yin and Luo Shen, and he quickly trotted over to them. "Bro, I caught a traitor!"

Lu Yin was surprised. "A traitor? Where?"

The fatty pointed at a squad that stood off in the distance. They surrounded and held captive a man who looked to have despaired.

"That brat tried to sneak into our headquarters! I saw through him with a glance!" the fatty reported.

The man whined, "I'm being falsely accused! I just wanted to take a shortcut to join Humility's Gate. I'm not a traitor!"

"Shut up! If you wanted to join Humility's Gate, why not just take the assessment? There's no reason to try to be sneaky, and a single look is enough to know you're up to no good!" Wang Dashuai shouted.

Just then, he paid attention to Luo Shen, and suddenly licked his lips and smiled. "What's this? Bro's out with this sister?"

Luo Shen's face flushed red.

Lu Yin gritted his teeth. Things were becoming embarrassing, and yet this bastard kept pushing things. "Go take care of your own affairs and don't cause any trouble."

"I got it. I got it. Haha!" The fatty laughed loudly before leading the squad away in a very imposing manner.

After a while, Chen Xiazhi sought out Lu Yin to report that the Huaiyuan Gate's headquarters was short on funds. Lu Yin then remembered that the Huaiyuan Gate had always surpassed the other Gates in the Middle Realm due to donations from Yun Mubai. With the former sect master's arrest, the amount of funds entering Huaiyuan Gate had plummeted.

Though it grieved him to do so, Lu Yin gave Chen Xiazhi 20 million star essence. Chen Xiazhi then left satisfied with the outcome.

Lu Yin's heart bled, but it did not matter. It was impossible to be a Gate Master without a bit of sacrifice.

After that, Lu Yin and Luo Shen ran into Liu Tianmu training with her sword, and she also saw Lu Yin and Luo Shen. Liu Tianmu stared at Luo Shen, but then returned to training.

Luo Shen stared at Liu Tianmu with clear envy. "That woman's amazing."

"You had to have heard of her before. That's Liu Tianmu," Lu Yin stated.

For a moment, Luo Shen was puzzled, but then she suddenly connected the dots. Her face went pale. "Arbiter Liu Tianmu?"

Lu Yin nodded.

Luo Shen was shocked. "Why is she here?"

Lu Yin replied, "I'll explain this to you later, but you need to remember that I'm the only one here who you can trust. In addition to Liu Tianmu, there's someone else here as well: Shang Qing. I'll take you to see him as well."

It turned out there was no need for them to look, as Shang Qing was looking for Lu Yin.

"He's Shang Qing. You should've seen him during ZENITH," Lu Yin said.

Luo Shen stared at Shang Qing. "I think I remember."

Shang Qing was unconcerned about the two's words, and instead asked, "Do you have a way to get in touch with that Bai Xue?"

Lu Yin was caught completely off guard; Bai Xue?

Luo Shen blurted out, "Bai Xue?"

Shang Qing doubtfully glanced at Luo Shen. "You know her?"

Luo Shen was startled by the question, and she glanced at Lu Yin before quickly shaking her head.

Shang Qing's eyes flickered and he looked back at Lu Yin. "Looks like my intuition was right; you do know that Bai Xue."

Lu Yin grew curious. "Why do you want to get in touch with her?"

Shang Qing was completely frank. "I like her, so I want to take her back."

With all of the surprises that Lu Yin had suffered over the recent days, he felt nothing at Shang Qing's revelation.

"Why is Sister Bai Xue here?" Luo Shen asked in surprise. She was rather happy, as she was good friends with Bai Xue.

Lu Yin answered, "She was sucked in, just like you and me."

"No wonder I haven't been able to get ahold of Sister Bai Xue," Luo Shen said. She then looked back at Shang Qing.

"You like Sister Bai Xue?" Luo Shen asked, very interested. Like most girls, she was very interested in such things.

Shang Qing stared at Luo Shen. "You know Bai Xue well?"

Luo Shen pursed his lips and smiled. "Very well."

"Help me get to know her." Shang Qing sounded completely serious.

Lu Yin had no idea how to react. "We'll look for a chance, but for right now, we're all in danger, and we don't even know if we'll be able to get back alive."

Shang Qing frowned. "I have seen many women, and I even had to deal with the Hall of Honor trying to set me up, but I've never felt from any other woman what I feel from that Bai Xue. She gives me a pure and natural feeling."

"It's all in your head," Lu Yin snapped.

Shang Qing remained completely somber and serious. "I'm not joking, though of course I don't mean to force anything. However, if it's possible, keep this in mind, as I hope to take Bai Xue back to the Fifth Mainland."

Shang Qing then turned and left.

Lu Yin's head ached. Why did everyone around him have such extreme personalities?

"Brother Long, he seems like a good and reliable person. Sister Bai Xue should like him," Luo Shen stated with a chuckle.

Lu Yin rolled his eyes. "I don't have time to play matchmaker! I'll take them both if I can, but I probably won't be able to take Bai Xue back."

Luo Shen grew dejected. "Aren't there any options given your abilities, Brother Long?"

"What do you think I am?" Lu Yin asked. Shang Qing's intrusion had shattered the awkward silence between the two, and Lu Yin was slowly speaking more casually, which helped him to relax a bit.

Lu Yin spent two days keeping Luo Shen company. He showed her around and enjoyed seeing Luo Shen's happy smile, as it helped to ease his sense of guilt.

On the third day, Lu Yin reached out to contact Qing Chen. "There's a traitor in the Crimson Garden."

Qing Chen had been in a good mood, and had taken the opportunity to relax with a bit of tea, but his expression changed the moment he heard Lu Yin's words, and the old man nearly spat out his tea.

"What did you say? Say that again!"

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. It appeared that this Crimson Garden was incredibly important. Qing Chen had not reacted so strongly even when hearing that Yun Mubai was a Redback. By this it was clear that this Crimson Garden was far more important than the Cloud Shuttle.

"There's a traitor in the Crimson Garden," Lu Yin solemnly repeated.

Qing Chen's face grew solemn. "Information from Realmless?"

Lu Yin neither admitted nor denied anything.

Qing Chen frowned. "Name?"

Lu Yin replied, "I don't have a name. The information I received only says that there's a traitor there, and I have to personally check things to determine who the traitor is."

This information did not surprise Qing Chen. "That makes sense. Not even Realmless can infiltrate the Crimson Garden. Finding out that there's a traitor there is already the limit of what they can do."

He looked up at Lu Yin. "How do you want to check things?"

Lu Yin replied in an earnest tone, "I really do have an innate gift that allows me to see through people, but I need information to help my ability. With the information I've received, I'll definitely be able to find the traitor in the Crimson Garden."

Qing Chen clearly did not believe Lu Yin's words. He himself was a Semi-Progenitor, and he was skilled at uncovering traitors. However, this matter was too important. "Wait a minute."

He immediately hung up.

Chapter 1483: Authority

Lu Yin lifted his head to look up at the Higher Realm. If things proceeded according to plan, he would soon visit that place, the Higher Realm. The place where the rulers of the Perennial World lived. He wondered what he would see up there.

Lu Yin waited for more than an hour before his communication crystal vibrated and an image of Qing Chen reappeared. The Middle Realm's Supervisor looked somber. "I will take you to the Crimson Garden

to search for the traitor and let you make your judgment there. I will accompany you throughout the entire process, and we will search together."

Lu Yin nodded. "Okay."

"I'm going to head right over to pick you up and take you to the Higher Realm." Suddenly, the image disappeared.

Lu Yin casually said, "Supervisor Qing Chen is on his way. Are you certain that you won't be discovered?"

The old man emerged. "Of course not. He's no better than me, so as long as he just stays here, he won't be able to find him."

Lu Yin picked up his feet and walked away.

"Little guy, make sure you look at everyone in the Crimson Garden. Don't miss a single person," the old man solemnly ordered.

Lu Yin turned around and shot a teasing look at the old man. "Old man, your actions are completely different from before. Aren't you worried that I'll start to think that you're particularly invested in this matter?"

The old man's strange smile made a comeback. "This old man knows how smart you are, so maybe you can answer a question for me: is it fun in the Forsaken Land?"

Lu Yin's face twitched. Sure enough, this old man knew that they were from the Forsaken Land.

"We're conducting business, and both of us are aware of this. As long as you earnestly help me resolve this matter, this old man will never mention your personal affairs," the old man promised.

Lu Yin frowned. "The person you're looking for might not be in the Crimson Garden, so don't blame me if I can't find him."

"This old man already knows how many people there are in the Crimson Garden, as well as some of their characteristics. You'll just need to answer a few questions when you get back, and if you answer properly, this old man will know that you're serious about helping me. Who could ever imagine that the most brilliant genius in Humility's Gate's history, an acting Gate Master, is actually a trespasser from the Forsaken Land? If I remember correctly, you went to the Dominion Realm with the four Junior Progenitors, and a group of people disappeared there. Do you really believe that the four ruling powers think that those people disappeared? That they have nothing to do with you? That they believe that the four Junior Progenitors being trapped there has nothing to do with you?" the old man asked with his odd smile.

Lu Yin instantly grew completely focused. This old guy was rather brazen with his guesses. The group of missing people were actually all in Lu Yin's cosmic ring right now. "Don't worry, senior, I'll complete this task properly."

"Don't worry, kid. I promise that uncovering this Redback will make you one of the most important people in this universe," the old man promised.

Lu Yin did not believe the old man's words, but he had no choice but to follow along. At least up until now, the old man had shown no indication of wanting to harm Lu Yin, and Lu Yin also wanted to know the identity of that grandpa from Driftcharge Planet.

While most people in the Perennial World were clearly hostile to trespassers, there were others who truly did not care. Wu Taibai was one such example, and the Semi-Progenitor in front of Lu Yin seemed like he was in hiding as well. Clearly, this was not the same opinion that the primary powers of the Perennial World held, but Lu Yin chose to believe that this old man truly did not care about Lu Yin being a trespasser.

If the absolute worst happened, Lu Yin could always use his trump card: Master Summoning. Lu Yin was actually looking forward to seeing Mister Mu's strength.

Lu Yin said goodbye to Luo Shen and walked out of Huaiyuan Gate. Qing Chen soon arrived, as he had been traveling at top speed. He then quickly escorted Lu Yin over to Cloud Shuttle.

Lu Yin had not returned to Cloud Shuttle since Yun Mubai's arrest, so his arrival drew a great deal of attention from the Smokecloud Sect disciples. They all looked at Lu Yin while hiding complicated emotions. They did not know whether to feel hatred or gratitude towards this person.

Lu Yin and Qing Chen soon arrived on a cloud platform that was drifting up from the ground. Lu Yin looked down and saw the ground grow smaller and smaller. He then looked upwards towards the Higher Realm.

"Is this your first time going to the Higher Realm?" Qing Chen asked.

Lu Yin grunted. "Yeah. Isn't it a bit of an embarrassment that this is my first time there despite being a member of the White Dragon Clan?"

Qing Chen laughed. "Those who have humble origins will grow unbelievably arrogant once given the opportunity. The four ruling powers are a perfect example, as they all used to be based in the Middle Realm."

Lu Yin commented, "I heard that the four ruling powers worked together to exile the Lu family and replace them as the rulers of the Perennial World."

Qing Chen quickly said, "Don't think about the Lu family, or else the restrictions within your mind will activate. Those restrictions are from a sourcebox array that was set up by the Progenitors of all four ruling powers, and it affects the entire Perennial World. Not even Envoys can remember the Lu family, so even if you reach that level, I still won't be able to say much about the Lu family."

"Understood," Lu Yin replied. This finally explained why the man whom he had Possessed had died from his head exploding when he had tried to glean information regarding the Lu family. It had been because of this sourcebox array that the Progenitors from the four ruling powers had cooperated to arrange. They had clearly been determined to eliminate everything in the Perennial World that was related to the Lu family in order to complete their takeover.

"You don't seem to be worried about the four ruling powers. Is it because of your status as a branch family member?" Qing Chen asked.

Lu Yin replied, "Maybe. They're all the way up there, and to them, I'm no different from a regular person."

Qing Chen sighed. "Long Ke, the patriarch of the White Dragon Clan, has the typical attitude of a ruler. On top of that, you're from a branch family and are only the main family's son-in-law. There's no disputing this, so don't get angry with him. Just be patient and find the Redback in the Crimson Garden. I will then personally accompany you to Dragon Mountain in order to apologize to him. In the end, your roots lay with the White Dragon Clan, and you will need their support in the future."

Lu Yin understood and was not surprised by Qing Chen's words. After failing to get through to Lu Yin, Long Ke must have contacted Qing Chen.

"My deepest thanks, supervisor, but your subordinate only wants to remain with Humility's Gate. If I visit Dragon Mountain, it will be hard for me to ever leave," Lu Yin said.

Qing Chen smiled casually. "You underestimate my Humility's Gate. You are Huaiyuan Gate's acting Gate Master, and you have accomplished great things. Even the commander's eye is on you. While it's true that the White Dragon Clan is one of the four ruling powers that looks down upon all others, the truth has always been and always will be that the Progenitors are the true masters of the universe. The commander is a Progenitor, and when he speaks, not even the White Dragon Clan's Progenitor will refuse to give him face. You're nothing more than a son-in-law, and you're not worth two Progenitors fighting over.

"As far as the White Dragon Clan is concerned, you are nothing more than a son-in-law. On the other hand, to my Humility's Gate, you are a man of great value. The commander will step forward for you, and the White Dragon Clan is already aware of the situation. Thus, they will not embarrass you."

Lu Yin felt helpless. He absolutely did not want to go to Dragon Mountain, especially since he was afraid that they would want to verify his bloodline, which would lead to no end of trouble. However, after seeing Qing Chen's response, there was no way the supervisor would not take Lu Yin to see the White Dragon Clan.

Qing Chen's intention was to do this for Long Qi's own sake, as the supervisor knew that, even if Long Qi stayed with Humility's Gate in the future, he could not completely cut off ties from his own clan. Qing Chen was trying to resolve the distance between Lu Yin and the White Dragon Clan's main family. However, Lu Yin was absolutely certain that Long Ke would not react as Qing Chen expected, as the patriarch had already mentioned that he wanted Lu Yin to frame Elder Long Quan.

As Lu Yin was thinking about this matter, he was shrouded by a shadow from above. They were getting closer and closer to the Higher Realm.

The closer one was to the Higher Realm, the more suffocating the pressure that they would suffer. This pressure was given off by the entire Higher Realm.

It felt like the pressure represented the difficulty of ants trying to ascend to the Higher Realm. This pressure seemed to carry authority, repression, and supremacy.

Lu Yin looked up once more to stare at the unreachable base of the Higher Realm. Suddenly, a strange thought popped into his head: what would it be like to shatter this landmass?

There was a whistle as a gust of wind swept by the two men. It was not weak, and even a Hunter might not be able to endure this gust. However, it had no effect whatsoever on Lu Yin and Qing Chen.

Everything grew dark, and they began to pass by the rock formations that made up the base of the Higher Realm. Before long, they passed through the whole section, and a ray of light entered their eyes.

Lu Yin had finally entered the Higher Realm.

Against expectations, the Higher Realm was not bright, but rather quite dark. There was no sun, and the bit of light that he did see shone across the ground from an infinite distance away.

"The Higher Realm has no light source. The light from above is blocked by the Mother Tree's canopy that covers the entire Dominion Realm, and there are no stars between the Higher Realm and the Dominion Realm. Finally, the four ruling powers do not allow anyone else to establish stars above their territory, and everyone else can only accept these rules within the Higher Realm. This is why the only distant sources of light that we see is from one of the ruling powers, as they are the only ones allowed to have a source of light here in the Higher Realm."

Lu Yin found this quite entertaining. This was the ultimate abuse of authority.

The cloud platform came to a stop, and Lu Yin and Qing Chen stepped off. Lu Yin had officially stepped onto the Higher Realm. Off in the distance, he saw a burst of stellar energy sweep by, but it instantly retreated after detecting Qing Chen's aura.

Due to being a part of Humility's Gate, as well as because he was accompanying Qing Chen, Lu Yin's cosmic ring was not inspected. Normally, everyone who entered the Higher Realm had to let their cosmic ring be inspected, as no weapons were allowed to enter the Higher Realm.

Qing Chen placed a hand on Lu Yin's shoulder and guided him into a tear in the void and made their way towards the Crimson Garden.

Since they were traveling through the void, Lu Yin was unable to ask any questions.

The Higher Realm was massive, though most of it was under the control of the four ruling powers, and there were not many public areas.

As Qing Chen and Lu Yin traveled through the void, they encountered no fewer than five bursts of stellar energy, and one was even enough to force Qing Chen to stop and speak to someone.

"You're able to endure the pressure of the true universe much better than I expected," Qing Chen suddenly commented.

Lu Yin's heart skipped a beat. He had completely missed the fact that Qing Chen had entered the true universe through the tear in the void. It was practically impossible for most Enlighteners to even touch the true universe, let alone show no effect after such a long exposure.

"The members of the White Dragon Clan really do have impressive physiques," Qing Chen said with a sigh before saying no more about it.

One day later, the two stopped.

"Qing Chen, the Supervisor of Humility's Gate's Middle Realm's Nine Gates and Huaiyuan Gate's Gate Master ask to enter the Crimson Garden," Qing Chen opened his mouth and spoke to an empty region in front of the duo.

Lu Yin stared at the area before them. There was nothing but empty space. Was this the Crimson Garden? If that was the case, then it meant that there was a pocket dimension here, just like the 3,000 hidden worlds on Honor Mountain.

Up in the sky, a delicate and beautiful flower appeared from the void, appearing out of nowhere.

Lu Yin stared at the beautiful bright red flower in surprise. This was the same type of flower that had appeared in the last image that he had seen in the Possessed Enlighter's mind when searching for information regarding the Lu family. It was also the same flower that Lu Yin had discovered in Bai Shaohong's cosmic ring. Was this flower from the Crimson Garden?

Qing Chen watched as the red flower appeared, and fear manifested in his eyes. He reached up to touch the flower with a finger, and the two people instantly disappeared, along with the flower. It was as though the flower had never even existed.

Lu Yin had long since become accustomed to sudden changes in scenery, so when he regained his senses, he immediately looked around. However, a startled expression instantly appeared on his face when he saw the Crimson Garden.

He saw delicate red flowers falling everywhere in the sky. It seemed like it was raining flowers endlessly, just like what he had seen in the memory of the man that he had Possessed long ago. The red flowers filled the world, each one delicate and beautiful.

He saw even more of the red flowers blooming on the ground. There were burbling streams off in the distance, and there were more flowers floating in the water. They covered the paths in bamboo forests that were quiet and secluded, and all of the distant mountains were covered in red. The entire world was red. This was the Crimson Garden.

No one could be seen, as the place was empty.

Chapter 1484: A Madman's Obsession

Qing Chen's hands trembled the moment the two entered the Crimson Garden. It looked as though he had suddenly remembered something, and fear filled his eyes. "This is the Crimson Garden. You must remember that you cannot ever publicize that you've been here, and you cannot even tell anyone about this place."

Lu Yin grew curious. "Is this place that important?"

Qing Chen answered quietly, "This place is more important than you can possibly imagine."

"Why is no one here?" Lu Yin asked.

Qing Chen replied, "If no one's here, then we'll just look for them. I'll take you to see everyone here, but if you find the Redback, say nothing. It's practically impossible for a traitor to be hiding in this place."

Lu Yin nodded and fell silent, and Qing Chen did not say anything further either. He led Lu Yin along a flowing stream.

If Qing Chen were replaced with a woman, the scenery that they passed through would be the most beautiful place imaginable for a date. However, despite such a scenic backdrop, the fear in Qing Chen's eyes only grew stronger with each passing moment, and the same was also true of Lu Yin. This place was lovely to look at, but he was trying to suppress a rising sense of panic.

Red flowers rained from the sky, almost as if they were trying to bury the two men.

After a brief time walking, Lu Yin's ears twitched, and he looked in front of them. The soil was moving there, and he instantly raised his guard.

Qing Chen's gaze instantly focused on that patch of dirt as he stared at the ground in front of them.

Suddenly, the soil erupted, and a figure rushed towards the two men.

Qing Chen waved his hand, shattering the void as the attack swept towards the charging figure.

The attack passed through the void and struck the figure, blasting it into the distance and drawing a strange cry from it.

Lu Yin only then saw that the figure was actually a man, though his hair was unkempt, and he looked completely insane. There was a red flower in his mouth.

There was a bang as the man fell into the stream, and he then shouted, "How bold! You dare to sneak into this old ancestor's territory? Are you seeking death? If this old ancestor wanted to attack, you would be splattered across the gate."

Qing Chen and Lu Yin stared at the stream, and the insane-looking man gave them a strange smile as he lay flat in the water. He did not move, though it was clear that Qing Chen's attack had not hurt the man at all. The water flowed around the man, and he stared at Qing Chen. The man then approached the two. His eyes grew bloodshot, and he looked even more mindless than before. "Are you still not kneeling and bowing after seeing this old ancestor? Once I get angry, you will have no path towards survival."

Lu Yin was stunned.

Qing Chen solemnly said, "The Crimson Garden is a prison. This is where the Perennial World keeps our most powerful madmen imprisoned."

The old man had never told Lu Yin exactly what the Crimson Garden was. Lu Yin had asked, but the old man had never given any response. Also, Qing Chen had never mentioned the matter while they were traveling, so this was Lu Yin's first time discovering the purpose of the Crimson Garden: it was a unique prison that was used to incarcerate lunatics.

"Who are these madmen?" Lu Yin asked.

Qing Chen replied, "You'll find out later."

The older man then proceeded on his way.

Lu Yin and the madman looked at each other. The man's eyes were locked onto Lu Yin, and Lu Yin was able to see the man quite clearly through the ripples in the water. The man was sitting in the stream as though he was sitting on a glorious throne. The man was clearly insane, but there was also a readily apparent dignity to him.

"You dare trespass on this master's property! I will eradicate your entire family!" the crazy old man shouted, but that was all he did, as he did not move an inch.

The man under the water continued grinning as he muttered something.

"Copy this scripture a hundred times: don't be naughty. Don't look at the ancestors..." The soft voice grew more and more faint. Lu Yin could not stop himself from turning and glancing at the crazy old man at the bottom of the stream one last time.

"Don't worry. While these people all have their own obsessions, all of them are completely mad," Qing Chen tried to reassure Lu Yin.

Before they were able to walk too far, they felt a slight vibration in the ground. Off in the distance, they saw a fat old woman squatting on the ground. They could not see what she was doing.

As the two men walked closer, they were able to see clearly.

The fat old woman's arms were close to the ground, and she acted as though she was digging for something even though she didn't have a tool. Most of the flesh on her arms had actually already rotted away, and in many places, one could see her bones.

"Don't worry, it's almost ready! What else do you want to eat? Fried iced fruit? Grilled fish? I'll make them all for you! Haha."

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"Don't worry, it's almost ready! What else do you want to eat? Fried iced fruit? Grilled fish? I'll make them all for you! Haha."

...

The plump old woman kept repeating the same words over and over as though they were etched into her very soul.

Lu Yin stared at the woman's decomposing arms. For some reason, this sight roused a deep sense of sadness and discomfort from the bottom of Lu Yin's heart. He stopped looking at the old woman and resumed walking with Qing Chen.

As they continued moving around, they passed by one mad prisoner after another. They met a little girl who ran by them while laughing heartily. She turned around to speak to someone who was not there and then resumed running, repeating this series of actions endlessly.

They saw a boy who muttered to himself while playing a game all alone. The boy's words were coherent, and he seemed to be in a situation where he could not meet someone's expectations, and was also afraid to fight back even when beaten.

After crossing over the mountains drowned in red, Lu Yin found that there was still a larger region off in the distance.

Lu Yin saw one lunatic after another. However, he felt that these people did not seem to be insane, but more that they were trapped within a specific illusion and were unable to free themselves.

"How is it? Have you seen what you're looking for?" Qing Chen asked.

Lu Yin shook his head. "Not yet."

Qing Chen seemed calm. He was unable to see anything off, so he did not actually expect Lu Yin to find anything here. He had only brought Lu Yin to this place because of a bit of hope.

"How many crazy people are in here?" Lu Yin asked.

"I don't know."

Lu Yin grunted.

Suddenly, they heard a shout, "Young master! Young master, you've returned! Young master, this old slave has missed you so much! Young master..."

Lu Yin and Qing Chen turned their heads to look somewhere, and they saw a man with messy hair and crazed eyes rushing towards them. This man was as skinny as a bamboo pole.

Lu Yin and the man stared at each other, and Lu Yin felt almost completely certain that this man was staring straight at him. Young master?

Qing Chen attacked. A wave of his hand shattered the void and threw the prisoner back.

However, the man was completely uninjured after landing, and he immediately charged straight back towards the two men, still shouting wildly for his young master.

"There's no one else. Let's go," Qing Chen said. After he spoke, he set a hand on Lu Yin's shoulder, and they vanished.

Before they left, Lu Yin looked back at the skinny man. The man was growing increasingly agitated, as though he was trying to break free. He never stopped shouting, "Young master! Young master, you've finally returned! Young master, this old slave has missed you so much! Young master..."

The scene around the two changed, and they returned to the empty place where they had stood before entering the Crimson Garden.

"Did you not find anything?" Qing Chen asked as he stared at Lu Yin with hope in his eyes.

Lu Yin felt helpless. "Your subordinate is incompetent. I was unable to find anything."

Qing Chen's voice dropped low, "I don't blame you. Not even I could find any issues. Let's go. I'll take you to Dragon Mountain."

Lu Yin knew that this trip to Dragon Mountain was unavoidable, and it would be almost impossible to explain why he continuously avoided going. There were certain shackles of thought that not even cultivators could break free of. In the end, Lu Yin had the identity of someone from one of the White Dragon Clan's branch families, and it was impossible for him to break free from the White Dragon Clan, let alone convince others that he wanted to leave the clan.

The sky above the Higher Realm remained dark, as only the territories that belonged to the four ruling powers were allowed to be illuminated.

As they journeyed to Dragon Mountain, Qing Chen offered Lu Yin a bit of information regarding the Higher Realm, including topics like the White Dragon Clan's Dragon Mountain. The bottom of the mountain illuminated the territory, and light actually radiated from the entire mountain. In addition, the mountain was surrounded by lakes, and the glowing mountain in the sky reflected off of the lakes, making for a stunningly beautiful sight.

No one knew where the light at the bottom of the mountain came from, though some people believed that there was a massive sourcebox array set up on the bottom of Dragon Mountain.

As for the Celestial Frost Sect's lightsource, their territory was illuminated by white clouds. The sky above the Celestial Frost Sect was blue, and the clouds were white. What's more, each cloud glowed in a soft and pleasant light that was amazing to behold.

Once again, no one knew why the clouds glowed. However, there was one important detail: the light from the clouds possessed healing properties that not only healed the body, but also gave people a peaceful and ineffable sensation.

As for the Wang family, all of them lived atop a severed hand. Since ancient times, countless people had sought to uncover the severed hand's origins, but no one ever found any clues.

The severed hand was massive enough to support the entire Wang family, and it also meant that the Wang family lived at the highest altitude of all four ruling powers; their home was in the clouds.

There was a sphere above the severed hand that gave off light. This sphere was not a celestial body like a star, but rather more of some kind of a manifestation of some power.

When the severed hand was mentioned, Lu Yin suddenly remembered the severed hand that had appeared when Wang Su had utilized the visualization method. Had that been the hand that Lu Yin had just been told about?

The light source for Shenwu's Sky was the most bizarre, as it was actually an imprisoned Jiao.1 Shenwu's Sky had imprisoned a dragon, and the beast glowed bright enough to illuminate Shenwu's Sky's entire territory.

These were the four ruling powers, and each of them possessed their own light source. As for the rest of the Higher Realm, while any powerhouse of sufficient strength was capable of dragging a star up to the Higher Realm to illuminate a region, such an act was forbidden. The four ruling powers dominated the Higher Realm, and no other stars were allowed.

"My Humility's Gate holds a special position. Because of the commander's existence, the four ruling powers are forced to tolerate many things, but our special position mainly comes from the four ruling

powers' fear of the commander, as well as their hatred of traitors and Redbacks. This forced them to give Humility's Gate its special status. If you think that your achievements for Humility's Gate can make you untouchable to the four ruling powers, you need to know that that's wrong," Qing Chen said lightly.

"However, there is mutual tolerance between us. You can simply ignore the four ruling powers' elite disciples, their elders, and even their Junior Progenitors. However, you absolutely cannot ignore their patriarchs and Semi-Progenitors. Understand?"

Lu Yin could sense that Qing Chen was truly trying to help him, so he nodded. "Yes, supervisor."

Qing Chen sighed. He then led Lu Yin away, and they traveled along beneath the dim sky and made their way towards Dragon Mountain. As they traveled, the light grew brighter and brighter.

It was quite normal to see remnant fluctuations of a cultivator's star energy as they traveled over the ground. It was readily evident that the Higher Realm was not at peace, as the battles that the two had encountered were truly fierce.

All of a sudden, there was a loud noise that shook the void itself and shattered space up in the sky. When Lu Yin looked to the south, he saw that the sky had changed.

Where the sky should have been dark and peaceful, there was instead a pair of scarlet eyes with slitted pupils. The eyes were cold and dead, and the owner of that pair of eyes stared menacingly at what seemed to be another dead being, the Perennial World.

Qing Chen also saw what had appeared. Compared to those eyes, even the Higher Realm did not seem that large.

The scarlet eyes looked down at the Higher Realm, and countless people saw them. The eyes instantly caused a wave of endless fear to sweep out, and many people's scalps went numb.

Lu Yin felt a chill crawl down his back, and the fear that overcame him made him tremble uncontrollably. Those eyes gave him a feeling of utter despair.

Chapter 1485: Mutation

A moment after the slitted scarlet eyes appeared, a massive triangular shadow also appeared in the sky, to the south. Another triangle appeared after that, and then another until there were five rotating triangles. Each one was several times larger than the pair of scarlet eyes, and it looked as though the Higher Realm was equipped with gears that were slowly turning. Each time a triangle turned a side, the entire Higher Realm trembled. Lu Yin could tell that each triangle was unbelievably large, and all five together was almost comparable to the Higher Realm itself in size.

"The array's been activated! This isn't good." Qing Chen gritted his teeth and grabbed Lu Yin. The two then disappeared. Lu Yin had never seen such fear on Qing Chen's face before, and he noticed that the supervisor was not alone in his horror. There was also a nearby Envoy, though Lu Yin and Qing Chen quickly left that cultivator far behind.

Qing Chen traveled as fast as he could, searching for a certain place. Once he found what he was looking for, he pressed a hand down, shattered the earth, and tore open the void. The hole grew larger and

deeper until Lu Yin could not even see how far down the hole went. After Qing Chen was done, Lu Yin saw that the supervisor had revealed a huge, square platform; it was a sourcebox array.

Lu Yin had no time to be surprised, and Qing Chen quickly spoke up. "We need to replenish the stellar energy that powers the base of this sourcebox array. If anyone appears and tries to destroy this platform, then we need to do whatever it takes to stop them."

He then leaped down into the hole and sat down cross-legged on the square platform. A wave of stellar energy swept out, but it quickly disappeared into the sourcebox.

An old man appeared at this moment, and he moved down to the platform without even glancing at Lu Yin. This man sat down cross-legged, the same as Qing Chen, and started pouring his stellar energy into the square platform beneath the ground.

Soon after, two women appeared. They were both stunningly beautiful, and they had bewitching eyebrows and faces that could captivate a person at only a glance. However, both of the women looked very serious at this moment. One of the two glanced at Lu Yin, said something to the other woman, and then leapt down to the square platform to pour her stellar energy into the sourcebox array as well.

The remaining woman looked worried as she stared at the five triangles to the south, as well as the pair of slitted scarlet eyes. Trepidation filled the woman's eyes.

After a moment, she looked towards Lu Yin with a bit of curiosity. But that was all she did. She remained floating high in the sky, silent.

Lu Yin said nothing as well. He could sense that the situation was dire. The square platform in the ground and the triangles in the sky to the south were apparently the Perennial World's largest sourcebox array, and it had been specifically designed to ward off those monsters. The appearance of the scarlet eyes had triggered the sourcebox array.

Lu Yin felt that the owner of those scarlet eyes had to be a powerful Progenitor. Could the Perennial World's Progenitors stop this attack?

Another Envoy arrived. This powerhouse was leading a large number of people, and all of them were riding atop vessels formed from folded paper. They landed on the ground, clearly nervous. None of them dared to even look towards the scarlet eyes off in the distance, and worry was readily apparent on all of their faces.

Qing Chen, the old man, the beautiful woman, and the man who arrived last all sat down on the platform. Qing Chen was far more powerful than the other four Envoys, and although all of them were pouring their stellar energy into the platform as quickly as they could, no one could compare to Qing Chen's contribution. Qing Chen was a Semi-Progenitor, and Lu Yin could not even imagine how terrifyingly powerful the old man truly was.

Soon, an entire day passed, but the pair of slitted, scarlet eyes remained floating overhead. They were cold, dead, and completely devoid of all emotions. On the other hand, the five triangles had started turning faster and faster. They worked together to release a strange force that constantly pushed the scarlet eyes back.

Lu Yin guessed that this effect was due to the efforts of the stellar energy provided by Qing Chen and the others.

At this time, another man arrived, and he also charged straight for the square platform. The beautiful woman who had arrived the day before instantly reacted. She shouted, "Stop him!" as she raised a hand. A multi-colored handkerchief swirled and slashed out at the man, but he easily grabbed it with a sneer before directly throwing the piece of cloth back at the woman.

The woman was stunned. The handkerchief had been thrown at her with so much strength that she could not dodge aside. She stared on in horror as it drew closer, but then, a powerful blast of air came from the side and blew the piece of cloth to bits. At the same time, another gust of wind attacked the man from the same direction that the previous gust had come from.

The man frowned and took out a sword from his cosmic ring. However, the incoming blast shattered his sword when he retaliated, and that didn't even diminish the incoming attack's power. The attack struck the man straight in his chest, passed through his body, and struck the void, causing ripples to appear.

The beautiful woman was left stunned, and when she turned to look at where the attacks had come from, there was only Lu Yin.

Lu Yin pulled his finger back. That had been all that he had used. The man was an Enlighter with a power level of around 300,000 while the woman was not even a Hunter. Naturally, she had been unable to stop the man's attack. However, the man's strength was negligible to Lu Yin, and he had not even been able to stop a finger flick from Lu Yin.

Lu Yin had already revealed to many people that he had recently become an Enlighter, so the strength that he had revealed was acceptable, though still shocking to the woman who had been saved. Lu Yin's strength also stunned the group of people who had arrived with last Envoy.

The man's body fell to the ground.

The beautiful woman gritted her teeth as she flew over to Lu Yin. "I'm Luo Fan. Thank you for saving me."

Lu Yin was taken aback by her manner of speech. He had assumed that a woman with such heavy and vibrant makeup would speak in a more overbearing manner, or at least be similar to Madam Nalan. He had not expected her to have such a soft voice. "Long Qi."

It was the woman's turn to be surprised. "The White Dragon Clan?"

"A branch family."

The woman snorted. Worry still clouded her eyes. "Master and the others are still passing stellar energy into the sourcebox array to hold the monsters back, but this means that more and more traitors hidden in the Perennial World will try to destroy the bases of the array. I'll have to trouble Big Brother Long Qi to help us hold them back."

Lu Yin nodded, as this explained why Qing Chen had asked him to stand guard.

"How long will this take?" Lu Yin asked. He regretted his question the moment he spoke it, as how could this woman have any idea?

Sure enough, she shook her head and stayed silent.

Lu Yin heard some people in the crowd below speaking. "Isn't she Mistress Luo Fan from Misty Rain Pavilions? Why is she here?"

"She came with her master, of course. Didn't you see Mu Yu?"

"I was wondering why she looked so familiar."

"Have you been to Misty Rain Pavilions?"

"...I've heard about it."

...

A courtesan? That was not a common occupation. Lu Yin looked at Luo Fan again, this time with more interest. Aside from the heavy makeup, the woman had a truly refined appearance. What a pity.

Naturally, Luo Fan said nothing, and she simply stared down at the square platform with worried eyes.

"Head on down. I'll stand guard," Lu Yin offered. The woman was not even a Hunter, so she really was not able to help defend the platform. She would only get in the way.

Luo Fan blushed. "Thank you."

She then dropped down to the ground.

After half an hour, another traitor appeared, trying to destroy the platform, but this person was an Enlightener with a power level of just over 200,000. Lu Yin destroyed the cultivator with a wave of his hand.

Over the next few days, several more traitors appeared, but none of them possessed any real strength.

However, on the fourth day, a blue fish showed up, and its appearance caused Luo Fan to have a very strong reaction. "Big Brother Long Qi, be careful! That's Lan Gui! He's on the cusp of becoming an Envoy!"

When the other people on the ground heard the name "Lan Gui," they were all terrified. This person clearly did not have a good reputation.

Lu Yin kept a wary eye on the fish.

Suddenly, the fish began to transform, and it took the form of a man covered with scales. He looked down at Luo Fan with a grin. "Girl, what are you talking about? Do you think that I'm a traitor? What a joke!"

Luo Fan's face grew pale.

Lu Yin's gaze sharpened as he stared at the newcomer. Did this person's innate gift allow him to transform into a fish? Suddenly, he had flashbacks of the fish that rode on top of Xi Qi's head.

"What are you looking at? I'm here to protect you guys. I'll gouge out the eyes of whoever dares to look again!" Lan Gui shouted threats at Lu Yin, who was still staring at the newcomer.

Lu Yin's eyes remained calm. He was clearly unafraid.

Lan Gui was caught off guard, and his eyes turned ferocious. "Kid, aren't you afraid? I'm Lan Gui! I've killed countless people and been repeatedly kicked out of the Higher Realm."

"What's that got to do with me?" Lu Yin asked.

Lan Gui's eyebrows climbed high. "Boy, you're cutting it close. Watch out, or else I'll kill you."

Luo Fan quickly sent a message over to Lu Yin. "Big Brother Long Qi, don't provoke this person! He's insane, and while you might think that being a part of the White Dragon Clan would stop him from killing you, he has absolutely destroyed some of the Celestial Frost Sect's disciples, though he stopped right before killing them. The sect never retaliated, merely posting a mission for their disciples for them to deal with the matter themselves. Despite that, nothing's happened to him yet."

"How is that possible? Their Junior Progenitor didn't move?" Lu Yin was so surprised that he had to ask Luo Fan this. Even if there were no other Celestial Frost Sect disciples who could defeat this person, there were always power vessels, and that was not even mentioning Yu Chen. If that woman made a move, she would only need a few minutes to lay out a scheme to deal with Lan Gui, let alone if a Junior Progenitor moved against him.

Luo Fan explained, "Whenever the Junior Progenitor tried to do anything, this person would just escape. He's very slippery and difficult to pin down."

"Boy, I'm talking to you!" Lan Gui shouted angrily. It looked like he was about to attack Lu Yin.

Lu Yin suddenly turned to look at the ground, and at the same time, Lan Gui's expression changed as he also switched his focus towards the ground. He smiled. "There's a mouse."

With that, he transformed back into a fish and disappeared.

Lu Yin was stunned, and he stepped forward himself. Before he had become an Enlightener and opened his upper meridian point, he had needed to use gemspring water to see into the true universe, but that was no longer the case.

The Junior Progenitors were able to briefly enter the true universe with their extreme speed, and Lu Yin was capable of the same now.

As soon as he moved, his vision changed. He no longer saw just the universe that normal people saw, but also the true universe. He saw that the blue fish was swimming rapidly through the true universe, making its way to the ground.

This sight explained why the youths of the four ruling powers had not been able to catch Lan Gui. As it turned out, his innate gift allowed him to travel freely through the true universe. This was a truly impressive innate gift.

Lan Gui shot through the true universe and quickly reached the ground, where he smashed into someone. This person was wearing a mask that hid their face. The void twisted around this person, and they were obviously using a power vessel.

Lu Yin did not even react to this sight; there were simply too many power vessels in the Perennial World.

Lan Gui tried to hit the person hard enough to knock them out of the true universe. As long as this person had not ascended past the Enlighter realm, there should be no way for them to avoid his attack.

However, the blue fish that Lan Gui had transformed into ended up being caught. The masked man easily grabbed Lan Gui. "Get lost."

The man then squeezed, and cracks covered the body of the blue fish. Lu Yin's expression drastically changed. This was not good—they were an Envoy! Lu Yin instantly threw out a Vacuum Palm.

Just when the masked man was about to crush Lan Gui to pieces, a sense of danger filled his head, and he instantly retreated. The Vacuum Palm brushed past the man's head and slammed into the ground. Lan Gui's fish form was caught up in the aftermath of the attack, and it knocked him around. He eventually transformed back into a human and coughed up blood. His face was pale, and he sank to the ground.

Luo Fan and the others were startled by this sight; what had just happened?

Back in the true universe, the masked man looked up and saw Lu Yin. Lu Yin took out some gemspring water and dripped it into his eyes so that he would be able to observe the true universe even without moving.

Chapter 1486: Ceaseless Impetus

With the gemspring water in his eyes, Lu Yin looked at the masked man.

The masked man frowned. "If you want to seek death, then I'll oblige you."

After saying that, he opened his hand and bent his fingers into claws. The void shattered, and a bizarre, eagle-like creature shot out of the void and raced towards Lu Yin.

Lu Yin raised a hand and released a 350 Stacks Vacuum Palm.

Bang bang bang...

The void ruptured, and shockwaves spread out in all directions, strong enough to distort space and tear the void open.

The masked man was completely shocked; how was this possible? A mere Enlighter had just blocked his battle technique!

Lu Yin lowered his hand. This was no good. This opponent was too difficult. Long Qi should not be strong enough to go toe to toe against an Envoy.

With this thought, Lu Yin stepped back, pulled out the giant mechanical arm, and put it on. He looked completely bizarre as he charged the masked man. "Die, traitor!"

The masked man frowned. He could not understand why, but he felt danger surrounding him from all directions. It felt like a terrifying powerhouse was attacking him, but his opponent was just an Enlighter. When the man recalled that this Enlighter had just blocked his battle technique with some sort of stockpiling palm technique, he became even more nervous. No, first he had to destroy the power supply of the sourcebox array to prevent those people from giving the array any more stellar energy.

There was an explosion as Lu Yin smashed the giant arm into the ground. The ground shattered, and the violent shockwave blew Luo Fan and the others away.

Lan Gui was also blasted away, and he cursed this freak of an Enlighter as he uncontrollably flew through the air and vomited up another mouthful of blood. He was nearly done in by this attack.

Beneath the ground, the masked man secretly cursed Lu Yin as well. The giant right arm had a strength that matched a power level of 500,000, which was the power level of an Envoy. Normally, this would not pose any threat to the masked man, but this Enlighter was already able to block his attacks with a palm, and now, the Enlighter was using a powerful weapon. Things had just become quite troublesome.

Lu Yin took advantage of the moment when the others were being swept away by the shockwave of his attack and the masked man was focused on dodging the attack; an astral chessboard appeared beneath Lu Yin's feet, and he moved.

The masked man simply fell back. He wanted to get around Lu Yin in order to attack the square platform. Suddenly, his back turned cold. He whipped around and saw a raised hand. There was no star energy to be sensed, but there was golden battle force twined around a hand as it struck out with another Vacuum Palm.

The masked man's pupils instantly shrank to dots at the sight of the golden battle force. He reflexively dodged the attack. He believed that he had dodged, but he had never dreamed that Lu Yin would suddenly shift locations.

The Vacuum Palm went in the same direction as before, but Lu Yin's body had changed locations. He had shifted himself to be directly behind the masked man with the Teleportation Formation. There were no obstacles as the Vacuum Palm struck the man's back, and he spat out blood. This was unbelievable; an Envoy had just been injured by an Enlighter.

Severe pain spread through his body, and the masked man could feel that the bones in his back had cracked. He could not stay in this place any longer.

Lu Yin was momentarily stunned, as he had not expected an Envoy to be so willing to run away.

An astral chessboard appeared beneath Lu Yin's feet once more as he shifted himself. He intended to keep the masked man from escaping.

Suddenly, the five triangles far to the south that were rotating like gears sped up. The terrifying slitted scarlet eyes blinked and then shattered. The Higher Realm itself trembled, and countless people turned to look.

The sky soon returned to normal. The scarlet eyes had disappeared, as had the five triangles. Only the dim sky could be seen now.

Lu Yin made a mistake with the Ce Secret Art. By the time he was able to pursue the masked man once more, the man had already fled.

Lu Yin felt some regret, but he was also rather excited. This was the first time that he had fought against a full strength Envoy. Even with the natural suppression that stellar energy had over star energy, Lu Yin found that he was able to deal with ordinary envoys with his golden battle force and his improved Vacuum Palms.

Luo Fan and the others had not been able to clearly see Lu Yin's battle, but Lan Gui had.

Lan Gui struggled to rise due to his limbs being twisted into unnatural shapes. It was clear that he had nearly been completely crushed to death by the masked man.

Lu Yin stared off into the distance as the sky recovered. He then looked down at the square platform. Qing Chen opened his eyes, but he did not move. It was not an easy process to feed stellar energy into the sourcebox array.

Eventually, Lu Yin looked over at Lan Gui.

Lan Gui's expression instantly changed. He pursed his lips, "About that, this sen-"

He had been about to refer to himself as a senior, but then, the scene of Lu Yin's attack against the Envoy suddenly flashed into his mind, and Lan Gui lost his boldness. He felt that this youth had to be someone from one of the four ruling powers, so Lan Gui changed what he had been about to say. "I'm leaving now. Thank you for saving me."

Lu Yin quietly watched as Lan Gui left and made no attempt to stop the man from leaving. While Lan Gui might pose a terrible challenge to others, Lu Yin had a very simple solution: one Vacuum Palm.

People had been scattered in all directions from the shockwave of Lu Yin's attack, and there were many injuries among them, some of them quite serious. Luo Fan had received a scratch on her arm, and she struggled to stand up. She saw Lu Yin standing some distance away with a dignified appearance. Had he just forced an Envoy to retreat?

Everything had already returned to normal, and the sky off in the distance had grown dim. The only sources of lights were those from the four ruling powers' territories.

Lu Yin descended to the ground close to the platform, and Luo Fan approached him. "Where's the last attacker?"

"Lan Gui fought him off," Lu Yin said.

Luo Fan was surprised. Had Lan Gui really fought that last attacker off? But she had clearly seen Lan Gui spit out a mouthful of blood and then be smashed into the ground. She gave Lu Yin a careful, appraising look, but she did not press the issue.

It was not long before Qing Chen rose up from the platform. Lu Yin immediately approached the old man. "Supervisor, traitors indeed attacked, but all of them were forced back."

Qing Chen replied, "I know. You've worked hard."

He then stared off into the distance. There was still a solemn expression on his face, and it was clear that not all of his concerns had been alleviated.

The Envoys left the platform one after another, and after they all moved away, Qing Chen took action to force the platform back down into the earth and restore the ground on top of it.

"So it was Senior Qing Chen with us. Mu Yu greets senior."

"We greet senior."

All of the Envoys quickly bowed to Qing Chen.

Qing Chen spoke in a low voice, "I would also like to thank all of you for supporting the array."

"We protected this place, as we should," the old man stated.

The beautiful woman turned to look at Lu Yin. "Senior, who is that?"

Qing Chen then introduced the Envoys to Lu Yin. They had not expected to meet a member of the White Dragon Clan in this place.

Even though these powerhouses had all been focused on sending stellar energy into the sourcebox array and had been unable to make any moves, all of them had been able to observe everything that had happened nearby. The strength that Lu Yin had shown over the last few days had been truly surprising to all of them.

In particular, even though they had seen Long Qi use a power vessel, he had still defeated an Envoy. On top of that, they had also seen that he had mastered a secret technique, which was not an easy accomplishment.

Mu Yu smiled at Lu Yin. "Little brother, if you ever have a chance to visit Misty Rain Pavilions, I will make sure that you enjoy your visit."

Luo Fan stood behind her master, and the younger woman blushed and hung her head, though she said nothing.

Even though there were several Envoys present, they did not all know each other. After all, there were a great number of Envoys in the Perennial World, and there were certain groups who were very wary of each other.

Before long, Lu Yin's journey to Dragon Mountain with Qing Chen resumed.

"Supervisor, what happened back there?" Lu Yin asked.

Qing Chen answered in a deep voice, "The situation of the battlefield at the back of the Mother Tree is not going well, and the Progenitors of the Perennial World failed to block all of the enemy Progenitors' attacks, causing a crack to appear in the Perennial World."

"They weren't able to stop a Progenitor?" Lu Yin felt incredibly concerned.

Qing Chen continued, "For a long time, our world has been at a disadvantage in the battle against those monsters. Whenever they fully dedicate themselves to an assault, it's difficult for us to defend against them all. This is why, a long time ago, a massive sourcebox array was set up behind the Mother Tree: Ceaseless Impetus. The base of the array is five massive triangular continents.

"If those monsters want to destroy the array, they have to climb up the triangular continents from the bottom. For us, we have an easy time defending the triangles against the ordinary monsters, but there are those with power that exceeds that of Envoys, and even those as strong as Semi-Progenitors. As for their Progenitors, either our own Progenitors will take action, or the array formed from the five triangular bases will work together to block the attack.

"The array probably failed to block this attack because the nodes are missing."

Lu Yin felt surprised at this. "The array's nodes? What are those?"

Qing Chen's face twisted as he answered, "People."

Lu Yin was shocked.

"The array master and the nodes form the most important parts of the sourcebox array. Each one of them is a Semi-Progenitor, but if even one of them is missing, the array's defensive capabilities become greatly reduced, or even disappear," explained Qing Chen.

Lu Yin's expression suddenly and drastically changed—Semi-Progenitors? Could it be?

"The Semi-Progenitors who went up to the Dominion Realm to rescue the Junior Progenitors, are they the nodes?" Lu Yin blurted out.

Qing Chen nodded. "Nice thinking."

Lu Yin suddenly understood why the monsters had trapped the Junior Progenitors instead of simply killing them. This was the reason.

Semi-Progenitors would have to be sent out to rescue the Junior Progenitors, but no matter how many Semi-Progenitors there were in the Perennial World, ten were needed to maintain the defensive sourcebox array, so how many more could there still be? Additionally, it was impossible for any of the four ruling powers to trust a Semi-Progenitor from another ruling power to rescue their own Junior Progenitor, which further complicated the matter. A choice had been put before the four ruling powers: abandon the Junior Progenitors or leave the sourcebox array unattended in order to rescue the four youths.

It was clear that the four ruling powers saw the lives of their Junior Progenitors as more important than maintaining a fully operational defensive sourcebox array.

"Many years have passed without any incidents affecting the sourcebox array, but the war behind the Mother Tree has also never been as intense as it is now. This is a recent change, and the four ruling powers did not expect the nodes' absence to trigger such an issue. All that can be said is that the enemy planned well." Qing Chen frowned.

Lu Yin felt a chill grip his heart. Starting with the map of the Dominion Realm that Long Xian had leaked, to trapping the Junior Progenitors, to the most recent attack on the Perennial World's defensive

sourcebox array—this plot had shaken the entire Perennial World. Each step of the enemy's plan was intricately linked to the next, and not once had humanity taken a step that strayed from their enemy's expectations. This level of scheming and deep understanding of humanity was absolutely terrifying.

On top of that, this was just one active plot. The presence of other traitors and Redbacks had caused people to panic and had forced the Perennial World to gather many powerhouses to form Humility's Gate. This further occupied the Perennial World's powerhouses and divided them. The most horrifying part of this scheme was that no one could be sure who was a Redback.

Lu Yin looked to the south. All of a sudden, he had a feeling that the entire Perennial World was held in place by a massive hand, just like how Lan Gui had been seized by the masked man, unable to break free, as death inched closer and closer.

"Are the Progenitors of this universe weaker than those monsters' Progenitors?" Lu Yin suddenly asked.

Qing Chen stiffened from shock. "Of course not! My Perennial World has its own Progenitors, as do the four ruling powers. Which of them is not an invincible powerhouse? We have had more than just one or two peerless experts who rose up in the past, and the original Nine Mountains and Eight Seas were overwhelmingly brilliant."

At this point, Qing Chen fell silent, and he stopped talking. After all, he was referring to the original Nine Mountains and Eight Seas.

Back then, there had been Progenitor Chen, Progenitor Hui, and the Rune Progenitor. According to what Lu Yin knew, each one of them had been a peerless powerhouse who had dominated the entire universe, and the Sixth Mainland had even denied their existence. Progenitor Hui had even been able to make plans that spanned countless years. Could the Perennial World's current Progenitors even come close to comparing to the Progenitors of that era?

Lu Yin suspected that the Progenitors of the Perennial World likely possessed a similar level of strength as the Sixth Mainland's three Progenitors. However, all three of them together might not be capable of defeating even a single one of Progenitor Chen's clones.

Humanity is regressing. Lu Yin had this sudden thought.

Chapter 1487: Dragon Mountain

As they traveled, Qing Chen remained relatively silent, clearly contemplating something.

After a few days, the sky had become bright, and when one looked up, it was like looking into a mirror. Fish were swimming, aquatic plants were waving, and there were various beautiful scenes in the mirror. Down below them was a lake. This lake surrounded Dragon Mountain, and the light in this region of the Higher Realm originated from Dragon Mountain itself, where it was reflected by the lake to illuminate the sky.

The lake was absolutely massive. Just like White Mountain in the Middle Realm, a mountain in this place also represented a civilization. Lu Yin could see planets slowly rotating about the lake, and there were civilizations on these planets as well.

The White Dragon Clan did not have many members, and there were certainly not enough to support their status as one of the four ruling powers. This naturally meant that most cultivators affiliated with the White Dragon Clan were recruited ones, not actual clan members. These outside cultivators all hailed from the civilized planets that orbited near Dragon Mountain. The civilizations on the planets were basically slaves, and as soon as a talented cultivator appeared on one of them, they would be immediately taken to the White Dragon Clan and removed from their home planet.

In front of Lu Yin and Qing Chen was Dragon Mountain, and it was a truly majestic sight.

Someone immediately greeted the two as Lu Yin and Qing Chen approached. This person was an Envoy, but not a member of the White Dragon Clan. They were an outside cultivator.

The two crossed over the lake and then stepped onto Dragon Mountain itself. The rocks on the mountain were white, and the trees, flowers, and plants here all radiated a soft halo that gave everything a beautiful and holy appearance. It was clear that this was not Qing Chen's first time visiting, and the elder respectfully said, "The patriarch asked me to lead Senior Qing Chen to Heart-Cleansing Building. He mentioned that senior appreciates the serenity there."

Qing Chen remembered his past visit. "I visited this place ten years ago, and I spoke with Long Laogui in Heart-Cleansing Building. I didn't expect Patriarch Long Ke to remember that visit. Lead the way."

Lu Yin quietly followed behind as they passed by many mountain peaks. He saw various cultivators, and they in turn saw Lu Yin and Qing Chen.

Everyone who saw them knew who Lu Yin was. He had become a legend to them.

Many people had considered plots that targeted the clan's main family by humiliating Lu Yin, but things had changed due to the situation on the battlefield behind the Mother Tree.

"That kid has incredible luck. Elder Quan was just sent to the battlefield, which means that he can't deal with this kid. Otherwise, he could forget about ever leaving this mountain," a young man commented in a bitter tone as he stared at Lu Yin's back.

Someone behind the young man also spoke up. "It won't take long for the main family to make a move. Long Tian's been trapped, and Long Xi disappeared. Things are working out well, and the main family has no heirs left. How could they possibly think that they can rely on just a son-in-law? Everything's going to change after Elder Quan gets back."

"What if that kid sneaks away?"

"We make sure he stays around."

"I'm going to go make a call."

...

The giant lake surrounded Dragon Mountain on all sides. The lake's water not only surrounded the mountain, but it also flowed into the mountain and down its sides in beautiful streams.

Heart-Cleansing Building was a bamboo house that had been constructed in the middle of one of the streams.

When Lu Yin saw the building, he felt that it was quite familiar. It actually looked very similar to the bamboo house above the pond where Long Xi had once imprisoned him on White Mountain. Yes, the two were very similar.

Long Ke was present to greet Qing Chen when he arrived. "Senior Qing Chen, welcome to Dragon Mountain."

Qing Chen smiled. "Ten years ago, Long Laogui and I discussed the path of cultivation in this place, so I am not unfamiliar with Dragon Mountain. How is Long Laogui?"

Long Ke answered in a solemn tone, "He has already rushed to the battlefield behind the Mother Tree."

Qing Chen nodded. "On our way here, I saw that the White Dragon Clan has sent out many batches of support troops. Is the situation on the battlefield that bad?"

As the leader of one of the four ruling powers, even though Long Ke could not compare to Qing Chen's personal strength and cultivation, the patriarch was much more informed of the situation on the battlefield. It was true that Qing Chen was a Semi-Progenitor, but in the end, he was just a member of Humility's Gate who was responsible for finding Redbacks. In other words, he had nothing to do with the battlefield behind the Mother Tree.

"It's not great. To my understanding, each of the four ruling powers has received orders from their Progenitors, which has led to nearly half of our powerhouses being deployed to the battlefield. A great number of experts in the Higher Realm and the Middle Realm have been drafted to fight." Long Ke looked as though he was weighed down by a heavy burden.

Qing Chen frowned. "It's worse than I had imagined."

"Many years have passed without any accidents befalling the sourcebox array's nodes. Those monsters laid out their plans very carefully this time," Long Ke said solemnly.

The two older men did nothing to hide their conversation from Lu Yin. As he listened to their words, Lu Yin was reminded of when the Outerverse had faced an invasion from the Sixth Mainland and how he had been drafted at that time. In the end, the only reason why Lu Yin had managed to survive the invasion was because he had called Mister Mu to come help him. The Perennial World was currently facing a truly desperate situation, but were their Progenitors strong enough to turn things around?

Lu Yin thought of Mister Mu and then shook his head. Even those ancient Progenitors were unable to stop the monsters' invasion, so there was no need to mention Mister Mu alone.

"Senior, let's move away from that topic. The addition of so many powerhouses has stabilized the battlefield enough. This junior has prepared some White Dragon Brew, which is Senior's favorite. Please enjoy a cup," Long Ke said with a smile.

Qing Chen nodded. "Long Qi, join us."

For the first time, Long Ke looked straight at Lu Yin. The patriarch's eyes were cold and arrogant.

Lu Yin bowed to Long Ke. "Long Qi greets father-in-law."

Long Ke responded with a smile that was not a smile. "Your communication crystal isn't broken, is it?"

Lu Yin had ignored Long Ke's calls, which had completely offended Long Ke. Qing Chen had brought Lu Yin to Dragon Mountain specifically to apologize for this matter.

Lu Yin bowed low. "It was just repaired."

Long Ke was taken aback. He had expected Long Qi to offer a sincere apology, or at least offer a decent excuse. Who could have expected that the kid would just hang himself out to dry? Was a communication crystal that easy to break? And even if one did break, was it impossible to find another one? Also, Long Ke's communication crystal would have detected it if he was trying to call a broken target. Long Qi was completely shameless.

"Your communication crystal broke?" Long Ke's eyebrows rose high.

Lu Yin answered in a completely serious tone. "It was bad. I'm not sure exactly what happened, but it was only just repaired, so everything's fine now."

Qing Chen was similarly left speechless. This was an absolutely terrible excuse, though it was technically a reason for Long Qi to ignore Long Ke's calls. Qing Chen noticed the patriarch's expression growing uglier by the second, so he quickly spoke up. "Let's head into Heart-Cleansing Building to drink the White Dragon Brew first. It's been ten years since I've had any, and I have to admit that I've missed it."

A stiff smile appeared on Long Ke's face. "Senior, please."

He then shot a cold glare at Lu Yin.

Long Ke was the patriarch of the White Dragon Clan, which meant that he was one of the most respected individuals in the entire Perennial World. When had he ever been openly mocked by a junior in such a manner? If Long Qi had been anyone else, Long Ke would have slapped the youth dead. Long Ke would take it seriously even if Long Xi was the one making a fool of him, and she definitely would have been punished. However, Long Ke did not know how to respond to Long Qi.

Lu Yin was one of Humility's Gate's Gate Masters. While Long Ke could technically give Long Qi a harsh punishment, it would be rude towards Qing Chen. However, Long Ke was unwilling to not punish his son-in-law at all. After all, this kid seemed to be completely fearless even when facing his clan's patriarch. It looked as though Long Qi did not give any weight to his identity as a member of the White Dragon Clan.

How could that be? In the past, the clan's main family had sent Long Xian to Flying Armor Pass and then further scattered the other branch family members. It could even be said that that particular branch family had been destroyed. Despite such harsh treatment, Long Xian had never left the White Dragon Clan and had remained in Flying Armor Pass. It was impossible for any member of the clan to consider leaving unless they had truly been pushed past the point of no return.

So why did Long Qi not care about his identity as a member of the White Dragon Clan at all?

Long Ke's complicated thoughts ran rampant as the three arrived at Heart-Cleansing Building.

Lu Yin naturally stood behind Qing Chen, as no place had been arranged for him to sit.

Qing Chen chatted with Long Ke for a while before the atmosphere grew more pleasant. "My Humility's Gate has been around for so many years, and yet a child of your White Dragon Clan is the first Hunter to ever be given the position of Gate Master. Patriarch Long Ke, your White Dragon Clan has raised a true genius. Congratulations."

Long Ke glanced at Lu Yin before smiling at Qing Chen. "There's no need for that. It was just a fluke, nothing more."

Qing Chen glanced back at Lu Yin before commenting, "Some time ago, your communication crystal broke, and Patriarch Long Ke was unable to contact you. You should have found a way to reach out to Patriarch Long Ke on your own instead of just focusing on nothing but catching traitors. Step forward and offer Patriarch Ke the apology that he deserves."

Qing Chen felt helpless. The truth was that he had not intended to say anything like this, but he had no choice but to follow up on the excuse that Long Qi had mentioned earlier, that the youth's communication crystal had broken and only recently been repaired. Qing Chen was a Semi-Progenitor, and he rarely spoke such blatant nonsense, but he had been forced into it by Lu Yin.

Long Ke smiled casually and picked up his wine glass to take a sip.

Lu Yin pursed his lips and stepped forward to bow to Long Ke. "Your youthful son-in-law was inconsiderate, and I thought of nothing but catching traitors, which caused father-in-law to worry."

Before Long Ke had a chance to speak, Qing Chen scolded Lu Yin. "It's certainly good to arrest traitors, but not to the exclusion of all else. Patriarch Long Ke was very worried about you."

"I understand," Lu Yin replied.

Qing Chen felt satisfied. "Good. Make sure to communicate with your father-in-law more frequently in the future."

Lu Yin agreed.

Long Ke was at a loss for words; he had not even spoken yet!

"Long Qi, I want to speak to you about Long Xi." Long Ke set his wine glass down. He then looked at Qing Chen and apologized. "Senior, I would like to ask to speak with Long Qi alone."

Qing Chen smiled. "If the two of you have anything that you need to talk about, please take your time. Don't worry about me, as I'll simply be enjoying the White Dragon Brew."

"Thank you, senior." Long Ke then looked at Lu Yin and stepped out of the room to leave Heart-Cleansing Building.

Lu Yin helplessly followed.

Long Ke stood atop a mountain a hundred miles away from Heart-Cleansing Building. The patriarch clasped his hands behind his back and waited for Lu Yin to arrive.

Long Ke turned around and locked his cold gaze onto Lu Yin. "You have guts! Over all these years, you are the first who has ever dared to ignore me! Not even Elder Long Quan would dare to reject my call."

Lu Yin stopped acting and retorted in a calm tone, "I, Long Qi, am from a branch family, and the main family has never once shown me any care, not since childhood. If the patriarch wishes to oppress me with the main family's authority, then you are targeting the wrong person."

Long Ke's voice was stern, "If you were not a member of the White Dragon Clan, then you would have already died countless times. The only reason why the Dalian Mountain branch family was not dealt with by the surrounding families was because they were still a part of the White Dragon Clan. Without being a part of the White Dragon Clan, how could you have married Long Xi? How would you have been able to join Humility's Gate? Do you really dare to claim that you've received nothing from the main family?"

Lu Yin countered, "All of that was only because I was of value."

Long Ke nodded. "In the past, you had value, but, Long Xi has disappeared, and you went from being useful to being a sharp blade for Long Quan's branch family to wield and suppress my main family with. If I had not promised Senior Qing Chen to allow you to stay at Qing Chen Mountain, what would have become of you by now? Your fate would have been miserable.

"You should be glad that you are deemed useful. Do you think that a puny Enlighter like you could possibly have qualified to see me otherwise? That you deserve to have Elder Qing Chen escort you here to apologize? He finds you useful, as do I. I have given you a chance, Long Qi. Don't make a mistake."

Lu Yin's expression sharpened. "Senior Qing Chen values me, Long Qi, for my ability to capture traitors and Redbacks. That forms the very foundation of my existence in Humility's Gate. If I agree to frame Elder Long Quan for you, I will instantly lose my place in Humility's Gate the moment the matter is exposed. Therefore, I will also lose all value for the clan patriarch."

They had both spoken their minds. The people of the Perennial World had a certain mindset, and they would not betray their family unless absolutely necessary, especially anyone who was a part of the four ruling powers. However, Lu Yin had no such compulsion. He had long since viewed the four ruling powers as his enemy anyways.

Humility's Gate formed the very foundation of his support. This was something that he was very clear on.

Chapter 1488: Anteater

Long Ke fell silent for a while. "It would seem that you will never listen to my requests."

Lu Yin replied, "I, Long Qi, have no intention of rebelling against the clan patriarch. If Elder Long Quan truly is a Redback, then it is imperative that he be arrested."

Long Ke's eyes flickered with a dark and terrifying light, but he did not speak.

At this time, Lu Yin's communication crystal vibrated. He raised his hand to see a line of text: 'Support the second array base to clean up terror ants and capture a traitor: Xiao.'

At this moment, Qing Chen tore through the void and appeared. He looked serious as he gazed at Lu Yin. "Long Qi, follow me to the second array base and report to their battlefield now."

Long Ke frowned. "Senior Qing Chen, is Long Qi required to go to the battlefield?"

"This is a mission from Humility's Gate, so I'm unable to answer you."

Lu Yin frowned. He had already participated on more than one massive battlefield. First, there was Ironblood Weave, and then later, there was both Endless Weave and the Cosmic Sea. Such battlefields were places where the slightest bit of carelessness could lead to death, and yet, the Perennial World's battlefield surpassed all of the others that Lu Yin had seen, as even Progenitors fought there. Lu Yin had no desire to die for the Perennial World, or at least not yet.

"Supervisor, I am the Huaiyuan Gate Master, and it doesn't seem proper for a Gate Master to personally fight on the battlefield," Lu Yin said. He was hoping to be able to refuse to go.

Qing Chen answered solemnly, "Your mission came directly from the Commander."

Lu Yin was shocked and despaired. This was a problem. If the commander had personally ordered Lu Yin to go to the battlefield, then he had to obey no matter how badly he wanted to refuse.

Long Ke was just as shocked as Lu Yin. He had never expected the Humility's Gate's Commander to personally send out orders regarding Long Qi. Long Ke was forced to reevaluate Long Qi's reputation and value, as he had managed to attract the attention of Humility's Gate's Commander.

Such qualifications instantly caused Lu Yin's value to skyrocket in the eyes of Long Ke. Taking this development into consideration, the patriarch pulled a white jar out of his cosmic ring and tossed it over to Lu Yin. "This is the Ancestor Python's blood. It can save your life at a critical moment."

Lu Yin was shocked as he took it.

Qing Chen sent a measured look towards Long Ke and then turned to Lu Yin. "Your mission cannot be delayed. We must go."

He then turned to Long Ke. "Thank you for your hospitality. When this mission is complete, I will bring Long Qi back to Dragon Mountain to finish your interrupted conversation."

Long Ke smiled. "Completing the mission is important. Senior Qing Chen, take care."

Qing Chen nodded and set a hand on Lu Yin's shoulder before taking him through a tear in the void and leaving.

Before Lu Yin left, he locked eyes with Long Ke. Lu Yin saw an endless darkness in the patriarch's eyes as well as a glimmer of hope. It was clear to Lu Yin that Long Ke would not easily abandon him. The patriarch was determined to find a way to use Long Qi to deal with the White Dragon Clan's branch families.

Lu Yin did not care about the main or branch families of the White Dragon Clan, as they were all enemies to him. However, the existence of the branch families served as a counter to the clan's main family, and that could only be a good thing for someone like Lu Yin who viewed the entire clan as an enemy.

Soon after Lu Yin was taken away by Qing Chen, a group of youths from the White Dragon Clan's branch families approached Heart-Cleansing Building. Their goal was to keep Long Qi on Dragon Mountain, but they quickly learned that he had already left.

Dragon Mountain gradually fell behind them, and Qing Chen emerged from the void with Lu Yin. The older man took a piece of white paper out of his cosmic ring. He did not fold it, but simply stepped onto the paper with Lu Yin, and they flew away.

"Monsters have attacked the Mother Tree. In addition to the battlefield behind the Mother Tree and destroying the defensive sourcebox array, there's another way to destroy the Mother Tree. Do you know which creature in the Lower World causes the most harm to the Mother Tree?" Qing Chen asked.

Lu Yin thought for a moment. "Long Xi told me that it's the terror ants."

Qing Chen nodded. "Terror ants originate from those monsters. They researched a race of terrifying ants and did everything they could to send what they had developed into my Mother Tree's Perennial World. During the most recent battle, those monsters also sent countless terror ants onto the battlefield, and they are even more threatening than the ones in the Lower Realm. Long Ke mentioned how many powerhouses have been drafted to the battlefield behind the Mother Tree. In truth, they were gathered to deal with these new terror ants.

"Terror ants aren't the only threat that you'll face on the battlefield. There will be quite a few traitors among those who were drafted to deal with the terror ants, and they will do their best to smuggle the ants off of the battlefield and into the Lower Realm. These new terror ants reproduce at a terrifying rate, and they could cause incalculable amounts of damage to the Mother Tree. This is why you've been tasked with cleaning up the terror ants, though your real task is to find the traitors and remove them.

"You won't be alone, as the Middle Realm's nine Gate Masters and the other five Gate Masters have also been sent to the battlefield, as well as a large number of other Humility's Gate's members. You must make sure that not a single terror ant slips through to the Perennial World from the battlefield."

Lu Yin frowned. He now understood why he was being sent to the battlefield; everyone was aware of his ability to track down traitors. While Qing Chen was aware that this was due to the information sources that Lu Yin had access to, it was a given that the Commander was aware of this as well. Thus, it would be very difficult to avoid sending Long Qi to the battlefield along with everyone else who was being sent.

"If traitors return from the battlefield, can't they be inspected one by one to ensure that they don't bring in any terror ants?" Lu Yin asked.

Qing Chen's voice fell low as he answered, "Do you know how those traitors hide the terror ants to smuggle them?"

Lu Yin shook his head.

"They raise them within their own bodies," Qing Chen dropped heavy words.

Lu Yin felt horrified. "They raise the ants inside their bodies?"

"They don't have to transport adult ants. They could transfer eggs, blood, or even a piece of one of these new terror ants' bodies. A single one of those items can be reverse-engineered through various methods to unleash this new strain of terror ant upon the Perennial World. It's basically impossible to search everyone heading down to the Lower Realm or prevent this issue from spreading once they return to the Perennial World," Qing Chen explained.

Lu Yin took a deep breath. "It's going to be very hard to capture all of the traitors."

Qing Chen replied, "This is the only way out of this mess. I will also be on the battlefield, and I will work to capture as many traitors as possible."

Lu Yin suddenly thought of the anteater that he had seen devouring the terror ants when he had Possessed a person in the Lower Realm. "Isn't there a beast in the Lower Realm that eats the terror ants?"

"There is one type of beast, but unfortunately, they are too weak. Those beasts would definitely die if they came across a large number of terror ants," Qing Chen lamented.

Lu Yin thought for a while and then drew an image of the anteater in the air. "Is this it?"

Qing Chen stared at the image and then asked, "What kind of creature is that?"

"You haven't seen this sort of creature before?" Lu Yin was surprised.

Qing Chen shook his head. He then suddenly thought of something, and he turned to stare at Lu Yin. "Have you seen this beast before? Did you say that it feeds on terror ants?"

Lu Yin nodded.

Qing Chen quickly asked, "Where did you see it?"

Lu Yin thought for a moment. "When Long Xi led me to visit the Ancestor Python, we encountered a terrifying swarm of terror ants. While we were fleeing for our lives, I happened to see it. I don't know exactly where it was, and I can't tell you without going there."

Qing Chen grew serious. "Are you certain that this creature can devour an entire swarm of terror ants?"

Lu Yin remembered what he had seen during his Possession. It had truly been an endless swarm of terror ants, and the anteater had definitely devoured them. "Absolutely."

Qing Chen fell deep into thought. No one would better understand the implications for the Perennial World if they found a natural predator of the terror ants.

Lu Yin had a general idea of how important this task was, so he felt that if he could bring the use of the anteater to light, his value would rise even higher than ever before.

"When you saw this creature, how did you escape?" Qing Chen asked.

Lu Yin explained, "It was eating the ants, so it didn't notice us. It might not have even been interested in us."

"In what manner did it devour the ants?"

"Its mouth. It had a massive, tube-like mouth."

...

Qing Chen asked many questions, but Lu Yin really had seen the anteater, albeit from someone else's body. He did not tell any lies either; it was true that the creature lived in the Lower Realm, and this was why Lu Yin was not afraid of any of Qing Chen's inquiries.

Also, Qing Chen had no suspicions that Lu Yin might be lying. He had never heard of such a creature before, and if someone was making up a creature, it would be best to at least use one that had been seen before. Besides, Qing Chen could not even think of any motivation for Lu Yin to lie.

"Would you be able to find the creature if you went back along your original route?" Qing Chen pressed.

Lu Yin considered the question, but then he shook his head. "I'm not sure."

Qing Chen thought for a while and then called someone as they continued to ride the paper to the south.

After a while, Qing Chen asked another question, "Was the creature you saw alone or a part of a herd of some sort?"

"It was all alone," Lu Yin said.

Qing Chen sighed. "That's unfortunate. It would be nice if they were herd creatures. These beasts can be seen as the terror ants' natural predator as they seem to exist to devour the ants. Unlike our human efforts to clean up the terror ants, these creatures might be able to completely eliminate the danger of the terror ants, which would be a massive boon for us.

"Still, if we can manage to find the creature, we might be able to breed the terror ants' natural enemy. You mentioned that the creature's mouth was able to restrain the ants." Suddenly, Qing Chen changed topics as he spoke to Lu Yin. "Long Qi, you provided information that has been used to capture many traitors, as well as the proof that showed that Yun Mubai was a Redback. You have also arrested multiple traitors on your own. Humility's Gate will award you with eighteen merit points for your achievements, and each of my Humility's Gate's merit points can be traded for ten battlefield merit points. This means that you currently have 180 battlefield merit points.

"When you arrive at the second array base, trade those points for defensive treasures. If you are short on battlefield merit points, then you can use Humility's Gate merit points you have just gained, which is an advance on the reward that for uncovering information on the terror ants."

This news delighted Lu Yin. "What kind of treasure could I get for 180 battlefield merit points?"

"You can browse through the list when you get there, but try to get something a bit better to protect yourself. The commander personally ordered you to go to the battlefield, and such an order cannot be easily changed. Otherwise, I would immediately take you to the Lower Realm to search for the creature that you saw before."

Lu Yin had no desire to search for the creature. After all, how could he possibly know where it was? "Can I only pick one item?"

Qing Chen was momentarily stunned. This child was rather greedy. "You can only pick one, but try to get the best one."

Lu Yin nodded. "Don't worry, Supervisor. I'll be careful with my choice."

Qing Chen nodded and said nothing more.

Lu Yin was extremely eager to get to the second array base and choose a good treasure. "Supervisor, I'm just curious, but is it possible to overdraw one's merit points?"

Lu Yin had suddenly thought of this potentially serious problem. How would he be able to pick out anything truly good if people before him had already chosen them?

Qing Chen said, "Of course not. At least, not without special circumstances."

Lu Yin snorted. His current situation was indeed quite special. He had identified a creature that was likely to be the terror ants' natural predator, and if that information was verified, it would have a huge impact on the Perennial World. However, the possibility of confirming such information was too remote to counteract the commander's orders. If that were not the case, then people would just make up random stories to escape from the battlefield. Commands could not be casually altered no matter what.

Still, Lu Yin had made himself important enough that Humility's Gate cared about his survival. Thus, they clearly intended to provide him with something that would keep him safe on the battlefield.

Lu Yin had heard Long Ke mention how many people had been drafted to the battlefield, but Lu Yin had not noticed anything so far. However, as they continued on their journey, he noticed many other people who were all traveling south. Some were alone, others were in groups, and others still were in crowds of hundreds or even thousands. However, all of them had somber expressions. They had been drafted.

Chapter 1489: Second Array Base

They were traveling through the Higher Realm, and the four ruling powers were the only major organizations. Despite that, there were still so many people moving over. Lu Yin could only imagine how many cultivators from the Middle Realm must have been drafted to the battlefield.

The entire Perennial World had been mobilized.

After several days of traveling at top speed, the two of them finally reached the southernmost region of the Mother Tree. The legendary Tree Realm.

The Tree Realm was a place that had been set up by the four ruling powers, and it separated the battlefield from the Higher, Middle, Lower Realms. This region prevented people outside the battlefield from seeing it in all its cruel and grisly glory.

Although the battlefield was far away, cultivators were able to have a far stronger impact the higher their cultivation base was. Especially the five bases of the sourcebox array which were able to be utilized at any location no matter the distance.

The Tree Realm not only worked to block the sight of the battlefield, but it also prevented people from stepping onto the battlefield without permission.

Lu Yin stepped forward, still led by Qing Chen, and they entered the Tree Realm to reach the battlefield behind the Mother Tree. What met Lu Yin's eyes was something that far surpassed what he should have seen after taking a single step.

This one step was no different than the difference between heaven and earth.

Lu Yin saw a massive array base that stretched far out of sight, rotating like a planet. It was surrounded by sulfur, as well as chaotic star energy and other mixed energies. The whole place reeked of death and blood.

The heavy metallic scent flooded his senses in all directions, but there was no fighting in sight. Lu Yin could not even see the battlefield.

"We are now behind the Mother Tree. This is the most brutal battlefield in the entire Perennial World. We are standing on the second array base, and the actual battlefield is beneath it. There's a landmass between the Middle and Lower Realms, and it's home to countless monsters. They constantly appear on that landmass and climb up the array base, but only monsters that have a strength that surpasses an Envoy's are able to tear through the void and directly attack the array base," Qing Chen explained.

"Do you see those planets off in the distance? Each one of them contains countless monsters, and there are always cultivators fighting against those monsters. Every so often, a planet will explode, which is another means of destroying the monsters."

Lu Yin stared off into the distance. Was he really standing on the second array base? Pat the base, he saw many planets floating in space, and when he looked down, he saw countless monsters climbing up.

Lu Yin could practically feel the monsters' killing intent.

Suddenly, he felt a vibration in the soles of his feet and a terrifying sensation on his back. Lu Yin felt as though a giant beast had awoken, and he felt an irresistible force activate as a deafening noise swept through him.

"The second array base has been activated, and the battle down below is not in our favor. Whenever the array bases are activated, it consumes a tremendous amount of resources." Qing Chen looked solemn at this moment.

There were many other cultivators nearby, and they emerged from the Tree Realm and stared out at the battlefield. Most cultivators would go their entire lives without ever seeing this place, and all those who stepped onto the battlefield were elites.

Despite that, there were some people who panicked the moment they saw the array base begin killing the monsters. It was enough to leave anyone panicked.

"Long Qi, go report to the general of the second array base on your own. There's a teleportation device up ahead, and it can send you straight there. I need to go elsewhere to offer my support." Qing Chen left as soon as he gave Lu Yin his orders.

Closeby, a middle-aged man said, "Brothers, it's time for us to accomplish great things. We are already on the battlefield! Report!"

There was a group of people behind the man, and they let out loud shouts. Their eyes were all filled with bloodlust as they charged towards the battlefield.

Most of the people in the group were only Limiteers, and even their leader was only a Cruiser. And yet, in this place, no one would laugh at them. Limiteers, Cruisers, Hunters, and Enlighters, all of them stood

together on this battlefield, and all of them were nothing more than ants. Luck would determine their survival.

Lu Yin moved quickly and made his way towards the teleportation device.

He looked very young, and his age attracted a great deal of attention. A short man approached Lu Yin and whispered, "Bro, for you to be so young, you've got to be from a big family, right?"

Lu Yin glanced at the man. He was only an Explorer. "No."

The short man smiled. "Regardless if you are or not, and no matter what your strength is, once you step foot onto this battlefield, you have to join a group for protection, and that's especially true for people with no backgrounds like us. If we all help each other, we stand a greater chance of surviving."

Lu Yin grew curious. "How can we help each other?"

The short man's eyes lit up, and he carefully explained, "The five array bases form the five great battlefields. On these battlefields, even the strongest powerhouses will die within days without luck. There are people who form spontaneous teams to help and support each other in order to survive."

"Aren't there groups formed upon deployment orders? Why would you say that people are spontaneously forming teams?" Lu Yin felt rather surprised, as this was a new concept to him.

The short man answered quietly, "Obeying the deployment orders is the only path to survival. However, more and more cultivators arrive here every day. How can we follow our orders so simply and blindly? This is why there's a bit of flexibility within the orders, and that allows teams to be spontaneously formed. For example, people from the four ruling powers, like the Celestial Frost Sect, will form a team with their fellow disciples, as will those from Shenwu's Sky. But what about those of us with no background? I'm a part of the Red Alliance. If you want to join us, brother, then our leader will apply to our commanding officer to get you transferred to our squadron, and we'll work together to fight back against the enemy."

Lu Yin had not thought that such an option would exist, but he realized that it was perfectly normal after thinking about it. Normally, in order to prevent factions from forming and internally competing, it was important for a military organization to break apart people from the same organization, but there was no need for such caution on this battlefield. In this place, it was better to allow for cultivators to form teams and unite on their own. Cooperation allowed the defenders to more easily kill the monsters and survive. As for the formation of factions, that was entirely dependent on whether or not a team could survive. Also, the four ruling powers would always stand at the top of the Perennial World, so the alliances that formed on the battlefield were irrelevant.

"How 'bout it, Brother? Join the Red Alliance. Our leader has a power level that's approaching an Envoy's, and he's one of the strongest under Colonel Chun's command. With our leader's protection, you'll be able to stay safe since you're an Enlightener," the short man spoke enticingly.

Lu Yin felt curious. "Chun Ling?"

The man explained, "The array bases each have a general and a node, both of whom are Semi-Progenitors. Beneath the general, there are six colonels who answer directly to their general, and they

are each assigned to the array base. As for us, we are under the command of Chun Ling, who's an expert who's survived four stellar tribulations."

As the man spoke, a bit of red energy spurted out from the ground. Lu Yin frowned, as this energy contained a powerful and bloody aura.

The shot man looked over at the eruption, and terror filled his eyes. He even unconsciously began to tremble.

Lu Yin patted the man's shoulder with a hand, which startled the man. "Thank you, brother, but I can't join your Red Alliance. I've been sent here to deal with the terror ants."

The man shrugged his shoulders, and he sympathetically said, "Brother, if you're here to deal with the terror ants, then you need to be careful. The battlefield above the array bases is relatively safe, but you might need to deal with monsters that climb up the Mother Tree to get to the terror ants. That's very dangerous, so I wish you a safe return."

Lu Yin smiled and continued on towards the teleportation device.

What he found was a teleportation device that could transfer hundreds of people straight to headquarters at a time.

Lu Yin had previously wondered why there were no teleportation devices in this Perennial World, so he had not expected to see one on the battlefield behind the Mother Tree.

Things changed rapidly on a battlefield, so it was somewhat normal to have a teleportation device there.

The void twisted, and Lu Yin felt as though his body was being torn apart. Once he was able to see his surroundings once again, he was far away from the Tree Realm. A planet exploded above his head, and a terrible pressure wave swept out that caused many of the people who had just been teleported to dodge aside.

Lu Yin had not expected to immediately be greeted by such a crazy situation upon arriving. The cultivators around him had already become numb to such things, and they did not even look at the new arrivals.

"Step up and report in!" There was a loud shout as a nearby cultivator who was infinitely close to the Envoy realm stared at the new arrivals and pointed to his right side where they were to report in.

Lu Yin had been assigned to eradicate terror ants, but his true task was to eliminate traitors. His status was special, so he had no need to report in with the rank and fold. Rather, he was to report directly to the general of the second array base: Xia Yan.

Meteorites fell down from overhead, which were fragments of the shattered planet. Each meteorite was quite large, and Limiters had to be careful to avoid them.

Lu Yin was wondering how he could contact Xia Yan when a terrifyingly strong wind swept by his head. He did not even have time to react before the gust shattered all of the meteorites to dust.

"Get me out!" There was a loud shout as the void was torn open, and the tear revealed a large group of monsters led by a corpse king with scarlet eyes and vertical pupils.

A piercing alarm sounded, and the powerhouses of the base emerged one after another, all of them attacking the tear in the void.

Inside the tear, the corpse king that was the vanguard looked up, and its scarlet eyes began to change. They immediately turned red, and an indescribably powerful aura swept through the area, shattering the void even further. The spatial cracks reached all the way to the general.

The general was standing high in the sky. He was a middle-aged man who stood tall and had a dignified face. "Red eyes transformation. It's no wonder why they dared to attack my base. Still, they're just courting death."

The red-eyed corpse king at the forefront of the monsters grinned. "Revolt against my Aeternus! Kill!"

As the creature's voice fell, the two figures collided within the void. All that Lu Yin felt was a sharp pain in his brain, and he almost started bleeding from his seven orifices. Since Lu Yin had been reduced to such a state, many of the people around him had already fainted.

The battle between the red-eyed corpse king and the middle-aged man shattered the void, and the pressure from their clash was truly horrifying. This was a battle between two beings whose power levels surpassed a million.

Lu Yin looked up to see a large number of corpse kings pouring out of the void. These creatures were humanity's greatest enemy.

Lu Yin often pondered a question: it was very difficult for a corpse king to be born, and yet there were so many corpse kings in this world. Why? Why were there so many corpse kings that they were able to assault the Perennial World and the Mother Tree? The only possible answer was that there was an even larger Aeternus Kingdom than the one that Lu Yin had visited outside of the Perennial World that specialized in rearing corpse kings.

The powerhouses accompanying the general charged forward one after another, and several of them were powerhouses who surpassed Envoys while the rest were Enlighters at the very least.

Within the group of corpse kings, there were several who were capable of transforming, and all of the rest had the strength of an Enlighter.

There was a loud bang as the red-eyed corpse king and the middle-aged man broke through the void and into the true universe.

"What are you doing? Kill!" Close to Lu Yin, an old man shouted fiercely as he charged into the sky, only to be instantly smashed back to the ground by a corpse king. Given their combat strength and the fact that they felt no fear of death, corpse kings naturally had the upper hand more often than not when fighting against humans.

Lu Yin's gaze grew sharp, and an astral chessboard appeared beneath his feet. He moved.

The old man stared at a corpse king with gray eyes. It smashed its clawed hand down, and the old man lamented his death. Suddenly, his vision changed, and he appeared in a different place. He looked around, and he saw a young man standing beneath the gray-eyed corpse king. "Watch out!"

Lu Yin had a single hand stretched out that he was using to hold the corpse king.

Chapter 1490: Headquarters

How many people would dare to go head-to-head against a transformed corpse king? This was something that only Lu Yin was capable of doing. When he had first become a Hunter, he had fought against Corpse Beast, who had possessed the strength of an Enlighter, undergone a red-eyes corpse king transformation, and then boosted even further by death energy. Lu Yin's current strength completely eclipsed his previous limits, and this was his first time using it against a corpse king.

The gray-eyed corpse king struck Lu Yin's palm with one fist. The creature used its full strength to try to break past Lu Yin's hand, but Lu Yin's face remained calm, and his hand did not even twitch. Even the corpse king felt confused.

Suddenly, Lu Yin's eyes snapped wide open, and he pressed his hand forward. There was a snap, and the corpse king's arm burst apart.

The old man was stunned by what he saw, and it was as though everything that he had known to be true was instantly shattered. How could a human have enough strength to overwhelm a corpse king?

Lu Yin clenched his right hand into a fist and threw a punch at the corpse king's stomach. At best, this creature had a power level of 400,000, which was something that Lu Yin had been capable of facing when he was just a Hunter. There was no need to even mention his current strength.

There was a snap as Lu Yin struck the corpse king and smashed its head in. Lu Yin pulled his hand back and opened his fingers. He calmly turned to face another corpse king off in the distance and unleashed a Vacuum Palm.

There was a boom, and the corpse king shattered. The cultivator who had been fighting against that corpse king turned to stare at Lu Yin in horror; that palm attack had saved his life.

"There's no need for thanks," Lu Yin said. He looked up in time to see a woman smashed out of the true universe, and she crashed into the ground in front of him. Half of her body had been crushed, and she was completely helpless.

The void twisted, and a corpse king with the strength of an Envoy emerged. Its slitted, scarlet eyes locked onto Lu Yin, and the corpse king flew towards the ground while letting out a ferocious roar. It moved so quickly that Lu Yin could not even clearly see the creature's movement, and it clearly had an innate gift related to speed.

This was the greatest advantage that corpse kings had over humans. Each one could obtain innate gifts by consuming natural treasures, such as energy crystals. This was something that was beyond a human's capabilities.

Lu Yin was not able to track the corpse king's speed, and he reflexively put on his universal armor. He was unwilling to take any risks.

A powerful blow landed on Lu Yin's back, and it pressed him to the ground. The corpse king continued its assault, and without the universal armor, Lu Yin would have been severely injured, even if his strength was comparable to the creature's. After all, this corpse king's strength was comparable to an Envoy's. Still, any injury that Lu Yin suffered would quickly heal since he had already opened his upper meridian point.

The void was sliced open some distance away, and sword qi fell down as a powerful Envoy moved out to rescue Lu Yin.

The corpse king waved a hand to disperse the sword qi, but its body disappeared.

Lu Yin gasped heavily and stepped forward. He saw a man some distance away. The man was wielding a sword, but he was only able to defend, as the corpse king was too fast for him.

An astral chessboard appeared beneath Lu Yin's feet, and it spread out to envelop the corpse king, the swordsman, and the nearby battlefield. Lu Yin then surprised everyone by moving the corpse king, after which he grabbed ahold of the creature with both hands. "ATTACK!"

The swordsman was startled, but he managed to react very quickly.

The corpse king tried to break free of Lu Yin's grip, but Lu Yin possessed an unbelievable level of physical strength, and his golden battle force twined around his universal armor and lit up the corpse king's face, illuminating its hideous and terrifying features.

The sword edge sliced into the corpse king's neck, and the creature roared defiantly at the sky. It raised a leg and kicked at Lu Yin, but the youth simply mirrored the motion. There was a bang, and then the corpse king's right leg twisted in an unnatural direction.

The swordsman was absolutely stunned. It was already incredible for an Enlighter to physically overpower a corpse king, but that last kick had been anything but slow. The corpse king's neck was sliced apart in the next moment, and the swordsman slashed out once more. Half of the corpse king's head was cut off, and what remained dangled from the neck. It was a truly horrifying scene.

Lu Yin released his grip and struck forward with both hands to let loose dual Vacuum Palms.

This last attack sent the corpse king flying and tore its body apart. It was already past the point of being dead.

The swordsman turned to look at Lu Yin and exclaimed, "Who are you?"

"We'll talk later," Lu Yin quietly replied before rushing away. No fewer than a hundred corpse kings were participating in this raid on the second base of the sourcebox array, and while this was not a massive number, many cultivators had already died tragic deaths. None of the attacking corpse kings were weak.

The swordsman watched as Lu Yin left, admiration in his eyes. The man then hefted his sword and moved out in another direction.

The battlefield could be a wonderful place. While there were many life-and-death crises, there were also strong and weak opponents. No one was concerned by the strength of their opponent; only the strong were respected. While Lu Yin was only an Enlighter, he was strong enough to earn the swordsman's respect despite the man being an Envoy.

Lu Yin slaughtered five corpse kings one after another, but this drew the attention of a green-eyed corpse king. More than ten people had already fallen to this transformed corpse king, and one had actually been an Envoy.

Envoys were difficult to encounter back in the Fifth Mainland, and even though the Perennial World had many Envoys, it was still hard to come across a group of Envoys. Despite that, it was very common to see such a thing on the battlefield, and it was even common to see an Envoy die.

In addition to the dead Envoy, there were numerous dead Enlighters beneath the green-eyed corpse king's feet. The short man who had tried to recruit Lu Yin to his team upon Lu Yin's entry to the battlefield would actually despair if he saw one of those dead Enlighters, as that man had once been the Red Alliance Leader.

A shout swept through the region as the green-eyed corpse king rushed towards Lu Yin. This corpse king was as strong as an Envoy, and it had even undergone a green-eyed corpse king transformation. This creature was one of the strongest corpse kings to assault the base at this time.

Lu Yin suddenly felt a terrible sense of danger, and he was worried that his universal armor would not be able to withstand the incoming attack. As he tried to think of a way to deal with the approaching corpse king, a cone-shaped sourcebox emerged from the ground and floated in the air. Suddenly, the cone turned towards the corpse king and shot forward, piercing through the corpse king. Simultaneously, at least ten more such cone-shaped sourceboxes appeared nearby, and they all shot forward, piercing through one corpse king after another.

They were a part of the sourcebox array that protected the headquarters of the second array base.

Lu Yin let out a sigh of relief. He was on a battlefield, and there was no need for him to finish the fight on his own.

The green-eyed corpse king was struck by one of the cone-shaped sourceboxes, and it was forced back more than ten steps. After that, it was struck by another sourcebox. In just a few seconds, the corpse king had taken no less than twenty attacks. Most of the corpse kings that were participating in this attack had instantly died to the barrage of attacks from the sourceboxes, and even corpse kings with the strength of an Envoy could not endure it.

At this moment, another corpse king's body swelled. It grew to two meters, three meters, five meters, ten meters, until it finally reached a height of 100 meters and emanated a terrifying aura.

The cone-shaped sourceboxes frantically attacked it, but the body of this particular corpse king was like a swamp. The attacks were useless while the corpse king possessed a level of strength that left everyone trembling.

This was not Lu Yin's first time seeing a corpse king of such titanic proportions, as he had already encountered one on Shenwu Continent.

The enormous corpse king raised a hand and slapped a palm down, shattering the ground. The impact of the hand left hundreds of cultivators as nothing more than splatters of blood.

The giant then raised its head and brought down its other hand.

"You're seeking death!" A person arrived from the distance and raised his own hand in retaliation. He emerged from the void and landed on the tree, smashing into the enormous corpse king and knocking it down. After that, countless trees that connected the ground to the sky fell down, smashing into the corpse king.

"Colonel Chun's arrived!" someone excitedly shouted.

Lu Yin looked over; was that the colonel of this region?

There was a sudden flash of brilliant light, and sword qi shot out from the distance. It brushed past Lu Yin's cheek and shot past him as the swordsman from before shouted, "Watch out!"

Lu Yin turned to see that the sword qi had landed on the green-eyed corpse king's body. However, the attack did nothing more than make the corpse king pause for a moment, after which it began to frantically attack Lu Yin.

There was a puff, and the attack failed. Lu Yin had been prepared the moment the sword qi swept by. An astral chessboard appeared beneath his feet, and the corpse king's attack missed. Then, Lu Yin appeared behind the green-eyed corpse king, and his golden battle force shone out as he attacked with a full powered 350 Stacks Vacuum Palm.

There was a tremendous bang as the green-eyed corpse king was knocked back by the Vacuum Palm. Lu Yin seized this opportunity to unleash a torrent of Vacuum Palms, each one striking the green-eyed corpse king true. The void shattered, and no one dared to approach the area.

Even the swordsman's sword qi was torn apart by the shockwaves created by the barrage of Vacuum Palms.

The green-eyed corpse king's body started to crack, but it was still a corpse king that had transformed, and it was even a hundred times stronger than before. On top of that, it originally possessed the strength of an Envoy, so Lu Yin's dozens of Vacuum Palms could not kill the creature.

The green-eyed corpse king stood back up. Although it had not been killed, it had been badly injured, and not in a way that a mere Enlightener could do.

Off in the distance, the enormous corpse king suddenly broke free from the trees that had trapped it, and the trees were thrown in all directions.

The green-eyed corpse king proved to be terribly unlucky, as it was instantly struck by one of the trees. Lu Yin's eyes focused as he stared at the green-eyed corpse king's worst injury. He took out the small knife that he had taken from Wang Su and stabbed it into the corpse king's wound. The knife easily penetrated the creature and instantly killed it.

At the same instance that the corpse king died, Lu Yin returned the knife to his cosmic ring, making sure that no one ever saw it.

The swordsman still some distance away was horrified; the youth had just killed a corpse king that had undergone a green-eyes transformation that was at the Envoy realm! Who was this kid?

The battlefield that had broken out at the local headquarters was smashed apart beyond recognition by the endless rain of falling trees. The cone-shaped sourceboxes were still deep inside the body of the massive corpse king, but they could not be activated, which left Master Chun temporarily helpless.

At this moment, a long spear appeared out of nowhere, and it stabbed into the giant corpse king's head before continuing to pierce down into the creature's body, pinning it to the ground. Cracks radiated out from the point where the spear had stabbed into the ground.

Lu Yin raced to dodge aside. One of the cracks in the ground raced beneath his feet, and it radiated a terrible energy that he did not dare to come into contact with. The energy felt very familiar, and it had to belong to someone from the White Dragon Clan.

The spear had instantly slain the giant, and its body collapsed to the ground. An old man emerged from the void and approached the spear. He stretched out a hand, grabbed the spear, and then took a light step to reenter the true universe.

Lu Yin took out some gemspring water from his cosmic ring and used it.

He was able to peer into the true universe, and there, he saw the red-eyed corpse king that had led the assault fighting against the middle-aged man. The corpse king was being pressured and beaten back by the middle-aged man, but it also recovered very quickly. The creature's physical strength was too overpowering, and occasionally, it was able to launch a fearsome counterattack.

Lu Yin had guessed correctly; the middle-aged man was Xia Yan, the general of the second array base. The red-eyed corpse king was currently going toe-to-toe against Semi-Progenitor Xia Yan. If one judged the two in terms of absolute strength, Xia Yan far surpassed his opponent, but he found it truly difficult to kill the creature.

The old man who had killed the giant corpse king reentered the true universe and stabbed at the red-eyed corpse king.

Lu Yin's vision returned to normal, and he was no longer able to see the true universe. Still, it did not matter. That old man was confident enough to interfere in Xia Yan's battle, which meant that he should also be a Semi-Progenitor powerhouse. From what Lu Yin had seen, the old man was most likely a Semi-Progenitor from the White Dragon Clan. Lu Yin had heard Qing Chen mention such a person, and his name seemed to be Long Laogui.

The sky suddenly exploded, and a figure plummeted from out of nowhere. It spat out blood, and half of its body had been crushed. It was the red-eyed corpse king. It was quickly followed by another figure who thrust a spear forward, rendering the corpse king no more.

The dim sky of the battlefield turned red, and then an indescribable darkness blocked the red light. This darkness was a hand, and it smashed through a planet to grab hold of the red-eyed corpse king.