

ODYSSEY 1501

Chapter 1501: Marquis Green Bamboo

At this moment, there were countless corpse kings fighting against humans at the second forward basecamp. The battlefield took place across the entire metallic plain, and gashes dotted the land.

In the dark space high above the battlefield, planets were constantly being destroyed, and Envoys had entered the true universe and launched their attacks from there.

There was a transportation device at the second forward basecamp that let reinforcements from the second array base's headquarters immediately arrive, but unfortunately, it had been damaged. Otherwise, there would have been no reason for Xia Yan to order everyone to reinforce the second forward basecamp.

In addition to the transportation device, the local defensive sourcebox array had also been damaged, which was the reason why a group of Lockbreakers had been gathered at the battlefield to try to repair it.

Reinforcements poured in from outside the second forward basecamp one after another.

A stream of cultivators traveled down from the upper regions of the Mother Tree's trunk to reinforce the defenders at the basecamp, but at the same time, countless terror ants formed massive swarms that made their way up the trunk from the lower reaches.

There was an explosive sound as a bloody energy swept towards the Lockbreakers who were attempting to repair the sourcebox array. In response, an Envoy immediately stepped forward to shield them from the attack. Despite his already injured state, the Envoy forcefully suppressed them to protect the Lockbreakers. As a result, the attack caused a web of cracks to appear over half of his body as he crashed to the ground.

The group of Lockbreakers that was standing rather close to the Envoy all turned as white as a sheet of paper.

"Master Song, we can't hold out for any longer!" one of the Lockbreakers cried out anxiously.

The Lockbreaker standing at the front was dressed similarly to Master Zan, as he was also wearing very luxurious clothing. But right now, the man's face was deathly pale, and large beads of sweat were rolling down his face from his forehead as he stared intently at the damaged sourcebox array.

After the Lockbreaker frantically called out another warning, Master Song became even more anxious.

The void above his head tore open, and another corpse king charged out. Its body was covered in a powerful blood-red energy. As soon as it appeared, it let out a guttural growl as it smashed its arms down, sending out a wave of bloody energy that fell on the Lockbreakers like meteorites.

The group of Lockbreakers all felt their legs tremble. Even though they had been stationed at the battlefield's front lines for quite some time, this was still the worst disaster that the second forward basecamp had ever gone through. None of the Lockbreakers were able to escape from this attack, and they could only helplessly watch on as the smell of death approached.

All of a sudden, the bloody energy was sliced apart by a sharp qi that swept out from the void. A massive slash had come in from the distance at the attacking corpse king.

The corpse king raised its hand, grabbed the approaching attack, and then crushed it. At the same time, numerous other attacks rained down on the corpse king from all directions, clearly originating from the true universe, and they shredded the corpse king to nothing.

The void warped and multiple people began to emerge. All of them had somber expressions, and they all started immediately attacking.

“It’s the Star Alliance! The reinforcements from Star Alliance are here!” the Lockbreakers cheered.

Master Song’s breath was ragged as he shouted, “Don’t get distracted! Continue repairing the sourcebox array.”

“Yes, Master Song.”

Above the battlefield and in the sky, there stood a massive banner. A man suddenly appeared next to the banner and unfurled it, causing an invisible wave of energy to sweep out and envelop the entire second forward basecamp. Everyone who accepted this power fell into a sudden rage that incited them to attack without restraint or fear of death.

The man was Colonel Zuo, and this banner was his innate gift. It was known as a commander’s talent, and it was best suited for warfare.

A pair of scarlet eyes opened before Colonel Zuo, and their mere opening unleashed a terrible power that caused explosions to ripple throughout the void. At the same time, a corpse king appeared and attempted to tear the banner apart.

Colonel Zuo scoffed in response as Divine Martial Armor covered his body. After unfurling his banner, he easily forced the corpse king back while observing the situation on the battlefield down below. He let out a sigh of relief when he noticed that the reinforcements from Star Alliance had arrived.

Star Alliance’s arrival meant that the situation would temporarily stabilize. In other words, all they needed to do for now was wait for their general to arrive.

Because of the second forward basecamp’s teleportation device, they were never supposed to have been able to be forced into such a dire emergency. However, who could have predicted that a Progenitor-level corpse king would suddenly make a move and tear through the Tree Realm or that its actions would damage the teleportation device while also unleashing an untold number of terror ants. Not even Colonel Zuo had immediately noticed what had happened.

By the time that he had realized that the teleportation device had been damaged, it had already been too late.

At this time, Colonel Zuo was just hoping that no Semi-Progenitor level corpse kings would show up.

Just as the man was making his wishes, a massive wave of energy swept by him. Colonel Zuo’s pupils shrank as he stared off into the distance. There, he saw a bamboo branch appear. It was jade green and vibrant, brimming with vitality.

While such a sight should have soothed the heart, in Colonel Zuo's eyes, this verdant bamboo was as intimidating as meeting the grim reaper. This bamboo meant that Marquis Green Bamboo had arrived.

Humanity had been resisting the monsters' invasions for untold years, and just as the monsters knew a great deal about humanity, humanity had also gathered a great deal of information regarding the monsters.

All of these monsters were corpse kings, and they referred to themselves as Aeternal, worshipers of the One True God. From what they had seen so far, the mysterious Seven Skygods, whose cultivation realms was unknown to all, stood directly beneath the One True God. Some said that the Seven Skygods were Semi-Progenitors, while others claim that they were true Progenitors. However, what was certain was that, below the Seven God Skies, were the Twelve Marquises.

Each of the Twelve Marquises were Semi-Progenitors, and they were humanity's most formidable enemies on the battlefield behind the Mother Tree.

As for the Progenitor level corpse king that had appeared before, no human was confident in identifying the creature's identity, so it might or might not have been one of the Seven Skygods.

However, at this moment, the Marquis Green Bamboo of the Twelve Marquises had shown himself.

Each of the Twelve Marquises were Semi-Progenitors, and only human Semi-Progenitors were capable of standing up to a corpse king with the strength of a Semi-Progenitor.

As soon as Marquis Green Bamboo appeared, Colonel Zuo immediately activated the only Semi-Progenitor power vessel that existed at the second forward basecamp: the broken sword.

But at the same time, countless shoots of bamboo rose up from the ground across the second forward basecamp. They impaled many cultivators, and they even stabbed through many of the corpse kings. It was clear that the attack was completely indiscriminatory.

Ironically, the green bamboo shoots, which should represent life and vitality, brought only death to the battlefield.

The shoots of jade green bamboo were soon painted in ruby red blood. Thousands of new holes had appeared in the second forward base camp's metal battleground even though Enlighteners found it difficult to scratch the metal.

Master Song stared at a shoot of bamboo that had sprouted less than a meter in front of him in horror. He had almost been impaled. Behind him, nearly half of the Lockbreakers supporting him had been pierced through bamboo shoots, instantly dying.

Rivulets of fresh blood flowed beneath Master Song's feet and then merged to form a river. The Lockbreaker fiercely ground his teeth as he suppressed his fear in order to continue repairing the sourcebox array.

Marquis Green Bamboo had only released a single attack, but just when he was about to unleash a second one, the broken sword power vessel that Colonel Zuo had activated suddenly released a sharp killing intent. The energy caused the void to warp, and it completely isolated the second forward basecamp from Marquis Green Bamboo. The broken sword was pointed directly at the marquis, and it

seemed to be suggesting that it would unleash a terrifying lightning attack if the marquis attempted any further attacks.

Marquis Green Bamboo was still a corpse king even if he had the strength of a Semi-Progenitor. However, he did not look much different from a human, and he could even be regarded as handsome. His hair was elegantly tied back, and a few stray strands fell down at his temples, only accentuating his gracefulness. He had a gentile mien, and the bamboo flute in his hand only enhanced his sophisticated aura. Even his scarlet eyes that were an identifying feature for all corpse kings seemed to be much more alive than usual, though there was also a streak of green in both eyes. This additional color made the marquis look less dead when compared to ordinary corpse kings, and it also carried a mocking gaze.

"I can feel traces of a familiar sword intent from that broken blade. That must be one of the swords used by one of the nine clones back when Xia Shang was just a Semi-Progenitor, am I correct?" Marquis Green Bamboo asked. He twirled the bamboo flute about in his hand before placing it behind his back and smiling at Colonel Zuo, who was standing some tens of thousands of meters in front of the corpse king.

Colonel Zuo's palms had already begun to sweat. When faced with a Semi-Progenitor, they could only rely on another Semi-Progenitor for protection. However, the creature in front of the second forward base was an ancient figure who had been alive during the era when the Perennial World had been split. Even if Marquis Green Bamboo had not reached the strength of a Progenitor, the foundation that he had accumulated along with his formidable status that had solidified with time were not things that even Colonel Zuo's commander, Commander Xia Yan, could match, let alone Colonel Zuo.

Against this being, everyone else was a junior, and oftentimes by many generations. Even the four ruling powers' Progenitors might not be as old as this marquis.

"This is indeed the sword that Progenitor Chen used in the past," Colonel Zuo replied quietly, his eyes staring vigilantly at Marquis Green Bamboo.

The marquis laughed, and his scarlet eyes sparkled with intelligence. "You humans are really very interesting! Back when Xia Shang was cultivating the Nine Clones Secret Technique, the Daosource Sect severely condemned him for the crime of defiance because one of his clones was a being from another race. They even sent out troops to arrest him. But after he defeated his invincible peers and even some powerhouses who were his seniors, you all celebrated his successes. Humans are such contradictory creatures."

Colonel Zuo kept his banner held behind his back while never taking his eyes off of Marquis Green Bamboo. "I'm not sure what happened in the past. All I know is that my predecessors must have had a reason for their actions. Only monsters like you act without purpose, only following your own desires."

"Isn't that a good thing? Don't you humans also long for freedom? Nine out of ten people wish to gain immortality, which means that it's also a basic desire of you humans," Marquis Green Bamboo commented with a light smile.

Colonel Zuo scoffed, "If gaining immortality means becoming a monster like you, then what's the point? We'd be better off dead."

“Well, you’re only saying that because you don’t have any chance of gaining immortality,” Marquis Green Bamboo replied in a mild manner. Even as he spoke, he lifted his hand. In it was a transparent crystal bottle that contained a liquid. “This is the immortality drug, believe it or not. Once this thing enters the Perennial World, you humans will eagerly wage wars against each other just to get your hands on it.”

Colonel Zuo frowned slightly. While he wanted to refute the marquis, he could not say anything. All humans had some level of greed, which was normal, but that greed was also what these monsters had used to suppress humanity for so long.

Marquis Green Bamboo put the crystal bottle back away and then mockingly said, “Haha, that wasn’t actually the immortality drug. How could such a thing be created so easily? That was nothing more than a poison, though even a single drop of it is enough to destroy half of the world.”

“Vitality poison?” Colonel Zuo asked.

Marquis Green Bamboo merely silently smiled in response. He then looked back down at the battlefield below them and asked, “How much longer do you think the second forward basecamp can hold out for? How long can that broken sword keep me back for? Forget this broken sword—even the knife that one of Xia Shang’s nine clones used back then might not be enough to defeat me.”

“Just try it!” challenged Colonel Zuo in a deep voice. “Since we’re already on the battlefield, we naturally have no expectations of leaving alive. Humans may be greedy, but we are also determined. You monsters can use our greed against us, but our determination will always fight against you in the same manner.”

Marquis Green Bamboo’s lips curled up into a smile. He no longer said anything else, but he also refrained from attacking. It appeared that he was actually quite wary of the broken sword.

Progenitor Chen’s reputation of invincibility had stood unchallenged for eons, and since even an ancient powerhouse like Marquis Green Bamboo was wary of Progenitor Chen’s broken sword, it made it clear just how terrifying Progenitor Chen had been in the past.

Colonel Zuo wielded the broken sword as a means of stalling Marquis Green Bamboo for the time being. Elsewhere on the second forward basecamp, the other defenders were still engaged in all-out combat with the corpse kings. Outside of the broken sword’s range, cultivators fought across the unending battlefield, and corpse kings continued to appear without any end.

The battle had entered a stalemate for the moment, and this tenuous balance persisted for three days. It was then that Lu Yin and his reinforcements arrived at the second forward basecamp.

While traveling, Lu Yin had conscripted two more groups, which meant that he had led more than fifty people to the basecamp. While this was a negligible number from the perspective of the battlefield, it was also the largest number of people that Lu Yin could have gathered while traveling.

This battlefield’s scale was far beyond anything that Lu Yin could ever imagine. He had initially thought that the battlefield behind the Mother Tree would be comparable to the one in Endless Weave when he had helped defend against the Sixth Mainland’s invasion. It was only when he actually arrived at the

second forward basecamp that Lu Yin realized that all of his previous battles could not even be considered skirmishes.

The battlefield in Endless Weave had featured no more than ten Envoys while the strongest powerhouses had been Yuan Shi and the Sixth Mainland's Cosmic Imprinter. But on this battlefield, just humanity's side alone had more than ten Envoys, and he could see that the same was true for the monsters' forces as well. In the sky above, there was even a stand-off between a Semi-Progenitor level power vessel and a Semi-Progenitor corpse king.

Envoys were nothing more than cannon fodder on a battlefield where Semi-Progenitors were fighting.

Lu Yin's troops were scattered by the chaos of the battlefield the moment they arrived while Lu Yin himself immediately destroyed more than ten corpse kings with a flurry of Vacuum Palms. However, his actions instantly drew the attention of a more formidable opponent.

Chapter 1502: Going All Out

With two corpse kings at the cusp of reaching the Envoy level targeting him, Lu Yin wasted no time in taking out the power vessel that looked like an aquatic plant. After binding the two creatures, he lashed out with a barrage of palm strikes that pierced through both corpse kings' bodies, destroying them, and then continuing on to almost hit a nearby human Enlighter.

The Enlighter was horrified, and he stared at Lu Yin in a daze. He could not fathom how Lu Yin could unleash such a terrifying attack at such a young age.

Lu Yin was like a lion that had suddenly leaped into the midst of a flock of sheep. If there were no Envoy-level enemies to stand up to him, there was no one who could stop him. All alone, he cleared out an entire region, which caused a large number of people to stare at him in awe.

Meanwhile, Hua Beibei had nearly reached the point of tears. He stuck close behind Lu Yin, constantly begging the other youth to protect him. However, Lu Yin held back nothing in his attacks, which terrified Hua Beibei with the possibility that the showy moves would only attract even more formidable enemies.

"Master! Master, please slow down! Take it easy! There'll still be a lot of enemies left over, so don't be so eager to kill everything." Hua Beibei tried to hold Lu Yin back.

Lu Yin grew annoyed by the prattle, so he picked Hua Beibei up and tossed him to the side.

Lu Yin's conspicuous entrance did indeed manage to garner the attention of a corpse king with the strength of an Envoy, and not just an ordinary Envoy at that. In terms of humanity's power measurements, this corpse king had the power of an Envoy who had survived two stellar tribulations, which meant that it was comparable to an expert with a power level of more than 600,000.

Lu Yin was caught off guard by a sudden attack from this corpse king's massive warhammer, and the terrible impact was enough to leave Lu Yin dizzy. Luckily, he was wearing the protective Cloudguard Robes, so this full-powered attack from a corpse king with a power level of more than 600,000 left Lu Yin virtually unharmed.

This corpse king was three meters tall, and it emotionlessly raised its warhammer and smashed it down at Lu Yin again.

The warhammer was five meters long, and while it looked unbalanced and crude, the attack was shockingly fast. The sneak attack had caught Lu Yin completely by surprise since the corpse king had launched it from the true universe.

However, as the warhammer fell down, it suddenly disappeared. This corpse king was simply too fast, and it had already returned to the true universe, attacking Lu Yin from there. In response, he lightly stepped out and also entered the true universe, only to be immediately met with an attack from the huge warhammer. An astral chessboard appeared beneath his feet, and he moved.

The warhammer smashed down into the ground. The impact shattered the nearby void, and small spatial tears spread throughout the area like flickering sparks as a shockwave rippled out.

Many combatants were struck by the shockwave, and its sheer force left many feeling disorientated. Even Master Song and the other Lockbreakers who were trying to repair the sourcebox array some distance away were affected, and they involuntarily turned to look towards the source of the shockwave.

Lu Yin appeared behind the tall corpse king and retaliated with his own full-powered attack: a 350 Stacks Vacuum Palm reinforced with his golden battle force.

Bang!

Lu Yin's strike caused a half-inch deep palm print to appear on the corpse king's body, but that was all. The creature immediately whirled around and slammed its warhammer into Lu Yin. The youth attempted to block the blow by raising his arms, but he was still sent flying like a pebble, and he violently crashed into a piece of metal in a random section of the second forward basecamp. The metal structure was struck so fiercely that it cracked.

The structure that Lu Yin had crashed into was actually a part of the teleportation device. A group of people had been studying the damaged device, scratching their heads to try to come up with a means of repairing it, when Lu Yin had suddenly flown over and completely destroyed the structure entirely before they could come up with any ideas.

The group turned to look over where Lu Yin had been sent flying from, and there, they saw the three-meter-tall corpse king raise its warhammer high into the air before violently slamming it down once again. The void was completely shattered, and a massive spatial crack snaked through space at them, devouring everything that was nearby.

The team that had been attempting to repair the teleportation device were frozen from fear, as they all knew that they were doomed.

Suddenly, Lu Yin leaped forward with a hand raised as he set up a Channeling Diagram.

Golden battle force twined around his arms, and the Channeling Diagram appeared before him, protecting him. The warhammer's attack slammed down, only to be dissipated by the Channeling Diagram, which redirected the force in all other directions. Throughout the sky and the ground nearby, the void fractured into spiderweb-like spatial tears.

Lu Yin had his back to the teleportation device as he stared intently at the corpse king. This creature was a true monster if it could even disregard his full-powered Vacuum Palm. Lu Yin thought that Long Kui

might not be able to directly receive a full-force Vacuum Palm, and yet this corpse king had done so despite technically being weaker than Long Kui. The creature's robust physique had allowed it to ignore the attack, as that was the only explanation.

Wait, if this corpse king had such an impressive body, then did that mean that this creature was capable of undergoing a corpse king transformation?

Right as this possibility occurred to Lu Yin, the color of the tall corpse king's eyes changed from scarlet to gray. Lu Yin watched as the void around the creature's body broke apart, no longer able to contain the corpse king's passive strength, and spatial tears appeared around it. An unfathomably powerful physical strength had appeared on the battlefield. The corpse king let out a loud growl, and the soundwaves of its angry roar shattered the void as they traveled towards Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's scalp went numb, and he finally experienced for himself just how frustrating it was to face off against an opponent with an overwhelmingly superior physical body. He finally realized how painful it had been for his old opponents to go against his own freakish physique. The Channeling Diagram was unable to resist the soundwaves, and Lu Yin was pushed back bit by bit.

Someone standing behind him shouted in a panic, "Bro, you have to hold out! This is the teleportation device, and if it's completely destroyed, we're all done for!"

Lu Yin gritted his teeth. "I'd like to hold out too!"

He glanced behind him and saw that the group of people who were attempting to repair the teleportation device were all just Explorers. With no other choice, Lu Yin used the power vessel that looked like an aquatic plant to trap the corpse king and restrict all of its attacks to a smaller area.

Lu Yin had Enhanced the power vessel to the point where it was capable of defending against attacks from experts with a power level of about 700,000. However, the corpse king's strength had definitely surpassed a power level of 700,000 after transforming. Even though he had no other choice, Lu Yin was questioning whether or not his power vessel would be able to hold out.

As the creature growled, the corpse king ruthlessly slammed its warhammer down at the power vessel, cracking it open. Lu Yin's pupils constricted, and he brought out the dagger that he had taken from Wang Su. Finding an opening, he stabbed the dagger into the corpse king's body through the crack that had opened up in the defensive power vessel before dragging the knife to the side, slashing open nearly half of the corpse king's body.

The dagger was capable of unleashing attacks that possessed a power level of around 800,000, which made it the most powerful offensive power vessel in Lu Yin's inventory. Despite the corpse king's powerful physical strength, and its boost from transforming, it still was unable to resist the power of the knife.

Lu Yin raised the dagger once more and stabbed at the corpse king's neck. The creature kicked at Lu Yin in response, which caused the youth to shoot an angry glare at the beast as he clenched a fist and punched out with a full 350 Stacks and his battle force to counter the corpse king's kick.

There was a deafening boom, and the ground itself shattered. Lu Yin was knocked back more than ten meters by the collision, and he crashed into the metal remnants of the teleportation device again. Lu

Yin's head was left spinning by the forces. If not for the presence of the teleportation device, he would have never been willing to directly face off against such a powerful corpse king.

Everyone around Lu Yin who witnessed the exchange was left completely stunned. The fact that an Enlightener was able to go against a corpse king of that level was unimaginable to them all. This battle had destroyed everyone's worldview.

The knife had sliced open half of the corpse king's body, and it glared fiercely at Lu Yin. The creature then charged towards Lu Yin once again, completely devoid of any sense of pain or fear of death.

Lu Yin threw the dagger at the corpse king in an attempt to wound the creature again, but the corpse king was not completely brainless, and it deflected the dagger to the side with its warhammer. All of a sudden, Lu Yin waved a hand and used the Yu Secret Art, diverting the dagger to brutally stab the corpse king right in the side of its neck. The creature released an angry growl as it grabbed the dagger. But by then, an astral chessboard had already appeared beneath Lu Yin's feet, and he instantly moved behind the corpse king, which allowed Lu Yin to grab the knife's hilt at the same moment as the corpse king.

In Lu Yin's eyes, the movement of the corpse king's hand reaching for the dagger slowed down countless times over because of the effect of the inheritance that he had received from the Sword Monument. At this moment, Lu Yin was able to see through the corpse king's every move, as well as its strength. Stars revolved around Lu Yin's body, and many of them suddenly exploded beneath the corpse king's hand, momentarily delaying its movement. Lu Yin took advantage of this timing to grab the dagger first and shove it deeper into the corpse king's neck.

Almost the full length of the knife blade had been stabbed into the neck by now. The corpse king reached back with its other hand at Lu Yin, but the youth had already fled with the Teleportation Formation. Lu Yin then took advantage of the situation to smash a Vacuum Palm into the corpse king's forehead, smacking it back a few steps.

This flurry of attacks had badly wounded the corpse king, but just as Lu Yin went to attack again, the corpse king tilted back its head and roared at the sky as its eyes changed color yet again.

Lu Yin's mouth fell open wide. No- no way! Was it really still able to transform?

He watched on in shock as the corpse king's eyes turned green. Once the transformation finished, the creature's strength would increase by another tenfold. Lu Yin was certain that, at that point, nothing he did could do anything to the transformed corpse king. Even his knife, his Desolate Array sourcebox, and everything else would do absolutely nothing to this corpse king. Its body completely exceeded the level of any of Lu Yin's power vessels.

After completing this second transformation, the corpse king's strength would be a hundred times greater than its original strength, which had already been comparable to an Envoy's.

Lu Yin's heart ached as he pulled out the sourcebox array with the Void Rip battle technique that he had taken from Bai Shaohong. There were four Void Rip attacks sealed within it, and two of them had already been used, which meant that Lu Yin only had two attacks remaining.

He treated this sourcebox as his prized possession. Using something so distinct on this battlefield was very risky as this attack was easily recognizable. And yet, Lu Yin had no other choice. He glanced around, feeling a bit guilty, but then he aimed the sourcebox array straight at the corpse king. Two dots were connected by a black line that was the Void Rip, and the line shot forward.

The corpse king was still holding onto its warhammer, and its terrifying aura seemed to stir up the winds and the clouds. It finished its Green Eyes Transformation, but then all of its movements suddenly ceased, and its head fell to the ground.

The Void Rip battle technique was not as powerful as the dagger that Lu Yin had used earlier, but the corpse king had already been badly wounded by Lu Yin's knife, which allowed Void Rip to neatly end the creature's life along with the battle.

Lu Yin waved his hand the moment the attack passed by the corpse king, using the Yu Secret Art to divert what remained of the Void Rip towards the ground, as he was worried that someone would notice what he had just used.

Up in the sky, Colonel Zuo was still having his standoff with Marquis Green Bamboo when the local commander suddenly felt the horrifying aura of the tall corpse king as it underwent its Green Eyes Transformation. The commander's face paled, and he looked down to check what was happening. Though, he looked down just in time to see the corpse king lose its head. Even more shockingly, in front of the corpse was a young Enlighter.

Colonel Zuo felt utterly stunned; what in the world had just happened?

No one had the time to explain anything to the commander due to the chaotic battlefield that changed every moment. Even Envoys had to be careful on the battlefield. Everyone had their own opponents, and the rest of the battlefield was nothing more than a massive blur, making it hard to understand what was happening anywhere. The team attempting to repair the teleportation device had long since fled from the area to avoid the aftershocks of Lu Yin's battle against the corpse king.

Lu Yin took some time to recover his ragged breath as he stared at the still standing body of the corpse king. The body was headless, and fresh blood flowed down from the severed neck. A terrifying aura still emanated from the dead body.

Lu Yin felt that it was a terrible pity that corpse kings did not carry cosmic rings. Otherwise, he would be able to gain a huge harvest from killing such a powerful corpse king.

This single battle had cost him a great deal, as he had lost both the power vessel that looked like an aquatic plant, as well as one of his remaining Void Rips.

The three meter tall corpse king had displayed a terrifying strength, but regardless of the creature's power, its battle against Lu Yin had only occupied a minuscule corner of the battlefield. A single person's victory would not end this slaughterfest.

It did not take long for Lu Yin to run into another corpse king, though his new opponent did not have the strength of an Envoy, but rather that of an Enlighter. This change gave Lu Yin some time to recover, and he took his time while fighting to recuperate a bit. After all, an Enlighter level opponent was much easier to deal with.

There were many Enlighters among humanity's powerhouses on the battlefield, but while such experts could be found everywhere, it was hard to find any who could take a break while fighting against an Enlighter level corpse king.

In the sky, Colonel Zuo kept the broken sword pointed straight towards Marquis Green Bamboo, not allowing his guard to drop for even an instance.

Across from the commander, Marquis Green Bamboo did not have even the slightest bit of anxiousness on his face. In fact, he even took out a scroll to read and began talking to his opponent. "The greatest wealth that humans possess is actually wisdom. That's the aspect of humanity that I admire the most. You all are able to use your wisdom to create anything. If not for that, the weak bodies of you humans would have led to all of you being eliminated long ago."

Colonel Zuo frowned. Two days had already passed, so why had the general not arrived yet? On top of that, it felt very odd to see Marquis Green Bamboo behaving in such a relaxed manner. Could the enemy be planning to break through the second forward basecamp before the general could even arrive?

On the ground below, the sourcebox array had already been repaired, and it began to slaughter the corpse kings on a massive scale. However, the destruction only lasted for half a day, as a giant corpse king appeared and blocked the sourcebox array from continuing its rampaging.

Lu Yin stared at the almost hundred meter tall corpse king standing in the distance. This reminded him of the corpse king that had managed to break into the second formation base's headquarters. Were these oversized corpse kings specially created to deal with sourcebox arrays?

The second forward basecamp's defensive sourcebox array used a red light to slaughter enemies indiscriminately, and when the red light swept the battlefield, it had managed to exterminate nearly a third of the corpse kings. However, the moment the enormous corpse king appeared, the red light faded when it made contact with the creature.

In an effort to test out his thoughts, Lu Yin launched a Vacuum Palm at the oversized corpse king, only to see that the creature showed no reaction at all.

Lu Yin silently retreated. The giant creature was even more formidable than the Envoy level corpse king that he had recently dealt with. Even if he unleashed everything in his entire arsenal, he most likely still would not leave even a scratch on the massive creature. Lu Yin felt that he would be more useful by moving away than inviting trouble by trying to fight the thing.

Chapter 1503: Aurelian Force

A war would not end just because of a single human or corpse king's life or death. Someone else would need to find a way to handle the giant corpse king.

There was a tremendous boom that shook the ground so badly that the metal surface everyone was fighting on started to split apart, and Lu Yin lost his footing. Off in the distance, an Envoy was crushed into a bloody pulp by the massive corpse king, and the remnants of the powerhouse fell out of the true universe.

This person was the second Envoy to be killed, their death caused the blood to drain from Lu Yin's face. Not only had the enormous corpse king stopped the sourcebox array from functioning, but it was also

eliminating Envoys at the same time. Up above, at the second array base's headquarters, Colonel Chun had kept one of the giant corpse king's occupied, and Long Laogui had helped finish it off. But at the second forward base camp, Colonel Zuo was the only person present who was capable of handling the giant creatures, but he was already preoccupied with Marquis Green Bamboo. Thus, Long Laogui was not present to offer his help.

Nobody else on the battlefield could do anything, as none of them could be the enormous corpse king's opponent.

Hua Beibei ran over nearby Lu Yin. "Expert! Please save me!"

Lu Yin turned around and waved a hand, instantly killing the corpse king that had been chasing after Hua Beibei.

Hua Beibei looked extremely pathetic at this moment. One of his arms was broken, and his upper body was also stained with blood. He wailed, "Expert, I'm so glad that I found you! If not for you, I'd already be dead! These monsters are terrifying!"

Lu Yin had only saved the youth because it had been convenient to do so.

Deep in thought, Lu Yin's brow furrowed tightly as he continued to stare at the massive corpse king that had already single-handedly dealt with two Envoys.

Hua Beibei's vision followed Lu Yin's line of sight, and the youth's face immediately went pale. He fearfully shouted, "Expert, you can't possibly be thinking of fighting that thing! Don't even think about it! Let me tell you, an experienced senior who survived four tribulations from the Celestial Frost Sect died at the hands of one of those giant corpse kings here on this great battlefield. That creature is not something that you can handle! Only someone like Colonel Zuo can fight against that thing head on."

Just as Hua Beibei finished speaking, he suddenly remembered that this young man before him was another colonel.

"I meant someone with Colonel Zuo's strength." Hua Beibei quickly modified his earlier comment.

"Two Envoys from the Star Alliance have already been killed by that thing," Lu Yin solemnly commented.

Hua Beibei sighed. "There's nothing that we can do to help. Without a top powerhouse stepping in, we have to leave that monster to the Star Alliance to handle. They're the only ones on this battlefield who don't fear death."

Lu Yin's focus sharpened. He remembered the first time that he had heard of the Star Alliance; back then, he had been traveling to the Liu family's Sword Monument with Long Kui. The two of them had watched an unwilling man be dragged away to join the Star Alliance. Lu Yin had been completely ignorant of the details about the Star Alliance.

As Lu Yin's status and reputation had risen, and he had also interacted with more powerhouses, and he had slowly started to learn a bit more about the Star Alliance.

The Star Alliance was actually the Envoy Alliance, which meant that only Envoys were eligible to join them. These Envoys were not from any of the influential powers such as the four ruling powers, the Liu

family, or the Nong family. Instead, all of the Envoys in this alliance were people who had committed major crimes and needed to atone for their actions.

It was no easy feat to cultivate to the Envoy realm, and even the four ruling powers could not bear executing such powerhouses for their crimes. Thus, the Star Alliance had been established as a punishment for criminals at the Envoy realm to become a sharp blade wielded on the battlefield behind the Mother Tree. It was a team from Star Alliance that Hua Beibei had referred to as being unafraid of death.

It was precisely because of the Star Alliance's assistance that the second forward basecamp had been able to endure for so long. Envoys from the alliance could be found everywhere on the battlefield.

As far as outsiders knew, Star Alliance was formed from Envoys who had committed crimes, and only a few people were aware that, while there were indeed criminals in Star Alliance, the vast majority of the Envoys in the alliance were conscripted into the alliance merely because they were not loyal to the four ruling powers.

The four ruling powers ruled the Perennial World, not just the Higher Realm. The Middle and Lower Realms were also under their control, and independent Envoys were seen as individuals who could potentially rebel against the four ruling powers. Thus, such people were either killed or conscripted. The slow disappearance of such dissenting voices contributed to the ever increasing authority that the four ruling powers enjoyed within the Perennial World.

The Envoy that had been kidnapped while Lu Yin was making his way to the Sword Monument had been one of the cultivators who had refused to surrender to the four ruling powers. His family's influence might have been destroyed, or his family might have been granted peace by him joining the Star Alliance. Lu Yin was unaware of which possibility was true, but he knew that the Star Alliance was not a symbol of the Perennial World's glory, but rather of their sorrow.

However, the Star Alliance was also a nightmare for these monsters.

After seeing another Envoy sent flying through the sky by the enormous corpse king, a determined expression appeared on Lu Yin's face, and with a few quick steps, he disappeared. Hua Beibei was knocked backwards by the shockwave kicked up by Lu Yin's impressive speed, and the cowardly young man helplessly stared off into the distance; that young expert had still decided to go help; how righteous!

Lu Yin was not someone who enjoyed chasing after death, and he had only made his move with the full awareness of the fact that he possessed the Cloudguard Robes, the Ce Secret Art, and the Teleportation Formation. On top of that, he had only decided to take action after observing the giant corpse king for quite a while and confirming that he would not be killed by the creature. Given his abilities, Lu Yin would fight whenever he was able to. This was humanity's main battlefield, and they could not afford to retreat even a single step.

Both of the massive corpse king's legs were entangled with the red light of the sourcebox array, and the energy had left deep cuts on the creature's legs. A man stood before the mountainous corpse king, and he roared in fury as he wielded a sword, unleashing countless slashes with his blade. Some of the attacks were illusory, but others were real.

The enormous corpse king raised its arms to block the approaching attacks, and then it retaliated by sending a powerful slap towards the swordsman. It was at this moment that Lu Yin appeared right in front of the giant corpse king, and he released multiple Vacuum Palms with an upraised hand.

Dozens of palms struck the massive corpse king on the forehead. Despite the fact that Lu Yin's Vacuum Palms could not harm the creature, the impact of so many attacks to its head still surprised the corpse king.

There was another, elderly Envoy underfoot, and the old man suddenly attacked. The man's body flushed red as flames enveloped him that consumed even the void. These flames then began to spread from the man and creep up the corpse king's leg.

The corpse king looked down and took a single step away, but this movement aggravated the wounds on its legs since the motion only increased the amount of contact with the sourcebox array's red energy. The flames immediately leaped at the blood leaking from the creature's wounds, though the corpse king did not seem to care.

The Envoy quickly fled after seeing his efforts accomplish nothing.

As for Lu Yin, he caught a glimpse of the corpse king's palm slamming towards him. He first thought that he would be able to evade the creature's attacks with the Ce Secret Art, but he belatedly realized that he had sorely underestimated the abilities of the giant corpse king. As its palm swung towards Lu Yin, the void destabilized, which made it impossible for Lu Yin to even trigger the Ce Secret Art.

It was universally understood that any entity that possessed the strength of an Envoy would never be an easy opponent, and despite seeing the massive corpse king kill two Envoys, Lu Yin had still believed that he would be able to utilize the Ce Secret Art to stall the creature for a period of time. He had truly been too naive.

Unable to do anything, Lu Yin took a full hit from the corpse king's slap, and he spat out a mouthful of blood as he flew through the air. He tried to twist his body around, but he found that he could not even move a single muscle. The power of the corpse king's attack was so overwhelming that Lu Yin had been completely immobilized. With no other option, Lu Yin repeatedly tried to use the Ce Secret Art, and just as he was about to hit the ground, he managed to use the Ce Secret Art to create a bit of a buffering distance between himself and the metal ground. Even though not all of the force was dispersed, it was still much better than smashing into the ground at full speed.

Lu Yin rose to his feet and coughed out yet more blood as he looked up. His injuries were quite bad, and not even the Cloudguard Robes had been able to fully protect him from these injuries. If not for the fact that the flame-controlling Envoy had attacked at the same time, the corpse king's attack against Lu Yin would have carried much more power.

Somewhere near Lu Yin, a middle-aged man stepped out from the void. Behind him, there was a dead corpse king.

That man had witnessed everything earlier, and he remained focused on Lu Yin.

Lu Yin quickly swallowed some pills with medicinal effects as he tried to catch his breath, and at that moment, a colony of terror ants started running rampant across the battlefield. In response, Lu Yin

raised a hand to clear out some of the ants as he fiercely glared at the giant corpse king in the distance, racking his brain to come up with some means of dealing with the creature.

While still in deep thought, Lu Yin felt a piercing gaze from someone who had been focused on him for quite some time. He turned to look at this person, and he found a middle-aged man with messy hair and ungroomed stubble. There was a listless expression on the man's face, and he looked quite dispirited and like a vagrant. This man had been staring at Lu Yin nonstop the moment the youth crashed to the ground, and the man's eyes had never shifted away.

Lu Yin met the man's eyes, and the eyes that had originally seemed empty and soulless abruptly changed after the two made eye contact. The man looked shocked at first and then agitated before the dull and glassy expression ultimately returned. A gamut of emotions had run across the man's face in a single moment.

"Why are you staring at me?" Lu Yin asked cautiously, as it was certainly not impossible for Redbacks to reveal themselves in the middle of combat on this battlefield.

The man continued to stare at Lu Yin. He had initially been looking at Lu Yin's back, but he had finally gotten a clear look at Lu Yin's face after the young man had turned around. All that the older man could think of was how Lu Yin greatly resembled his young master. The middle-aged man had not expected to run across someone with that face ever again.

Sadly, the young man was not his young master, but rather someone who just looked somewhat similar to him, nothing more.

"Hey, brat, why did you charge towards that thing? Don't you fear death?" The man spoke with a jaded voice and used a casual tone that revealed his loneliness and disheartened state.

Lu Yin frowned. "Should I run away out of fear?"

The man's eyes glimmered as he continued to stare at Lu Yin. Suddenly, the man smiled. His smile was happy, carefree, and unrestrained. When this smile appeared, the nearby corpse kings and terror ants all dropped dead. The man had not used stellar energy, nor a battle technique. Instead, he had used something that Lu Yin was quite familiar with: battle force. However, the battle force that the man had used was colorless.

Lu Yin was taken aback. His domain let him sense just how formidable this man's battle force was. He did not have the means to describe it, but it felt like a hibernating beast had just bared its fangs. The moment Lu Yin's domain made contact with the man's battle force, Lu Yin had felt as if his entire being had been exposed to a beast's open maw.

"Just now, you used ten-lined battle force, right?" the man asked as he shifted his head to look at the giant corpse king.

Lu Yin denied nothing, as he had indeed supported his Vacuum Palms with battle force when attacking the massive corpse king.

“Little brat, watch closely. This is what battle force looks like after you surpass ten lines. This is aurelian force.” The moment the middle-aged man spoke, the air at the man’s feet began to move despite there being no wind. The current even brushed against the void, as though endless waves were lapping at it. As the distorted portion of the void spread out, every human, corpse king, and terror ant enveloped within the invisible energy’s range instantly froze in place, and fear appeared on their faces.

Off in the distance, the Envoy-realm swordsman who was facing off against the enormous corpse king looked over in surprise the moment he came in contact with the ripples in the void. The swordsman looked over at the middle-aged man who was the source of everything and said, “Brother Zhou, is that really necessary? Just wait a bit more. We’ll manage somehow.”

The swordsman had sharp eyes, and his aura shot through the sky. Even the broken sword seemed to resonate with the man as it trembled for a moment, which caught Colonel Zuo’s attention.

“Even if the main family were here, they would still support my decision, regardless of whether it's right and wrong. We are on humanity’s battlefield, and even an Enlighter realm kid is willing to put his life on the line. As for me, Zhou Tang, I cannot do any worse as that would bring shame to the main family as I was once given the surname of ‘Lu.’” As the man spoke, a terrifying aura swept out to the horizon. It spread out in all directions and passed through both the sky and the ground. The man who was the source of it all looked like a peerless ruler. While his battle force was invisible to the eye, it burned and melted the void.

Countless people were stunned when they sensed the horrifying aura.

“That- that’s aurelian force! The highest level of battle force!” a pale-faced individual exclaimed. Although his face had drained of blood, his eyes blazed with excitement. He was also someone who used battle force, which meant that his desire to achieve aurelian force was the same as a domain cultivator hoping to reach the void realm. Encountering one’s goal would give them the impulse of wanting to bow down to it.

Lu Yin blankly stared at the middle-aged man while sensing the terrifying power that filled the surroundings. Was this what battle force felt like once it surpassed the golden battle force level? The unparalleled level of control and incomprehensible authority that emanated from it was the very essence of battle force, but what occupied Lu Yin’s thoughts at the moment was not the man’s battle force, but his words. The man had stated that while his name was Zhou Tang, he had once been given the surname “Lu,” which meant that this man was from the Lu family! He had even referred to the Lu family as the main family.

Far above Lu Yin, Colonel Zuo brow finally unfurrowed. With that man’s presence, humanity should be secure for the time being.

Across from Colonel Zuo, Marquis Green Bamboo remarked in surprise, “Well, if it isn’t an ex-retainer of the Lu family. To think that a group of traitors still needs to rely on the power of the Lu family’s ex-retainer. You humans truly are pathetic. If you hadn’t exiled the Lu family back then, then you wouldn’t be struggling so badly now.”

Colonel Zuo did not respond to the jab, but no one from the Perennial World would carelessly speak on that particular topic, especially anyone from the four ruling powers, as it was a dark mark on their collective history.

Chapter 1504: The Lu Family's Ex-Retainer

The entirety of the second forward basecamp was shocked by Zhou Tang's aurelian force. Even the giant corpse king was surprised by the threatening aura.

Zhou Tang's appearance of a vagabond had been completely shattered, and a domineering and peerless aura emanated from him. He approached the massive corpse king step by step and said, "Aurelian force creates a region of control within the void. Its all-consuming energy is invincible."

It seemed as though the man was speaking to himself, though it was also possible that he was speaking to Lu Yin. After making this statement, he suddenly charged the enormous corpse king, his passage causing the void to tremble. At that moment, Lu Yin clearly sensed that the void itself was assisting the older man. The void had somehow submitted to Zhou Tang.

The giant corpse king released a low growl as it threw a punch at Zhou Tang. However, the man responded with his own punch in kind.

The incredible resulting bang of the two attacks' impact rang throughout the entire battlefield. Everyone felt fuzzy, and some people almost fainted from the jarring sound. The void had been torn in two, and there was an incredibly eye-catching spatial tear that seemed to stretch out forever like a bolt of lightning.

Lu Yin kept his eyes glued to Zhou Tang and managed to see the man blast a hole through the enormous corpse king's fist and to the creature's elbow. Cracks spread out across almost half of the corpse king's body. However, Zhou Tang himself spat out a bit of blood as well, and there was more blood dripping from his body. It was clear that he had suffered the more severe injuries. Regardless, someone whose strength was greatly inferior to the corpse king's had been able to seriously damage the creature through brute force and aurelian force.

The massive corpse king spun around and slammed a palm towards Zhou Tang. Just when Lu Yin was about to make a move, Zhou Tang lowered his head, and his left arm slashed upwards through the air. His action caused a wild whirlwind to blow upwards towards the monstrous corpse king. The ground shattered where the wind passed over, and the second half of the corpse king's body cracked before crumbling apart.

Fresh blood splattered everywhere, painting both the plains and Zhou Tang red.

Lu Yin promised himself that he would never forget what he had just witnessed for the rest of his life. He had just seen a man who was practically indomitable, a man who possessed a peerless authority.

This man's presence and bearing demanded respect.

Battle force was the embodiment of ambition. Those who cultivated battle force had to enjoy fighting itself and also possessing a powerful ambition and spirit, which was what battle force constituted from. This ambition and spirit had to come from within the cultivator themselves, but it could also be rooted in their faith in humanity or their own personal ambitions. This ephemeral force was capable of both

attacking or defending, and it allowed a person to overcome their limits, tear through the sky, and break through the void. And in addition, to Lu Yin, it was invincibility itself.

Just when everyone's attention was focused on Zhou Tang, a current of energy struck out from behind Marquis Green Bamboo. It was the Divine Martial Armor's energy.

Marquis Green Bamboo whipped around, his eyes piercingly sharp. "Xia Yan, as a general, don't you find it embarrassing to ambush someone?"

While speaking, the marquis raised a hand and caused the Divine Martial Armor's energy to suddenly vanish. Right after that, Marquis Green Bamboo and Xia Yan both disappeared.

Colonel Zuo let out a sigh of relief; the general had finally arrived, and the battlefield would stabilize. "Immediately repair the sourcebox array and then start repairing the teleportation device."

After speaking, he looked over towards Zhou Tang.

Zhou Tang's head was still hung low, which caused Colonel Zuo to frown. That man had overused his aurelian force, which meant that he would no longer be of any use on the battlefield.

Lu Yin hastened over to Zhou Tang, but there was someone else who moved even quicker. It was the Envoy swordsman.

As Lu Yin was making his way towards Zhou Tang, he suddenly heard a voice call out, "Long Qi, immediately move to the teleportation device. No delays can be risked. Hurry!"

It was Xia Yan's voice. Lu Yin looked around and saw that quite a few people were rushing towards the teleportation device. Why had Xia Yan asked him to do the same?

High above everyone else, Marquis Green Bamboo's figure appeared before almost instantly disappearing once more. He then said, "Xia Yan, how dare a junior like you challenge me? Can someone like you measure up to the countless years of experience that I have accumulated?"

"If we're comparing years, then not even the Xia family's ancestors can compare to you, but do you dare to compare yourself to those living in the Dominion Realm?" Xia Yan refuted.

"I may not be able to compare to Progenitors, but you? You pose no threat to me. The second array base's headquarters isn't doing so well right now either, is it?" Marquis Green Bamboo said casually. He appeared to be completely relaxed.

Despite the calm conversation being held by the two men, the void exploding around them was proof of the exact opposite. They were actually standing at the center of the most intense portion of the entire battlefield, and even Colonel Zuo was afraid to move closer.

"I know what you're planning, but so what? Just try me," Xia Yan growled in challenge.

Above the metallic plains of the second forward basecamp, the broken sword suddenly began to tremble as it synchronized with the void. Another Xia Yan appeared. He was using the Xia family's Nine Clones Secret Technique.

Lu Yin caught a glimpse of that moment.

Xia Yan's clone scanned the battlefield from above, and he saw Lu Yin still standing in place, so he loudly shouted, "Go NOW!"

Lu Yin looked over towards Zhou Tang, only to realize that the two men were still standing in place. Had Xia Yan not given the two powerhouses the same orders as everyone else?

"Brother Zhou, was that really necessary?" the Envoy swordsman let out a sigh.

Zhou Tang coughed up a mouthful of blood and struggled to speak. "I will not... embarrass... the... Lu family."

An astral chessboard appeared beneath Lu Yin's feet, and he moved. He had to take Zhou Tang away.

At that same moment, another pair of scarlet eyes opened beyond the void. Their appearance sent chills running down Colonel Zuo's spine. "General! It's Marquis Middyay."

Xia Yan was shocked. He maintained a tight grip on the hilt of the broken sword and glanced down at Lu Yin one last time. After that, he discarded all hesitation and slashed the broken blade across the metallic plains, only avoiding the teleportation device's location. After the sword sliced through the entire metal plain, it subsequently trembled before falling down towards the New World below.

By the time Lu Yin managed to reach Zhou Tang's side with the Ce Secret Art, the second forward basecamp was already falling. He lifted his head to look at Xia Yan, only to see Xia Yan entering the void along with the broken sword. At that sight, the Envoy swordsman turned as white as a sheet of paper. "This is bad. We've been abandoned."

The second forward basecamp fell down extremely quickly. There were multiple Envoys who wanted to enter the void to escape and return to the teleportation device, but all such attempts failed; another giant corpse king showed up and stopped everyone.

Since everyone had been abandoned, it was considered impossible for any of them to return.

The second forward basecamp plummeted and began to fracture as Lu Yin subconsciously held onto Zhou Tang. The Envoy was already injured, so Lu Yin could not allow the man to be swept away by the raging winds.

"Who are you?" the swordsman asked as he stared at Lu Yin. The youth was tight holding onto Zhou Tang as they fell.

Zhou Tang raised his head to look at Lu Yin, and he studied Lu Yin with tired eyes.

Lu Yin answered quietly, "There's no point speaking about such things right now. Rather, where are we falling to?"

"The New World," Zhou Tang answered in a hoarse voice.

Lu Yin's heart sank. "The New World? There should be humans there, right?"

Closeby, a corpse king charged forward to attack Lu Yin, but the Envoy swordsman slashed it in half without even looking as he replied, "You should be thinking about how you can keep yourself alive. There's no way there are any humans where we're headed, just corpse kings. We're all already dead."

Lu Yin went pale, and he then squeezed his cosmic ring. Master, please give me strength!

Given the strength of the cultivators fighting on the battlefield behind the Mother Tree, the impact from their landing would not be enough to harm them much. However, just as the swordsman had said, the true threat that they would face was not from the fall or the impact, but rather from the endless number of corpse kings that would surround them .

After quite a while, there was a deafening thud as the ground cracked apart. They had crashed into the lower landmass, and the impact sent shockwaves rippling out in every direction and destroying countless creatures.

Even though the cultivators who defending the second forward basecamp would not be injured from the landmass striking the New World, there had still been corpse kings and terror ants with them as they had fell down.

Such creatures had no fear of death since they could not even understand the concept of pain. Even as the second forward basecamp cracked and shattered into pieces, the monsters continued attacking, and they managed to kill quite a number of humans at that moment.

Fortunately, when Xia Yan's clone had sliced through the second forward basecamp with the broken sword, he had specifically sliced through the void as well, killing off all of the Envoy level corpse kings with his own strength as a Semi-Progenitor. That had at least allowed the experts from the Star Alliance to regain control of the situation during the fall.

The Envoy realm swordsman and the nearby Star Alliance members all attacked as one, and they eliminated all of the corpse kings and ants that had fallen with them within the time that it took half a stick of incense to burn.

Lu Yin took advantage of the opportunity when the Envoys were slaughtering the corpse kings to look around. He saw an endless maroon mountain range, planets revolving around the mountains, boiling red seawater, and odd gases that gave him a sense of danger.

Was this the New World?

The universe was a cruel place, and it was not easy for ordinary humans to find hospitable planets. The New World was clearly not a place meant for humans to live. Lu Yin was even able to sense that toxins permeated the air that were so strong that ordinary humans could not survive for more than a second.

"Is this the rumored New World? It's over. We're all done for. We're going to die," an male Enlighter whispered to himself in a corner. His face had gone completely pale, and his eyes radiated thick fear.

Elsewhere, many people were trying to climb up the crumbled ruins of the second forward basecamp. They were surrounded by nothing but desolate, maroon mountain ranges, while up above them stood the enormous second array base. Even though the second array base was so large that it was connected to the Mother Tree, all that they could see from their vantage point down below was a mere shadow.

"There are rumors that the New World is those monsters' playground. They've built cities here, and they've modeled the whole place after the Perennial World itself. This is the enemy's forward basecamp," someone blurted in terror.

His words stirred up even more fear amongst everyone.

Lu Yin extended his domain to his limits, and his expression soon stiffened.

"Defend!" he warned.

There were countless corpse kings closing in on them from all directions. What the Envoy swordsman had mentioned turned out to be true; they really had fallen into a place where they were surrounded by corpse kings.

The battle did not let up for even a moment for the human forces, as corpse kings streamed towards them in an endless horde and launched all-out attacks against the humans.

An estimated tens of thousands of people had fallen with the second forward basecamp, and a few Envoys had already dealt with the corpse kings and ants that had fallen with them. Everyone else gathered into a defensive formation that protected them from all directions so that they could resist the attacks from the endless corpse kings.

Golden battle force twined around Lu Yin's body, and after he raised his hand, he emptied out a large area of corpse kings with a Vacuum Palm. The power of his Vacuum Palm was incomparable to his other attacks.

The corpse kings that raced towards the humans could not compare to the monsters that had assaulted the second forward basecamp, but that was only if one compared the monsters' average strength. The occasional Envoy level corpse king still showed up from time to time, and those monsters were dealt with by the powerhouses from the Star Alliance.

The wounded all fell back to the center of the circle to be protected by the others, and that was where Zhou Tang had been left. He had not moved a single muscle after they had fallen to the New World. He would not be able to recover any time soon after overexhausting his battle force earlier.

Seeing countless pairs of scarlet eyes staring straight at him caused Lu Yin's scalp to go numb from fear. Stars revolved around him, and then 726 stars exploded towards the corpse kings. Lu Yin perfectly defended the area that he had been given, and he did not allow even a single corpse king to pass by. The young man actually did better than many of the Envoys from the Star Alliance.

One day later, countless corpses filled the land around them, and the circle of humans that had fallen down with Lu Yin had shrunk by a noticeable amount. Many of their comrades had died, which had left them with no choice but to fall back and shrink their circle.

There was a loud swoosh, and countless stone pillars shot up from beneath the ground. Lu Yin stepped forward with a foot, and he stomped down to shatter the ground. Fissures cracked open in the ground and spread far away. As that happened, he raised a hand to attack with a Vacuum Palm once again. He managed to clear out a large number of corpse kings this way.

Suddenly, Lu Yin's expression tensed, and he turned to look some distance away, where he saw a cultivator who had been defending another area, just like Lu Yin. The man was attacking the corpse kings with his full strength even though half of his body was missing. Before long, another cultivator took the man's place to join the bloodbath.

"Fall back!" shouted an Envoy. Right after he shouted, the void began to churn, and a blood-red claw scratched down the entire length of the powerhouse's arm, and two other humans instantly disappeared.

Lu Yin had no choice but to retreat, watching as yet another group of people died during their desperate fight.

Chapter 1505: New World

A second day passed, then a third, and then a fourth. People constantly perished, and the defenders' numbers dwindled from their initial tens of thousands of cultivators to barely two thousand. Despite that, there seemed to be no end to the corpse kings flooding in towards the defenders from all directions.

Lu Yin could not understand just where all of these corpse kings were coming from. He thought back to what he had seen in Aeternus Nation, and he felt that the corpse kings that he was currently fighting against must have been modified, as there was no other way to account for such numbers.

A corpse king could truly live forever, and with the passage of countless years, Lu Yin did not dare to even imagine just how many corpse kings had to exist.

Lu Yin retreated to the middle of the defensive circle, allowing others to take his place. He had already been fighting for five consecutive days, and he was beyond exhausted.

There was a clang, and a long sword fell down from the void, and stabbed into the ground, where it stood firm. The Envoy swordsman had appeared, and he sat down in exhaustion and stared off into the distance with a look of despair on his face.

"Nobody's coming to save us, are they?" asked Lu Yin.

The swordsman glanced at Lu Yin and asked, "What's your name?"

"Long Qi," replied Lu Yin. At this time, there was no longer a need for him to hide his fake identity.

"I'm Che Zhan,"¹ the swordsman replied.

Lu Yin felt puzzled for a moment. Che Zhan?²

"Everyone in the Star Alliance hates the four ruling powers. My Che family was once a family in the Middle Realm, but because we expressed our dissatisfaction with the four ruling powers at some point in time, our family was exiled to this battlefield. As for me, since I was the only Envoy in the Che family, I was forced to join the Star Alliance. Honestly, I despise all of the four ruling powers to the point of disgust," Che Zhan explained.

Lu Yin stayed silent.

“However, you’re different.” Che Zhan openly smiled as he looked at Lu Yin. “I saw you turn back even when so many others were running towards the teleportation device after hearing General Xia Yan’s order. You’re someone from the White Dragon Clan, and you have such an amazing talent that there’s no way you didn’t receive the evacuation orders. However, you turned back for us. What was going through your mind at that moment?”

Che Zhan was very curious.

Lu Yin looked past Che Zhan and towards Zhou Tang, who was peacefully leaning against a stone wall. “I wanted to save him.”

Che Zhan was unfazed by this response. “I can see that much, but why?”

Lu Yin’s eyes flickered uncertainly, and he did not answer.

Zhou Tang looked over towards the two who were talking and stared straight at Lu Yin.

“He’s a former retainer of the Lu family, but as for you, you’re from the White Dragon Clan,” Che Zhan pressed, clearly confused.

Lu Yin shrugged. “Not everyone from the four ruling powers is bad.”

Che Zhan laughed and looked over at Zhou Tang, who was also laughing. For someone who had been so incredibly dispirited when Lu Yin had first seen him, Zhou Tang was able to show his carefree side even after having unleashed the matchless force of his aurelian force. His smile was comforting, and it soothed everyone else’s hearts.

At that moment, someone in the distance shouted, “Hey, Che-fellow! What the hell are you laughing at? I’m about to be done in here!”

Che Zhan stretched out his hand to grab the hilt of his sword, and he stood up as he said, “I’m coming, I’m coming. What’re you rushing me for? We’re all going to die sooner or later no matter what.”

He then turned to look back at Lu Yin. You really are different from the others in the four ruling powers.”

With that, he leaped forward and yelled, “Your old man’s coming!”

Lu Yin smiled softly. Of course he was different; he was not actually a part of the four ruling powers.

Lu Yin shifted his focus back to Zhou Tang, and asked with open curiosity, “Is aurelian force the highest level of battle force?”

Zhou Tang had a rather peaceful expression on his face. “Do I look like someone who’s reached the peak?”

Lu Yin was stunned. Sure enough, Zhou Tang’s battle force could not compare to the strength of someone who had survived five tribulations, and that was even after the man had surpassed his limits. He could not compare to Semi-Progenitors, and there were still Progenitors above those powerhouses.

“I’ve heard of you,” Zhou Tang commented as he met Lu Yin’s eyes, “The acting Gate Master of Humility’s Gate. You’ve made quite the name for yourself.”

Lu Yin smiled bitterly. "I've also offended quite a few people."

"Why were you so intent on saving me?" Zhou Tang asked.

Lu Yin casually responded, "We're about to die, so why bother asking such a question?" Zhou Tang furrowed his brow. Just as he was about to ask another question, he observed Lu Yin's face and saw complicated emotions as well as something else hiding deep in the youth's eyes. The kid was right; there was no meaning in asking that question at this moment, and it was fine to not receive an answer. At the very least, Zhou Tang had been able to see the shadow of his young master in this Long Qi.

Lu Yin had not expected Zhou Tang to completely drop his questions, especially since Lu Yin had not even put any thought into his attempt to brush the Envoy's question off. With Zhou Tang dropping his own questions, how was Lu Yin supposed to ask about matters concerning the Lu family?

"Retreat! Move back!" Someone shouted at the top of his lungs from afar. The defensive circle formed by the defending humans shrank yet again. Everyone's faces betrayed the despair that they were feeling, and many even looked at their dead comrades with envy, as they had been spared the agony of such despair.

Lu Yin stood up and prepared to move. He was among the most powerful fighters remaining, and if he utilized his full strength, he would most likely be the most powerful person present until Zhou Tang recovered his strength.

"Are there really no humans in the New World?" Lu Yin asked as he glanced at Zhou Tang.

Zhou Tang solemnly replied, "There are. There is one troop of humans who publicly asserts their presence as the City Wall down here. They are the Perennial World's foothold in the New World, and they are also humanity's hope of reclaiming the New World. The city is the reason why the New World has not completely fallen to the monsters yet."

Lu Yin looked away; was there really only one army? In that case, then where were the Upper Three Gates? He had been absolutely certain that it stood in the New World.

Unfortunately, even if Lu Yin learned of the Upper Three Gates's exact location, there was no way he could use them to return. More monsters were still waiting on the other side of the Upper Three Gates, and in numbers sufficient enough to completely overrun the Sixth Mainland.

Ten days passed, and Lu Yin and the others continued to retreat. Only a few hundred fortunate survivors remained, and they were still surrounded by countless corpse kings.

If this situation persisted, all of them would die in less than half a month.

Lu Yin stared at the innumerable corpse kings that were still charging towards them from the distance. It looked like he was plotting something.

At this moment, Che Zhan's voice rang out, "Everyone, follow me."

Lu Yin turned to look at the Envoy, and Che Zhan continued, "All of you, hide underground!"

Everyone in the group had become numb and were merely awaiting their deaths, so no one paid any attention to the man.

Che Zhan roared louder, “Even if you’re about to die, it’s better to kill more monsters before you go! Do it for the sake of the Perennial World, your family, and your friends! You guys are all cultivators—don’t you have a backbone?”

His words roused the spirits of the survivors even though it was not anything that was even close to a motivational speech. However, in such desperate times, these words were what people needed to hear.

With the help of two Star Alliance Envoys blocking the corpse kings, the survivors slowly made their way underground.

Zhou Tang descended as well.

Che Zhan moved over next to Lu Yin and said, “We’ve already talked things over, and everyone will take turns guarding the entrance to the underground section. For people who own power vessels, they’ll be more effective against the monsters if they’re used in a coordinated manner rather than aimed in various directions.”

The man looked straight at Lu Yin and as his eyes filled with a murderous intent, declared, “Even if we’re going to die, we’ll be dragging down more of those monsters along with us!”

Lu Yin nodded. “Of course.”

“We’ll stand guard first, so you head on in.”

With Che Zhan and a few others standing guard, Lu Yin moved underground.

Although they referred to their destination as underground, they were actually entering a crack that had formed when the metal plains of the second forward basecamp had crashed into the New World. That particular piece of metal had been incredibly tough, and even Enlighteners would struggle to leave a scratch on it.

After more than half a month of fighting in the New World, the humans had only encountered three corpse kings with the strength of an Envoy. The average strength of the monsters in the New World was much lower than those that had attacked the second forward base camp, which meant that the survivors were practically safe so long as they stayed underground.

Everyone was exhausted beyond their limits, and no one had any energy to make conversation. Each of them leaned against the walls while gasping for breath.

After Che Zhan entered the fissure, another man moved out to take over defending the entrance and was instantly confronted by countless corpse kings.

“I know that all of us are destined to die here, but if there somehow happen to be a lucky few who make it through this alive and even see the day when the New World is reclaimed by humanity, please erect a memorial here. As I await that day, I’ll fight to my death right here!” The man who stood at the entrance yelled loudly while facing the mass of corpse kings.

Lu Yin did not know the man’s name, and he had only heard someone else address the man as Brother Hong. He was another Envoy from the Star Alliance.

There were seven Envoys from the Star Alliance who had fallen down with the second forward basecamp, including Zhou Tang. At the moment, five of them were still alive.

Zhou Tang, Che Zhan, Brother Hong, an old woman who everyone called Matriarch of the Eastern Mountains, and a well-mannered middle-aged man whom everyone called Mr. Guo. They were the five surviving Envoys.

Brother Hong took something out of his cosmic ring and used it on the countless corpse kings standing outside the crevice where they had taken refuge. A terrifying shockwave exploded out, and the ground trembled for at least an hour.

Lu Yin glanced outside to see what was happening. The power vessel that Brother Hong had used clearly had not been stronger than the walnut-shaped power vessels that Lu Yin had used in the past, but it had lasted for a much longer amount of time.

There was a slashing sound, and Brother's Hong abdomen was suddenly pierced through by a strange weapon. Che Zhan immediately shot forward, and he pushed Brother Hong back inside while moving to stand outside the entrance.

It was Che Zhan's turn to stand guard.

Brother Hong had eliminated an endless number of corpse kings, and Che Zhan was responsible for clearing out the remnants after Brother Hong had accomplished his part. After both of them were done, the number of corpse kings near the crevice would drop significantly, and Che Zhan would be able to stand guard for a longer period of time. He would only use his own power vessel after the corpse kings had gathered again in sufficient numbers before attacking.

Matriarch of the Eastern Mountains took her turn after Che Zhan.

Lu Yin closed his eyes in order to rest. This was the last time that he would be able to rest peacefully. Once the Envoys used up the rest of their power vessels, they would be faced with an unending horde of corpse kings.

Perhaps it was time to summon Mister Mu. If Lu Yin left this place, then it he might also be able to take some people away with him.

"If it weren't for Shenwu's Sky, I wouldn't be sitting here waiting for death. Just because I had a few disagreements with some of Shenwu's Sky's disciples, I was forcefully drafted to this battlefield. Seriously, what the fuck!" Someone spoke up and began an unrestrained rant that involved profuse cursing. Since the man was about to die, he intended to voice all of his suppressed grievances, especially those that he had not dared to speak of in the past.

Someone else quickly responded, "I pissed off the Wang family regarding the ownership of some resources. I should've just given it up! To think that I was so greedy as to fight them over some resources! I was so full of myself. It's no wonder why those assholes said that I would never even get the chance to get revenge against them."

"You're wrong. The Wang family was stealing resources, as were all of the four ruling powers. My entire body was searched when I visited the Higher Realm, and on what grounds? Why are they allowed to do that? How is the Higher Realm any different from the Middle Realm in the past? Ever since the four

ruling powers took control of the Higher Realm, they've come to see themselves as a level above the rest of us, but have they ever reached the same level as the Lu family? Not even the Lu family was so arrogant!" another person grumbled in a foul tone.

"To hell with the four ruling powers! Just how many people on this battlefield were forced to this place by those people? My entire family was exiled here, and all of them are most likely dead by now." Someone else continued to air further grudges, and his eyes flushed red as he spoke of his grievances.

Those who had managed to survive for so long were not ordinary cultivators. At a glance, even the weakest among them was a Hunter at the very least. All of them were capable of suppressing their energy well, and all of them were able to keep themselves alive. There were also Envoys and Enlighteners among them, and while everyone was wallowing in despair at the prospect of an unending battle, they had maintained their determination throughout all this. Still, with death just a step away, who could continue putting up a stoic facade while remembering their family and their life?

Both men and women spoke up. At this very last moment of their lives, nothing else mattered any longer. There were some who muttered to themselves, others who mourned, and even a few who cursed their hearts out while releasing all of the emotions that they had bottled up so far.

"Don't let me get out of this place alive, or else I'll surely crush the four ruling powers!" The man who had spoken up first suddenly yelled at the top of his lungs.

Immediately following that, another person echoed the first man's sentiment. "Brother, count me in! I'll exterminate the Wang family!"

"Count me in as well! All I did was peep at a female disciple from the Celestial Frost Sect while she was bathing, and yet they actually tossed me here to this battlefield for it! I'm going to slaughter the Celestial Frost Sect!"

Many people suddenly fell silent at that, as this person's motivation for revenge was quite vulgar.

Chapter 1506: Desolate

"Count me in, even though I wasn't thrown here by the four ruling powers. The Purple-Gold family were the ones who did this to me, and those stupid colored birds are basically a part of Shenwu's Sky."

"I came here of my own free will, but I can't stand for it seeing the tactics that the four ruling powers employ any more than all of you. All of us here are comrades, and if we get out of here one day, I'll help you guys."

"Haha, we'll stomp on the four ruling powers if we manage to get out of this alive! We're gonna take on the masters of this Perennial World!"

"Hahahaha, how heroic, Brother."

"Heroic indeed."

...

Even Che Zhan ended up getting excited along with everyone else. “Well said! Everyone sitting here, along with all those who already sacrificed themselves, are brothers and sisters no matter what! When there are joys, we share. And when there is suffering, we will brave through it together.”

“Why don’t we become sworn siblings and pledge to live and die as one?” someone suggested.

“What the heck? Is there even a need for that? We’re already facing a life and death situation together! Brothers, speak your desires if you have any. Any who survive will help you accomplish them after making it out of here.”

“I want to overthrow the Wang family!”

“I want to turn Shenwu’s Sky upside down!”

“I’m going to roast those colored birds!”

“I want to peep at a hundred bathing girls in the Celestial Frost Sect!”

...

Since they were enjoying what were essentially the last moments of their lives, there were some people who became numb to their fate while others grew incomparably excited. Their agitation only grew as they voiced their suppressed desires.

Lu Yin stood up, and an astral chessboard appeared beneath his feet. He then moved the Matriarch of the Eastern Mountains inside of the crevice as he took her place to stand guard at the entrance. He turned around and smiled at everyone. “Maybe we’ll all survive.”

The crowd was universally stunned. Even though they had been speaking with such heated emotions just a moment ago, none of them had ever thought that their ambitious wishes could be anything more than a pipe dream.

“Right, my name is Long Qi, so remember to keep me out of things when you guys overthrow the four ruling powers.” After speaking, Lu Yin took out the Desolate Array sourcebox array. It was finally time to put this thing to good use.

What exactly did “desolate” mean? When Lu Yin had first descended into the New World, he had seen the maroon mountains, the red lake, and an endless number of corpse kings. These features did not make the place desolate, for true desolation was lifelessness. It was something that was even deprived of colors.

After the Desolate Array was activated, for an untold distance, in all directions, the surroundings were enveloped by the power of the sourcebox array, and the region was transformed into a barren land. The ground that had originally been maroon and stained red by blood suddenly turned gray as it cracked to form a dry and desolate land.

As for the corpse kings, all of them had completely vanished.

No one here could surpass Lu Yin in terms of sourcebox arrays. Highsage Grandmaster had given him the Desolate Array, and it was capable of unleashing an attack that surpassed the all out attack of an expert with a power level of more than 800,000. Additionally, because it was a sourcebox, it covered an

incredibly vast area, and its destruction was also across that entire area, which even surpassed what Zhou Tang was capable of with his aurelian force.

Lu Yin had just released the most terrifying sourcebox array that he had ever witnessed.

“Look, the monsters are gone,” Lu Yin commented.

Everyone stared outside in a daze. It... it was true. They were really gone.

Che Zhan blinked his eyes multiple times. “Kid, if you had such an impressive sourcebox array this whole time, why didn’t you bring it out earlier?”

Lu Yin shrugged. “This sourcebox array attacks in all directions, so if I’d used it earlier, all of you would have died. If you hadn’t suggested for us to hide underground, this sourcebox array would have never been a realistic option.”

“Makes sense,” Che Zhan agreed.

Lu Yin’s heart was aching at this moment. Ever since he had stepped foot on this battlefield behind the Mother Tree, he had gone through his treasured items at an unprecedented rate. He had been constantly using them without any opportunity to restore his inventory, which was a disturbing feeling.

Mr. Guo, who had rarely spoken thus far, said, “It’s no use. There are corpse kings everywhere, so even if one horde is dealt with, another will soon show up.”

“At least we have a chance to catch our breath for a bit,” said Brother Hong solemnly.

Everyone else also heaved sighs of relief, and they stopped carelessly venting their suppressed emotions like before. Even the Envoys were just too exhausted; what they needed more than anything at this moment was rest.

“Mr. Guo, when will more of the corpse kings arrive?” Zhou Tang asked.

Mr. Guo shook his head. “I’m not sure. It will take time for the corpse kings to gather up again. These corpse kings aren’t just brainless monsters—they’re actually being controlled by experts, and to those powerhouses, we’re nothing but a flock of sheep awaiting slaughter. They can toy with us however they want.”

His words sounded cruel, but they were also very true.

“Little brother, it’s my turn.” Mr. Guo stood and walked to the entrance.

“All I did was use a sourcebox array just now, and I didn’t suffer any injuries. I can keep going.”

Mr. Guo gave Lu Yin a small smile, and the older man looked at the youth in admiration. “Head on in and rest. You’ve done enough. After all, you’ve barely rested since everything started. Let us old people stand our last watch.”

“Long Qi, come on back and take a break. Mr. Guo never goes back on his word,” Che Zhan told Lu Yin.

Feeling quite grateful, Lu Yin said, “Thank you.”

After he returned to the underground crevice, Lu Yin was met with Che Zhan's envious eyes. "Just as expected of someone from one of the four ruling powers. To think that you had a sourcebox array of such power!"

"I was given that by Humility's Gate," Lu Yin responded.

Che Zhan was shocked. "Humility's Gate? You're a part of Humility's Gate?"

"Long Qi, the acting Gate Master of Huiyuan Gate. He's the same person who exposed the former Gate Masters, the Guan brothers, as Redbacks. He also exposed the sect master of the Smokecloud Sect, Yun Mubai. You did all of that, right?" Everyone was shocked at Brother Hong's sudden list of Lu Yin's exploits.

If the four ruling powers were universally hated for their schemes and overbearing methods, then Humility's Gate stood at the other end of the spectrum, receiving the admiration of countless people. In particular, after all the years that Humility's Gate had spent arresting traitors and Redbacks, Humility's Gate's contributions to the human race could not be overlooked, even if they did occasionally arrest people without just cause. The Perennial World would be suffering much more without Humility's Gate.

Lu Yin modestly replied, "I just got lucky."

Che Zhan exclaimed, "I remember now! I once heard that the son-in-law of the White Dragon Clan's main family helped raise up Humility's Gate, and he even risked becoming an enemy of all four ruling powers to expose Yun Mubai as a Redback. That matter kicked up a huge uproar within the four ruling powers, and it even caused them to send down a Semi-Progenitor to capture the kid. So all of that was you?"

Lu Yin just responded with a small smile.

"You dare to do things that others don't, which deserves respect," Brother Hong said loudly.

The Matriarch of the Eastern Mountains looked at Lu Yin in a very serious manner as she said, "You have my respect as well. The Cloud Shuttle isn't a place that anybody is allowed to mess with, and the Smokecloud Sect is even more protected. Against such a monster, it'd be easy for anyone to die the moment they let their guard down. It's quite impressive that you were able to accomplish such feats given the unfavorable situation that you were placed in."

The man who had been the first to yell about wanting to overthrow Shenwu's Sky also praised Lu Yin, "Bro, you have my respect. I'm nothing but talk, but you've actually made a statement with your actions."

"We respect you."

Lu Yin suddenly looked bitter. "It's because of that that I'm about to be expelled from the White Dragon Clan."

As he spoke, his attitude changed a bit. "But nevermind that. It's just the White Dragon Clan. I, Long Qi, can still live a good life as a part of Humility's Gate."

"That's right! The four ruling powers are despicable. You're better off away from them."

“Actually, the four ruling powers’ women are quite beautiful...”

“Scram to the other side, you pervert.”

“Oh! Long Qi, I remember your name now! You’re Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo’s heir!” someone exclaimed, sounding like they had just remembered something.

Everyone initially felt confused, but after a bit, they all remembered the connection that had been publicized, and they stared at Lu Yin in surprise, and their piercing stares gave him feel a great deal of pressure.

Lu Yin was left speechless, as he had believed that everyone had forgotten about that matter.

“You’re the heir of that mania- No, I mean, of Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo?” Che Zhan asked Lu Yin, clearly stunned.

Even Mr. Guo turned around to stare at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin pursed his lips and laughed dryly. “Haha... I just found some resources that he left behind. I could never be considered his heir. Absolutely not.”

Che Zhan slapped a palm onto Lu Yin’s shoulder. “Brother, you must have a lot of things to worry about on your mind, right?”

Lu Yin arched a brow, feeling defeated. He had never wanted to be connected to Kui Luo, and he had never expected that this random excuse that he had made up to explain his strength would become such an important matter.

“Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo was our generation’s role model,” one cultivator stated.

“Scram, pervert,” someone else scolded.

Lu Yin leaned against the wall, exhausted. Before all this, most of the people in this crevice had not known each other, but after spending so much time fighting for their lives together, they had all become familiar with each other. Whoever had said that the battlefield was a place where people united had certainly understood some things.

If only Lu Yin could take all of these people back to the Fifth Mainland... Every last one of them was a powerhouse. Wait... Lu Yin’s eyes lit up. Why couldn’t he do just that? After all, he had Zenith Mountain!

This was a possibility that Lu Yin had not considered before, but after considering the possibility, he started to get excited at the prospects.

As he carefully observed his companions, it was clear that each and every person present had survived an endless slaughter on the unending battlefield, and they were all people who had emerged from the hellfire of bloodshed. They were resilient, not prone to despair, and most importantly, they also completely hated the four ruling powers. Also, each person respected Lu Yin from the bottom of their heart. All in all, these people were nothing less than perfect allies who had fallen from the sky.

The more Lu Yin considered this plan, the more excited he became, and he started thinking about how he could take everyone away with him.

“How do you cultivate aurelian force?” Lu Yin asked half a day later, staring at Zhou Tang’s eyes.

Zhou Tang replied, “Once your spirit has reached the needed level, everything else will fall in place.”

You don’t say? Even Lu Yin already knew that much.

The truth was that Lu Yin was much more eager to ask Zhou Tang about the Lu family, but since he was trying to take everyone away with him, there were certain details that were best kept secret for the moment.

Instead, bored, Lu Yin asked, “What’s Mr. Guo like?”

“He’s a teacher,” Che Zhan replied instantly, though the answer left Lu Yin confused.

“What do you mean?”

Che Zhan explained, “Just like I said, he’s a teacher. He comes from the All-Dao family.”

“The All-Dao family?” Lu Yin had never heard of them.

Upon seeing Lu Yin’s confusion, Che Zhan grew curious. “You don’t know about the All-Dao family?”

It seemed that the family’s existence was common knowledge, and if Lu Yin had recently arrived in the Perennial World, he would make sure to cover up his ignorance, but his facade was no longer needed.

He shook his head and bluntly replied, “No.”

Che Zhan found this to be odd, but he nonetheless still tried to explain. “The All-Dao family was one of the few families that was subordinate to the Lu family, and in the past, they had a territory in the Higher Realm. Sadly, after the Lu family’s exile, a large portion of the All-Dao family also disappeared. Now, only a small number of them are still around, and Mr. Guo is a teacher from the All-Dao family.”

Lu Yin nodded, understanding that there was another former retainer of the Lu family in this group. Who knew how many of the Lu family’s former retainers still lived in the Perennial World? If Lu Yin were to reveal his true identity, there was no telling how many people would search him out, or even die while seeking him.

Unless he was absolutely certain that things would stabilize after such an announcement, he absolutely could not reveal his identity. Doing so would only implicate and harm more innocent people.

Two days passed, and there were still no signs of movement in the area around them. Finally, on the third day, Mr. Guo called out, “They’re coming.”

He spoke calmly, as though he had been expecting this moment.

Everyone could feel tremors reverberating through the ground as something moved closer. Curious, they all moved to peer outside. Were the monsters arriving? It seemed like they were standing at the threshold of death.

Lu Yin also moved to look outside. Since he had already decided that he would take everyone back to the Fifth Mainland, he felt that he ought to do more to help them. His previous efforts were not enough.

Unexpectedly, the countless corpse kings did not instantly charge straight towards the humans. Instead, they stopped a few hundred meters away.

For the monsters, a few hundred meters could be covered in an instant.

Mr. Guo's expression turned grim. "It looks like they're cautious of our powerful vessels. How clever."

Brother Hong quietly said, "Even those monsters aren't willing to expend the resources necessary to continuously wear us down like they were doing before. Our power vessels must have caused too much damage to them, and so they're now going to send out some real powerhouses in order to deal with us."

Mr. Guo suddenly snapped, "Don't jinx us!"

Brother Hong's eye twitched as a corpse king appeared in the distance, followed by a second one. Soon, a fifth appeared. All five of these corpse kings had the strength of an Envoy, and one of them let out a loud growl before aggressively charging towards the humans. Faster than the blink of an eye, the creature appeared in front of Mr. Guo. Its body was covered with a brown sheen that seemed to be some sort of barrier as it brutally smashed itself into Mr. Guo.

Mr. Guo's expression remained the same as before, though a wooden ruler had appeared in his hand and spun around his fingers, smacking the corpse king back. At that moment, the void twisted, and an incredible power tore through space, sending both Mr. Guo and the corpse king into the true universe.

The others were unable to clearly see what had happened, as only powerhouses with the strength of an Envoy or beyond were able to observe a battle in the true universe.

Lu Yin dripped a bit of gemspring water into his eyes in order to watch, though he did not have much of it left. As soon as he looked at where the two combatants were fighting within the true universe, Lu Yin saw Mr. Guo subdue the corpse king.

Chapter 1507: Flaming Ink Secret Technique

From what Lu Yin had seen thus far, Mr. Guo was the second strongest expert among the Star Alliance Envoys, and he only stood beneath Zhou Tang. The older man's ability to suppress star energy indicated that he was someone who had survived through three stellar tribulations, which meant that his power level was higher than 700,000. On the other hand, the corpse king that had attacked only had a power level of around 500,000. Even though the creature was immune to pain and fearless of death, it was still no match for Mr. Guo.

In just a moment, both of the corpse king's arms had been severed by Mr. Guo's wooden ruler.

Even Lu Yin felt shocked when he saw the wooden ruler take action. As expected of a teacher, even his weapon was something special.

The corpse king was clearly losing, so another corpse king immediately dashed forward to join the fight. Both of the corpse kings worked together to fight against Mr. Guo. The second corpse king was even stronger than the first, but more importantly, it was able to undergo a corpse king Transformation.

As the creature's eyes turned gray, its fist struck out, and the impact not only cracked the metal remnants that had fallen to the New World, but it also shattered Mr. Guo's wooden ruler.

Zhou Tang clenched his fists. "Mr. Guo's forte isn't battle. Have him use a power vessel."

"Mr. Guo, use the power vessel!" Che Zhan yelled.

Mr. Guo's face was flushed red all over, and his blood was racing through his veins. He had clearly been injured, and the loss of his wooden ruler meant that he no longer had a suitable weapon to use. Even condensing a weapon from stellar energy would not be effective against two corpse kings at once. The Envoy was at a disadvantage, and he was being cornered by two corpse kings.

Brother Hong and Che Zhan both stood up at the same time, ready to help.

Mr. Guo bellowed, "Since I'm going to die anyway, I'll take one of them with me! Leave me my pride intact. I will not bring shame to the Thousand Paths family, and especially not to the Lu family!"

Brother Hong and Che Zhan both froze midstep. They gritted their teeth, but there was nothing that they could do aside from watch the fight.

Mr. Guo was forced back by a slap from the gray-eyed corpse king. Not only was this gray-eyed corpse king physically powerful, but it also possessed an odd innate gift that made it extremely difficult for Mr. Guo to defend himself. With a sudden wave of a hand, Mr. Guo threw out a splash of a black liquid.

Poison? Lu Yin was caught off guard, as poison did not seem to match Mr. Guo's refined bearing.

"Flaming Ink Secret Technique." Mr. Guo's face turned grim.

Lu Yin carefully observed the black liquid. Black ink? Was the liquid actually ink? He suddenly thought of Wen Diyi. Lu Yin had found a massive amount of ink in the young man's cosmic ring in the Dominion Realm; did it have something to do with this secret technique?

Mr. Guo's ink clung to the bodies of the two corpse kings and seeped into their flesh. The man became incredibly solemn, and he appeared to age as his appearance grew ordinary. Lu Yin vaguely saw the ink being guided by something, and it seemed to form words. Someone was writing within the void by using the two corpse kings as brushes.

"Life resembles ink, as both vanish when burned," Mr. Guo said as blood dripped from his lips. In front of him, the gray-eyed corpse king struck the Envoy's chest, sending the man falling back multiple steps. He spat out a mouthful of blood as he looked at the two corpse kings before him. The ink was burning their bodies, as though he had just finished a calligraphy session.

After the flames burned through the ink, the corpse kings' bodies began to burn as well. Their physical bodies that were supposedly invincible began disintegrating into nothingness along with the ink that was burning away.

Lu Yin was taken aback, the Flaming Ink... Secret Technique? Was this secret technique from the Wen family? Or did it come from Virtue Archives?

Mr. Guo's face had gone pale, and he knelt down on the ground with one knee. He panted heavily, and there was a vivid palm print on his chest where he had been hit by the corpse king. The imprint was bone-deep, and it was obvious that the man had sustained serious injuries.

Brother Hong rushed forward, eager to trade places, only to be stopped by Mr. Guo's raised hand. "I still have the power vessel."

"It's enough! Stop pushing yourself! Its clear that these monsters don't want to suffer any unnecessary losses. The next one that they'll send is guaranteed to be even more powerful, and it definitely won't give you an opportunity to use a power vessel!" Brother Hong tried to convince his comrade.

Mr. Guo coughed up even more blood.

Che Zhan walked over. "Brother Hong, let me handle this."

Matriarch of the Eastern Mountains also stood up. "I can join this fight too."

At that moment, another corpse king suddenly raced towards the humans. It stared at them with scarlet eyes, and its gaze drove a spike of fear into everyone's hearts. It was another corpse king with the strength of an Envoy, but this one's strength could kick up the winds and scatter the clouds. It was noticeably stronger than the previous two corpse kings.

Zhou Tang stood. "Let me deal with this one."

"Half of your foot is already in the grave. Save your efforts," Mr. Guo coughed even as he refused help.

"You're not doing much better yourself," Zhou Tang retorted in a mild tone. Unlike his dispirited state when Lu Yin had first seen the man, he seemed rather encouraged now. "Since we're going to die anyways, I might as well die on a battlefield. Not for the four ruling powers, but for the Perennial World itself!"

The third corpse king had already arrived, and Brother Hong and the others were ready to take action. However, the silhouette of another person suddenly flashed in front of them. The figure raised a hand to attack the corpse king while the corpse king raised its own arm to retaliate.

Bang!

Violent shockwaves rippled out in all directions, forcing Mr. Guo and the others back into the underground crevice. However, the shockwaves exploded right at the entrance and shot upwards before tearing through the void. At the same time, the ground vibrated from the impact.

Everyone snapped their heads around to stare at the entrance in shock. Lu Yin was holding the corpse king back.

Even though Lu Yin had managed to block the corpse king, the corpse king's powerful counter had also forced him a few steps back. Even though he had the strength to face an Envoy, anyone who had survived a few tribulations would be beyond his current means to confront. Each step in cultivation taken after the Envoy realm was an obstacle that was practically impossible for a normal person to overcome. It was clear to Lu Yin that this corpse king would be a very difficult opponent to defeat at his current level. As for the three meter tall corpse king from before, that one had been an even more impossible task.

“Since we’ll all be dying anyway, you old farts should take a break,” Lu Yin said while playing it cool. He acted like he was having an easy time with the corpse king, and he stood at the entrance to the crevice, blocking off all of the corpse kings.

Mr. Guo and the rest were moved by the youth’s bravery. None of them feared death, but that still did not mean that they were willing to charge towards it. They had been forced into joining the Star Alliance whereas this Long Qi was someone from the White Dragon Clan with a high position within Humility’s Gate. Despite his lofty status, he was still courageous enough to stand in front of them and face death without considering his bright future and lofty background. Even Zhou Tang was impressed by the youth’s level of determination and bravery.

Needless to say, the others were even more awed.

At that moment, Lu Yin resembled an impassable mountain in their eyes. With such a person standing in front of them and protecting them, they would be safe as long as the mountain stood tall.

Zhou Tang stared at Lu Yin’s back. This young man was starting to resemble his young master more and more, especially his demeanor.

Lu Yin stood at the opening to the underground space, and he felt a sharp pain from his hand. Clashing with the corpse king a moment ago had certainly left him injured. Even with the Cloudguard Robes’ protection, the force from striking the corpse king’s hand had extraordinarily been painful. The corpse king was not just physically tough, as it had also used an innate gift or some strange battle technique that was definitely not a corpse king transformation.

Across from Lu Yin, the corpse king did not seem to be in no hurry to make a move. Instead, it stood in place, as though considering something.

All corpse kings had some degree of intelligence, but humans tended to forget that fact because they would be distracted by the corpse kings’ fearlessness and their disregard for death. The word “intelligence” could be seen in every corner of the battlefield behind the Mother Tree. It was not only left behind to remind humans to fight smartly, but also as a reminder that their enemies were intelligent creatures as well and that it would never do to underestimate such creatures.

Lu Yin himself had certainly never underestimated corpse kings, as he found their means of raising Redbacks something truly mysterious.

After a while, the corpse king’s hand suddenly rose, which caused Lu Yin to instantly grow wary.

The corpse king spread its hand open, and a dark gold light flashed out right under Lu Yin’s eyes. Somehow, the corpse king’s palm attacks were being transformed into a metallic material of some kind, and everyone was able to clearly see the lines in the creature’s palms that it threw at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin’s face twitched a bit. It was no wonder why that corpse king’s first attack had been able to injure him; the creature had an innate gift. However, why had the corpse king openly demonstrated its innate gift for Lu Yin to see?

There was a whoosh as the corpse king made a move. It once again attacked with both hands at the same time. The full force of its metallic palms stirred up a wave of panic in everyone watching Lu Yin from behind. Aside from Zhou Tang, no one else present could face such a powerful attack head on.

Golden battle force wrapped around Lu Yin's body as he also lifted his hand to release a full 350 Stacks Vacuum Palm.

Bang!

Bang!!

Bang!!!

The two opponents' hands clashed multiple times, creating a deafening noise and powerful sound waves each time that caused many of the people underground to spit out blood. Lu Yin, who was the one physically clashing against the corpse king, felt a terrible amount of pressure as well. He felt like he was trying to hold up the collapsing sky for everyone else. Fortunately, he had already opened his upper meridian point, so even if the vibrations injured him, he was able to quickly heal up.

However, he was still coming out on the losing end of each exchange.

There was another loud bang, as the corpse king had exerted even more force in its attack, and Lu Yin had not been able to keep up with the strength of his Vacuum Palm. This gave the corpse king an opportunity to hit Lu Yin in the chest before he could mount any sort of a defense. His chest trembled under the Cloudguard Robes, and he coughed up blood, giving him the appearance of a fallen warrior as he gritted his teeth. Clearly, directly countering the corpse king's attacks was not going to work in Lu Yin's favor. Corpse kings already had innately robust bodies, and they were also unable to feel any pain.

While Lu Yin was considering his situation, he quickly set up a Channeling Diagram, which diverted the power of the corpse king's strikes away in all directions, blasting the nearby region. Each channel of force tore the void open, as each bit of diverted force could compare to a normal Envoy's attack. One of the channels diverting the power of the corpse king's attacks shot straight into the underground crevice, and Che Zhan had to quickly take action and use his sword to mitigate the channeled force. The channel was cut apart, but the sword also cracked. Che Zhan was forced back multiple steps from the force of the impact, and he turned pale.

Che Zhan was an Envoy himself, and yet he had been forced so far back. The others were not able to even imagine what sort of insane damage Lu Yin was facing aboveground.

The Channeling Diagram was unable to endure forever, and a palm strike eventually shattered the sourcebox array. Lu Yin then stepped forward and used the Teleportation Formation to appear behind the corpse king, where the youth slammed a palm into the back of the creature's head.

The corpse king's body disappeared, as it had entered the true universe. At the same time, Lu Yin quickly stepped into the true universe himself, and all the colors around him shifted. Only Mr. Guo and the other Envoys were able to observe Lu Yin and his opponent, and none of the others could see anything.

Within the true universe, the star energy within Lu Yin's body was completely suppressed. There was no longer any way for him to use the Teleportation Formation, the Channeling Diagram, or even the Cosmic Art. Any attacks that used star energy were also completely useless here. However, for the corpse king, the advantage that its innate gift provided became even more pronounced.

Lu Yin was helpless. He formed a scythe with his star energy and slashed at the corpse king from an odd angle.

He had received an inheritance from the Sword Monument that allowed him to defeat tens of thousands of opponents. With a scythe in hand, Lu Yin was naturally shrouded with an aura of invincibility.

From where he was standing underground, Mr. Guo was taken aback. A scythe? It was rare to encounter someone who used such a weapon, but he felt like he had heard of such a thing before.

As he held the scythe, Lu Yin's golden battle force surged, and he slashed at the corpse king's chest, tearing open a long wound. Unbothered, the creature retaliated with a palm strike at Lu Yin's head. Lu Yin calmly spun the scythe around and used it to defend himself from the attack. He then used the scythe to push the corpse king's hand away as he spun the blade back towards the corpse king, slashing at it in a circular motion. The corpse king's neck was sliced open by the constantly spinning blade.

The corpse king stepped forward, fearless of the scythe. This time, it attacked with both hands, aiming straight at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin stepped back and left the true universe. An astral chessboard appeared beneath his feet, but the corpse king suddenly appeared before him as well. Lu Yin's expression froze, and he used the Ce Secret Art's astral chessboard to move away.

Lu Yin appeared right behind the corpse king once again, which caused the corpse king's two-handed strike to miss. The void parted like a curtain before the corpse king's fists, and Lu Yin seized the opportunity to slice his scythe across the corpse king's neck once again. However, this time, Lu Yin heard a crisp metallic clang as his blade landed. A bronze sheen shone from the back of the corpse king's neck, and Lu Yin's pupils shrank as he tried to think of some means to counter the corpse king's innate gift, but he failed to come up with anything.

The corpse king spun around and kicked out, sending Lu Yin flying. He also lost his grip on his scythe as he smashed into the ground with tremendous force.

The wound that Lu Yin had left on the corpse king's chest earlier was gradually recovering, which was due to the incredible physiques enjoyed by the corpse kings.

Lu Yin propped himself up from the ground with an arm and struggled to pick himself up as he wiped away some blood that leaked out from a corner of his mouth. If not for the protection of the Cloudguard Robes, he would have already been terribly injured by this corpse king.

The sprout of a tree that nestled in Lu Yin's upper meridian point constantly released endless vitality from its leaves, accelerating Lu Yin's recovery.

His mind raced as he mentally went over all of the abilities that he possessed. Domain? Useless. Runes? They did not even exist in the Perennial World. The Nightking's Sky Breaker? Trying to attack a corpse king with spiritual force attack was a joke. The Ninesuns Cauldron Transformation? This things had the power of an Envoy, so Lu Yin wasn't even sure if this technique was capable of unleashing a threatening attack. The Champions' Stage? Neither the summonable Giant Emperor nor Bai Shaohong were a match for this corpse king. In that case, Lu Yin's only option was the God of Death Transformation.

But would the God of Death Transformation be enough to defeat this corpse king? It was possible, but Lu Yin did not have much death energy remaining.

He would need help from his items in order to unleash that technique.

Chapter 1508: Whiteless God

Back in the underground crevice, Mr. Guo hoarsely said, "He won't be able to hold out for much longer. That one's too much for the kid to handle. He can't overcome that thing's strength."

"Although you're right, I have to mention that Long Qi is an absolute demon himself," Che Zhan commented.

"He has to be using a power vessel, most likely a very impressive defensive one. There's no other way he could possibly block any of the corpse king's attacks," Brother Hong responded.

Matriarch of the Eastern Mountains exclaimed in surprise, "I've seen the Four Junior Progenitors, and not even they possess this level of strength. None of them would be able to stand up to a corpse king like this for so long. The biggest difference between them and this Long Qi is his ability to stay in the true universe. The Four Junior Progenitors are able to enter it briefly before being forced out, but Long Qi doesn't seem to have any trouble staying there."

"He's already surpassed the Four Junior Progenitors. What a joke! To think that a son-in-law of the White Dragon Clan's main family would actually be able to surpass the clan's direct descendant and successor," Brother Hong mocked.

"That's true. He hasn't even used the White Dragon Transformation yet, has he?" Che Zhan asked. He looked to be deep in thought.

Matriarch of the Eastern Mountains, Mr. Guo, and the others were all stunned by this observation. Sure enough, the White Dragon Clan's most distinctive skill was one that boosted the user's physical abilities, the White Dragon Transformation. It enhanced a person's strength, and once it was used, it might not be impossible for Long Qi to be able to overcome the corpse king's advantages.

"Within the White Dragon Clan, only direct descendants are allowed to learn the White Dragon Transformation. He can't use it." Zhou Tang sighed sadly.

The others felt the same way. If Long Qi was able to use the White Dragon Transformation, he would have done so long ago.

"The kids nowadays are truly terrifying," Matriarch of the Eastern Mountains mused to herself.

All of the Envoys had been surprised by Lu Yin's abilities, so there was no need to mention the other people present, as they had all been stunned stiff from the very beginning of Lu Yin's battle. Lu Yin had revealed a battle prowess that far exceeded anything these people had ever heard of, and he was destroying what they had always accepted to be true.

At the same time, Marquis Green Bamboo was quietly standing above the distant second forward basecamp that had been sliced in two. From where he stood, he was observing the faroff scene of Lu Yin fighting against the corpse king in a one-on-one. The ancient powerhouse was shocked, and he exclaimed, "Such talent, how horrifying! If this child fully matures, who will be able to stop him?"

Two figures were standing behind Marquis Green Bamboo. Even though they made sure to suppress their energy and conceal their presence, the fact that they were allowed to stand behind Marquis Green Bamboo proved that they were true powerhouses.

One of the figures was a corpse king with blazing scarlet eyes while the other figure was that of a human.

“My lord, that man is Long Qi, a son-in-law of the White Dragon Clan’s main family. He’s visited the Dominion Realm, and he was also the one who exposed the Guan brothers and Yun Mubai, which ruined all of our plans,” the human said in a voice that showed the utmost respect for Marquis Green Bamboo as the human stood behind the ancient corpse king.

Marquis Green Bamboo smiled casually. “He’s truly gifted. If he were to become a part of Aeternus, his future accomplishments would surely not be inferior to my own. I’d really like to play with him, but sadly, I’ll have to wait for another opportunity.”

After speaking, he waved a hand and ordered the two figures. “Leave.”

The corpse king standing behind Marquis Green Bamboo left without any hesitation, but the human hesitated momentarily. “My lord, what of this Long Qi?”

Marquis Green Bamboo replied in a nearly emotionless voice. “Does that have anything to do with you?”

That man quickly bowed low and apologized, “I’ve overstepped myself as your subordinate. I’ll immediately take my leave.”

Thus, the man left.

After both figures left, Marquis Green Bamboo spoke again, “Is this Long Qi really that important? Is he really worthy of you coming here yourself to interfere with the outcome of the battle? I even spared Xia Yan because of him, but who knows if the child will soon die.”

The void behind Marquis Green Bamboo twisted, and then a creepy-looking doll appeared. Surprisingly, it was a doll of Shaman God. “You’re underestimating him. He won’t die so easily.”

“I’m forsaking the stakes of this battle at your orders,” Marquis Green Bamboo stated with a furrowed brow.

The doll of Shaman God laughed in a disturbing manner. “I’ll owe you one then! I’ll be sure to remember that.”

Marquis Green Bamboo’s tense forehead relaxed. “So what exactly is this Long Qi’s background?”

“You don’t need to know at the moment, but that boy is the key to us cracking the Perennial World wide open,” Shaman God’s doll replied in a scratchy voice.

Marquis Green Bamboo was shocked. “Him? A mere Enlighter?”

“If we convert him into our nation, his rank will even surpass your own. Can you believe that?” Shaman God doll’s response was a thought-provoking question.

Marquis Green Bamboo's eyes narrowed, and he began twirl his bamboo flute between his fingers in disbelief. "What do you want me to do?"

"I'll tell you about that in the future. We just have to take things one step at a time, as we're in no hurry." After Shaman God's doll left those words behind, its voice grew softer and more distant.

After Shaman God's doll disappeared, Marquis Green Bamboo's eyes lit up, and a flash of pain flickered through his eyes. He dropped to the ground, kneeling on one knee. He was suddenly short of breath as well, and he gasped. "Who? Long Qi? I understand. Please rest assured that you can leave things to me."

After speaking, his eyes returned to normal. He looked up and stared into the distance in utter shock. He had just been contacted by Whiteless God, and this Skygod had also reached out to Marquis Green Bamboo because of Long Qi.

Of the Seven Skygods, Ancient God was publicly accepted as the strongest, but the most mysterious one was, without a doubt, Whiteless God. They controlled all of "Aeterna." From the very beginning, Whiteless God had been heard of, but no one had ever seen them, not even the Twelve Marquises. Whiteless God was directly in charge of the True God, so despite never having revealed themselves, both humanity and Aeternus were greatly influenced by this Skygod.

No one dared to offend Whiteless God. Ever since Marquis Green Bamboo had first attained his rank of marquis, he had never been in direct contact with Whiteless God. This was his first time, and it was actually because of Long Qi.

Whiteless God's orders were simple: Marquis Green Bamboo could not allow Long Qi to die. No matter what, the youth had to return to the Perennial World alive.

Shaman God and Whiteless God had both stepped forward because of Long Qi. As he thought back on the conversation that he had held with Shaman God a moment before, Marquis Green Bamboo stared into the distance again. This time, his expression was much more solemn than before. Just who exactly was Long Qi? Could he be a member of "Aeterna?"

Unaware that his mere existence had badly shocked Marquis Green Bamboo, Lu Yin took out the knife that he had taken from Wang Su. He had delivered terrible wounds to his previous opponents with this knife in the past, and it had helped him several times. At this moment, he was hoping that it would help him out again.

The corpse king's attacks remained powerful and aggressive, and each one contained an impressive destructive power. Lu Yin stopped taking each attack head on, instead attempting to divert each attack's force. He did so successfully, which left the creature frustrated. Despite that, the corpse king did not reveal any human emotions such as anxiety, and it simply continued to barrage Lu Yin, each successive attack coming faster than the previous one. In addition, the creature constantly phased in and out of the true universe.

Lu Yin pulled back, and right after he moved, a powerful palm attack from the corpse king smashed down right in front of Lu Yin's eyes. The ground was shattered, and after that, the corpse king vanished for a moment before reappearing. The stalemate of their battle continued for almost half a day.

Underground, all of the humans grew restless as they waited.

The New World had no night; instead, it was eternally shrouded in dusk.

Corpse kings did not tire, but humans were not the same. Every human had a limit to their energy.

The crowd hiding underground were all worried that Lu Yin would not be able to endure, but they were also too afraid to try to help him, as any actions on their part might provoke the countless other corpse kings ambling about nearby.

The void warped in front of Lu Yin's eyes, and the corpse king reappeared. A bronze palm careened towards the youth along a brutal path. Lu Yin hurriedly dodged aside; he had begun prioritizing his speed in order to continue dodging the corpse king's attacks, as he could no longer use the Teleportation Formation or the Ce Secret Art. The corpse king was using stellar energy to quell all the star energy in the visible universe, which prevented Lu Yin from using his star energy at all.

It felt like the battle was playing on repeat, but this time, there was a difference, and that was that Lu Yin had left his knife on the ground. When the corpse king's attack fell down, it missed Lu Yin, and Lu Yin shot towards the knife while simultaneously dodging the corpse king's attack. At this moment, Lu Yin's eyes blazed with excitement, and he waved his hand to use the Yu Secret Art.

The corpse king distorted space with stellar energy, which impacted Lu Yin's techniques. This was also why Lu Yin had not attempted to use the Yu Secret Art before, but things had changed. Lu Yin had already seen through the corpse king's various attacks, and the youth had also calculated exactly where the corpse king would step with each foot, as well as where its body would lean to as it lunged.

At that moment, there was no more than ten meters between the knife and the corpse king's neck. Lu Yin had purposely dropped the knife on the ground earlier in their fight while narrowly avoiding an attack. The corpse king had not noticed the incident, and it had assumed that Lu Yin had simply lost his grip on the knife.

At that same moment, Lu Yin grabbed the opening that the short ten meters presented, and he used the Yu Secret Art to shift the knife and stab it straight into the corpse king's neck.

He could only use the Yu Secret Art once, as the corpse king would definitely use stellar energy to disrupt the star energy needed for the secret technique if he used it a second time. The corpse king roared from the impact of the knife that had been slammed into its neck. The knife had been upgraded until it was capable of unleashing an attack with a power level of 800,000, which was not something that the corpse king could endure. The knife had pierced through its neck and ruined it. Lu Yin also seized the moment to raise his hand and release an unending wave of Vacuum Palms.

The corpse king lifted its hands to block Lu Yin's attacks, but with its neck badly injured by the knife, the creature's control of stellar energy had been greatly affected. This let Lu Yin move behind the corpse king with a Teleportation Formation, where he continued to bombard it with more Vacuum Palms.

Golden battle force and 350 Stacks: each Vacuum Palm was released with full force. There was a bang as the corpse king's head flew from its shoulders. In the end, Lu Yin had finally defeated the corpse king.

Everyone was more than stunned from where they were watching within the crevice. How had Long Qi defeated such a powerful enemy?

Zhou Tang gasped in shock. The longer he looked at Lu Yin, the more the old man felt that Lu Yin resembled his young master. The youth's incredible talent, indomitable spirit, and fighting talent were all too similar.

Lu Yin was breathing heavily, and his entire body ached. Fortunately, he had been smart enough to make sure to redeem the Cloudguard Robes, as he would have already been smashed to a pulp if he had been relying on his universal armor.

Glancing at the knife on the ground, Lu Yin also felt ecstatic at the decision that he had made back in the Forgotten Ruins. Once again, his decision almost felt like foresight.

Far, far away, Marquis Green Bamboo gasped in shock as well. Even though Lu Yin had relied on power vessels, being able to kill a corpse king so much more powerful than himself was a truly remarkable accomplishment. Upon thinking of this, the marquis immediately ordered, "Continue."

Countless corpse kings surrounded the humans hiding underground, but another lone Envoy level corpse king stepped forward. This one did not rush forward like the previous corpse kings had. Instead, it walked forward with slow, deliberate steps. Each time its foot touched the ground, a deep footprint was left behind. It was clear that this corpse king was very heavy.

Lu Yin grew solemn, but then he heard Che Zhan's voice echo from behind, "Long Qi, it's our turn."

Che Zhan emerged from the underground entrance as he spoke.

Lu Yin blocked the Envoy from continuing forward. "You can support me in this fight. Attack when I'm unable to continue. Don't forget— this corpse king is just one of many."

Che Zhan stared at Lu Yin's back in confusion. "You still want to keep fighting?"

Lu Yin gave a small smile. "Dying in battle is the most honorable ending."

Che Zhan burst out laughing. "Alright, I'll support you from the side then."

After speaking, the man took out his sword from his cosmic ring, stabbed it into the ground near the entrance, and then sat down cross-legged on the ground with every muscle of his body tensed and ready to fight.

The corpse king continued to approach from the distance with slow steps. While this corpse king seemed to be around the same size as an ordinary human, it was extraordinarily fat. Its dead, scarlet eyes were lined with dark yellow rings, and every breath it took was deep and powerful. Just its breath distorted the void in front of it.

This was yet another corpse king that possessed a powerful innate gift.

Lu Yin bent his arms and looked up to release a Vacuum Palm.

There was a boom as the Vacuum Palm ruthlessly struck the corpse king's left arm even as it was lifting its left arm to block the blow. The impact did nothing more than cause the corpse king to tremble slightly. Then, it continued to slowly make its way towards Lu Yin as though nothing had happened.

Lu Yin's scalp went numb. A key factor in his victory over the previous corpse king was because he had been able to indirectly fight against it by relying on his Vacuum Palm. In other words, they had both been fighting an offensive battle, and he had fought fire with fire. However, this new corpse king was clearly a defensive fighter, which meant that it was an opponent that could completely disregard Lu Yin's Vacuum Palms.

Lu Yin attacked again, and this time, golden battle force wrapped around his entire body, and he used the maximum number of stacks that he was capable of unleashing. Lu Yin even activated the Void Rip sourcebox array and launched both attacks in unison.

The corpse king's movements stalled, and it slowed down, but it never completely stopped moving. None of Lu Yin's attacks had any real effect.

Looking at the corpse king, it was clear that this creature was thicker. Even though it was about the same height as a human, it was decidedly quite round.

As soon as the fat corpse king arrived at a point around a thousand meters away from Lu Yin, it stepped through the void and entered the true universe.

Chapter 1509: Battle Wit

Lu Yin similarly disappeared and entered the true universe. He was instantly greeted by the sight of the fat corpse king charging straight at him, who spread its arms open wide and embraced Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was stunned for a moment; what the hell was happening? He quickly grabbed his knife and tried to stab the corpse king's neck.

To his surprise, the rotund corpse king did not even try to evade his attack, and it simply continued to tightly squeeze Lu Yin in its embrace, allowing Lu Yin to drive his knife blade deep into the neck. But shockingly, not even a trickle of blood seeped out from the wound. Although the knife had clearly stabbed into the corpse king, something seemed off. It almost felt as though something had devoured the knife blade instead.

At this moment, the fat corpse king's arms squeezed down on Lu Yin's waist even tighter than before, and a tremendous amount of pressure began constricting Lu Yin's body.

There was an audible click, and an immense pain radiated out from Lu Yin's waist. He was almost in disbelief at how unbelievably strong this heavy corpse king was. The damage was even getting past his Cloudguard Robes, which were tough enough to defend against attacks with a power level of more than 900,000. However, the corpse king was emitting powerful vibrations as it squeezed Lu Yin, and it was clearly much more difficult for the clothes to block than a normal attack.

Lu Yin was suffering from excruciating pain, so he lashed out with a leg, aiming his knee at the corpse king's stomach. He wanted to land a powerful blow with the Overlaying Stacks Path.

Although the fat corpse king was very strong, Lu Yin was far from weak, and his kick managed to force the corpse king back. Still, it was completely unfazed, and it simply charged right back at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's vision shifted as he exited from the true universe. An astral chessboard appeared beneath him, and he prepared to shift himself away. Unfortunately, right when his body was about to vanish, the corpse king grabbed his arm and pulled him in, forcefully canceling the Ce Secret Art.

Lu Yin slashed at the corpse king, unleashing an aggressive offensive that managed to slice open the corpse king's neck once more, but all of his efforts proved to be futile. The corpse king's thick neck seemed to contain an endless amount of fat that just absorbed all of the knife's potential damage. Wait, absorb?

Lu Yin stared intently at the fat corpse king; could this thing have reached the Creation realm of star energy control?

Liquor Hero was the only person Lu Yin knew whose star energy control had reached the Creation realm. With nothing more than a drop of alcohol, she could absorb the force of any incoming attacks, and she had even trapped a carrion bug, forcing it to wander through an endless maze of alcohol. Her techniques were some of the most brutal ones that Lu Yin had witnessed during ZENITH. With her in mind, Lu Yin felt there were similarities between how this corpse king absorbed his knife's attacks and how Liquor Hero had handled that carrion bug.

Liquor Hero had absorbed damage with her alcohol, but the fat corpse king was apparently able to do the same with the excessive amount of fat within its body.

This fat corpse king must have been a peerless expert among its peers when it had still been alive. Reaching the Creation realm of star energy control was something that provided one with an incredible advantage, even after one became an Envoy.

Lu Yin had a feeling that this fight was going to be quite difficult, as he was essentially facing off against an Envoy level Liquor Hero.

Liquor Hero was a rare talent within her generation, and she certainly would not be an easy opponent at the Envoy level. Thus far, Lu Yin had only faced opponents whose combat strength was that of an ordinary Envoy powerhouse. No matter how high their strength became, these Envoys were still just average among their peers, and they could not even come close to touching Liquor Hero's dazzling brilliance.

The fat corpse king did not have much variety or tricks in its attacks; rather, it just focused on one singular goal: crushing its opponents with a bearhug. Still, the creature was practically immune to any and all attacks.

Lu Yin retreated again and again, but the corpse king kept pace throughout his movements. Both opponents repeatedly entered and fled the true universe, and Lu Yin was suppressed the whole time as the corpse king steadily advanced.

Che Zhan's fingers twitched. He wanted to attack, but would he even be able to help? The swordsman was not sure how he himself could deal with the fat corpse king. Long Qi was in a different situation, as he was able to use secret techniques and power vessels to stay safe, but Che Zhan? If he stepped forward, he would only be rushing towards his death.

The corpse king managed to smack Lu Yin's arm, and the impact traveled through his body and almost knocked him over. As he recovered, he saw the corpse king, lunging forward in front of him, trying yet again to enwrap Lu Yin in a bear hug.

This was the first time in Lu Yin's life that he had encountered such a bizarre strategy, but it was incredibly difficult to counter, as none of Lu Yin's regular attacks were having any effect. Lu Yin started mentally running through everything that he had in his cosmic ring, just to see if he had anything that could help him seize an advantage in this battle.

This was not a battle that Lu Yin could win through brute strength. He had to either break through the corpse king's defenses by unleashing an overwhelmingly powerful attack or find some way to bypass the obstacle.

Lu Yin stared at the corpse king, his eyes glued to the creature's neck and body fat. Suddenly, Lu Yin's eyes lit up. He had thought of something.

During ZENITH, that carrion bug had done everything it could to come up with a way to escape from the drop of alcohol. That droplet had been able to completely trap the insect because it had lacked the strength to overcome star energy when it was manipulated by someone who had reached the Creation realm of star energy control. However, what if the bug had been strong enough to overpower the star energy? Would that mean that it would not have remained trapped within the drop of alcohol?

The corpse king's fat was all inside its body, so the moment Lu Yin managed to land an attack that broke through the layer of fat, he would be directly attacking the corpse king's real body.

Lu Yin lifted a hand, and an oddly shaped crystal appeared. It was the Karmic Flame.

Don't you like absorbing attacks? Then take this Karmic Flame! Lu Yin placed the crystal atop his knife and charged towards the corpse king in an aggressive manner. He stabbed the knife forward while using the Yu Secret Art, which sent the knife flying straight towards the corpse king's body.

The corpse king had no reason to even take note of such an attack, so it simply allowed the knife to pierce its body. Quickly, the Karmic Flames surged forth, and red flashes emerged before quickly disappearing.

Lu Yin waved his hand a second time, and the knife reappeared in it, still with the odd crystal attached. The Karmic Flames within the crystal could be used three times, which meant that he only had two more uses left.

He looked up and eagerly observed the fat corpse. The Karmic Flames had already been enhanced six times, and they were now comparable to an attack with a battle power of more than 700,000. Lu Yin was waiting to see if the flames could penetrate the fat corpse king's defenses that came from its Creation realm of star energy control.

For a moment, the fat corpse king stood still, but then it began to shriek. Its body turned red from the flames raging within its body. Soon, the flames completely engulfed the creature.

Far away, Marquis Green Bamboo's expression remained unchanged as he quietly watched the fat corpse king burn to ashes.

Even if he felt disheartened at losing the fat corpse king, the marquis would rather choose to do nothing than disobey an order from one of the Seven Skygods. This thought occurred to him as he shifted his focus back to Lu Yin's face. This Long Qi had already exterminated two of the corpse kings that Marquis Green Bamboo valued the most.

If not for his orders from two of the Seven Skygods, how could he have allowed his corpse kings to be taken down so easily? Since you want to earn achievements on the battlefield, then I'll give you more deeds to accomplish.

In the distant underground crevice, Mr. Guo and the others stared in shock as the Karmic Flames burned and devoured the corpse king. They were able to see the creature's face even through the flame's vibrant red color.

Just how many more power vessels did Long Qi own?

First, he had used a sourcebox array that had eliminated all of the nearby corpse kings in a single move. Then, there was the defensive armor he was wearing as clothes, plus the knife that he continued to wield. Finally, he had just used a burst of overwhelmingly powerful flames. On top of all that wealth, the youth had also comprehended secret techniques. It was such a shame that such a talented youth was doomed to die in the New World with all of them.

Once this child matured and grew, in the future, it seemed practically guaranteed that he would reach the level of a Semi-Progenitor at the very least. Truly, what a pity.

The flames enveloped the fat corpse king, but then they also spread to the surroundings.

Everyone in the underground area looked on in horror; were those flames going to reach them too? Even that terrifying corpse king had been consumed by the flames, so there was clearly no possibility of any of them surviving if they were caught by those flames.

Lu Yin pulled out his Skyblaze Stone and absorbed the remnant flames before they spread any further.

Almost instantly, all the remaining Karmic Flames were sucked into the Skyblaze Stone, which let the other humans heave sighs of relief. Their backs were drenched with sweat from both the fear and the heat.

That was two. Lu Yin had single-handedly eliminated two corpse kings that had the strength of an Envoy now. This was even more impressive when one considered the fact that neither of the two corpse kings had been an easy opponent.

Lu Yin tried to catch his breath. While the second corpse king had relatively easier to deal with compared to the first, neither had been weak. Rather, Lu Yin had simply found the proper counter to the second corpse king.

A dead end was not always hopeless, and once a solution was discovered, it could open the possibility of walking away.

"Brother Long Qi, it's my turn," Che Zhan said.

Lu Yin turned around with a smile that was rather infectious. "Just wait a bit more—I can keep going. Did you already forget what I just said?"

Che Zhan stared at the child with eyes filled with deep admiration. "Alright, I'll wait."

Everyone in the underground space stared at Lu Yin with growing respect, and there were quite a few whose expressions were filled with actual worship. If they survived this ordeal, then all of them would swear to repay the youth for the unbelievable assistance that he had given them.

The endless horde of corpse kings standing outside the crevice did not move. It seemed that they were all waiting for something.

Only a limited number of corpse kings with the strength of an Envoy could be deployed, so the monsters needed to wait before sending out another powerhouse to fight.

One day later, another corpse king stepped forward. Yet again, it had the strength of an Envoy. This one did not seem to be as powerful as the earlier ones, though it was much, much faster. It immediately rushed at Lu Yin, and he was repeatedly attacked for half a day without even a single opportunity to fight back. In particular, with the corpse king's stellar energy disrupting his star energy, Lu Yin was not able to use his Teleportation Formation or the Ce Secret Art even once.

Lu Yin had fought countless battles throughout his life, and there had been many fights where he had faced overpowering enemies where the situation had seemed completely hopeless. His current battle felt like that as well. In this battle, he was left with no choice but to pull out the spear with the sticky green substance that he had taken from Long Tian. He had tested this weapon out in the Timestop Space, and he had found that the sticky green substance on the spear had an extremely high viscosity. Lu Yin had no idea how it had been used in the past, but at the moment, it was the perfect weapon for his needs.

There was a bang, and Lu Yin saw stars after taking yet another kick from the corpse king. Despite being protected by the Cloudguard Robes, the neverending barrage of attacks sent a constant flow of destructive vibrations into his body that bypassed his armor, and he had reached the point of no longer being able to endure. Still, every time the corpse king entered the true universe, Lu Yin would follow it even though it moved so quickly that he could not keep track of it. Everyone behind Lu Yin was feeling the same sense of despair that had descended upon him.

After coughing up a mouthful of blood, the spear appeared in his hand. He resolutely stabbed it into the ground, and the sticky green substance began to flow down the spear shaft and towards Lu Yin's feet. The substance soon covered the area for a hundred meters in all directions even as it continued to spread further out.

There was another bang, this time from the corpse king striking Lu Yin in the stomach. Lu Yin was still unable to catch so much as a glimpse of the corpse king's retreating figure as the creature was traveling through the void. Not once had the corpse king actually set foot on the ground. Lu Yin took a deep breath and began silently calculating and planning.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

...

Che Zhan gritted his teeth as he stood next to the entrance to the underground space. He was staring intently in an attempt to also track the corpse king's movements. The swordsman's hair stood on end. Of the surviving humans, only Long Qi was able to face off against this corpse king, as the youth possessed many defensive power vessels that not even Envoys could break through. If anyone else was pitted against this corpse king, the battle would have reached a conclusion long ago.

Zhou Tang's eyes danced about constantly. It was clear that the powerhouse was able to see where the corpse king moved, but it would be no help for him to say anything to Lu Yin, as the youth's reflexes would not be able to keep up with his thoughts.

Many other people closed their eyes, as they could not bear to watch the horrible fight.

It was truly difficult to watch Lu Yin's miserable situation and injured appearance. He was being beaten one-sidedly, and he was even bleeding from all seven orifices of his head. But while he looked critically injured, in reality, he had actually not suffered that many injuries. Even when the destructive vibrations wounded him, his increased vitality due to his opened upper meridian point allowed him to almost instantly recover. This meant that Lu Yin was suffering more from frustration than physical injuries.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

All of a sudden, Lu Yin opened his eyes, and he held the spear in front of him sideways in a defensive stance. The sticky green substance had already spread throughout the entire area. There was a bang as the corpse king punched Lu Yin once more, but this time, the creature was not able to flee as quickly as before. Its fist had gotten stuck in the sticky green substance that covered the entire area.

Humans and other creatures were intelligent, but that intelligence also came with the formation of habits. This was similarly true for the corpse king that had been attacking Lu Yin this whole time. It had been striking at Lu Yin for half a day, and it had developed a habitual attack pattern during this process. Each blow came in somewhat regular intervals, and Lu Yin had managed to calculate the precise timing to launch his counterattack. This was much like how he had pre-positioned his knife in order to deal with the first corpse king.

Strength alone was not enough to determine victory in a fight; intelligence could also be a gamechanger.

With the sticky green substance binding its fist, the corpse king tried to flee. However, while its speed had only been somewhat affected, it was nonetheless unable to flee at its normal speed. More importantly, the sticky green substance now trailed after the corpse king wherever it went, and there was no way for the corpse king to remove it. This meant that Lu Yin no longer struggled to track the corpse king, as all he needed to do was look for the sticky green substance that was attached to the creature.

Considering the corpse king's incredible speed, it most likely had relatively poor defenses.

Lu Yin held the spear in his hand and started attacking as he tracked the strange green substance. He used his domain to predict his opponent's attacks and managed to stab the spear into the corpse king's thigh. The spear trembled, and he punched at the corpse king with a full 350 Stacks, causing the creature to let out a low growl. His attack had utterly destroyed half of the corpse king's leg, and Lu Yin took advantage of this opening to slash out sideways with his knife.

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The corpse king leaned back with unbelievable speed, which meant that Lu Yin's knife slash missed. However, the corpse king only managed to save its upper body. Its thigh had still been ruined, which would undoubtedly affect its speed. An array of stars revolved around Lu Yin's body, and he tensed his muscles to let him to move top speed while simultaneously predicting all incoming attacks with his domain. He was changing the fight into one a test of offense and defense by engaging with the corpse king in a tiny space of only a single meter across.

All that anyone else underground could see were two figures constantly flickering about. Lu Yin's arm occasionally disappeared as he entered the true universe, and the same happened to the corpse king's upper body. What followed was a scene that was very disturbing to watch, though it also evoked a strange harmony.

Even though the corpse king's movements had been slowed down and restricted, it would still be difficult for Lu Yin to kill the creature. Out of desperation, Lu Yin began to aim his attacks at the corpse king's lower body. Let's see how fast it can run with both legs crippled!

Observing the situation from afar, Marquis Green Bamboo's brow knitted in frustration. Just where did this Long Qi get so many power vessels? Not many items were able to trap this speedy corpse king, and not even the Four Junior Progenitors might own this many power vessels!

At this same time, the marquis felt a bit of heartache, for he could tell that his speedy corpse king was doomed to eventually perish. At the moment, the marquis was contemplating whether or not he should send another corpse king to fight Lu Yin.

"It looks like he's using more and more of his items now, gagagaga," Shaman God's doll spoke up again.

Marquis Green Bamboo somberly replied, "To help that person accumulate battlefield achievements, I've already suffered considerable losses. All of those he defeated were true powerhouses, and it won't be easy to create similar ones again."

"Rest assured, it will all be worth it in the end. The day we reap the rewards, your contributions will definitely be taken into account. It will be your greatest honor to have participated in this grand mission, and you'll even be granted the opportunity to witness the most exciting scene in the universe. I assure you of that, gaga," Shaman God's doll laughed creepily.

Marquis Green Bamboo sighed. "I hope you're right."

Shaman God's doll stared off into the distance while floating in the air. "It will soon be time for us to exchange greetings."

At this time, the one person the two were watching had finally managed to kill the speedy corpse king after a half-day-long endurance match that had drained both combatants of all their energy.

After seeing the corpse king's broken neck and that its breath had halted, Lu Yin collapsed to the ground. He was exhausted—no, he was beyond exhausted after attacking and defending at top speed for half a day without any rest. No human could keep up with such strain. Forget half a day, as even an hour of that was more than what most people could handle.

As soon as Lu Yin relaxed, his entire body was wracked with pain so bad that he felt as though his muscles were about to liquify.

Che Zhan stared at Lu Yin in awe. "Brother, don't you think that it's time for you to come rest?"

Lu Yin lifted his head to look up at the shadow of the second forward basecamp. He then said, "Honestly, I'm trying to find my own end here. Sitting here and waiting for death is a terrible thing."

Che Zhan laughed heartily. "I could say the same for the rest of us, hahaha!"

Brother Hong's voice echoed out of the underground area, "You defeated three Envoy level corpse kings consecutively... When word of this gets out, the mighty name of Long Qi will ring throughout the entire Perennial World. Unfortunately, that will never happen if you die down here in the New World. What a shame."

"A true shame." Matriarch of the Eastern Mountain sighed regretfully.

Mr. Guo spoke up, "Let me write a book to commemorate your great achievements, Long Qi. In the future, if the New World is ever reclaimed by humans, it's possible that someone will find it."

Che Zhan was left speechless. "How unusual. Mr. Guo's making jokes! I didn't even know you could do that."

Mr. Guo's expression remained completely serious as he replied, "I'm not joking."

Che Zhan's lips twitched into a smirk.

Finding joy in sorrow was the perfect description of what they were doing at this moment. Waiting for an inevitable death and being completely hopeless was enough to drive any human insane. It was at such moments that humanity would be stripped down to its rawest form.

Lu Yin quickly glanced around the underground space to see where everyone had situated themselves. All of these people were his companions, and no matter what ulterior motives he might have, he still wanted to help everyone escape and survive as long as possible.

The speedy corpse king's death had raised an alarm throughout the corpse king horde surrounding the humans. Neither the horde, nor another powerhouse stepped forward, and the standoff persisted for two days. Still, no corpse king appeared.

Some people complained underground, "Why aren't they coming to fight? I'm practically eager to die."

"Yeah, I'm so bored."

"Death must be a relief. The people who already died are so lucky."

"Don't worry, your turn will come sooner or later, hahahaha."

...

Lu Yin leaned against the wall of the underground space and looked at the shadow of the second forward basecamp once again. As he heard the people around him joking and making ironic remarks about chasing death, many thoughts flashed through Lu Yin's mind: this Perennial World, the Fifth Mainland, the Sixth Mainland, and even the first four mainlands that had already been destroyed, the Lu family, Aeternus, and more. The universe was unimaginably vast, so could there be an even more horrifying civilization than Aeternus?

How had Aeternus come into being? How had the first ever corpse king been born? Surely it could not have been man-made...

The longer Lu Yin contemplated such thoughts, the more exhausted he became. Everything he saw in the sky up above had gone black.

Hmm? Black? Lu Yin shot to his feet while looking around in shock. Somewhere close by, Che Zhan continued to clean his sword while remaining vigilant. Further away underground, Zhou Tang was leaning against the wall and resting while the others carried on their various conversations. However, everyone had turned black.

Down at his feet, Lu Yin saw that his own shadow had started to twist and turn, and then he saw a doll floating in the void. It appeared right in front of Lu Yin, and it stared into Lu Yin's eyes with disturbing eyes that were full of ridicule and mockery.

Lu Yin felt shivers run down his spine. Shaman God's doll?

Lu Yin instantly wanted to take out the jade talisman that he had received from Mister Mu, only to discover that he had been completely immobilized. Nearby, had Che Zhan's body grown larger? No, that was not the case, it was just that Lu Yin's sense of sight had shifted to his hand. The scent of blood suddenly became much stronger, but that was because his sense of smell had shifted down to his leg. All five of his senses had become tangled up, which was proof that Shaman God's doll was truly before Lu Yin.

Lu Yin looked up in a daze. He stared at Shaman God's doll as an inexplicable sense of hopelessness well up from within.

The moment that Qing Chen had mentioned Shaman God in the past, Lu Yin had felt that it was absurd; how could Shaman God be in the Perennial World? And yet, at this moment, Lu Yin was face to face with Shaman God's doll. In fact, they were less than a meter apart.

"Gaga, brat, we meet again!" the doll said in the same strange scratchy voice that Lu Yin remembered.

Lu Yin's heart sank. It really was the same Shaman God from the Fifth Mainland. Lu Yin had still been holding onto a bit of hope that the Shaman God in the Perennial World was not the same as the one from the Fifth Mainland. Even if both possessed the same abilities and titles, it would be fine, as long as the two were not actually the same being. Unfortunately, in the end, Lu Yin's hopes had been shattered. Lu Yin was truly facing the same Shaman God from the Fifth Mainland, who was the being that had taken the Ghost Monkey as a pet.

"It's been a long time! Don't you have a greeting saved up for me? I didn't do anything to keep you from speaking, and none of the others can hear you or see what's going on," Shaman God's doll spoke in a sarcastic tone as it flashed a creepy smirk.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. His voice sounded hoarse as he asked, "What are you doing here in the Perennial World?"

Shaman God's doll cackled. "I should be the one asking you that! So, how 'bout you? What are you doing here in this part of the universe?"

Lu Yin clenched his fists tightly, but doing so blinded him since his vision was coming out of his hands at the moment. He asked, "Are you Seven Skygods able to freely travel between the Perennial World and the Fifth Mainland?"

"Of course! There's nothing Aeternus can't do," Shaman God bragged.

Lu Yin's emotions were in chaos. He was unable to accept the sudden appearance of Shaman God's doll in the Perennial World. What made Lu Yin even more distraught was the fact that he had no way to retrieve his jade talisman, which meant that he had no way to reach out to Mister Mu. His current helpless situation caused Lu Yin to despair, as he did not have the strength to escape from this predicament.

"Brat, honestly, over my countless years of living, I've seen many cultivators with exceptional innate gifts, but you've proven yourself to be the most unique of all! To think that you actually managed to take advantage of the Specter Clan's death energy to inherit the flames of the God of Death! If you really do become a Progenitor one day, it's possible that no one in the entire universe will be your opponent aside from the True God. That's why I intend to uproot you while you're still just a sprout right now." Shaman God's doll covered the short distance separating it from Lu Yin. There were less than ten centimeters separating the two now.

For Lu Yin, ten centimeters was incredibly close, but compared to Shaman God's doll, ten centimeters was about half of the length of the doll's body. It raised a finger and pointed it at Lu Yin's forehead.

Lu Yin's pupils shrank to pinpricks. His eyes remained glued to the finger, and he began reciting the Stonewall Scriptures. However, this time, not even the Stonewall Scriptures were of any use. Lu Yin's body remained immobilized, and he could do nothing aside from helplessly stare as the finger of Shaman God's doll drew closer and closer. Then, the finger stopped when it was less than a millimeter away from touching him. The doll cackled. "Gagagaga, brat, are you scared?"

Lu Yin glared back. "You old freak, what is it that you plan to do?"

"Gaga, it's certainly not pleasant to feel death's approach, is it?" the doll asked.

Lu Yin stayed silent and stared at Shaman God's doll.

"Dying is too simple, as everything's over once you die. Living, however, is the most difficult option available, and yet you humans all hope to keep living. So, what's your choice? Life or death?" Shaman God casually spoke as it questioned Lu Yin. The voice contained an eerie note timbre.

Lu Yin scoffed, "Stupid, of course I'd choose to live."

Given the circumstances, it was useless for him to beg for mercy, and revealing any sign of dread or fear was equally useless.

Shaman God's doll took a step back as it responded, "Do you want to live? Well, that makes things much easier than! Join Aeternus! Do that, and not only will you receive an undying and imperishable body, but you'll also be able to successfully cultivate the God of Death's inheritance. Once you eventually surpass us Seven Skygods, it will be nothing but child's play for you to dominate the entire universe. I'm offering you the path of illumination."

Lu Yin laughed. "The path of illumination? A puppet like you dares to speak of illumination? What a joke! Do you really not have any idea what you look like? For the word 'illumination' to come out of your mouth, of all people, only fools would believe you."

Shaman God was not upset by Lu Yin's outburst. "Brat, being rude will do nothing to help your situation, though it might cause you to suffer far worse hardships and torture than you would otherwise."

This was precisely the reaction that Lu Yin had wanted his words to have. He was not afraid of torture. If that happened, he might be able to find an opportunity to make a move. What Lu Yin feared the most was Shaman God immediately eliminating him without giving him the chance to resist.

Lu Yin retorted, "The last time you tortured me, it allowed me to cultivate the power that opened up the God of Death's inheritance. Torture me again, and what do you think the odds of me cultivating the power of Wu Tian are? I hope that you didn't forget that I also received an inheritance from him from the Sword Monument."

Shaman God's doll showed a bit of surprise. "You're right, I did forget about that. You've even come into contact with Wu Tian's inheritance, which is truly miraculous. To think that you've accepted three of the Ancient Progenitors' inheritances, gaga! Why don't I capture you right now and make you undergo the corpse king transformation? That's the True God's Inheritance, and with that, you'd have four of the Ancient Progenitors' inheritances!"

Lu Yin arched a questioning brow, "The Ancient Progenitors' inheritance? Four? What's this all about?"

The God of Death was one of the four, and although there was no confirmation that Wu Tian had even existed, Shaman God's words made it sound like it was completely certain that the ancient powerhouse had once existed. Did that mean that Wu Tian had really lived? Did that also mean that the True God, which was Aeternus's most powerful corpse king, was also an Ancient Progenitor? Even if that was all true, it only added up to three Ancient Progenitors. In that case, who was the fourth one?

Right, fatesand! Xiao Shi had once mentioned before that fatesand had been created by Destiny. If Destiny truly existed, then they must have also been an Ancient Progenitor! However, many people possessed fatesand, so could such a thing still be considered an inheritance from an Ancient Progenitor? Of course, Lu Yin did possess a great deal more fatesand than most others.

"Gaga! Brat, are you scared now?" Shaman God mocked Lu Yin once more.

Lu Yin stared straight at the doll and tauntingly asked, "Are you blind? In what way do I look frightened?"

Shaman God's doll released another disturbing laugh. "Your rudeness never fails. Anytime you humans are trapped in a desperate situation, there are some who will do whatever they possibly can in order to save themselves. You, on the other hand, even though you are most certainly afraid, your attitude goes the opposite direction. It's quite amusing."

Lu Yin frowned. "Cut the crap. What exactly do you want?"

The doll circled Lu Yin and whispered, "The Lu family's heir, tsk tsk."

Lu Yin felt a finger twitch. This was the worst possible situation: Shaman God knew about his surname! "The Lu family's heir? Does having the surname Lu automatically make me the heir of the Lu family?"

Lu Yin tried testing the waters.

"Gaga, trying to hide the truth? Given your talent for cultivation and your innate gift, is there anyone who'd believe you if you claimed to not be the Lu family's heir?" Shaman God's doll laughed and spoke with its same scratchy voice.