

ODYSSEY 1531

Chapter 1531: Death Of A Junior Progenitor

Right after speaking, the two Semi-Progenitors froze as a feeling of panic seeped from their hearts. They had been enveloped by a power that covered the entire world.

This power could easily destroy them at a whim, and they would not be able to retaliate in the slightest. This was the power of a Progenitor.

Neither of the Semi-Progenitors knew which Progenitor had moved out at this time. All of the Perennial World's Progenitors were stationed far away, as they normally stayed on the far side of the Dominion Realm in order to stop Aeternus from entering the Perennial World. The human Progenitors could not risk letting Aeternus know that one of them had left, so they would let any of the humans know either, due to the threat of Redbacks leaking such information.

The Forgotten Ruins trembled, and Wang Su, Xia Shenfei, and Long Tian all instantly opened their eyes as one, their minds already clear.

"Leave now!" commanded the Progenitor.

Just as the three youths were about to leave, the void tore open with a loud bang. All that anyone heard was the Progenitor shouting, "How dare you enter so deeply into the Withered Glory Region?"

"Since we set this trap, how can we allow you to destroy it so easily?"

"How long do you think you can stop us for?"

"That all depends on how many people you humans can send to rescue these youths. Between the Dominion Realm, and the five array bases. Just how many of your powerhouses can you spare for this? Hahahaha!"

The human Progenitor had encountered powerful enemies in the form of Aeternus's own Progenitors, which meant that this attempt to rescue Wang Su and the other Junior Progenitors had failed. However, at this exact moment, the two Semi-Progenitors who had been standing guard over the Forgotten Ruins did not care about rescuing the Junior Progenitors, and neither were they concerned about the Progenitors' battle. As the fight raged on around them, the two Semi-Progenitors were simply staring at Bai Shaohong. He was lying slack on the ground.

The two powerhouses turned to stare at each other in shock before looking back at Bai Shaohong. They stared a bit longer and then finally caught their breath. "This- he's dead!"

"This is going to shake the entire Perennial World."

At the top of the Higher Realm, at a place where the earth met the sky, there was a sect that had been built around an icy pond. This mountaintop sect had an ethereal appearance that made it look like a land of fantasy, and the white clouds in the sky above radiated a soft light that illuminated the world below. The light given off by each cloud was comfortable and made people feel relaxed and at peace. Below the pond, there were more mountains, as well as clear lakes of water. Some planets revolved around the mountains, but not a single one of them rose above the peaks.

This was the Celestial Frost Sect.

The word "frost" in the sect's name represented the icy pond while the word "celestial" represented not only the sect itself, but also the goal of every single member of the sect. Celestials lived in a realm above mortals, and they were untouchable. Mortals could only look up to such beings.

No matter what sort of image the Celestial Frost Sect had in the outside world, the atmosphere within the mountain sect always remained peaceful, though this peace was rudely disrupted by the intrusion of some news.

Bai Shaohong was both the Celestial Frost Sect's Junior Progenitor and also Bai Xian'er's little brother. His death rattled the entire Celestial Frost Sect, and the ripples of this matter spread out and shook the entire Higher Realm before rippling out and sending tremors throughout the entire Perennial World.

"Are you absolutely certain that Shaohong is actually dead?" Inside the sect's main hall, a deep voice came from a middle-aged man. This man was Bai Teng, who was the current sect master of the Celestial Frost Sect.

"Yes, Sect Master. His death has been confirmed."

Bai Teng's eyes grew cold. "Lock down the news to stop it from reaching the Middle Realm. Reach out to the Xia family, the White Dragon Clan, and the Nong family immediately and have everyone who was a part of the expedition to the Dominion Realm's Withered Glory region be sent to my Celestial Frost Sect for questioning."

"Sect Master, Xia Taili is the Xia family's princess, and Wu Taibai, the White Dragon Clan's Long Qi, and the Nong family's Nong Sanniang are all direct descendants of their respective powers. No one will agree to allow my Celestial Frost Sect to take and question such people."

Bai Teng's voice dropped low. "Then find a way to capture them, especially the people from the Xia family. When they first left the Withered Glory region, no one mentioned that Shaohong had died. Shaohong was the strongest of the Junior Progenitors, so how could no one have noticed his death? The person most likely to have been able to keep everyone else silent is the Xia family's princess, Xia Taili."

"Understood. I'll initiate negotiations immediately."

Bai Teng quickly received responses from the Xia family, the White Dragon Clan, and the Nong family. All of them refused the Celestial Frost Sect's demands while simultaneously sending their condolences. The messages were full of regret for Bai Shaohong's death, but everyone also firmly stated that they would not allow their children to be interrogated by the Celestial Frost Sect.

In particular, Shenwu's Sky's response was worded particularly harshly.

Bai Teng was not surprised by the uniform reactions. "Was there anyone else who joined the excursion?"

"There were six people who returned from the Dominion Realm: Xia Taili, Wu Taibai, Nong Sanniang, Shang Qing, Long Qi, and Liu Tianmu. Of them, if we disregard Xia Taili, Wu Taibai, Nong Sanniang, and Long Qi, there are only Shang Qing and Liu Tianmu. At the moment, both of them are at Humility's

Gate's Huaiyuan Gate in the Middle Realm. We started negotiations with Humility's Gate, but they would not allow any of their people to be sent and questioned by our Celestial Frost Sect."

"Then capture all of them," Bai Teng sharply demanded.

"Sect Master? Just capture them openly?"

Bai Teng hesitated. His character meant that he typically went with the direct approach and simply grabbed those that he wanted to question, but these particular targets were youths from the other four ruling powers, as well as the Nong family and Humility's Gate. Not a single one of these forces were easy to deal with, and while the Celestial Frost Sect was overbearing and capable of overwhelming any individual power, they could not deal with all of these powers at once. This was beyond the sect's ability.

At that moment, someone informed the sect master that Yu Chen wished to see him.

"Yu Chen greets the sect master." Yu Chen was dressed in plain clothes as she presented herself before Bai Teng. Her face was pale, and her eyes were bloodshot as she bowed to Bai Teng.

Bai Teng sighed. "Why are you here instead of mourning over Shaohong's death at his funeral?"

Yu Chen lifted her head and replied firmly, "This disciple must uncover the murderer who killed our Junior Progenitor."

"Do you have any clues?" Bai Teng asked.

Yu Chen quietly answered, "Long Qi is the most suspicious person."

Bai Teng was taken aback at this statement. "Long Qi?"

Yu Chen shared everything that she knew regarding Long Qi, especially her schemes that she had implemented against Long Qi and how they had all failed. She listed everything that she knew, bit by bit. "Sect Master, Long Qi is definitely not as simple as he appears to be at first glance. He should have been finished back in the Yinshan District, but instead, he steadily climbed to a glorious status step by step. He is now a Gate Master within Humility's Gate, and he has even received the attention of their commander. That powerhouse wishes to accept Long Qi as a disciple, and the White Dragon Clan even intends to add his name to their main family's genealogy."

"These are not accomplishments that some mere son-in-law can pull off. His performance has been too perfect. He has already caught up to the four Junior Progenitors despite all of them starting off at a much higher level. His talent for lockbreaking has even drawn the attention of an Array Master. As for his combat ability, he has evenly fought against Envoys and is said to have an innate gift that allows him to see through people with a glance. He has been even more successful than Semi-Progenitor Qing Chen at rooting out Redbacks.

"Everything about this Long Qi is perfect, but the more perfect something is, the more likely it is nothing more than an illusion."

"But wasn't Long Qi only a Hunter when he accompanied the Junior Progenitors to the Dominion Realm? He couldn't have possibly been a Junior Progenitor's opponent, right?" someone asked.

Yu Chen gaze grew more focused. "If he accompanied the Junior Progenitors to the Dominion Realm with his current strength, then would he be able to stand up to the Junior Progenitors?"

"Of course he could. Not only has he become an Enlighter, but he has also fought on the rear battlefield," someone replied.

Yu Chen retorted, "Then who can guarantee that he did not hide his strength or cultivation when they made the trip?"

Bai Teng immediately ordered, "Go negotiate with the White Dragon Clan again. Long Qi must be questioned."

Yu Chen quickly spoke up, "Sect Master, the White Dragon Clan is already sending out invitations to everyone precisely because of Long Qi. He has become their new poster child. Even if it starts a war, they will never willingly deliver Long Qi to my Celestial Frost Sect."

"So what?" Bai Teng's expression grew ferocious. "Is my Celestial Frost Sect still afraid of that failure of a White Dragon Clan?"

Yu Chen frowned. Although Bai Teng had been promoted to be the current sect master, he was still both too impulsive and too powerful. Even though she could still control him, it took a great deal of time and effort. "Sect Master, since starting a war would be the worst possible outcome, why not just capture Long Qi?"

Bai Teng's eyes lit up. "That's true! I'll immediately send someone to capture Long Qi."

Yu Chen respectfully interjected once again. "This disciple will ask her jade butterflies to closely monitor both Shang Qing and Liu Tianmu while also confirming Long Qi's whereabouts."

Yu Chen trained her jade butterflies in the Jade Valley, and that was also where Yu Chen hatched all of her plans.

Upon returning to the Jade Valley, Yu Chen once again reviewed all of the information that she had on Lu Yin. Her face was extremely gloomy. She had always asked her people to separate out Long Qi's information for ease of access, and it became extremely helpful at this moment.

Her heart told her that Long Qi was indeed Bai Shaohong's murderer.

"Junior Progenitor, don't worry. Yu Chen will definitely catch Long Qi and expose your true murderer!" Yu Chen muttered to herself.

Liu Shaoge approached from behind, and he handed Yu Chen another stack of information.

She glanced up at Liu Shaoge. "From now on, please keep an eye on Huaiyuan Gate, and also stay in contact with my jade butterfly there. If Long Qi appears at Huaiyuan Gate, inform me as soon as possible."

"Understood." Liu Shaoge remained very respectful. Yu Chen had always been satisfied with this person, as he was both intelligent and thorough with his work.

After Yu Chen left, Liu Shaoge glanced at the gathered information. A smile spread across his face. Honestly, rumors and stories crop up wherever you go. But this time, this is big trouble for you...

The Celestial Frost Sect desired to capture Lu Yin more than anything, and it was absolutely impossible for him to escape. I'll have one less friend in the future...

Lu Yin once again stepped onto the Bifrost in order to travel up to the Higher Realm. He was still unaware that Bai Shaohong's death had been discovered, and he was also unaware that Yu Chen had painted him as the Celestial Frost Sect's number one suspect in the case of the Junior Progenitor's death.

That is, he was ignorant until the White Dragon Clan's patriarch, Long Ke, called him.

"Bai Shaohong is dead?" Not only Lu Yin, but even Qing Chen was shocked to hear this news.

Long Ke was somber as he stared at Lu Yin. "You really didn't know?"

Lu Yin shook his head. "No, I didn't. The Four Junior Progenitors were fighting inside the Forgotten Ruins, and I didn't see anyone grab the Origin Matter, much less their battle."

Long Ke frowned. It actually made sense that Long Qi had not been able to see the Junior Progenitors' fight, as all four of them had been capable of briefly entering the true universe while Long Qi had only been a Hunter when he had gone to the Dominion Realm.

"Regardless, due to Bai Shaohong's death, the Celestial Frost Sect is demanding that everyone who visited the Dominion Realm accept their questioning. However, that is not something that we can agree to," Long Ke stated. At this moment, he turned to look at Qing Chen. "I wish to ask to trouble senior to escort Long Qi to my Dragon Mountain. I expect that the Celestial Frost Sect will act against him, and this is also why my clan has already sent people to meet you on the way, Senior."

Qing Chen grew solemn. "There is no need to worry. I will safely deliver Long Qi to Dragon Mountain."

"Thank you, Senior," Long Ke respectfully showed his gratitude.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed as he lowered his arm. He had not expected Bai Shaohong's death to be discovered so soon, and this would make his life quite difficult. The Celestial Frost Sect would gnaw on this matter like a mad dog.

"Let's go. We will need to pick up our pace. We can't give the Celestial Frost Sect any time to act," Qing Chen solemnly stated. He was also feeling the crisis facing them.

It was at this time that Cai Shu called Qing Chen to report that the Celestial Frost Sect had demanded that Shang Qing and Liu Tianmu be sent to the Celestial Frost Sect for questioning.

"Refuse," Qing Chen replied.

"This disciple has already done so, but the Celestial Frost Sect is not letting up. Bai Shaohong death is something that they will not leave alone until they are satisfied with their investigation," Cai Shu stated.

Chapter 1532: Just Like That?

After hearing Cai Shu's expectations, Qing Chen responded, "I will report this matter to the commander. Those two are a part of our organization now, and we look after our own. Bai Shaohong's death has nothing to do with them, as the two of them could not have possibly dealt with Bai Shaohong given his strength. The only possibility is that he died to someone at the Envoy level. He most likely died to the other three Junior Progenitors, and the Celestial Frost Sect will eventually figure this out. Until then, do not allow anyone to take Shang Qing or Liu Tianmu away."

"Yes, Master."

At the same moment, Lu Yin received a message from Shang Qing, though it was straight to the point. 'The Celestial Frost Sect plans on simply capturing you.'

Qing Chen did not see this simple text message.

Lu Yin closed the message. Before visiting the Crimson Garden, he had shared the information regarding the jade butterfly hidden within Huaiyuan Gate with Shang Qing, and that was how Shang Qing had learned about the Celestial Frost Sect's plans just now.

The jade butterfly had been sent a message stating that Long Qi was to be captured, and it seemed that Yu Chen was behind this.

At this thought, Lu Yin turned to Qing Chen. "Supervisor, can you take me to Huaiyuan Gate first?"

"We are already pressed for time as it is—we need to arrive at Dragon Mountain before the Celestial Frost Sect can set anything up."

Lu Yin lamented, "I'm afraid that it's already too late. If the Celestial Frost Sect decides to insist on arresting this subordinate, then all they have to do is send someone to wait at the other end of the Bifrost."

Qing Chen fell silent.

"Supervisor, the jade pendant that this subordinate uses to contact Realmless is still at Huaiyuan Gate. This subordinate may not be able to leave Dragon Mountain for a while, but that cannot mean that Redbacks are able to go free," Lu Yin stated.

Qing Chen thought for a while. "Alright, we'll change our route then."

Even as he spoke, he stared at Lu Yin. "Remember, from this point forward, don't share your location with anyone, and do your best to not let anyone know where you are after we get to Huaiyuan Gate."

Lu Yin nodded.

Shortly after that exchange, Lu Yin sent Shang Qing a message, asking him and Liu Tianmu to wait in Lu Yin's quarters, find the old man, and have him hide himself from Qing Chen.

After a few days, Qing Chen and Lu Yin arrived at Huaiyuan Gate.

As he stared at the rings of water flowing in the distance, Lu Yin knew that it would be difficult for him to return to this place again in the future.

With Bai Shaohong's death being revealed, it would not be long before the Junior Progenitors were rescued. To be fair, they had already been trapped for more than a year.

Lu Yin needed to leave, but rather than go to Dragon Mountain, he needed to return to the Fifth Mainland.

Lu Yin stepped into his quarters while Qing Chen waited outside, both to prevent anyone else from discovering Lu Yin's location and also meet with Cai Shu.

Inside Lu Yin's quarters, Shang Qing, Liu Tianmu, Luo Shen, and the old man were all waiting for him. The only friend that Lu Yin had in Huaiyuan Gate whom he had no intentions of taking back to the Fifth Mainland was Wang Dashuai.

As soon as Lu Yin arrived, the old man isolated Shang Qing and the other two in another space and stared at Lu Yin. "Did you find him?"

Lu Yin shook his head.

The old man's gaze grew sharp, "What did the person in the stream say?"

"You dare trespass on this master's property! I will eradicate your entire family!" Lu Yin replied.

The old man continued, "There's an old woman who uses her arm as a knife. What did she say?"

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

The old man appeared shocked, and he continued asking more questions regarding all of the crazy people incarcerated in the Crimson Garden. Lu Yin answered each question in turn, not making a single mistake even once.

The old man closed his eyes and bitterly asked, "Are you really not there?"

Lu Yin looked at the old man. "Is that person really that important? Didn't you say that you would be able to confirm the identity of a Redback if you could confirm that that person was there? But you don't seem particularly concerned about Redbacks, do you?"

The old man did not pay even the slightest bit of attention to Lu Yin. Instead, he looked up and stared outside. "It seems like you're in big trouble."

Lu Yin said, "I want to go back."

The old man sneered. "I can temporarily block Qing Chen's perception of us, but it's impossible for you to escape from under his nose."

"You can attack and keep him occupied," Lu Yin said.

The old man laughed. "Kid, why do you think that this old man will help you at all?"

Lu Yin replied, "I know that getting into the Crimson Garden is your ultimate goal and that you want to find that person. However, you think that I'm useless to you if that person isn't in the Crimson Garden."

"However, have you considered this matter carefully? I'm on my way to Dragon Mountain to become the commander's disciple. He's a Progenitor, which means that my future is limitless."

"You're just going to escape to the Fifth Mainland, so why would you accept a master?" The old man rolled his eyes.

Lu Yin answered in a low voice, "I will return in the future."

"Then we'll talk then." The old man's mood had been ruined. "Alright, it's time to go. Later, kid."

Lu Yin looked up at the old man. "What if I know where he is?"

The old man was startled, and he turned back to stare at Lu Yin. "What did you just say?"

Lu Yin solemnly repeated himself, "I know where that person is."

The old man stared at Lu Yin, and his eyes slowly filled with an unprecedented killing intent. "Kid, you're just asking to die now."

Lu Yin's gaze grew more focused. "You don't believe me?"

"I've been searching for that old man for so many years, but there's been absolutely no news at all. And now you're telling me that you know where he is after seeing his picture just once? You must think that this old man is a fool! You must think that because of the information I gave you about the traitors and Yun Mubai being a Redback that this old man is also a Redback. I told you before, and I'll give you one last warning—don't try to play smart with me!" the old man said sharply.

"He gave me the Arcane Art, Fatal Revival and forced me to memorize a series of numbers," Lu Yin said.

The old man had been just about to leave, but he instantly froze. He suddenly whirled around, seized Lu Yin, and anxiously demanded, "What did you just say? He made you memorize a series of numbers?"

Lu Yin replied, "Not just numbers, but also words that were engraved on a wall. I fainted after memorizing just a few words."

The old man started trembling, and he stared at Lu Yin with excited eyes. "Repeat it to me!"

Lu Yin calmly replied, "If you can't handle it, you'll pass out from hearing it."

"A few words are enough!" the old man eagerly retorted.

Lu Yin thought for a moment. "It starts with, 'To be good at communicating.'"

The old man's pupils shrank to pinpoints; this was wrong. It doesn't start with "To be good at communicating." That's actually in the middle. Still, even though he messed up the order, he still knows the words. He's right, it is him! It's him! It's him! He's the only one who knows!

"Where is he?" the old man nervously asked.

"He was in the Forsaken Land."

The old man frowned, clearly not believing Lu Yin at all.

Lu Yin said, "You know where I'm from, and you've been searching through the Perennial World for so many years. If he was here, then how could you have not found him by now? Also, how could I know those words? He was in the Forsaken Land. In that place, there was an abandoned region with a planet with many beasts living on it. On that planet, there was a cave, and on the wall was everything that he wrote down."

"Where is he now?" the old man hastily asked.

"Dead," Lu Yin said.

"Impossible!" The old man refused to believe it.

Lu Yin felt helpless. "He really died. When I saw him, he wasn't even able to defeat an Explorer, and since his grandson wasn't able to protect him, he died."

The old man's eyes flickered and he lowered his hand while muttering to himself, "Grandson? Grandson? Does he even have a grandson?"

Lu Yin glanced outside his quarters, nervous that Qing Chen would return. He quickly said, "Listen, when we get attacked at the Cloud Shuttle, I'll find a way to escape to the rendezvous point. You need to find a way to get there with me in order to go to the Forsaken Land. You'll never find that man on your own."

At that moment, Lu Yin pulled out Zenith Mountain. Without a single word, he sent Shang Qing, Liu Tianmu, and Luo Shen into the mountain.

The old man stared at Lu Yin. "Alright, we'll go to the Forsaken Land together, but you have to take me to that old man and help me find him. If you don't, there is no one who can save you! There are no Progenitors in the Forsaken Land, which means that this old man is invincible there."

"Alright, I get it." Lu Yin was ready to agree to anything at this moment.

The old man left to avoid Qing Chen.

Soon after, Qing Chen arrived and waited just outside Lu Yin's quarters.

Lu Yin took a deep breath and stared at the jade pendant in a daze.

Qing Chen found this to be a bit strange, but he did not enter Lu Yin's quarters.

After a while, Lu Yin's communication crystal vibrated, and he answered the call. Liu Shaoge was the one who appeared.

"Long time no see, old friend," Lu Yin said with a faint smile.

Liu Shaoge stared at Lu Yin. He held the information about jade butterflies in his hand. Hidden within the information was a message that read, 'After parting at East San Dios, I hoped to get in touch, please contact me.' Lu Yin had sent this message to Liu Shaoge via Shang Qing, and it was Lu Yin's only means of reaching out to Liu Shaoge. Lu Yin just hoped that Liu Shaoge would be able to see it, though it did not matter if someone else found the message, as it would mean nothing to anyone other than Liu Shaoge.

When he saw this message, Liu Shaoge felt as if he had just seen a ghost. He had thought that he was hiding in the dark and holding the initiative, able to betray Lu Yin at any moment and even in control of Lu Yin's life.

No matter how brilliantly Lu Yin shone, or even if he took a Progenitor as his master, the moment that Liu Shaoge opened his mouth, Lu Yin would be completely finished. From the very beginning and all along, Liu Shaoge had felt a strong sense of superiority.

However, finding this message drove Liu Shaoge into the abyss; Lu Yin actually knew about Liu Shaoge's existence here! When had he been exposed? How did Lu Yin discover that Liu Shaoge was in the Jade Valley? Liu Shaoge had no answers, but he felt chilled the moment he saw the message. He recalled the chaos that Lu Yin had incited in the Fifth Mainland, and the chills grew even worse.

"It really has been a long time," Liu Shaoge exclaimed, "How did you find me?"

Lu Yin's lips curled up into a smile. "If I want to find something, then naturally, I'll be able to. I've been able to uncover Redbacks, so there's no need to even mention you."

Liu Shaoge laughed. "I'm much harder to find than a Redback."

"Not necessarily. You must remember, the two of us have known each other for many years," Lu Yin retorted.

Liu Shaoge appeared to be calm. "Since you sought me out, I that assume you want to know the movements of the Celestial Frost Sect?"

Lu Yin nodded. "I'll give you up first if I'm caught."

Liu Shaoge arched a brow. "Just like that?"

"Just like that." Lu Yin smiled.

Liu Shaoge was anything but happy, though he did not show it. "The Celestial Frost Sect sent out a Semi-Progenitor as well as two Envoys who've passed their fifth tribulation. They're waiting for you on the path to Dragon Mountain. What's more, they have a Fay Blossom with them."

Lu Yin clenched his fists. He knew of Fay Blossoms, as he had heard of them before. "I need you to take some intel and let them know that I've returned to Huaiyuan Gate."

Liu Shaoge's eyes flickered. "I know what to do. Are you sure that you want to go to Dragon Mountain?"

"Of course. Gaining a Progenitor as a master is worth the risk," Lu Yin replied.

Liu Shaoge smiled and ended the call.

Lu Yin lowered his hand. Go to Dragon Mountain? No one would be able to betray his location in the future, as not even Liu Shaoge would know where he was going. The reason why Lu Yin had reached out to Liu Shaoge had been a precaution, but Lu Yin was not overly concerned, as he still had his final resort: Mister Mu.

Mister Mu should be able to take Lu Yin out of the Perennial World, though Lu Yin also remembered what Mister Mu had said. He needed to find his own way back. Surely Master did not abandon me!

Chapter 1533: Intel

As soon as Lu Yin emerged from his quarters, Qing Chen asked, "Who did you contact?"

Lu Yin replied, "Realmless is able to intercept the jade butterflies' reports, so this subordinate exposed my location to the jade butterflies."

Qing Chen was startled. "Why?"

Lu Yin explained, "If the Celestial Frost Sect wishes to capture this subordinate, then I'll be attacked while on the way to Dragon Mountain. Regardless of if we take the Bifrost or the Cloud Shuttle, we will still have to pass through a place where they can lay an ambush. This subordinate knows that Yu Chen is quite clever."

Qing Chen did not have much to say in response. "Realmless's information is very precise."

The old man was completely unconcerned about any potential ambush that the Celestial Frost Sect might launch.

Lu Yin grew uneasy. "Supervisor, if the Celestial Frost Sect sends someone to intercept us, will we really be able to safely reach Dragon Mountain?"

Qing Chen's eyes grew hard. "Yes."

Lu Yin's heart sank. This was not the answer that he had been expecting. Qing Chen seemed very confident even when their opponent was the Celestial Frost Sect. What trump card did the old man have hidden? Regardless, it was clear that he did not care about any possible attacks.

This was bad.

Suddenly, Lu Yin remembered what had happened when they had been in the Lower Realm. When they had encountered a truly dangerous situation, the Commander had suddenly appeared. Was it possible that Qing Chen's confidence was because the Commander would intervene?

For a moment, Lu Yin grew a bit flustered. Mister Mu was able to instantly traverse an endless distance by passing through the void. the Commander was a powerful Progenitor, and there was no way he would be any slower than Mister Mu. If the Commander showed up, then even if Mister Mu also arrived, Lu Yin's master might not be able to take him away. Even though Lu Yin suspected that Mister Mu might also be a Progenitor, that only placed him on par with the Commander.

While Lu Yin would have Mister Mu, they would be up against the Commander and Qing Chen. Even if Lu Yin worked together with Mister Mu, escape was not 100% guaranteed.

Complicated thoughts filled his mind as Lu Yin followed Qing Chen towards the Cloud Shuttle. His success or failure would all be determined in the next few moments.

Inside Huaiyuan Gate, Wang Dashuai was proudly ordering about a team of people. "That guy has to be a traitor! Com'on, search his house."

"Yes."

"Where's Shang Qing? Where did he go?" The fatty suddenly felt as though something was missing, and asked where Shang Qing was.

"I haven't seen him."

"What about Liu Tianmu?"

"I couldn't find her."

"No matter. Search the house and capture the traitor!"

Far away was the Sword Monument. Many people were lined up, waiting to view and pay their respects to the Sword Monument while the members of the Liu family were spread throughout the nearby area. Occasionally, flickers of sword qi could be seen throughout the entire region.

There was a hunched old man beneath the Sword Monument. When he stepped out, there was an invitation card in his hand.

Even though communication crystals meant that people could communicate from anywhere in the Perennial World, paper invitations were still frequently used. These invitations were typically made in an antique style, and they could last for many years.

"The White Dragon Clan's Long Qi will worship Humility's Gate's Commander as his master? This is truly a momentous occasion," the old man commented in surprise. He still remembered the youth who had visited the Sword Monument with a respectful attitude, though that youth also had a stubborn streak that prevented him from being cowed by others. It felt like it had only been the blink of an eye, but that child had already climbed to such heights. This was simply too fast.

Behind the old man, Liu Yijian, who was the master of the Graceful Sword Arts, commented, "Not even when Long Tian became one of the four Junior Progenitors during the Yuanlun Festival did the White Dragon Clan show such enthusiasm."

"Long Qi is no longer just a member of the White Dragon Clan, as he has also received the favor of Humility's Gate's Commander. Long Zu must see the child as a second Long Xing," the old man quietly replied.

Liu Yijian remembered. "Even if Long Qi is truly talented, he will never be able to reach Long Xing's level. Her and my Liu family's Little Pebble were members of the Seven Heroes of the past. They excelled in combat, cultivation, and lockbreaking. They truly stood above all of their peers."

"Which of those Seven Heroes back then did not stand head and shoulders above all their peers? Not a single one of them was in any way inferior to Bai Xian'er. The appearance of the Seven Heroes was the most glorious display of their era, and they represented the rise of humanity. However, such glory ultimately came to an end and became nothing more than a stepping stone for Bai Xian'er." The old man sighed.

"It's really a pity. Even our old Progenitor said that the Seven Heroes might have been able to replicate the Nine Mountains and Eight Seas from the Daosource Sect's peak." Liu Yijian's voice dropped low. This

was not only because he regretted the loss of the Seven Heroes, but also because he regretted the loss of the most outstanding descendant that the Liu family had ever seen.

The old man's hunch slowly straightened out. "It's time to take a trip. With the White Dragon Clan sending out invitations so widely, it would be a disgrace to not attend, and that child, Long Qi, is also not bad. I'd like to see how much he's grown to have become worthy of a Progenitor's guidance."

In another distant location, Seed Garden also received an invitation. Their patriarch, Nong Ya, looked at the name of Long Qi on the invitation, and he grew somewhat nervous. Previously, he had been blackmailed by the youth, and the patriarch still did not know how to treat the youth. The cost had been a small amount of resources for the Nong family, but they had still been blackmailed. This Long Qi was far from being as honest as he appeared to be.

As Nong Ya read the invitation's description of Long Qi that the White Dragon Clan had put together, he became increasingly uncomfortable. A righteous heart that would rather die than surrender? A genius Lockbreaker?

"Father, how do you intend to reply to the White Dragon Clan?" Nong Sanniang asked.

Nong Lie was also present.

Nong Ya replied, "Since we've received the invitation, I have no choice but to go. I'll have to attend in person."

At this point, he turned to look at Nong Sanniang. "With Bai Shaohong's death, the Celestial Frost Sect will go after everyone who returned from the Dominion Realm alive. This means that you will also be under their focus. Do not leave Seed Garden for now. That way, the Celestial Frost Sect will not be able to do anything."

Nong Sanniang nodded. "I understand."

"Father, may I go with you?" Nong Lie was eager to try his luck.

Nong Ya considered the request for a moment. "Yes."

Not many of the forces in the Middle Realm were powerful enough to qualify to receive invitations from the White Dragon Clan. The Liu family and the Seed Garden were two such powers, and the only other organization that truly stood on the same level as them was the Virtue Archives. After those three, the next most-powerful organizations were the Purple-Gold family, the Smokecloud Sect, and the four ruling powers' other subordinate organizations. All of these powers received invitations as well.

In the Lower Realm, Root received an invitation. Even though the organization remained bound to the Lower Realm and had no influence on the rest of the Perennial World, they were greatly respected by everyone. They were known as the Mother Tree's protectors, and they constantly rid the tree of parasites. They quietly protected humanity's home, and as far as most people were concerned, Root deserved the same respect as the people fighting on the battlefield behind the Mother Tree.

After all, the Lower Realm was not much safer than the rear battlefield.

However, no one knew whether or not Root would send a representative all the way to the Higher Realm to attend the ceremony at Dragon Mountain. Even if they did not, none of the four ruling powers would make much trouble for Root. The people in that organization would defend their dignity to death, as this was Root's credo. While there were some members who feared death, most did not.

As for the Higher Realm, the Wang family also became uncomfortable as they read the invitation that they had received. To begin with, the Celestial Frost Sect had stood slightly above the other four ruling powers while the other three had stood equal to each other. The fact that the White Dragon Clan had now given birth to such an extraordinary genius who was gifted in every aspect was something unacceptable to the Wang family. However, they had no choice but to accept it, and they also had to send someone to attend the ceremony.

"Would you like to have Wang Yi go? His injuries should be nearly healed by now," a member of the Wang family suggested, but Wang Si instantly shot this down.

"Why would you want to let him out? To shame us? I have seen that Long Qi before, and his courage is extraordinary. Now, he's going to worship a powerful Progenitor as his master, and he is also apparently a gifted Lockbreaker. This is someone who practically stands on the same level as Wang Su and the other Junior Progenitors. Wang Yi cannot compare to this person."

"Then what does Elder intend?"

"Old Shen will be the one to go. Also, Yun'er's punishment is about to end, so have her join Old Shen."

"Yes, Elder."

At Shenwu's Sky, the imprisoned jiao was shining. Anyone who visited Shenwu's Sky for the first time would be shocked to see the imprisoned dragon, and they would be even more amazed by the massive blade that pinned the dragon to the ground.

Shenwu's Sky was a domineering power. In particular, their Nine Clones Secret Technique was seen as being practically invincible as long as one was able to comprehend it.

On one particular day, Xia Taili was lazing about when she received a message: Long Qi will be entered into the White Dragon Clan's main family, as well as accepted as the disciple of the Humility's Gate's Commander. Moreover, he has been viewed favorably by many gifted Lockbreakers. He has entered heaven with this single step, and the White Dragon Clan is sending out invitations to attend the ceremony. Taili, get ready. You will be accompanying me.

The message had been sent by Xia Xing, the master of Shenwu's Sky, who was also Xia Shenfei and Xia Taili's father.

Xia Taili lowered her arm, shocked. "That guy is actually going to become a Progenitor's disciple? Doesn't that mean that he'll be on the same level as big brother? Why?"

She thought back to when she had first met Long Qi. At that time, the youth had dared to point a spear at her throat. Up in the Higher Realm, he had shamelessly threatened her into protecting him. The more she thought about their past interactions, the more upset she became.

This could not be allowed. She had to expose his true nature! He was not a man—he was an absolute bastard!

Xia Taili ground her teeth as she thought of a way to embarrass Lu Yin. She absolutely had to humiliate him in front of the Progenitors.

Elsewhere in Shenwu's Sky, Wu Taibai received the news as well, though he would not accompany Xia Xing to Dragon Mountain as he was currently being punished.

In Shenwu's Sky, the younger disciples were separated into four different groups—namely, there was the Shen generation, the Tai generation, the Lin generation, and then the rest of the disciples. Only the top geniuses could be a part of the named groups while everyone else, regardless of their numbers, would only ever be considered an ordinary disciple.

Wu Taibai was an elite of the Tai generation, the same as Xia Taili. They were both considered to be second only to Xia Shenfei, who was a part of the Sheni generation. However, Wu Taibai had long since disregarded the rules of Shenwu's Sky and frequently ventured out on his own adventures. He had left for many years, only returning the previous one. While he should have been punished for his unexcused absence, he had returned with news that atoned for his mistakes.

In actuality, Wu Taibai had not been qualified to go to the Dominion Realm with Xia Shenfei, but the Junior Progenitor himself had requested it. However, Xia Shenfei had been trapped, and so Wu Taibai had been imprisoned and was currently suffering the clan's punishment.

Such punishment would be absolute torture for anyone, and cultivators who were subjected to this particular sentence would scream in despair. There were even some who were unable to endure the punishment and sought to end themselves. In contrast, Wu Taibai remained very calm, especially after he heard the news about Lu Yin, which actually caused him to laugh.

"The place of the true inheritances will soon begin to demonstrate its power! This Perennial World will never be able to match that place's foundation. All of the greatest powers that can be pursued can only be found there! The God of Death is only the most blatant example, but that is nothing more than the beginning! One day, the skies will reverse, and this place will be trampled underfoot." Wu Taibai lifted his head to look out at the imprisoned dragon beyond the purgatory flames roasting him. "Progenitor Chen, Progenitor Hui, and even the Rune Progenitor—why did all of them go to that place? Because that place is the only place with true inheritances!"

At the Celestial Frost Sect, Liu Shaoge handed Yu Chen a report.

Yu Chen glanced at it, and her expression instantly changed. "This report came from the jade butterfly at Huaiyuan Gate?"

"Yes. The jade butterfly discovered that Long Qi deliberately returned to Huaiyuan Gate, though his purpose there remains unknown," Liu Shaoge replied.

Yu Chen looked up, her eyes focused and radiating sharp intellect. "Do you think that Qing Chen couldn't mask his presence with Long Qi when he returned to Huaiyuan Gate?"

Liu Shaoge respectfully replied, "No."

"So then how did this jade butterfly discover Long Qi's presence?" Yu Chen asked rhetorically.

Liu Shaoge answered, "Long Qi most likely intended for it to happen."

Yu Chen revealed a slight smile. "Keep talking."

Chapter 1534: Esteemed Name

Under Yu Chen's encouragement, Liu Shaoge continued his line of thought, saying, "During Long Qi's attempted arrest of the two stellar energy mules when they were caught at the Cloud Shuttle, the jade butterfly hiding in Huaiyuan Gate should have been exposed. However, that never happened—she was not found or arrested. I believe that your jade butterfly was exposed at that time but left alone in order to be used as a pawn to mislead us."

Liu Shaoge looked at Yu Chen before continuing. "Right now, Long Qi used her to send us a message: he's altered his route and intends to ascend via the Cloud Shuttle."

"No matter which route they take to get to Dragon Mountain, our people will still find them," Yu Chen said to herself.

Liu Shaoge replied in a solemn tone, "Perhaps that is what he wants us to think."

Yu Chen frowned. Liu Shaoge's suggestions had reminded her of what had happened to her scheme targeting Long Qi in the Yinshan District. Long Qi excelled at plotting and scheming, and his thoughts and designs absolutely exceeded Yu Chen's current grasp of the situation. She refocused onto Liu Shaoge. "What are your thoughts?"

Liu Shaoge shook his head. "This subordinate does not understand the situation."

Yu Chen's eyes grew focused. "He- he wants to take a detour."

Liu Shaoge grew puzzled.

Yu Chen spoke in a low voice, "The Bifrost, Cloud Shuttle, and Dragon Mountain can only be accessed by passing through certain places, and our people can lie in ambush at any one of those locations. However, what if they take a detour?"

"What do you mean? Are you suggesting that Long Qi has deliberately leaked false information to draw our attention? In that case, he might still take the Bifrost, but then make a detour on his way to Dragon Mountain?" Liu Shaoge was surprised.

Yu Chen replied, "That must be his idea. He is someone whose schemes have multiple layers, and he is using both the Bifrost and the Cloud Shuttle to blind us in order to mask his true intentions."

After her thoughts reached this point, Yu Chen immediately contacted Sect Master Bai Teng and asked him to have the person laying in ambush for Long Qi to change locations.

"Even if he wants to take a detour, his destination is Dragon Mountain, and that will not change." Yu Chen stared at a map of the region in the Higher Realm that surrounded Dragon Mountain and instantly chose a new ambush site.

Liu Shaoge expressed his concerns, "But if Long Qi doesn't take a detour, then won't that mean that we will fail?"

"That's impossible. Given his cleverness, he will definitely take a detour," Yu Chen said with conviction.

If Lu Yin had heard Yu Chen, he would be amazed. If he had not known about Liu Shaoge's presence and taken advantage of it, or if Lu Yin had not intended to make his way to the rendezvous point to return to the Fifth Mainland, then it was highly possible that he would indeed take a detour. He would have used that plan to confuse his enemies, as returning to Huaiyuan Gate would hint that he was planning to use the Cloud Shuttle to ascend to the Higher Realm, and he was too smart to relax and use the Bifrost. In that case, he would choose to take neither option.

Taking a detour was indeed the best choice that Lu Yin could make, but such thoughts did not enter into Lu Yin's calculations at all. After all, he had no intention of returning to the Higher Realm at all.

He had only laid out these plans on the off chance that he did end up having to go to the Higher Realm. That way, he would at least avoid being captured by the Celestial Frost Sect, as that would spell his doom.

While the entire Perennial World was roiling from the news and impact of the White Dragon Clan's invitations, Qing Chen had already led Lu Yin to the Cloud Continent.

Lu Yin started to grow nervous as he stared at the massive trunk of the Mother Tree off in the distance.

Qing Chen grabbed hold of Lu Yin, and they next appeared on a cloud platform.

"Supervisor, can't you just fly up?" Lu Yin asked out of curiosity.

Qing Chen explained, "No one other than the members of the four ruling powers are allowed to use alternative means to travel between the Middle Realm and the Higher Realm unless they have received special permission."

So it was yet another means of control. Lu Yin glanced around; why had the old man not shown himself yet? Could Lu Yin count on the old man?

Right as Lu Yin was thinking of the old man, the void beneath the Cloud Shuttle burst apart, causing countless people who had been waiting in line and many of the Smokecloud Sect's disciples to instantly faint. Even Lu Yin felt like his head was about to be crushed apart, and he almost vomited blood as his body swayed slightly.

Qing Chen's expression drastically changed. "Not good!"

Even as he spoke, he grabbed Lu Yin, tore into the void, and fled upwards towards the Higher Realm.

"You still want to run?" A loud voice shattered the void once more, and it was compressed into an overwhelming power that quickly reached Qing Chen. Shockingly, it was powerful enough to leave him dazed.

Qing Chen's pupils instantly shrank; this person was a true master.

"Who are you?" Qing Chen shouted. An invisible power erupted out of his body and isolated him from the surrounding space. Then, an additional power exploded from his arm and pushed Lu Yin to the east.

Qing Chen roared in anger as he counterattacked.

A shocking battle erupted beneath the Cloud Shuttle. It was a battle between two Semi-Progenitors, and it shattered the sky as chaos unfolded for an untold distance.

Lu Yin was dazed by the battle, and he was left panting as he cursed the old man for being too ruthless in his attacks. If Lu Yin had not immediately started reciting the Stonewall Scriptures, he would have most likely lost consciousness.

As he looked at the frenetic battle taking place, he saw the true universe occasionally being torn open, but Lu Yin made no attempt to stop anything. The old man had revealed his power, and he was moving forward as planned—Lu Yin will be sent directly towards the rendezvous point.

The air whistled as Lu Yin flew closer and closer to the rendezvous point. As long as he reached that place and met up with the old man, they would be able to instantly return to the Fifth Mainland. He was close, so close!

Suddenly, Lu Yin was stopped and surrounded by smoke.

A cloud of smoke appeared up ahead of him as an unknown old man revealed himself and calmly stared at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's pupils instantly constricted the moment he saw this old man. Based on the pressure and the fact that he had managed to erase the power of the old man who had sent Lu Yin flying towards the rendezvous point, this person had to be yet another Semi-Progenitor! Why were so many Semi-Progenitors showing up?

"Your expression is quite odd; shouldn't you be thanking this old man for saving your life?" the unknown old man asked as he casually observed Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's breathing was ragged, and his arms felt heavy as he raised them up to offer the old man a respectful bow. "Junior Long Qi thanks this senior for saving his life."

The old man stared at Lu Yin for a bit before redirecting his attention towards the distance.

Lu Yin's fingers twitched, and he made up his mind to crush the jade talisman to summon Mister Mu.

"The Commander should be on his way," the old man suddenly stated, his voice startling Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was slow to respond. "The Commander will come?"

The old man looked back at Lu Yin. "Even if he doesn't, it's still impossible for anything to happen to you. Don't worry, Kui Luo can't take you. Or is it that want to be taken away by him?"

Lu Yin was caught off guard by this. "Kui Luo? Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo?"

The old man casually replied, "Do you not know who that is? He is powerful enough to affect even Qing Chen and I. In the entire Perennial World, the only Semi-Progenitor capable of doing that is Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo."

The jade pendant that the old man had given Lu Yin had instantly been recognized by Qing Chen as something that belonged to Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo. Initially, Lu Yin had assumed that the old man was Kui Luo himself, but the old man had denied it and said that he had merely borrowed Kui Luo's token. And yet, Lu Yin was now suddenly being told that the old man really was Kui Luo?

Lu Yin felt completely helpless. It was even possible that the old man had targeted him the moment he had claimed to have stumbled upon part of Kui Luo's inheritance.

At this moment, the biggest question was whether or not he should summon Mister Mu. Qing Chen had been extremely confident that Lu Yin would safely arrive at Dragon Mountain, and even the unknown old man in front of Lu Yin was telling him that the Commander was about to arrive in person. Even if Mister Mu was also a Progenitor, that did not mean that he could take Lu Yin away from the Perennial World. After all, the Perennial World had multiple Progenitors, and if the Commander was able to make a move, then the other human Progenitors of the Perennial World might also be able to do the same. On top of that, unless Lu Yin's guess was completely wrong, then the old man in front of him was the Smokecloud Sect's Semi-Progenitor.

If Lu Yin summoned Mister Mu, then it would expose Lu Yin's true identity as a trespasser, and he might not even be saved.

Lu Yin felt torn by the choices laid before him. If he summoned his master, Lu Yin was worried that Mister Mu might be injured by Humility Gate's Commander. It was even possible that the Perennial World's Progenitors would move to lock Mister Mu down and trap him. Lu Yin felt more conflicted the more he thought.

He really wanted to speak to Mister Mu and ask him if he was able to take Lu Yin away from the Perennial World. However, Lu Yin could not risk such a thing.

Even as Lu Yin hesitated, the energy from the Semi-Progenitors fighting in the distance disappeared. The old man who had suddenly attacked vanished, and Qing Chen reappeared in front of Lu Yin, though he looked a bit embarrassed. He had finally defeated the old man.

"Yun Wang?" Qing Chen was quite surprised to see the old man with Lu Yin.

Yun Wang looked back at Qing Chen. "It's been a long time since we last met, Supervisor of the Nine Gates."

"You didn't step out to see me even when Yun Mubai was proven to be Redback, and you just returned to the Smokecloud Sect. Why did you make a move just now?" Qing Chen asked.

Yun Wang shook his head. "Kui Luo has reappeared, and I want to ask him something. Unfortunately, no one can hold him down."

Qing Chen's voice dropped low, "Kui Luo is one of the most powerful Semi-Progenitors in the Perennial World. Even while being encircled and being suppressed by all of the Semi-Progenitors of the entire Perennial World, he still managed to survive. Just the two of us together won't be able to stop him."

He then looked at Lu Yin and said, "You are Kui Luo's goal, Long Qi."

Lu Yin no longer had any intention of summoning Mister Mu. He was not confident that doing so would help, and he could only proceed one step at a time at this point. "I don't know what Kui Luo wants."

Yun Wang carefully studied Lu Yin, but he said nothing.

"Word of this battle with Kui Luo will soon reach the Higher Realm, so we need to increase our speed." Qing Chen did not have any time to chat with Yun Wang, and he quickly left with Lu Yin.

Yun Wang had a complicated expression on his face as he stared at Lu Yin's back while the youth left.

Yun Mubai was the Smokecloud Sect's sect master who had been personally chosen by Yun Wang, and yet the man had actually turned out to be a Redback. Long Qi was the one who had exposed Yun Mubai's true identity, and that matter left Yun Wang feeling both grateful and rather disgruntled. The same was true of the entire Smokecloud Sect; they all felt grateful towards Lu Yin for exposing Yun Mubai, but they also despised the youth for the same deed.

Qing Chen had mentioned Kui Luo's identity, and Yun Wang had also recognized the old man. Thus, others would recognize him as well.

When Qing Chen landed on the Cloud Continent, word that Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo still lived had already spread throughout the entire Perennial World.

Very quickly, a Cloud Shuttle approached the Higher Realm.

Lu Yin was still thinking about the old man when Qing Chen spoke up. "Long Qi, it is not easy to gain a Progenitor as a master, and even if the Commander wishes to accept you as a disciple, others may not be willing to accept such a thing. After all, becoming a Progenitor's disciple will place you on the same level as the four Junior Progenitors."

Lu Yin respectfully acknowledged Qing Chen's caution. "This subordinate is aware."

Qing Chen continued, saying, "Remember, even though the Commander leads Humility's Gate and is decisive in his actions, he greatly prefers intelligent people who are unswayed by emotions such as joy and anger, and he does not have much respect for reckless individuals. Your performance thus far has been admirable, so keep it up. Even when others try to interfere in your affairs, remember this matter."

Lu Yin's eyes lit up, as this bit of news delighted him. He had actually been trying to come up with a valid excuse to prevent him from accepting the Commander as his master, and Qing Chen had just given him one. So the Commander did not like reckless individuals? Lu Yin remembered that there were quite a few people in the White Dragon Clan's branch families who were eager to make trouble for him, as well as the entire Celestial Frost Sect.

Qing Chen nodded, as he quite admired Lu Yin's attitude. Even if the youth was eager to worship a powerful Progenitor as his master and step onto the peak of the White Dragon Clan, Long Qi would not become arrogant and allow his status to go to his head. Such people were rare.

However, Lu Yin was actually brainstorming ways to incite chaos. As he thought about it, he felt that he was not very adept at it

"By the way, you still don't know the Commander's name, right?" Qing Chen asked.

Lu Yin respectfully answered, "No, I don't."

Qing Chen slowly said, "The Commander's name is Mu Xie."

Chapter 1535: Mention Of The Hidden Earth Society

An explosion rang out within Lu Yin's mind. Mu- Mu- Mu Xie?

He looked up, incredulous. "Mu?"

Qing Chen was not paying attention to Lu Yin, so he did not notice Lu Yin's abnormal reaction. Instead, he was simply looking up above. His eyes seemed to pierce through space to observe the Higher Realm as well as the even further away Dominion Realm and the individuals up there. "Yes, the commander's surname is Mu, and his full name is Mu Xie. You must remember that, after completing your apprenticeship ceremony, you will be referring to him as Master Mu."

Lu Yin's head dropped low as he processed an absurd possibility; could the commander actually be Mister Mu?

Was that even possible?

Lu Yin was utterly stunned. When observing the entire history of the Perennial World, the Fifth Mainland, and the Sixth Mainland, how many Progenitors could there be? On top of that, Mu was a unique surname, and at the very least, Lu Yin had never heard of a Progenitor with that particular surname before. If Mister Mu was indeed a Progenitor as Lu Yin suspected, then it was highly likely that he was this Mu Xie.

Mister Mu and Mu Xie; could they be the same person? Lu Yin was completely confused.

Even as Qing Chen led Lu Yin up to the Higher Realm, the youth still did not react to anything. His mind was completely occupied by the name "Mu Xie."

At the Celestial Frost Sect, in Jade Valley, Yu Chen slowly clenched her fists. She had miscalculated. She had made a mistake. Long Qi actually had ascended through the Cloud Shuttle, and he had not taken a detour.

Word of the battle beneath the Cloud Shuttle that had broken out between Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo and Qing Chen had already spread to the Celestial Frost Sect, so Yu Chen was aware that she had made a mistake.

She had overestimated Long Qi. No, she had studied all sorts of information regarding Long Qi. She had not overestimated him, definitely not; rather, she had underestimated him. Long Qi had actually taken all of Yu Chen's own scheming and thoughts into consideration before coming up with the best method

possible to counter her plans. He had already factored her into his plans, and that was why he had taken the Cloud Shuttle.

Was he that certain that the Celestial Frost Sect would send someone to capture him?

Liu Shaoge stood behind Yu Chen, a subtle smile tugging at the corners of his mouth. There were certain times when people were too smart for their own good.

Yu Chen's mistake had not only allowed Lu Yin to safely arrive at Dragon Mountain, but it would also lead to a disaster for herself.

In the past, when Bai Shaohong had still been around, Yu Chen had relied upon the Junior Progenitor to stand at the top of the Celestial Frost Sect. Back then, even Envoys like Elder Qing Xing had needed to show their respect to Yu Chen. However, now that Bai Shaohong was dead, Yu Chen's status within the Celestial Frost Sect would plummet.

The Higher Realm did not host many events. The Yuanlun Festival was the only major event to occur within recent decades, though the ceremony at Dragon Mountain was quickly becoming the next major event in the Higher Realm.

After all, the ceremony not only involved the White Dragon Clan, but also those who had been invited to attend. Already, more than two Semi-Progenitors had gotten involved, and because of the information regarding Long Qi that the White Dragon Clan had released, it was possible that Array Masters or even Array Grandmasters might take some precious time away from the rear battlefield to attend the ceremony.

The Perennial World only had a few Lockbreakers, and that was in large part because the Lockbreaker Headquarters had been established on the battlefield behind the Mother Tree. In order for someone to become a Lockbreaker, they had to step onto the battlefield, and there were few people who were bold enough to do so in the entire Perennial World.

However, despite the low number of Lockbreakers, there were actually quite a few powerful Lockbreakers.

With the exception of the White Dragon Clan, the other members of the four ruling powers all had their own powerful Lockbreakers, which had long since been a point of frustration for the White Dragon Clan.

Lu Yin's talent for lockbreaking was something that could compensate for a weakness that the clan sorely lacked.

While the clan did have some Lockbreakers and even a few Array Masters, the White Dragon Clan had a terrible lack of truly talented Lockbreakers.

Up in the Higher Realm, the dark sky felt slightly suffocating, and light could only be found within the four ruling powers territories.

The closer Lu Yin and Qing Chen drew to Dragon Mountain, the more people who were traveling in the same direction. They filled the sky, and they even covered the ground.

The White Dragon Clan had sent out invitations to only the most powerful forces of the Middle Realm, but these invitations had been sent to every organization in the Higher Realm, especially to those that

lay close to Dragon Mountain. Every force that was subordinate to the White Dragon Clan had to offer their congratulations.

There were many places in the Higher Realm that relied upon the four ruling powers, but there were no independent forces, as the four ruling powers did not allow independent organizations to exist in the Higher Realm. Everyone had to be underneath the four ruling powers.

A massive figure appeared in front of Lu Yin, which attracted attention from countless people below.

The cultivators from the various regions of the Higher Realm all looked up and watched as Lu Yin and Qing Chen stepped onto the back of a massive creature that then disappeared towards Dragon Mountain.

"That young man's Long Qi."

"He has to be. For Elder Long Kui to personally come out to meet someone, he could only be Long Qi."

"I know that one of those people was Senior Qing Chen, the Supervisor of the Nine Gates, which means that the young man must be Long Qi."

"What a level he's reached at such a young age! As soon as he is accepted as the commander's disciple, he'll be equal to the four Junior Progenitors! I'm so jealous!"

"What are you jealous of? The Celestial Frost Sect is completely focused on him, and I even heard that Junior Progenitor Bai Shaohong's death is somehow connected to Long Qi."

"Don't spout such nonsense! Those are nothing more than mere suspicions, and everyone who returned from the Dominion Realm is a suspect. How could Long Qi have had anything to do with the Junior Progenitor's death when he was nothing more than a Hunter at the time?"

"But he's already an Array Master!"

The person who had been defending Long Qi suddenly fell silent. It was true that a sourcebox array was enough to turn trash into treasure, and no one was surprised that these methods were able to protect humanity from their enemies. Thus, as far as most people were concerned, Lu Yin being an Array Master was the primary reason why the Celestial Frost Sect was so suspicious of him.

Before long, a group appeared in the sky. Each person in the group stood atop a broken blade as they made their way towards Dragon Mountain. Each individual radiated a powerful killing intent.

"Someone from Shenwu's Sky has arrived early! It looks like they are treating this ceremony as something very important."

In the crowd below, there was a grandfather grandson pair who watched on in envy.

"Grandpa, when I grow up, I'll also become famous in the Higher Realm, just like Long Qi!" the little boy said. He looked to be no more than eleven or twelve years old, and his face blazed with excitement even as his eyes radiated his desires.

The old man looked down at the boy and said, "Yes, you will."

He looked back up and let out a sigh of relief.

"Grandpa, will the bad guys catch us?" the boy asked.

The old man answered, "No, don't worry. We're at Dragon Mountain, and they wouldn't dare to do so here."

"Oh."

...

For the second time in his life, Lu Yin visited Dragon Mountain. His first time at the mountain had been quite a low-key affair, and very few people had been aware of it. However, this time, Lu Yin's arrival was very high-profile.

When Long Kui met Lu Yin this time, the clan elder's attitude was completely different from before.

With each new meeting, Long Kui had a different impression of the youth, and once again, Long Kui felt like something had changed between his last meeting with Long Qi.

As he considered Long Qi's various accomplishments, Long Kui could not help himself from glancing back at the youth; just how had this kid changed so much? Less than two years ago, Long Kui had heard of Long Qi for the first time, but now, the youth had accomplished feats that others would brag about for their entire lives. Even now, Long Qi had gained the favor of a Progenitor.

Was this youth really the same son-in-law of the clan's main family who had not even been courageous enough to dodge Elder Qing Xing's attack in the past?

Lu Yin stood tall, but he did not say a single word to Long Kui. After arriving at Dragon Mountain, Lu Yin did not immediately meet with Long Ke, but rather continued on towards the depths of the mountain.

"Senior Qing Chen, the clan has already prepared a place for you to rest. The patriarch has instructed that you are allowed to enter and leave any place on Dragon Mountain however you wish," Long Kui respectfully informed Qing Chen.

Qing Chen smiled. "Please extend my thanks to Patriarch Long Ke. All I need is a bit of your White Dragon Brew, haha!"

Long Kui returned the smile with one of his own. "That's only natural."

He then turned to look at Lu Yin, "Long Qi, the patriarch has ordered that you are to worship the ancestors in ten days. At that time, the four ruling powers, the Nong family, the Liu family, and the other powers of the Middle Realm will observe the ceremony. Prepare yourself. You should have already learned everything necessary for this ceremony, so make sure that you do not embarrass my White Dragon Clan. Until that time, you will reside at Hidden Dragon Lake."

"Yes, Elder." Lu Yin maintained the same attitude as before, and he showed no trace of arrogance.

Long Kui nodded. He first led Lu Yin to Hidden Dragon Lake and then led Qing Chen to his quarters.

There was no need for Qing Chen to worry about Lu Yin's safety after arriving at Dragon Mountain. If an incident occurred at this place, Qing Chen's presence would make no difference whatsoever.

Hidden Dragon Lake was located within Dragon Mountain, which contained thousands of lakes. While Hidden Dragon Lake was not the largest, it was certainly quite famous. This was because all of the clan's direct descendants would live at the lake for a time, which meant that residing at Hidden Dragon Lake indicated that one was ascending to heaven. Long Tian had also once lived at this lake, as had Long Xi.

Since Lu Yin was staying at Hidden Dragon Lake, it showed that his status would be in no way inferior to those two in the future.

Even though the lake was, in comparison to the entire Dragon Mountain, small and was only one of thousands of lakes, the lake itself was by no means cramped. There were planets revolving above the lake as though it was a complete universe, and there was even an independent civilization.

Lu Yin stood on an island in the lake as he stared at its bottom. There, he saw planets shining, as well as the developing civilization on those planets. This sort of scene was simply too common in the Perennial World, and it could be seen everywhere.

In the Fifth Mainland, it was not normal for powers to cultivate independent civilizations, and the closest comparison were hidden worlds, but those worlds' inhabitants lived there voluntarily.

Lu Yin quietly stayed at the island in Hidden Dragon Lake for several days, and once he confirmed that no one was watching him, he quickly isolated himself and started rolling his die.

Long Kui had said before that Lu Yin should already be fully informed of everything that he needed to know about worshipping the ancestors, but in order to actually prepare himself, Lu Yin would have to ask Long Xi about the ceremonies and any particular forms of etiquette.

The die spun before slowly stopping on six pips.

Lu Yin was not surprised. So much time had passed since he had last rolled his die that it was perfectly normal to roll a six on his first try. Fortunately, he had set aside his cosmic ring after taking out a bit of star essence. This had long since become a habit so as to avoid consuming too much money with an unanticipated roll.

After appearing in the strange space, Lu Yin randomly merged with an orb of light that was not too bright, and the scenery around him changed. He quickly saw a grandfather with his grandchild.

The person that Lu Yin had Possessed actually intended to kill the two people.

"My Lei family has decided to leave Dragon Seek City, so we will no longer fight with you. Why do you wish to kill all of us? Do you really believe that the White Dragon Clan will allow a single force to emerge and dominate Dragon Seek City? Just assume control of a small town," the old man screamed and clutched his grandchild as he waited to be killed.

The little boy shivered in terror.

Lu Yin blinked and was about to end the Possession. He had no interest in such a small-scale skirmish between two families.

"You may have destroyed my Lei family, but it won't be long before someone else destroys you! I can tell you that there is an organization behind me known as the Hidden Earth Society. Even though it is not

well-known, it wields great influence and even has members within the four ruling powers," the old man warned. Blood leaked from his mouth, and madness could be seen rising in his eyes.

Lu Yin had intended to simply end his Possession, but he froze and stared at the old man in shock—the Hidden Earth Society? This was the first time that Lu Yin had heard this name since entering the Perennial World.

Lu Yin had already searched for the Hidden Earth Society or the Primeval Surname Alliance many times, but he had never found a single trace of either organization, either in books, records, or by speaking to people.

"Hidden Earth Society? Never heard of it," Lu Yin answered deliberately.

The old man gritted his teeth and threatened, "You couldn't have possibly heard of our Hidden Earth Society! We don't allow outsiders to join, nor do we expose ourselves, but our unique relationship makes us a tight-knit group. We have many experts, and we are everywhere. Let alone within the Dragon Seek City, we can even get revenge on you if you hide in Dragon Mountain! Do not make a mistake."

Chapter 1536: Is It Complicated?

"Why should I believe you?" Lu Yin asked in a cold voice.

Suddenly, his mind went into a daze. He had no time to think, but the person that he had Possessed had to die. Otherwise, the grandfather and his grandson would die.

Lu Yin had already returned to the strange space with the glowing orbs.

As the scenery changed before Lu Yin's eyes, his consciousness returned to Hidden Dragon Lake.

His eyes flickered. So it turned out that the Hidden Earth Society did indeed exist in the Perennial World as well. However, Lu Yin did not know how much of the old man's words had been truths or lies. It was possible that the man had exaggerated some details in order to survive, but the Hidden Earth Society's existence had been confirmed. The relationship between the members was also a very close one, as the members had come from Earth, which was in the Forsaken Land.

It was much like the relationship between Lu Yin and Liu Shaoge; no matter what the relationship between them might be, neither could reveal the other's truth, as doing so would place both of them at risk.

As far as the Perennial World was concerned, everyone from the Forsaken Land had to be captured and killed.

If the Hidden Earth Society truly did exist, then its members had to be extremely secretive.

Lu Yin wanted to find the old man and his grandson so that he could ask the old man for some concrete details, but it was not time for that. From the memories that Lu Yin had gleaned from this most recent Possession, he knew that the old man and his grandson were currently outside of Dragon Mountain and waiting to enter in order to offer their congratulations. The old man was known as Lei Wu, and he was also the patriarch of the Lei family from Dragon Seek City. It would not be difficult to find the old man.

Lu Yin let out a long breath; at long last, he had finally found a clue regarding the Hidden Earth Society. As long as he found the society and the Primeval Surname Alliance, he would be able to start solving mysteries of his past one by one.

At the moment, the most important thing to do was to speak to Long Xi.

At this thought, Lu Yin rolled his die again. But he had run out of luck, as he rolled three pips: Enhance. There was nothing that he needed to upgrade at the moment, and he also could not actively and openly do so on Dragon Mountain.

For his third roll, the die landed on four pips. Lu Yin snatched up his cosmic ring as the scenery changed before his eyes, and he appeared within the Timestop Space.

As soon as he entered, he pulled out Zenith Mountain and entered.

Things had become quite lively on Zenith Mountain, as eleven people currently lived there; five were from the Perennial World and six were from the Fifth Mainland.

Before going to find Long Xi, Lu Yin made it a point to find Luo Shen first. He found her happily dancing and practicing in a secluded location on her own. The woman was happy as long as she was with Lu Yin, no matter where that was or how frequently she met with Lu Yin—none of that mattered. She just wanted to be at Lu Yin's side, which made Lu Yin feel somewhat guilty towards Luo Shen.

He found that Long Xi was also much calmer than when they had last met. Her eyes went flat when Lu Yin appeared. "Are we in the Forsaken Land?"

Lu Yin shrugged. "Almost."

Long Xi said nothing.

Lu Yin pursed his lips and coughed. "Actually, I have a question for you: do you know the proper etiquette to worship the White Dragon Clan's ancestors?"

Long Xi was caught off guard. "Worshiping the ancestors? You want to worship the clan's ancestors?"

Lu Yin nodded.

"For what reason?" Long Xi asked in an odd tone.

Lu Yin licked his lips. "Actually, they're going to be my ancestors as well. My name's going to be officially added to the main family's genealogy."

Long Xi stared blankly at Lu Yin, feeling rather incredulous at his claims. "You? Why? I'm missing, so how can the main family accept you?"

Lu Yin nodded. "They've already accepted me, and everything is just about to happen."

"What did you do? You're not even a member of my White Dragon Clan to begin with! Your surname is Lu-" Long Xi no longer sounded calm. Instead, she sounded torn as she rambled quietly.

Lu Yin decided to tell Long Xi the truth, so he shared how he was about to be accepted as Humility Gate's Commander's disciple, as well as what had happened on the rear battlefield. "So that's why the

White Dragon clan doesn't just want to add my name to the main family—they also want to find me a good Lockbreaker teacher. They want me to excel as an Array Master and have me become the pride of the White Dragon Clan."

The longer Long Xi stared at Lu Yin, the more unbelievable she felt his story was. Could this really be happening? She was not particularly surprised that her clan had not managed to uncover Lu Yin's true identity, but for them to add this particular outsider to the clan's main family, especially since his surname was Lu, was a terrible joke.

"So, what's the proper etiquette for worshiping the ancestors? Can you teach me?" Lu Yin carefully asked.

Long Xi glared at him. "You're an outsider! Why would you think I would help you become a member of the main family? Why should I teach you anything?"

Lu Yin had already known that she would say this. "I'm your husband."

"You are not."

"Yes."

"No."

Why did this exchange feel so familiar? Lu Yin felt helpless. "Let's make things clear: I am already on Dragon Mountain right now, and I'll worship the ancestors in just a few more days. As soon as they discover that I'm not from the White Dragon clan, they'll definitely kill me. If I die, all of you will be trapped in here forever because no one even knows that Zenith Mountain exists. No one realizes that I have a hidden world, and that's not even considering how Zenith Mountain is always stored in my cosmic ring.

"If anyone knew that this place existed, you would have already been rescued, but no one knows you're here. How many years do you think you would remain trapped in here for? How many years can you endure?"

"Are you threatening me?" Long Xi glared at Lu Yin with cold eyes.

Lu Yin shrugged. "I already know that you're not afraid of death, but the day I worship the ancestors is also the day I worship the commander as my master."

Lu Yin then pulled out one of the invitations that the White Dragon Clan had distributed and tossed it over to Long Xi. "See for yourself. On that day, the four ruling powers, as well as people from the Middle Realm, and even the Lower Realm, will attend to witness the ceremony. You could even say that this will affect the entire Perennial World. If my identity is exposed at that moment, regardless of whether or not I die, the White Dragon Clan will be completely humiliated, especially since you, Long Xi, were the one to confirm my identity. Do you think that anyone will believe that you, The White Dragon Clan's princess, made a mistake when verifying me as a clan member?"

"Everyone will believe that you did it on purpose and that you pushed the entire White Dragon Clan into the abyss. This shame will plague the White Dragon Clan for countless years, and it will even be recorded down in history. Even more problematic is that, if my identity is exposed, it will come out that I

am from the Forsaken Land. That is not something that can be allowed, so how will the White Dragon Clan explain things? The White Dragon Clan will be left with no choice but to assume responsibility for the four Junior Progenitors being trapped and all that has come about from that.

"On top of that, I'm about to become the commander's disciple, which means that the White Dragon Clan will also have to weather the commander's wrath. A day that the White Dragon Clan intended to brag to the entire Perennial World will instead become a nightmare that will haunt the clan for countless years to come."

Lu Yin carefully enunciated each word, and Long Xi listened quietly. When Lu Yin finally finished, she looked up at him. "Are you finished?"

"That's it," Lu Yin replied.

Long Xi's eyes were emotionless. "If you are discovered, then you're dead, and so are we since we'll be trapped in here. If we're going to die, then what do the affairs of the living have to do with me?"

Lu Yin blinked; what was this logic that she was using?

"When Bai Shaohong wanted to force me to marry him, there was no one in the entire White Dragon Clan who was willing to marry me. All that my big brother Long Tian was concerned with regarding me was getting everything he needed, and even my father, Long Ke, never showed me much affection. Yet here I am, condemned to death, and yet, I am still supposed to bear the responsibilities of the clan. Not interested," Long Xi declared.

Lu Yin was helpless, and he could not fully process what he had just heard.

Long Xi closed her eyes, no longer wanting to speak with Lu Yin.

Lu Yin sighed. "Even if you don't care about anyone else, you should still think about yourself, right? I promise that I'll release you as soon as I get back to the Forsaken Land, and I'll also tell you how to return."

Long Xi was unfazed and kept her eyes closed.

"After all, it's just a couple--"

The next time Lu Yin spoke, Long Xi cut him off, "Shut up."

Lu Yin pursed his lips. "Well, don't you hate Bai Shaohong? In that case, how about an equal trade? I'll just kill him for you."

Long Xi stared at Lu Yin. "By yourself?"

Lu Yin's brows rose, and he started to grow uncomfortable. Long Xi had spoken as though Lu Yin could not measure up to any other man. He immediately took out the Void Rip sourcebox array that he had taken from Bai Shaohong. "Look for yourself. While you all were sitting in the Forgotten Ruins, I dealt with him. I just didn't say anything."

Long Xi sprang to her feet to observe the sourcebox array. She started to question the matter, but she was not fully convinced.

Lu Yin took out the fruit that he had taken, as it was something else that he had found in Bai Shaohong's cosmic ring. "There was also this."

"The Celestial Frost Fruit?" Long Xi was surprised, but then she said, "People can get those if they're willing to pay enough."

Lu Yin finally pulled out the delicate red flower. "What about this? This was also in Bai Shaohong's cosmic ring."

Seeing the red flower left Long Xi truly shocked. "A Fay Blossom?"

She turned to stare at Lu Yin in shock. "You really killed Bai Shaohong?"

Lu Yin nodded. "Actually, if you went out right now, you'd hear about it. The Celestial Frost Sect already knows that he's dead, and they're doing their best to capture me so that they can question me. If I get exposed, it won't just be the White Dragon Clan—the Celestial Frost Sect also won't drop this, so-" He gazed at Long Xi with a sincere expression. "I'm asking you to help me just this once."

Long Xi stared at the Fay Blossom, her emotions in chaos. These flowers were not something that just anyone could get and yet Lu Yin possessed both a Fay Blossom and a Celestial Frost Fruit. She was already almost completely convinced.

After hearing Lu Yin's explanation, she turned to look at him, her emotions in turmoil. "Why did you kill Bai Shaohong?"

Lu Yin answered firmly, "I had to kill him since he bullied you."

Would Long Xi believe this? Of course not, but it still sounded nice.

"After all, we're married," Lu Yin finished.

Long Xi let out another sigh. "Shut up."

She found such words grating on the ears. Lu Yin said nothing further, but Long Xi had already developed a headache.

"You could always just find a way to escape from Dragon Mountain," Long Xi said.

Lu Yin bitterly answered, "You're still refusing to help me?"

Long Xi shook her head. "Teaching you the etiquette to worship the ancestors is pointless, as there's also a blood test. Everyone's blood is unique. When I gave you my blood, it was able to trick a normal test from the clan, but there's no way that'll work for the test that they'll use this time. My blood will be recognized for what it is the moment it appears when you are worshiping the ancestors, and the same is true of even my brother's blood. Your own blood would also be recognized. Unless..."

At this point she hesitated.

Lu Yin's expression also changed. "Unless what?"

Long Xi continued in a more solemn tone, "Unless we can fundamentally change the blood. We would then be able to conceal your fake blood even when worshipping the ancestors, but it's impossible. Any blood from outside of the White Dragon Clan would never pass, and any blood from a clan member would also be discovered and ruin any efforts."

Lu Yin suddenly thought of something. "Are you saying that things would work out fine if your blood was more pure?"

Long Xi nodded.

"How can you make it more pure?" Lu Yin asked.

Long Xi stared at Lu Yin. "Open the three meridian points and completely awaken your potential, or with the Ancestor Python's blood."

Lu Yin felt speechless, as he had both options available.

"Which do you prefer?" Lu Yin asked.

Long Xi was startled at his question. "What does that mean?"

"Tell me which you want, and I'll give it to you."

Long Xi became rather amused and she looked at Lu Yin with an odd expression. "Do you really think that either option is easy to accomplish?"

"Is it complicated?" Lu Yin asked. He then took out the Ancestor Python's blood and tossed it over. "Try it."

Lu Yin had received this bottle of the Ancestor Python's blood from Long Ke before traveling to the battlefield behind the Mother Tree. Long Ke had given it to Lu Yin to appease him and as a bribe to tempt him into dealing with the side families, all so that Long Ke's position as clan patriarch would be more secure. Lu Yin did not even know how to use the blood, and at this moment, it had come in handy.

Chapter 1537: Extremes Must Be Reversed

Long Xi took the Ancestor Python's blood and examined it incredulously, but it was real.

"How- how did you get this?" She was completely gobsmacked, as this was not something that could be bought.

Lu Yin answered, "It doesn't matter how I got it. You can have it."

Long Xi frowned. It seemed as though Lu Yin was specifically trying to destroy her worldview. His combat power surpassed the four Junior Progenitors', and even with a false identity, he had somehow had gotten a hold of the Ancestor Python's blood. Almost no one in the entire White Dragon Clan had any of the Ancestor Python's blood, and only the patriarch and the Semi-Progenitor elders might have some.

She grew serious as she stared at Lu Yin and then lowered her head to speechlessly stare at the jar of the Ancestor Python's blood that she held.

"So? Will this work?" Lu Yin asked.

Long Xi nodded. "Yes."

She looked at Lu Yin. "I'll use it after you leave."

"I'm not from the White Dragon clan, so the Ancestor Python's blood's useless for me," Lu Yin commented.

Long Xi's eyes flashed. "Come find me in two days."

Lu Yin immediately left Zenith Mountain to wait for Long Xi to use the Ancestor Python's blood.

On Zenith Mountain, Long Xi sat down with the jar of the Ancestor Python's blood to start her breakthrough.

Even though it was not as effective as opening the three meridian points, members of the White Dragon Clan could also absorb the Ancestor Python's blood to greatly benefit their future cultivation. In other words, this meant that absorbing the blood would not lead to an immediate increase in strength. Long Xi had not received any before the trip to the Dominion Realm, as she would have used it long ago if it had granted immediate effects.

The Ancestor Python's blood improved the user's cultivation talent, not their actual strength.

Two days later, Lu Yin went to meet Long Xi.

She had changed a bit over the course of these two days. She seemed colder, but also paler and nobler.

Long Xi frowned as she casually threw the jar that had once held the Ancestor Python's blood back to Lu Yin. It currently held a single drop of her own blood. "You can merge that with your own blood before worshiping the ancestors."

Lu Yin was thrilled, and he solemnly put it away. He then suddenly thought of something. "If I use this blood while worshiping the ancestors, and then you come back in the future, won't the White Dragon Clan use this blood to accuse you of knowingly helping me?"

Long Xi indifferently replied, "It doesn't matter. I'll just say that you forced me."

Lu Yin had also thought of that answer. Wait a minute, the people on Zenith Mountain were supposed to be his prisoners, so how could they make so much trouble for him?

"Can you teach me the necessary etiquette now?" Lu Yin asked expectantly.

Long Xi stared at him and let out a silent sigh. "Let's start."

...

Learning the ritual to worship the ancestors was not difficult. Even though the movements for the ritual were cumbersome, cultivators were capable of memorizing the movements after seeing them once.

When worshiping the ancestors, it was important for a person to maintain a devout attitude throughout the ritual. Lu Yin knew that he had put on many such performances throughout his life, so this should not be a problem for him.

He left right after learning the proper aspects of the ritual. For some reason, he always felt like he was being groomed and trained when with Long Xi.

Although he wanted to see Luo Shen before he left the Zenith Mountain, he did not want to deal with that complicated matter just yet.

He still had several months remaining in the Timestop Space, and with his remaining time, Lu Yin planned to look into the Extremes Must Be Reversed battle technique.

This was Progenitor Ku's battle technique, and Lu Yin had been quite impressed by the withered creatures that he had fought against in the Dominion Realm's Withered Glory Region. Whenever the creatures were attacked, they would only grow stronger, unless the power of the attack exceeded a certain limit.

Lu Yin had no desire to actually use this battle technique, as he saw no benefit to withering himself. However, it was still possible to research the technique.

The battle technique had entrenched itself into Lu Yin's mind, though it was not without reason that he wanted to learn it. After all, it was a Progenitor's battle technique.

After thinking about it, Lu Yin sat down cross-legged and started carefully mentally reviewing the Extremes Must Be Reversed battle technique.

Right when Lu Yin entered the Timestop Space, Xia Xing, the lord of Shenwu's Sky who had arrived at Dragon Mountain early, met with a certain person: the great elder of the White Dragon Clan, Ni Huang.

The White Dragon Clan was one of the four ruling powers, and they naturally had more than a single Semi-Progenitor powerhouse. Ni Huang was another such Semi-Progenitor, and he was just as famous as the All-Dao family's Wan Zhiyi, who had been renowned for being the Semi-Progenitor closest to becoming a Progenitor. Ni Huang was the White Dragon Clan's second most powerful person, and he always remained at Dragon Mountain to stand guard over the clan.

"Junior Xia Xing greets Senior Ni Huang."

"Many years have passed. I did not expect the child from back then to now become the master of Shenwu's Sky."

"Might I ask why senior has asked this junior to come see him?" While facing Ni Huang, even though Xia Xing referred to himself as the junior, he actually had a very indifferent attitude. He was the master of Shenwu's Sky, so if he was meeting Ni Huang in an official capacity, there was no difference in status between them.

However, Xia Xing had heard stories of Ni Huang during his childhood.

"Your daughter is not married yet," Ni Huang stated.

Xia Xing was taken aback. He had not expected Ni Huang to suddenly bring up Xia Taili. Her marriage had practically nothing to do with the White Dragon Clan, as their clan members typically did not marry outsiders.

Some time later, Xia Xing left, though no one knew what they had discussed, not even Long Ke.

Inside the Timestop Space, Lu Yin did not know how much time had passed, but he suddenly felt that something was off with his arms, prompting him to open his eyes. When he looked down, his pupils shrank to pinpoints when he saw that his arms had shriveled, even his bones.

He was startled by what he saw, and he immediately stopped practicing Extremes Must Be Reversed. Only when his arm eventually recovered did a profound wave of relief wash over him.

Fortunately, he had noticed in time, as otherwise his entire body would have withered. If that had happened, then he would have had to rely on others to return his body to normal, which would have its own bevy of problems. If he showed up to worship the ancestors with the body of a desiccated corpse, he could very well imagine that the White Dragon Clan's Long Zu might jump down from the Dominion Realm in outrage.

Lu Yin once again realized how miraculous this battle technique was as it could force a person's body to an extreme state, but it was almost the same as gaining a second life. Lu Yin could not even imagine how Progenitor Ku had come up with such a thing.

It was no surprise why the legends had claimed that Progenitor Ku had mastered the secret of immortality. He had definitely been able to completely wither his own body, which would allow him to survive for a long time, much like cryostasis.

Cryostasis was used to preserve one's life, while Extremes Must Be Reversed brought about a reversal of vitality. Comparing these two options side by side, the battle technique could preserve a person's body for much longer than cryostasis.

However, this preservation was just a side-effect of cultivating the battle technique, as it could also instantly reduce an opponent to ash, just like what Lu Yin had seen on the ancient battlefield. Using self-destruction to eliminate the enemy was a very difficult attack to counter.

Even though Lu Yin was thoroughly impressed by the power and utility of this battle technique, it was, unfortunately, one that he could not use.

He let out a silent sigh. Maybe one day, after he grew old, he would be able to practice this battle technique. Then, perhaps he would be able to reverse his vitality, restore his youth, and live forever. However, if he became a Progenitor, there would be no need to cultivate this particular technique.

The scenery changed before his eyes, and Lu Yin returned to the real world where only a second had passed.

Hidden Dragon Lake was a very beautiful location. Lu Yin found that he quite enjoyed sitting next to the lake and watching the planets move about beneath his feet as the various civilizations developed. The lake had various restrictions in place that would destroy anyone who wanted to escape from the various planets within the lake. However, there were exceptions in place as well, and anyone who managed to exploit those exceptions to escape the lake would be accepted by the White Dragon Clan and become a guard.

Status determined everything. Anyone who managed to leave their home planet would be the most talented person in their entire civilization, but after reaching the outside world, they would learn that they were nothing more than an ordinary cultivator.

A group of people arrived in the distance, and Lu Yin looked over to see that they were led by Xiao Qing, who was Long Xi's maid. Lu Yin had actually completely forgotten about this particular maid.

"I greet the family's son-in-law." Xiao Qing bowed, and the more than a dozen maids following behind her bowed as well. "We greet the family's son-in-law."

Lu Yin had to ask, "Xiao Qing?"

Xiao Qing's face remained calm. "The patriarch ordered us to serve the family's son-in-law."

Lu Yin declined. "There's no need. I don't need anything."

Xiao Qing whispered, "We are here at the clan patriarch's orders, so please don't humiliate us."

Lu Yin thought for a moment. "Alright, I'll do this much for you: you can stay, but I don't need you to actually do anything for me."

"Thank you my lord," Xiao Qing replied. With that, all of the maids entered Lu Yin's quarters and began to clean for him.

Lu Yin rarely ever had anyone care for him after he had started cultivating. In King Zishan's palace, there was Zhao Ran, but she could not really be considered a servant. Having so many maids present actually pushed Lu Yin's comfort zone.

Xiao Qing stayed close to Lu Yin and observed him.

Lu Yin did not even need to turn around to know what Xiao Qing was doing. "Is there something that you want to ask me?"

Xiao Qing answered in a quiet and respectful tone, "Xiao Qing does not dare."

Lu Yin turned around to face the woman. "I don't know where Long Xi is right now. We were separated when we were in the Dominion Realm."

"Yes, Xiao Qing knows this," she replied.

Lu Yin knew that Xiao Qing had a good relationship with Long Xi. Thus, he made a point of saying something before falling silent.

After a while, Xiao Qing suddenly asked, "Are you planning to leave Hidden Dragon Lake soon?"

Lu Yin was curious as to why she would ask such a thing. "I shouldn't be going anywhere before the ceremony to worship the ancestors. Why?"

Xiao Qing answered in a quiet voice, "Before arriving, I saw clansmen from the branch families gather. Among them were Young Master Long Zhang, Long Jue, and several of the branch families' disciples. It looked like they wanted to come here to convince my lord to leave Hidden Dragon Lake and cause some trouble."

Lu Yin laughed. "You heard them?"

Xiao Qing remained respectful. "Yes."

Lu Yin turned back around to stare out at Hidden Dragon Lake. The other clan members were not able to enter this region of Dragon Mountain, so the only way they could cause any trouble was if Lu Yin left the lake. Even though Xiao Qing had not said anything, Lu Yin had not forgotten about how Qing Chen had mentioned that the Commander did not like impulsive people and that he preferred people who remained calm and were not swayed by their emotions.

However, wasn't Long Zhang looking to create trouble the perfect opportunity for Lu Yin to reveal a bit of his true nature?

If the Commander really was Mister Mu, then he was already Lu Yin's master and knew Lu Yin quite well. But if the Commander was not Mister Mu, then this situation might give Lu Yin a way to escape accepting a new master. Otherwise, Lu Yin did not have any idea how he could explain himself to Mister Mu.

"Xiao Qing, what do you think those people with Long Zhang will do to try to lure me out?" Lu Yin asked.

Xiao Qing shook her head. "I don't know."

Lu Yin looked out at Hidden Dragon Lake and muttered, "I hope you've at least got a brain, as it won't be any fun otherwise."

He then suddenly said, much louder, "Xiao Qing, do you have a fishing rod?"

The planets within Hidden Dragon Lake trembled. Staring into the lake was like staring into the sky even though it was all under water. However, an invisible power kept all of the planets isolated from each other and the water.

On Dragon Mountain, no matter if it was Hidden Dragon Lake or any of the other lakes, people were not ordinarily allowed to fish, but Lu Yin was allowed to do so.

Lu Yin laughed as an odd fish the size of a mountain leaped out of the water on the far side of the lake and crashed back into the lake. The impact jostled the entire island.

The next day, someone challenged Lu Yin from outside Hidden Dragon Lake.

"Young Master Long Qi, the son of the Wulong branch family has come to issue a challenge." A maid approached Lu Yin and made a report in a respectful manner.

"Okay!" Lu Yin shouted loudly, startling the maid. Xiao Qing was nearby, and the young master of the Wulong branch family by the edge of Hidden Dragon Lake jumped too. Then, the lake itself started to surge from the excessive energy blasted out from Lu Yin.

The young master of the Wulong Branch was a Cruiser, which was considered decent for his age, but since he was a member of the four ruling powers, this was not very impressive. He could not even compare to Long Jue.

Chapter 1538: Arrogance

The Wulong branch family, the Long Quan branch family, and several other branch families had united to stand up to the main family. The youths from the various branch families were the ones currently attempting to lure Lu Yin away from Hidden Dragon Lake.

Given that Long Qi's ceremony to accept Humility's Gate's Commander as his master was imminent and that he would also perform the ritual to worship the clan's ancestors at the same time, the youths all expected it to be very difficult to lure Long Qi away from Hidden Dragon Lake. For this reason, they had prepared several back-up plans. For example, they had intended to gradually reveal how a young man from the Wulong branch family might have had a relationship that had exceeded mere friendship with Long Xi. If Long Qi was able to endure even that, then they had even more prepared.

They had even taken Xiao Qing into account when creating their plans—one of their plans was to bully Xiao Qing in order to anger Lu Yin.

They had spent several days developing their plans before finally taking action.

However, they had never expected that the moment the Wulong branch family's young master uttered his first provocation—no, he did not even make it that far! A single word of challenge had triggered Long Qi into responding with the aura of someone who was absolutely unrivaled by any peer.

At the edge of Hidden Dragon Lake, the young master of the Wulong branch family blankly stared on as Lu Yin tore through the void. The youth was frightened to the point where he almost pissed himself. Weren't only Envoys and above supposed to be able to tear through the void? In their generation, he had only ever heard of Junior Progenitor Long Tian being capable of accomplishing such a feat. What the hell was going on?

Xiao Qing also froze for a moment as she stared at the empty chair before her. Lu Yin had been calmly sitting in it to fish while the wind blew and the rain fell outside. It seemed only natural that he would remain unmoved by such provocations. Was this really the same person who had captured multiple Redbacks, fought on the battlefield behind the Mother Tree, and become the pride of Humility's Gate? What had just happened?

Lu Yin emerged from the void to confront the young master of the Wulong branch family by shouting, "Are you the one who challenged me?"

The youth's mouth fell open, and his face went pale. He started to panic out of sheer terror.

Some distance away, Long Zhang, Long Jue, and all of the other youths were stunned silly; was Long Qi really lured out that easily? How many days had they spent planning?

"Hey, I asked if you're the one who challenged me! Do you think that you are better than me, Long Qi? I fought on the rear battlefield and was able to gain the attention of a powerful Progenitor!" Lu Yin shouted. His fists were clenched, and he looked quite upset.

The young master gulped. "Did I say that?"

"So it really is you." Lu Yin's expression grew sharper. "Alright, go ahead. Do your best!"

The young master swallowed his saliva a second time, and he shot a helpless look towards Long Jue and the others. Things were not going according to plan! The Wulong branch's young master had never really intended to fight against Long Qi. They were not trying to actually fight, just pick one!

Lu Yin glared. "What are you waiting for? Attack!"

The young master from the Wulong branch family trembled and finally forced out a whisper, "Are you Long Qi?"

"Yes!" Lu Yin shouted loudly, startling the young master so badly that his heart skipped a beat. "I'm sorry, I've troubled the wrong person. I was hoping to challenge Xiao Qing."

Lu Yin was stunned. "You... want to challenge Xiao Qing?"

The young master's face was utterly serious. "Yes! I'm here for Xiao Qing! Please send her out, as I wish to challenge her."

Lu Yin had always felt that Ku Wei, Elder Tan from the Blaze Realm, and the others he had met were already shameless enough, but this young master from the Wulong branch family had surpassed them all! Challenging a maid? Lu Yin actually blushed in the youth's place for being thick-skinned enough to vocalize such a request.

The young master also felt humiliated, but compared to being beaten viciously, he would rather be humiliated. He already regretted his actions, but he had been given the task of starting trouble with Long Qi, and he could not back down at this point.

Lu Yin felt that these youths did not even know how to stir up trouble. Exasperated, he rolled his eyes and looked into the distance where Long Zhang and the others were waiting.

Long Zhang and Lu Yin stared at each other. Long Zhang was startled, but then he boldly stated, "Brothers, Long Qi has shown himself, so this is an opportunity to ruin his reputation. He won't dare to act up too much at a time like this."

The gathered youths all summoned their courage and stepped forward. All of them had been badly frightened by the scene of Lu Yin tearing through the void, and the Wulong branch's young master would not have been this frightened if he had not witnessed that scene. Currently, that fear was gripping everyone else's heart as well.

Long Jue had a stern expression on his face as he stepped forward to face Lu Yin.

Lu Yin ignored the Wulong branch's young master. The youth had been abandoned. "Long Jue?"

Long Jue shot towards Lu Yin and landed one hundred meters away from him. The young master's voice was deep as he spoke. "Long Qi, if I had been the one to visit the Dominion Realm with the Junior Progenitor, then he would not have ended up trapped, and our princess would not have disappeared."

Lu Yin laughed. "You would have stopped all of that by yourself?"

"Long Qi, is that how you speak to your brothers from the same clan? Do you still feel any kinship with your clan? I think that you've become arrogant and no longer care about any of us!" Long Zhang shouted, inciting boos from the surrounding clan members.

They were all completely confident that Lu Yin would not dare do anything to them at this time; if they thought that there was the slightest chance of him responding to their challenge, then they would have never had the courage to approach Lu Yin. Everyone would be cautious during the period leading up to the moment when they would accept a Progenitor as a master, and even the Junior Progenitors would be cautious. Thus, they felt that there was no possibility of Lu Yin acting rashly.

Unfortunately, Lu Yin's thoughts had gone in the exact opposite direction, and he attacked without any hesitation. The slap sent Long Zhang flying several hundred meters back, and when he came to a stop, half of his face was swollen up, and his vision had grown so blurry that he could not see anything. He passed out, but not before spitting out several teeth.

All of the nearby clansmen were stunned, even Long Jue.

Lu Yin lowered his hand, his eyes blazing. "I didn't like the way that he was speaking."

Everyone stared at him blankly; what the hell was that excuse?

Long Jue was shocked. "Long Qi, you actually dare to act against us?"

Lu Yin stared at Long Jue. "Why wouldn't I?"

Long Jue clenched his fist and ground his teeth. "You are too arrogant!"

A figure approached from the distance. This person was an elder from one of the White Dragon Clan's branch families. He had been aware that Long Zhang and others were planning on causing trouble for Long Qi, and he had been keeping an eye on them the entire time just to be safe. The elder showed himself as soon as he saw Long Zhang be slapped away. "What's going on here? Who hit someone for no reason?"

"Elder, it's Long Qi! Long Qi is looking down on our branch families, and he even took the initiative to strike Long Zhang!" a branch descendant wailed.

The elder glared at Lu Yin. "Long Qi, is this true?"

Lu Yin lifted his head. "Don't you have eyes? Are you blind?"

Lu Yin did not even need to guess to know that this elder was helping the branch families' descendants. Even though Lu Yin wanted to make a commotion, he still felt that the clan's main family was too useless.

"Long Qi, it is nearly time for you to worship the ancestors! Your behavior is too reckless! You should know that once word of your actions spread, not only will your reputation be ruined, but you will also disappoint the commander, and he might no longer accept you as his disciple! This will ruin my White Dragon Clan's reputation! Do you even realize how many important guests Dragon Mountain is currently hosting?" the branch elder shouted fiercely.

Lu Yin was completely unconcerned. "Old man, you think far too highly of yourself. What right do you have to intervene in who Humility Gate's Commander selects as his disciple?"

The elder grew furious. He was a powerful Envoy, but he was currently being ignored by an impetuous youth like Long Qi. The elder wanted to teach Long Qi a lesson, but he had also seen Lu Yin tear through the void, which had piqued the old man's envy. Not to mention, Long Qi was about to worship the clan's ancestors and become the disciple of a powerful Progenitor, both of which further intimidated the elder.

He had shown himself because he had been completely confident that Long Qi would not remain arrogant before a clan elder. The elder had never thought that he would be insulted, but to the elder's great irritation, the youth was far too arrogant.

"Long Qi, your personality is twisted! This old man will definitely report this matter to the grand elder!" the branch elder threatened.

The various youths in the area all opened their mouths to support the elder.

Lu Yin frowned. "Noisy."

As he spoke, his body flickered, and he appeared overhead. He slapped down with a hand: Vacuum Palm. He even used several stacks, making the attack powerful enough to suppress everyone present, including the elder.

No one here had even considered that Lu Yin would be bold and brazen enough to actually attack, especially not a clan elder. In particular, the elder was so infuriated by Lu Yin's actions that he instantly used the White Dragon Transformation and actively suppressed all star energy in the area. Unfortunately, he belatedly discovered that Lu Yin was not using any star energy, which meant that there was nothing for the Envoy to suppress. Lu Yin did not use a fast Vacuum Palm to attack the other youths, instead focusing the attack to produce a powerful blast of wind that swept all of the clan members away. Although the elder felt a tightness in his chest, Lu Yin's attack was no issue, so the Envoy raised his hand, brought out his spear, and thrust it forward.

This spear entered the true universe before reemerging unseen. The elder had attacked from an unexpected angle to stab at the back of Lu Yin's neck.

However, Lu Yin reached back with a hand and casually grabbed the spear shaft, preventing the elder from retracting it.

The elder was horrified; how was this possible?

Lu Yin held the spear in place with a hand that was shrouded in a golden battle force. With this reinforcing his already shocking physical strength, he could even recklessly contest gray-eyed corpse kings at the Envoy level. Thus, there was no need to even mention an elder from a branch family whose power level barely surpassed 500,000. If the elder was not capable of using the White Dragon Transformation, then Lu Yin would not have even needed to use his golden battle force.

Lu Yin lashed out with a foot, forcing the elder to let go of his spear and enter the true universe. However, Lu Yin accelerated and also entered the true universe, where he confronted the elder's shocked eyes with a Vacuum Palm.

The elder was not able to evade Lu Yin's attack, and he was summarily smashed out of the true universe and into Hidden Dragon Lake with a loud bang.

This sight caused all of the branch families' clan members to turn even paler as they realized that even Envoy realm clan elders could not stand up to Long Qi!

The Wulong branch's young master was currently lying on the ground after being knocked down by the shockwave from Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm. Previously, he had thought that Long Qi was nothing more than hot air, but after seeing that even a branch family elder had been defeated, The young master was delighted by his decision to avoid personally fighting Long Qi. The Wulong branch's young master wasn't off the rails yet.

The branch elder coughed up blood within Hidden Dragon Lake. Lu Yin had not held back his Vacuum Palm at all. The Envoy had been enraged, and he had attacked Lu Yin in anger, thrusting a spear at a junior. However, even when the elder had despicably tried to hide the tip of his spear, Lu Yin had unexpectedly avoided the attack and grabbed the spear shaft. It was quite obvious that Lu Yin had anticipated the Envoy's attack.

Once the elder took out a weapon, Lu Yin had been able to predict all of the old man's possible actions. The elder had used a spear for many years, and he had even developed his own attacks and specially trained his thrusting speed. But despite that, Lu Yin had received an inheritance from the Sword Monument, allowing him to easily read the elder's movements with nothing but a glance. This was why it had been so easy for Lu Yin to disable the elder's attack and even disarm him.

The elder repeatedly attacked several times, but he was never able to touch the spear that Lu Yin had taken. In fact, the tip of the spear even twirled around the elder's neck a few times, horrifying him. This youth's skills were far above his!

How was this possible? How was this possible? How many years had this child trained for? How could his understanding of the spear have reached such an unimaginable level? How was this even possible?

There was another bang as the spear shot past the elder's ear before swinging down and smacking the elder back into Hidden Dragon Lake.

Lu Yin held the spear in one hand as he stood proudly in the void and gazed down at the crowd.

Many of the youths stared at Lu Yin in fear, and even Long Jue felt his hands and feet grow cold. He felt that even Junior Progenitor Long Tian might not be this strong. Was it actually possible for Long Qi to match or even surpass Junior Progenitor Long Tian? That had to be impossible!

On this day, the word "impossible" was the one spoken most by the White Dragon Clan's members, as everything that they had once accepted to be true had been overturned.

Chapter 1539: New Heights

"What are you doing?" Long Kui appeared at this moment, causing everyone to freeze in place as he stared at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's eyes focused, but he acted neither servile nor arrogantly before Long Kui. "These members of the branch families challenged me, and I was asked to fight."

"Challenged?" Long Kui glanced at Long Jue and others. "Are you all here to challenge Long Qi?"

Long Jue gritted his teeth and tried to deny it, but at this moment, the branch family elder rushed up from the depths of the lake, gasping for breath. "Elder Long Kui, this Long Qi is too arrogant and has a twisted personality! Elder Long Kui, please report this matter to the clan patriarch and the grand elder."

Long Kui frowned and turned back towards Lu Yin. "Long Qi, what's going on here?"

Lu Yin smiled gently. "A bunch of trash came here looking for trouble."

The branch elder was infuriated by this response. "Elder Long Kui, you heard him! This Long Qi is so arrogant that he dares to speak such vicious words! He brings shame to my White Dragon Clan!"

Long Kui stared at Lu Yin; why had this kid's attitude changed so abruptly?

Lu Yin looked up at Long Kui. "These people wanted to make me fail to become a Progenitor's disciple, which means that they are seeking death. They're lucky that I didn't kill them outright."

Long Kui instantly understood. For Long Qi, gaining a Progenitor as a master was a huge matter, and anyone who stood in the way of that goal would be his enemy. Long Qi viewed enemies as beings whom he could not exist with, and so his cruelty was understandable. It was no wonder why he had even attacked an elder from a branch family. "Long Qi, return to Hidden Dragon Lake for now, and I will inform the patriarch of this matter."

Lu Yin tossed the spear aside before turning around and leaving.

The spear fell into the lake. The elder clenched his teeth so hard that his gums bled; that was his weapon! He had crafted it after spending many years gathering all the materials, and it could not be destroyed by weapons of a similar level. And yet, it had been casually thrown away. He wanted to go pick it up, but he could not afford to do that and look inferior to that child.

As for asking Long Qi to recover the spear, the elder was not dumb enough to even consider making such a request. It was clear at a glance that Long Qi did not care about the elder at all.

It was impossible for the elder to defeat Long Qi, and he could not even suppress the youth with his position as an elder! No branch family elder had ever suffered this kind of humiliation at Dragon Mountain before.

Long Kui looked at the branch family elder and quietly said, "This is Hidden Dragon Lake, so why were you loitering about here? You will also need to explain yourself to the clan patriarch and the grand elder."

The branch family elder gritted his teeth as he replied, "I came here to congratulate Long Qi, and my juniors wanted to see Long Qi and find out what sort of person he is."

Long Kui sneered. "You are on Dragon Mountain, and there is nothing that happens here without escaping the grand elder's eyes. Say whatever you want, but the grand elder will be the one to pass judgment on you."

Long Kui then turned and left.

The elder's expression changed drastically. The grand elder, Ni Huang, never showed himself, and the branch family elder had actually forgotten about the grand elder's ability to peer through the sky and

the earth. The elder quickly reviewed all of his actions, but felt relieved after a moment. He felt that he had never once taken any excessive actions, or said anything out of place. Instead, it had been that bastard Long Qi who had seized the initiative and mouthed off.

It was at this moment that the elder realized something; they had intended to harass and later slander Long Qi, so how had they ended up as the victims? From the beginning, even before they could take action, Lu Yin had seized the upper hand by striking first and pushed them into a corner.

That bastard!

Long Zhang woke up, but no one paid any attention to him. Many of the other disciples returned in silence, all of them shocked by Lu Yin's strength. Even though his cultivation had once been unimpressive, he seemed to have already reached the same level of strength as Junior Progenitor Long Tian! After Long Qi gained a Progenitor as his master, his status would completely change. He was not someone whom they should provoke.

The young master of the Wulong branch family sucked in a deep breath through his teeth due to the pain. He took one last look at Hidden Dragon Lake and then fled in terror.

After returning to the island, Lu Yin returned to leisurely fishing, acting as though nothing had happened.

Xiao Qing and other maids had all seen what had happened outside Hidden Dragon Lake. The other maids became frightened by Lu Yin, but Xiao Qing's eyes revealed complicated thoughts. She thought back to the first time that she had laid eyes on Long Qi. Back then, he had been completely useless, and the princess had had to take care of him. She had used the White Dragon Surveying the Sky to trap him, and yet he had climbed to such heights in these short years. If the princess knew of his transformation, she would be delighted!

No matter what, Long Qi was Xiao Qing's charge for the time being, and the princess had declared that no one was allowed to bully her husband. However, her husband had become the one bullying others instead.

Long Kui intended to report the incident at Hidden Dragon Lake to Long Ke, but he was stopped when he was only halfway there. He turned around and returned to Hidden Dragon Lake to see Lu Yin. "Long Qi, the grand elder wishes to see you."

Xiao Qing and the others were all shocked. The grand elder?

Lu Yin stood up. He had heard of Grand Elder Ni Huang before, as the man was a legendary figure whose status was far superior to Qing Chen's. Along the way to Dragon Mountain, Qing Chen had mentioned to Lu Yin that the White Dragon Clan's Grand Elder Ni Huang had reached the same level as the All-Dao family's Wan Zhiyi. If Wan Zhiyi was on the cusp of becoming a Progenitor, then it meant that Grand Elder Ni Huang was exactly the same.

People who had reached this level could rarely ever be found.

Grand Elder Ni Huang stayed beneath Dragon Mountain, though Lu Yin did not know how far down he needed to go. After Long Kui left, Lu Yin started looking around.

He was currently at the bottom of Dragon Mountain. There was a soft blue light illuminating the area, and strange luminous plants floated in the air. The entire place was very beautiful.

The sound of a stream of water gently gurgling could be heard off in the distance, and a clear spring stream flowed underfoot. Lu Yin could see tiny stars revolving within the water.

Lu Yin stared at the stars in the water. He had never seen such tiny stars before. Each one was like a regular star, but the size of an ant. He could destroy one with a slap, crush one with a single hand.

"For ants, each one is a world that can never be escaped, but for us, they are something that can be easily destroyed. This is the perspective that one achieves at the top." An ancient voice spoke, but there was no one to be seen. Lu Yin only heard the voice.

His expression becoming solemn, Lu Yin slowly bowed. "Junior Long Qi greets Grand Elder Ni Huang."

"Long Qi, you have already reached a height that surpasses many, many people. Going forward, there is no need for you to pay any attention to mere ants. Instead, your vision should be fully occupied with becoming a Progenitor." The ancient voice spoke once more.

Lu Yin replied, "I understand, Grand Elder."

"Senior Mu Xie, Humility's Gate's Commander, is a very refined individual. Even though he is the one who directs the killing blade of Humility's Gate, he has no desire to cause trouble. I will suppress today's matter for you, but in the future, you cannot be reckless and fight with other internal factions of our clan. Nothing that they do has anything to do with you. As long as the commander becomes your master, I will arrange a marriage that will catapult you into the heavens."

Lu Yin was taken aback. "A marriage? But this junior is already the main family's son-in-law. I have already married Long Xi."

"As I said, you no longer need to pay attention to such matters. Main family or branch family, such things are worth nothing to you. Your name will become a part of the main family's genealogy, and even though this is nothing more than just a formality, it means that your status is no longer just that of a son-in-law, but rather that of being a direct heir of my White Dragon Clan. Your status is now equal to Long Tian's, which means that very few people hold the status to marry you. Do you have someone you care for?"

Lu Yin had no idea how to answer, as he had never expected to be thrown into such a conversation. Grand Elder Ni Huang was essentially bypassing the clan's main family! Was the main family that easily ignored? Probably not. Could it be that it was because even the current main family of the clan was actually just a branch family that had taken the main family's position?

"You don't have anyone? Then how about Xia Taili?"

Lu Yin was startled. "Elder, that- that would not be good."

"I have already discussed this matter with Shenwu's Sky's Xia Xing. This matter was not just decided by my conversation with Xia Xing, and it also reflects the wishes of Progenitor Long and Progenitor Xia. There's no need for you to worry about this matter. Go back for now, but don't be rash again. You need to focus on paying your respects to a Progenitor as your master. Prepare yourself well. No one will

disturb you again during this time. Your name will soon be added to the main family's genealogy. By this, I do not mean the Long Kui family's branch, but rather the White Dragon Clan. The main family of the entire clan."

After hearing these words, Lu Yin's vision fractured, and his body was suddenly sucked into a crack. He reappeared far away from the bottom of Dragon Mountain, and he found that Long Kui was close by.

Lu Yin had an odd expression on his face. He felt both helpless and speechless; how could there be another marriage already arranged for him? Did he look like he enjoyed being married that much?

His marriage to Xia Taili was essentially a marriage between the White Dragon Clan and Shenwu's Sky. Adding in Humility's Gate's Commander, it was a union of three Progenitors, which would become the greatest power in the Higher Realm. The Celestial Frost Sect had been too overbearing recently, and this marriage was also being forced by their actions.

However, no matter how anyone looked at the situation, Lu Yin felt that he was the unluckiest one in the entire matter.

Xia Taili was a little firecracker who was not easy to deal with, and Lu Yin would not be surprised if she wanted to kill him.

Long Kui said nothing at all to Lu Yin, and he simply escorted him back to Hidden Dragon Lake before leaving. However, he did say one thing right before departing. "Grandmaster Qiu Ling has been invited to my Dragon Mountain to observe your upcoming ceremony."

Grandmaster was a title that was unique to Array Grandmasters. This meant that Grandmaster Qiu Ling was an Array Grandmaster.

There was only one reason for them to invite an Array Grandmaster, and it was obvious at first glance. This person was being invited as they were being asked to accept Lu Yin as an apprentice.

The White Dragon Clan wanted to show off Long Qi becoming a disciple of a Progenitor at the same time that he became an apprentice of an Array Grandmaster.

"Young Master, a guest stopped by right after you left," Xiao Qing respectfully informed Lu Yin.

Lu Yin had to ask, "Is the guest still here?"

Grand Elder Ni Huang had just told Lu Yin that no one would disturb him, so was this a blatant slap in the face?

However, Lu Yin's expression changed the very next instant, as he noticed a familiar face through his domain: Xia Taili. She had actually come.

Xia Taili also noticed that Lu Yin had returned, and her originally calm expression suddenly changed. She shouted in a rage, "Long Qi, you wretched bastard! You actually want to knock me up!"

Even as she screamed, she charged towards Lu Yin, and the Divine Martial Armor shrouded her body. She was clearly furious.

Lu Yin was speechless, and he raised a hand shrouded with golden battle force to block the Divine Martial Armor.

There was a bang, and the Divine Martial Armor was halted. Xia Taili raised a hand: "Xia Secret Art: Lock." As she shouted, the image of a lock appeared above Lu Yin's body, trapping him in place. This was a very odd secret technique.

Xia Taili waved a hand covered with Divine Martial Armor to fiercely attack Lu Yin.

With a flick of Lu Yin's hand, the Lock Secret Technique was shattered. He then raised a hand and released a Vacuum Palm.

Boom!

Shockwaves blasted out in all directions. Xiao Qing and the other maids were forced to continuously retreat, and a massive wave rippled out from the island in the lake, racing off into the distance. The Vacuum Palm passed by Xia Taili's ear and shattered the void.

Xia Taili hesitated and stared at Lu Yin in shock. The gap between them was just too vast. In particular, Long Qi had broken free of Xia Taili's Lock Secret Art even faster than Bai Shaohong had, but how was that possible?

Lu Yin helplessly said, "I had nothing to do with this. I didn't know until just a little bit earlier that such a thing was being discussed."

Xia Taili finally reacted. She stared at Lu Yin and gritted her teeth. "You didn't know?"

"I didn't know," Lu Yin repeated.

Xia Taili clearly did not believe him. "You're lying! I bet that you already made your decision! Ever since Long Xi went missing, you've been eyeing me, right? All you want is a princess from one of the four ruling powers! Long Qi, you really are ambitious!"

Lu Yin held his head. "I said that I didn't know, and I really didn't."

"Then how is it that you know now?"

"I just found out."

"Then you should have refused!"

"I can't refuse."

"You just attacked me! Long Qi, you're despicable! Shameless! You're shameless! You're an asshat!"

Lu Yin started getting upset. "Your brother's the asshat."

Xia Taili became completely enraged, and she even lost her breath. Her eyes went bloodshot, and she looked completely offended, but also as if she was about to cry.

Chapter 1540: Worshiping The White Dragon Clan's Progenitor

Lu Yin immediately developed a headache. "I swear, I really didn't know until just now, so if you're able to say no to this, then I'll do my best to refuse as well."

Xia Taili wiped her eyes and stubbornly retorted, "I don't believe you!"

Lu Yin pursed his lips, not knowing how he could get through to this girl.

Xia Taili stared at Lu Yin and carefully enunciated each word. "Listen carefully—if you really have the guts to marry me, I will castrate you. I'm going to practice my knife skills right now. My Xia family is quite skilled with blades."

She let out a snort before leaping up and fleeing from Hidden Dragon Lake.

Lu Yin's face twitched as he shivered from a sudden chill. He had suddenly recalled the summoned Progenitor Chen of Shang Chi's Tri-Yang Technique. That summon had wielded

a glowing knife in tandem with a technique that was able to interchange reality and illusion and cause people to change directions at will. It had been a chilling combination. True enough, the Xia family really did excel at using knives.

Xia Taili had already known about their arranged marriage, so did that mean that the Celestial Frost Sect also knew about it? No matter how well the White Dragon Clan and Shenwu's Sky tried to keep this matter hidden, it would be impossible to hide such a monumental decision from the Celestial Frost Sect or the Wang family!

Lu Yin truly had no desire to get married, and he hoped that some sort of falling out would occur between the two families. It would be even better if he was not accepted as the Progenitor's disciple.

After Shenwu's Sky arrived, the Wang family came next. The second of the four ruling powers to arrive was represented by Wang Si, an elder from the Wang family, and she was accompanied by her granddaughter, Wang Yun.

Grand Elder Ni Huang personally went out to receive Wang Si when she arrived. They were both Semi-Progenitors, and although it was reasonable to say that Wang Si was not from the same generation as Ni Huang, she held a special status. Thus, no one was surprised that Ni Huang personally greeted this particular guest.

The following day, Nong Ya, the patriarch of the Nong family, arrived with Nong Lie. Soon after that, Liu Song, the Liu family's hunched elder, also arrived.

Liu Song's arrival also aroused Ni Huang's attention, and the grand elder personally greeted the Liu elder as well.

Next, Mr. Tang from Virtue Archives arrived. He was not a Semi-Progenitor, though his reputation was no worse than one. This was because he was one of the rare individuals who had reached the ultimate realm of domains: the void realm.

"After so many years of not seeing you, senior remains the same as ever." Mr. Tang quickly bowed as soon as he saw Qing Chen. He gave off a scholarly demeanor and had an erudite air about him.

Qing Chen smiled. "Mr. Tang similarly has not changed. I wonder, is that old tree still in the academy? I still remember when you and I drank beneath that tree."

Mr. Tang sighed. "During the massive change back then, the academy was also affected, and the old tree burnt down."

Qing Chen felt somewhat nostalgic. "That's unfortunate, as drinking under that tree gave off a rather different atmosphere than other places."

Mr. Tang remained casual and relaxed. "Senior, if you would like, you can plant a tree at the academy. When that small tree grows up, you and I will be able to drink under it, and it'll be just as enjoyable."

"Haha, that sounds good." Qing Chen laughed.

"Naturally."

"Mr. Tang, you are one of the rare masters who have cultivated your domain to the void realm. I wonder, would you be interested in giving some pointers to a junior? The junior I'm referring to has cultivated his domain to the spirit manifestation realm, but he has gotten stuck." Qing Chen abruptly changed the topic.

Mr. Tang's eyes flickered. "I don't know which junior Senior Qing Chen is referring to. Who is it?"

"Long Qi," Qing Chen replied.

Mr. Tang was surprised. "I've heard that Senior Qing Chen holds Long Qi in high regard and that even the commander is interested in the youth. Hearing you speak up for the youth shows just how much you all value him."

Qing Chen nodded and continued on in a serious tone, saying, "Aside from his status in the White Dragon Clan, Long Qi has also captured multiple Redbacks while running the risk of blatantly offending the four ruling powers. On the rear battlefield, he saved tens of millions of people and repaired a defensive sourcebox array—his achievements were so high that he even caught the attention of the Twelve Marquises. This child is the most talented person I have ever encountered."

The supervisor then looked straight at Mr. Tang while saying, "I know that Virtue Archives doesn't care to teach anyone from the four ruling powers, but Long Qi is different."

Mr. Tang smiled in reply. "If the commander values the youth enough to accept him as a disciple, then this junior naturally understands. After Long Qi has worshiped his ancestors, and time permitting, then this junior will happily offer some advice. Of course, he can also visit Virtue Archives."

"Very well, it's settled then," Qing Chen said with a smile.

Mr. Tang smiled as though everything was as it should be.

Qing Chen really did regard Lu Yin very highly, and that had only increased after the commander had said that he wished to take the youth as his disciple. Qing Chen had thus come to view Lu Yin as his junior, and the older man had clearly seen how the four ruling powers' actions completely disgusted Lu Yin. This reassured Qing Chen, and he had let go of any possible concerns regarding Lu Yin's background

as a member of the White Dragon Clan. If that were not the case, then it would have been impossible for Qing Chen to speak up for Lu Yin like this no matter how impressive he thought the youth was.

Qing Chen had always felt that Lu Yin would bring about major changes to the Perennial World in the future.

Countless people from both the Middle Realm and the Higher Realm gathered at Dragon Mountain, and even individuals who did not normally qualify to set foot on Dragon Mountain had unexpectedly received the opportunity to enter.

The White Dragon Clan intended to take full advantage of Long Qi's status to improve their image, and Long Ke even wanted to use Lu Yin to stabilize the main family's position within the clan.

No fewer than twenty Envoys had arrived, and there were also several powerful Semi-Progenitors.

When Lu Yin heard this news, he could not help but think that there were more than enough experts had gathered at Dragon Mountain to destroy the entire Fifth Mainland, likely without any issues.

The scheduled day for Lu Yin to worship the ancestors drew closer and closer. Then, finally, the Celestial Frost Sect arrived.

The Celestial Frost Sect was represented by Sect Master Bai Teng, Elder Xi Zi, and an Elder Shi.

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Many of the people already at Dragon Mountain were shocked when they heard that Elder Shi was attending the ceremony. They were not surprised due to Elder Shi's impressive strength, but rather because he was famous for being too persistent.

Elder Shi, whose full name was Shi Xin,¹ was a powerhouse who had only passed his first tribulation. It had been an excessive amount since that tribulation, but he still had not attempted his next breakthrough yet. It was not because he would struggle to overcome his next stellar tribulation, but rather because he was unwilling to complete his breakthrough.

"Long ago, Shi Xin cultivated his battle force all the way to aurelian force, and he relied on that to cross realms and fight against Envoys. He's even comparable to the Seven Heroes from back then, but unfortunately, he failed when challenging them. However, he has always maintained his promise from back then to never breakthrough again. Even though the Celestial Frost Sect's master has ordered Elder Shi to complete his breakthrough, he still refuses. He was even punished and imprisoned for his disobedience. I never expected him to attend this ceremony," said an old man as he watched the Celestial Frost Sect's group enter Dragon Mountain.

Everyone around the old man heard his words, though some admired Elder Shi while others mocked him.

"Even though he's only a single tribulation Envoy, there is no one in the entire Perennial World at that cultivation realm who is his opponent. Even though the Celestial Frost Sect's Junior Progenitor was powerful enough to challenge Envoys with a higher cultivation, he has never challenged Elder Shi. This is because Elder Shi is invincible within his realm," another person said.

"Aurelian force is truly rare. Very few people cultivate battle force, and even fewer are ever able to cultivate it to aurelian force."

"It's such a pity that an amazing genius was buried alongside the Seven Heroes."

"By the way, which one of the seven managed to defeat him?"

"The rumors say that it was the seventh hero."

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The moment the people from the Celestial Frost Sect arrived at Dragon Mountain, they dismissed Long Ke, who had greeted them on behalf of the White Dragon Clan. Then, they immediately went to see the people from Shenwu's Sky.

"Princess Taili, please tell us once again what you saw at the Forgotten Ruins." Bai Teng and Elder Xi Zi both stared at Xia Taili. Their faces clearly showed that they would not leave unless she spoke.

Next to Xia Taili was Xia Xing.

"How many times has this princess told you this? You already asked me this when we first left the Dominion Realm! What else do you do other than repeat the same questions?" Xia Taili was already very upset and in a bad mood. So when Bai Teng showed up to force her to answer questions, she had instantly lost her temper.

Bai Teng grew furious, and he looked over at Xia Xing. "Old Xia, is this how your Shenwu's Sky raises your children?"

Before Xia Xing could even respond, Xia Taili leaped up with a grin. "You just did this princess a favor! Because of what you just said, this princess won't say anything more!"

"You!" Bai Teng was enraged.

Elder Xi Zi felt his head throbbing with pain. He had heard of Xia Taili's unruly reputation before, and he knew that it would be impossible to force the matter. He quickly grabbed Bai Teng before saying to Xia Xing, "Sect Master Xia, please forgive me, but Shaohong's death is not only a loss for my Celestial Frost Sect, but also a true loss for the entire Perennial World. He had a high chance of becoming a Progenitor in the future, but he died just like that! We must receive an explanation to give to the Perennial World.

"Our Progenitors are the strongest protection that our Perennial World has to offer."

Xia Xing nodded. "You elders are correct, but Taili has also already told you everything that she knows. She has spared no details at all, covering everything from the moment she first arrived at the Forgotten Ruins to when she left. She has not left anything out, and I cannot ask her to keep repeating herself for you."

Elder Xi Zi stared at Xia Taili, but the girl just snorted, deliberately antagonizing the elders. She was already upset, so no one should even think of pushing her around at this time.

Elder Xi Zi glanced past Xia Taili towards a young man standing in the corner. This young man had been present since they had first arrived, and he had maintained a respectful expression. If he were some ordinary disciple, he would have left long ago, but he had not.

"Might I ask who the disciple that Sect Master Xia has brought here is? Has this old man heard of him before?" Elder Xi Zi asked as he stared at the young man in the corner.

The young man met Elder Xi Zi's eyes and showed a faint smile before slowly bowing. "Luo Zhong greets the seniors from the Celestial Frost Sect."

Xia Xing explained, "This is a new disciple of Shenwu's Sky. His talent is quite decent, so I brought him along with me for training, though I haven't made much progress with him. You elders have not heard of him before."

Xia Taili rolled her eyes. "That's not necessarily true. These old guys might be more aware about my Shenwu's Sky than even you, Father."

Xia Xing's voice dropped low. "Taili, don't be rude."

Elder Xi Zi still did not become angry, though Bai Teng waved a hand. "Uncultured brat."

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He then left.

Elder Xi Zi politely dismissed himself.

Xia Xing stared at Bai Teng's back with contempt. The sect master was nothing more than a puppet for someone else, so he was not worth her concern.

Some time later, Xia Taili walked away from the people from the Celestial Frost Sect, already in a much better mood. She glanced behind. "Luo Zhong, let's go. Come train with this princess again."

"Yes, Princess." Luo Zhong's expression remained indifferent. His face was calm and had a slight smile that made people feel very comfortable. He was a calm youth who remained stubbornly respectful at all times, and he was also extremely talented in regards to cultivation. In just one year, he had risen up through the ranks of Shenwu's Sky's disciples until he was personally recognized by Sect Master Xia Xing.

After following Xia Taili away, Luo Zhong suddenly glanced over towards Hidden Dragon Lake and silently thought within his heart, Brother Lu, we will meet again.

After the people from the Celestial Frost Sect left Shenwu's Sky's quarters, they went to visit the Nong family, only to find that Nong Sanniang had not come to the Higher Realm. Nong Lie was the only youth accompanying Nong Ya, so the elders from the Celestial Frost Sect could only leave in frustration. They also wanted to speak with Long Qi, but the White Dragon Clan did not allow them to do so.

Lu Yin quietly waited on the island in Hidden Dragon Lake. Soon, ten days passed. High up in the sky, at a point where the altitude distorted one's sight, Dragon Mountain radiated a powerful light that shone throughout the entire Higher Realm. The day for Long Qi to worship the ancestors had finally come.

This ceremony on Dragon Mountain was a major event, as it was related to the prosperity of one of the four ruling powers of the Higher Realm, which meant that Dragon Mountain had become the focus of countless eyes.

On this day, Lu Yin changed into the unique clothes needed for worshipping the ancestors of the White Dragon Clan and then solemnly entered the Ancestral Dragon Altar that lay at the center of Dragon Mountain.