

ODYSSEY 1541

Chapter 1541: Progenitor Long's Blessing

The Ancestral Dragon Altar was located at the very center of Dragon Mountain, and it took up the highest point of the entire mountain. Even if one searched the entire Higher Realm, this was still one of the highest points in the entire Realm. The four ruling powers balanced each other, and so each of them had a location with a similar altitude. This meant that Lu Yin was about to step onto the peak of the Higher Realm. The only thing that would remain above him would be the Dominion Realm.

Countless people surrounded the Ancestral Dragon Altar in all directions. No matter how powerful the people gathered here were, at this moment, all of them could only look up at Lu Yin; even the Semi-Progenitors were not excluded. It was impossible for anyone to look down at him.

On the other hand, Lu Yin was looking down upon everyone.

"Worship the ancestors. Ascend the altar-"

Lu Yin was wearing the beautiful and unique ceremonial clothes that the White Dragon Clan had prepared for him. His face had a look of surprise, as in front of him was a massive statue of the Ancestor Python. The statue looked as though it had merged with the Mother Tree, and it radiated a small pressure. Lu Yin still remembered the first time he had seen the Ancestor Python and just how heart-pounding the sight had been. He could not imagine how a human could ever possibly fight against such a creature. The entire White Dragon Clan believed in the Ancestor Python because the Ancestor Python had given them strength.

Down below the Ancestral Dragon Altar, Nong Lie nervously watched Lu Yin. Even though the members of the Nong family were taught and trained to be humble from childhood, Lu Yin's current view was something that countless people in the Perennial World dreamed of seeing, and Nong Lie could not suppress his desire either.

As Lu Yin took his first step, the light that Dragon Mountain radiated increased by another level, and the light spread beyond the Higher Realm and projected what was happening atop Dragon Mountain to the Middle Realm.

Down in the Middle Realm, untold numbers of people looked up to see Dragon Mountain and Lu Yin worshipping the clan's ancestors. They enviously watched on as Lu Yin walked towards the Ancestral Dragon Altar, one step at a time.

In Humility's Gate's Huaiyuan Gate, Wang Dashuai's mouth fell open. Bro, Bro, have you reached the peak of life?

At the Smokecloud Sect, Semi-Progenitor Yun Wang had a complicated expression. Now that such a talented youth was rising up within the White Dragon Clan, the clan really had not been harmed by losing a Junior Progenitor.

At Blue Moon, in the home of a branch family of the Xia family, the family patriarch, Xia Ru, held his wife's slender waist as he gazed up with envy. He had gone to the Island of Hope with the intention of currying favor with Junior Progenitor Xia Shenfei, but he had failed. At this moment, he was looking at Lu Yin and seeing someone on the same level as Xia Shenfei.

To the side, Zhu Xian was feeling just as much envy. He occasionally looked over to meet Madam Xia's eyes, and he also looked at Xia Ru with eyes full of contempt and ridicule.

The matriarch of the Shangling family, Shangling Wan, was stunned. She had never dreamed that the Gate Master of Huaiyuan Gate would someday rise to such a level, but his name was becoming far more important than ever before.

On Dragon Mountain, below the Ancestral Dragon Altar, Xia Taili gritted her teeth. This scene reminded her of Lu Yin's attitude and behavior when he had forced her to protect him up in the Dominion Realm. This person was a true bastard.

Some distance away, Wang Si remained calm. Although the White Dragon Clan had given birth to this descendant, his existence would not have any impact on the situation for the time being. Once the Junior Progenitors were saved and Long Tian united with this Long Qi, the future of the White Dragon Clan could already be seen. She looked over towards Shenwu's Sky. On top of that, there were rumors that Shenwu's Sky intended to forge a marriage alliance with the White Dragon Clan, which would unite the two forces. What would happen to her Wang family?

Wang Yun was standing behind Wang Si. She had met Lu Yin when he had been sent to the Yinshan District. At this particular moment, Wang Yun frowned as she stared at Lu Yin. He was looking more and more and more familiar to her. She had felt this same feeling of *déjà vu* when she had first seen him at Yinshan Gate. Where had she seen him before?

Out of everyone present, the most shocked person was the Celestial Frost Sect's Elder Shi. He stared blankly at Lu Yin, as the youth looked nearly identical to that person. When Elder Shi had first seen Lu Yin, the elder had nearly mistaken Lu Yin for that person.

As Lu Yin walked step by step towards the peak of Dragon Mountain, Elder Shi's fists clenched tightly, as Lu Yin reminded him of that person more and more. Unfortunately, Long Qi was not that person.

After the news that Long Qi was going to be accepted as the disciple of a Progenitor was released, more and more of the Perennial World's top powerhouses had seen Lu Yin's face, and many of them had felt that he looked very similar to another person. However, Long Qi was a member of the White Dragon Clan whose blood had already been tested several times. Those tests had removed any doubt that anyone might have held.

However, as the light from Dragon Mountain was reflected down to the Middle Realm, countless people saw Lu Yin's appearance for the first time. How many of them were shocked by Lu Yin's appearance? However, Lu Yin was ignorant to all this. The closer he moved to the statue of the Ancestor Python, the more pressure that Lu Yin felt. For countless years, the White Dragon Clan had worshiped the Ancestor Python, not for the creature itself, but rather for their beliefs.

Could faith be another form of power? This thought inadvertently popped into Lu Yin's mind.

There were infinite mysteries within the human body. The corporeal body housed an ephemeral spirit. In that case, where did beliefs such as persistence, stubbornness, and courage come from? Faith could empower people to doing anything. Who could truly say that it was not power? Who would dare claim that faith could not be used?

At this moment, it was as though Lu Yin saw the White Dragon Clan's ancestor, the very person who had accepted the Ancestor Python's blood and its inheritance to create the White Dragon Clan: the original ancestor.

Ni Huang appeared as Lu Yin stood atop the Ancestral Dragon Altar. This was Lu Yin's first time actually seeing the White Dragon Clan's grand elder.

Ni Huang's voice sounded as though it rang out from ancient years, but he did not look that old. However, his appearance was a bit different from the rest of the members of the White Dragon Clan. He was stronger, much stronger than an old man should be, and he was nearly three meters tall, which complemented his curly hair and domineering aura.

"Please, the clan's family tree," Ni Huang said. A bamboo scroll appeared from the void. There was no beginning to be seen, but Ni Huang held the end of the scroll. He then looked at Lu Yin. "Worship the ancestors."

Lu Yin then began the tedious ritual of worshiping the clan's ancestors. Fortunately, he had learned the ritual from Long Xi, so he missed nothing. He pictured the statue of the Ancestor Python as if it were Mister Mu, and it allowed him to show greater devotion.

Ni Huang's eyes showed his satisfaction, as he could feel Lu Yin's "sincerity."

The grand elder was not alone, as everyone could sense Lu Yin's devotion.

Elder Shi's eyes grew bitter as he watched Lu Yin worship the statue of the Ancestor Python. He was struck by an indescribable sorrow when he saw someone with such a similar appearance to that person worshiping the Ancestor Python of the White Dragon Clan. This was a gross insult to him.

It took around the time for half an incense stick to burn for Lu Yin to fully complete the ritual, and Xia Taili started to become impatient. However, everyone who had gathered beneath Dragon Mountain solemnly watched the ceremony with true admiration.

Not everyone held the qualifications to perform this ritual.

Long Zhang was going insane with jealousy while Long Jue felt like he had run out of options. The elder from the branch family wanted to stab Lu Yin, but he was forced to suppress his emotions. From this point in time onwards, Long Qi's status would be completely different. He would no longer be connected to the clan's main family because of his marriage with Princess Long Xi, but rather because of his own strength. His promotion was even being overseen by Grand Elder Ni Huang, the ancestor who guarded Dragon Mountain. Lu Yin's position in the family was in the top ten now.

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"Blood." Grand Elder Ni Huang's voice was heard.

Lu Yin's expression grew stern; this was the most challenging part of the entire ceremony. He cut his finger and dripped out some blood. Then, he waited anxiously.

The blood floated through the sky before dripping onto the statue of the Ancestor Python as everyone watched.

They all saw that, the moment the blood merged with the statue, it suddenly roared as though it were alive. After that, the illusory form of the Ancestor Python surged into the void, climbing high into the sky as it radiated an indescribable pressure. The beast circled Dragon Mountain and then shot upwards towards the Dominion Realm.

Everyone on Dragon Mountain was shocked. Even the people from the Celestial Frost Sect, Shenwu's Sky, the Wang family, and all the other organizations were completely stunned.

When the descendants of the White Dragon Clan worshiped their ancestors, the purer their blood was, the more real the image of the Ancestor Python would appear to be. Long Qi had just brought about an image of the Ancestor Python that almost looked true. This meant that he had a completely pure bloodline.

Ni Huang grew excited. Down below, Long Ke's eyes narrowed. He was actually not very happy at the moment because Lu Yin was no longer a part of his family. Long Ke was one of the only individuals present who was aware that the grand elder had made arrangements before this ceremony for Long Qi to wed Xia Taili, the little princess of Shenwu's Sky.

Lu Yin's level of value to the clan far surpassed that of regular descendants now. He had even been raised to be declared a member of the clan's main family, giving him a status that even surpassed Long Xi's and made him equal to Long Tian.

Long Ke saw Lu Yin in a different light from before. At this moment, the clan patriarch merely hoped for Long Tian to be rescued as soon as possible so that his main family would not be completely surpassed. If not, after receiving the grand elder's support and gaining a Progenitor as a master, it was very possible that Long Qi could lead the Dalian Mountain branch family to supersede or even replace the main family.

Eventually, a hint of hostility entered the patriarch's eyes. He regretted giving the Ancestor Python's blood to this child.

Ni Huang watched Lu Yin with a great deal of satisfaction. "Long Qi, from now on, your name will be entered into the main family's family tree, but unfortunately, you are the sole member of the Dalian Mountain branch family. Thus, you, Long Qi, will become a branch all on your own."

Long Xi had dealt with the Dalian Mountain branch family long ago. That branch family had plotted to let Lu Yin impersonate their branch family's Long Qi, and in order to prevent the Celestial Frost Sect from discovering the truth that there was no one to marry her, Long Xi had taken action. Lu Yin had not asked about the matter before, so he was only now learning that the Dalian Mountain branch family no longer existed.

This also eliminated some of Lu Yin's concerns.

Also, Grand Elder Ni Huang's words were very clear, as well as their implication: Lu Yin was no longer considered the main family's son-in-law. Even though he had been in the process of marrying Long Xi and had already visited the Lower Realm to pay his respects to the Ancestor Python with Long Xi, their

marriage was not considered valid since they had not worshiped the ancestors together at Dragon Mountain. Lu Yin had regained his freedom at this moment.

He could not stop himself from glancing over at Long Ke, and Lu Yin saw the hostility in the patriarch's eyes, leaving Lu Yin quite helpless. He did not want to abandon Long Xi, but had rather been forced to do so by his circumstances.

Grand Elder Ni Huang wrote Long Qi's name into the main family's family tree. This was the moment that Lu Yin's alias of Long Qi made a true leap upwards, officially becoming a core member of one of the four ruling powers. With this change, he almost held the same status as Long Tian within the White Dragon Clan.

"Please, receive Progenitor Long's blessing." Elder Ni Huang bent down low.

Every single person within the White Dragon Clan bowed low and paid their respects.

The Celestial Frost Sect and the other guests looked at each other before helplessly bending over as well, bowing. They were bowing to pay their respects to a powerhouse on the level of a Progenitor.

"We greet Progenitor Long."

"We greet Progenitor Long."

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Lu Yin bowed low. Was Progenitor Long really going to show himself?

Progenitor Long did not actually show himself, but the sky did split open, and a pillar of tribulation crystal appeared on the ground.

Lu Yin stared at the massive pillar that had appeared before him; what was this?

Xia Taili sneakily lifted her head to look at the pillar of tribulation crystal. Her eyes grew fervent as she became envious of this crystal pillar; how could the White Dragon Clan still have such a large pillar of tribulation crystal?

Nong Lie, Wang Yun, and everyone else also saw it, and the envy practically spilled from their eyes. That pillar of tribulation crystal was absolutely massive! It was fully capable of allowing a person to open their middle meridian point! Long Qi had already stolen a crystal pillar from Long Xian's son and opened his lower meridian point. Thus, with this crystal, Long Qi would also be able to open his middle meridian point. He would only be one step away from having all three meridian points open!

Opening the middle meridian point would make a person practically equal to a Junior Progenitor in strength and cultivation. Long Qi was essentially becoming another Junior Progenitor.

Even Grand Elder Ni Huang and Patriarch Long Ke had not known that Progenitor Long had possessed another pillar of tribulation crystals.

"Long Qi, with the care and affection that our ancestor has shown you, offer your deep gratitude," Grand Elder Ni Huang quietly reminded Lu Yin.

Lu Yin finally reacted and expressed his thanks, "Thank you for blessing this one."

Progenitor Long's appearance was not nearly as impressive as when the Progenitor of Combat had revealed himself during ZENITH. There was no pressure at all, but this incident made Lu Yin's heart pound even harder than the previous incident, as this powerhouse felt truly unfathomable.

"Senior Mu Xie, how long do you intend to watch on for?" An ancient and deafening voice filled the sky, leaving everyone in awe. It was Progenitor Long's voice.

Lu Yin's fingers trembled and he stared up at the sky. Was Commander Mu Xie going to appear?

Chapter 1542: Stable Zone

Ripples soon appeared in the void as a figure slowly emerged. It was as though a painting was being made, and there was not even the slightest effect on the surroundings. Even the ripples in the void seemed more like water ripples: gentle and relaxing.

Everyone bowed as one. "We greet Humility Gate's Commander."

"We greet Humility Gate's Commander."

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No matter who they were, whether they were a part of Humility's Gate or not, at this moment, everyone bowed to this person with the utmost respect.

Lu Yin looked up to finally get a clear look at Mu Xie. The commander was a very gentle-looking middle-aged man, but he was not Mister Mu. Lu Yin felt disappointed.

Out of everybody present, Lu Yin alone had the courage to lift his head and look. Everyone else bowed low, even Grand Elder Ni Huang.

Even if the grand elder held an impressive status and level of seniority in the Perennial World, he was still not a Progenitor. Thus, he was unqualified to act any differently.

Mu Xie looked at Lu Yin and saw Lu Yin peeking. The older man smiled gently at the youth.

Lu Yin felt his heart skip a beat, and he quickly bowed deeper than ever.

"It's alright. There's no need to be so polite," Mu Xie said in a very soothing tone.

Everyone bowed once more before rising up.

At this moment, everyone who was able to see Mu Xie grew excited. After all, not everyone would ever see an actual Progenitor! Doing so was something they could brag about for the rest of their lives.

Down in the Middle Realm and everywhere that was not Dragon Mountain, no one could see the image of Mu Xie, as the reflected light did not contain his image at all.

"Long Qi, I've been watching you for a long time," Mu Xie said as he looked at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin started to get nervous. "Thank you, Commander Mu, for your care."

"Would you like to become the disciple of me, Mu Xie?" Mu Xie asked in a very blunt manner.

Everyone was taken aback, as they had not expected such a direct question.

Lu Yin became nervous; what should he do? Could he refuse? No, that was absolutely not an option. However, how could he possibly explain himself to Mister Mu if he said yes? This was a terrible dilemma.

Everyone stared at Lu Yin with envy as they waited to hear his reply.

At this time, a woman in the crown around the Ancestral Dragon Altar stepped forward and offered a respectful bow. "Lord Commander, could you allow Junior Qiu Ling to say a few words first?"

Everyone looked over at Qiu Ling; she was an Array Grandmaster.

Qiu Ling was a woman, and it was very rare for anyone to reach the Array Grandmaster level. She did not look old, only as though she was in her thirties, but she had a very refined demeanor.

Mu Xie looked at Qiu Ling. "Of course. What does Grandmaster Qiu Ling wish to say?"

Progenitors held exalted statuses, but an Array Grandmaster was not a nobody either. This was the unique advantage enjoyed by Lockbreakers. Sourcebox arrays and Array Masters were useful in many places, and their field of expertise was something that not even Progenitors could necessarily intrude upon.

Grandmaster Qiu Ling respectfully said, "This junior has heard that Long Qi is a lockbreaking prodigy, and I came here to observe him with the idea of accepting him as an apprentice if he does well. However, I know that he would never dare to accept becoming my apprentice after being accepted as the commander's disciple, as that would be rude. I wonder, would Commander Mu be willing to allow this junior to evaluate Long Qi?"

Mu Xie smiled casually. "Of course. This is also a blessing for Long Qi if he is able to accept Qiu Ling as a teacher."

After he spoke, Mu Xie disappeared, and no one could sense where he had gone.

"Thank you, Commander." Grandmaster Qiu Ling was thrilled.

Everyone stared at Lu Yin as even more jealousy filled their eyes, though they also felt somewhat numb. Not only had this person's status within the White Dragon Clan transformed, but he had also been given the opportunity to accept a Progenitor as his master. And on top of all that, an Array Grandmaster had even stepped forward to ask Long Qi to become her apprentice. This youth was simply too lucky. No, his life was too good.

Xia Taili gritted her teeth; this bastard had dog-shit luck.

Behind Xia Taili, Luo Zhong felt shocked, and he gazed at Lu Yin with an odd glint in his eyes. I wonder, if you let all these people know that your surname is actually Lu, how many would rush forward to accept you as an apprentice or disciple then? This is quite interesting.

In the Celestial Frost Sect, in Jade Valley, Liu Shaoge was gazing in the direction of Dragon Mountain. He could not see Mu Xie, but he was able to see Grandmaster Qiu Ling, and he knew what had been happening. This is interesting.

Grandmaster Qiu Ling grew solemn as she turned to face Lu Yin. "Long Qi, will you accept me as your teacher to guide you as a Lockbreaker?"

Lu Yin took a deep breath before stepping forward and bowing low. "This junior would be honored."

Grandmaster Qiu Ling nodded. "I heard that you repaired the second array base's defensive sourcebox array and that you were also able to control the spherical red sourcebox array down in the New World. This shows you have an exceptional talent for lockbreaking, but seeing is believing. So, I want to test you myself. If you pass, I will accept you as an apprentice."

"I will follow the Array Grandmaster's guidance," Lu Yin replied respectfully. His attitude satisfied Grandmaster Qiu Ling, though that was only normal. Anyone approached by an Array Grandmaster and asked to become their apprentice would show a completely respectful attitude.

Grandmaster Qiu Ling raised her hand, causing a sourcebox to fall to the ground right below the ancestral dragon altar, directly beneath Lu Yin.

This sourcebox was shaped like a bottle. After it struck the ground, the nearby flowers and plants erupted in blooms, and their fragrance filled the area. Rainbows appeared in the sky, and rivers burst out of the ground to create a beautiful but bizarre spectacle within a hundred miles of the sourcebox.

"This is a Boundless Advance level sourcebox. Give it a try," Grandmaster Qiu Ling said, stating her test for Lu Yin.

Lu Yin looked up at Grand Elder Ni Huang, who nodded.

He then approached the sourcebox.

Many of the nearby people started talking amongst themselves, as some of them had recognized the sourcebox. One such person was Master Deng Guo. He had also come to Dragon Mountain with the intention of accepting Lu Yin as an apprentice, but unfortunately, with Grandmaster Qiu Ling's presence, the man could do nothing.

"This old man has seen that sourcebox before. It is one of the sourceboxes used by the Lockbreaker Headquarters to test Boundless Advanced Lockbreakers. Even though this sourcebox's danger field is not lethal, it makes anyone who attempts to approach the sourcebox grow sluggish and even hallucinate. It is very common for a Lockbreaker to fail their lockbreaking attempt once they are disturbed, and almost everyone who wishes to become an Advanced Lockbreaker will fail if they encounter this particular sourcebox." Master Deng Guo sighed.

It was only then that the people nearby understood that even though this particular sourcebox was not dangerous, it was still incredibly difficult to unlock.

Grandmaster Qiu Ling was testing Lu Yin's will and speed.

Lu Yin also heard Master Deng Guo's explanation. This was going to be quite tricky. He was not worried about a dangerous sourcebox, but a sourcebox that caused hallucinations and affected the lockbreaker's judgment was the most difficult sort of sourcebox to unlock, as it was impossible to know when one was

hallucinating. This was the source of this Lockbreaker test's difficulty. A Lockbreaker needed to be fast, as being too slow would naturally leave one unqualified.

Given the situation, Lu Yin immediately started mentally reciting the Stonewall Scriptures. Regardless of what happened, it would never hurt to recite the scriptures.

The facts ended up proving Lu Yin's decision to be correct. While he mentally recited the Stonewall Scriptures, he never felt any sort of sluggishness or saw any hallucinations. As he drew closer and closer to the bottle-shaped sourcebox, he started studying it to see how to best unlock it.

This part of the process was not something that most people could follow or understand, but admiration filled Grandmaster Qiu Ling's eyes. She saw that Lu Yin was completely unaffected, and it was as if the sourcebox was completely inert. The child was a natural-born Lockbreaker.

The difficulty of unlocking this particular sourcebox lay in the unseen interference that would affect the Lockbreaker trying to unlock it. Once this was dealt with, unlocking the sourcebox was a foregone conclusion.

When Lu Yin had taken his Boundless Advanced Locker exam, he had unlocked a bridge dozens of times larger than this small, bottle-shaped sourcebox. At that time, Lu Yin had used several days to successfully unlock the bridge. This current sourcebox took him quite a bit of time, but he succeeded within a day.

There was a soft click, and everyone stared at the bottle.

Lockbreaking was essentially a fight against a sourcebox. Each sourcebox had its own unique danger zone, and these fields could then be used by Array Masters to make arrays that were very effective against humanity's enemy. However, unlocking a sourcebox had a very high chance of revealing nothing in the end. Despite the odds and the utility of sourcebox arrays, many people still grew excited about lockbreaking as they wanted to see treasures from ancient times.

No matter what a person preferred sourceboxes be used for, an unlocked sourcebox would always draw a great deal of attention, not to mention an advanced sourcebox that was able to induce hallucinations.

The bottle shook slightly before transforming into powder.

Lu Yin was disappointed, as he had gained nothing.

Some of the nearby people said, "Sure enough, it should not have been unlocked. It would have been very powerful if used in a sourcebox array, especially since it was able to produce hallucinations."

"Lockbreaking leads to both gains and losses. It's impossible to know the results. However, not all sourceboxes can be unlocked."

"I support lockbreaking."

"I feel that it's better to not unlock sourceboxes. There must be a reason why these sealed objects were concealed from the universe, and it's best to not go against the will of nature."

"Then why are you even cultivating? Just accept your natural death."

"You..."

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Grandmaster Qiu Ling was not disappointed, and she looked at Lu Yin with admiration. "Long Qi, that was well done."

Lu Yin respectfully bowed. "Thank you, Grandmaster, for your praise."

"Do you know of the game that many Array Masters play? It's called Stable Zone," Qiu Ling asked.

Lu Yin felt rather lost, as he had never heard of this before.

A few people exclaimed, "Does such a game really exist? Legend claims that only Array Masters can participate, but recently promoted Array Masters will find it to be nearly impossible to play a full game."

"It's basically a game of chess that revolves around one's lockbreaking ability and sourcebox array comprehension. Does Grandmaster Qiu Ling intend to use this game to test Long Qi? This is too much for him."

"Long Qi has already mastered two sourcebox arrays, which is enough for him to be referred to as a Senior Array Master. He is naturally qualified to play."

"That's true."

Grandmaster Qiu Ling revealed a slight smile. "Stable Zone is a game played by many Array Masters, and it has existed for a long time. It was even played back during the era of the Daosource Sect, but since only Array Masters can play, the game has never become widespread.

"Star energy and a sourcebox's danger zone form the pieces and board of this game," she said as she waved her hand, causing two sourceboxes to appear. One looked like a single long strip floating in the air. It started quickly rotating about itself, and its danger field could be seen with the naked eye, as it radiated layers of sharpness that produced square cuts that even caused the void to twist and break. This sourcebox was so powerful that even an Envoy would be harmed, and it released a crimson, unusual kind of energy.

With the overlapping danger fields from two sourceboxes, an unpredictable danger zone appeared that spread out in all directions, causing many people to retreat in fear.

Lu Yin observed the sourceboxes' danger fields as they overlapped and interacted to create an odd and unpredictable danger zone. He was only able to understand it a little bit.

"Stable Zone is actually very simple: whoever destroys their opponent's star energy by utilising the sourceboxes' danger fields wins." Star energy appeared beneath Grandmaster Qiu Ling's feet, and it spread out to cover the area between the sourceboxes. Her star energy was then sliced into pieces until there were only a small fraction of it left drifting in the air.

Grandmaster Qiu Ling waved her hand again, and the star energy that had not been sliced apart by the sourceboxes' danger fields changed color; half of it turned black while the other half turned white. It

was exactly half and half, just like the pieces of a traditional chess game. The danger field created by the two sourceboxes interfering with each other formed the game board.

"You may choose your color." Grandmaster Qiu Ling smiled at Lu Yin.

Chapter 1543: Playing Against a Grandmaster

Lu Yin took a deep breath and carefully observed what lay before him. The star energy had been evenly divided into black and white pieces, and anything that blocked the sourceboxes' danger fields would be wiped out. He just needed to agitate the chaotic danger field to destroy his opponent's star energy pieces, and one move could affect the entire board.

"This junior will choose white," Lu Yin said respectfully. After all, he was supposed to be a member of the White Dragon Clan.

Grandmaster Qiu Ling revealed a small smile. "I usually play against those old monsters, so it's rare to play against a junior."

She then lifted her foot and stepped into the sourceboxes' danger zone.

While there were two sides to the game, whoever entered first risked triggering the danger field, which made going first more dangerous. Naturally, in a game against Long Qi, Grandmaster Qiu Ling was the first to step in.

A sourcebox's danger zone was very sensitive and could be extremely dangerous. If this were not the case, then Lockbreakers would not be held in such high esteem. There was no movement or even the slightest fluctuation as Grandmaster Qiu Ling entered the danger zone. It was as though the danger zone did not even sense her presence.

Lu Yin's expression grew dignified as he observed the board.

Grandmaster Qiu Ling did not press him, and she instead waited quietly.

Lu Yin did not move for an entire day, and no one made any attempts to urge him forward during this time. Eventually, after another half a day passed, Lu Yin finally made his move and entered the danger zone as Grandmaster Qiu Ling had done.

While his actions appeared simple, Lu Yin's movement encompassed multiple layers of calculations, and he had only become capable of moving around after studying the entire danger zone. It was impossible for someone to safely enter the field without first understanding what they were entering.

Upon seeing Lu Yin successfully step onto the game board, Grandmaster Qiu Ling praised him, "It's quite impressive for you to successfully take this step. It's very difficult for anyone to be as calm as you when playing this game for the first time. Let's begin. You may take the first move."

Lu Yin raised a hand and flicked his fingers. A powerful gust of wind shot out, inciting a vibration along a specific portion of the sourceboxes' danger zone, which caused a strand of dangerous energy to move out. The entire danger zone seemed to boil, and in doing so, it began destroying the colored star energy strewn across the game board.

It was not only the black-colored star energy that was destroyed, but also the white, though far more of the black was destroyed.

The audience was fascinated even though most of them were incapable of understanding what they were seeing. Regardless, they were all aware that every single move of this game required the players to not only consider their own safety, but also to simultaneously find a move that destroyed as much of their opponent's colored star energy pieces as possible. Each move's success was determined by how well a Lockbreaker could manipulate the sourceboxes' danger fields while also testing their awareness of those fields.

"No two sourceboxes in the entire universe are the same, which similarly means that no two games of Stable Zone are the same. Whether there are two sourceboxes, three, or even more, the superimposed danger fields from the sourceboxes will produce different danger zones. Every game is like watching the birth of a new sourcebox array. This is Stable Zone." Master Deng Guo stared at the field of the game while wishing that he could also participate. Every Lockbreaker dreamed of playing against an Array Grandmaster.

Lu Yin was in no position to pay any attention to anything happening in the outside world. Since he had taken his turn, Grandmaster Qiu Ling could naturally take action as well, though she made her move instantly and casually. The danger field that Lu Yin had manipulated to destroy the black star energy pieces suddenly changed. He was swept up as well; the new danger field destroyed not only his white star energy pieces, but it also attempted to destroy him. This was not just a game, but also a competition that could determine the life and death of the players.

Sweat rained down from Lu Yin's forehead as he moved. He was not able to immediately reverse the situation, but he could still proceed step by step.

Grandmaster Qiu Ling also continued to make moves. There were no rules regarding turns in Stable Zone, and the players were allowed to take action when and how they wished. A player could remain still and wait or continuously move. But everything was based off of their understanding and ability to manipulate the sourceboxes' danger field.

Lu Yin continued to agitate the danger field in order to suppress Grandmaster Qiu Ling's manipulations, and the Grandmaster approved of his actions. "Continue."

Lu Yin smiled. This was quite an interesting game, and it was far more exciting than the stereotypical lockbreaking session.

Everyone around them nervously watched on as the two sourceboxes continuously shredded the void with their superimposed danger fields. The red energy emitting from the sourceboxes was strange and dark, and most people felt they were burning just from looking at it.

Atop the small game board, Lu Yin and Grandmaster Qiu Ling continued to play their game. Even though their match was far removed from the destructive games normally played between two Grandmasters, people still found the game shocking.

Not everyone was aware of this particular game's existence, and few were qualified to play or even watch a game be played.

Even in terms of the entire Perennial World, how many Lockbreakers had the qualifications to play this game?

Lu Yin was quite thrilled to be able to play, and his smile grew larger and larger. It really was incredibly interesting; every time Grandmaster Qiu Ling moved, Lu Yin had to exert tremendous effort in order to handle what she threw at him while also retaliating. This game did not take his cultivation or abilities into consideration—only his lockbreaking skills.

He was nowhere close to being Grandmaster Qiu Ling's opponent, though the game was an amazing opportunity for Lu Yin in and of itself. He could feel that his understanding of the sourceboxes' danger field was rapidly improving. This improvement was not possible from just lockbreaking. No wonder rumours had it that this game was typically played by Array Grandmasters..

After just a short time playing, Lu Yin had observed no fewer than a hundred changes in the sourceboxes' danger zone, and seeing these changes gave him a much greater understanding of the danger zone, allowing him to move faster and faster.

Grandmaster Qiu Ling's original admiration for the youth had now transformed into surprise, and after two days of playing, she was completely shocked.

When they had first started playing Stable Zone, she had been able to wear Lu Yin down and push him to the brink with any random move. But at the moment, she was taking actions much faster than before because Lu Yin was clearly responding much faster and more efficiently. He was rapidly learning the sourceboxes' superimposed danger fields, and his speed of comprehension was incredible. It surpassed that of all other juniors Qiu Ling had ever seen before.

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In fact, this youth might even surpass her own abilities when she had been his age.

Eventually, Grandmaster Qiu Ling started manipulating more than the danger field, and she also started moving her body. She started to flutter between the black and white star energy pieces along with Lu Yin. The two of them danced in the danger zone that could kill at any moment.

Master Deng Guo was utterly speechless. If he were playing against Grandmaster Qiu Ling, he might not have been able to move about so freely. Long Qi had understood the sourceboxes' danger zone far too quickly. Master Deng Guo also remembered that he had already been shocked by how quickly Long Qi had repaired the defensive sourcebox array on the second array base. But now, the youth's talent was on full display.

He realized that he should have accepted the youth as an apprentice while at the second array base, and he now regretted his actions at that time. This Lockbreaker would definitely become a higher ranked Array Master at the very least.

Ni Huang and other Semi-Progenitors glanced at each other. Lu Yin was truly giving an exceptional and even perfect performance.

Xia Taili was stunned by what she saw; was this really happening? Was this guy really that talented at lockbreaking?

Luo Zhong's mouth curled up into a smile; this was Lu Yin! He was an incomprehensible genius who had come from the edge of a backwater planet in the Outerverse, only to eventually unite the Outerverse and rise up to surpass all of his peers throughout the entire Fifth Mainland.

The hunched Liu Song was similarly amazed; this youth was truly comparable to the Long Xing of back then.

The longer Elder Shi stared at Lu Yin, the more of a resemblance he found between Long Qi and that person. The heroic appearance, the level of talent, the... demeanor.

The sourceboxes' danger zone was completely different from what it had originally been, as Lu Yin and Grandmaster Qiu Ling's manipulations made it continuously shift and change.

If Grandmaster Qiu Ling had been able to easily destroy Lu Yin's white star energy pieces at the beginning of their game, then at present, she needed to put forth greater effort.

"Long Qi, do you find this game interesting?" Grandmaster Qiu Ling suddenly asked.

Lu Yin replied, "Very."

"Then let's add another one." Qiu Ling was intrigued by Lu Yin's talent, so she raised a hand and brought out a third sourcebox. This sourcebox's danger field possessed a strange rhythm that did not produce any attacks, but it did mentally stun those affected by it. The moment the rhythm overlapped with the existing danger zone, everything changed completely.

Lu Yin was shocked. The change introduced by the third sourcebox's danger field would very likely completely destroy his white star energy pieces, causing him to lose. As he looked around, he saw that Grandmaster Qiu Ling was continuously manipulating the danger zone to prevent her black star energy pieces from being destroyed. Fortunately, this prevented her from being able to attack Lu Yin, as she was occupied with protecting her own star energy pieces. This gave Lu Yin enough time to react.

He quickly attacked, but the addition of the new danger field had completely changed the board, which fully invalidated Lu Yin's previous comprehension of the danger zone.

Suddenly, a chill ran down his back; the sourceboxes' danger fields had already reached him. He spun around as a wave pulsed out, followed by a sharp red energy. The danger fields of the three sourceboxes had overlapped with each other, and the current danger field surrounding Lu Yin was so powerful that it had even surpassed an Envoy's strength. Lu Yin suffered an attack, and it opened up a massive wound on his abdomen that bled profusely.

Many people in the audience gasped in shock.

Ni Huang's expression changed slightly, and he wanted to stop the game.

Lu Yin gritted his teeth while he continued to evade the attacks. He had no way to pay any attention to the white star energy pieces, and he was focused entirely on staying alive.

Ultimately, he was able to stay alive even in the chaotic danger zone. After all, he had the Channeling Diagram, the Teleportation Formation, and a multitude of secret techniques. However, he was not able

to pay any attention to the white star energy pieces as all of his focus was spent on ensuring his own survival. Lu Yin's white star energy pieces were rapidly diminishing.

Several days had already passed, but there were times when Array Masters would play Stable Zone for several years. Several days was nothing in comparison.

"The more sourceboxes there are, the more complicated the sourceboxes' superimposed danger zone will be, and consequently, the more complicated the game state. It's said that in ancient times, there was a Grandmaster who played against people while using more than ten sourceboxes at once, which means that the danger field was comparable to the sourcebox array protecting the array bases." Master Deng Guo was amazed.

Once again, Lu Yin managed to evade an attack from the danger field. He was gradually coming to understand the changes occurring around them. Only after that was he able to spare some attention to check on his white star energy pieces. To his shock, he found that not many of the white pieces had disappeared.

"Not only are you able to quickly adapt to a changing danger zone, but you were also able to defend your own star energy pieces while doing so. Long Qi, you're surprising me more and more. I really want to know how far you can climb." Grandmaster Qiu Ling's voice spoke up, but Lu Yin could not understand her words.

When had he protected his white star energy pieces? He had not paid them the slightest attention, but as Grandmaster Qiu Ling had mentioned, the white star energy pieces had not been destroyed, and Lu Yin was even being credited for this accomplishment. No, this was not right. Lu Yin had always been a cautious person. He looked over at Grandmaster Qiu Ling to check her eyes, but all he saw was encouragement.

Something was not right. With the introduction of the third sourcebox, a steady rhythmic pulse dictated the flow of the danger zone, and that pulse affected the entire game board. Given the situation, could the white star energy pieces have been left untouched by pure luck? That was impossible. In that case, who had given Lu Yin the credit?

Lu Yin felt puzzled, and he looked at Grandmaster Qiu Ling in confusion, but she explained nothing. "Continue. Our game has not finished yet."

As far as Lu Yin was concerned, the game should have ended long ago. However, with Grandmaster Qiu Ling's assistance, the game reached a truly shocking level. This worked to portray Lu Yin as a genius Lockbreaker, and it was also many people's first impression of the youth. They saw him as someone who was able to hold out against an Array Grandmaster and whose talent truly deserved the Array Grandmaster's unfettered praise. This youth was a true genius Lockbreaker.

As the last white star energy piece disappeared, Lu Yin exited the sourceboxes' danger zone.

Chapter 1544: Stunning Achievements

The shock in the audience's eye still had not fully disappeared yet. In particular, Master Deng Guo felt absolutely astounded. Since he had a better understanding of Stable Zone, he was naturally more stunned than the average viewer.

Grandmaster Qiu Ling did not collect the three sourceboxes that had been used for the game, but instead gave them to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin put them away in a daze. He was still feeling rather confused by the game, and he was guessing that the ending might have been the White Dragon Clan's idea. After all, Grandmaster Qiu Ling had been invited by the clan, and they also wanted to prop Lu Yin up as their poster child.

"I have to admit that Long Qi's talent is amazing. Neither I nor the other Array Grandmasters can measure up to his achievements at the same age. It's possible that his lockbreaking abilities will one day compare to even Progenitor Hui's," Grandmaster Qiu Ling said something that shocked everyone present before she turned and bowed to where Mu Xie had disappeared from. "Thank you, Commander, for giving this Qiu Ling an opportunity. Else, Qiu Ling would have lost out on such a talented apprentice."

Ni Huang was overjoyed. "Long Qi, I don't think that you've thanked Grandmaster Qiu Ling for her support yet."

Lu Yin then became certain that the end of the game must have been the White Dragon Clan's scheme. They were definitely doing their all to elevate him ever higher!

"Long Qi thanks Grandmaster Qiu Ling for her kindness. If not for Grandmaster's mercy, this junior would have never been able to endure for so long during the game." Lu Yin was sincere with his words, as they were true. However, it sounded to others as though he was being modest.

Grandmaster Qiu Ling smiled. "It was your own accomplishment, not mine."

She then frowned. "Did you draw the attention of the Twelve Marquises on the rear battlefield?"

Lu Yin was startled by the question, but then he nodded. "I was attacked by Marquis Green Bamboo and Marquis Xiang. Without Supervisor Qing Chen's assistance, I would have died."

Grandmaster Qiu Ling grew visibly worried. "Given the talent that you've revealed just now, you will absolutely be attacked the moment you step foot back onto that battlefield. Those monsters must already know that you are becoming my apprentice, so you can't return to the rear battlefield for now."

Qing Chen then stepped forward. "Grandmaster Qiu Ling can rest assured—Long Qi has gathered enough accomplishments that he does not need to remain on the rear battlefield. While he was stationed at Yinshan Gate, he arrested more than a dozen traitors and even exposed the three Guan brothers, including the Huaiyuan Gate Master, as Redbacks.

"After he was made acting Gate Master of Huaiyuan Gate, he arrested more than a dozen more traitors before exposing Yun Mubai as a Redback.

"After he stepped onto the battlefield behind the Mother Tree, he killed a corpse king with the strength of an Envoy and repaired the defensive sourcebox array on the second array base. He later repaired another sourcebox array, saved tens of millions of people, and even almost killed ten corpse kings at the Envoy level while in the New World. He even set up new sourcebox arrays to protect the human city in the New World.

"After leaving the rear battlefield, he went with me to find the terror ants' natural predator that he had discovered in the Lower Realm some time ago, which is an extraordinary contribution.

"He has simply too many accomplishments to list, and there are so many ways he can contribute to humanity, regardless of if he is on the rear battlefield or within the Perennial World. Thus, there is no need for him to return and remain on the rear battlefield even if he joins the Lockbreaker Headquarters."

All of the accomplishments that Qing Chen had listed out just now made even Lu Yin feel like he was a hero, let alone everyone else listening.

Everyone had already heard of some of Lu Yin's exploits, but no one had expected him to have accomplished so much. In particular, what he had done on the rear battlefield was shocking, and everyone was stunned to the point of speechlessness.

Was this person really only an Enlightener? How was he able to accomplish feats that were even beyond Envoys?

Ni Huang carefully appraised Lu Yin. Amazement could be seen in the grand elder's eyes, and he finally understood just why Progenitor Long had shown so much care for this child and why he had wanted the invitations to this ceremony be distributed so widely. This ceremony of worshiping the ancestors had been intended to startle the entire Perennial World. Long Qi's talent was absolutely comparable to the Long Xing of back then, and he even eclipsed her in some aspects. The boy was truly a genius.

Xia Taili pouted. "With so many accomplishments, they have to have been faked. It's a sham."

Xia Xing instantly scolded the girl. "Military achievements cannot be faked! Don't spread such nonsense! There will be trouble if others hear you."

Xia Taili just let out a cold snort in response to her father's chidings.

Wang Si exclaimed. "I never expected this child to have accomplished so much. It's no wonder why he was bold enough to risk becoming a public enemy of the four ruling powers in order to expose Yun Mubai as a Redback. His actions were not actually rashly made. He has a heart that can topple even the sky."

Wang Yun stared at Lu Yin. He was truly a powerful youth! He was absolutely able to stand on the same level as the Junior Progenitors, and he actually far surpassed them in terms of military achievements. Then, she remembered that she still owed him a favor.

The Celestial Frost Sect's Bai Teng had a horrible expression on his face as he stared at Lu Yin. A powerful killing intent was buried deep in his eyes; such a genius could only be allowed to appear in the Celestial Frost Sect! How could such a person rise up from the White Dragon Clan? This could not be permitted!

"With such accomplishments, there indeed won't be any problems." Grandmaster Qiu Ling felt relieved, and she started to speak of accepting Lu Yin as her apprentice.

At this moment, Bai Teng stepped forward. "Grandmaster, please wait a moment."

Grandmaster Qiu Ling looked over at Bai Teng, as did many other people.

"Sect Master Bai, what might be the matter?" Grandmaster Qiu Ling inquired.

Bai Teng replied, "Just now, Supervisor Qing Chen spoke a great deal about Long Qi's military exploits, but this sect leader has a question: the New World is held by those monsters. So when Long Qi and the others fell down there, how did they survive? Long Qi, can you explain this to us?"

Lu Yin frowned. "We fought to the death and were lucky."

Bai Teng sneered. "Is it really that simple?"

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed, and his head snapped around. When he spoke, his tone was no longer polite. "How complicated do you want the story to be? Why don't you jump down there and see for yourself?"

"Long Qi, don't be rude to Sect Master Bai." Long Ke stopped Lu Yin from speaking further, and then he looked up at Bai Teng. "What does Sect Master Bai mean by these words?"

Bai Teng loudly stated, "Everyone, you mustn't forget about what happened to the Wang family in the past! How did the war between the Sixth and Fifth Mainlands start? Have you all forgotten?"

Most people did not understand Bai Teng's words, but the people with the highest statuses all understood.

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Lu Yin felt confused. He remembered hearing something about the Wang family being involved with the Forgotten Ruins that he had visited in the Dominion Realm. There seemed to be some ancient incident involving the Wang family which had led to their battle technique of Forgotten Ruins being learned by Aeternus; could that be what Bai Teng was referring to?

Was the matter of the Wang family somehow connected to the Sixth Mainland? Lu Yin thought back to what he knew of the war between the two mainlands. What could the connection possibly be?

"Bai Teng, what nonsense are you spouting?" Long Ke snapped.

Bai Teng turned to look at Long Ke and replied, "He claims that after he fell to the New World, he saved millions of people. Do you really believe this to be true?"

Long Ke became furious. "Does Long Qi have to die in order for you to believe what he has done? Miracles can be found everywhere in the universe."

"At first, he was able to survive because the Twelve Marquises launched an all-out attack that encompassed the entire battlefield. All five array bases were all targeted, and the ones who fell fled to the Ever-Victorious Army. All five array bases' generals had to move out to block the Twelve Marquises. This was what saved Long Qi and the others' lives," Qing Chen explained.

Bai Teng said, "That's quite the coincidence."

Grandmaster Qiu Ling frowned. "Sect Master Bai's suspicions are rather extreme, but there is some merit to what he says."

There were also some doubts in her eyes as she looked at Lu Yin. "Long Qi, you killed almost ten corpse kings with the strength of Envoys? How did you manage this?"

Lu Yin was keenly aware of the sudden change in Grandmaster Qiu Ling's attitude towards him. While this felt rather strange, he still answered her, "This junior borrowed Supervisor Qing Chen's merit points in order to trade for the Cloudguard Robes to protect me."

"That was nothing more than protection. How did you kill them?" Elder Xi Zi asked.

Lu Yin continued, "I had comrades to help me: Star Alliance's Che Zhan, Zhou Tang, the Old Mother of the Eastern Mountain, and Mr. Guo. They all helped this junior."

"Then these achievements are not yours alone, but Lord Qing Chen tried to give you full credit," Bai Teng mocked.

Qing Chen was enraged.

Lu Yin's expression instantly chilled.

"Sect Master Bai, what are you trying to say?" Ni Huang asked in a low voice. The fact that Bai Teng was saying such things at this particular point in time meant that he was targeting the White Dragon Clan itself with the intent of destroying it.

Bai Teng's voice also grew cold, "I simply want to know one thing. Long Qi, why did you kill Shaohong?"

Lu Yin's pupils instantly shrank.

Everyone erupted in a commotion.

Ni Huang was furious. "Bai Teng, do you know what you are saying?!"

Bai Teng lifted his head. "Of course I know! Someone saw Long Qi use the Void Rip battle technique when he was at the second array base! That battle technique is a secret that my Celestial Frost Sect will not share with anyone else, and not even our core disciples are able to learn it. In that case, how did Long Qi manage to use it?"

Lu Yin felt a chill cover his body. That was true. He had indeed used Void Rip at the second array base when he was fighting against the corpse king with the heavy hammer, and that sourcebox array had indeed been taken from Bai Shaohong. Did someone see him? And did they also report it to the Celestial Frost Sect? Who? The first person to pop up in Lu Yin's mind was Hua Beibei, who had hounded Lu Yin while begging for protection and was constantly staring at Lu Yin.

"Long Qi, need I say anything more?" Bai Teng shouted.

Everyone turned to stare at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's palms had become sweaty. He stared back at Bai Teng. "I never used your Void Rip battle technique."

"Nonsense! Someone saw you," Bai Teng snapped.

Lu Yin's voice grew slightly hoarse, "Who? Bring them out to accuse me."

Bai Teng loudly retorted, "Those people are still on the rear battlefield and are not able to leave. Regardless, it is a simple fact that you used our Void Rip battle technique. How did you learn it? Given the talent and strength that you've revealed, something unexpected must have happened during the trip to the Dominion Realm! Why? You were the one who killed Shaohong, right?"

Lu Yin mentally sighed in relief. No one was confronting him, which did not make sense. Even though he had used the sourcebox array to release a Void Rip on the battlefield in an emergency situation, who would pay any attention to such a thing on the battlefield?

They had to be falsely accusing him. Bai Teng was just trying to launch a smear campaign against Lu Yin in order to prevent him from becoming the apprentice of an Array Gradmaster and the disciple of a Progenitor. Even though Lu Yin did not want to accept the commander as his master, that did not mean that he would just sit back and let his reputation be ruined.

Since he was able to figure out Bai Teng's motives, others were able to do so as well.

Ni Huang roared in a rage, "Bai Teng, you dare to make accusations without evidence!? Is this how the Celestial Frost Sect's master conducts himself?"

"Bai Teng, you are slandering me, the Supervisor of Humility's Gate, before the Humility Gate's Commander!" Qing Chen was also furious.

"Your Humility's Gate was the one who deliberately boasted about his impressive achievements. Even if he was protected by the Cloudguard Robes, how could Long Qi have killed a single corpse king at the Envoy level? All of us know that corpse kings are stronger than humans within the same realm. Not even Shaohong could have killed so many corpse kings of that level, so why is your Humility's Gate going at lengths protecting him?" Bai Teng retorted, clearly unafraid of Mu Xie's presence.

Sure enough, Bai Teng was trying to slander Lu Yin. Regardless of the cost, he could not let the White Dragon Clan succeed here. He was able to see how the White Dragon Clan was building their momentum and trying to surpass the Celestial Frost Sect in terms of reputation, especially since the Celestial Frost Sect had just lost their Junior Progenitor. That loss was a harsh blow to the Celestial Frost Sect. Very harsh. At the same time, an extraordinary genius had appeared within the White Dragon Clan, which made the entire Celestial Frost Sect uncomfortable.

Given the Celestial Frost Sect's tyrannical attitude, they could not allow just an event to pass unmolested.

Bai Teng had absolutely no evidence that Long Qi had used Void Rip on the rear battlefield, but he had raised doubts in others, and that wasn't even mentioning how he had made it sound as though Qing Chen had lied about Long Qi's military exploits. Bai Teng was determined to see this through.

Qing Chen also regretted his words. He should not have shared all of Long Qi's achievements. In truth, Qing Chen himself found it impossible to believe what Long Qi had done, but the members of Star Alliance had all remained behind in the New World, so it was useless to recount their accomplishments, and it was better to give them to Long Qi. Bai Teng had chosen his accusations well, and Qing Chen had been caught.

Chapter 1545: What Is That?

Lu Yin was the most offended out of anyone here. He had actually slaughtered all of those corpse kings on his own without any assistance, but he could not admit to it. After all, he could not explain where he had gotten the knife, the aquatic plant-shaped power vessel, or the spear. After all, those items had all been taken from the four Junior Progenitors.

Bai Teng's plan had already succeeded, as he had merely wanted to ruin Lu Yin's reputation to prevent him from becoming a Progenitor's disciple or an Array Grandmaster's apprentice. All of this was to stop the White Dragon Clan from rising up and becoming the peak power. Also, Bai Teng really did suspect that Long Qi had been the one to kill Bai Shaohong. All of the four Junior Progenitors had been of roughly equal strength, and the other three would not have joined forces to kill Bai Shaohong. And out of everyone who had traveled to the Dominion Realm, Long Qi was the one who had hidden his strength the deepest.

Ni Huang was beyond furious. The four ruling powers had been at peace with each other, but Bai Teng's words were no different than directly spitting in the White Dragon Clan's face. Clearly, Bai Shaohong's death had driven the sect mad.

"Bai Teng, don't stir up unreasonable trouble!" Long Ke shouted angrily.

Bai Teng sneered. "You all are too shameless! The White Dragon Clan has clearly worked together with Humility's Gate to give that child military achievements that are not his."

Grandmaster Qiu Ling's expression had soured, and she turned to look at Lu Yin. "Long Qi, tell the truth: are the achievements mentioned truly yours, or did you steal accomplishments from the Star Alliance's experts?"

Lu Yin's expression grew dark, and he turned to look at Bai Teng, where he saw the sect master's smug eyes. Then, Lu Yin coldly answered, "Just because Bai Shaohong is unable to do something, that does not mean that I, Long Qi, am also incapable. There are some people who claim that, Long Qi, am qualified to be another Junior Progenitor and that I have replaced Bai Shaohong, but I hate hearing this! Did Bai Shaohong ever expose a Redback? How many traitors did he arrest? How many monsters did he kill on the rear battlefield? Did he ever step foot upon the New World that represents humanity's hope? Or did he ever have the ability to repair a sourcebox array?"

"He was capable of none of these things! So why should I be compared to him? I did kill corpse kings with help from Star Alliance's experts, but if Bai Shaohong had been there, he would not have even been able to protect himself. I am Long Qi, and your Celestial Frost Sect's Junior Progenitor Bai Shaohong cannot compare to me! Don't measure me by such trash's standards!"

Lu Yin's words echoed far as he had spoken loudly. He had given the Celestial Frost Sect no face at all. Belittling Junior Progenitor Bai Shaohong accomplished nothing, so even Long Ke, Ni Huang, Qing Chen, and the others present were shocked by Lu Yin's words.

Lu Yin was really taking advantage of this opportunity to step upon the Celestial Frost Sect's reputation.

"I will readily admit that the four Junior Progenitors were truly powerful when we traveled to the Dominion Realm, but that was also because I, Long Qi, had not yet broken through to the Enlighter realm. After I became an Enlighter, what sort of obstacle would Bai Shaohong have been to me? How dare you compare him to me!" Lu Yin spoke loudly, fully intending to be as arrogant as humanly

possible. Behaving in a subdued manner? That was impossible, and Lu Yin had no intention of becoming Mu Xie's disciple, and neither did he want to become Qiu Ling's apprentice. Lu Yin did not plan on staying in the Perennial World, so therefore, it did not matter who he offended from the Celestial Frost Sect.

The Celestial Frost Sect had no evidence that could prove that Lu Yin had killed Bai Shaohong, so he would be fine. After the ceremony to worship the ancestors was finished, Lu Yin would return to the Fifth Mainland with the old man's help. Lu Yin had already made plans with the old man, and no one could stop them.

The greatest obstacle stopping Lu Yin from returning to the Fifth Mainland was now gone, so what was there to be afraid of? Without even considering the Celestial Frost Sect, Lu Yin was willing to go up against all four ruling powers right now, with the sole exception of the White Dragon Clan. After all, he did not want to end up trapped on Dragon Mountain.

Silence reigned beneath the Ancestral Dragon Altar.

Bai Teng was utterly stunned. He was the sect master of the Celestial Frost Sect, so how could he have ever expected an arrogant youth to scold him so? This was something that would enter the history books.

Thinking of the ramifications, Bai Teng's eyes suddenly flashed red. This would definitely be recorded down in history! The fact that the exalted master of the four ruling powers had just been scolded by a youth was something that would certainly be passed down for countless generations, and this thought drove him mad.

"Junior, you are too bold!" Bai Teng attacked, though Long Ke immediately moved to protect Lu Yin.

A stifling pressure suddenly fell upon the area, and Bai Teng was forced back to where he had been standing, and Elder Xi Zi and the other people from the Celestial Frost Sect were unable to stop anything.

Mu Xie appeared, his face calm.

Everyone immediately bowed to him once more.

Lu Yin bowed low. He had been arrogant enough, so now he was nervously waiting for things to play out.

"Bai Teng, you claim that my Humility's Gate falsified military achievements?" Mu Xie opened his mouth as he casually looked over at Bai Teng.

Bai Teng bowed deeply. "This junior would not dare. This junior merely said that they exaggerated Long Qi's accomplishments by claiming that he defeated almost ten Envoy-level corpse kings at the Enlighter realm. While he did this with the help of others, Qing Chen took these accomplishments and attributed them all solely to Long Qi. This junior merely feels aggrieved for those members of the Star Alliance."

Shameless! Countless people silently screamed at Bai Teng. Half of the members of the Star Alliance had been forced there by the Celestial Frost Sect!

"Long Qi, Bai Teng claims that you are incapable of fighting against Envoys, though Bai Shaohong was able to fight against some. Given your disdain for Bai Shaohong, do you dare to fight against an Envoy?" Mu Xie casually asked as he turned towards Lu Yin.

If Lu Yin refused, it would be impossible for Mu Xie to ever accept him as a disciple, and the Progenitor might even kill Lu Yin. He quietly replied, "This junior is willing to fight."

Mu Xie looked back at Bai Teng. "What do you say?"

Bai Teng took a deep breath. Excitement flashed in his eyes, as he had been waiting for this exact moment. He had known that it would be impossible for him to eliminate Long Qi at Dragon Mountain, but that was precisely why he had brought Shi Xin along. "If Long Qi can defeat this one next to me, Shi Xin, then this junior will believe his reported achievements from his time in the New World, and I will even send a congratulatory gift to the White Dragon Clan for raising such a genius."

"No!" Ni Huang immediately interjected. He had heard of Shi Xin's reputation before. This person could be considered invincible among single tribulation Envoys. How could Long Qi possibly deal with such a person?

Ni Huang instantly understood why the Celestial Frost Sect had brought an elder that they held in such low regard to Dragon Mountain; everything had been planned out in advance.

Lu Yin grew suspicious, and he looked at Shi Xin. This person could cause even Ni Huang to be nervous.

It was at this moment that Shi Xin looked up and locked eyes with Lu Yin. A rare glint of excitement flashed through his eyes as he looked at Lu Yin and reminisced.

Bai Teng looked at Mu Xie, completely ignoring Ni Huang.

Mu Xie casually replied, "Very well."

He then disappeared once more.

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Bai Teng smiled arrogantly and turned towards Lu Yin. "Long Qi, if you can beat Shi Xin, then this sect master will have misjudged you before. If not, you are clearly nothing more than an arrogant, ignorant child, no matter how talented you may be. So what? Given the nature of your heart, your future achievements will be limited."

This was a vicious statement, and the sect master clearly intended his words to be heard by both Mu Xie and Qiu Ling. The moment that Lu Yin lost the fight, Bai Teng believed that it would be impossible for him to be accepted by either Mu Xie or Qiu Ling.

Ni Huang was furious. He had not known that Bai Teng would be so shameless. He looked at Lu Yin with grave worry and shared all the information that he knew regarding Shi Xin.

Lu Yin was surprised, and he looked over at Shi Xin. This person had actually fought against the Seven Heroes long ago, and he had always maintained his promise to never continue beyond the first stellar tribulation. What a dumb thing to promise.

Still, regardless of how silly or simple the person was, the moment that Lu Yin looked at Shi Xin, his heart changed.

"It's said that Shi Xin lost to the Seventh Hero."

"That's right, he lost to Little Seven."

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Lu Yin heard the murmurs around him. Wasn't I Little Seven? That's me! Since you've already lost to me once, then you shall lose to me again!

The fight began.

Lu Yin overestimated himself while also slightly underestimating Shi Xin. The moment the fight began, Lu Yin ran into trouble. Shi Xin's physical strength was comparable to that of a grey-eyed corpse king at the same level. Realizing this shocked Lu Yin, as it was incredibly rare to run into such a physically powerful human.

Shi Xin was no less startled than Lu Yin, and he was possibly even more surprised. The Envoy had never considered that a cultivator not at the Envoy realm could ever compare to his own physical strength.

There was a bang as a fist collided against a palm. Lu Yin squeezed Shi Xin's fist tight even though his own palm was already numb from his opponent's overwhelming strength. Lu Yin's physical strength had already been comparable to an ordinary Envoy's when he had been a Hunter. Since then, he had used dragon saliva, opened his three meridian points, and remolded his body with a formcast model when breaking through to the Enlighter realm. Given all of these improvements, Lu Yin's physical strength was now comparable to that of an expert with a power level of more than 600,000.

Shi Xin deserved his reputation as a genius who had once competed with the Seven Heroes. If he had continued to improve at a normal rate, then he should have already reached a power level of 700,000 or more. Instead, he willingly kept a promise to never attempt another tribulation, which Lu Yin found both ridiculous and honorable.

The stone ground of Dragon Mountain was hard, and yet it cracked from the shockwave from the two combatants' clashing attacks.

As they both sank into the ground, Shi Xin stared at Lu Yin in surprise. "I find it unbelievable that an Enlighter can measure up to me. You are absolutely no worse than the Seven Heroes when they were at your level, and you might even be stronger than they were."

Lu Yin raised his hand to grab hold of Shi Xin's other fist again. The void in the area around the two became distorted due to the unbelievable forces being exerted, and spatial cracks spread across the ground and shot into the sky.

"Who did you lose to, and why did you make that promise to never undergo another tribulation?" Lu Yin asked.

Shi Xin answered solemnly, "I'll tell you if you win."

Even as he spoke, veins of stone appeared across his body and slowly spread out. Lu Yin arched a brow—an innate gift? He grew wary, and he pulled both of his hands back while retreating slightly. Shi Xin pushed forward and then disappeared as he entered the true universe. Lu Yin moved at the same time and also entered the true universe.

Countless spectators in the area were instantly shocked. They had only ever heard of the four Junior Progenitors being able to enter the true universe before the Envoy realm. Now, they had just seen another person do the same. More importantly, they were all able to see that Long Qi had not been forced out of the true universe after just a brief moment; rather, he seemed able to stay in there. This was beyond anything that most people could accept.

However, Lu Yin did not have any time to worry about what the crowd was thinking. He wanted to defeat Shi Xin, but the Envoy was so fast that Lu Yin could barely grasp the man's shadow even in the true universe.

This was the speed granted by the Celestial Frost Sect's Wind God technique. It was just as famous as the Wang family's Four Arts or the White Dragon Clan's Roving White Dragon.

Golden lines appeared over Lu Yin's body, and his ten lined battle force lit up the area. At the same time, he released his domain and his spiritual force.

Across from Lu Yin, Shi Xin's body swayed, and his expression changed drastically. Both spirit force and domain attacks?

Lu Yin turned his head and lashed out with a Vacuum Palm.

It squarely struck Shi Xin's body, and forced him out of the true universe. His feet left behind two deep ditches in the ground.

He was knocked back 100 meters by Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm, but he was uninjured. However, cracks had appeared on the stone-looking veins atop his body, though they soon recovered.

Lu Yin did not hesitate and unleashed multiple Vacuum Palms.

Shi Xin looked up and calmly waved his right hand. A blast of wind visible to the naked eye wrapped around his body and isolated him from the void. With the Wind God technique in use, even though Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm rained down on the vortex, none of his blows could pierce it.

Lu Yin's fingers twitched. This was troublesome. It had been a long time since he had met an opponent who could block his Vacuum Palm, which had essentially sealed off Lu Yin's most effective attack method.

Shi Xin leaped forward and returned to the true universe. As he maintained the vortex surrounding his body, he raised a hand. "Wind God Slash."

As he shouted, a sharp attack shot forward. Regardless of if Lu Yin could see it or not, the attack would strike true.

Lu Yin raised a hand in response: Channeling Diagram.

Boom!

A violent vibration caused the Ancestral Dragon Altar itself to tremble. Countless sharp slashes were transformed into thin lines that were dispersed in all directions. It was the power of the Wind God Slash that had been redirected away by Lu Yin's Channeling Diagram.

Chapter 1546: Shocking Events

Grandmaster Qiu Ling was genuinely surprised when she saw Lu Yin use a sourcebox array. "That's quite effective. Although it's simple, it's certainly a very practical array, especially in combat."

Master Deng Guo also spoke praises. "Long Qi's familiarity with this sourcebox array has reached the level of using it like it's a part of his body. For him to use it so quickly not only showcases his talent as a Lockbreaker, but also his impressive control."

Bai Teng and Elder Xi Zi glanced at each other. Sure enough, Long Qi was not someone whom they could underestimate; he had actually managed to block Shi Xin's Wind God battle technique, which was one of the Celestial Frost Sect's most elite techniques that had made them famous throughout the entire Perennial World. The different parts of the technique encompassed attack, defense, and even speed. Despite that, it had been blocked by a mere Enlightener.

Shi Xin's eyes went wide, and he grew excited. "Well done!"

As he spoke, the stony veins across his body grew more and more clear. "Rockmorph."

After he spoke, a stone layer covered his entire body, giving him the appearance of a stone man. A fist shot towards Lu Yin, though this one clearly had nothing to do with the Wind God's battle techniques.

Lu Yin clenched his own fist and retaliated with his own punch. 350 Stacks burst out in a bang as the air within 1000 meters of the point of impact exploded, causing a powerful shockwave to sweep out in all directions.

Lu Yin's fist ached. Shi Xin had transformed into a stone man, but his strength had not improved by much. While Lu Yin was still able to use the Overlaying Stacks Path to overpower Shi Xin, the Envoy's defense was truly mind-boggling. Lu Yin's attacks were completely useless, even if he released his full strength and used his battle force.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The barrage of attacks continued, but blood soon started dripping from Lu Yin's fist. Cracks had appeared on the stone covering Shi Xin's fist, but they quickly recovered. Seeing how quickly the stone restored itself left Lu Yin at a loss for what to do.

This was the first time since becoming an Enlightener that Lu Yin had faced a true elite Envoy. This person was not overpowering Lu Yin with his cultivation realm, but rather with pure strength.

Lu Yin could sense that Shi Xin felt frustrated, and Shi Xin could tell that the same was true of Lu Yin. However, Lu Yin's appearance was what bothered Shi Xin the most, as he was constantly reminded of that person. It was as if he had crossed through time and space to return to that day once again. He would never forget the feeling that had filled him on that day.

The feeling of despair that came from the Champion's Stage.

Shi Xin's expression firmed, and his strikes grew increasingly heavy. As the void trembled, the air within ten miles of him started to burn. No—it was actually the void that was burning. This was the feeling that came with aurelian force.

Lu Yin was startled, and he quickly retreated, though Shi Xin immediately pursued. The speed granted by the Wind God technique meant that Lu Yin could not dodge the approaching punch, and this punch was also reinforced with aurelian force. There was a bang as it landed. Lu Yin unleashed a multistack counterattack and also unsealed his fatesand. Despite his efforts, his body was still smashed into the ground by Shi Xin's punch, and his battle force was even dispersed. Cracks covered his fatesand, and it returned to his body.

The unimaginable power of the punch's force had driven Lu Yin deep into the ground, and not even he knew how far into Dragon Mountain he currently was.

When the force of the punch finally ran out, Lu Yin found that his arms were numb, and he was unable to move.

This was the power of aurelian force, the peak of battle force. Ten lined battle force was completely useless against this power.

All around the Ancestral Dragon Altar, everyone watching the battle was left speechless. Aurelian force and a domain at the void realm rarely ever appeared. Mr. Tang was well respected by even powerful Semi-Progenitors because his domain had attained the void realm while Shi Xin had accomplished the equivalent by cultivating his battle force to aurelian force. It was a dominating, invincible power.

When aurelian force was used, a person would be invincible. This was the ultimate level that one could reach with battle force.

Shi Xin looked down and stared at the ground, waiting for Lu Yin to emerge.

Some distance away, Bai Teng was smiling. The moment Shi Xin's aurelian force had appeared, forget about an Enlightener—even Envoys that had passed a stellar tribulation were not able to stand up to him. In the past, Shi Xin had challenged the Seventh Hero precisely by relying on his aurelian force.

The hearts of Ni Huang and the other members of the White Dragon Clan all sank. Aurelian force was not something that could be considered normal.

Qing Chen frowned. Shi Xin was not only terrifying because of his aurelian force, but also because he was from the same generation as the Seven Heroes. Even though so many years had passed, he still had not undergone another stellar tribulation, and he was at a level where he could pass one at any moment. He had an innate gift, battle force, and even secret techniques. This kind of person could make all his peers at the same cultivation realm feel helpless, so how could Long Qi, who was at a lower realm, possibly win?

The Celestial Frost Sect had prepared too well.

Deep underground, Lu Yin flexed his arm. He was once again able to move, so he pushed himself up and let out a pent up breath. His third meridian point really did provide him with a powerful vitality, allowing him to quickly recover from the damage of the punch he had received. Lu Yin was stuck. He had no

power or attack that could break through the defense of Shi Xin's aurelian force, so unless he was willing to use the Champions' Stage or his God of Death Transformation, there was no path to victory.

"Come out. I know that you're not badly injured," Shi Xin said, his voice descending to Lu Yin from above.

Lu Yin moved out. His figure flashed, and he reappeared up aboveground, 100 meters away from Shi Xin.

Lu Yin stared at Shi Xin. Aurelian force still surged around Shi Xin, and Lu Yin could feel that the domineering power of the energy extended to not just the visible universe, but also the true universe.

Zhou Tang's aurelian force covered a hundred miles, and it had let him easily kill one of the massive corpse kings that far surpassed the Envoy's own power level. In comparison, Shi Xin's aurelian force only covered a range of ten miles. Even though this was much smaller than Zhou Tang's, it was still enough to catapult Shi Xin to the peak of his cultivation realm.

Lu Yin remembered a conversation that he had once had with Zhou Tang. Even though aurelian force was invincible, it was also impossible for a person to continuously use it. Thus, Lu Yin just needed to stall for time until Shi Xin's aurelian force expired.

Shi Xin raised a hand and aimed it at Lu Yin with all five fingers pressed together. He then thrust an open palm towards Lu Yin. The attack blasted the void apart, leaving behind a black spatial tear that shot towards Lu Yin while carrying unparalleled destructive power.

An astral chessboard appeared beneath Lu Yin's feet, and he moved.

His body appeared behind Shi Xin, but the Envoy instantly spun around and kicked out. Another shockwave shot forward, stirred up by the aurelian force, and it formed a massive, slashing attack. But this was within Lu Yin's expectations. He knew that just the Ce Secret Art would not be enough to escape from Shi Xin. After all, the Envoy had been brought along specifically to deal with Lu Yin, and he must have received comprehensive information regarding Lu Yin's strength and abilities.

Right as Shi Xin lashed out with a kick, Lu Yin dodged again with a Teleportation Formation.

Twice in a row, Lu Yin had managed to avoid Shi Xin's attacks that were reinforced with his aurelian force. Shi Xin leaped up, and the void within a ten mile radius began roiling from his aurelian force. From high above, it looked as though the area was steaming. Suddenly, Shi Xin swung his hand down, and the aurelian force that had seeped into the area suddenly erupted. Lu Yin looked up, his face pale. He could not dodge this attack, as Shi Xin had locked Lu Yin down with aurelian force. A palm struck Lu Yin's forehead, but the impact did not feel right to Shi Xin. It turned out that he had not struck Lu Yin's forehead, but rather his palm. A terrible power countered Shi Xin's attack, and he was forced back, trembling.

Shi Xin retreated a hundred meters and fell to the ground. After hitting the ground, he took another ten steps back. He looked up, only to see that he had not been countered by Lu Yin, but rather by a powerful Envoy who had survived three tribulations.

Lu Yin was actually thousands of meters away.

Spiritual Force? Shi Xin felt a flicker of fear as he stared at Lu Yin.

This Envoy realm powerhouse facing Shi Xin was from the Higher Realm, and he had come to congratulate the White Dragon Clan by himself. He was amazed at the horror of the aurelian force, though he did not expect to inexplicably appear on the field. Although he felt very aggrieved, it had also let him experience the power of aurelian force.

"That's the spiritual force battle technique that he received from Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo," someone suddenly said, his voice clearly expressing his displeasure. It seemed that either he or his ancestors had been harassed by Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo.

Someone else said, "It must be. So did he not just receive some resources? Elder Shi was confused by a spiritual force technique, not some regular battle technique. That has to be something inherited from Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo."

"Long Qi really is Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo's heir."

...

Lu Yin's brows rose high as he heard the misunderstanding grow.

"You have very powerful combat skills, but if you want to beat me with just this, it's impossible," Shi Xin stated in a deep voice as his aurelian force returned to a stable state.

Lu Yin shrugged. "Let's keep going."

As he spoke, he charged forward. He wanted to take advantage of the lull in Shi Xin's aurelian force, as it meant that Shi Xin's strength had waned. Lu Yin took the initiative to attack, and he sent out a Vacuum Palm. Unfortunately, despite the weakening of Shi Xin's aurelian force, the stone veins covering his body had not disappeared yet. This layer of stone was his innate gift, and Lu Yin's Vacuum Palms could not penetrate the stone, rendering them ineffective.

In the blink of an eye, the two were fighting once again. Fist met fist, palm met palm, and knees met knees. They fought like two savage beasts, and their movements shattered the void around them and created a black storm of spatial cracks.

In the distance, Wang Yun, who was standing behind Wang Si, watched as the void tore open to form a black storm. She saw Lu Yin use the Overlaying Stacks Path to stand up to Shi Xin, and the shock in Wang Yun's eyes grew stronger and stronger. Stacking attacks, stacking attacks...

Suddenly, her expression completely changed.

"I remember now! It's you! It's you! You're from the Forsaken Land!" Wang Yun screamed loudly, and her voice startled the people nearby.

Wang Si frowned. "Yun'er, what are you talking about?"

Wang Yun shouted while pointing at Lu Yin. "He's not Long Qi! He's from the Forsaken Land's Astral Combat Academy!"

Even while fighting against Shi Xin, Lu Yin heard Wang Yun's words. He was shocked, and he turned to stare at Wang Yun in amazement. He paid no attention to his surroundings, and Shi Xin punched Lu Yin straight in the chest, knocking him back. Unconcerned, Lu Yin had no time to deal with Shi Xin. He was staring at Wang Yun. How had this woman recognized him? She was the woman from the Wang family that he had met in the Yinshan District, right? How could she know that he was from the Fifth Mainland, and even know the name of the Astral Combat Academy?

Wang Yun's words created a commotion in all directions, and Bai Teng quickly reacted, "Xiao Yun, is what you just said true?"

"Yun'er, this is a big deal, so you cannot joke about such things," Wang Si warned.

Ni Huang and everyone else were all staring at Wang Yun, and the pressure she was facing suddenly spiked. She knew that it was not just the people she could see who were staring at her, as Progenitors Mu Xie and Long were also looking at her.

She stared straight at Lu Yin. "You are from the Forsaken Land! You were a student at the Astral Combat Academy! We fought in a tournament. I represented the Technocracy."

Lightning flashed through Lu Yin's mind. Yun, Yun... Is she that Yun?

After an impressive battle, "Yun" had defeated Liu Shaoqiu before losing to Lu Yin. During their match, Lu Yin had been quite impressed by Yun's unpredictable power. However, he had never dreamed that the android he had fought from the Technocracy was actually this woman.

Lu Yin's hands and feet went numb and a chill swept over his entire body. "I don't know what you're talking about."

Yun sneered. "You don't know? I remember you very well! At that time, the Forsaken Land's sky had been replaced by the Sixth Mainland. Regardless if the people there faced those from the Sixth Mainland or us, they would have all had their strength suppressed. However, you were an exception! I remember your name—Lu Yin!"

There was a crisp snap. The loud noise filled the sky and just barely covered the sound of the name that Wang Yun had just uttered. In the distance, the sky split open, and a pair of huge scarlet eyes with vertical pupils appeared. They stared at the Higher Realm and at Dragon Mountain.

The Tree Realm had been broken through once again, and a corpse king at the Progenitor level could be seen by the entire Perennial World. The Mother Tree shook.

Mu Xie suddenly appeared, a dignified expression on his face. He had no time to pay attention to what was happening on Dragon Mountain any longer. He disappeared in an instant, followed by Progenitor Long.

As for Lu Yin, he crushed Mister Mu's jade talisman while simultaneously attacking Wang Yu with Skybreaker in an attempt to knock her out.

However, Wang Si noticed Lu Yin's attack, and she glared at Lu Yin with murder in her eyes. "Junior, what are you trying to do?"

Lu Yin's gaze was dagger-like.

"Xiao Yun, what did you just say his name was?" Bai Teng asked sharply.

Chapter 1547: Battle Of Dragon Mountain

Wang Yun lifted her head to look up at Lu Yin. She slowly and clearly stated, "Lu. Yin."

Everyone turned to stare at Lu Yin in shock. Lu- Lu Yin? A member of the Lu family?

"Impossible! He's Long Qi!" Ni Huang protested. His eyes grew sharp enough to pierce bone as he glared at Wang Yun. "You've mistaken him for the wrong person."

Wang Yun remained stubborn. "I did not."

Wang Si moved to confront Ni Huang. "Senior, what do you want to do?"

Ni Huang shifted his attention to Wang Si. "Long Qi has already proven his bloodline, showing that he is someone from the White Dragon Clan. Thus, how could his surname possibly be Lu? How could he be someone from the Forsaken Land?"

"Regardless of whether he is or not, test his blood again," Bai Teng demanded.

Long Ke angrily shouted, "Bai Teng, you must have lost your mind!"

"Patriarch Long, there is nothing wrong with having another blood test, or could it be that you want to cover up the fact that your White Dragon Clan knew that he's from the Lu family all along?" Elder Xi Zi accused.

Ni Huang raged, "It looks like the Celestial Frost Sect and the Wang family have already worked things out in advance. You already know that my White Dragon Clan will marry Shenwu's Sky, and thus you want to destroy us!"

Bai Teng looked up. "Senior, Shi Xin has already gained the upper hand in his match with Long Qi. Long Qi clearly cannot defeat Shi Xin, so there's no need for any of this."

"He is Lu Yin! I haven't remembered wrong!" Wang Yun shouted.

Lu Yin wanted to kill her.

Xia Taili was stunned. Things were getting much too exciting! She looked at Lu Yin. There was no way that this person could be from the Lu family, as that would be too much. The existence of such a person would shake the entire Perennial World.

To her side, Xia Xing frowned and stared at Lu Yin. While this accusation seemed far fetched, it was not impossible either. With this thought, he said, "Senior Ni Huang, whether it's true or not, just conduct another blood test. If he is from the Lu family, then the blood of your White Dragon Clan will not last for long within his body. With the time that has passed, the blood in his body right now is clearly his own."

Ni Huang turned to look at Lu Yin. Despite being a Semi-Progenitor who had lived for uncounted years, he was nervous at this moment. Bai Teng was correct. There was no reason not to go through with this test. However, Ni Huang had also heard of Wang Yun and how she had violated the Wang family's rules to enter the Forsaken Land without permission. That was why she had been punished, and at this

moment, she was the one claiming that Long Qi was really from the Forsaken Land? And from the Lu family at that?

If Long Qi really was someone from the Forsaken Land, then his White Dragon Clan would be nothing more than the Perennial World's greatest joke.

Long Ke stared at Lu Yin, the patriarch's palms sweating.

Everyone was staring at Lu Yin.

Qing Chen softly said, "Long Qi, go and give a drop of blood to verify your identity. Don't worry, you are a Gate Master of Humility's Gate, and you are someone whom Commander Mu regards very highly. Anyone who accuses you wrongly will not enjoy a pleasant ending."

Wang Si's eyes grew dark, and she glanced down at Wang Yun. Qing Chen's words were true; if Wang Yun really had slandered Long Qi just now, then she would not only have offended the White Dragon Clan, but also Humility's Gate.

Lu Yin stood there, frozen in place. He felt as though his heart had fallen to the bottom of the valley. He had only had enough of Long Xi's blood to pass the test once, but her blood had already left his body. There was only his own blood left in his body, and it was indeed the blood of the Lu family.

"Long Qi, go to the Ancestral Dragon Altar to test your blood again," Ni Huang ordered while staring at Lu Yin.

Everyone stared at Lu Yin.

The slitted, scarlet eyes off in the distant sky had already disappeared, but everyone knew that the Progenitors were fighting in the distance.

As everyone watched, Lu Yin returned to the Ancestral Dragon Altar, one step at a time. He proceeded very slowly, as he was waiting for Mister Mu. At this moment, only Mister Mu could save him.

However, even when he arrived at the statue of the Ancestral Python, Mister Mu still had not appeared.

Ni Huang stood directly in front of Lu Yin, staring at the youth intently. Despite his many years of life, Ni Huang had never been this nervous before, not even in life or death situations. This matter was something that would affect the reputation of the entire White Dragon Clan.

Bai Teng and others were equally nervous. If Long Qi was truly someone from the Forsaken Land, then the White Dragon Clan would be forced to bear an indescribable burden while also becoming the biggest joke of the four ruling powers. This would be the best possible outcome for the Celestial Frost Sect, as they had only recently learned that their Junior Progenitor was dead.

Lu Yin's identity was intimately connected to the balance between the four ruling powers, and it could even affect the entire Perennial World.

"Place a drop of blood," Ni Huang commanded in a deep voice.

Lu Yin took a deep breath. He raised his hand, but just as he was about to let his blood drip out, a familiar, though absolutely terrifying, creepy laugh rang out. "Gaga, it's so lively here!"

The little doll appeared atop the Ancestral Dragon Altar, and the expressions on Ni Huang and others' faces instantly transformed. "Shaman God?!"

The moment the words were spoken, everyone's five senses became confused.

Shaman God's doll flashed and suddenly appeared right next to Lu Yin. "So it's the Lu family's blood, right? I'll have to take this back for testing. You humans no longer have the Lu family, so we'll have the Lu family appear from my Aeternus. We'll give you a taste of facing the Champions' Stage, and we'll even give those ancient ones a taste of the Wind God's techniques, gaga." After the doll finished speaking, Lu Yin was dragged into the true universe by an irresistible force and taken away from Dragon Mountain.

"Don't even think about it!" Qing Chen shouted. A power that isolated the void knocked Shaman God's doll out of the true universe, and Lu Yin fell down.

Simultaneously, a drop of clear water appeared before suddenly becoming massive. The water swirled around the Ancestral Dragon Altar as well as everyone else around it. This was Qing Chen's innate gift: Clear Water Purification.

"I wanted to take advantage of this little ceremony where the White Dragon Clan worships their so-called ancestor to destroy an entire group of humanity's elites, though I certainly did not expect to happen to run into a member of the Lu family! This child needs to be taken back to Aeternus." A loud voice fell upon the area, shattering the void. The resulting spatial cracks created an opening hundreds of meters tall, and within it was the frame of a massive corpse king.

"Corpse God?" Ni Huang shouted. "How dare you step foot onto my Dragon Mountain!"

Lu Yin fell to the ground. He looked up to see that both Shaman God and Corpse God had appeared. One by one, the gathered Semi-Progenitors all attacked.

Bai Teng suddenly appeared in front of Lu Yin with a sneer. "Boy, stop struggling!"

He stretched out a hand to grab Lu Yin, but Long Ke appeared before Lu Yin to face Bai Teng. "He has not taken the blood test yet, so the truth still has not been determined. Bai Teng, stand down."

"Do you really want to keep deceiving yourself? The kid was clearly stalling for time, and he definitely doesn't dare take the blood test," Bai Teng snapped back.

Long Ke had definitely been able to see the same thing, but he would never admit to it, as doing so would ruin his White Dragon Clan. "Bullshit! The White Dragon Clan will protect Long Qi! Anybody here who dares to attack Long Qi will become an enemy of my White Dragon Clan!"

An entire group of the White Dragon Clan's powerhouses stepped forward.

Wang Si shouted, "Long Ke, are you actually helping the Lu family?"

Even as she spoke, the silhouette of a mountain appeared behind her body. The entire region was suppressed by an incredible pressure. How could anyone be a Semi-Progenitor's opponent?

At that moment, a sword swept out. The hunched old man, Liu Song, appeared, and he confronted Wang Si. "Nothing has been proven yet. Wang Si, you are as impatient as ever."

"Liu Song, so your Liu family does want to protect the Lu family's remnants!" Wang Si shouted.

Liu Song shook his head. "He is clearly a member of the White Dragon Clan, so how could he be a survivor from the Lu family? Wang Si, your stubbornness does not allow you to see the truth?"

Wang Si was infuriated, as the old man was blatantly pretending to be confused.

Lu Yin continued to move back, and he also put his universal armor on. He clearly understood the current situation. Even if the White Dragon Clan was fully convinced that Lu Yin was someone from the Forsaken Land or even that he was a survivor of the Lu family, they would never allow him to be exposed. All that he needed to do was slip away.

"Kid, come with me." Elder Xi Zi emerged from the void and grabbed at Lu Yin. An elder from the White Dragon Clan appeared on the opposite side of Lu Yin to block Elder Xi Zi. "Do you really want to fight here on my Dragon Mountain?"

Elder Xi Zi did not reply, and he simply glanced over at Shi Xin.

Shi Xin frowned, but he still charged for Lu Yin. However, another one of the White Dragon Clan's Envoy's appeared to stop Shi Xin.

At this time, all of the experts who had arrived with the Wang family and the Celestial Frost Sect attempted to capture Lu Yin. However, the White Dragon Clan stopped them all.

The White Dragon Clan's other guests remained at the sidelines and slowly retreated from the multiple battles breaking out.

If Lu Yin was proven to be someone from the Forsaken Land, then even the White Dragon Clan would have to arrest him. On the other hand, as long as nothing was proven, the White Dragon Clan had a valid excuse to take action.

"Follow me." Lu Yin heard the eager voice of a White Dragon Clan elder.

Lu Yin kept looking around, as he was looking for a way to escape.

"Follow me!" The White Dragon Clan elder grabbed Lu Yin's arm, intending to drag the youth away. Lu Yin had basically been confirmed to be someone from the Forsaken Land, so none of the clan elders felt any need to be polite. The youth would be taken away and quietly disposed of later.

Lu Yin instantly threw the elder's hands away and shot into the true universe, racing to leave Dragon Mountain.

The White Dragon Clan elder was enraged, and he shouted, "You bastard!"

He also tore into the true universe. The elder raised his hands, putting tremendous pressure on Lu Yin from all directions. This elder was an Envoy who had passed several tribulations. On the rear battlefield, Lu Yin had the Cloudguard Robes, which had protected him from such powerhouses, but he had long since lost that item. Thus, the stellar energy blasted Lu Yin out of the true universe, and his body smashed into the ground.

"Nice armor. Now come with this old man." The elder once again grabbed at Lu Yin.

An astral chessboard appeared beneath Lu Yin's feet, and he tried to move himself, only to discover that he could not do so. The void around him had been twisted, and all of the star energy had been affected and suppressed by stellar energy. The elder's eyes were cold as he stared at Lu Yin. "You animal! How dare you impersonate someone from my White Dragon Clan and cause us to be humiliated? You will suffer the worst punishment possible, and you will beg for death!"

As he spoke, the elder could not refrain from slapping a palm at Lu Yin. This attack contained stellar energy, and it shot straight towards Lu Yin.

Fortunately, he had his universal armor for protection, and Lu Yin was merely knocked backwards, still uninjured. Without the armor, he would have been badly wounded.

"I'm from the White Dragon Clan!" Lu Yin protested.

The elder sneered and responded, "Then return with this old man."

They were on Dragon Mountain, and it was full of the White Dragon Clan's powerhouses.

Suddenly, another person appeared. This person was the old man with whom Lu Yin had agreed to return to the Fifth Mainland with, and he casually swept the White Dragon Clan elder away.

Lu Yin was overjoyed to see the old man, as it was impossible for Lu Yin to escape from Dragon Mountain on his own.

"Kid, run!" The old man grabbed Lu Yin and tore through the void.

As a Semi-Progenitor, no one could stop the old man unless they were also a Semi-Progenitor.

Suddenly, the sky and the void around Dragon Mountain warped and grew distorted. How could one of the four ruling powers not have a sourcebox array protecting a place like Dragon Mountain? It was the White Dragon Clan's ancestral home after all.

The old man was stopped by the array, and his expression twisted. "This is a problem."

Lu Yin stared at the sourcebox array that shrouded Dragon Mountain, and his heart fell. This was not something that a Semi-Progenitor could break through, as this was one of the four ruling powers' defensive measures. Why had Mister Mu still not appeared?

Off in the distance, Ni Huang was fighting against Corpse God, and the old man's expression grew dark. This matter had to be completely buried on Dragon Mountain. As for the people from the Celestial Frost Sect and the Wang family, he would find a way to convince them to conceal the matter, though he would have to pay a terrible price. As for Long Qi, the old man had already considered 10,000 means of torture to use before killing the imposter.

The old man did his best, and he tried to force his way through the sourcebox array, but his efforts were all useless. He even suffered from the sourcebox array's retaliation, which caused him to spit out a mouthful of blood. He bitterly said, "Kid, we can't escape today. Tell this old man, what did that person tell you?"

Chapter 1548: The Truth That Kui Luo Knows

Lu Yin gritted his teeth. "Get me back to the Fifth Mainland and I'll tell you."

"We can't go back there, we're going to die here for sure!" the old man shouted.

"You're Kui Luo, aren't you?" Lu Yin shouted.

The old man did not deny it.

"Then say something and get them to kill each other," Lu Yin suggested.

The old man rolled his eyes, but he still turned his head as a majestic wave of spiritual force swept out. It went past Shaman God, Qing Chen, Corpse God, Ni Huang, Wang Si, Liu Song, and everyone else. "Hey old guys! It's me, Kui Luo! I'm not dead, hahahaha!"

Everyone turned to look, and they gritted their teeth.

"Bai Teng, you're the biggest Redback in the Perennial World!" the old man shouted.

Everyone grew sluggish.

Bai Teng was completely stunned. What?

"You're Aeternus's biggest Redback in the entire human race! Bai Teng, that's what you are, so don't act stupid!" the old man shouted. He then turned to look at Wang Si. "Old woman Wang Si, you're the one who killed the White Dragon Clan's Elder Long Cunxin! No one else may know, but this old man does!"

Wang Si's expression fell, as this was true.

The old man then moved on to Xia Xing. "Shenwu's Sky, what are you doing? Your daughter is already pregnant with Long Qi's seed, so why don't you help them out? Do you want your daughter to end up as a widow?"

Xia Xing nearly exploded, and he whirled around to stare at Xia Taili in disbelief.

Xia Taili's cheeks turned red as she jumped up in a rage. "Old man, what bullshit are you spouting?"

The old man revealed an odd smile. "Up in the Dominion Realm, your brother was the one to kill Bai Shaohong, though it was with Long Qi. Bai Shaohong drugged you, and your brother found out about it, which started a death match between them. Long Qi showed up while they were fighting, and took advantage of the situation by sleeping with you. Afterwards, he worked together with your brother to kill Bai Shaohong. Your brother is still sitting in the Forgotten Ruins to cover everything up. Others might not know what happened there, but this old man does!

"Your child was conceived in Huaiyuan Gate. This old man saw everything. That's why Long Qi requested for you to go to Huaiyuan Gate."

Xia Taili's entire body was trembling, but she did not know what to say in response.

Bai Teng and others from the Celestial Frost Sect all glared at Xia Taili, murder in their eyes. This was not only because of her connection with Bai Shaohong's death, but also because her womb might hold the Lu family's seed!

Lu Yin was shocked, and he stared at the old man in disbelief. It was no wonder why this person had been wanted by the entire Perennial World! He was willing to say anything, and even worse, he said everything with such conviction that people naturally believed his words. He had even managed to connect everything together so tightly; had he really come up with this story on the spot? That was a terrifying level of skill.

"You killed Shaohong?" Bai Teng roared as he glared at Xia Taili.

Xia Xing was also furious, and he glared back at Bai Teng. "Bai Shaohong dared to drug my daughter?"

"That's ridiculous!" Bai Teng shouted back.

"Bai Teng, you're a Redback!" A powerhouse from Humility's Gate glared at Bai Teng.

Bai Teng was enraged at the accusation. "I'm not!"

"Wang Si, you killed Cunxin!" Long Ke shouted as he glared at Wang Si.

Wang Si frowned. "You overstep yourself!"

Dragon Mountain was instantly thrown into chaos. There were only a few Semi-Progenitors there, and each of them already had their own opponents. The old man had wanted to escape with Lu Yin, but the sourcebox array was not something that the old man could break through. However, they could buy themselves more time if everyone was suspicious of each other.

Lu Yin suddenly remembered something, and he took out Long Tian's Junior Progenitor token from his cosmic ring. "This is Long Tian's token. Can I use it to leave?"

Normally, the White Dragon Clan's Junior Progenitor would be allowed to enter and leave Dragon Mountain however he wished. The token was also proof of one's identity, and in many places, merely holding a token would allow one to freely enter or exit.

The old man grabbed the token and Lu Yin and raced away.

Far away, Ni Huang was stunned even while fighting against Corpse God. How was this possible? Very few people in the entire White Dragon Clan were able to freely enter and leave the sourcebox array.

As soon as they rushed out of the array, the old man commented in surprise, "Kid, you've got a lot of good things. This must be something that you picked up in the Dominion Realm."

"We're almost free!" Lu Yin was excited, as he had finally left Dragon Mountain. "Run away!"

"If you want to escape, then you'll need to leave the old man behind." Wang Si appeared, and she raised a hand. A black line appeared in the void, and it sealed the area surrounding both the old man and Lu Yin. This was one of the Wang family's secret techniques: Confinement.

The old man threw Lu Yin away. "Kid, find a way to escape by yourself!"

As soon as he finished speaking, he whirled around. For the first time, he gave off a cold and blood thirsty aura. "You old slut, you're still so annoying."

"Kui Luo, you are courting death!" Wang Si struck down with a palm, and the old man was entirely cut off from the void and the world. It was as though a portion of the world had been severed by the palm.

Kui Luo grew solemn. "The Wang family spied and stole the Lu family's visualization technique and merged it with your Forgotten Ruins. I've long since wanted to see this technique for myself. Bring it on, you old slut!"

There was a bang, and an incredible shockwave swept out in all directions. The void opened up like a parting curtain, and Lu Yin used the force to fly straight at the Cloud Shuttle. He knew that he would run into various obstacles along the way, but this was his only path to freedom. He needed to leave the Higher Realm and return to the Fifth Mainland, so he could only go this way.

Back at Dragon Mountain, Ni Huang's expression had changed. Wang Si had made a deal for him to allow her through the sourcebox array and intercept Kui Luo, but Dragon Mountain's sourcebox array had kept Liu Song trapped behind. No one else was able to chase after the two men who had fled, but naturally, the White Dragon had sent out other people to give chase.

As the two Semi-Progenitors fought, Lu Yin raced towards the Cloud Shuttle. However, before long, he heard a familiar voice, "Nice armor. Why don't you stop."

It was the White Dragon Clan's elder who had chased after Lu Yin before. He was a powerhouse who had survived several tribulations.

Lu Yin turned around to see the elder, and he saw the killing intent and cruel glint in the older man's eyes. Lu Yin coldly declared, "I'm Long Qi, and yet you all really want to kill me."

The elder just sneered. "Back at Dragon Mountain, no one could take you down, but even here, you're still putting on such an act even when you're about to be killed by this old man. You're the Lu family's trash!"

Lu Yin abruptly stopped. His head turned around to look back at the elder, and Lu Yin's expression had completely changed. "Old man, you're asking to die."

Right after that, Lu Yin took out the puppet that he had taken from Xia Shenfei, and he also put on his universal armor while attacking the elder with a hand.

The elder laughed from anger. "You want to challenge this old man with external items? Your thoughts are too simple."

With that, his body suddenly changed as he used the White Dragon Transformation. A terrifying energy shot up into the sky as the old man lifted a hand, causing his spear to appear. He stabbed the spear forward, tearing through the void. His weapon was unimaginably sharp, and it was wrapped about with a terrifying power. Just a glance at it would frighten anyone.

Lu Yin grabbed the spear shaft with a single hand. The force behind the spear knocked him back and drove him into the ground. The remaining power of the attack could destroy a small town. The elder had wanted to kill Lu Yin with a single attack, but Lu Yin had Enhanced the puppet that he had taken from Xia Shenfei, and it was now capable of withstanding attacks of a power level of almost 800,000, which was the same as an Envoy who had survived four tribulations. While the puppet's defenses could not

compare to the Cloudguard Robes', there was one aspect where the Cloudguard Robes could not equal the puppet: the puppet could also attack.

Lu Yin had been smashed into the ground by the spear, but when he lifted a hand, the puppet's arm moved in the exact same manner as Lu Yin's. Lu Yin's arm stretched forward, and the puppet punched the elder, destroying half of his body. Even though the elder was at the cusp of his fourth tribulation, both his attacks and defense were a bit worse than the puppet's, and the punch had been a direct hit.

The elder was no longer even able to hold his spear, so he fell back. Lu Yin leaped forward to press the attack, but the elder was no corpse king, and he had no intentions of recklessly fighting. The old man instantly fled.

Lu Yin remained standing where he was, gasping for breath. Off in the distance, the elder reappeared. Blood poured out of half of his body, and he looked terrible. He glared at Lu Yin in an unwilling manner. "Bastard of the Lu family, this old man will make sure that you die without a burial!"

Lu Yin carefully stared at the elder for a moment before turning around and continuing making his way towards the Cloud Shuttle.

However, he did not make it very far before another Envoy appeared from a city up ahead, clearly intending to intercept him. Lu Yin gritted his teeth, took out the sourcebox array that held the Void Rip technique, and released the final attack stored within it without any hesitation. The Envoy's head was cleanly sliced off.

The head fell down to the city, and untold numbers of residents froze at the sight. They watched in a daze as Lu Yin continued making his way to the east.

Behind him, the elders from the White Dragon Clan were able to recognize the Void Rip. Even further away, the other people from the four ruling powers were also observing Lu Yin, and they also recognized the Void Rip.

"The Junior Progenitor really was killed by that survivor of the Lu family! We must get revenge."

"Hey, he can't escape! The sect master has already ordered that everyone in the Higher Realm from the Celestial Frost Sect should try to capture him. The Wang family has done the same, and not even the White Dragon clan will allow him to escape."

"Lu brat! Let's see how far you can run! Hahahaha!" Someone laughed, and although the voice entered Lu Yin's ears, he simply gritted his teeth and continued flying towards the Cloud Shuttle without even turning his head around.

Right after that, many people appeared. All of them had received orders from the Celestial Frost Sect to capture Lu Yin, but Lu Yin had just instantly killed an Envoy. Thus, no one was willing to rashly attack him. Also, the White Dragon Clan's elder's terrible condition caused them to be even warier. These people did not dare to do anything besides chase after Lu Yin and mock him. None of them dared to move against him.

"Lu bastard, this is the Higher Realm! Where can you escape to?"

"Lu bastard! Do you remember the All-Dao family? You son of a bitch, many women from that family are now slaves—one batch after another! Those women are living horrible lives, so why don't you come save them?"

"Lu bastard! Even at the beginning, everyone who followed your family defected. If you're capable enough, why don't you clean up house?"

"Lu bastard..."

...

Lu Yin gritted his teeth. He heard everything that was said, and he burned every word into his memory. He did not have to listen, but he felt that he needed to. Lu Yin was not a merciful person, and he remembered the faces of everyone who spoke. They could keep talking; everything here would eventually be repaid.

Aaaah! There was a scream, and Lu Yin turned around to look, but all he saw was that someone's arm had been cut off. There was no sign of where the attack had come from.

Everyone nearby was startled, and they quickly started searching for who might have attacked, but they could not find anyone.

Lu Yin had kept his domain active at all times, and so he was able to vaguely see a patch of ground at the base of some mountains. There was an old farmer bent over in that place, and he was facing Lu Yin. Not only was the farmer bent over to tend the field, but he was also bowing to Lu Yin, to the Lu family.

"Lu bastard, you-" Someone else spoke up, only to be attacked from numerous directions.

There were many people who hated the Lu family, but there were also just as many who wished to support the Lu family.

Lu Yin had lost his memory, so he did not know what the Lu family had done for the Perennial World. However, the Lu family's former retainers and vassals still had powerhouses among them, and they would rather die than allow the Lu family to be disrespected. This led Lu Yin to believe that the Lu family had been quite different from the four ruling powers that had replaced them.

"Leave this Lu bastard to this old man!" A loud voice echoed through the void, and an old man emerged. He was someone from the Celestial Frost Sect, and his eyes swept past Lu Yin, across the ground, until it reached the old farmer in the distance. "Hmph! So there are still some survivors among the Lu family's retainers. You bastard, this old man will show you how all those who survived will die!"

Lu Yin clenched his hand into a fist and rushed at the old man. "Come at me if you have an issue!"

The old man sneered. "Are you even worthy?"

This man had passed four stellar tribulations, and he was much more powerful than the White Dragon Clan's elder that Lu Yin had faced earlier. In fact, the Envoy suddenly attacked with Cloud Fall, which startled everyone.

"Fall for this old man!" he ordered as he pressed a hand down.

Chapter 1549: Lu Yin's Name

Lu Yin's pupils shrank to pinpoints, and he pulled out the large ring the size of a hand that he had obtained from Grandmaster Gu Yan. The old man had once said that the power vessel contained the full power of one of his attacks.

Cloud Fall descended, and the large ring disappeared from Lu Yin and passed by the old man.

Without a single sound, the old man's face turned gray, and his body was split in two. He slowly tumbled down into the mountains.

The burgeoning secret technique, Cloud Fall, slowly disappeared at the same time.

Everyone remained silent as they blankly stared on. A powerhouse of the Celestial Frost Sect who had passed through four stellar tribulations and had even mastered a secret technique had died so simply. In fact, there had not even been any buildup leading up to his death.

Everyone stared at Lu Yin in fear.

Lu Yin did not have any time to feel anything as he continued to rush towards the Cloud Shuttle. He wanted to get far away from the old farmer, as well as any of the other Lu family's former vassals or retainers who wished to help him. He just wanted to escape far away.

As Lu Yin fled, the old farmer looked up with bloodshot eyes. "Run away! You must live! Hope will only exist as long as you live."

One day later, another powerful Envoy appeared in front of Lu Yin. He used the knife that he had acquired, as well as a secret technique to fight. With the further assistance of the Enhanced puppet, he managed to severely injure the three-tribulation Envoy and resume his escape to the east.

However, the puppet was recognized, and Shenwu's Sky sent out a powerhouse after Lu Yin as well.

Finally, after another two days, Lu Yin ended up trapped within a mountain range. Someone had used a sourcebox array to trap him: Master Deng Guo.

Lu Yin murderously glared at Master Deng Guo, and Master Deng Guo stared back at the youth. "All members of the Lu family should be punished."

"What created your hatred with the Lu family?" Lu Yin asked coldly.

Master Deng Guo remained unflustered. "The Lu family were the ones who moved the Lockbreaker Society's headquarters to the rear battlefield. The Lu family is the enemy of all Lockbreakers!"

Lu Yin responded with a brilliant smile even as blood leaked from the corner of his mouth. "Thank you for sharing with me how great my Lu family is."

Master Deng Guo suddenly looked saddened. "It's a pity that your talent ends here. Die!"

He had set up a simple sourcebox array in the mountains just ahead of Lu Yin's arrival, but it was not the sourcebox array that protected the second array base with the conical sourceboxes. Master Deng Guo was an Array Master, which naturally meant that he had mastered more than a single sourcebox array.

Lu Yin looked at the countless points surrounding him. Each point shone like a star, and they suddenly swarmed his puppet. None of the points of light launched a powerful attack, but each one possessed a restraining force that was difficult to break through.

Regardless of if he used a secret technique or an item, there was no way for Lu Yin to break free. The sourcebox array encompassed almost half of the mountain range.

All around Lu Yin, more and more people from the four ruling powers appeared.

The White Dragon Clan still had not acknowledged Lu Yin's identity as someone from the Forsaken Land. With the entire matter becoming so public, the White Dragon Clan had to maintain a degree of self respect, but at the same time, they wanted to kill Lu Yin more than anyone else. The only way Lu Yin could settle the chaos for the clan was by dying.

"Is that how the Lu family maintained their authority over the Perennial World? Were they only capable of using power vessels?"

"They were nothing more than a family of trash that were taken out. Just look at him! You can see that the Lu family must have had too many power vessels all along."

"That's certainly true."

...

"Hey, Lu bastard, do you have nothing but power vessels? You must have killed Young Master Bai with a sneak attack from a power vessel, right?" someone loudly called out.

A disciple from the Celestial Frost Sect glared at Lu Yin. "So, is it true or not? Your Lu family is so despicable and shameless!"

"A shameless family."

"Shameless."

...

Lu Yin stood above the mountain range and looked all around. He was surrounded by people who had been sent out to capture him. Among them he saw that Xia Taili, Nong Lie, and others had already arrived, along with the Purple-Gold family's Jin Feiyuan. Lu Yin was blatantly mocked and ridiculed for being too arrogant and walking straight into a trap. While Lu Yin did not care about any of these people on an individual level, there were just too many of them, and he would not be able to escape unless Mister Mu arrived to save him.

"Long Qi, that puppet belongs to my big brother, so how did you get it?" Xia Taili had specifically come here to ask Lu Yin this question, as the people of Shenwu's Sky could not wait for an answer. How had Lu Yin gotten a hold of their Junior Progenitor's puppet?

Lu Yin just glanced over at her. "I picked it up."

Xia Taili grew furious. "Bullshit!"

Lu Yin glanced around at everyone. He really, truly was unable to escape from this situation. He noticed that there were also several Envoys in the surroundings, which meant that he could not even approach the Cloud Shuttle with his own strength.

In that case, since escape was impossible, it would be better to accomplish something. For example, redeeming the Lu family's name.

"Bai Shaohong? He was nothing more than trash," Lu Yin commented quietly. However, his voice still managed to echo through the area, and it even reached the nearby city.

The people from the Celestial Frost Sect all grew enraged. "You're nothing but some trash who managed to escape by relying on your power vessels! How dare you insult our Junior Progenitor! What can you do?"

Lu Yin looked up at them. "I, Lu Yin, was able to defeat all four of the Junior Progenitors on my own."

Silence reigned in the area for a moment, but it was quickly broken by booming, sarcastic laughter.

Xia Taili frowned; was Lu Yin insane? Even though Xia Taili had been upset earlier because she had no desire to marry Lu Yin, she did not actually have a bad impression of him as a person. So, why would he go and say such a thing?

Nong Lie just shook his head and let out a sigh.

Jin Feiyuan shouted loudly, "You Lu bastard, you want to face all four Junior Progenitors at once? You couldn't even hold your own against Elder Shi, and even he was not able to defeat Junior Progenitor Bai. He would have replaced Elder Shi to become the truly invincible first-tribulation Envoy! How could you compare?"

A smile slowly spread across Lu Yin's face. "Why don't you come find out? One strike's enough to deal with you."

Jin Feiyuan snorted derisively, though he showed no inclination of continuing the conversation with Lu Yin. However, the people nearby started mocking him, especially Nong Lie. "Jin Feiyuan, go give it a try."

"Com'on, Jin Feiyuan. Go try."

"The members of the Purple-Gold family can't be that cowardly."

"Arrogant."

Jin Feiyuan had no way to hold onto any reputation with this ridicule. He really did not want to step forward, as Lu Yin truly did qualify to stand on the same level as the Junior Progenitors. He had also gone to the Dominion Realm whereas Jin Feiyuan had been defeated by both Shang Qing and Yao Xuan. Those losses had left behind a mental trauma, and he had come to absolutely hate the people from the Forsaken Land. This was why he had been so eager to chase after Lu Yin and insult him.

Jin Feiyuan was completely unconcerned with Lu Yin's status as someone from the Lu family. Instead, he was completely certain that Lu Yin was from the Forsaken Land, and thus, Jin Feiyuan had come to see Lu Yin in the exact same light as Shang Qing and Yao Xuan.

"Jin Feiyuan, come on! Take that puppet back!" Xia Taili ordered. After all, the Purple-Gold family was one of Shenwu's Sky's vassal clans. Jin Feiyuan had been given an order, but he did not look happy about it at all.

Jin Feiyuan gritted his teeth as he glared at Lu Yin. "Don't use any power vessels!"

Lu Yin immediately removed the puppet and his universal armor. He raised just his right hand and motioned for Jin Feiyuan to make a move. "Come."

Jin Feiyuan clenched a fist and transformed into a purple-gold phoenix that flew into the air. The flames roared, and he charged straight into the sourcebox array to attack Lu Yin.

Lu Yin looked up and lashed out with a single hand: Vacuum Palm.

The purple-gold phoenix shrieked as blood spurted out, only to be consumed by the flames. The bird collapsed onto the ground in a miserable fashion, and just as it was about to crash into the ground, the bird transformed back into a human form. The youth glanced over his shoulder as he raced out of the sourcebox array. He had already given up. The single Vacuum Palm had gravely wounded him, and he had only managed to flee by taking advantage of a power vessel.

Lu Yin sneered; Jin Feiyuan wanted to escape? Lu Yin moved, suddenly appeared in front of Jin Feiyuan, grabbed the youth's hair, and violently slapped him into unconsciousness.

Everyone watching was shocked; how could this happen to Jin Feiyuan, who was supposed to be the Purple-Gold family's heir?

Everyone had already known that Jin Feiyuan would not be Lu Yin's opponent, but Lu Yin had agreed to not use any power vessels, though the same had not been said for Jin Feiyuan. This was why Xia Taili had asked Jin Feiyuan to attack Lu Yin. She did not have any intention of allowing Jin Feiyuan to die, but who could have expected Lu Yin to be so powerful that Jin Feiyuan was incapable of even escaping?

Without directly facing Lu Yin in a fight, it was impossible to truly understand his strength.

Some time passed with no one having the courage to even say anything.

Given Lu Yin's age, it was truly shocking that Jin Feiyuan had been knocked out with a simple slap.

Shi Xin arrived at this time, and he slowly walked into the sourcebox array to face Lu Yin. "Should I call you Long Qi or Lu Yin?"

Lu Yin's face grew solemn. "Lu Yin."

Shi Xin stared at Lu Yin in amazement. "You really do look too similar to that person."

"Who?" Lu Yin asked.

Shi Xin replied, "Lu - Xiaoxuan."

It was as though a bolt of lightning shot through Lu Yin's brain. Lu Xiaoxuan, Lu Xiaoxuan. The moment Lu Yin heard this name, he knew that it was his own. He was Little Seven of the Lu family, and his name

was Lu Xiaoxuan. That was his original name. That was the name of the person who had defeated Shi Xin. That was the name of the person who had planted the blade of grass in Seed Garden. That was the name of Young Master Tu's boss who he had been waiting for for so many years. That was the name that reflected Lu Yin's future, as it was the name of the person who would take revenge on the entire Perennial World. That was his name.

"Are you really someone from the Lu family?" Shi Xin asked, his feelings torn.

Lu Yin clenched a fist; had his situation not changed at all? Since it clearly had not, then there was no reason not to proceed. "You fought Lu Xiaoxuan, so tell me. How was it facing his Champions' Stage?"

Several different emotions flickered through Shi Xin's eyes. "The members of the Lu family are very difficult to deal with. Just the Champions' Stage alone means that a person does not face a single opponent, but rather an entire army."

Lu Yin suddenly smiled. "In that case, here's something that you should remember from a while ago. I heard that you once fought with Bai Shaohong, so why don't you do so again?"

The Champions' Stage appeared.

The moment it appeared, it shattered the sky with an indescribable aura that spread throughout the entire Perennial World. It was as though the Mother Tree itself was trembling.

Everyone was left dazed, and some of the older people's jaws hung wide open as they stared at the Champions' Stage in awe. That familiar feeling had returned. The Lu family, a family where one person was as strong as a nation, where each individual had the power to lord over all, had returned.

People had surrounded Lu Yin, and all of them had called him Lu bastard, but in truth, not every member of the Lu family possessed the innate gift of the Champions' Stage; only the direct lineage of the family even had a hope of awakening this particular innate gift.

Seeing the Champions' Stage appear had cemented Lu Yin's identity: he was a of the main lineage of the Lu family.

Incredible changes had taken place in the Perennial World since the fall of the Lu family; seals had been placed within everyone's minds so that they could not speak or even remember the Lu family. The moment the Champions' Stage appeared, no fewer than a hundred people's heads exploded, as they had been forced to remember the family that had once ruled the Perennial World.

Shi Xin's expression changed drastically, and he blurted, "You're Lu Xiaoxuan!"

Outside the encirclement, the elders from the White Dragon Clan were all horrified, though the Envoys from the Celestial Frost Sect were just as shocked. Xia Taili and the others closer to Lu Yin felt their minds go blank as they stared on in disbelief: Lu Xiaoxuan? The seventh of the Seven Heroes? He had once been an incredibly talented genius who had been guaranteed to eventually become a Progenitor! He was actually still alive?

Lu Yin had already known that the moment his Champions' Stage appeared, his identity would be revealed. It was just like how Bai Shaohong had instantly recognized Lu Yin's true identity the moment

he had seen the Champions' Stage. It was only normal for the Champions' Stage to be readily recognized.

However, oddly enough, Lu Yin's appearance had changed. Clearly, he should be someone from Shi Xin's generation, so why was no one able to verify Lu Yin's true age through his bones? Even his Champions' Stage looked as though he had only recently awakened his innate gift, which was a detail that both Bai Shaohong and Shi Xin had instantly noticed. What was the cause of these inconsistencies?

Chapter 1550: Invincible God Of Death

"How can you be certain that I'm really Lu Xiaoxuan?" Lu Yin asked as he stared at Shi Xin.

Shi Xin's eyes flickered, but then he laughed. "It really is you! I doubted myself at Dragon Mountain, and I never expected it to actually be you! Lu Xiaoxuan, you're back!"

"Why are you so certain that I'm Lu Xiaoxuan?" Lu Yin asked again, louder.

Shi Xin explained, "Because only a few people in the entire Lu family were actually able to use the Champions' Stage, and all of the others are gone. Besides, your face is a perfect match. Who else could you possibly be?"

"Though, it looks like you've lost your memory."

Lu Yin looked beyond the sourcebox array and at the confused eyes of the elders of the White Dragon Clan and the Celestial Frost Sect. It seemed that the elders did not have the same knowledge as Shi Xin.

"What do you know?" Lu Yin asked.

Shi Xin shook his head. "Unfortunately, just your existence is enough to disrupt the entire Perennial World. Even though you might not be killed, your fate will be worse than death. However, I'd like to finish our fight before that happens. I'd like to see how different you are from the original Lu Xiaoxuan."

After he finished speaking, veins of stone appeared across his body, and he disappeared with the increased speed of the Wind God technique. He suddenly shot out of the true universe to attack Lu Yin.

Shi Xin said nothing more, but Lu Yin knew that the man would not share any additional information.

"By my name, I summon my champion." As Lu Yin spoke, the star energy drained from his body, and a copy of Bai Shaohong stepped forward next to him. It raised its hand to unleash Gap Between Heaven and Human against Shi Xin.

Outside of the sourcebox array trapping Lu Yin, everyone from the Celestial Frost Sect had been shocked by the revelation of Lu Yin's true identity, but they became upset and furious when they saw the summon of Bai Shaohong.

"The Lu family is a bunch of bastards! Return my Junior Progenitor!" One of the Celestial Frost Sect's Envoys charged into the array, hoping to gain an advantage from the fact that Lu Yin had put away all of his power vessels.

"By my name, I summon a champion." Lu Yin spoke again, and this time, a summon of the Giant Emperor appeared with a roar as it unleashed a punch.

The Giant Emperor was not able to stand up to an Envoy, but Lu Yin needed to use the giant to keep this particular Envoy occupied for a single moment. Even if the Envoy was launching a sneak attack, he had still passed through two stellar tribulations.

Lu Yin shifted to the side. The void tore open right in front of him as a broken knife fell down. The blade shifted to the side, still trying to cut Lu Yin. The wielder was a powerhouse from Shenwu's Sky.

Lu Yin snapped out with a kick, causing the ground to shatter with a bang and dust to fill the air. Lu Yin fell a hundred meters back. The powerhouse from Shenwu's Sky flipped the knife around and slashed at Lu Yin again, each attack aiming to kill the youth.

Lu Yin raised his head. "The Celestial Frost Sect and Shenwu's Sky have three Envoys ganging up on me, Lu Yin! Who still dares to say that my Lu family relies on power vessels? Who can compare to me?"

There was a bang as the broken knife slashed sideways, cutting a straight line through space. Lu Yin lifted his hand to face off against the Envoy. He could only rely on his physical power at this moment, as the Envoys were able to completely suppress all of his star energy.

There was a popping sound as the knife-wielding powerhouse from Shenwu's Sky stared at Lu Yin in amazement after being struck with a Vacuum Palm that had forced him to step back. "As expected of the Lu family's seventh son. You really are incredibly gifted, but you have to die here today!"

He then slashed out with the knife again while simultaneously boosting his strength with the Divine Martial Armor.

Shi Xin leaped out of the sourcebox array. He did want to fight with Lu Yin, but he wanted a fair match and not to gang up on Lu Yin with others. He refused to be a knife that someone else wielded.

However, even though Shi Xin had withdrawn from the battle, two more Envoys leaped forward; one from the Wang family and the other from the White Dragon Clan.

Four Envoys united against Lu Yin.

The Bai Shaohong summoned by the Champions' Stage faced off against the Envoy from the Wang family while the branch elder from the White Dragon Clan joined the two Envoys from Shenwu's Sky to directly face Lu Yin.

No one there could believe what they were seeing. The four ruling powers were working together to take a singular Lu Yin. This was such a shocking scene, but it also gave many people a feeling of déjà vu: the four ruling powers uniting against the Lu family.

Nong Lie was furious at the sight. "How shameless! Four Envoys working together to fight an Enlightener? This is humiliating!"

No one spoke up to refute him, as he spoke the truth.

Also, there was no one who dared to mock or ridicule Lu Yin and the Lu family at this moment. Forget four Envoys—the Junior Progenitors were only capable of facing a single Envoy at best, and yet Lu Yin was going up against four on his own. This was no different from him fighting against all four Junior Progenitors at the same time.

This was the first time in Xia Taili's life that she was truly startled by a person. She had previously believed that her brother, Xia Shenfei, was invincible, but at this moment, that belief was completely shattered. Lu Yin's strength far surpassed anything that Xia Taili had ever imagined.

"This is truly embodying the saying, 'one person as strong as a nation, one person lording over all,'" someone muttered, and it accurately described Lu Yin's strength.

Lu Yin focused on two Envoys. They had each passed through two tribulations, so he was not doing very well against them. This situation felt just like the one where he had faced off against the four Junior Progenitors in the Dominion Realm. No, his current situation actually felt even worse, as he was not able to use any star energy while his opponents still could.

The summoned Giant Emperor and Bai Shaohong were continuously being pushed back. No matter how powerful Lu Yin's Champions' Stage might be, it still struggled to stand up to the suppression of stellar energy. After all, Lu Yin's champions were formed from star energy.

The star energy that made up his champions' bodies continued to weaken until the Giant Emperor finally disappeared. Even without the suppression of stellar energy, the Giant Emperor had never been a match for an Envoy who had survived two tribulations, and the champion had only lasted for a short while because it had been able to instantly recover by using star energy. The continuous suppressive effect of stellar energy on star energy also forced the summoned Bai Shaohong to quickly disappear. This was not because it had been any weaker than the Envoy, as at his peak, Bai Shaohong had been able to face off against a two tribulation Envoy. Even though he was not guaranteed a victory, he would definitely have been able to hold his own.

However, Lu Yin's champions had no intelligence, and their bodies were also formed from star energy, not to mention all of the battle techniques that they used. Even the body of the summoned Bai Shaohong had not been particularly stable, and this was the reason why it had quickly vanished.

Lu Yin used a Vacuum Palm to force the White Dragon Clan's elder back. Lu Yin's attacks were truly powerful, and even after the elder had used the White Dragon Transformation, Lu Yin still left behind a palm print on the old man, though he failed to inflict much damage. The energy of the Divine Martial Armor enveloped the area and froze the void. Lu Yin was left without any means of evasion, and a knife fell. A bit further away, the Envoys from the Celestial Frost Sect and the Wang family both attacked as well.

Lu Yin managed to avoid the broken knife, but he failed to evade the Gap Between Heaven and Human palm or the Four Arts: Celestial Blade.

Everyone was left speechless. Four two-tribulation Envoys were working together to suppress Lu Yin. Even if the Envoys were facing someone with their own cultivation realm, how many people would be able to endure such an assault?

Blood poured out from a massive wound on Lu Yin's stomach, and the Gap Between Heaven and Human palm struck his shoulder. His body dried up where the palm attack landed, and his vitality was drained. This was the Celestial Frost Sect's palm technique.

Lu Yin looked up at the Envoys facing him. The one from the Celestial Frost Sect was in front of him, and the other three were evenly spaced out, completely surrounding him.

In this situation, no one could say anything even if Lu Yin used a power vessel. His survival so far was already shocking enough. After all, he had not instantly died after being attacked by four Envoys. No one had ever been targeted by four two-tribulation Envoys as a thirty two cycle Enlightener before. Not even the Seven Heroes from the past could have accomplished such a thing.

However, did Lu Yin actually need to use any power vessels? There was no need to go so far yet, as he still had not revealed his full strength. No matter if it led to his life or death, he would definitely leave the Perennial World with a legend that would be in no way inferior to the Seven Heroes.

Shaman God had hoped that Lu Yin would reveal himself as a truly peerless talent. If that happened, then even if Lu Yin managed to escape back to the Fifth Mainland, the Perennial World's forces would chase after him. However, Lu Yin also wanted to redeem the reputation of his Lu family, and he wanted to create a legend for his family with his name as Lu Yin. He wanted every single enemy of his family still in the Perennial World to lose sleep from his mere existence while also becoming a beacon of hope to the Lu family's surviving vassals and former retainers.

He wanted everyone to know that the Lu family still lived; no, that he still lived and that he would eventually become a Progenitor. Since one person from his family was as strong as a nation, he alone represented hope for the Lu family's future.

Lu Yin looked up and let out a long breath. He spoke slowly and deliberately. "My name is Lu Yin. There's no need to worry about what happened in the past. I, Lu Yin, am here now. I am the current patriarch of the Lu family! I want the entire Perennial World to know that the Lu family will return, and when I come back, I will take back everything that belongs to my Lu family!"

"Shut up, you Lu bastard! You will die here today!" the Celestial Frost Sect's Envoy shouted fiercely.

Inside the sourcebox array, the elder from the White Dragon Clan was actually more eager to see Lu Yin dead than even the Celestial Frost Sect's experts. As soon as the commander reappeared, Lu Yin's identity would be made public, and the White Dragon Clan would become the Perennial World's greatest joke. Lu Yin had to die as soon as possible so that his blood could wash away the White Dragon Clan's humiliation.

"Kill that Lu bastard!"

"The Lu family actually wants to return? You will die here today!"

"Kill him!"

"Elder, kill him!"

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A smile tugged at the corners of Lu Yin's mouth. "You guys are scared."

He then pulled out a skeleton from his cosmic ring that radiated black energy. Lu Yin had taken these bones from Crown Prince Gui Qian, and while the bones were not very useful to Lu Yin, they contained an amazing amount of death energy.

As the death energy entered Lu Yin's body, he was encapsulated within a black and white cocoon that wrapped around him.

Everyone stared on in surprise. Every single person felt confused, as not a single one of them could understand what sort of technique they were witnessing.

The Envoy from Shenwu's Sky slashed out with his knife; regardless of what technique Lu Yin was using, it was better to stop it.

The knife slashed at the black and white cocoon, but it was actually stopped by the death energy. The powerhouse was shocked, but he immediately attacked again. This time, the other three Envoys attacked as well, which led to four attacks striking at the same time. This managed to break the cocoon, but a pitch-black scythe emerged from the cocoon in response and stabbed into the true universe to attack the Envoy from Shenwu's Sky. The man was startled; a scythe? Almost no one used this weapon.

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The man lifted his broken knife and wrapped the energy of his Divine Martial Armor around it before unleashing another attack. This one was easily powerful enough to kill a one-tribulation Envoy.

There was a bang as the scythe clashed with the broken knife, and Lu Yin emerged from the cocoon, allowing everyone to finally see him clearly.

His hair had grown out to reach his waist. His upper body was naked, and a black mist twined about his arm. There were chains behind him, and his body was marked with incomprehensible red lines. His left arm sported a shield that was condensed from a white mist while the black mist around his body made him look like a god of death.

Everyone was stunned at his appearance, though when one person saw this sight, his mind nearly exploded, as this was unbelievable. "Death- the God of Death? The legendary God of Death!?"

"That's impossible. The God of Death is nothing more than a legend. There's no proof that such a being ever existed."

"This is the God of Death that Specter Abyss has been searching for!"

The Envoy from Shenwu's Sky was stunned—the God of Death?

Lu Yin's eyes had turned pure black. He stared at the Envoy without saying a word. Suddenly, the scythe twirled around and slashed out from an unbelievable angle to slice the man's arm off. The broken knife fell to the ground. The protection of the Divine Martial Armor had been completely useless.

The elder from the White Dragon Clan emerged above Lu Yin, driving his spear down at the youth's head.

Lu Yin grabbed the chain that was wrapped around his body and swung his arm. The nebulous chain shot up and wrapped around the spear, one layer after another before also wrapping around the elder from the White Dragon Clan. The elder immediately used the White Dragon Transformation and his physical strength exponentially increased as he raised his claw in a bid to break free.