

ODYSSEY 1551

Chapter 1551: Unrivaled Healing Technique

This was Lu Yin's third time fighting while in the God of Death Transformation. The only time that his chains had been captured or held was when Long Tian had used his innate gift of Seizing that could even grab space itself. No one else had ever managed to touch the chains, and this White Dragon Clan's elder was no exception.

He tried to grab the chain, but the chain simply tangled about him. As for a competition of strength, the elder could not compare to Lu Yin at this moment. When Lu Yin yanked down, he nearly tore the elder's body in two.

Blood splashed onto the ground from the top of the old man's head, and it stained Lu Yin's feet red.

"Lu bastard, how dare you collude with Specter Abyss? Are you seeking death?" the Celestial Frost Sect's Envoy screamed as he lashed out with a palm attack. Stellar energy roiled, and all nearby star energy was suppressed. However, the suppression failed to affect Lu Yin, and he simply tossed the White Dragon Clan's elder over at the Celestial Frost Sect's Envoy with a flick of the chain. The branch family's elder was stunned by the Gap Between Heaven and Human palm that struck his back.

Lu Yin took advantage of this opening to enter the true universe. Golden battle force twined around his body before eventually wrapping around his scythe right before it fell down.

There was a bang as the scythe was struck by the Wang family's Four Art: Celestial Blade, successfully diverting the merciless weapon. The Wang family's elder suddenly appeared in front of Lu Yin, glaring at the youth as he unleashed a Four Arts: Bear Stalwart.

Boom!

The palm strike smashed against the white shield on Lu Yin's left arm, but Lu Yin was not pushed back at all. The black mist behind him took on the form of massive eyes that opened to stare straight at the Wang family's powerhouse.

The Envoy panicked and started involuntarily shuddering. It was as though he had gazed upon the most terrifying thing in the entire world. Lu Yin attacked, and the sourcebox array shifted, creating tears in the void that tried to disrupt Lu Yin's attack. The Wang family's Envoy managed to finally react, fleeing.

Lu Yin remained standing in place, and he glanced around. Even though his eyes were jet black, everyone could see the arrogance contained within them. He had the attitude of one who was invincible and without peers.

All four two-tribulation Envoys had been injured despite working together. The results of the battle had silenced everyone watching, even Shi Xin.

He was a genius who had once competed with the Seven Heroes. Even though he was only a one-tribulation Envoy, he was fully confident that he could overwhelm any of the individual Envoys facing Lu Yin at this moment. Even if each one of them was a two-tribulation Envoy, they only possessed an average strength for their cultivation level.

However, Lu Yin was nothing more than an Enlighter, which meant that his star energy was unusable in this battle against Envoys.

The Lu family had once dominated the entire Perennial World, but they had done so by relying on their Champions' Stages. A single person could reach the point of summoning thousands of champions from their stage and be fearless even against an entire enemy army. However, Lu Yin's Champions' Stage had already been defeated earlier in the battle, and he was currently relying entirely on his individual strength to fight against four two-tribulation Envoys.

Even Shi Xin had to admit that, at this moment, Lu Yin had surpassed him. Shi Xin was not capable of standing up to four opponents with superior cultivation realms.

Excitement filled Nong Lie's eyes as he watched Lu Yin with pure admiration. "He really is a role model for my generation to aspire to."

The expression in Xia Taili's eyes had completely changed as she looked at Lu Yin. She had finally seen true invincible power, and it was no wonder why Lu Yin had looked down upon Bai Shaohong so much. It had also become clear how Lu Yin had managed to kill the Junior Progenitor, as Bai Shaohong could not compare to Lu Yin's current strength in any way at all.

As Lu Yin held his scythe, the black death energy surrounded him and masked his appearance, which was even more pronounced in the dim lighting of the Higher Realm. He looked like a true god of death, and his appearance was absolutely intimidating.

"We can't let him live! He absolutely cannot be allowed to live!" someone from the Celestial Frost Sect screamed.

Master Deng Guo gritted his teeth. "No one from the Lu family can be allowed to survive. Everyone, rush into the sourcebox array to kill him!"

"Kill him!"

Lu Yin clenched his left hand into fist. "You want to kill me? Then come on! I'll bury all of you with me!"

He had already redeemed his family's name and created a legend of invincibility for himself. It was now time to use power vessels and items to continue the fight. He ended the God of Death Transformation and donned his universal armor. He brought the puppet back out and began to wield the knife. He also held the orb that contained the Karmic Flame in his mouth, equipped the massive, mechanical right arm, and had it hold some of the poison that he had taken from Elder Wu. Lu Yin refused to believe that the gathered people were capable of taking him down.

He was waiting, waiting for Mister Mu and waiting... for the Neohuman Alliance.

Shaman God had not hesitated to launch an all-out assault on the five array bases protecting humanity. The Skygod had allowed Lu Yin to destroy several of Aeturnus's cities, and it had even mobilized the Twelve Marquises. After that, Shaman God had even shown itself at Dragon Mountain, so it was impossible that it would allow Lu Yin to die before he returned to the Fifth Mainland.

Master Deng Guo let out a scream as both of his legs were broken and the wounds filled with death energy. It was a sneak attack by a powerhouse from Specter Abyss.

The elder from the White Dragon Clan who had been chasing and attacking Lu Yin was enraged by this sight, and he smashed the void with a palm, grabbing hold of the hidden powerhouse. "The Lu family has actually joined forces with Specter Abyss."

The expert from Specter Abyss gritted his teeth. "The moment the God of Death is born, they will be the master of my Specter Abyss."

"You're seeking death!" The White Dragon Clan's elder instantly shattered the body of the expert from Specter Abyss.

Master Deng Guo had been attacked, which caused the sourcebox array to turn unstable. Lu Yin raised his hand and threw out an Enhanced flashbomb. The Higher Realm was already a dark place, and Lu Yin's flashbombs were able to affect even a Junior Progenitor in normal circumstances. They were amazingly effective here, and the explosion of light stung everyone's eyes, even the Envoys'.

Lu Yin shot forward and tore through the void. As he shot past Master Deng Guo, Lu Yin's knife flickered. The Array Master's pupils instantly shrank, and an odd sourcebox array appeared in front of him to block Lu Yin's knife.

Lu Yin felt frustrated; he had wanted to kill Master Deng Guo, but the man was a Lockbreaker and an Array Master. Even if this person had no talent for combat and had wasted three quarters of their strength, they were still inferior only to Array Grandmasters when it came to lockbreaking. It was impossible to kill such a person through a sneak attack.

With his attack failing, Lu Yin turned to the east and raced away without any hesitation.

The White Dragon Clan's elder instantly attacked. "You bastard, you'll stay here forever!"

Lu Yin raised a hand and let out some of Elder Wu's poison. He had upgraded it twelve times, which made it powerful enough to even threaten Envoys. Even though it was not enough to truly threaten the elder from the White Dragon Clan, the poison was certainly able to scare the old man. Lu Yin had used far too many items and power vessels, and his opponents were naturally all afraid of anything that he used against them. The Envoys retreated the instant they saw poison spreading through the air.

Lu Yin sped up as he fled, and he did not stay to see what happened to the elders.

He felt that he had been extremely lucky to have picked up all his companions from Huaiyuan Gate before traveling to Dragon Mountain. Otherwise, they would have all been killed off by now.

"You bastard! You still want to run?" Wang Si's voice echoed through the sky, causing Lu Yin's heart to sink. The old man had not succeeded in stopping the old woman.

Lu Yin felt a sharp pain in his knees, and he looked down, only to see that his legs had been stabbed. In particular, his knees had been completely shattered. When had that happened? His universal armor and the puppet had not provided him even the slightest hint of resistance against this attack.

Lu Yin looked back and saw that Wang Si was only 100 meters away from him, and her expression was a hideous mask of rage. "You little bastard, everyone from the Lu family should be damned!"

She then raised her hand once more, and Lu Yin's mind went blank. He became utterly unaware of everything.

Wang Si had used her family's Forgotten Ruins, but it was different from the Forgotten Ruins that Lu Yin had encountered in the Dominion Realm. That place had not been controlled by anyone, which had given Lu Yin an opening to react. However, with Wang Si using the technique herself, Lu Yin was completely unable to react.

Bang, bang!

There were two explosions in a row, and both of Lu Yin's arms were shattered, the joints destroyed just like his knees. The terrible pain allowed his mind to recover slightly, and he spat out a mouthful of blood. Wang Si sneered at him. "I won't let you die easily, you little bastard! I'm going to slowly torture you!"

Blood dripped down the corners of Lu Yin's mouth, and he was unable to control any of his limbs. A torrent of blood poured from his body, but his eyes remained fierce. "You old slut, you must have been abandoned by my Lu family."

Wang Si's eyes instantly grew icy. "You are courting death!"

Suddenly, the old man's voice could be heard. "Old slut, that's cheating."

A visible energy blasted the earth and sky, freezing everyone who had been chasing after Lu Yin and blocking all of Wang Si's attacks. She gritted her teeth. "Kui Luo, I'm going to kill you too!"

An invisible power threw Lu Yin far away. The old man had taken action and thrown Lu Yin far to the east.

As more time passed, Lu Yin felt that Mister Mu was more and more of a mystery. In the Fifth Mainland, Mister Mu had tossed Lu Yin halfway across the Inniverse, but this old man seemed incapable of such a feat. Still, it was possible that the discrepancy also had something to do with how stable space was in the Perennial World.

Also, why had Mister Mu still not arrived?

Lu Yin was thrown far away by the invisible power, though an unknown distance still separated him from the Cloud Shuttle. He landed on the ground and hid within some mountains.

Wang Si had destroyed both of Lu Yin's hands and feet, and the remnants of the Semi-Progenitor's energy still remained within the wounds. Even in the best of conditions, such injuries would be difficult to heal. Even though Lu Yin had opened his three meridian points and his body overflowed with vitality, it was impossible for him to remove a Semi-Progenitor's energy without any aid.

Lu Yin hid at the bottom of a lake. His breathing was ragged, and he wanted to enter Zenith Mountain to let Long Xi and the others to treat him. However, after considering it, he decided not to. After all, a Semi-Progenitor's energy was not something that Long Xi or any of the others on the mountain could deal with.

Lu Yin racked his brain, but it was impossible for him to get any assistance from a Semi-Progenitor at this time. If Qing Chen found Lu Yin, the old man might help Lu Yin, but Qing Chen was just as likely to accept

the decision of the Perennial World and simply eliminate Lu Yin. Was there anyone who could help him? The Nong family? The Liu family? Neither was guaranteed.

After a while, Lu Yin suddenly remembered the battle technique that he had acquired: Extremes Must Be Reversed. As long as an attack did not instantly kill him, it would merely restore and strengthen his body.

Should he give that a try?

With that thought, Lu Yin's die appeared. He struggled to roll it, but it stopped on three pips. Lu Yin stared at the useless screens of light for a moment before continuing.

The next time he rolled a five, but that was also useless. Again. This time, he rolled a four, which thrilled him. The scenery changed around him, and Lu Yin appeared in the Timestop Space.

.

There was no need for him to hurry after entering this place, as Lu Yin could simply extend the duration forever while only a single second would pass in the outside world.

He took a few deep breaths and swallowed some medicine. Without pause, he then slowly closed his eyes and started cultivating Extremes Must Be Reversed.

Fortunately, he had already tried out the technique before, so it was not completely new to him.

In a flash, half a year had passed. Lu Yin opened his eyes and saw that his shattered joints had become desiccated. He was still able to sense the Semi-Progenitor's energy wreaking havoc within his body, but Progenitor Ku's battle technique was also restoring his body. This technique was nothing less than an unrivaled healing technique.

It was no wonder why rumors of Progenitor Ku mastering the secret of immortality had abounded when his secret technique was related to healing. At this moment, this was Lu Yin's most valuable technique.

While Extremes Must Be Reversed would indeed heal the wounds that had been inflicted upon Lu Yin by Wang Si, it would still take him a great deal of time.

Another half a year passed in the Timestop Space, which meant that Lu Yin had spent 8 million star essence extending his time here. The cost to extend the time in the space doubled each time, so after a whole year, Lu Yin really could not afford to stay for even a few more months.

He examined his limbs. While there was still a bit of the Semi-Progenitor's energy in his body, the desiccated portions of his limbs had greatly recovered, though he would need at least a few years to fully recover.

This was the power of a Semi-Progenitor.

Fortunately, Lu Yin had recovered to the point where he could move again. He had almost no flexibility at all, but he could at least move his body.

Chapter 1552: Swaying Public Opinion

The resource that Lu Yin lacked the most was time, and yet he still exited the Timestop Space in spite of that. He immediately rolled the die again, but since he had already rolled it three times before getting Timestop, he only had one more roll left.

Unfortunately, his fourth roll failed to land on another Timestop. Instead, he rolled Pilfer and received something useless.

He let out a sigh and looked up just in time to see someone pass by. He did not know if they were searching for him or if they had just coincidentally passed so close to him. Regardless, given the situation, the entire Perennial World had most likely erupted into chaos by now.

Lu Yin's thoughts were accurate; the moment his identity had been revealed and leaked, the entire Perennial World had exploded.

The first place affected was Dragon Mountain.

Grand Elder Ni Huang was busy fighting off Corpse God, and the elder was unable to believe what he saw. "The Champions' Stage? Is that Lu Xiaoxuan?"

Qing Chen was equally shocked. He pictured Lu Yin's face and then that of Lu Xiaoxuan. Is he really Lu Xiaoxuan? What a joke! Even if Qing Chen was a Semi-Progenitor, he was shocked stiff at this moment.

He was unable to deny that he had felt a strong resemblance between Long Qi and Lu Xiaoxuan, but many people looked similar to each other. It was just too absurd of an idea for Long Qi to actually be Lu Xiaoxuan.

When Xia Xing heard the truth, his expression also changed greatly. "Inform Shenwu's Sky that Lu Xiaoxuan absolutely cannot be allowed to return to the Forsaken Land alive!"

Bai Teng was completely furious as well. "Even if he gets away this time, my Celestial Frost Sect will never let him go! The Forsaken Land will not be able to stop us!"

Elder Ni Huang remained shocked and in disbelief. The change in the situation was simply too drastic and too sudden! The youth who had risen up from his clan with an unparalleled talent that had even attracted a Progenitor's interest was actually a child of the most hated Lu family whom they had submitted to for so long? On top of that, he was the seventh of the Seven Heroes, Lu Xiaoxuan?

The four ruling powers had exiled the Lu family and taken over the Perennial World. Hearing that Long Qi was actually Lu Xiaoxuan sparked complex emotions and fear among the four ruling powers beyond any description. Those emotions only served to galvanize their determination to kill Lu Yin no matter the cost in order to avoid any future problems.

Shaman God revealed an odd smile. "Gaga, so he turned out to be that kid? That's quite interesting. You humans have such complicated competitions and only focus on your own self-interests. No wonder you lost."

"Lu Xiaoxuan? I seem to have heard that name before." Corpse God's deafening voice had echoed across Dragon Mountain, creating ripples in the void.

Down below, Liu Song looked up to gaze off into the distance. So that Long Qi was actually Lu Xiaoxuan? The old man still remembered the inheritance that Lu Yin had received from the Sword Monument and

revealed a smile. Ah, no wonder, no wonder he's able to surpass Bai Xian'er. The birth of the Seven Heroes' generation was comparable to the time of the Nine Mountains and Eight Seas of the past, however, due to that incident, the Seven Heroes vanished, and all that was left was Bai Xian'er.

After thinking about it, the old man felt that things made sense. After all, who else could possibly surpass Bai Xian'er? Lu Xiaoxuan was the only person with a peerless talent on that level.

The Perennial World was going to become truly chaotic now.

Nong Ya let out a long breath while revealing a bitter smile. He had never expected the child to be that person.

Ten days later, the name of Lu Xiaoxuan swept through the Higher Realm like a storm. Countless people heard it, and countless more were shocked by it.

As for Humility's Gate, many of the Fourteenth Gate's hidden powerhouses were given secret tasks to protect Long Qi, or Lu Xiaoxuan.

Lu Yin had disappeared, and there was no news about him for several days; no one was able to find him.

The only news that anyone heard was that Wang Si had managed to badly wound the youth, and the Semi-Progenitor was confident that Lu Xiaoxuan would not live for much longer.

The moment the Celestial Frost Sect learned of Lu Yin's true identity, the sect had exploded. Many of their powerhouses were sent out to capture Lu Yin, but they soon received word that he would likely die soon, though no one was able to find him.

There was a group of people who descended from the Jade Valley, intending to use the jade butterflies to find Lu Yin, but the butterflies were all useless.

Elder Qing Xing also dispatched various teams, but once he was alone, he muttered to himself, "I never expected him to enter from the Forsaken Land. I don't know what choice those people might make."

At the bottom of a lake, Lu Yin raised a hand and brought out his die. Ten days had passed, and he was able to roll again.

This time, luck was on his side, and his first roll landed on four pips. The scenery around him changed, and he entered the Timestop Space.

The Semi-Progenitor's energy was still festering within his wounds, and it needed more time to be fully removed. Thus, Lu Yin stayed in the Timestop Space for almost another whole year, though when he returned to the real world, only a second had passed.

Lu Yin looked down and saw that his limbs were no longer as withered as before. They presently looked more thin than dry, and they should return to normal with another year's time.

With this in mind, Lu Yin looked back up and rolled his die again.

On the third attempt, he once again rolled four pips, returning to the Timestop Space.

When he emerged for the third time, his limbs had fully recovered, but as far as the rest of the world was concerned, less than half a month had passed since Lu Yin had been injured by a Semi-Progenitor.

It was simply unimaginable that an Enlighter could completely recover from the terrible wounds inflicted by a Semi-Progenitor within half a month.

Lu Yin changed his appearance, emerged from the lakebed, and continued making his way to the east.

At this time, there were countless people searching throughout the Higher Realm for any sign of Lu Yin, and he actually ended up joining the search himself.

"Brother, have you found that Lu bastard?" Lu Yin shouted to a group of people up ahead who looked back at him.

"No. More than ten days have gone by, but no one's been able to find him." The person who replied sounded genuinely distressed.

Lu Yin expressed his curiosity, "Why did he disappear after being badly hurt?"

A woman with a clear voice explained, "Our family asked us to search specifically for anyone with injured limbs."

Even as she spoke, she deliberately examined Lu Yin's limbs. She saw that they were fine, so she moved on. "You should capture anyone who has injured arms and legs."

Lu Yin nodded and passed by the group.

Given Lu Yin's strength, no one would be able to see through his disguise unless they were an Envoy at the very least.

However, if he ran into any Envoys, he would need to hide.

Still, even if he was able to hide once or twice, it was impossible to do so forever, and an Envoy was bound to notice him eventually. As Lu Yin considered this, he noticed a delicate-looking man. Was he from the Celestial Frost Sect?

Lu Yin's eyes flashed, and he raised a hand. A powerful blast of wind shot out, and the man lost his limbs. He screamed as he plummeted to the ground.

I'm sorry, Lu Yin mentally thought to the man before continuing on his way to the east.

As Lu Yin traveled, he ran across various Enlighters searching for him, and without any hesitation, he destroyed all of their limbs and tossed them aside. After just a few days, hundreds of people had suffered from losing their limbs to Lu Yin.

Not a single one of the wounded people was able to share their assailant's image.

"Uncle Shi, this disciple truly doesn't know who attacked me, but it had to have been that Lu scumbag! Uncle Shi, you must avenge this disciple!" An upset man wailed to one of the Celestial Frost Sect's Envoys.

The powerhouse was getting impatient. "It's useless if you can't even see who attacked you!"

"Uncle Shi, it had to have been that Lu scumbag!" the youth shouted.

The Envoy shouted back in anger, "Do you think that you're the only one to have lost your limbs? Everyone is on the lookout for an Enlighter with wounded limbs, and there are still many surviving vassals of the Lu family, as well as others who are unhappy with my four ruling powers. There are Enlighters all across the Higher Realm whose limbs have been maimed."

The young man grew bitter, but he still repeated, "Uncle, you must avenge this disciple!"

In a small city in the Higher Realm, Lu Yin was drinking some wine while listening to the various conversations around him.

"Have you heard? The city lord's eldest son's limbs were cut off, and he was dumped in the mountains."

"Of course I heard about that! Now, it's not only Enlighters who are suffering and being wounded, but also Explorers, Cruisers, and Hunters. There are always people who want to contribute to chaos and muddy the water, and they're all helping that Lu Xiaoxuan."

"Lu Xiaoxuan has returned, and that reignited all of the Lu family's former retainers. There's also an entire other group of people who are unhappy with the four ruling powers, and they're now taking action in secret. I even heard that Humility's Gate is putting some effort into obstructing the four ruling powers."

"I heard that Humility's Gate is actually helping Lu Xiaoxuan."

...

Lu Yin slowly sipped his wine. His appearance in the Perennial World had truly shaken things up, and it would not be long before word of him spread to the Middle Realm. Once that happened, and once word spread further to the rear battlefield, the ramifications would be even greater.

Lu Yin could not forget about the hopes of people like Zhou Tang who had been banished to the rear battlefield. There was an entire group of people within the Star Alliance and the Forsaken Soldiers who were waiting for the Lu family to return. In addition to them, there had to be many people throughout the entire Perennial World who were waiting for his family to return, and they would help hide him.

"Honestly, the Lu family deserved to rule the Perennial World back then; Lu Xiaoxuan fought against four two-tribulation Envoys on his own, which is truly terrifying. I even heard that he received the God of Death's inheritance."

"What God of Death's inheritance?"

"I don't know, but there are people in Specter Abyss who claim that he is the master of Specter Abyss, and they're searching for him in secret."

"Shh! Don't talk about the Lu family! Aren't you afraid that your head will blow up?"

"Don't worry. As long as you don't try to remember what happened to the Lu family, you'll be fine."

...

Chaos had fully engulfed the Higher Realm.

The four ruling powers had always known that many of the Lu family's supporters were still in hiding, but they had never expected there to be so many.

Even members within the Celestial Frost Sect suffered from having their limbs removed, which made their elders furious. However, they could only promise to dig out the Lu family's supporters that had hidden themselves within the sect.

However, the commotion gradually changed. This was because more and more of the people who were unhappy with the four ruling powers began to take action, and they secretly attacked those searching for Lu Yin, which led to a great deal of suffering for the four ruling powers. And when the four ruling powers sent out their powerhouses to search, that just provided the perfect opportunity for the dissidents to make their move.

In short, the Higher Realm had become a complete mess, and the turmoil quickly spread to the Middle Realm as well. There were some people who said that they had seen Lu Yin in the Middle Realm and others who claimed to have seen someone with a very similar appearance. These claims led the four ruling powers' vassals in the Middle Realm to send out people to investigate the claims.

A storm descended upon the entire Perennial World.

While this was happening, a certain phenomena started to quickly spread.

While Lu Yin was walking down a street, a person passed by overhead, and they loudly shouted, "Lu Xiaoxuan, we humans are fighting the monsters, and there are countless casualties on the battlefield! If you are on humanity's side, reveal yourself and stop a civil war!"

"Lu Xiaoxuan, you have taken refuge with those monsters! The entire Lu family has taken refuge with those monsters! You are inciting a civil war!"

"Lu Xiaoxuan, for the sake of humanity, please kill yourself!"

...

Lu Yin's expression grew cold. The four ruling powers were spreading propaganda. Many people had been swayed by the Lu family, so the rulers of the Perennial World were trying to slander Lu Yin and alter public opinion by using the voice of justice to force him into the open.

Countless conversations entered Lu Yin's ears. "That's true! Why did the Lu family appear right now? Are they trying to start a civil war?"

"Lu Xiaoxuan shouldn't have shown himself! It will only help those monsters if humanity has to go fight a civil war."

"The four ruling powers could be right—the Lu family might have joined those monsters. How else could Lu Xiaoxuan have survived?"

"The Lu family has changed from back then."

"I heard that when Lu Xiaoxuan was targeted by four Envoys, he used a corpse king transformation to survive!"

...

Lu Yin's name and appearance was not something that would ever reach the ordinary people of the Middle Realm, and even some cultivators might not hear of it. However, everyone in the Higher Realm knew about this scandal, and even the ordinary humans had heard of Lu Xiaoxuan's name. The news had not been censored in the Higher Realm at all, so Lu Yin heard news and rumors about himself wherever he went.

Countless people were discussing what had happened, and he was extremely vexed with the situation. However, their complaining provided Lu Yin with a great deal of information, which was how he learned that every single city in the Higher Realm had been ordered to send out powerhouses to hunt Lu Yin down. The four ruling powers were setting up a net around the Cloud Shuttle to capture him.

It would be almost impossible for him to use the Cloud Shuttle to return to the Middle Realm.

Chapter 1553: The Name of Zhu Tong

As Lu Yin passed by a restaurant, he suddenly saw someone he recognized. More accurately, it was someone Lu Yin knew, but who did not know Lu Yin: Xia Ru.

Lu Yin felt a bit of excitement, and he entered the restaurant.

The city itself was just illuminated by a dim light, and only the insides of the buildings were bright.

Lu Yin sat down close to Xia Ru.

Before much time passed, a group of people arrived and sat down next to Xia Ru.

"There are orders from the sect that we return to the Middle Realm," one person complained.

Xia Ru frowned. "It's impossible for someone from the Lu family to want to go down to the Middle Realm. Does the sect really believe those rumors?"

"Of course not. The sect just thinks that people like us are useless!" One person slammed the table while angrily complaining.

"Don't talk like that." Someone else quickly tried to hush up his words.

Xia Ru sighed. "It's hard for us to accomplish anything of note. The sect is too hard on branch families like ours. That kid from the Lu family's arms and legs are already ruined, and he might even be dead. If we can find him, then we'd definitely become known throughout the entire Perennial World."

The others all fell silent.

"Still, if we look at it from the other direction, things aren't too bad." Xia Ru suddenly changed topics and looked at the confusion in the eyes of his companions. After a moment, he continued in a more serious tone, "Don't forget, how long ago was it that the Lu family was exiled? Too many people still hold that family in high regard, and the Higher Realm and the Middle Realm have both been thrown into a mess because of those people. If we actually find that Lu bastard, would the Lu family's supporters ever let us go?"

"No one knows how many people among the Lu family's vassals and retainers survived, but there's definitely an entire group in Star Alliance."

The people all glanced at each other. "Forget it. Since we've been ordered by the sect, we'll just go back to the Middle Realm."

"It's our only option."

Several people stood up from the table and moved to leave. Lu Yin looked over, still processing the information that he had learned from Zhu Xian. After a moment, he shouted at Xia Ru, "Second Uncle!"

Xia Ru and the others were momentarily stunned, but then they turned around and saw Lu Yin staring at them with excited eyes.

"Boy, what did you just say?" someone asked.

Lu Yin showed clear excitement as he walked up to Xia Ru. Several of the people in the group grew wary at his approach. "Second Uncle, is that you? Second Uncle?"

Xia Ru felt the need to ask, "Do we know each other?"

Lu Yin quickly replied, "Are you Xia Ru, the patriarch of the Blue Moon District branch of the Xia family?"

His eyes were full of both anxiety and anticipation.

Xia Ru was taken aback. "That is me, but you are...?"

Lu Yin grew more excited. "It's me, Second Uncle! I'm Zhu Tong! Zhu Xian's my uncle, and you are his sworn brother. We met once before."

Xia Ru thought for a moment before suddenly remembering something and coming to a realization. "That child from back then? That Zhu Tong?"

Lu Yin eagerly nodded. "That's me! Second Uncle, you actually remember me!"

Xia Ru was surprised. "Are you really Zhu Tong? You aren't in the Middle Realm?"

"This little nephew came to the Higher Realm specifically to try to become a disciple of Shenwu's Sky," Lu Yin explained.

Xia Ru nodded. He did not grow suspicious, as not many people knew about this detail, and more importantly, no one had any reason to pretend to be Zhu Xian's nephew. After a moment's consideration, he introduced Lu Yin to his companions. "This is the nephew of my big brother, Zhu Xian. Little Tong, greet your seniors."

Lu Yin respectfully bowed to the older men. "Little nephew Zhu Tong greets the seniors."

The little group nodded, but no one really spoke, as all of them were in a bad mood.

Xia Ru was not particularly concerned with their situation. He had traveled to the Island of Hope in an attempt to form a connection with Xia Shenfei but failed. He had then traveled to the Higher Realm, only to be ordered back to the Middle Realm. By now, he had become used to disappointment.

"Little Tong, since you became a disciple of Shenwu's Sky, what are you doing here?" Xia Ru asked. The people with him all sat back down again.

When it came to Zhu Xian, even though Xia Ru intended to use his sworn brother, the man put on a show of doing a good job. Even worse, Xia Ru was ignorant as to the relationship between his own wife and Zhu Xian.

Lu Yin felt pity for the man, as he was an unknowing cuckold. "Your little nephew wanted to be accepted into Shenwu's Sky, but..."

Over the course of half an hour, Lu Yin created an image of himself as a tragic young man who worked hard on his cultivation, had a bit of talent, but possessed terrible luck. There were too many cultivators in the same situation in the Perennial World, and Xia Ru and the others were familiar with many similar stories. For this reason, they looked at Lu Yin with sympathy and understanding, and a few even grew slightly emotional as they listened to the youth's story, as it closely mirrored their own youthful ambitions.

Xia Ru patted Lu Yin's shoulder. "Child, you've already suffered enough, and you're alone here in the Higher Realm."

Lu Yin responded with a determined voice, "This little nephew needs to stand out from the rest of the crowd! I will one day become an Envoy and build up the reputation of my Zhu family. No matter how hard it may be or how tired I become, this little nephew will never stop trying!"

Xia Ru praised the youth, "Well said."

The others similarly grew a bit more comfortable after hearing Lu Yin's last proclamation. "Brother Xia, your nephew is quite ambitious."

"That's true. Brother Xia, I think that you should take him into your Xia family and train him yourself. You might even be able to get him a position in Shenwu's Sky with the quotas provided to your Blue Moon District branch of the Xia family."

Lu Yin looked at Xia Ru with great excitement.

Xia Ru considered the matter for a bit. "You can give it a try."

He had no intention of deceiving the youth with false hope. The Xia family had many branch families, but how many of them were actually able to send anyone to Shenwu's Sky in a given year? It all depended on one's talent. If this Zhu Tong was truly talented as well as ambitious, it was not impossible for him to gain a position in Shenwu's Sky. They did recruit youths from all of the branch families, and if Zhu Tong was able to qualify, Xia Ru would also be rewarded.

"Little Tong, why don't you return to the Middle Realm with me for now? Maybe even meet with your uncle?" Xia Ru softly suggested.

Lu Yin respectfully answered, "I'll ask Second Uncle to make all the arrangements."

Xia Ru was very satisfied with the attitude that Lu Yin displayed, and his companions were happy with what they saw as well. Before long, the group started making their way towards the Cloud Shuttle.

Even though Xia Ru was only a patriarch of a branch family of the Xia family, he was still a patriarch and a true disciple of Shenwu's Sky. Given such an identity, no one dared to create any trouble for him as he proceeded towards the Cloud Shuttle. Besides, everyone had been told that Lu Yin's limbs had been destroyed, and who would believe that a member of Xia Ru's group was Lu Yin? Nobody would believe that, not only had Lu Yin fully recovered, but that he had also hidden himself within the Xia family.

Xia Ru led the way, which made their progress much smoother. After just a few days, the Cloud Shuttle entered their sights.

"Brother Xia, Humility's Gate is growing more and more bold! They are actually blocking our path and forcing us to go around them!" someone complained angrily.

Xia Ru replied, "Humility's Gate is different from my four ruling powers. They are unconcerned with the ruler of the Perennial World, and that survivor of the Lu family has contributed far too much to Humility's Gate.

"Fortunately, the commander was never able to accept him as a disciple, as that would have created even more trouble."

"The Lu family is the Lu family, and Lu Xiaoxuan was also one of the Seven Heroes back then. After returning, he's amazed the entire Perennial World. He single-handedly fought off four Envoys. People like you and I would have no chance of survival if we ran into him. The only reason why I even dared to try to search for him was because he was seriously wounded. I actually hope that he's already dead, because if he's not, things will only get worse in the future."

"Don't worry, the four ruling powers have already stabilized their rule over the Perennial World. Even a survivor of the Lu family will not be able to make any real waves or cause serious problems."

Lu Yin quietly listened as the older men spoke about the current situation. He never commented even once, as his current identity was that of a youth who did not qualify to interject in his elders' conversation.

Lu Yin looked up ahead at the distant Cloud Shuttle. There was a veritable net of people in place across the ground and throughout the sky. Even though the Semi-Progenitors were all still fighting, things were not over just yet. Lu Yin believed that those monsters had also made arrangements to keep humanity's Progenitors occupied. However, there was no shortage of Envoys.

And any Envoy could see through Lu Yin's disguise.

He only hoped that he would be able to successfully slip through to the Middle Realm by traveling with Xia Ru.

However, Lu Yin had still underestimated the four ruling powers' determination to capture him.

Xia Ru and the people with him led Lu Yin to just outside the Cloud Shuttle. There, Lu Yin learned that everyone who wished to travel to the Middle Realm needed to be individually searched, and even their cosmic rings needed to be turned over to be examined. Security was tight and strict.

Everyone was absolutely certain that Lu Yin had already lost his arms and legs, but despite that, the four ruling powers had still set up an extremely strict security checkpoint, all to make sure that Lu Yin did not have even the slightest crack to slip through.

"Child, they need you to take everything out of your cosmic ring and show it to them in just a bit, so don't make any trouble," Xia Ru reminded Lu Yin.

Lu Yin nodded. "Don't worry, Second Uncle."

Xia Ru turned back around, completely content with Lu Yin's attitude. The youth was respectful, and admiration could also be seen in his eyes. The youth could be very useful, though, unfortunately, Zhu Tong was not Xia Ru's true nephew.

"Brother Xia, where did the child go?" one of Xia Ru's companions asked.

"Isn't he right behind me?"

He turned around; where had Zhu Tong disappeared to?

Some distance away, Lu Yin kept his distance from the Cloud Shuttle while considering hiding and leaving once things relaxed, or even finding another way to leave the Higher Realm. Just as he was thinking about his options, he felt the danger field of a sourcebox surround him. This was not good!

"Someone's trying to escape! Get them!" There was a stern shout, and everyone turned to look at Lu Yin, including Xia Ru and his companions. All of them looked angry; why was Zhu Tong making trouble at a time like this?

Several people moved over to arrest Lu Yin, and he replied by lifting his hand. He did not release a Vacuum Palm, but rather released a wave of pure power that caused his surroundings to tremble and sent his would-be captors flying.

Xia Ru was startled, as neither he nor any of his companions had expected the youth traveling with them to possess such strength. It was at this moment that Xia Ru suddenly felt that something was wrong. Given Zhu Tong's age, how could he possibly possess such strength? He had just sent Enlighters flying!

Lu Yin stepped forward and fled.

"This old man wants to see just who is trying to escape!" A loud voice erupted, and an indescribable spiritual force attack shot out. Lu Yin's eyes focused. He was a master of spiritual force himself, so he looked up and took the attack head-on. His body swayed, but fortunately, he was able to endure the attack. His opponent was only a one-tribulation Envoy.

An old man stood in the void, shocked by the outcome. "You actually managed to block this old man's attack?"

Lu Yin put on his universal armor and stepped forward. He tore through the void and entered the true universe.

The old man was startled. "It's the Lu bastard!"

When considering cultivators below the Envoy realm, just who was capable of entering the true universe? The four ruling powers' Junior Progenitors were capable of doing so briefly, but they were literally the most outstanding geniuses of their entire generation. Other than those four, Lu Yin was the only other possibility.

No one had even considered that Lu Yin might not be seriously injured when, in reality, his strength had not fallen in the slightest.

The moment Lu Yin entered the true universe, he knew that he would be exposing himself. However, he had no choice but to do his best to escape as quickly as possible. He still remembered how Long Kui had managed to quickly travel to the Middle Realm, and the four ruling powers definitely had a hidden way of traveling to the Middle Realm from the Higher Realm. Perhaps he could take advantage of that.

"Bastard, die!" The old man appeared in the true universe as well, and he raised a hand to attack. Lu Yin prepared to retaliate when the old man's expression suddenly and drastically changed. The stellar energy within his body was ripped away from him, terrifying him. "No, I've been exposed!"

He did not mean that his identity had been exposed, but rather that his presence had been revealed to the true universe.

Lu Yin then remembered that someone had once told him that Envoys could not fight in the true universe without any restrictions, especially when it came to using stellar energy. They had to keep their stellar energy hidden within their bodies. Otherwise, the true universe would forcibly take it back, no different from when stellar liquid was exposed to open air. This was why Envoys were always looking for curios to hide their presence from the true universe.

The old man facing Lu Yin must have only recently become an Envoy, and he was still not fully familiar with the restrictions of his new cultivation realm. He had used too powerful of an attack, and it had caused all of the stellar energy within his body to be ripped away from him.

Lu Yin instantly slapped out with a Vacuum Palm, and it tore through the old man's body, forcing him out of the true universe. The Envoy spat out a mouthful of blood that was mixed with his own internal organs. He was deadlier than dead.

Chapter 1554: Leaving

Lu Yin was utterly ruthless with his actions. Anybody who called him a Lu bastard deserved to die.

Off in the distance, Xia Ru and those with him were truly shocked. The youth who had been following them was actually Long Qi? No, would it be more accurate to call him Lu Xiaoxuan? Several people felt their scalps go numb at the realization that they had actually traveled and mingled with such a terrifying powerhouse for several days. They had said quite a bit over these few days.

Had the reports not stated that Lu Xiaoxuan had been attacked by a Semi-Progenitor and badly wounded? Everyone had assumed that he was dead or near-death, so how could the truth be so far from their expectations? How could a Semi-Progenitor's attack have had no effect?

"Boy, stay here." A voice entered Lu Yin's ear, and he was smashed down to the ground after being blasted out of the true universe. The incredible pressure shattered his universal armor.

Suddenly, he heard a shout in the distance. "Young master, run away!"

Lu Yin turned around to see that an Envoy who had been a part of the protective line surrounding the Cloud Shuttle was attacking the void. This particular Envoy had survived two stellar tribulations, but Lu Yin knew that the person who had attacked him had passed through at least five. He anxiously yelled, "Don't!"

"Survivor of the Lu family, you could have aided humanity, but you have only sought after death." A man emerged from the void. He did not even glance at the Envoy who had attacked; the powerhouse's eyes were locked onto Lu Yin alone. The attacking Envoy's strike stopped when it was only a single meter away from the powerhouse, as the old man merely needed to wave a hand to disperse the attack. The Envoy who wanted to help Lu Yin escape had his body torn apart as he was smashed down to the ground.

Lu Yin watched as the man died. Even as he had died, the man had tried to yell for Lu Yin to escape.

This was a scene that Lu Yin would never be able to forget. The Envoy who had tried to protect him was thrilled to see Lu Yin was alive, as he had been terrified that the youth would die.

Lu Yin stared blankly at the Envoy who had just sacrificed himself for Lu Yin, and his body grew cold.

"Boy, there's no need to bother looking. He acted of his own initiative to protect you at the moment of his death." The powerhouse stared at Lu Yin, and regret filled his eyes. "It's such a pity that an Envoy had to die so pointlessly."

Lu Yin glared at the old man, killing intent overflowing from his eyes.

"Since you are alive, just how many people will die for your sake? He was just one such person. Recently, I have found no less than a thousand people who wished to help you escape from the four ruling powers, and every single one of them was summarily captured and killed. Do you know how many of them were the Lu family's former retainers? Do you understand how many people wish to protect you? Your life means that more and more people will step forward, and chaos will spread across the Higher Realm, the Middle Realm, and even the rear battlefield. You cannot ignore your inheritance."

Lu Yin's body trembled as he tightly clenched his fists.

The man looked at Lu Yin with an expression of pity. "Do you wish to have all of those former retainers die with you?"

Lu Yin wiped away some blood on the corner of his mouth. "I can't escape, so why are you saying so much nonsense? Do you want me to commit suicide?"

The man shook his head. "You must admit to the Lu family's failings so that peace can return to the Perennial World. Humanity should be united against those monsters, not killing each other. Though, maybe that's what you want."

Lu Yin let out a sarcastic laugh. "You people rebelled against my Lu family, and now you want to pin a crime on my Lu family? The four ruling powers are the real bastards!"

The man's face fell. "How brazen."

Lu Yin suddenly released his domain. The sourceboxes' danger fields locking down the Cloud Shuttle and its surrounding area instantly turned chaotic, and the sourcebox array grew chaotic and began attacking in all directions, though it seemed to target the guards.

The powerhouse targeting Lu Yin was shocked; how could this have happened?

Lu Yin's eyes flickered, and an astral chessboard appeared beneath his feet. He moved, but in response, the surrounding void twisted, and he was unable to complete his movement. His only option was to rush towards the Cloud Shuttle at top speed. Someone was helping Lu Yin, and it was Grandmaster Qiu Ling.

The sourcebox array protecting the Cloud Shuttle had been set up by Grandmaster Qiu Ling. It allowed people to enter, but it also sensed whenever anyone tried to leave, which was how Lu Yin had been initially discovered.

Grandmaster Qiu Ling was clearly helping Lu Yin at the moment, which was not something that he had expected. Master Deng Guo had told Lu Yin that the Lu family were the ones who had sent the Lockbreaker Society's headquarters to the rear battlefield, and that relocation had caused most Lockbreakers to hate the Lu family. In that case, why was Grandmaster Qiu Ling helping Lu Yin? He refused to believe that it was because she wanted him as an apprentice. This was not simply a question of accepting the youth as an apprentice; Lu Yin remembered that Grandmaster Qiu Ling's attitude on Dragon Mountain had also been very strange.

However, Lu Yin did not have any time to consider the situation. Grandmaster Qiu Ling had given him a bit of help, and she was the person controlling the sourcebox array. At this moment, Lu Yin's only objective was to escape from the Higher Realm as quickly as possible.

The powerhouse who had been confronting Lu Yin was furious at the change. "Lu bastard, you can't escape!"

The man had survived five stellar tribulations, and his strength was not something that Lu Yin could resist. Even though Lu Yin pulled out the puppet, it accomplished nothing. Wang Si had already broken the puppet when she had shattered Lu Yin's arms and legs, and the powerhouse protecting the Cloud Shuttle easily destroyed the puppet with a single palm.

Pain erupted in Lu Yin's back, but more importantly, he felt his vitality being sucked away. This attack was the Gap Between Heaven and Human, which meant that this powerhouse was from the Celestial Frost Sect.

If not for the puppet, the palm attack would have instantly killed Lu Yin; instead, the puppet was merely destroyed. Lu Yin borrowed the force of the attack to hurl himself down from the Higher Realm. He was not in a position to slowly ascend through the Cloud Shuttle, so his only other option was to jump down.

The powerhouse pulled out a power vessel and then used a hand to tear open the void. A terrible pressure swept out and became an incomparably destructive attack that covered every corner of the Cloud Shuttle.

Lu Yin looked up, and his pupils shrank at the sight above him. There was absolutely no way for him to stop this attack, and he could not escape from it either; the very sky looked like it was crashing down.

Was he going to die here?

However, it was at this moment that a figure appeared and threw Lu Yin towards the Middle Realm. Lu Yin looked over to see who it was, shocked. Adventure King?

"There are powerhouses down below after your blood as well. Good luck."

The wind whistled past Lu Yin's ears, and he hurled down towards the Middle Realm after being thrown there by Adventure King. Lu Yin struggled to reorient himself and look down. The four ruling powers had truly demonstrated their might; they had set up an air-tight blockade to catch Lu Yin. Even with the assistance of a Semi-Progenitor, Envoys, and the Lu family's former retainers, Lu Yin still had no hope of escaping.

The four ruling powers were just too strong.

Lu Yin had already lost his universal armor and the puppet. At this point in time, any random three-tribulation Envoy could kill him.

The power of a Semi-Progenitor appeared some distance away from Lu Yin, and Wang Si appeared. She looked somewhat embarrassed, but a cruel light filled her eyes. "Little bastard, you can't escape!"

As she spoke, she raised a hand, but the old man suddenly appeared in front of Lu Yin. He looked just as haggard as Wang Si, which gave him a vagabondish appearance. "You old bat, you can't lose me!"

Wang Si was furious. "Kui Luo, you must really want to die! I'll take care of you!"

She took a beautiful red flower out of her cosmic ring.

Kui Luo's expression instantly changed when he saw the red flower, and so did Lu Yin's.

While Lu Yin did not know what the red flower was capable of doing, it was clearly not anything good for him. Otherwise, the old woman would not have brought it out at this time.

Suddenly, the scenery changed before Lu Yin's eyes. The old man had disappeared, as had Wang Si. The attack from up above that encompassed the entire sky had also vanished. Lu Yin glanced around—was he at the rendezvous point?

He had unexpectedly appeared at the meeting place!

Off in the distance, he saw the void tear open and spatial rifts spread out. Everything taking place was in the direction of the Cloud Shuttle where Wang Si and the old man were fighting. However, Lu Yin had already reached the meeting place.

He guessed that Mister Mu might have simply moved him. Regardless, since he was where he needed to be, he would return.

He pressed a hand to the ground, and his star energy spread out to form a unique shape. At this exact same time, in a certain location in the Fifth Mainland's Honor Zone, Arch-Elder Zen and a few others suddenly opened their eyes. "If you feel it, make a move!"

Lu Yin's star energy spread out, and the ground shattered. The void twisted to gradually take on a new form, which allowed Lu Yin to let out a sigh of relief. This was it!

However, at that instance, a flash of white light appeared in the distance. An alarm rang out within Lu Yin's mind, and he moved by pure reflex. An arrow appeared and pierced through his shoulder before shooting into the void. As it passed through Lu Yin's body, it opened up a massive wound on his back.

Lu Yin's mouth opened, and he spat out blood. As he stared straight ahead, he saw several powerful arrows aimed at his head, neck, and heart.

The arrows moved quickly, and time seemed to slow for Lu Yin. He was able to clearly see the arrows as they approached him, and one of them nearly touched his forehead. However, he could not move, as these arrows contained stellar energy, which suppressed Lu Yin's star energy. He could not use a secret technique, and neither could he set up a sourcebox array. On top of that, his body was too injured to move anyways.

Move! Move! I'm going to die! Lu Yin internally screamed, but he was still unable to move.

At the very last instance, a willow leaf appeared to protect Lu Yin, blocking all three arrows. Lu Yin blankly stared at the people who had suddenly appeared in front of him: Liu Ye—Fei Hua?

"You really are," was all that Liu Ye said, but the three fierce arrows were sucked into the void by a powerful force, and they instantly disappeared.

Off in the distance, a pair of long, narrow eyes were staring at the rendezvous point, and they flickered.

The news that had rocked the Perennial World finally reached the battlefield behind the Mother Tree. Even if the four ruling powers wanted to lock the news down, their efforts were all useless, as fresh blood was always needed on the battlefield.

Xia Yan and Long Laogui were both stunned by the news; Long Qi was actually Lu Xiaoxuan?

"How is that possible? He passed the blood test! He's someone from my White Dragon Clan, so how could he possibly be Lu Xiaoxuan?" Long Laogui was in disbelief.

The White Dragon Clan has become the Perennial World's greatest joke. All of the invitations that they had sent out were now mocking reminders for the clan.

Even a Semi-Progenitor like Long Laogui was stunned by this development.

Xia Yan exclaimed, "No wonder he seemed a bit familiar! Now that I think about it, he really did look a lot like Lu Xiaoxuan."

"Impossible! How is this possible?" Long Laogui muttered to himself. He could not even imagine what was happening on Dragon Mountain right now, nor how angry Elder Ni Huang had to be. That was not even mentioning Progenitor Long's reaction. This truly meant that everyone, even Progenitor Long, had been deceived.

But that was impossible! If Lu Yin had tricked even Progenitor Long, that meant that Long Laogui himself had indirectly tricked Progenitor Long, as he had been a driving force behind Lu Yin's discipleship ceremony.

Long Laogui was panicking.

As for the Lu family's former retainers who had been banished to the battlefield, they were left alone. A weak survivor of the Lu family would not be able to weather the storm raging across the Perennial World.

There were discussions everywhere on the rear battlefield as people talked about the appearance of Lu Yin. In particular, those who had survived with Lu Yin in the New World had no idea how to react.

"I thought that we were the ones who hated the four ruling powers the most, but I think that Long Qi has to be the most ruthless out of everyone," someone whispered.

"He was the only one who made the original oath, and it was truly ruthless."

"Long Qi doesn't even know what's going on, but he better not die! I want him to lead us brothers to peek at a hundred of the Celestial Frost Sect's female disciples while they bathe!"

"Get lost!"

"If Senior Zhou Tang learns that Long Qi is really Lu Xiaoxuan, he might go insane."

...

On the first array base, on the sloped portion of the inverted pyramidal battlefield, there was a person curled up in a trembling ball. It was Bai Zhen. He had been like this ever since he had learned of Lu Yin's true identity. No matter what the future held, Bai Zhen had never considered that that person might return.

Bai Zhen still remembered everything from the very beginning. He had been Lu Xiaoxuan's retainer, but he had been bribed by the Celestial Frost Sect into betraying the Lu family.

"Lu Xiaoxuan's back! He actually returned! It's over! Everything's done! The Lu family will come back! They're going to die! They're going to die," Bai Zhen continuously muttered to himself, voicing his fears.

"He deliberately stole the Cloudguard Robes! He must already know where I am and everything about me! That's why he deliberately stole the Cloudguard Robes from me! He's going to come and get revenge! This was just the beginning. He's coming, Lu Xiaoxuan is coming..."

Chapter 1555: Return

In the Middle Realm, at the place where Lu Yin disappeared, Wang Si and other powerhouses from the four ruling powers appeared one after another. Ugly expressions could be seen on all of their faces.

"It's this same scene again! After every single Yuanlun Festival, we send youths to explore the Dominion Realm, and those trespassers always manage to escape with the sourcebox array that Progenitor Hui gave them. It's despicable!" Wang Si ranted.

Ni Huang stared at the ground. Out of everyone present, he was the person who held the greatest hatred for Lu Yin. Lu Yin had toyed with the entire White Dragon Clan and had made them nothing more than a joke in the eyes of the universe.

"We need to rescue Shenfei and the others as soon as possible so that we can ask them what happened in the Forgotten Ruins," Xia Xing said.

Bai Teng quietly said, "Shaohong was killed by that Lu family trash and made into a champion! This deed must be avenged!"

"Avenged? How are you going to do that? He escaped back to the Forsaken Land!" Wang Si asked in an angry voice.

Bai Teng replied, "Xian'er is still in seclusion. As soon as she comes out and learns that Lu Xiaoxuan is still alive and that he killed Shaohong, she will never give up. Everyone, do you prefer to keep your promise, or do you want to eliminate this scourge? Never forget, if Lu Xiaoxuan has children in the Forsaken Land, then they may very well inherit the innate gift of the Champions' Stage, and that innate gift could even allow an idiot to become a supreme powerhouse.

"As soon as Lu Xiaoxuan establishes himself in the Forsaken Land, he will become the master of that place."

Ni Huang looked up. "I cannot let this matter go."

"We need to report this matter to the Progenitors, as only they can make such a decision," Xia Xing cautioned.

Wang Si's voice grew cold. "There is also that Kui Luo. I can't let him go free. And the Lu family's former retainers as well. Some in the Star Alliance can't be left alone."

Xia Xing frowned and shot a glance over at Wang Si, but he said nothing.

A great distance away, the old man laid on the ground, exhausted. He had no thought for his image. He had finally managed to escape from that crazy old woman Wang Si who had wanted to keep fighting him. After getting a moment to think, the old man had to admit that he had never expected the kid to end up being Lu Xiaoxuan. "God willing, I hope that you told me the truth. No, regardless, I need to go to the Forsaken Land to see for myself, but how can I get there?"

He then remembered Wang Yun. If that child could find a way into the Forsaken Land, Kui Luo could do the same.

In the Fifth Mainland, in a certain corner of the Honor Zone, Lu Yin, Liu Ye, and Fei Hua all descended to the ground.

Lu Yin was unconscious due to his severe injuries. Because of them, he had not been able to withstand the power of the sourcebox array when it pulled him back to the Fifth Mainland, though Liu Ye and Fei Hua were both fine.

The moment the couple appeared in the Honor Zone, they instantly felt that something was wrong; the space was too delicate in this place.

In the Perennial World, only Envoys or experts above that realm were able to tear open the void, but in the Fifth Mainland, even a Hunter could do so. This was also because the sky had changed. Before that, even Explorers had been able to tear open the void and travel through it. Even though space was more stable around the Honor Zone, it only took an attack with a power level of a bit more than 300,000 to tear through the void, which was far less than the Perennial World.

For Liu Ye and Fei Hua, the Fifth Mainland was too fragile.

This was their first impression of the Fifth Mainland, but their second was the five people surrounding them.

"Where are we?" Sister Fei Hua demanded as she stared at an old man who looked like he had crossed the river of time itself. The man's eyes were half-closed, and he looked ready to die at any time.

"So was it that child?" Not a single person paid any attention to Sister Fei Hua. All five people were focused on Lu Yin, and one of them had spoken up.

"It would seem that the child went there early and then met with the other finalists. He's been seriously injured and needs to be treated," another person commented.

"There's no need to hurry. Rather, look at this odd technique. It's drying up his entire body. It seems a bit familiar. Brother Xia, what do you think?"

"It's similar to the Ku family's technique."

Sister Fei Hua was furious when she saw that not a single person present paid her any attention, and it caused her already bad temper to flare. "I asked you something!"

She fully released the force of her stellar energy, but the moment she did so, an immeasurable power fell upon her. It was almost more than she could bear, and she nearly knelt on the ground.

Mr. Liu Ye quickly tried to help her, but his face was also pale. "Semi-Progenitors."

"Child, don't be in such a hurry. Take your time." The old man right in front of them who looked like he was about to drop dead spoke up and gave them a slight smile.

Sister Fei Hua had gone totally white: five! There were actually five Semi-Progenitors here! She suddenly remembered a certain detail regarding Lu Yin. "We're in the Forsaken Land."

In the middle of a desolate plain that held almost nothing aside from some gravel, a bit of tough, withered grass swayed as the wind blew.

There were some people who said that they did not wish to be like grass that bent with whichever direction the wind blew, but there were also others who appreciated the resilience of the grass.

A gust of wind blew and rose up into the sky, picking up a cloud of dust as it swept across the ground. A wooden house stood in the plains, and as the wind struck, a gentle noise rang out. The building looked like it could collapse at any moment.

Inside the shack, a young man's eyes suddenly snapped open. He sat and glanced around himself in a wary manner as confusion clouded his eyes.

Where was he?

This young man was Lu Yin, and he had returned to the Fifth Mainland from the Perennial World.

Given that he had just awoken in an unknown place, Lu Yin subconsciously released his domain to get a better picture of his surroundings.

As he did so, the door to the shack was pushed open, and an old man entered and gazed upon Lu Yin with a fond expression.

Lu Yin was delighted to see the old man. "Arch- Arch-Elder Zen!"

"You're awake," Arch-Elder Zen replied with a smile.

Lu Yin quickly moved to his feet and bowed. "Junior Lu Yin greets Arch-Elder Zen."

The old man sighed. "There's no need for you to be so formal. Just relax. You just came back, but your injuries have already recovered quite quickly."

Most of Lu Yin's injuries were the ones that he had suffered from the five-tribulation powerhouse who had been protecting the Cloud Shuttle, followed by the arrow that had attacked him at the rendezvous point. However, even though all of his injuries were from Envoys, he had also unlocked the miraculous healing power of Extremes Must Be Reversed. Thus, his injuries had all recovered.

Lu Yin was excited, as he had finally returned. He was back in the Fifth Mainland, though he still raised a hand to sense the spatial stability of his location. He was in the Honor Zone.

Arch-Elder Zen observed Lu Yin. "You've changed."

Lu Yin replied, "This junior has managed to greatly improve his cultivation base."

Arch-Elder Zen nodded. "I did not expect you to go to the Perennial World one step ahead of the others. How are they?"

Lu Yin then remembered, and he quickly took out Zenith Mountain and let Shang Qing and the others out.

Arch-Elder Zen was first surprised but then delighted. The meeting point that he had told everyone about was something that could only be used once, which meant that if Lu Yin had returned alone, Shang Qing and others would either die or be trapped in the Perennial World forever. Many people had been trapped in the Perennial World since ancient times, stuck there until they died of old age, but not even death would bring them back.

Arch-Elder Zen and the others had actually already given up on the other youths, and the elder had not expected to receive such a welcome surprise from Lu Yin.

Eleven people had been placed in Zenith Mountain, and besides the five Perennial World natives—Long Xi, Wen Diyi, Crown Prince Gui Qian, Yun Tingting, and Liu Hao—the rest were all released.

Shang Qing, Liu Tianmu, Unseen Light, Yao Xuan, Yuhua Mavis, and Luo Shen.

Several youths appeared, and they all understood that they had returned to the Fifth Mainland when they saw the old man looking at them. However, none of the youths looked too happy. Their entire purpose for traveling to the Perennial World had been to get ahold of Origin Matter and open their three meridian points. While they had survived, they had returned with nothing except their lives.

Outside the shack, Highsage Grandmaster and several other people noticed that Shang Qing and the others had returned safely, and they all heaved sighs of relief.

One of the old men could not help but ask, "Didn't that girl Qiu Shi make it back?"

Lu Yin answered in a respectful tone, "She was trapped, and this junior was powerless to save her."

The old man who had asked was an elder from the Cosmic Sect, and he was one of the Fifth Mainland's seven Semi-Progenitors.

The old man shook his head. He was very upset at the news, but he did not say anything more. There was no reason for him to even ask where Qiu Shi had been trapped. If she was in the Perennial World, then no one would be able to save her even if they fully understood her situation.

"Didn't Xia Luo come back?" the Xia clan's Elder Xia Ji asked as he stared at Lu Yin with burning eyes.

Lu Yin answered in a helpless tone, "This junior never saw him."

Xia Ji was different from the other Semi-Progenitors present, as he was more conniving. He found Lu Yin's answer to be somewhat questionable, but so what?

"Liquor Hero didn't return either."

Lu Yin said, "I never saw or heard anything regarding Liquor Hero or Zhi Yi, though I did meet with Wu Taibai."

Arch-Elder Zen looked back at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin glanced at Shang Qing and others. The truth of Wu Taibai had to be made clear, and even if Lu Yin did not say anything, Shang Qing and others would not keep anything hidden. "Wu Taibai is actually from the Perennial World's Shenwu's Sky."

Arch-Elder Zen was taken aback. "Shenwu's Sky? Isn't that one of the most powerful forces in the Perennial World's Middle Realm?"

Lu Yin's eyes flickered. "Things have completely changed in the Perennial World. Right now, Shenwu's Sky is one of the four ruling powers."

Lu Yin then slowly proceeded to share the information regarding the contemporary circumstances of the Perennial World.

After half an hour, Arch-Elder Zen and the others finally recovered from their shock.

"That Lu family was actually exiled!" Elder Gong was shocked.

Xia Ji drily commented, "The Lu family, that invincible family, has been exiled. That's unbelievable."

"How did the four ruling powers accomplish such a thing? Even if they had the help of the White Dragon Clan, it's no easy feat to get the Ancestral Python to turn over," Highsage Grandmaster said.

Arch-Elder Zen spoke up. "No matter what the situation in the Perennial World is like right now, neither Zhi Yi nor Wu Taibai have returned. We need to explain what happened to the Sixth Mainland's three Progenitors."

This was a task for Arch-Elder Zen and the others to handle, so Lu Yin did not worry about it. He had already said everything that he could. Naturally, there were some things he did not mention, such as how he was a member of the Lu family.

Even though he had the Lu surname, there was absolutely no way for Arch-Elder Zen and the other Semi-Progenitors to make a connection between Lu Yin and that Lu family, as it was simply too absurd.

Lu Yin had no intention of revealing his identity either. Wang Yun had been able to come to enter the Fifth Mainland, and Shaman God had also told Lu Yin that the Perennial World's four ruling powers would hunt him down even if he escaped to the Fifth Mainland. That meant that the Perennial World was not without the means to enter the Fifth Mainland and pursue Lu Yin.

Given those facts, Lu Yin could not risk exposing himself. Who knew if Arch-Elder Zen and the others were capable of resisting the pressure of the four ruling powers without surrendering? While such a possibility seemed unlikely at the moment, anything could change with the circumstances. It was even possible that the Sixth Mainland might eagerly submit to the Perennial World.

Nothing was determined, and Lu Yin had no desire to entrust his fate to others. At this moment, his greatest concern was what Liu Ye and Fei Hua would say.

Over the course of several days, Arch-Elder Zen and the others questioned Shang Qing and other youths, mostly to learn as much about the Perennial World's situation as possible, as well as what had happened in the Dominion Realm. The Semi-Progenitors would not fully trust Lu Yin's words alone.

Shang Qing and the others answered well, and only Yao Xuan mentioned the existence of Long Xi and the others on Zenith Mountain.

Xia Ji went and found Lu Yin to tell Lu Yin to turn over Long Xi and the other youths. He wanted to interrogate them to gain a greater understanding of the Perennial World, but Lu Yin refused.

"Kid, I'm not asking! Hand over those people!" Xia Ji growled. The way the Seven Courts handled things was not gentle. Xia Ji had let Xia Jiu go after Xia Luo in order to raise the strongest heir possible for the clan, and the elder did not care when Xia Luo had replaced Xia Jiu. That showed Xia Ji's manner of handling things.

Chapter 1556: New Follower

After visiting the Perennial World, Lu Yin was no longer a frog at the bottom of a well when it came to Semi-Progenitors. Semi-Progenitor? He had met too many of them.

"Senior, this junior will not give those people to you. They are this junior's prisoners to handle. Not only did I capture those people, but I also opened my three meridian points, and I have an Origin Matter seedling within my body. Will Senior demand that this junior also deliver those things to you?" Lu Yin retorted.

Xia Ji was startled. "You opened your third meridian point?"

Mister Mu had concealed Lu Yin's strength far too well. Not to mention a Semi-Progenitor—not even Progenitor Long or Humility Gate's Commander had been able to see through Lu Yin's true cultivation realm atop Dragon Mountain.

"That's right. This junior has opened his third meridian point," Lu Yin loudly announced.

Highsage Grandmaster suddenly appeared. "Xia Ji, what are you trying to do?"

Xia Ji hesitated, but he ultimately retreated. Those captured youths would not really be of much use. In reality, he had wanted to take them away from Lu Yin so that he could try to extract the four ruling powers' battle techniques or cultivation arts from them. However, after learning that Lu Yin had opened his three meridian points and that he was actually the only youth in the entire Fifth Mainland to do so, Lu Yin's importance had risen to a level equal to the Semi-Progenitors despite his lacking strength.

Xia Ji could not force things at this moment when it came to Lu Yin. More importantly, the youth was able to hide the fact that he had opened his three meridian points so well that not even Xia Ji had noticed anything. A true powerhouse was supporting Lu Yin.

Lu Yin only revealed his value when he fully understood his importance. Ignoring the Fifth Mainland, even in the Perennial World, someone who had opened their third meridian point would become one of the most important cultivators around. The value of the Junior Progenitor Planets aptly demonstrated the status of a cultivator who had opened their meridian points.

Upon learning that Lu Yin had opened all three meridian points, everyone was shocked, as this was the first time that anyone had heard of this news.

The only person who was unfazed was Yuhua Mavis, as she had only recently learned of Lingzhi Mavis's death.

One of the Fifth Mainland's seven Semi-Progenitors, Lingzhi Mavis, had died. Five of the surviving Semi-Progenitors were present, though there was one other Semi-Progenitor whose identity Lu Yin still did not know. He was just about to ask when he suddenly saw the captured Liu Ye and Fei Hua, and Lu Yin's heart lurched when he saw them.

Both of the two were miserable. The Cosmic Sect's elder had captured them both and then tossed them behind the wooden shack. Not only had their limbs been tied, but their mouths had also been gagged for some unknown reason, and neither was able to speak.

Lu Yin removed their gags.

Sister Fei Hua angrily demanded, "Release us! Why have you restrained us?"

Lu Yin laughed. "I'm sorry to offer you such a late welcome, but welcome to the Fifth Mainland."

Liu Ye felt helpless. "I never expected you to drag us to this place."

"The Forsaken Land is the Forsaken Land." Sister Fei Hua's temper was as bad as ever.

Lu Yin just stared at her. "You're surrounded by five Semi-Progenitors. You really should watch what you say."

Fei Hua sneered in response. "So what?"

Lu Yin frowned. This woman was rather unreasonable, and why did she have such a bad attitude towards him?

He then remembered that, when his identity had been exposed and while he had been fleeing from Dragon Mountain, old man Kui Luo had saved him multiple times. Some time ago, when rumors of Lu Yin receiving Kui Luo's inheritance had first spread, Fei Hua had shown a similar hostile attitude towards Lu Yin. At this point, it no longer looked like Lu Yin was merely the hated Semi-Progenitor's heir, and the old man's treatment made it look more like Lu Yin was his grandson.

"Long Qi—no, I should call you Lu Xiaoxuan," Liu Ye said, but Lu Yin's eyes instantly flashed

"Call me Lu Yin."

Liu Ye was a bit surprised, but he replied, "Lu Yin. A good name. Means to conceal."

"Cut the nonsense! Just ask him!" Fei Hua scolded.

Liu Ye acted as though he was forced as he asked. "Lu Yin, what is your relationship with Kui Luo?"

Lu Yin shrugged. "I met him by chance, though there's no way that you'll believe that."

Fei Hua sneered.

Lu Yin had grown curious as well. "You've asked your question, but I would like to know how you were able to figure out my location so accurately. You found me right after I left the Cloud Shuttle, but how did you know that I would show up at that place?"

Liu Ye replied, "That's actually quite simple: you've visited the Cloud Shuttle several times in the past, and in particular, when you were exposing Yun Mubai as a Redback, you fled to the east. We've been watching you for a long time, so we were naturally able to determine that much."

Lu Yin's eyes flickered. "No, you found me because of the Flying Blossom Willow Leaf power vessel."

Liu Ye was caught off guard. "What do you mean?"

Lu Yin answered in a low voice, "I've actually been wondering why you gave me that power vessel from our very first meeting, even though I didn't answer your questions. Now that I look back, that's how you were always able to find me."

Liu Ye fell silent.

Fei Hua was actually the one to respond. "You're pretty smart. That's right, we are able to sense faint traces of people who have come in contact with a Flying Blossom Willow Leaf power vessel. When you showed up, we were already close by, so we immediately rushed over."

Lu Yin nodded. These people had been plotting against him.

"Lu Yin, you should be glad about what happened. Without us, you would have died," Liu Ye said.

Lu Yin asked, "Who attacked me at the end?"

He needed to get revenge for that attack, as it had almost killed him. It had been an incredibly close call. Liu Ye had been absolutely correct when he called him Lu Yin's savior even though the man had also been chasing after Lu Yin.

"That person should have been one of Realmless's assassins," Liu Ye said.

Lu Yin's gaze grew sharper. "How did an assassin from Realmless know that I would go to that place?"

"Do you really think that you were sneaky? Anyone who closely observed you for some time would have noticed a pattern to your actions, and Realmless has been watching you for far too long," Fei Hua replied with a sneer.

Lu Yin then understood. After thinking about it, there was no one in the Perennial World who had spent more time observing him than Realmless. The assassins followed a credo of seizing the most opportune moment, and that assassin had likely hid at the rendezvous point for a long time just on the off chance that Lu Yin would return.

"Lu Yin, we saved you, and while we don't expect you to save us in return, we simply want to know the truth to our question." Liu Ye stared at Lu Yin as he spoke.

Lu Yin had grown increasingly intrigued about their motivations. "You can ask, but I can promise you that I won't know the answer."

Fei Hua grew angry again. "Your idea of repaying kindness is with malice?"

Lu Yin pursed his lips. "I honestly don't know, I swear to you. However, I should be able to meet with Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo again in the future, so just ask me whatever questions you have."

Liu Ye's voice grew bitter, "If we die now, does it even make sense to seek an answer to our question?"

Lu Yin stared at them intently. "Actually, I can try to save you, but since you're from the Perennial World, you can't be allowed to roam free in the Fifth Mainland. Do you understand what I'm saying?"

Fei Hua glared at Lu Yin with cold eyes. "You want us to follow you? You're dreaming."

Lu Yin grew serious. "Don't think of it as following me, but rather as waiting for Semi-Progenitor Kui Lou."

His answer startled Fei Hua.

Lu Yin then continued, saying, "I've already agreed to meet up with Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo again, and the location will be here in the Fifth Mainland. Follow me, and you'll be able to see him. Don't, and you

might die. After all, our Semi-Progenitors will not allow any news regarding the Perennial World to spread through the Fifth Mainland."

Fei Hua fell silent as she stared at Liu Ye.

Liu Ye also carefully studied Lu Yin. "Alright, we promise to follow you."

Lu Yin smiled. "Then we have a deal."

The information that Liu Ye and Fei Hua knew about the Perennial World was practically invaluable to the Fifth Mainland. If they were willing to speak, then it was highly unlikely that Lu Yin would be allowed to take them away. However, neither of the two would submit, not even when Xia Ji threatened to kill them for not speaking.

After all his accomplishments, Lu Yin believed that he would not have too much difficulty in obtaining permission to take the two Envoys away.

"Dead people are worthless. With what we have, if they are willing to follow Lu Yin, then just let him take them away," Arch-Elder Zen said.

Xia Ji asked in a solemn voice, "The Perennial World's mere existence is a secret within my Fifth Mainland. What if they let word of it leak?"

Elder Gong interjected, "Who will even know the truth from a lie?"

Xia Ji frowned.

Burial Garden's Tombkeeper, who had yet to speak, spoke up now. "The entire Fifth Mainland is changing, and the Perennial World will not simply stand by. Wu Taibai's appearance during ZENITH is the best proof of this. Speaking of which, there was also that Wang Yi."

"Are you saying that the Perennial World will contact us soon?" Arch-Elder Zen asked.

Burial Garden's tomb-keeper remained silent.

"If that is true, then those two's value are even less. Just let Lu Yin take them away. After all, the child did bring back Shang Qing and the others. Regardless of everything else, he has saved many of our most talented youths," Highsage Grandmaster said.

Xia Ji raised no further objections.

Even though Lu Yin was allowed to take Liu Ye and Fei Hua away with him, the Semi-Progenitors did not believe that Lu Yin was able to force the two to submit. Thus, Highsage Grandmaster placed a sourcebox array within their bodies. Lu Yin's mastery of lockbreaking meant that he could activate either array with just a thought, which essentially meant that he held Liu Ye and Fei Hua's lives in his hands.

"I'm sorry, this isn't what I wanted," Lu Yin apologized.

Liu Ye's expression remained calm, as he did not care. Such precautions were to be expected, though Fei Hua's expression was not as good. "If you had let them know that we had already made an agreement

with you instead of saying that we would rather die than speak, I wonder what expression those Semi-Progenitors would have made?"

Lu Yin revealed a slight smile. "I, Lu Yin, have opened my three meridian points. Just what sort of status do you think I have in this place?"

Fei Hua was left speechless. Even an idiot knew what it meant to open all three meridian points. Back in the Perennial World, not a single person had known that he had opened all three meridian points, but even without that, he had been talented enough for the White Dragon Clan to issue invitations throughout the Perennial World to boast about Long Qi. The Fifth Mainland was far behind the Perennial World, which meant that Lu Yin's achievement counted for far, far more. He stood above all others, and he could basically be treated as a future Progenitor.

Lu Yin was happy to have Liu Ye and Fei Hua following him; he had suddenly found a pair of very strong bodyguards. However, there was another motivation—he did not want either of the two to expose the fact that he was a member of the main Lu family until he was absolutely certain of some various details.

Zhi Yi and Wu Taibai had not returned to the Fifth Mainland with the rest of the finalists from ZENITH, so Arch-Elder Zen and others needed to quickly explain the situation to the Sixth Mainland's three Progenitors.

Arch-Elder Zen did not hesitate, though he first took Lu Yin back to Honor Mountain before visiting the Starfall Sea with Highsage Grandmaster and the other Semi-Progenitors.

Honor Mountain was as breathtaking as ever, though it paled in comparison to the Mother Tree.

Lu Yin suddenly wondered if the Honor Zone's Honor Mountain could possibly be the place where the Mother Tree had once sprouted from. After all, the visuals matched.

After he arrived at Honor Mountain, the first thing that Lu Yin did was to have Luo Shen settle in.

This woman was too easily satisfied. As long as she could be close to Lu Yin, it was enough. Luo Shen even suggested that she could simply stay on Zenith Mountain, but how could Lu Yin possibly agree to such a thing?

After setting Luo Shen down somewhere, Lu Yin repeatedly ordered Liu Ye and Fei Hua not to leave his quarters. Finally, he went to visit CyNet World.

Although news of Lu Yin's return had not been publicized yet, he had no intention of staying hidden. Thus, he openly visited CyNet World.

Chapter 1557: Experience

n's second time at Honor Mountain, so he was not very familiar with CyNet World.

A few of the people who Lu Yin asked for directions recognized him, and they just stared at him blankly in silence as they watched him walk away. Most of them thought that they had seen a ghost.

As soon as he entered CyNet World, Lu Yin started making his way towards a soaring tower that loomed in the distance.

At the top of the tower, Zi Jing was watering some flowers. As soon as she noticed Lu Yin's domain spreading through the area, she casually admonished, "That's not a polite way to greet an old friend."

Lu Yin's expression changed, and his domain vanished. He picked up his feet and tore through the void to instantly appear at the top of the tower.

Zi Jing turned around to look at Lu Yin. She appeared calm, though there was a faint smile on her face as she waved her hand, inviting him in. "Would you care for a cup of floral tea?"

Lu Yin replied, "I have something urgent that I need to take care of. Specifically, I wish to contact my family."

"Have a cup of tea. We won't waste any time." Zi Jing smiled.

Lu Yin could only nod and sit down at her insistence.

Compared to when he had last visited this place, Lu Yin's mindset had changed greatly. This was not only because this was his second visit to CyNet World, but also because he had traveled to the Perennial World. There, he had faced several Semi-Progenitors, and he had even been pursued by one more than once. The current Fifth Mainland held little that could surprise Lu Yin.

As he silently enjoyed the aroma of the fragrant tea, Lu Yin observed Zi Jing. This woman always made the people around her feel calm, and her aura was very suitable for the flowers and plants in her garden.

"I'm really am in a great hurry," Lu Yin pressed.

Zi Jing took her gadget out of her cosmic ring. "You've changed."

Lu Yin smiled casually. "Everyone's been telling me that after I returned."

Zi Jing smiled back as she handed Lu Yin the gadget.

Lu Yin accepted it and then disappeared. He could not speak to the people that he needed to call in front of Zi Jing. Naturally, the first person he wanted to call was Ming Yan.

He had not been able to think about it in the Perennial World, but as soon as Lu Yin returned to the Fifth Mainland, he had been unable to stop himself from worrying about Ming Yan's situation. How had she discovered that Aru was actually Baruda, and just where was she?

When Lu Yin had been at the observation station above Jupiter after leaving Earth, Lu Yin had made a note of the contact information that Ming Yan had used to call him.

A soft ringing sound came from the gadget as Lu Yin waited anxiously for it to connect. Every moment that passed increased his nervousness, as he was afraid that Ming Yan would not pick up.

After a few more beeps, the gadget connected, and Lu Yin nervously asked, "Yan'er?"

"Big Brother Lu, is that you?" Ming Yan's voice was heard, and she also sounded anxious.

Lu Yin let out a sigh of relief. "Yan'er, it's me."

"It really is you, Big Brother Lu!" Ming Yan was excited, and the two quickly changed to a video call. Ming Yan's image appeared on the display.

Lu Yin had not seen Ming Yan in a very long time, but the same unforgettable feeling was still present. In particular, Ming Yan's eyes resonated with Lu Yin's.

"Brother Lu, Yan'er thought that I would never be able to see you again in my life." Ming Yan's eyes had gone red. She had always been prone to revealing her weaknesses before Lu Yin.

Lu Yin frowned. "Yan'er, where are you now?"

Ming Yan pursed her lips and then explained what she had gone through. Lu Yin's eyes grew cold. "You left the Shenwu Continent by following Gu Yue's instructions, but you ended up being betrayed and captured by the Azure Mansion?"

Ming Yan nodded. Seeing Lu Yin's anger left her heart in a flutter, and her face grew pale. "Big Brother Lu, please don't misunderstand! Yan'er doesn't want you to feel sorry for her. I-"

Lu Yin quickly interrupted, "I know. But right now, I want you to tell me who betrayed you."

Ming Yan ground her teeth. "Yan'er has already dealt with her."

Lu Yin was surprised.

Ming Yan continued speaking, and she continued her story about how she had taken control of Black Street, and also about how she had discovered that Bu Laoweng was a traitor to humanity.

Ming Yan's adventure was in no way inferior to Lu Yin's own, and her story sounded more like a legend than real life. A weak woman who developed a split personality because of the Neohuman Alliance's Vitality Poison had become capable of controlling that very same poison to decide the lives of others.

Lu Yin had trouble fully believing Ming Yan's tale. While he felt that his own story sounded like fiction, Ming Yan's experiences did not fall far behind them.

"It's not only that, Brother Lu—Yan'er is now able to help you! Not only do I control Black Street, but also Bu Laoweng. I have been using the old man to gain information regarding the Neohuman Alliance," Ming Yan proudly stated.

Lu Yin's expression grew worse as she continued. "Yan'er, you need to stop that and return to the Shenwu Continent immediately."

Ming Yan was completely taken aback. "Why, Big Brother Lu?"

Lu Yin's voice grew sharp, "The Neohuman Alliance is much more than what you believe it to be. What you know is nothing more than the tip of the iceberg. Do not go near them."

Lu Yin was remembering Long Xian and Shaman God had once said. Aeternus seemed to be emotionless, but the depths of their schemes were truly terrifying. They were able to create traitors and Redbacks without those people even realizing what they were doing. Then, once the plot was revealed, those people would be forced to join Aeternus. Those monsters were terrifyingly cunning.

The people of the Fifth Mainland mostly understood the Neohuman Alliance to be one of the universe's Three Dark Hands, but still an organization that was greatly inferior to the Hall of Honor. However, Lu

Yin knew the truth, and he fully believed that the Neohuman Alliance possessed more than enough strength to wipe out the entire Hall of Honor.

The Progenitor of Secret Techniques had once destroyed Aeternus Nation, but in doing so, he had been injured. Lu Yin was no longer surprised by that event. The Neohuman Alliance possessed a terrifying background and power.

Ming Yan had been trying to use Bu Laoweng to gather information about the Neohuman Alliance, but doing so was simply courting death.

When she saw Lu Yin's stern expression, Ming Yan whispered in an offended manner, "But Yan'er just wants to help Big Brother Lu."

A bit of the tension finally left Lu Yin's eyes, and his voice softened. "Yan'er, just listen to me on this. Immediately leave Black Street and get rid of any possible connection you might have established with the Neohuman Alliance. Don't have anything to do with them."

Ming Yan hung her head. "Big Brother Lu, my royal father was killed by them."

Lu Yin was startled by this response, and he had no words.

"You were also almost killed by them. I know that I don't have the strength to deal with them, but I at least-" Ming Yan lifted her head to reveal her determined expression. "Yan'er wants to do this."

Lu Yin's fingers trembled. "Do you understand just how dangerous they are?"

Ming Yan smiled. "Brother Lu, do you know what Yan'er is to them?"

Lu Yin was confused by the question.

Ming Yan's hair turned white, and her voice instantly became cold and hard. "I am their natural enemy."

Lu Yin was startled. This white-haired Ming Yan was not easy to deal with.

"Are you looking down on me?" The white-haired Ming Yan stared at Lu Yin with cold eyes.

Lu Yin's mouth went dry. "No."

"If you are able to deal with them, then so am I. Even if I die, I will die before you!" White-haired Ming Yan loudly declared.

Lu Yin was stunned; what was that supposed to mean?

"Don't look at me that way. I control Black Street as well as an overseer. I am able to tap into the Neohuman Alliance's entire intelligence network. Do you think that all of this happened by mere happenstance? I, Ming Yan, also controlled the lives of countless people when ruling the empire," the white-haired Ming Yan stated.

Lu Yin sighed. "You don't know anything about them."

"I don't need to, but they also know nothing about me. I have never once pushed to gain information, and I am extremely cautious in all matters regarding them," Ming Yan said.

Lu Yin coughed. "I want to talk to the other one."

"That's not necessary." The white-haired Ming Yan instantly refused, though her gaze kept drifting back to Lu Yin to see his reaction. Finally, her hair changed colors and became black again.

"Lu, Big Brother Lu, I'm sorry. She came out by herself," Ming Yan apologized quietly.

Lu Yin shrugged. It was really hard to talk with someone who had a split personality.

"Yan'er misses you, Big Brother Lu." Ming Yan could not resist saying this.

Lu Yin replied, "I miss you, too, Yan'er. I'll visit Black Street and find you."

Ming Yan quietly agreed, "I'll wait for you."

After that, she stared at Lu Yin for a bit before reluctantly ending the call.

Lu Yin stared at the white clouds before him and let out a long breath. He absolutely did not want Ming Yan to participate in anything that was related to Aeternus, but Ming Zhaoshu's death was not something that Ming Yan could let go of. Also, Lu Yin had been attacked by them near Earth, and Ming Yan's warning had actually saved him. Without her call, it would be hard to say what would have happened to Lu Yin. Because of those incidents, Ming Yan must have done her best to learn more about the Neohuman Alliance.

The fear of loss meant that it was impossible for Ming Yan to stop.

It looked like Lu Yin would have to personally visit Black Street in order to fully understand the situation. His expression hardened, as it turned out that Bu Laoweng was also in Black Street at this moment.

Lu Yin glanced down at the gadget and called the next person that he needed to speak with: Wendy Yushan. Was she Lu Yin's family? Given her strength, Lu Yin should not be worried about her, but he was.

The Great Eastern Alliance was not invincible.

When she saw Lu Yin appear on her display, Wendy Yushan was pleasantly surprised. "So you're back?"

"You knew that I'd be back?" Lu Yin replied, mildly surprised.

Wendy Yushan suppressed her astonishment and casually said, "You would never die that easily."

Lu Yin smiled. "You know me well. How have you been since I left?"

"Things have been okay," Wendy Yushan replied.

At that moment, a person walked out from behind Wendy, and Lu Yin was surprised to see who it was.

"Ling Gong?"

One of the Ten Arbiters, White Knight Ling Gong, had appeared behind Wendy Yushan.

Ling Gong stared at the image of Lu Yin on the display, clearly amazed to see him. "You really are hard to kill."

Lu Yin felt the need to ask, "Why are you two together?"

Ling Gong indifferently answered, "Is it that strange? I ordered her to come, so she came."

Lu Yin arched a brow; Ling Gong's arrogant tone was still as unpleasant as ever.

Wendy Yushan explained, "The White Knight invited me to visit her Lingling Clan to train."

"She hasn't done anything to you?" Lu Yin stared at the two women.

Ling Gong became upset. "Lu Yin, what's with that look in your eyes?"

Wendy Yushan had no idea how to respond. "She's treated me very well."

Lu Yin nodded. "As long as you're doing fine. I'll leave you two be. I need to call Wang Wen next."

"Wait!" Ling Gong called out as she stared at Lu Yin. "What's your cultivation base reached?"

Lu Yin's lips peeled back to reveal a wolfish grin. "Enough to beat a hundred of you!"

Wendy Yushan was startled, but Ling Gong was infuriated. However, before she could say anything in response, Lu Yin had ended the call. He looked up, feeling quite good.

When Lu Yin thought back to his interactions with the White Knight, the woman had always been very obnoxious, and he could not help but feel as if she deserved to be beaten. She had threatened him in the past and had even kidnapped him before.

Lu Yin had driven Yuhua Mavis to the point of disgust with his overwhelming strength until she had no fight left in her. Now he wanted to give some trouble to Wen Sansi. Compared to before, when he had looked up to the Ten Arbiters from an inferior position, their roles had reversed.

However, Lu Yin did not actually notice this change himself. This was because he had been suppressed by others for far too long. When he had finally become the champion of ZENITH, he had immediately broken through to ten lined battle force.

With this reminder, he felt that it would be a good idea to look the Ten Arbiters up.

Even as he thought about this, Lu Yin called Wang Wen. It was time to get to business.

Lu Yin had been absent from the Fifth Mainland for nearly two whole years. Although he had Possessed San Liang during his time in the Perennial World and learned that the Great Eastern Alliance had not changed much due the Outerverse having the support of both Arch-Elder Zen and the Chief Justice, Lu Yin still needed to speak with Wang Wen to learn about the details of the alliance's affairs.

Chapter 1558: Lifelong Endeavor

An image of Wang Wen appeared on the gadget's display. He looked sleepy.

"It looks like you've been quite busy," Lu Yin commented.

Wang Wen leisurely stretched. "Well, it has been two years. I thought that you'd take longer to return."

Lu Yin shrugged. "I couldn't stay there forever."

"I get it. So things went well." Wang Wen looked very sympathetic.

"What do you know?" Lu Yin was rather surprised at Wang Wen's reaction. How did the man know if the trip to the Perennial World had been successful or not?

Wang Wen smiled as he stared at Lu Yin. "Given your abilities, Chesspiece Bro, you'd have either racked up great achievements there or have lived like a mouse in the streets.."

Lu Yin pursed his lips. "You've guessed right, but it was really more like a mouse living the street."

Wang Wen was startled, and his eyes went wide, showing clear interest. "Tell me."

Lu Yin replied, "I can't speak about this. I didn't return in the manner I wanted to, so I called you to get your help."

"How big are we talking about?" Wang Wen asked, his eyes excited.

Lu Yin thought for a bit and then lifted both of his hands. He indicated five with his right hand while indicating six with his left.

Wang Wen was shocked. "A war comparable to the one between the Fifth Mainland and the Sixth Mainland?"

Lu Yin shook his head. Suddenly, he smacked his hands together and clenched them both into fists.

Wang Wen's eyes narrowed. "Understood. This will be a lifelong endeavor."

"I can't waste any time," Lu Yin said.

Wang Wen shrugged. "You want both mainlands, but do you really trust me that much?"

Lu Yin shrugged back. "Is there anyone else besides you who can help me? Of course, you won't be the only one, as someone else will definitely help me with this as well."

"If anyone heard our conversation, they would absolutely think that we're nuts."

"So what?"

"It doesn't actually matter. Crazy is crazy. We will view the universe as a game. Regardless of if someone is an ordinary human or a powerful Progenitor, they can't escape their fate of becoming chess pieces. It's up to you and I to become the players of this game."

Lu Yin nodded. "Alright. If you're confident, then go for it. For now, I want to know about the Great Eastern Alliance's situation."

Wang Wen used his star energy to simulate some water. He washed his face and roused himself from his drowsiness. "The Great Eastern Alliance is still doing okay for the moment. How should I say it..."

Half an hour later, Lu Yin ended his call with Wang Wen. He then opened a star chart and sank deep into thought.

Two years ago, ZENITH had just been about to start. At that time, Lu Yin had just conquered the Blaze Realm, and then with Wang Wen's advice, decided to abandon the Blaze Realm. The Great Eastern

Alliance had then moved to Fennel Flowzone, which was a place that was easy to defend, but difficult to attack from.

After the passage of two years, the expected results had manifested.

The Great Eastern Alliance had done well in Fennel Flowzone, and the Divine Venom Dynasty was almost completely unconcerned with their neighbors. Not even the Sixth Mainland had been able to attack the Divine Venom Dynasty, which meant that they were utterly unconcerned about the Great Eastern Alliance. However, tensions were rising in Blazing Mist Flowzone after two years of peace.

Neither the Ross Empire nor the sylvan dragons were stupid. Even though the Great Eastern Alliance had left their flowzone, the two powers knew that they could not do much to the alliance. However, two years had already gone by, and the Great Eastern Alliance had actually remained within Fennel Flowzone, keeping their promise. Thus, friction had started developing between the two strongest powers of Blazing Mist Flowzone, in no small part due to Wei Rong's efforts.

In essence, both powers were still restraining themselves because the Great Eastern Alliance had not initiated any hostilities, but war was on the horizon.

The Blaze Realm was a delicious piece of fat, and both powers wanted to swallow it whole.

The Ross Empire and the sylvan dragons were not even the only ones eyeing the Blaze Realm, as all the neighboring flowzones' powers were doing the same, as were some of the top powers from the eight great flowzones.

Given the duration of their call, it was impossible for Lu Yin and Wang Wen to have discussed much regarding the universe, and Wang Wen had only mentioned a few details. However, he had made one thing very clear: the Sixth Mainland had already taken control of nearly one third of the Outerverse, and that was just thanks to Lu Yin.

When the Sixth Mainland had attacked the Fifth Mainland, the Innerverse had been the primary target. The Outerverse had also been attacked, but that invasion had been completely stopped at Endless Weave.

This meant that the people of the Outerverse did not hate the Sixth Mainland as much as the people of the Innerverse. Although many people were reluctant to leave their homes, they still recognized the Sixth Mainland's sovereignty.

In truth, the Sixth Mainland was not run by tyrants, and their takeover had proceeded smoothly.

If the Sixth Mainland had tried to move into the Innerverse instead of the Outerverse, they would not have been able to seize even a tenth of the Innerverse over the course of two years.

A cause would always have an effect, and it was impossible for Lu Yin to not have predicted this outcome.

Next on Lu Yin's list was Wei Rong.

While Wang Wen excelled at controlling the overall situation, Wei Rong was gifted at plotting and subterfuge, and he could use such methods to incredible effect.

"I greet Your Highness." Wei Rong was much more formal than Wang Wen, though that was in part because he owed his life to Lu Yin. There was no avoiding the fact that Wei Rong had been forced to join the Great Eastern Alliance, which was different from Wang Wen's path.

Lu Yin and Wang Wen were friends while Lu Yin and Wei Rong were master and servant.

"I've already spoken with Wang Wen, so what do you need to tell me?" Lu Yin asked.

Wei Rong replied, "Over the past two years, this subordinate and Qiong Xi'er have united and taken control of many of the Innderverse's underground forces, and our intelligence network is also equal to what we have in the Outerverse."

Lu Yin nodded. An intelligence network was incredibly useful.

"Because of the support from the highest levels of the Hall of Honor and Your Highness's disappearance, our Great Eastern Alliance is no longer an object of jealousy for the Innderverse's major forces. We have gradually established trade relations with the eight great flowzones, though the greatest change is the establishment of Continental Shipping.

"Continental Shipping is a subsidiary created by our Great Eastern Alliance, and it was formed from a combination of Endless Borders, Brightstar Corp., Leon's Armada, and Aurora Enterprises. It is a transportation corporation that spans both the Innderverse, the Outerverse, and the Cosmic Sea, and it currently has the greatest number of routes throughout the Innderverse and Outerverse. In fact, it has actually become the largest transportation company in the entire universe..."

Lu Yin had never expected Wei Rong and the others to accomplish such a thing. It was also clear that setting up a transportation company had not been Wei Rong's idea, but rather Qiong Xi'er's.

Endless Borders simply possessed too many routes through space. Lu Yin had bought a few by using a bit of coercion and proper incentive. Later, through a matter of coincidence, he had joined Endless Borders and managed to gain a clearer picture of the organization.

The routes through the Innderverse should have come from Brightstar Corp.

The largest transportation company in the universe had been established by a combination of groups that possessed the greatest number of space routes, and it also had the protection of Leon's Armada, making it a safe and efficient company. With the addition of Aurora Enterprises, even basic needs like transportation craft were taken care of. The entire company was neatly self sufficient, which had created a monstrous company.

Wei Rong confidently stated, "Your Highness, the existence of Continental Shipping means that our Great Eastern Alliance can deploy the greatest number of troops throughout the universe in the shortest amount of time. Our efficiency greatly eclipses that of the eight great flowzones, as well as the Cosmic Sea's Four Pirate Crews."

Lu Yin asked, "Who's currently overseeing Continental Shipping?"

"Qiong Xi'er," Wei Rong replied.

Lu Yin started thinking. Qiong Xier gave people the impression that she manipulated financial markets and she was able to easily double a company's profits. Thus, having her head Continental Shipping

would give others the idea that the company had been established for profit and not for militaristic logistics.

Lu Yin spent less than half an hour speaking with Wei Rong. There was not a great deal to report, but Lu Yin was more concerned about sussing out whether or not Wei Rong had any lingering grudges or conflicts. Unfortunately, Lu Yin was not able to determine anything from their conversation.

Fortunately, he still had a bit of room to maneuver.

From the conversation with Wei Rong, Lu Yin also learned of a new enemy: Cong Ying, one of the Hall of Honor's nine overseers. Lu Yin had only ever heard of the man before, and he had never expected the man to become an enemy of the Great Eastern Alliance.

The overseer had taken advantage of his relationship with the Sword Sect and the Daynight clan's overseer to do his best to cause trouble for Continental Shipping. Arch-Elder Zen and the Chief Justice had both voiced their support for the Great Eastern Alliance, but neither of them would pay attention to something as small as Continental Shipping. This was also without considering the jurisdiction and authority of the nine overseers, who were responsible for representing the interests of the Human Domain's common folk. Strictly speaking, not even Arch-Elder Zen should interfere too much with the overseers' tasks.

Lu Yin happened to be on Honor Mountain, so he felt that it might be possible to meet with Overseer Cong Ying and try to uncover why the man seemed to have a vendetta against the Great Eastern Alliance.

Lu Yin continued making calls, and the next person he contacted was En Ya. She was the primary architect behind the Great Eastern Alliance's establishment, and while Lu Yin relied more on Wang Wen and Wei Rong, he had always greatly valued En Ya.

Her report closely mirrored what Lu Yin had heard from Wang Wen and the others. She was currently focused on running the Great Eastern Alliance in the absence of its Alliance Leader. Over the course of just two years, due to the support from Leon's Armada and others, the Great Eastern Alliance had suffered no major internal problems.

Lu Yin had originally struggled to unite the Outerverse, but in recent times, none of the members wanted to leave. The Sixth Mainland had already taken over a third of the Outerverse, and while ordinary people could adapt to the Sixth Mainland's rule, the change in power had not been kind to the organizations that stood at the top of the Outerverse. Millions City had actually relocated to Frostwave Weave.

Suddenly, Lu Yin remembered Aegis and their cloakstone, and he immediately brought it up with En Ya. Lu Yin had taken over Aegis long ago and made it a power subordinate to the Hall of Honor, but all of its administrative duties had been given over to En Ya. She was also able to use Lu Yin's authority to browse through all of Aegis's information, and she was the person who was the most familiar with the organization.

"Aegis has not changed much. However, with the Sixth Mainland taking over the Outerverse, Aegis's territory will eventually be taken over as well. Your Highness, do you want them to move to Frostwave Weave as well?" En Ya asked.

After a moment's thought, Lu Yin ended the call with En Ya to directly call Starfox.

Starfox was currently flying in a spaceship through a weave in the center of the Outerverse, and he was gazing out at the stars when his gadget suddenly beeped. He looked down and saw that an unknown caller was trying to contact him.

After Starfox accepted the call, the image of Lu Yin appeared on the display.

The old assassin's eyes immediately changed when he saw Lu Yin, and it was as though he had seen a ghost.

"It's been a long time, Starfox." Lu Yin casually greeted the older man with a smile.

Starfox was stunned. "You- you made it back alive?"

"What? You didn't expect that?" Lu Yin retorted.

Starfox replied, "It's not that it's unexpected, but just that it's just so sudden."

"How is Aegis doing?" Lu Yin asked.

Starfox suddenly looked quite stressed. "I'm not very optimistic about things. We're being targeted."

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. "The Sixth Mainland?"

Starfox nodded. "Of the Outerverse's top four corporations, Amethyst Exchange's headquarters and Skylush Planet have both moved to Frostwave Weave. The Nalan family was already based in the west, and Endless Borders has also worked with your Great Eastern Alliance to create Continental Shipping. Thus, their headquarters has also moved to Frostwave Weave. Only my Aegis is in a more difficult position."

"You can also move your headquarters to Frostwave Weave. I can provide you with a place," Lu Yin offered.

Starfox's voice dropped low, "We have been operating out of our current headquarters for too long, and we are unable to leave so simply."

Lu Yin stared at Starfox, and the man's eyes flickered.

Lu Yin looked away and smiled. "Then do as you wish. Though, tell me, who's targeting you?"

Starfox's eyes turned hard. "The Di family."

Lu Yin was surprised. "The Bloodburn Realm's Di family?"

Starfox nodded. "We've investigated the Sixth Mainland, and we have learned that the Di family are also involved in the assassination business. The bloodlines that they cultivate are quite suitable for such a profession. For example, their Realmling, Di Fa, has the Demonfox bloodline, and it allows him to phase through any physical object. He's a born assassin."

Chapter 1559: Grandmaster Xiu

"How long can you hold out against the pressure of the Di family?" Lu Yin clearly did not believe the old assassin.

Starfox replied, "The Di family's ancestor died in the Sixth Mainland, which is no secret."

Lu Yin was shocked.

"When the Di family's ancestor died, more than half of the family's powerhouses either died with him or were scattered to the winds. The rest of the family is now busy dealing with all the various enemies that the family's made over the years. So far, they've only sent people to contact me to warn Aegis. If the Di family were still at their peak, Aegis would have been erased long gone," Starfox explained.

Lu Yin let out a sigh of relief. He did not actually care about Aegis. After his horizons had been expanded due to his time in the Perennial World, let alone Aegis, but not even the Di family in their prime would be enough to cause him concern. There would always be a way to deal with them.

No, what Lu Yin cared about were curios.

The Fifth Mainland had a small number of Envoys, and it was impossible for an assassin organization like Aegis to warrant much external attention, especially since they had no Envoys among their members. This was why their cloakstones had been ignored, but those cloakstones were precisely what Lu Yin was the most concerned about right now.

"You know that Aegis is also a subordinate organization under me, Lu Yin. Don't worry, I'll help you," Lu Yin reassured the old killer.

Starfox stared at Lu Yin with stark distrust filling his eyes. The old man knew Lu Yin's personality, and the youth would only ever do something if it profited him. At this point in time, Aegis had to rely on the Great Eastern Alliance just to continue existing, and the alliance in turn received intel from Aegis, which made for a mutually beneficial relationship. It was unreasonable to ask or expect Lu Yin to assist Aegis, especially since doing so would make him an enemy of the Di family. The only possibility was that Lu Yin had his own plans.

"Alliance Leader Lu, what do you want from Aegis?" Starfox asked.

Lu Yin replied with disdain, "What can you offer me?"

Starfox sank into thought, but he really could not come up with anything. A powerhouse? Aegis's most powerful assassin was Black Mask, but he was only an Enlighter with a power level slightly exceeding 300,000. He was very powerful in the Outerverse, but he could not compare to the experts from Leon's Armada, least of all the Hall of Honor's Chief Justice who clearly supported Lu Yin. What could Aegis offer?

Lu Yin said nothing more to Starfox, instead asking En Ya to keep an eye on the assassin organization in order to prevent Aegis from being devoured by the Di family. After dealing with Black Street, Lu Yin planned to immediately head to the Outerverse.

With his business affairs in order, it was time for Lu Yin to call Big Sis. Upon thinking of her, Lu Yin started to panic slightly. In contrast to Long Xi, Big Sis was a motherly figure to Lu Yin. The panic he felt at the thought of calling her was an odd contradiction, as it also gave him a sense of comfort.

The gadget's display reappeared, and it showed an ugly old woman with a pockmarked face who was smoking a cigarette.

The appearance on his screen frightened Lu Yin so much that he nearly fainted.

"Dead boy, so you figured out how to return," the old woman said. She spoke with Big Sis's voice, and a familiar, though fierce, light blazed in her eyes.

Lu Yin blinked. "Big- Big Sis?"

"What do you think?" The woman's voice turned cold and threatening.

Lu Yin gulped and forced out a wan smile. "Big Sis's appearance has changed again."

Big Sis's cultivation art caused her body to go through various changes. Sometimes she looked ugly and at other times she would be hideous. These constant changes created problems for those around her, and it even gave Highsage Leon a headache.

Big Sis snorted derisively. "Where did you go?"

"I'll tell you later. Big Sis, please help me keep an eye on Aegis. The Sixth Mainland's Di family is trying to deal with them, and Aegis can't suffer any accidents. They have something that I want."

"A woman?" Big Sis arched a brow.

Lu Yin was left speechless. "No."

"After so many years, you've spent more time missing than not! Hurry up and have a kid for this old lady. Then, no one will care whether or not you die," Big Sis said rudely.

Lu Yin felt helpless. "I understand."

Uncle Reuben showed up behind Big Sis, followed by an entire group of familiar and unfamiliar faces who all greeted Lu Yin.

...

After ending the call, Lu Yin's heart felt warmer. Talking to his family was different from talking to other people. One of the reasons why he had left his call with Big Sis as the last one was because he wanted to feel the warmth of family.

No, it was not the last call. Lu Yin remembered one more person he needed to talk to: Huan Sha.

Huan Sha was the person who handled the Great Yu Empire's internal affairs. Lu Yin was not particularly concerned about those matters, as with En Ya and the others paying attention, the Great Yu Empire would not suffer any trouble. Rather, Lu Yin was more concerned about how much money he had been paid over the past two years.

After discovering that, one time, Zhao Ran had forgotten about money that had been delivered to him, he had started paying attention and directly approaching Huan Sha instead of going through Zhao Ran.

"Your Highness, for the past two years, the Great Eastern Alliance, Lu's Grand Auction, and Continental Shipping have all paid you a salary-

Huan Sha wanted to give a detailed report, but Lu Yin brusquely interjected, "Just tell me how much."

Huan Sha looked up. "23.09 million."

This number did not make Lu Yin as excited as when he had last collected his salary. It was just a bit more than 20 million, which was no longer much in his eyes.

However, the amount that he had received last time, when he had been on Mt. Microcosms, had only been a bit more than 10 million, and that had been eight years of salary. This amount had been collected in just two years, which showed a significant increase of revenue, and it was a perfectly acceptable amount.

He allowed Huan Sha to keep it. Given Lu Yin's net worth, he possessed an amount of wealth that far exceeded comprehension, so he was in no hurry to withdraw his salary.

He lifted his head and let out a long breath. He had spoken with many people, and it was only after all of these calls that Lu Yin truly understood that he had been gone for two years.

It had taken him several hours to make all the necessary calls!

Lu Yin picked up his feet and disappeared. He returned back to the top of the tower. Zi Jing was still there, humming a song as she leisurely watered the flowers. The tea was even still hot.

"Where's Bai Qian?" Lu Yin suddenly asked.

Zi Jing replied, "She said that she was going home."

Home? Earth?

Zi Jing had a gentle personality, and being with her caused people to instinctively relax.

Lu Yin spent a few minutes talking with her before thanking her for her assistance. He then left CyNet World and traveled to the Lockbreaker World. Next on his to-do list was to raise his Lockbreaker rank.

He was currently ranked as a one star Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker, but this did not reflect his actual abilities. Thus, he was fully confident that he could earn a higher rank.

Upon returning to the Lockbreaker World, Lu Yin was no longer amazed by the massive sourcebox array formed by the six enormous planets. When he had first seen it, their majesty had utterly shocked him, but compared to the rear battlefield's Ceaseless Impetus, the array in the Lockbreaker World was far less impressive. Ceaseless Impetus was on a completely different level, as it was a sourcebox array that could stop Progenitors.

Lu Yin had actually been given a planet in the Lockbreaker World, and he was able to come and go as he wished.

However, he actually wanted to find Gui Junheng, but when he was only halfway to the older man's planet, a voice entered Lu Yin's ear. He turned to look in the direction of the Ancient Spirit Sea and started flying towards it.

Lu Yin soon stepped onto an island in the Ancient Spirit Sea. Lockbreakers were tested in this place, and it was considered a holy land that many of the Fifth Mainland's Lockbreakers yearned for.

Lu Yin did not go to the testing grounds, but instead went somewhere else. He was actually making his way towards the home of Xiu Ming, the Lockbreaker Society's Chairman. He was also known as Grandmaster Xiu.

There were only two Array Grandmasters in the Fifth Mainland: Highsage Grandmaster and Grandmaster Xiu.

Lu Yin had not expected his arrival to draw the attention of Grandmaster Xiu.

Even though Highsage Grandmaster and Grandmaster Xiu were both Array Grandmasters, they had focused on very different paths.

Highsage Grandmaster leaned more towards combat whereas Grandmaster Xiu had devoted himself to lockbreaking and comprehending sourcebox arrays.

Lu Yin soon reached Grandmaster Xiu's home. It was a simple place, as there was only a thatched hut, a flowerbed, and a waterfall off in the distance. It looked like an ordinary person's private retreat.

If Lu Yin were just an ordinary cultivator, then he might have gone straight towards the hut, but star energy filled Lu Yin's eyes as rune lines entered his vision.

After returning to the Fifth Mainland, Lu Yin was finally able to see runes once again. That meant that he could use Truesight here, which meant that his combat power had risen even further than ever.

Even though there were many places in the Neoverse where runes could not be seen, such as Eversky Island, where it was impossible to see runes or use them to determine a person's strength, Grandmaster Xiu's home was not one of those places.

A sourcebox array had been set up around Grandmaster Xiu's home, but this sourcebox array was not an offensive one.

Lu Yin did not need to comprehend the sourcebox array to enter the abode.

He walked up a grassy path that meandered along the flowing river as he slowly approached the waterfall.

The first person that he saw was not Grandmaster Xiu, but rather Wu Dan, the most talented Lockbreaker in the Lockbreaker World.

Wu Dan noticed Lu Yin approaching, he was surprised to see him. "You're still alive?"

This was many people's first reaction to seeing Lu Yin.

Lu Yin answered, "I was lucky enough to manage to survive."

Wu Dan became quite uncomfortable. When he had last seen Lu Yin in the Lockbreaker World, he had told Lu Yin that he would show everyone how a Lockbreaker fights during ZENITH. Wu Dan had been confident, but he had still quickly lost to Bu Kong.

"Did Grandmaster Xiu ask you to come here?" Wu Dan asked.

Lu Yin nodded. He then turned towards the thatched hut. "Junior Lu Yin is here to see Grandmaster Xiu."

The hut's door slowly opened, and a man appeared before Lu Yin. Surprisingly, he did not look ravaged by the passing of time at all; he looked to be slightly past his middle years at most, but certainly not an old man.

It was a complete subversion of what Lu Yin had expected. After all, in order for Xiu Ming to have become an Array Grandmaster, he had to have lived for many, many years. In all likelihood, he should at least be from the same generation as Highsage Grandmaster.

Wu Dan quickly bowed low when he saw Xiu Ming emerge.

Xiu Ming observed Lu Yin with a smile. "Two years have gone by, and yet you came here almost as soon as you returned. Do you intend to improve your Lockbreaker rank?"

Wu Dan was startled, and he looked over at Lu Yin. Wu Dan was currently at the same rank as Lu Yin: a one star Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker. However, Wu Dan had reached this rank one step earlier than Lu Yin, and therefore, he had believed that his head-start was a gap that would only widen with time. After all, Lu Yin had mysteriously disappeared, and many people had believed that he was killed by the Neohuman Alliance. No one had expected him to try raising his Lockbreaker rank the moment he returned.

Lu Yin respectfully answered, "I feel like I have improved a little, so I came here to test myself in the Lockbreaker World."

"How arrogant!" Wu Dan was unable to restrain himself, as Lu Yin's words were blatantly mocking him.

After two short years, Lu Yin wanted to improve his Lockbreaker rank? Throughout history, Discerning Elementary Lockbreakers were the ones that most frequently attempted such a thing, and even then, only the most talented ones could do so. In general, most Lockbreakers had to take at least 180 years to improve their rank, and that was already considered fast. Even if Lu Yin could compare to the most talented Lockbreaker in history, he still should need at least another 100 years.

Xiu Ming walked over beneath the waterfall and said, "If you want to improve your Lockbreaker rank, then you will need to unlock the necessary number of sourceboxes."

This was something that Lu Yin had already looked into, and he knew that to qualify to become a two star Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker, he needed to unlock at least four one star advanced sourceboxes and one two star advanced sourcebox. At the top of Dragon Mountain, Grandmaster Qiu Ling had given Lu Yin all three sourceboxes used in their game of Stable Zone, and the third one that had been added was a three star advanced sourcebox.

Two one star advanced sourceboxes and a three star advanced sourcebox were enough for Lu Yin to be promoted to the level of a two star Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker.

Leaping across levels to unlock a three star advanced sourcebox, or even a four star advanced sourcebox, was a shortcut for one to raise one's rank, and Lu Yin had done so before.

Chapter 1560: Record

At this moment, Lu Yin could see runes, had reached the Creation realm of star energy control, and had worked with several different sourcebox arrays. But most importantly of all, he had played a game of Stable Zone with Grandmaster Qiu Ling, which had greatly increased his lockbreaking ability. All in all, he was confident that he could unlock a five star advanced sourcebox if he came across one.

Xiu Ming stared at the waterfall. "Throughout all of the years that the Lockbreaker Society has existed for, on average, it has taken ten one star advanced sourceboxes for a Lockbreaker to improve their rank from one star Boundless Advanced to two star Boundless Advanced."

Lu Yin's expression changed, but Xiu Ming simply continued, saying, "In theory, one only needs to unlock four one star advanced sourceboxes and a single two star advanced sourcebox, but almost no Lockbreakers take this path. In order to do so, one must be confident of being capable of unlocking two star, three star, or even four star and five star advanced sourceboxes. However, even so, how do you know if you are truly qualified for be granted the title at that level?"

"Lu Yin, how many sourceboxes have you opened since you've first started lockbreaking?" Xiu Ming asked.

Lu Yin thought back. "Not very many."

Xiu Ming then posed the same question to Wu Dan.

Wu Dan replied in a respectful manner, "This junior has gone deep into the Ancient Spirit Sea and encountered one sourcebox after another. I saw myriad types of danger zones of various sourceboxes, and I've also seen sourceboxes of every shape and form."

Xiu Ming looked back at Lu Yin. "Comparing the number of sourceboxes you've seen versus that of Wu Dan, you haven't seen even a tenth, or maybe less than even a hundredth of what he has seen."

Lu Yin looked up. "But this junior is able to unlock advanced sourceboxes."

"A Lockbreaker is a scholar who studies the language of the universe. A sourcebox is formed when the dust of the universe covers and seals something. Lockbreaking is only one of a Lockbreaker's abilities, and ability alone does not make a successful Lockbreaker. You are an Enlightener, but is your strength actually limited to the Enlightener realm?" Xiu Ming asked.

Lu Yin understood what Grandmaster Xiu was saying. The older man did not want Lu Yin to rush his progress without sufficient understanding. However, even with this explanation from Xiu Ming, Lu Yin still did not fully understand.

A conflicted expression came across Xiu Ming's face. "From the beginning of lockbreaking until now, how many master Lockbreakers have appeared? Of them, almost none have died peacefully."

Lu Yin was shocked, and he stared at Xiu Ming in surprise.

Wu Dan looked sad.

"Humans are unable to surpass the limits of the universe. A sourcebox is something that is formed by gathering the dust of the universe while a Lockbreaker is someone who wishes to unlock the secrets of the universe. Thus, the associated risks are tremendous. You should already understand this, and it is the primary reason why Lockbreakers enjoy such a high status, especially the Array Masters. Arranging a sourcebox array is a means of converting trash into a miracle by borrowing the power of the universe itself. However, something borrowed must always be returned. Out of ten Array Masters, nine of them will die while lockbreaking."

"Do you feel that lockbreaking is something simple? Do you believe that because you can set up sourcebox arrays, you are now able to casually unlock sourceboxes? Even an Array Grandmaster can die while lockbreaking, even to a sourcebox that is not at the advanced level. Child, I do not want that to be your ending. Can you understand that I don't want you to die while unlocking a sourcebox?" Xiu Ming spoke gently.

Lockbreaking was something that was more of a hobby to Lu Yin. In the past, he had simply seen Lockbreakers as people who were given a great deal of respect. In fact, Lu Yin had become a Lockbreaker mainly to force his enemies to be more hesitant about attacking him. His motives had not been pure at the beginning, and truthfully, that part had not changed even after all this time.

Lu Yin was eager to raise his Lockbreaker rank, but he mostly wanted the improved status that came with it. Gaining recognition from the Lockbreaker Society would increase Lu Yin's influence in the Fifth Mainland, and that was even more important to him than lockbreaking itself.

Xiu Ming had long since noticed this about Lu Yin, and that was also why the older man had made it a point to speak to Lu Yin today. The society's chairman did not want such a talented Lockbreaker to die while lockbreaking due to nothing more than simple arrogance.

Lu Yin did not believe that he was an arrogant person, but his actions at this moment were exactly those of one.

In terms of foundation, Lu Yin could not compare to Wu Dan, and Lu Yin only surpassed Wu Dan in terms of talent and ability. When it came to understanding the art and devotion, Lu Yin fell far behind Wu Dan.

Xiu Ming raised a hand to show Lu Yin a scar. "I received this when I was a five star Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker. The sourcebox was nothing more than a Perceptive Intermediate one, but if I had been even the tiniest bit less luckier at that time, there would be no Xiu Ming today."

Lu Yin's expression finally changed slightly.

Wu Dan was not surprised by the story, as he had obviously heard it before.

"All Lockbreakers who come to the Lockbreakers World have heard this story or something very close to it. Lu Yin, this is your first time hearing this, no?" Xiu Ming said.

Lu Yin remained respectful. "This is the first time that this junior has heard this story."

"That's because lockbreaking is not what your heart is set on," Xiu Ming said.

Lu Yin could not refute the man's words.

Wu Dan looked at Lu Yin in anger. Lockbreaking was Wu Dan's entire life, and he had devoted all of himself to the profession. However, the only peer who Wu Dan could admit that surpassed him in lockbreaking ability did not actually care much about the art. For a moment, Wu Dan felt an overpowering urge to kill Lu Yin and a reluctance to take no action at all.

Lu Yin was someone who was able to casually surpass others' life-long efforts. The frustration felt by others when they saw what Lu Yin was capable of was truly indescribable.

"The less lockbreaking means to you, the more likely you are to die while doing it. There have been countless examples that perfectly illustrate this point." Xiu Ming continued speaking in a gentle tone, but then he turned back to look at Lu Yin. "As the chairman, I have the right to give any Lockbreaker any assessment I deem fit for them. I hear your request, and for your assessment, Lu Yin, you are to explore the Ancient Spirit Sea and record the changes in the form of the danger zones of one hundred sourceboxes."

Lu Yin was caught off guard. "By accomplishing this will I be promoted to a two star Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker?"

Xiu Ming felt helpless; this child was relentless, and such determination truly made him uncomfortable. "We'll talk about it later."

Lu Yin pursed his lips. All he really wanted to do was improve his Lockbreaker ranking. Still, he listened to Xiu Ming's words and considered the man's thoughts. In the end, Lu Yin finally decided that he would wait before pushing forward with his lockbreaking, though he would not abandon it completely. He had become enthralled by the power of Ceaseless Impetus, and he dreamed of one day creating a sourcebox array that could similarly benefit the entire human race, but that was an extremely distant dream. It was a dream that would only have a chance of being realized after his Lu family regained their place as rulers of the Perennial World, and while Lu Yin's dream of creating an amazing sourcebox array was not something that weighed heavily on him, he still hoped to accomplish it.

Still, Lu Yin remained eager to improve his Lockbreaker rank.

"Senior, this junior will go to the Ancient Spirit Sea now," Lu Yin stated. There were still many things that he needed to take care of, and it would cost him too much time to repeatedly return here.

Wu Dan stared at Lu Yin's back as the youth left. He still was not convinced. "I will eventually surpass him!"

Xiu Ming sighed. "There are some people who are simply innately talented. You are seen as a monstrously talented Lockbreaker by others, and even if your cultivation falls behind your peers, you are still capable of setting up sourcebox arrays. You already stand at the top, but compared to that child..."

Xiu Ming stopped there. He was not trying to insult Wu Dan, but rather bring the youth to accept reality, as he had seen the unwillingness filling Wu Dan's eyes. Xiu Ming did not want Wu Dan to only understand the gap between him and Lu Yin after Lu Yin left Wu Dan far behind.

Still, Xiu Ming actually appreciated Wu Dan even more than Lu Yin, and the chairman considered Wu Dan to be the Lockbreaker Society's successor. Lu Yin would never be able to take over the Lockbreaker Society, as his heart was not infatuated to lockbreaking.

The Ancient Spirit Sea was an area that was nurtured by the Six Ancient Spirit Array. It had the form of an odd ocean, and sourceboxes were cultivated there by the array.

If Ceaseless Impetus had been the most magnificent sourcebox array that Lu Yin had ever seen, then the Six Ancient Spirit Array was the most obscure.

When Lu Yin had first heard about this sourcebox array, he had not been able to believe that it could nurture the formation of other sourceboxes. Even in the Perennial World, he had never heard of such a possibility.

There was a dull sound as Lu Yin rushed into the Ancient Spirit Sea. He plunged in head first, and he immediately began looking for the sourceboxes gestated by the Ancient Spirit Sea. One hundred did not sound like too many, but since Xiu Ming had personally given Lu Yin this task, it clearly was not something to take lightly.

Far away from where Lu Yin had leapt into the Ancient Spirit Sea, many Lockbreakers had gathered at the edge of a cliff and were looking at some people down below.

"You're sure that those guys won't die, right?"

"They'll be fine. While some of the Boundless Advanced sourceboxes in the Ancient Spirit Sea are dangerous, they should be able to sense them early enough given their abilities."

"The Innverse Lockbreaker Society really has some talented youths. They have actually raised three young Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreakers at the same time."

...

There was a yell as a figure rushed upwards from the seabed and leaped onto the cliff to stand there, panting heavily. If Lu Yin were present, he would have recognized the person as one of his former classmates from the Astral Combat Academy: the former student leader of Astral-6, Dao Bo, who had once helped Lu Yin.

Upon seeing Dao Bo's appearance, some of the nearby Lockbreakers looked at him, and one of them asked, "Kid, how many did you record?"

Dao Bo was panting heavily, and there was a strand of seaweed wrapped around his back that was scratching at his skin, leaving him bleeding. "Nineteen."

"What level?"

Dao Bo fell silent for a moment before responding, "Seventeen Discerning Elementary and two Perceptive Intermediate ones."

"Not bad," the man replied.

Others nearby started commenting, "That's really not bad. You're just a one star Intermediate Lockbreaker, and yet you were able to record the shapes and danger fields intentions of so many sourceboxes in the Ancient Spirit Sea while only receiving slight injuries. That's very good."

At this moment, another figure charged up from the sea. It was Casanova.

Three of the Innerverse Lockbreaker Society's Distinguished Five had come to the Lockbreakers World for training. They knew of other Lockbreakers who were the same age as them, but none could compare to their skills. They only wanted to challenge other Lockbreakers who stood above all of their peers and represented the peak of Lockbreaker Society's younger members, like Wu Dan.

Even if Wu Dan had already become a Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker, they could still challenge him by breaking his achievements one by one.

"How many did you record?" Dao Bo asked.

Casanova looked frustrated. He was bleeding from a nasty open wound across his shoulders. "Those danger fields are too sneaky! I almost died."

Dao Bo felt bitter. It was not easy to record the shape and danger field of a sourcebox. Shape was easy enough to determine—as long as you could clearly see the sourcebox and it was in a place where you could circle around it, figuring out the shape was trivial. However, a Lockbreaker had to personally experience the sourcebox's danger field to record it down. There were some sourceboxes whose danger field they did not dare to touch, others whose danger fields were impossible to sense, and yet more that were simply difficult to record.

"Twenty three sourceboxes. Four intermediate ones and nineteen elementary ones," Casanova reported in a muffled voice.

Those who heard him were amazed once again. These results were shocking, as even mid-ranked Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreakers from the older generation might not be capable of doing much better.

The names of the Innerverse Lockbreaker Society's Distinguished Five had since become famous in the Lockbreakers World. After all, they ranked just below Wu Dan in the younger generation. Their accomplishments were impressive, but they could not even come close to comparing to Wu Dan.

"Come on. We're not under any sort of time limit," Dao Bo said.

Casanova shrugged. "Given my abilities, I hoped that I would have been able to find a beautiful Lockbreaker or two whom I could chat with."

Dao Bo's voice grew cold. "It's your choice, but Wu Dan is already the most popular young Lockbreaker in the Lockbreakers' World."

Casanova became upset the moment he heard Dao Bo's words, and he turned around to dive back into the Ancient Spirit Sea.

Elsewhere, Lu Yin had found a sourcebox shortly after entering the sea.