

ODYSSEY 1581

Chapter 1581: The Way You Want

Liu Ye just smiled. "There's no need for Sect Master Yuan to be so concerned. We're just Alliance Leader Lu's bodyguards."

Yuan Qiong and the others were shocked by this information, and it pressed upon them the seriousness of Lu Yin's status. They were able to sense Liu Ye and Fei Hua's strength, and the two surpassed most of the Cosmic Sect's elders in strength, and they were only weaker than the sect's top powerhouses, such as their sect master. There were actually two people with such power protecting Lu Yin.

Fei Hua was not happy to be reminded of the situation she was in.

Lu Yin smiled. "Liu Ye is just being humble. Both of them are this disciple's elders, and we just happened to be going the same direction and decided to travel together. However, this person is someone whom Sect Master and the other seniors should have heard of: Da Qiu."

"The Hall of Honor's former enforcer?" Yuan Shou was surprised.

Elder Yao Shan turned to study Da Qiu, also surprised at his identity. "You became an Envoy?"

Da Qiu casually replied, "It was a lucky chance. Mr. Lu helped me with my breakthrough."

Instantly, Lu Yin's status reached new heights in everyone's minds. Who else in the Fifth Mainland qualified to have three Envoys protecting them? Not even Shang Qing, who the Hall of Honor had put their entire efforts into raising, warranted such protection. Also, Shang Qing had already lost to Lu Yin.

Yuan Qiong carefully observed Lu Yin. Something occurred to the sect master, and the more he considered the matter, the more he felt it was highly likely that Lu Yin would eventually become a Progenitor of the Fifth Mainland. Even though Elder Gong had not specifically said anything, Yuan Qiong felt that it was quite likely that Lu Yin had succeeded in that place.

If that was true, then it would not be unacceptable to allow Lu Yin to be registered as one of the sect's disciples. It was absolutely worth the price if the Cosmic Sect had a hand in raising a future Progenitor.

Yuan Qiong changed his mind at that moment.

Within the Cosmic Sect's great hall, Lu Yin was clearly reluctant to take the seat of a guest. However, Yuan Qiong had stopped forcing the matter, and Lu Yin was thus allowed to sit as though he were a disciple beneath elder Yuan Shou and others. Meanwhile, Liu Ye and Fei Hua were invited to use the guests' seats. As for positions in the seating arrangements, Luo Shen sat with Lu Yin while Da Qiu sat just below Liu Ye and Fei Hua.

As for Mu Ziyang and the other disciples of the Cosmic Sect, they were given no seats and had no choice but to stand as they watched the proceedings.

Lu Yin's primary goal in visiting the Cosmic Sect was to learn the next level of the Cosmic Art, but he was not certain how he should bring it up, especially when Elder Yao Shan was present. At the very least, this one elder would not be willing to share the Cosmic Art with an outsider.

Though he was feeling desperate, Lu Yin had no options available to him, and he just sat and exchanged pleasantries with Yuan Qiong and others as though he was truly just visiting the Cosmic Sect.

After half a day, Lu Yin stood up. "This disciple recently saw Elder Gong, and thus I wish to greet him during this visit. I ask the sect master for his permission."

"You've met Elder Gong before?" Yuan Shou was surprised. He had never seen the grand elder before. The Cosmic Sect's Elder Gong was one of the Fifth Mainland's seven Semi-Progenitors, and he was someone with a lofty status. When Yuan Shou had first started cultivating, Elder Gong had already been a Semi-Progenitor.

Yuan Shou was not the only one, as very few of the elders in the great hall had ever seen the Semi-Progenitor before.

Lu Yin replied, "This disciple did indeed meet him once before."

Yuan Qiong's eyes flashed, and he was now absolutely certain that Lu Yin had succeeded in that place. Elder Gong had been absent for a short while and had only recently returned. Lu Yin must have gone there, though Yuan Qiong had no idea how to travel to that place. "I will immediately inform Elder Gong of your intentions."

"Thank you, Sect Master," Lu Yin said. He did not lie about meeting Elder Gong before. As he thought about it, he sought an audience with Yuan Qiong, determined to find a way to learn the next level of the Cosmic Art.

With the amount of time that Lu Yin had spent cultivating, there was a certain truth that he had discovered: the longer a powerhouse lived, the more simple their lives were.

This was similarly true of Elder Gong. The old man lived on a very ordinary planet within the Cosmic Sect that had beautiful landscapes. No other cultivators lived on the planet, only ordinary humans. At best, some of them worked to improve their physical conditioning and had formed some primitive empires. The entire situation somewhat reminded Lu Yin of Starsibyl Planet.

When Lu Yin had stepped foot on that planet, he had seen two empires battling each other with armies of millions of ordinary people. Even though such a battle could not compare to a war between cultivators, regular humans could still be very passionate about their conflicts.

Blades cut through bones, and rivers of blood flowed. Killing intent had filled the air, and there were even some regular humans whose arrogance surpassed that of cultivators.

Elder Gong was sitting far from the edge of the battlefield, quietly watching everything. He looked as though he could pass away from old age at any moment.

This man was the oldest of all of the Semi-Progenitors that Lu Yin had personally seen.

"Disciple Lu Yin greets Elder Gong." Lu Yin moved closer to Elder Gong and bowed.

Elder Gong shifted. "Disciple?"

Lu Yin respectfully answered, "This disciple once represented Eversky Island as an exchange student to the Cosmic Sect. While studying here, I was elevated to the position of the fifth core disciple."

"Ah, yes. I remember something about that," Elder Gong said, and then he stopped talking. He resumed quietly staring at the battlefield.

Lu Yin blinked. "Elder, what are you watching?"

Elder Gong's voice was hoarse. "A general."

"A general?" Lu Yin grew curious and he turned to look at the battlefield. Although there were millions of soldiers fighting at this moment, it was still easy enough to identify the armies' generals with a glance, as they were too conspicuous.

The general that Elder Gong was observing was an old man dressed in black armor who was charging across the battlefield while wielding a halberd.

"This planet prevents people from cultivating. Ordinary people will always remain ordinary. No matter how much such a person trains, he will never be able to greatly surpass others, especially on a battlefield. Despite that, that general has already slaughtered thousands of people," the elder simply explained.

Lu Yin was surprised. He then turned to stare at the elderly general raging across the battlefield. This man had killed thousands of people who had practically the same strength as himself while on a massive battlefield where the slightest bit of carelessness would lead to death.

"Thrice have I stopped him from stepping onto the path of cultivation. While on this battlefield, he has realized that arrogance can be like battle force. He is fearless. Fearless and unique," Elder Gong explained.

Lu Yin wondered, "Given his circumstances, he should be extremely talented. Why hasn't Elder brought him into the sect?"

"He refused."

This answer startled Lu Yin.

"He said that a hundred years is long enough of a life for a person. During his short hundred years, he has created a glorious record for himself in this planet's history. From birth to death, it does not matter how long he lives, only how he lives. He will fade away, but his name will forever remain behind," the elder explained.

Lu Yin frowned as he stared at the old general. Everyone had their own pursuits. This person wanted to leave his name behind after death. He wanted to be famous throughout history, but there were other people who just wanted a longer life.

"Child, what is your purpose for cultivating?" Elder Gong asked.

Lu Yin considered the question for a while before smiling. "This disciple also wants to leave his name written down in history, but this disciple wishes to leave his name behind not on a single planet, but rather throughout the universe."

Elder Gong smiled gently. "That is a different realm to aspire to. Do you think that this general can comprehend the heights to which you aspire to reach?"

Lu Yin answered without any hesitation, "Yes."

Elder Gong nodded. "His wife is dead, and he wants to join her. Not only does he wish to leave his name behind, but he also wishes to join his dead wife soon. His only desire is to kill and die on this battlefield. This is the path that he has chosen. However, the chosen path is not necessarily the correct path."

After speaking, Elder Gong fell silent and spoke no more.

Lu Yin bowed low. "Elder, this disciple will take his leave."

After that, Lu Yin left the planet.

The chosen path is not necessarily the correct path? Lu Yin still remembered Shaman God's scheme that had been shared with him in the Perennial World. The path that Lu Yin had chosen might not be the best choice for humanity, but it was what Lu Yin desired. And so, he would continue forward, just like the old general.

After leaving Elder Gong's planet, Lu Yin visited Sect Master Yuan Qiong on his own.

"This disciple wishes to learn the fourth level of the Cosmic Art, and I wish to ask the sect master to allow this request." Lu Yin respectfully asked Yuan Qiong.

Yuan Qiong stared at the youth. "Is this why you refer to yourself as a disciple?"

"It is indeed one of the reasons, but the other reason is that once a person has entered the Cosmic Sect, they are forever a disciple of the Cosmic Sect. Lu Yin will never forget this."

Yuan Qiong stared intently at Lu Yin. "You went to that place, didn't you?"

Lu Yin nodded. Many people were aware of the Perennial World, though naturally, only people with a status equal to or higher than Yuan Qiong's were privy to such information. It was impossible for people like Yuan Shou to be aware of these things.

"Did you succeed?" Yuan Qiong stared at Lu Yin.

A small smile appeared on Lu Yin's face. "This disciple will become a Progenitor in the future."

Yuan Qiong's eyes flashed. "Did you know that Senior Lingzhi Mavis, who recently died in her tribulation, was also successful in getting what she wanted in that place? There are people who succeeded and failed in the past and got what they sought. No matter what you may have gained, you do realize that you are only at the same starting line as them, correct?"

Lu Yin was surprised. This was the first time that he had heard that Arch-Elder Zen and the other Semi-Progenitors all had Origin Matter. Yuan Qiong was telling Lu Yin that some of the members of the older generation had similarly succeeded in the Perennial World and brought Origin Matter back to the Fifth Mainland. Some people may have failed, but still carried Origin Matter. In that case, could it be that the Fifth Mainland already possessed Origin Matter?

This was absolutely shocking news, as when Arch-Elder Zen and the others of his generation had visited the Perennial World, they had not faced the four ruling powers, but rather the Lu family. The Lu family had far surpassed the four ruling powers, which showed just how lucky those seniors had been.

"This disciple has been cultivating for nearly sixteen years. Let me ask the sect master this: with just sixteen years of training, who can match this disciple? This disciple is currently able to even defeat an Envoy," Lu Yin spoke in a calm and serious voice, his eyes steady.

Yuan Qiong replied, "That's true. It's possible that not even Progenitor Chen and the others on his level were able to compare to your current achievements at the same age."

After a moment of silence, Yuan Qiong asked, "How did you learn the Teleportation Formation?"

Lu Yin had exposed his mastery of the Teleportation Formation when fighting against Shang Qing during ZENITH, and he had long since considered how to answer this question. "I was lucky enough to find it."

Yuan Qiong showed no surprise. "Crimson Star?"

"Yes. This disciple discovered that Shang Ju, Crimson Star's city master, killed Shen Fu and also coveted the Teleportation Formation. This disciple then secretly stole the Teleportation Formation."

Yuan Qiong laughed. "No wonder I was never able to find the Teleportation Formation—Shang Ju didn't even know where it was!"

The Cosmic Sect had already guessed as much, though they did not blame Lu Yin. In the same situation, nearly anyone would do exactly what Lu Yin had done.

This was the path of cultivation; when fighting against fate and the heavens, one would do whatever it took to survive. The most important thing was whether or not a person could maintain a bottom line and retain their humanity.

No one would walk an easy path while cultivating, and no one would dare to claim that they were infallible throughout the course of their cultivation. The path of cultivation was simple: the strongest always came out on top.

If Lu Yin had been discovered after stealing the Teleportation Formation, he would have been punished. However, at the present moment, who could punish him? If Lu Yin had not taken the initiative to visit the Cosmic Sect, then how could the sect have ever had the opportunity to ask him about this matter?

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All Yuan Qiong had wanted was an answer. "You didn't lie, which is quite good."

"When this disciple saw the Teleportation Formation, I was confident that I would be able to learn it, which was why I took it."

Yuan Qiong dismissed the matter with a wave of a hand. "Don't mention it again."

"Then, can this disciple learn the Cosmic Art?" Lu Yin pressed.

"In order to learn the Cosmic Art, you must first be a disciple of my Cosmic Sect." He then added, "Even if only as an exchanged disciple."

Suddenly, the sect master's body disappeared.

Lu Yin was startled, though also overjoyed, as he understood the sect master's implications. He immediately called Highsage Wudi.

It did not take long for Lu Yin to hear Highsage Wudi's voice. "Who is it?"

"Senior Brother, it's me, Lu Yin."

Highsage Wudi was surprised. "You? You're alive?"

"Master didn't tell you?"

"I'm not on Eversky Island. Where've you been?"

"The Perennial World."

Highsage Wudi fell silent for a moment. "You went early?"

"Yep."

"Success?"

"Lucky."

"Nice."

"Senior Brother, I'm in the Cosmic Sect right now, and they're telling me that I need to be a disciple to learn more of the Cosmic Art. Could you ask Eversky Island to allow me to represent them as an exchange student again?"

"That's not a big deal. After all, how many people from the Cosmic Sect visit my Eversky Island? And how many of us are there to act as exchange students?" Highsage Wudi said loudly.

"Thank you, Senior Brother."

"You're welcome. Go ahead and train in the Cosmic Sect however you want. If anyone tries to bully you, just send them to find your senior brother."

Their conversation quickly wound down after that, and it did not take long for Lu Yin to become an honorary disciple of the Cosmic Sect once again.

Elder Yao Shan was infuriated the moment he learned of this matter. "What does Eversky Island take my Cosmic Sect for? Besides, Lu Yin isn't even a disciple of Eversky Island! How can he be an exchange student representing them?"

Elder Yuan Shou replied, "This really doesn't seem right. Is Lu Yin after something here?"

Elder Yao Shan snapped back, "The kid wants to learn the Cosmic Art! Just you watch."

Elder Yuan Shou coughed, feeling rather embarrassed.

Yuan Qiong interjected, "Alright, since he has become a disciple of my Cosmic Sect, there is no reason to stop him from learning it if he wishes."

"Sect Master, the Cosmic Art cannot be allowed to spread to outsiders! Our promise with Eversky Island to host exchange students also has its own limitations. Within their time studying here, they are only allowed to learn three levels of the Cosmic Art at most. No outsider has ever been allowed to learn the fourth level of the Cosmic Art," Elder Yao Shan anxiously reminded the sect master.

At this time, Elder Yuan Shou no longer tried to help Lu Yin. The Cosmic Art was too important to the sect, as it was their very foundation. There was no room for any mistakes.

Yuan Qiong said, "I have already made up my mind. Do you want my Cosmic Sect to retract a promise? How will my Cosmic Sect's disciples face Eversky Island in the future?"

"But-"

Elder Yao Shan wanted to protest further, but Yuan Qiong stopped him. "Update the conditions of our exchange program. Make it so that any disciple can only participate in the program once. That way, we'll prevent such incidents from happening in the future. Yao Shan, you will negotiate the matter with Eversky Island."

Elder Yao Shan felt trapped, but this was indeed the first time that they had encountered such a situation. However, it did not feel like a surprise that Lu Yin was the source of this trouble, but Yao Shan really could not accept Lu Yin being allowed to learn the fourth level of the Cosmic Art.

Yuan Qiong indifferently said, "How can the fourth level of the Cosmic Art be something that is easy to learn? Not to mention opening the thirty-six fatal energy centers of the human body, but even if he does start cultivating the fourth level, just how many stars will he be able to simulate from the Skystar Jade Wall? He will not remain in my Cosmic Sect for too long."

Such reassurance greatly comforted Elder Yao Shan.

"Yuan Shou, you will personally open up Lu Yin's thirty six fatal energy centers," Yuan Qiong added on.

Elder Yao Shan glanced over at Elder Yuan Shou. "How long will it take you to open all of his fatal energy centers?"

Elder Yuan Shou replied, "One day will be enough. Lu Yin is already an Enlighter, and his foundation is stable."

Elder Yao Shan gritted his teeth. "A day is not long enough. Even a month is too fast."

Yuan Shou was taken aback; that was far too much time.

Yuan Qiong shook his head and ignored the matter. Lu Yin's potential was the only reason why the sect master was even willing to allow the youth to learn more of the Cosmic Art. If the youth succeeded, then he might become a Progenitor in the future, but that was a matter for the future. For the moment, it would be all up to Lu Yin if he was able to learn the next level of the Cosmic Art or not.

Finally, Elder Yao Shan and Elder Yuan Shou agreed that Yuan Shou would take at least half a month to open Lu Yin's fatal energy centers, and the elder would also attempt to delay the matter as much as possible in order to restrict Lu Yin's time to train within the Cosmic Sect even further. His progress in learning more of the Cosmic Art would greatly slow after leaving the Cosmic Sect.

From what all of the elders believed, the fourth level of the Cosmic Art was something that Lu Yin would need to train in for a long time.

The Cosmic Art's third level allowed a person to simulate 726 stars, but the fourth level allowed one to simulate 3,600. This was a truly significant increase.

In the Cosmic Sect's great hall on Skystar, Elder Yuan Shou looked at Lu Yin. "You have always wanted to learn my Cosmic Sect's Cosmic Art, and that is why you insist on referring to yourself as a disciple, no?"

Lu Yin answered somberly, "As a disciple of the Cosmic Sect, isn't it only right for me to learn the sect's cultivation art?"

Elder Yuan Shou wanted to argue, but upon seeing Lu Yin's sincere expression, the elder suddenly remembered how this child's last visit to Cosmo Hall had actually drawn the attention of Jiu Shen, which indicated that his intentions towards the sect should be true. The elder nodded. "True. You should have already heard about how the fourth level of the Cosmic Art requires one to open thirty six fatal energy centers. This process takes a bit of time, so prepare yourself."

Lu Yin was caught off guard. "Mu Ziyang mentioned that it should take no more than a few days."

"That's because his cultivation is weak. You are already an Enlighter, which makes your energy centers much tougher. It will not be easy to open your energy centers," Elder Yuan Shou explained.

Lu Yin thought that this sounded perfectly reasonable, so he respectfully replied, "I've troubled Elder then. Please do as you must."

Elder Yuan Shou reassured Lu Yin as he saw the youth close his eyes. The elder raised a hand and lifted Lu Yin's body, causing him to be suspended in the air. A ray of stellar energy shot out of the elder's palm, and Lu Yin felt a burst of pain as his thirty six fatal energy centers began to open.

Lu Yin had been waiting for this moment for a long time. The Cosmic Art was actually the first cultivation art that he had ever practiced, and he had always wanted to improve it.

He still remembered the excitement that he had felt when he had Pilfered the first level of the Cosmic Art during the start of his cultivation journey. At this moment, he was finally about to achieve a greater understanding of the art.

The thirty six fatal energy centers on his limbs began to open. It took nearly ten hours for the point on his right palm to open. Based on this speed, it would take exactly half a month for all of his fatal energy centers to open.

Elder Yuan Shou would be stuck in this place for half a month.

The elder lifted his hand again, but his stellar energy did not enter Lu Yin's foot. Instead, Lu Yin's shoe blew apart. As the stellar energy tried to enter into Lu Yin's fatal energy center, a pattern appeared on the bottom of his foot.

The moment the pattern appeared, Cosmo Hall trembled a slight bit, and another person suddenly appeared. It was a stunned young man.

Elder Yuan Shou was similarly shocked, and he stared at the bottom of Lu Yin's foot. The elder had completely forgotten about opening the fatal energy center. What the hell? It's this pattern? How could this pattern be on the bottom of his foot?

"Get out of the way." The young man shoved Elder Yuan Shou aside and took over opening Lu Yin fatal energy centers. In less than half an hour, all thirty six of Lu Yin's fatal energy centers had been cleared.

He opened his eyes, and the only difference was that the star energy in his body was flowing a bit smoother. And when he cycled his star energy according to the method of the Cosmic Art, it felt as though his star energy flowed without any obstructions.

"Lu Yin," the young man said as he stared at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin fell to the ground and then looked at the young man in a questioning manner; who was this boy? Confused, Lu Yin shot Elder Yuan Shou a questioning look.

There was an odd expression on Elder Yuan Shou's face, and it looked as though the man was holding back a thousand words. "This is my Cosmic Sect's Elder Jiu Shen."

Lu Yin was shocked. Elder Jiu Shen? That man was an old monster who was only inferior to Semi-Progenitors. Surprised, Lu Yin hastened to bow to the young man. "Disciple Lu Yin greets Elder Jiu Shen."

The young man stared at Lu Yin with wide open eyes. "How did you get that pattern on the bottom of your foot?"

Lu Yin was completely lost. "What pattern on the bottom of my foot?"

Elder Jiu Shen's gaze grew sharp as he stared at Lu Yin.

Elder Yuan Shou explained, "On the bottom of your foot, you have--"

Elder Jiu Shen stopped Yuan Shou before he could finish his sentence. Then, Elder Gong emerged from the void in another direction. The Semi-Progenitor no longer looked to be on the verge of death. He still looked ancient, but also full of energy.

Lu Yin felt that something was off; all of these elders appeared to be terribly concerned. Was there a pattern on the bottom of his foot? But then, why did he not know about it? That did not make any sense. Cultivators knew their bodies down to the molecule, so how could there possibly be a pattern on the bottom of his foot that he had not noticed?

Elder Gong remained completely silent, but he drew a picture of a person in the air.

The moment Lu Yin saw the picture, his pupils instantly shrank; why was it him yet again?

"It looks like you know him." Elder Jiu Shen observed Lu Yin's reaction.

Lu Yin's mouth had already gone dry. "This disciple met him on Driftcharge Planet in the Outerverse. That old senior saved this disciple. Without him, this disciple would have died."

"Where is he? Where is he?" Elder Jiu Shen shouted.

"Dead."

"Impossible." Elder Jiu Shen did not believe Lu Yin for a moment. "How could that old guy die?"

Elder Gong gently prodded, "What did he say to you?"

Lu Yin carefully recalled that time, "At first, the senior sent a terrible energy into this junior's body. He then asked this junior to visit the Neoverse and find someone, but he later changed his mind for some unknown reason, and he caused the energy to disappear."

"What about the pattern on your foot?" Elder Jiu Shen eagerly pressed.

Lu Yin shook his head. "This junior never knew anything at all about a pattern on my foot. If not for Elder Yuan Shou trying to open my fatal energy centers, this junior would have never even known that there was anything on the bottom of my foot at all."

Elder Jiu Shen looked over at Elder Gong. "How should we choose?"

Elder Gong stared at Lu Yin. "The old man asked you to come to the Neoverse to find someone. Did he say anything else?"

"He asked me to take some things to the person that I should look for, but he never mentioned the matter later on." Lu Yin tried to remember more. He increasingly felt that the old man from Driftcharge Planet had not been a simple person. The Perennial World's Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo was looking for that grandpa, and now, the Fifth Mainland's Cosmic Sect was looking for him as well. Just who had that grandpa really been?

Elder Gong clasped his hands behind his back and started speaking slowly. He shared a story with Lu Yin that only a select few people knew about.

"Many years ago, a very ordinary Enlighter brought a child to our Cosmic Sect, seeking refuge. That Enlighter eventually became a deacon of the outer sect. While he was quite old, he was also a kind person. Despite not having a very high status within the sect, he was happy. The child that the Enlighter brought here eventually became old enough to cultivate, but due to his poor talent, he was unable to cultivate the Cosmic Art no matter what.

"The child was stubborn and wanted to practice the Cosmic Art. He did not care about any other cultivation arts or battle techniques. The sect's disciples mocked him, and at that point, the Enlighter who came with the child sneaked into where the Skystar Jade Wall was and stole my Cosmic Sect's treasure. However, I discovered the crime. At that same time, I learned the truth. That Enlighter was actually a Semi-Progenitor who had been badly injured and was unable to fully recover."

Lu Yin's expression grew solemn; where could an unknown Semi-Progenitor have come from? They were in the Fifth Mainland, not the Perennial World. There were very few powerhouses at that level.

"How could I allow a Semi-Progenitor who had been hiding in my Cosmic Sect to escape after stealing our treasure? However, he was very powerful, even when badly wounded. In the end, I was unable to stop him, and he eventually fled the Neoverse. However, his injury was aggravated due to the battle, and I was certain that he would not live for much longer. However, the most tragic bit was that, at the beginning of our battling, our fighting most likely affected his child."

Lu Yin remembered seeing the old man weeping at a grave on Driftcharge Planet, and he had later told Lu Yin that it was the grave of his grandson. So the old man's grandson was actually the child who had been injured during the Semi-Progenitors' fight!

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"There was no one in the right or wrong in this matter. He stole my Cosmic Sect's treasure for his grandson as he wanted to let his child to practice the Cosmic Art. However, the result of his actions most likely led to the child dying, and my Cosmic Sect's treasure was also lost." Elder Gong looked back at Lu Yin. "That treasure is actually the pattern on the bottom of your foot."

Lu Yin was puzzled. "How can a pattern be a treasure?"

Elder Jiu Shen solemnly explained, "It has been a very long time since anyone in my Cosmic Sect has been able to cultivate the Cosmic Art to its highest level. In fact, the Cosmic Art's highest level can only be reached with the assistance of this pattern. It is the realm that Progenitor Chen reached."

Lu Yin was shocked, and he looked down to stare at his foot; had he been stepping on the highest level of the Cosmic Art this entire time?

Elder Gong continued, "That pattern not only represents the highest level of the Cosmic Art, but it also conceals the secrets of Progenitor Chen. It was for this reason that the Semi-Progenitor was convinced that this pattern would allow his grandchild to cultivate the Cosmic Art."

Lu Yin suddenly understood why the appearance of this pattern had drawn out the sect's top elders and powerhouses. "Honestly, Elder, this disciple never knew about the importance of the pattern on my sole. Why don't you take the pattern away?"

Elder Jiu Shen angrily retorted, "Do you really believe that this treasure can be taken away so easily?"

Elder Gong felt exasperated. "We have no way of knowing how that old man took this pattern away from the Skystar Jade Wall back then, and in the same manner, we don't know how to take it back now. The pattern's been etched into the bottom of your foot, but it only appeared when your fatal energy center there was opened."

"Take off his leg," Elder Jiu Shen immediately suggested.

Lu Yin's mouth twitched.

Elder Gong shook his head. "There's no way it would be that easy to take back Progenitor Chen's secret."

Elder Jiu Shen stared at Lu Yin in a sullen manner. "Kid, I truly admire you a great deal. When you first visited Cosmo Hall, I even purposely appeared. Unfortunately, you are carrying my Cosmic Sect's treasure, so you can forget about ever leaving. You will stay here for the rest of your life."

Lu Yin blinked. "I don't have time for that. I'm busy."

Elder Jiu Shen sneered. "Do you think that you can escape?"

Lu Yin looked over at Elder Gong.

Elder Gong fell deep into thought.

Elder Yuan Shou could not resist speaking up. "Lu Yin, staying here will not be bad for you. You have that pattern, and if you stay here in my sect, you will eventually be able to cultivate the Cosmic Art to almost the same level as Progenitor Chen, and at that time, you'll be able to leave."

Elder Jiu Shen also spoke up, "That's true. No one has ever been able to cultivate the Cosmic Art to the highest level since Progenitor Chen. Even when the pattern was still in the Skystar Jade Wall, no one was able to use it to cultivate. You are different—the pattern is merged with your body. As long as you continue to cultivate the various levels of the Cosmic Art, the day will eventually come when you will be able to use that pattern."

"Lu Yin, this is an opportunity for you to change your fate! Once you master the highest level of our Cosmic Art, you will become comparable to Progenitor Chen! You will be the next Progenitor Chen," Elder Yuan Shou said temptingly.

"There's also the matter of Progenitor Chen's secrets, which are hidden within the pattern. You will eventually understand what they are, but they're Progenitor Chen's secrets. It's possible that the secrets might contain the Nine Clones Secret Technique, or possibly even what's behind Progenitor Chen's power," Elder Jiu Shen spoke up again. Every word he spoke carried a certain resonance, as this subject touched upon something irresistible to cultivators.

The two elders were blatantly cooperating with each other.

Lu Yin rolled his eyes. That old man from Driftcharge Planet had really put Lu Yin in a difficult position. At the same time, Lu Yin was relieved that he had gained this level of status. Given his present circumstances, even the Cosmic Sect would have a very difficult time forcing Lu Yin to stay within their sect. This was why the elders were trying to tempt Lu Yin, as they all understood that his current status made it very difficult for them to keep him incarcerated here.

The old man from Driftcharge Planet had not done anything to directly harm Lu Yin, but as far as Lu Yin was concerned, losing his freedom was the most terrifying thing in the world.

"Boy, talk!" Elder Jiu Shen lost his patience. He was a powerhouse who was second only to Elder Gong within the Cosmic Sect; when had he ever been this patient with a youth and tried to tempt him? Jiu Shen was feeling stifled in such a way that he had not for a very long time.

Lu Yin respectfully answered, "I'm sorry, Senior, but this disciple has no desire to stay in the Cosmic Sect."

"Do you really think that you have a choice?" Elder Jiu Shen sneered.

Elder Yuan Shou quickly and quietly spoke to Jiu Shen. The more the elder said, the more shocked Jiu Shen became. He had been in seclusion for many years, and he was completely ignorant of what had occurred in the outside world. After being quickly updated, the man stared at Lu Yin in surprise. "Your status may not be low, but it's still useless. Even if you are a part of the Hall of Honor, you will still be forced to stay here with me."

Elder Gong suddenly spoke up, "Alright, there's no need to be so forceful."

Elder Jiu Shen had not expected Elder Gong to say such a thing. Elder Yuan Shou was only aware of a portion of the truth regarding Lu Yin, and he was still ignorant of many of Lu Yin's feats, not to mention

his Origin Matter. On the other hand, Elder Gong was aware of almost everything. He knew that Lu Yin had received a great deal of attention from Arch-Elder Zen and Highsage Grandmaster, and neither would allow anything to happen to Lu Yin. If the Cosmic Sect tried to force Lu Yin to stay within the sect, it would lead to countless problems.

"You can officially join the Cosmic Sect, and you don't need to accept a master. Instead, you can oversee the outer disciples," Elder Gong suggested as he looked at Lu Yin.

Before Lu Yin could answer, Elder Jiu Shen immediately butted in, "Senior Brother, that can't happen. Outer disciples are not qualified to learn the higher levels of the Cosmic Art."

Elder Gong indifferently replied, "He's the same as us."

Elder Jiu Shen grew curious. "The same how?"

He quickly and drastically reacted, and he stared at Lu Yin in utter shock. "Have you been to that place?"

Lu Yin nodded. "I was there, and I succeeded."

Elder Jiu Shen was stunned. He was unable to see anything about this child, which meant that an absolute powerhouse was supporting Lu Yin and had hidden his cultivation. With the Hall of Honor and how readily Eversky Island had allowed Lu Yin to be an exchange disciple for a second time, it suggested that either Arch-Elder Zen or Highsage Grandmaster was backing behind this child. It was no wonder why Elder Gong did not want to force Lu Yin to stay in the Cosmic Sect.

"Elder, this disciple is willing to become a disciple of the Cosmic Sect," Lu Yin said respectfully.

Elder Gong said, "Given the fact that you refused to accept Highsage Grandmaster as your master, you clearly already have a master supporting you. It's understandable that you would not want to accept a master, even if it is only in name. However, there is one thing that is not up for discussion: on the day that you are accepted as a disciple of my Cosmic Sect, you will need to swear to never betray my Cosmic Sect and to always protect my Cosmic Sect."

Lu Yin's eyes flashed and his mind raced. Finally, he solemnly bowed. "This disciple understands."

"You all can leave. I will personally guide him in learning the fourth level of the Cosmic Art," Elder Gong stated, though he was actually asking Elder Jiu Shen and Elder Yuan Shou to leave.

Lu Yin grew excited. Having Elder Gong's personal instruction was a thousand times better than what even the sect's true disciples received.

After Elder Jiu Shen and the others left, Elder Gong grew more serious as he looked at Lu Yin. "That pattern on the sole of your foot can truly change your destiny. When you achieve great success in the future, you will become comparable to even Progenitor Chen. On that day, will you be willing to return to my Cosmic Sect and return this inheritance?"

Comparable to Progenitor Chen? It was impossible to know when that day might come, so Lu Yin said, "This disciple is willing."

Elder Gong lowered his head and stared intensely at the sole of Lu Yin's foot. The man's eyes belied his torn emotions.

Lu Yin asked out of curiosity, "Elder, what secrets do this pattern hide? Can this disciple know them?"

Elder Gong considered the request, and he eventually raised his hand. Stars revolved around the man's palm in a manner that was very familiar to Lu Yin, the Cosmic Art. "How can you be certain that the planet you are standing on did not come from the Cosmic Art?"

Lu Yin was momentarily stunned, and his scalp soon went numb as his mouth fell open wide. "You- are you saying-?"

"Don't say, don't say it. This is my Cosmic Sect's greatest secret." With that, Elder Gong led Lu Yin away from Cosmo Hall and traveled straight to the Skystar Jade Wall.

A disciple was just about to enter, but he was pushed back by the elder, and the Skystar Jade Wall was then sealed. In private, Elder Gong proceeded to explain the fourth level of the Cosmic Art to Lu Yin.

The fourth level of the cultivation art required one to undergo the unique practice of opening the body's thirty-six fatal energy centers. Only after this was done could the fourth level be cultivated with the help of the Skystar Jade Wall.

Elsewhere, Elder Yuan Shou reported what had happened to Sect Master Yuan Qiong, and as he was speaking, Elder Yao Shan saw Elder Yuan Shou, and Yao Shan's eyes went red. "Yuan Shou, didn't I tell you to stall him for at least half a month? Why did you finish in just a day? No, it hasn't even been a full day!"

Elder Yuan Shou did not know how to respond, so he turned to look at Yuan Qiong.

Yuan Qiong informed Elder Yao Shan, "You can no longer make things difficult for Lu Yin. He will take the position of leader of my Cosmic Sect's outer disciples, and his status will be equal to your own."

Elder Yao Shan was stunned and confused by what he heard. "What does Sect Master mean?"

Yuan Qiong gave Elder Yao Shan an intent stare. "Elder Gong is currently instructing Lu Yin on the Cosmic Art."

Elder Yao Shan was truly startled by this revelation, and he grew pale. Elder Gong was one of the most powerful individuals in the entire Human Domain, and Yao Shan instantly understood what it meant for someone to receive the personal instruction of such a powerhouse.

Elder Gong shared the essentials of practicing the fourth level of the Cosmic Art with Lu Yin, and after the elder left, Lu Yin approached the Skystar Jade Wall and started studying the stars.

The fourth level of the Cosmic Art allowed the user to simulate 3,600 stars, which was almost five times more than the third level. Lu Yin's excitement mounted as he stared at the stars on the wall. 3,600 stars was only the fourth level, and the fifth level would allow the user to simulate 99,000 stars! The number of stars only continued to increase more and more until one matched the number of stars that Progenitor Chen himself had once simulated.

Lu Yin considered Elder Gong's question. Could the pattern that held the secrets of Progenitor Chen really allow a person to gain control of the stars that Progenitor Chen had simulated? If those places were now occupied, then would a person gain control of all those residing on those celestial bodies?

This was what the elders had been referring to when they had mentioned Lu Yin changing his fate!

That life-or-death catastrophe on Driftcharge Planet had truly changed Lu Yin's fate.

There were many hidden worlds in the Honor Zone that took all forms and shapes. Some had the appearance of flowing water, cards, light, or leaves. Among them, the hidden world that was Shamrock Enterprise's headquarters had the form of a clover. It looked like a perfectly ordinary plant that no one would pay any attention to, and no one would believe that this little plant was responsible for supplying over half of the Fifth Mainland's medicines.

Inside Shamrock Enterprise's hidden world, Yan stood in a respectful manner beneath a tree. He was clearly waiting for something.

This tree was truly beautiful, and it was covered with pink flowers. When the breeze blew by, flowers fell onto Yan's head and shoulders, but he did not dare to move a single muscle.

A day passed. Two. Three. A month went by, but Yan still did not dare move even though his head and shoulders were completely covered with pink flowers by this point.

"Lu Yin?" A pleasant voice spoke up from behind Yan.

The man's expression changed and he spun around to bow. "President."

A cheerful looking woman with a refined demeanor had appeared right behind Yan. She was wearing plain clothes and no makeup, but there was no hiding her beauty. When she raised a hand, the pink flowers fell to her palm. The color perfectly complemented her snow-white skin.

She was the Inverse president of Shamrock Enterprise: Balsam.

Nobody would ever think that the person in charge of Shamrock Enterprise was actually a beautiful woman. For a long time, Yan had acted in Balsam's place, handling Shamrock Enterprise's affairs throughout the Human Domain. In fact, it was hard for even the company's top executives to see Balsam, and some people had never even heard of her. She was just as mysterious as Leaf King.

Yan treated Balsam with the utmost of respect, and he did not dare to raise his head. It was as though he was utterly terrified of the beautiful woman before him.

"This child caused you to fail?" Balsam asked softly. Her eyes were as tranquil as water, and her body gave off the fragrance of an orchid, which was exceedingly pleasant.

Chapter 1584: Big Bro Monkey

Yan respectfully answered, "That's correct. He was able to manipulate the nine overseers. Thus, when they voted, more than half of them rejected our proposal, causing this subordinate to fail."

"How do you want to proceed?" Balsam asked.

Yan grew solemn. "Lu Yin is backed by powers that cover the entire universe. He's supported by Semi-Progenitors, the Hall of Honor, Leon's Armada, and even Yuan Shi, who stays hidden in the Outerverse. This youth is a prickly opponent to mess with, and direct confrontation is not the answer, as our only method of retaliation is to completely withdraw our pharmaceutical sales from the Outerverse. It might be possible to deal with him, but regardless, my Shamrock Enterprise cannot be humiliated."

The pink flowers disappeared from Balsam's hand. She turned around and left. "Do as you wish."

Yan stared at the ground, his eyes blazing. Even though Shamrock Enterprise could not compare to Aurora Enterprises, it was still a massive company that had managed to force its way into the Neoverse. Not just anyone could afford to offend their company! He wanted to see just how Lu Yin would deal with Shamrock Enterprise. Unless the youth could bring out an expert that was even more powerful than Leaf King, their company really had no reason to feel any fear.

In front of the Skystar Jade Wall, Lu Yin opened his eyes as 890 stars revolved around his body. He was currently learning the fourth level of the Cosmic Art, but he knew that Qiu Shi had been able to simulate 932 stars during ZENITH. Even if she had improved by an incredible amount after entering the Perennial World, Lu Yin expected that she could have only reached 2,000 stars, and that was already evaluating her talent quite highly.

Given the situation, it was time for Lu Yin to roll his die. He was not afraid of falling behind when it came to a matter of time.

Lu Yin left the Skystar Jade Wall, allowing the place to once again be used by the other disciples.

In Cosmo Hall, Sect Master Yuan Qiong had been waiting for Lu Yin for quite some time.

Lu Yin offered a respectful bow, his attitude always excellent in this place.

Yuan Qiong was overcome with complicated emotions as he looked at Lu Yin, especially whenever the older man glanced at Lu Yin's feet. The Cosmic Sect's greatest treasure was actually on the bottom of this child's foot, which made the sect master truly unhappy.

If not for the fact that Lu Yin had been so insistent on learning the fourth level of the Cosmic Art and the Cosmic Sect agreeing to open his fatal meridian points, they would have never discovered the pattern on the bottom of Lu Yin's foot. Without these coincidences, it would have been impossible for them to ever find their sect's greatest treasure.

"When do you plan on leaving?" Yuan Qiong asked.

"I'll stay here for no more than half a month."

Yuan Qiong silently thought for a bit. "Just stay in Cosmo Hall to train then. There is a certain forbidden area there that would suit your training quite well."

Lu Yin felt truly grateful. "Thank you, Sect Master."

There was a part of Yuan Qiong that really wanted to ask Lu Yin if he had planned out everything in advance and if his insistence on learning the fourth level of the Cosmic Art had been nothing more than

a ploy to reveal the pattern on the bottom of his foot to the Cosmic Sect. However, the sect master eventually decided to leave the question unasked. He did not want to think too deeply about the possibilities.

No matter what, his Cosmic Sect could not really deny this youth.

Out of sight was out of mind, and Yuan Qiong left without speaking to Lu Yin any further.

Elder Yuan Shou entered the hall and saw Lu Yin cultivating in the forbidden area behind Cosmo Hall. The place was intended for only the sect's elders cultivation use, but it had been given over to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was truly grateful for the sect's treatment, but the attitude of even Elder Yuan Shou had changed. All of the elders assumed that Lu Yin had known about the pattern on his foot and that everything he had done so far had been an act. This belief had altered their attitude towards him.

On the other hand, Lu Yin had no idea how to react, as he really had not known! The elders were wronging him, and it was not a pleasant feeling to be treated like this.

Regardless, he had still achieved his goal.

Lu Yin had no worries that someone would spy on him in the elders' training ground. In the Fifth Mainland, there were far too many people protecting him, and it wouldn't matter even if his die was discovered.

At ease, he raised his head and brought out his die. After tapping it, it finally stopped on four pips. His luck was quite good this time.

The scenery changed before his eyes, and Lu Yin entered the Timestop Space. Now, he was guaranteed to roll what he wanted.

First, he needed to start training, and while doing so, he would roll the die every ten days.

Naturally, he started practicing the Cosmic Art.

Ten days soon passed, and Lu Yin rolled the die again. This time, he got a useless result of six pips. He resumed his training, and after ten more days, he rolled a one. Also useless. Continue.

After more than a month in the Timestop Space, Lu Yin finally rolled a three.

He stared at the two screens of light as he placed his bodysuit armor on the upper screen and began throwing out star essence. This armor was made from much better materials than Lu Yin's last universal armor. While that armor's materials had come from the Technocracy, this bodysuit armor's materials hailed from ancient times that the Fifth Mainland no longer had the ability to recycle or refine. Only Aurora Enterprises' cutting-edge technology was able to process the raw materials into Lu Yin's new bodysuit armor.

Even just the first upgrade cost Lu Yin millions of star essence. However, the more expensive the upgrade was, the better its quality. Lu Yin became very excited.

Even though the armor was made from excellent materials, they could not be upgraded indefinitely. In the end, Lu Yin Enhanced his new armor eleven times, spending nearly a billion star essence in the

process. This also improved the armor to the point where it could defend against attacks with power levels of nearly 900,000, but it did not seem capable of surpassing that level.

Lu Yin was incredibly excited as he held up his bodysuit armor. This thing really was not too bad, and the materials that he had used had to have been truly precious for the armor to be able to reach this level. After all, even the aquatic plant-shaped power vessel and the combat puppet had been limited to the power level of an Envoy. It was not easy for an item to reach the Semi-Progenitor level.

It was no wonder why the engineers from Aurora Enterprises had been so excited when they had seen Lu Yin's materials.

Lu Yin felt that he would need to periodically visit Black Street in the future. Most of the Neoverse's unrecyclable materials had gathered at that place, and many of them came from ancient ages and were made from very precious materials.

After Enhancing his bodysuit armor, Lu Yin had 1.4 billion star essence left, which was enough for emergencies.

Lu Yin's Timestop Space lasted for a minimum of three days, and he was able to extend that time to a maximum of 300 days, which was not that much. However, it cost him two million star essence to extend his time to such a degree as each extension would cost twice the previous.

Three hundred days was almost a year, and Lu Yin did not know how many stars he would be able to simulate in this period of time.

...

The years meant nothing to cultivators. Once a cultivator reached a higher level, it was normal for their training to be measured by years instead of days, and experts on Yuan Shi's level cultivated in sessions that started at a thousand years or more.

Three hundred days quickly passed by.

Lu Yin opened his eyes as the scenery changed before his eyes. He had returned to the forbidden cultivation area behind the Cosmo Hall. Only a second had passed since he had disappeared.

He raised a hand and rolled his die once again. The sooner he was able to master the fourth level of the Cosmic Art, the sooner he would be able to start learning the fifth level. Only then was he willing to leave. The fifth level of the Cosmic Art would allow him to cultivate for a very long time.

Three pips. Useless, again. Two pips. Useless, again. Four pips... The scenery changed before Lu Yin's eyes, and he returned to the Timestop Space, where he resumed practicing the Cosmic Art.

After spending nearly a whole year practicing the Cosmic Art, Lu Yin had managed to simulate more than 1,800 stars. He was curious to see how many he could cultivate with another 300 days of training.

As the number of stars that he could simulate increased, so too did Lu Yin's understanding of the Cosmic Art. Even though the cultivation art grew increasingly difficult as he progressed, he had the time needed to master it.

...

Another 300 days passed, and Lu Yin left the Timestop Space again. He needed to wait ten days before he could roll his die again, as trying to roll again before that would knock him unconscious.

At this moment, Lu Yin had managed to simulate more than 2,600 stars.

He left the cultivation area, and after glancing around, he saw Elder Yuan Shou staring at the names written down in Cosmo Hall. Lu Yin's name was also present.

Elder Yuan Shou was surprised to see Lu Yin already leaving his training. "Don't you want to practice?"

Lu Yin had been training nonstop for almost two years, but only a few seconds had passed for Yuan Shou and the others. Most of that time was Lu Yin rolling his die.

Feeling the passage of time, Lu Yin suddenly grew emotional. "'Elder, this disciple wishes to ask you a question."

"Speak," Yuan Shou replied, his voice indifferent.

"How many stars can Elder Yuan simulate?" Lu Yin asked curiously.

Yuan Shou glanced at Lu Yin. "An Envoy with a power level of less than 700,000 can only cultivate up to the complete fifth level of the Cosmic Art: 99,000 stars. It's unknown if this limit has to do with physical limitations or the control that one has over the true universe. Only after exceeding a power level of 700,000 can an Envoy try to train in the sixth level, but caution is needed. Training in the sixth level can easily cause one's body to collapse, which would cause the stellar energy to be forcibly pulled out of their body.

"As for me, I practice the sixth level."

Lu Yin had not expected to hear that Elder Yuan Shou's power level was more than 700,000, which meant that he was at least as powerful as Liu Ye and Fei Hua. "What about Elder Yao Shan?"

"The fifth level," Yuan Shou stated.

Lu Yin nodded. He felt that Elder Yao Shan's power level was a bit more than 600,000.

While in the Neoverse, Lu Yin did not dare casually observe people's rune lines, as it was easy to get into trouble by doing so. The existence of Gods' Origin had caused all of the Neoverse's major powers to take precautions.

"What about Elder Jiu Shen?" Lu Yin asked tentatively. He was very curious about the elder's strength.

Elder Yuan Shou frowned. "Return to your training. Don't you want to leave?"

Lu Yin saw that Elder Yuan Shou did not want to continue the conversation, which only made sense. After all, Lu Yin was asking about Elder Jiu Shen. Lu Yin had dealt with many bigshots, but to the others in the Cosmic Sect, Jiu Shen was akin to an old monster with a power level of over a million, and he wielded a great deal of authority. It was not respectful to discuss such a powerhouse as casually as Lu Yin had.

Lu Yin returned to the forbidden area to resume cultivating. He sat down cross-legged and closed his eyes. However, he simply rested his mind. Training for two years was quite exhausting.

Ten days later, Lu Yin raised his hand and brought out his recovered die. He tapped it, and it slowly spun before stopping on six pips.

Lu Yin let out a sigh of relief. Fortunately, he had set his cosmic ring aside before rolling, and there was only a small amount of star essence on him, just enough to prevent him taking a total loss if he rolled six pips.

As soon as he appeared in the strange space, Lu Yin merged with an orb of light that was not very bright. The star essence on him was not enough to last for more than a few seconds.

As he opened his eyes, he saw a dim sky and ordinary buildings. Before he could even get a clear look at his surroundings, memories started pouring in. However, what Lu Yin found caused his expression to change drastically; what kind of memories were these? Kill! Kill! Kill! Everything was emotionless and cold, like a corpse. Wait, had he-? Had he Possessed a corpse king?

Lu Yin quickly glanced around, and he saw seven familiar towers standing in the distance. Were those the dark towers? He was actually in Aeternus Nation.

"Little Lu!" A loud shout was heard.

Lu Yin was startled; was someone calling him? How was that possible? Was there someone capable of seeing through his die's Possession? Lu Yin's body went cold, and he felt like all of his secrets had been exposed.

He slowly turned around and looked towards where the shout had come from; was that the Ghost Monkey?

Sure enough, the Ghost Monkey was nearby. The beast had returned to the same appearance when Lu Yin had first fought against the monkey. The Ghost Monkey was no longer just a shadow, and he was sitting in a sedan chair that was being carried by two corpse kings. The monkey raised a hand that held a whip and started beating it against the back of the corpse king in front of him. "Little Lu, I was calling you! Didn't you hear me?"

"Yes," the corpse king answered in a hoarse voice.

"Idiot! What did I tell you to call this Lord Monkey? Say it loud!" the Ghost Monkey shouted with an arrogant grin on his face. He looked incredibly smug.

"Bi- Big Brother Monkey." The corpse king was not able to speak clearly.

The Ghost Monkey grew even more proud. "Little Lu!"

"Big Brother Monkey."

"Little Lu."

"Big Brother Monkey."

"Nice, Little Lu."

Chapter 1585: The Truth

Lu Yin stared blankly at the sedan chair as it went by. While he was relieved that he had not been discovered, he was also completely stunned. He had not expected to find that bastard monkey here. You dare to pull such a prank? I'll beat you to death one day!

Lu Yin had been terribly scared, and his back was slick with cold sweat.

Since he had Possessed a corpse king, he decided that he might as well try to find out a bit more about the Seven Skygods. In particular, he was very curious about Whiteless God. According to the legends, Whiteless God was the one who possessed the list of human traitors: Aeterna.

At this thought, Lu Yin controlled the corpse king's body and raced towards a dark tower.

The corpse king soon approached the tower. However, Lu Yin was taken aback; the Possession was about to end, but he still had not even seen Whiteless God.

As Lu Yin stared at a dark tower off in the distance, he saw a figure slowly walk inside. Their appearance struck Lu Yin like a bolt of lightning; that was Undying Yushan!

Lu Yin's consciousness returned to his own body, and he gasped for breath as his pupils fluctuated. He never could have dreamed that he would see Undying Yushan in Aeternus Nation. The man had not died—he truly was not dead. He did not seem to be a corpse king either, but rather a living, breathing human. It had really been Undying Yushan.

Lu Yin had long since guessed that there was a chance that Undying Yushan had not really died, but Lu Yin had no idea where the former emperor might have gone, or why the man had faked his own death. Lu Yin's best guess was that Undying Yushan had done everything for the chance to practice the Undying Manual.

Lu Yin's suspicions had grown even stronger after discovering that Liu Zishan had been controlled by someone, but while Lu Yin suspected that Undying Yushan was the one who had been controlling her, there was no proof.

As time passed, Lu Yin had gradually forgotten about the entire matter. He had never expected to see Undying Yushan in Aeternus Nation! What was the man doing in such a place? Also, wasn't Aeternus Nation supposed to have been destroyed by the Progenitor of Secret Arts? Why did it still exist? Or, was it possible that Lu Yin had visited another Aeternus Nation?

Lu Yin was confused by everything that he had seen while Possessing the corpse king, but he desperately wanted to learn the truth.

Unfortunately, it would be too difficult to uncover this mystery. Though, maybe, could he learn the truth from the Ghost Monkey? This possibility caused Lu Yin's eyes to light up.

The Ghost Monkey had been forcibly removed from Lu Yin by Shaman God. After living in Aeternus Nation for so long, the Ghost Monkey had likely learned quite a bit.

The detail that Lu Yin found most unacceptable was Undying Yushan's presence. The man had treated Lu Yin very well in the past.

However, there was no way that Undying Yushan was aware that Lu Yin had discovered anything at all.

"I can easily gain control of the Great Eastern Alliance, and I can even influence the Seven Courts. I deserve to be given a bit more Vitality Poison." Undying Yushan stood inside the dark tower as he spoke in a low voice.

"We merely have a cooperative relationship; we have no obligation to provide you with any resources."

"Lu Yin has returned, and I can also control that kid. I don't believe that he has no value to you."

"Are you really confident that you can control him? Did you know that he is part of the Lu family? That invincible Lu family?"

Undying Yushan just smiled. "My original goal was just to practice the Undying Manual, and I gained control of him along the way. Who would have imagined that the little baby who pretended to be a member of the Zishan family would one day reach his current level? You can let him develop as much as you wish. I will remain hidden for now and will take control of him at the right time. He will not be able to escape."

"I hope that you don't underestimate the Lu family."

...

Lu Yin rolled his die again, and after two more attempts, he finally rolled four pips and reentered the Timestop Space.

Soon, another 300 days passed. This time, upon exiting the space, Lu Yin had completely mastered the fourth level of the Cosmic Art.

3,600 stars of the Cosmic Art revolved around his body.

Lu Yin remained in the forbidden area behind Cosmo Hall for a few more days. After staying there for about half a month, he was no longer able to wait any longer.

He left Cosmo Hall and traveled to the innocuous planet where Elder Gong resided.

"What are you doing in the sect if you aren't going to train?" Elder Gong asked calmly. He was staring off into the distance, but his eyes were unfocused.

Lu Yin answered in a respectful tone, "This disciple has mastered the fourth level of the Cosmic Art, and I wish to study the fifth level."

Elder Gong's eyes went wide, and he turned around to stare at Lu Yin. "What did you say?"

Lu Yin knew that his claim was unbelievable, but there was nothing that he could do about it. He could not waste time in the Cosmic Sect just to hide his progress with the Cosmic Art. If he did, then there would be no reason to use his Timestop Space.

"This disciple's training of the Cosmic Art went unexpectedly smoothly, and it only took me half a month to complete the fourth level," Lu Yin stated. As he spoke, stars appeared and started revolving around

his body. They spread out and surrounded the entire planet, which caused many people in the Cosmic Sect to glance over in surprise.

On Skystar, Elder Jiu Shen walked out and blinked. Is- is that the kid? This is too ridiculous! It's only been half a month.

Elder Yuan Shou was also stunned by Lu Yin's reveal. In just half a month, the youth had mastered the entire fourth level of the Cosmic Art. His talent was truly too terrifying.

Yuan Qiong's expression grew solemn. Already, Qiu Shi's talent for cultivating the Cosmic Art was absurd, as she surpassed all of her predecessors. In theory, even if Lu Yin's talent was beyond Qiu Shi's, he should not surpass her by this much. There had to be something else involved, and Yuan Qiong's mind instantly jumped to the pattern on the bottom of Lu Yin's foot. That was the only advantage that Lu Yin possessed that Qiu Shi lacked.

The fact that Lu Yin had been able to master the fourth level of the Cosmic Art in just half a month had to be related to the pattern that had been left behind by Progenitor Chen.

Yuan Qiong was not the only person to have such thoughts, as all of the other elders were thinking the exact same thing.

Elder Gong was amazed. It was impossible to fathom the power of a Progenitor. The pattern that had been left behind had actually allowed a child to master the fourth level of the Cosmic Art in a mere half month. In that case, how long would he take to master the fifth level? And what about the entire art?

Elder Gong had assumed that Lu Yin would need a great deal of time to completely learn the Cosmic Art, and he had never even considered that it could proceed so quickly.

Lu Yin stared at Elder Gong. "Elder, can this disciple be allowed to learn the fifth level of the Cosmic Art?"

Elder Gong voiced his admiration. "While you have indeed met the necessary conditions to learn the next level, you must first learn how to use the stars that you have simulated. The Cosmic Art not only assists in one's cultivation, but it also strengthens the power of the Cosmic Palm and the Celestial Sword. Have you learned the Celestial Sword Technique?"

Lu Yin shook his head. He had seen Qiu Shi use the technique on several previous occasions, but Lu Yin had never learned the technique himself.

The Celestial Sword was quite powerful, and the more stars that one could simulate with the Cosmic Art, the stronger the technique became. Lu Yin was quite eager to learn it.

Elder Gong offered his guidance, so Lu Yin remained on the planet in order to learn the Celestial Sword Technique.

Several days later, someone arrived at the Cosmic Sect, bringing some magical smoke with them. It was Gu Xiao'er.

Elder Yao Shan was the one to greet the youth in Cosmo Hall.

"In the past, you lost the first level of the Cosmic Art that you were given. Despite that, are you really shameless enough to return and ask to study it yet again?" Elder Yao Shan shouted fiercely as he glared at Gu Xiao'er.

Gu Xiao'er pulled his head back in fear and quickly replied, "Senior, I brought the smoke that your Cosmic Sect needs. I heard that you enjoy smoking?"

"What's this nonsense?" Elder Yao Shan shouted.

Gu Xiao'er pursed his lips. "But I'm sure that I remembered this correctly. Who is it that enjoys smoking?"

Elder Yao Shan's voice grew cold. "Leave the smoke. I can give you the first level of the Cosmic Art once again, but remember this: if you lose it again, even if you hide in Smoke Eater Peaks, this old man will tear you apart."

Gu Xiao'er adjusted his expression to show his delight. He quickly agreed, all the while cursing the old man in his heart.

After successfully receiving the Cosmic Art, Gu Xiao'er was ready to leave. He had no desire to stay around in the Cosmic Sect, and the sect's disciples also did not like Gu Xiao'er either.

Unfortunately, Gu Xiao'er ran into Yao Ji the moment he exited Cosmo Hall.

Gu Xiao'er grinned. "What bad luck."

Yao Ji stared at Gu Xiao'er. "What was that?"

While Gu Xiao'er was indeed intimidated by Elder Yao Shan, he was not afraid of Yao Ji at all. "No need to repeat something good."

Yao Ji forced Gu Xiao'er to stop. There were several inner disciples behind Yao Ji, and they all surrounded Gu Xiao'er. Every single one of the disciples glared at him.

Gu Xiao'er had naturally been escorted by experts on his way to the Cosmic Sect from Smoke Eater Peaks, but those powerhouses had stayed outside the sect, as they could not enter without permission.

"Hey, if you want a fight, I've never been afraid of anyone in my entire life! Come on, boy, let me teach you how to spell 'submit,'" Gu Xiao'er taunted.

Yao Ji had been feeling stifled due to Lu Yin's presence in the Cosmic Sect, and at this moment, he was being antagonized by Gu Xiao'er. Without thinking any further, Yao Ji simply attacked. Naturally, Gu Xiao'er was unwilling to be outdone. His cultivation was actually even higher than Yao Ji's. Yao Ji was a Hunter, which meant that, of the Cosmic Sect's true disciples, only Mu Ziyang could compare to Gu Xiao'er while Yao Ji fell a bit short.

Outside Cosmo Hall, Yao Ji led several of the inner disciples to attack Gu Xiao'er. However, Gu Xiao'er's smoke was truly miraculous. No matter how Yao Ji attacked, he could not break through the smoke. On

the other hand, while Gu Xiao'er wanted to fight against Yao Ji, he was not having an easy time either, and each passing moment drew more people over.

"Cosmic Palm."

"Block."

"Infinity Burst."

"Block."

"Don't use your smoke if you're strong enough!" Yao Ji roared.

Gu Xiao'er sneered. "Don't use your Cosmic Art if you're strong enough! Aren't you embarrassed to get beat up in front of your buddies?"

Many of the Cosmic Sect's disciples had gathered here, including inner disciples Yun Feifei, Yan Kun, and Hua Xiao, as well as some of the elders.

Eventually, Elder Yao Shan arrived, and he waved a hand to break apart the few people fighting. He then glared at Gu Xiao'er. "You dare to cause trouble the moment you receive our cultivation art? Are you trying to lose this one as well?"

Gu Xiao'er felt offended. He had been ganged up on by others, and he had only wanted to teach them a lesson. Being targeted now made him feel like he had never been wronged this much in his entire life. "Will your Cosmic Sect protect your members even when they're in the wrong?"

"Arrogant!" Elder Yao Shan shouted furiously. A tremendous amount of pressure fell down, and Gu Xiao'er gritted his teeth as he fought to remain standing.

Suddenly, someone moved in front of Gu Xiao'er, and they blocked the pressure coming from Elder Yao Shan. "Elder, this person is a friend of this disciple. Please allow this disciple to take him away."

Lu Yin had moved in front of Gu Xiao'er. He was not required to stay next to Elder Gong at all times while learning the Celestial Sword. So, while he had been wandering about, he had coincidentally stumbled across this situation.

When Gu Xiao'er heard Lu Yin's voice, he looked up. There were tears in his eyes as he called out, "Bro-Big Brother, is that you? Big Brother Lu Yin, you're back!"

Lu Yin looked over. "I haven't heard you apologize to the elder yet."

Gu Xiao'er shot a glance at Elder Yao Shan and merely snorted.

Elder Yao Shan's eyebrows nearly leaped off his face. "If you don't know any better, then scam from my Cosmic Sect!"

Gu Xiao'er was furious as well. "You damn old ghost, who are you talking to?"

Elder Yao Shan glared, raised a hand, and slapped down. "Arrogant!"

At the same time, Lu Yin also raised his hand. A Vacuum Palm met the elder's slap as it fell. The void between the two shattered, and spatial fissures spread out to the sides, creating a break in the void.

Elder Yao Shan's pupils instantly shrank. He had aimed his attack not only at Gu Xiao'er, but also at Lu Yin, as the elder wanted to teach Lu Yin a lesson. Shockingly, the elder had actually been forced back. He was an Envoy whose power level was at the cusp of 700,000. Even if it had only been a casual attack, how could a youth like Lu Yin possibly block an attack from a powerhouse like him?

Lu Yin's body merely swayed. He shook his hand while indifferently stating, "Elder, he was merely speaking. Even if his words were not very polite, it's a bit much to react this strongly."

Gu Xiao'er was horrified. He had not expected Elder Yao Shan to actually attack him. If not for Lu Yin, Gu Xiao'er knew that he would have suffered terribly.

At the same time, Gu Xiao'er was startled to see that Lu Yin had actually managed to block an Envoy's attack.

The moment Lu Yin made a move, he had blown everyone away.

Chapter 1586: Smoke And Smoke

Elder Yao Shan carefully studied Lu Yin with a newfound fear in his eyes. "Make sure he watches his mouth."

The elder then turned to stare at Yao Ji. "You've shamed us. Go back."

Yao Ji's face grew pale, and he turned to look at Lu Yin, who also happened to be looking at Yao Ji at the same time. His heart trembled as the previous scene replayed in his mind, and Yao Ji lowered his eyes. He did not have the courage to say another word, and he quietly left.

Everyone who had gathered to watch the fight gradually dispersed as well. Still, the shock in their heart all remained, as it was not that easy to erase what they had just witnessed.

During the last match in ZENITH, Lu Yin had single-handedly faced off against all of the most powerful members of his generation. Even though his strength at that time had startled the Fifth Mainland, it had still been at a level that people could accept. On the other hand, they had just seen Lu Yin block Elder Yao Shan's attack. This was something that flew in the face of common sense.

Such an accomplishment would be shocking anywhere, both within the Fifth Mainland and throughout the Perennial World.

After all of the onlookers had dispersed, Lu Yin turned towards Gu Xiao'er. "What are you doing here?"

Gu Xiao'er shouted in an exaggerated manner, "I should be asking you that! Aren't you missing? When did you get back? You can't have been hiding out here in the Cosmic Sect this whole time, right? Bro, this place is too boring! How could you not tell your own brother anything?"

Lu Yin rolled his eyes and moved away from Cosmo Hall with Gu Xiao'er in tow. The Cosmic Sect's main hall was too conspicuous.

After half a day passed, and Lu Yin finally stopped speaking. "You get it?"

Gu Xiao'er nodded. "Got it. You went somewhere super powerful and then ended up being discarded like a piece of rotten fruit that got chucked, right?"

Lu Yin was left speechless. This was a truly brutal metaphor.

"Still, now that you're back, you've grown way too much! You're even able to go against that old ghost! Be honest, have you already become an Envoy?"

"Of course not! Though, I did learn about something," Lu Yin casually mentioned.

"What?"

"Have you ever heard of Smoke Incarnations?"

"What the hell is that?"

"I'll take you to see for yourself." With that, Lu Yin brought out Zenith Mountain and entered the hidden world with Gu Xiao'er.

There were still five people on Zenith Mountain at this time: Long Xi, Wen Diyi, Crown Prince Gui Qian, Liu Hao, and Yun Tingting. Lu Yin led Gu Xiao'er to find Yun Tingting.

Yun Tingting and the others had been imprisoned on Zenith Mountain ever since Lu Yin had left the Forgotten Ruins. For cultivators, a few short years would quickly pass by, and even though the five were trapped on Zenith Mountain, they had continued cultivating and had been slowly making progress.

Lu Yin and Gu Xiao'er appeared 100 meters away from Yun Tingting, startling her. However, she completely ignored Gu Xiao'er and instantly fixed her gaze on Lu Yin. She quietly asked, "The Forsaken Land?"

Lu Yin nodded. "We're there."

Gu Xiao'er blinked and stared at Yun Tingting before turning towards Lu Yin and giving him an odd smile. "Bro, have you been hiding women on this mountain?"

Lu Yin stared at Gu Xiao'er for a moment before saying, "Smoke-Eater Peaks' smoke is really amazing, but this woman has the same kind of smoke."

"Impossible!" Gu Xiao'er instantly declared. "The only place in the entire Fifth Mainland that has smoke like ours is Eversky Island's bridge. It exists nowhere else."

Yun Tingting also heard Lu Yin's comment. "What smoke?"

Gu Xiao'er pointed his index finger and caused a wisp of white smoke to float out. It took on various shapes as his fingers moved about. "This smoke is very powerful, and even the Cosmic Sect needs it. In fact, it's what allowed me to trade for the first level of the Cosmic Art. Do you really think that anyone else in the universe could have something this rare?"

Yun Tingting's eyes flickered, and she also raised a hand. A wisp of white smoke floated out, and it started to take on various shapes as she twisted her fingers, just like Gu Xiao'er.

Gu Xiao'er sneered. "It doesn't matter how good it looks—you're nothing but a cheating fake!"

He then waved a hand, and his white smoke formed a sharp blade that shot towards Yun Tingting. Her eyes focused, and she also waved a hand, causing her smoke to form a blade exactly like Gu Xiao'er's.

There was a bang, and the sound of blades clashing echoed out. Gu Xiao'er was completely stunned, as his white smoke had been perfectly blocked.

Lu Yin's focus sharpened. As he had suspected, the Smokecloud Sect and Smoke-Eater Peaks shared a common ancestry. It was to be expected, since they both used this miraculous white smoke.

During the battle against the Sixth Mainland in the Cosmic Sea, Lu Yin had personally witnessed Gu Xiao'er using his smoke to block Zhi Yi's Vitality Qi, which perfectly demonstrated the smoke's defensive power. Smoker had also used this smoke to escape from Leader Hong after a failed assassination attempt. Finally, Gu Xiao'er had just mentioned how the Eversky Bridge used this same smoke, which indicated that all three places had similar origins.

This smoke was simply beyond amazing; just who had created it?

Gu Xiao'er was actually able to stand up to Yun Tingting. He refused to believe that the girl's smoke was actually comparable to the smoke from his Smoke-Eater Peaks. However, Yun Tingting felt the exact same way; to her, it was impossible for someone from the Forsaken Land to have mastered Progenitor Smoke's power.

As far as the two's cultivation was concerned, Yun Tingting was an Enlightener who had qualified to accompany Bai Shaohong to the Dominion Realm. Gu Xiao'er was thus far weaker in terms of cultivation, but the two were competing purely in terms of their control over the smoke.

Lu Yin simply watched as the two bits of white smoke intertwined and fought against each other. It seemed as though they could merge with each other, but that was just Lu Yin's guess.

Before too much time passed, Yun Tingting asked, "Is this all?"

Gu Xiao'er's eyes blazed red; this smoke formed the very foundation of Smoke-Eater Peaks, so seeing that someone else had also mastered it was a terrible blow. "I refuse to believe that your smoke is real! Can your smoke strengthen your body?"

"Alright then, can your smoke form a clone?" Yun Tingting asked in reply.

Gu Xiao'er was stunned. A clone? He had never heard of that possibility before. "Can your smoke hide your aura?"

"Well, can your smoke defend against a secret technique?" Yun Tingting retorted yet again.

Gu Xiao'er felt his heart twitch. "Can your smoke- can your smoke-"

He was suddenly unable to say anything further, which caused Yun Tingting to frown. "Can your smoke allow you to deduce battle techniques?"

Lu Yin's eyes lit up. That was what Eversky Bridge was capable of doing.

Gu Xiao'er took a step back, and he stared blankly at Yun Tingting. In the air, his smoke suddenly and completely disappeared; it had been absorbed by Yun Tingting's smoke. Gu Xiao'er had not been able to control his own smoke. This was a matter of absolute suppression.

Yun Tingting withdrew her hand. The white smoke disappeared, and she turned to face Gu Xiao'er. "It seems that you've only received a portion of Progenitor Smoke's inheritance. My Smoke Cloud Sect is indeed the true inheritor."

Gu Xiao'er was lost. "The Smoke Cloud Sect?"

Yun Tingting looked over at Lu Yin. "How much does your Forsaken Land know about my Perennial World?"

"Barely," Lu Yin replied.

Yun Tingting shook her head. "Unfortunately, while Progenitor Smoke's battle techniques are truly miraculous, the Progenitor did not leave much behind. Legends claim that the Progenitor was able to traverse through the true universe as an Envoy and that he could create clones of himself. He was supposed to be able to use smoke to form various objects. Regardless, neither your Forsaken Land nor my Perennial World have much of the Progenitor's inheritance. No secret techniques have even been found. Since this person can indeed use the white smoke, I thought that he might have something new. Unfortunately, he only knows the basics of my Smoke Cloud Sect."

Gu Xiao'er stared at Yun Tingting. "Are you saying that my Smoke-Eater Peak's foundational power is just your sect's basics?"

"Do you doubt me?" Yun Tingting casually asked. She was not speaking derisively, and she ignored Gu Xiao'er. It was similar to how she would treat an outer disciple of the Smokecloud Sect.

Gu Xiao'er felt extremely suppressed. This had been going on all day! While he had dared to speak back to Elder Yao Shan, what could he possibly say to this woman? She had already slapped down all his best efforts.

This was the day that all of Gu Xiao'er's self-esteem was trampled upon.

Lu Yin was rather amused by the whole matter, and he left Zenith Mountain along with Gu Xiao'er.

Yun Tingting immediately tried to stop them, but she could do nothing to Lu Yin.

Once the two were back in the Cosmic Sect, Gu Xiao'er was feeling rather dejected. He felt as though his life had been deprived of all meaning.

"My Smoke-Eater Peaks stands in the Neoverse, maintaining its status with our white smoke that everyone needs. The Cosmic Sect, the Hall of Honor, even the Seven Courts! Everyone wants our white smoke, as it can be used as a valuable protective treasure. And yet, despite all of that, we're nothing but a failure. It turns out that we've been sitting at the bottom of the well, thinking that we can see the entire sky," Gu Xiao'er muttered.

Lu Yin spoke up, "That woman isn't from our Fifth Mainland. She's from that place that I told you about."

Gu Xiao'er lifted his head. "The place where they abandoned you?"

Lu Yin pursed his lips. "They hate me, and she is also an enemy."

Gu Xiao'er dropped his head again. "So what?"

"Learn her secrets. We'll strengthen ourselves, and then one day, we'll be able to surpass them! The whole reason why she was willing to spar with you was to see if Progenitor Smoke left behind an inheritance that the Smokecloud Sect does not possess. In that case, why can't you learn what she knows? It's clear that her sect has an inheritance that your Smoke-Eater Peaks doesn't," Lu Yin suggested as he stared off into the distance.

Gu Xiao'er considered the suggestion for a bit, and then he smacked his thigh. "That's right!"

He looked at Lu Yin with evident excitement. "Bro, let your buddy here take that woman! I want to interrogate her."

Lu Yin laughed. "It's time for me to meet your father, as the leader of the Great Eastern Alliance."

Gu Xiao'er was not stupid. He understood that there was a purpose behind Lu Yin taking him to see Yun Tingting and then making such a suggestion. He understood the universe that they lived in. Besides, he was not that close of a friend with Lu Yin.

A gadget made a quiet sound, and soon, Gu Xiao'er connected to his father, the master of Smoke-Eater Peaks: Gu Laogui.

"You little bastard, did you get the Cosmic Art?" The older man's voice sounded rough, as though he had been a heavy smoker for years. It was not a pleasant sound, and it was reminiscent of grinding metal. All in all, it left people feeling very uncomfortable.

"I got it." Gu Xiao'er scratched an ear.

"If you have it, then get right back here! You better not lose it again! If you do, your old man will sell you to Azure Mansion!" Gu Laogui shouted. Lu Yin could only hear the audio from the call.

Gu Xiao'er sighed. "Dad, we're in trouble."

The older man was stunned. "What's the problem?"

"Dad, everything we know might be wrong," Gu Xiao'er slowly said, but his words were enough to make his father resist the urge to leap through the display and kill his own child.

"You little bastard! You dare to mock your own father? You must be looking for a beating, just you wait..."

At this moment, Lu Yin walked over next to Gu Xiao'er's and looked at the gadget's display, where he saw a heavy-set man on the other end of the call. "Senior Gu, this is our first time meeting. I am the leader of the Great Eastern Alliance, Lu Yin."

Gu Laogui had certainly not expected Lu Yin to suddenly appear, and he was greatly surprised to see the youth. The older man's expression quickly changed, and it was as though he was an entirely different person. "So it's Alliance Leader Lu. Haven't you been missing? Why are you with my son?"

Lu Yin smiled. "It was merely a coincidence. This junior is also in the Cosmic Sect right now."

Gu Laogui stared at Lu Yin for a moment. "That's quite the coincidence."

He did not dare to underestimate Lu Yin in the least. His information sources all stated that the young man was brave, resourceful, and also highly ambitious. He had a strong foundation as he was supported by multiple powers that could not be looked down upon. No matter what happened, there would be people who would step forward to protect this child. Most importantly, he seemed to have some sort of relationship with the Interstellar Supreme Court's Chief Justice and even Semi-Progenitor Zen.

It was impossible to know what this youth wanted.

Despite his youth, he had already explored Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum, survived many catastrophes, and even started a war with an Inniverse power. Although young, Lu Yin was not an easy person to deal with.

Chapter 1587: Harvest Begins

"I'll personally show Alliance Leader Lu around if you have time to visit my Smoke-Eater Peaks," Gu Laogui said. Even though he was wary of Lu Yin, the older man was also aware that Lu Yin had a good relationship with Gu Xiao'er. While Lu Yin might be ruthless in his actions, he was also intelligent and loyal.

Lu Yin smiled. "While that's not possible for the time being, I would like to make a deal with Senior Gu."

"Oh? What deal?" Gu Laogui grew curious.

Gu Xiao'er interjected from where he was standing to the side, "Um... Dad, Brother Lu went to some strange place, and he captured a woman there. She actually has an even greater mastery of smoke than us, and she also mentioned Progenitor Yan's inheritance."

Gu Laogui was shocked. "What did you just say?"

Lu Yin smiled.

Gu Xiao'er could not resist replying, "I told you that everything we know might be wrong."

Gu Laogui turned to stare at Lu Yin. "Was there a massive big tree where Alliance Leader Lu has been?"

Lu Yin was caught off guard. "Senior knows about that? By any chance, did you visit that place as well?"

Gu Laogui did not answer the question, instead saying, "It looks like Alliance Leader Lu is going to help increase the strength of my Smoke-Eater Peaks."

Lu Yin smiled. "Of course. I, Lu Yin, appreciate doing things that are mutually beneficial."

"In that case, what can I and my Smoke-Eater Peaks do for Alliance Leader Lu?" Gu Laogui asked in a deep voice.

Lu Yin glanced over at Gu Xiao'er. "What did you trade to the Cosmic Sect for the Cosmic Art?"

Gu Xiao'er blinked. He then turned towards his gadget's display. "Dad, what do you think?"

Gu Laogui smiled. "This is an easy enough request. How much white smoke would Alliance Leader Lu like in exchange for that woman?"

Lu Yin showed a small smile. "That woman is also one of my friends, so I can't just give her over to you. However, I can persuade her to help you improve the quality of your smoke and to share as much of Progenitor Yan's inheritance with you as possible. In exchange, I would like to ask your Smoke-Eater Peaks to provide my Great Eastern Alliance with enough white smoke for 100,000 people to use. That white smoke can be used as a defensive treasure, and it can also protect a person's entire body, which is naturally what the Cosmic Sect uses it for."

Gu Laogui instantly refused, "That's impossible. 100,000 people? Does Alliance Leader Lu understand just how huge of a number you are requesting?"

Lu Yin ran some numbers in his head. "Compared to the Great Eastern Alliance's entire military, it's quite small."

Gu Laogui gritted his teeth; there really was no way to refute Lu Yin's comment. It was true, the Great Eastern Alliance had a military force that numbered in the millions, not the thousands. "Alliance Leader Lu, you should know that we only provided enough smoke to the Cosmic Sect to protect just over a hundred of their disciples. Our smoke is treated as a rather high reward within their sect. I can offer you enough smoke for a thousand people."

Lu Yin waved a hand. "A thousand's no good. It needs to be enough smoke to protect 100,000 people."

Gu Laogui's eyes went wide. "Are you trying to get my Smoke-Eater Peaks to work for your Great Eastern Alliance?"

"This should not be too steep a price compared to the opportunity to improve the quality of your white smoke and to learn more about Progenitor Yan's inheritance." Lu Yin was absolutely confident, and he did not actually care whether or not Smoke-Eater Peaks could pay what he was demanding. Lu Yin was not negotiating a business deal, and he had no intention of haggling with Gu Laogui. If Lu Yin's conditions were not possible, then that simply meant that Gu Laogui was not capable of uncovering any more of Progenitor Yan's inheritance.

This was precisely the reason why Lu Yin had taken Gu Xiao'er to Zenith Mountain to meet Yun Tingting.

In the future, no matter if Lu Yin was forced to go up against the Sixth Mainland, the Perennial World, or even Aeternus, he would need a powerful army. His goal was to raise an invincible army, and 100,000 members was just a tentative goal at the moment.

Gu Laogui felt like gnashing his teeth. He wanted to refuse the demand to provide smoke for 100,000 people as the most he was willing to provide was enough smoke for 1,000 people.

The difference in the two sides' demands was too large, and it was a bit embarrassing.

Lu Yin shrugged. "Since we can't come to an agreement, then we can forget about it. Senior Gu, please don't take any offense about us not being able to come to an agreement. When I have time, this junior will visit your Smoke-Eater Peaks."

Lu Yin then made to leave.

Gu Xiao'er quickly stopped Lu Yin, his tone of voice bitter. "Brother, your appetite is really too big! You should know that even if everything in Smoke-Eater Peaks is exhausted, it would still be impossible to

provide enough smoke for 100,000 people. We only have 10,000 disciples on our mountains, and even if none of them sleep, we still can't create that much smoke. We might not be able to get Progenitor Yan's inheritance, but even if we agreed, none of our people would even have time to practice the new methods."

Lu Yin did not believe a word of it.

Gu Laogui loudly stated, "Alliance Leader Lu, I know that you have a relationship with Eversky Island and the Hall of Honor. You can ask them how much white smoke my Smoke-Eater Peaks produces every year. They all are aware of our capabilities, and I would not lie to you about such a thing."

Lu Yin stopped. Apparently, it was true that Smoke-Eater Peaks could not provide enough smoke to protect 100,000 people. "10,000 people will be fine. If even that's not possible, then there's no need to continue talking about this."

Gu Xiao'er looked over at Gu Laogui.

The older man's expression changed as he stared at Gu Xiao'er. The man's son was clearly anxious, and his eyes were locked onto Lu Yin's cosmic ring.

Finally, Gu Laogui agreed to Lu Yin's terms, but with the caveat that Lu Yin had to give them Progenitor Yan's inheritance as well as improve the quality of their smoke.

Lu Yin agreed. The moment he delivered the inheritance to Smoke-Eater Peaks, 10,000 members of the Great Eastern Alliance's army would gain the white smoke's protection.

Next was the most important step in this plan: gaining Yun Tingting's cooperation.

This would not be easy, and Lu Yin had to think about what the best way to handle this matter was.

Lu Yin returned to Zenith Mountain, and he appeared rather close to Yun Tingting.

She looked up at him. "When will you let us go?"

Lu Yin gave her a small smile and then immediately took Yun Tingting away from Zenith Mountain. The two of them immediately appeared inside the Cosmic Sect.

Yun Tingting was startled.

Lu Yin lifted his gadget. "Take a good look at this place, for this is where you will remain for the rest of your life."

He then allowed her to access the gadget's display, and she stared at the Fifth Mainland's star chart.

Yun Tingting stared at the display and the bit of text above the star chart. Unwittingly, she was drawn to the display.

After a while, she averted her gaze and looked around. "Where are we?"

"The Cosmic Sect, one of the sects in the Neoverse. Their position here is comparable to the Perennial World's Liu and Nong families. The only difference here is that there is a Hall of Honor instead of four ruling powers," Lu Yin said.

Yun Tingting hoped that Lu Yin was lying to her and that they were still in the Perennial World, but there was no Mother Tree.

In the Perennial World, the only places that were unable to see the Mother Tree were the isolated civilizations located within lakes, on isolated planets, or deep in the mountains. However, none of those places radiated strength like this Cosmic Sect.

She was easily able to sense multiple Envoys, which left her feeling nervous.

She really was in the Forsaken Land.

"Alright, that's enough for you to get an idea of things. Time to go back to Zenith Mountain to stay," Lu Yin said.

Yun Tingting turned to stare at him. "Do you still want to keep us imprisoned?"

Lu Yin remained indifferent. "We're in the Fifth Mainland, which you call the Forsaken Land. The people here are even ignorant of the Perennial World's mere existence, so you can't be allowed to roam about in order to prevent information regarding the Perennial World from leaking."

"You must have brought me here for a reason, right?" Even though Yun Tingting had a graceful demeanor, she was furious at this moment. It felt like Lu Yin was just toying with her.

Lu Yin said, "I just wanted to let you know where you are."

He suddenly smacked his forehead. "Right, I forgot to tell you! Yun Mubai, your Smokecloud Sect's master, was found guilty of being a Redback by the overseer of Humility's Gate in the Middle Realm. Qing Chen arrested your sect master, and Yun Wang is currently in charge of the Smokecloud Sect."

Yun Tingting was startled, and her complexion completely changed. Her eyes flared. "That's impossible! My father's no Redback!"

Lu Yin shrugged. "Humility's Gate is the one that'll determine the truth of that matter, not you or me."

"Let me go! I want to go back!" Yun Tingting anxiously demanded. She was very concerned about her father.

Redbacks hid themselves so well that Yun Mubai had been forced to give Yun Tingting the same education as others, which meant that she would always and resolutely eradicate any Redback. She saw her father as a ruthless person, but someone who was ruthless in resisting those monsters. How could he possibly be a Redback? Someone had to have framed him.

"Of course not. You can't even leave Zenith Mountain," Lu Yin stated.

Yun Tingting's eyes blazed and white smoke emerged from her body. One Yun Tingting appeared after another. Each one was a clone created by her white smoke, and they rushed out in every direction.

Lu Yin became intrigued. He had seen Yun Tingting fight in the Forgotten Ruins before, and she had used a clone at that time. However, her clone was different from the clones of the Xia family's Nine Clones

Secret Technique. The nine clones were all true and permanent humans, and each had their own lives, fate, and thoughts. Yun Tingting's clones were simply the manifestation of a battle technique.

If it was a normal battle technique that allowed the user to create a clone, then Lu Yin would not care. However, Yun Tingting was able to create clones that were each as powerful as her true body, which made it very difficult to tell them apart. Due to being formed from the white smoke, each clone could survive multiple attacks, and they could even face secret techniques. It was a very strange technique.

Yun Tingting wanted to use her clones to escape, so she created ten clones.

Unfortunately, Lu Yin had already prepared himself before he let her out of Zenith Mountain.

All ten of the clones were instantly suppressed by Lu Yin's domain. His domain had reached a level that surpassed all of his peers, including even Unseen Light. Even if Lu Yin's mastery over his domain was not as refined as Unseen Light's, that had no bearing on the brute strength of his domain.

Despite Yun Tingting being an Enlightener, she might as well have been a child when faced with Lu Yin.

All ten clones were instantly trapped within Lu Yin's domain, unable to escape. He then raised a hand and released a Vacuum Palm, He attacked faster than the eye could see, and a Vacuum Palm landed on all ten figures at once, shattering the ten clones. Yun Tingting's true body paled, and she nearly collapsed onto the ground as blood spilled from her mouth. She glared at Lu Yin with eyes that contained both despair and defiance.

Lu Yin slowly walked towards her. "You are too far behind me. Forget you, as not even the four Junior Progenitors can stand up to me and hope to escape."

"What do you want?" Yun Tingting was no fool. Lu Yin had purposely introduced Gu Xiao'er to her and watched as they had fought. Through that fight, Yun Tingting had also confirmed that the Forsaken Land truly did have a portion of Progenitor Yan's inheritance. Lu Yin had then taken Yun Tingting out of her prison to show her the Forsaken Land, and he had even told her about Yun Mubai. It was impossible for him to do all this without a reason.

A smile appeared on Lu Yin's face. "That person that you just met is my friend. He wants to learn the Smokecloud Sect's battle techniques as well as ways to improve his white smoke."

"Impossible." Yun Tingting immediately refused.

Lu Yin nodded. "I understand. In that case, you can stay on Zenith Mountain forever. By the way, I've already opened all three of my meridian points and even absorbed Origin Matter. At this moment, this Forsaken Land has surpassed your Perennial World's Junior Progenitors. There are already multiple Envoys protecting me, which means that it's basically impossible for me to suffer that accident you're wishing upon me. This means that you will remain on Zenith Mountain for as long as I stay alive. Consider this matter carefully." Lu Yin then tossed Yun Tingting back onto Zenith Mountain.

There was no way it would be easy to take another person's battle technique, and everything depended on Yun Tingting's choice.

Back on Zenith Mountain, Yun Tingting wiped the blood away from the corner of her mouth. She could not calm herself down.

She would never believe that her father was a Redback. Someone must have framed him, but who?

Ancestor Yun Wang had always remained in isolation within the sect, but did he have no intention of saving her father? Or did her ancestor have some sort of plan of supporting someone else to become the sect master?

Chapter 1588: Return

After a while, Yun Tingting went and found Wen Diyi. There were very few people on Zenith Mountain, and she was only able to find Wen Diyi.

"Have we already made it to the Forsaken Land? In that case, we should be allowed out of here soon," Wen Diyi said with a sigh.

Yun Tingting then shared everything that she had recently experienced. Wen Diyi was surprised, and his expression quickly fell. "If Progenitor Yan's inheritance can be found here as well, then does that mean that there might also be an inheritance related to my family's?"

"That seems quite likely," Yun Tingting solemnly agreed.

Wen Diyi felt stifled. "Did you come find me just to tell me this?"

Yun Tingting helplessly replied, "I want to know what to do about it."

Wen Diyi shook his head. "You people are the knives, while I am just a fish on the chopping block. I can listen, but you must be the one to decide what to do."

"Can I believe his words?" Yun Tingting asked.

Wen Diyi thought about it. "While I was still at Virtue Archives, I heard about Long Qi. He personally exposed the three Guan brothers who led Huaiyuan Gate as Redbacks."

Yun Tingting's eyes flickered. She had thought of something, and she looked up at the sky above Zenith Mountain. "Long Qi, I want to speak to you!"

There was no response. Yun Tingting shouted again, but nothing happened.

"You'll just have to wait for him to come back on his own," Wen Diyi said.

At this moment, Lu Yin was helping Gu Xiao'er practice the first layer of the Cosmic Art.

Given Gu Xiao'er's cultivation realm, it was not difficult for him to understand the first layer of the cultivation art, unlike Lu Yin who had started cultivating with it from the very beginning. For Lu Yin, each and every star had been a challenge to simulate, especially the ninth star that the mad master of Astral-10 had helped him deduce.

"The only thing missing from this first layer is the ninth star, but that one isn't included in the manual that I received," Gu Xiao'er lamented.

Lu Yin was once again relieved that he had become an exchange student of Eversky Island at the Cosmic Sect. If not for that, Lu Yin would have never had the opportunity to learn the higher layers of the Cosmic Art. Well, at least not openly. Mister Mu had given Lu Yin the second layer of the art.

"Hey Bro, has that woman still not agreed?" Several days passed, and Gu Xiao'er could not stop himself from bringing the matter up. He had already simulated eight stars, which was quite fast.

Learning the Cosmic Art would not help Gu Xiao'er increase his strength, but he had wanted to learn it in order to become a Lockbreaker, which was also what Gu Laogui was hoping for.

If Gu Xiao'er had not said anything, Lu Yin would have completely forgotten about Yun Tingting. He had actually been planning on finding Elder Gong to ask about the fifth layer of the Cosmic Art.

Avoiding Gu Xiao'er's eyes, Lu Yin brought Yun Tingting out of Zenith Mountain.

Yun Tingting glared at him. "Did you falsely accuse my father of being a Redback?"

Lu Yin instantly became upset. "Of course I wouldn't do that!"

Yun Tingting did not believe him, and she continued to glare at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin spoke sincerely, "Honestly, I wasn't even the one to uncover the fact that your father's a Redback. Qing Chen, the Middle Realm's supervisor, was the one who made the arrest. You'll know the truth whenever you get back to the Perennial World."

Lu Yin really had not been the one to discover the truth about Yun Mubai, and the man had not been falsely accused.

Old man Kui Luo was the person who had actually discovered that Yun Mubai was a Redback. Of course, after the battle on Dragon Mountain, Lu Yin had developed a new understanding of the Semi-Progenitor's personality. It was not entirely impossible for the old man to have deliberately framed Yun Mubai for Qing Chen to arrest. From start to finish, Lu Yin had only acted as the messenger.

"Really?" Yun Tingting remained suspicious.

Lu Yin frowned. "I'm only an Enlighter. How could I have possibly uncovered any evidence that your father's a Redback? I couldn't have even sneaked into the Smokecloud Sect, and how long was it that Long Qi left the White Dragon Clan's Dalian Mountain branch? If Redbacks were that easy to find, they wouldn't be Redbacks. At best, I could have only found a few traitors."

Yun Tingting felt there was merit to his words. "Then what about the three Guan brothers?"

"Those three were simply unlucky, and it was actually just a matter of time before they were discovered. I happened to have a friend who was able to expose them. Actually, you've met her: Yuhua Mavis," Lu Yin explained.

Yun Tingting felt that something was off, but she really did not know what else to say. As far as the Perennial World was concerned, both Redbacks and trespassers were universal enemies. A Redback had actually been found by a trespasser, and then another trespasser had joined in on the plot to expose them. Those three really had been unlucky.

"Have you made up your mind yet? I'm about to go into seclusion, so if you haven't made a decision yet, it might be a very long time before we see each other," Lu Yin said impatiently.

Yun Tingting gritted her teeth. "I have conditions."

"Tell me."

"Since you were able to sneak into the Perennial World, it means that there has to be a way to go back. Promise to send me back, and I'll share the inheritance that the Smokecloud Sect's received from Progenitor Yan with you."

Lu Yin laughed. "How often do trespassers go to the Perennial World? Do you not know? If it were as easy to go to the Perennial World as you're saying, then how could the Perennial World forget about us so easily? Why aren't there any rumors about the Fifth Mainland in that case?"

Yun Tingting's eyes nervously darted about.

Lu Yin opened his gadget, and the display popped up to show a picture of Wang Yi during ZENITH. "Do you know him?"

Yun Tingting was startled. "The Wang family's Wang Yi?"

"I can tell you how he got here, and then you can figure out the exact path for yourself. Basically, while I won't help you, I won't stop you either."

Yun Tingting considered the offer. "Alright, as long as you're telling me the truth."

"Long Xi can vouch for me. She knows me quite well, and she can speak for how trustworthy I am," Lu Yin stated matter-of-factly.

It was not much later that Lu Yin shared a method to improve the quality of Gu Xiao'er's white smoke with him. Of course Lu Yin also knew the method, but he did not cultivate the white smoke, and he also did not have any interest in Progenitor Yan's inheritance. However, the Nine Clones Secret Technique was an entirely different matter.

Gu Xiao'er happily shared the information with Gu Laogui. The agreement that had been made between Lu Yin and Gu Laogui stated that Smoke Eater Peaks would deliver enough smoke to protect 10,000 people after they improved the quality of their smoke. After that, Lu Yin would provide them with the Smoke Incarnations technique.

Yun Tingting also needed to wait for the agreement to be completed before she would be allowed to leave.

Lu Yin was naturally concerned that Yun Tingting would manipulate the battle techniques that she shared with him.

With the matter momentarily settled, Lu Yin went to find Elder Gong to ask him to learn the fifth layer of the Cosmic Art.

Elder Gong no longer refused, and he even personally guided Lu Yin's training.

A bit more than ten days later, Lu Yin bade farewell to Da Qui. Then, Elder Jiu Shen helped Lu Yin pass through the Cosmic Sea and reach the Inniverse.

Out of the entire Fifth Mainland, Lu Yin had spent the least amount of time in the Cosmic Sea. He had only fought there once during the Sixth Mainland's invasion, and he had not returned since.

The Cosmic Sea's climate was extremely temperamental, so whenever Lu Yin crossed it, he was helped by a powerful expert. The first time, it had been Highsage Wudi, and this time, it was Elder Jiu Shen.

"Boy, take this." Elder Jiu Shen tossed something over to Lu Yin. It looked like a token.

Lu Yin grabbed it, and filled his eyes with star energy. He saw that it contained a massive number of rune lines. This token could actually compare to his upgraded bodysuit armor.

"That's a Cosmic Token, and it's a power vessel that I made to hold the Cosmic Art. This one contains the Celestial Sword Technique and Cosmic Palm, and it's for you to use as protection. Be careful, and don't die," Elder Jiu Shen ordered. The juxtaposition of his youthful appearance with his voice filled with the vicissitude of age was very odd.

Lu Yin did not dare to underestimate Elder Jiu Shen as he was a powerhouse who was at least as strong as Highsage Wudi. "This disciple understands. Elder, this disciple would like to make a request."

"Speak," Jiu Shen said. Even though his opinion of Lu Yin had fallen again and again because of the pattern on the bottom of Lu Yin's foot, the elder forced himself to be patient. Even Elder Jiu Shen had to admit that there was a very good chance that this child would eventually become a Progenitor. Then, the Cosmic Sect would have to rely on this child if they wanted their treasure to be returned.

Lu Yin coughed. "I understand that the sect has the Star Transference Secret Technique."

Elder Jiu Shen angrily replied, "So it really is like Yuan Qiong thought—you're lusting after Star Transference."

Lu Yin revealed a mocking smile.

"No."

Lu Yin was caught off guard. "Why?"

Elder Jiu Shen grew solemn. "What do you think a secret technique is? A cabbage? Something that just anyone can learn? That there are no limitations to them? It requires one's comprehension. While it's fine to learn one or two, learning too many will leave your body useless."

"That's true. Learning too many secret techniques will do more harm than good," Liu Ye agreed.

Lu Yin felt disappointed, but it did not particularly matter. Star Transference was a secret technique that focused on evasion, and he already had a similar secret technique, as well as the Teleportation Formation.

Elder Jiu Shen returned to the Neoverse, and Lu Yin looked to the north. Finally, he had returned. The Inneverse looked quite welcoming in this place.

If Lu Yin was correct, they should have arrived in First Flowzone.

He took out his collapsible spacecraft. Lu Yin and Luo Shen boarded one while Liu Ye and Fei Hua used another. Lu Yin led the way to Fennel Flowzone.

Even though traveling in a spacecraft was rather slow, it allowed Lu Yin to calmly handle a few matters.

There were several unanswered messages on his gadget after leaving the Cosmic Sect.

It did not take long for his gadget to start beeping; Wen Sansi was calling him. "Brother Lu, how would you like to visit my Wen family?"

"This is about the seven-layered Literary Prison, right?" Lu Yin said bluntly. The benefits to keeping Wen Diyi and the others confined to Zenith Mountain were gradually appearing. He had spent significant resources to keep them all trapped there, and he needed to be compensated for those costs. The first was Smoke Eater Peaks, and the next would be the Wen family.

"Brother Lu's manner of speech is quite refreshing. I wonder, what price my Wen family would need to pay for Lu Yin to be willing to share that method with us?" Wen San asked.

"Show your sincerity by speaking to me face to face in Fennel Flowzone," Lu Yin said. He instantly ended the call, completely unconcerned about offending the Wen family, as such things no longer worried him.

Someone else called Lu Yin the moment he hung up on Wen Sansi: Madam Yōu.

When Luo Shen heard Madam Yōu's voice, her expression instantly changed, and she nervously looked at Lu Yin.

"Ye'er was taken away by the Sword Sect. Alliance Leader Lu, I heard that you've returned. Can you help my Yōu family?" Madam Yōu's voice sounded bleak and exhausted. She was clearly begging.

Lu Yin replied, "If you want to join the Great Eastern Alliance, then you can go to Fennel Flowzone to talk to me."

Once again, he hung up as soon as he finished speaking.

The Yōu family had broken away from the Yōu clan, but in truth, the Yōu family was still a valid part of the clan. Lu Yin had noticed that something was wrong when Madam Yōu had first approached him.

Since the fact of the Yōu family possessing the clan's secret technique had been exposed, why had the Yōu clan not pursued the matter? Why had the Yōu family not returned to the Yōu clan after the Sword Sect made their threats? It seemed that they were facing some sort of unknown threat, and even if Lu Yin was not afraid of such a thing, he did not want to deal with it.

There was nothing in the Fifth Mainland that he needed to fear.

Of the surviving six Semi-Progenitors, three were actively supporting Lu Yin. The Chief Justice was his senior brother, and if this relationship was ever revealed, Lu Yin would basically become the Fifth Mainland's crown prince.

The vessels continued traveling towards Fennel Flowzone, and Luo Shen unthinkingly leaned against Lu Yin's shoulder. She knew that it would be very difficult for her to spend any time with Lu Yin after they returned to the Outerverse.

These moments were truly precious to her, especially the times when she had sat next to Lu Yin while he had raced within Aurora Fortress. Those times had become beautiful memories.

Lu Yin was completely unaware that something massive had happened in the Outerverse while he had been in the Cosmic Sect: Shamrock Enterprise had stopped all of their transactions with the Great Eastern Alliance, and they would not sell even when they offered more than enough funds to purchase their goods. It was a blatant move to suppress the Great Eastern Alliance.

Lu Yin had blocked their attempt to move their hidden world that contained Shamrock Enterprise's headquarters to Mt. Microcosms, and naturally, the company wanted to retaliate.

At the moment, Qiong Xi'er was the one dealing with Shamrock Enterprise.

Chapter 1589: Confrontation

Shamrock Enterprise had never even considered that Qiong Xi'er might already be on guard against them. Ever since she had first joined the Great Eastern Alliance, she had been secretly buying up and acquiring both large and small pharmaceutical companies. So, when Shamrock Enterprise finally bared their fangs against the alliance, Qiong Xi'er was already in control of hundreds of pharmaceutical companies that directly supplied their to the Great Eastern Alliance, while simultaneously cutting off their raw materials supply for Shamrock Enterprise.

No matter how powerful Shamrock Enterprise might be, they were unable to survive on their own. They needed to constantly buy all kinds of raw materials, whether it was for their pharmaceuticals or for their equipment, and these were the goods that Qiong Xi'er had deprived them of.

After losing their supply chain, Shamrock Enterprise's production was abruptly sliced in half, though they were able to maintain production at 50%.

A pharmaceutical trade war had started in the Outerverse, and it was already starting to spread into the Innerverse.

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There was a calm expression on Qiong Xi'er's face. She kept her gadget open and activated as she spoke to someone.

Her maid, Nana, sent out various orders according to Qiong Xi'er's instructions.

"Young Master, 27 companies of ours have already been paralyzed. Most of their raw materials for pharmaceutical production were being purchased from Shamrock Enterprise, and Shamrock Enterprise has stopped supplying raw materials to outside companies," Xiao Nan reported.

Qiong Xi'er did not care. "As expected, though Shamrock Enterprise moved later than I expected. It looks like they're quite cautious of Lu Yin."

"Young Master, the number's already increased to 40 companies. Estimates are showing that all of the pharmaceutical companies under our control will be paralyzed within the next two days, and our losses will be astronomical. On the other hand, Shamrock Enterprise will only lose a batch of their drugs at worst."

"One batch? Wrong, They lose at least half. Shamrock Enterprise has built up a strong monopoly over the pharmaceutical industry after all these years. These hundreds of companies failing right now are used to cut off their supplies," Qiong Xi'er said.

Any behemoth company that held a monopoly would be secretly resisted by others in the same industry, and Shamrock Enterprise was no exception.

However, they had never cared. Without the Great Eastern Alliance, they would have maintained their monopoly over the pharmaceutical industry and remained a hegemon. Qiong Xi'er had noticed all of this, and she had spent years preparing for this scenario.

The Great Eastern Alliance would not be strangled by others.

"That part of their production only applies to the Outerverse. Their Innerverse holdings have not been badly affected," Nana muttered.

Just as Qiong Xi'er was about to respond, her gadget beeped, causing her to glance over. "Now he finally calls me."

The call connected, and Lu Yin's voice was heard. "I heard that things have become quite exciting in the Outerverse."

Qiong Xi'er smiled. "Alliance Leader Lu, what are your instructions?"

"I don't have any. I just called to ask if you needed anything." Lu Yin replied. He had only recently learned about the Outerverse's situation, but going all-out against Shamrock Enterprise was certainly a major event. Although Shamrock Enterprise was not as powerful as the Daynight clan, the company was still an absolute monster.

Without the various powerhouses supporting him, Shamrock Enterprise would have had no issue suppressing the Great Eastern Alliance on their own. People from the Outerverse were too weak to be worthy of notice, including even the people from the Sea King's Dome and Elder He.

"Things are different for now, and I have the means to deal with them. However, even if I win, it won't be a real victory. They have a firm foundation, and while I can stop and frustrate them, they've already estimated their potential losses and have found them acceptable," Qiong Xi'er explained.

Lu Yin snorted. "Then what are you going to do next?"

He was genuinely curious. What would Qiong Xi'er do against Shamrock Enterprise if he didn't take taking action?

Qiong Xi'er smiled. "I always act like I'm facing a human enemy. Resources, background, and strength all build upon, but in the end, we just need to deal with people."

"What do you mean?" Lu Yin was caught off guard. Next to him, Luo Shen was also listening to this conversation, and she was quite curious.

Qiong Xi'er replied, "People always need to eat to live, and they have their own desires as well. How many people does Shamrock Enterprise employ? What are their living expenses?"

Lu Yin instantly understood; Qiong Xi'er was going to target the company's bottom-level employees. He had to admit that the woman was quite sharp. Shamrock Enterprise could likely make counterplans against the Great Eastern Alliance moving against them, and they had likely even taken Leon's Armada

into account. However, the pharmaceutical giant had almost definitely neglected their lowest level, but that was also their very foundation.

"Basic necessities and transportation are things that ordinary people need, as well as cultivators," Lu Yin murmured to himself.

After ending the call, Lu Yin looked over and saw the surprise in Luo Shen's eyes, and it caused him to laugh. "What are you thinking about?"

Luo Shen admiringly said, "She's so smart!"

"The higher you rise, the further you can see. It's common to overlook what's underfoot, so the higher ups may not take the issues faced by those far beneath them into account. To be exact, this isn't exactly her being smart, but rather taking a different perspective."

"Oh."

Lu Yin was more than happy to sit back and watch the fun since there was no need for him to make a move. He wanted to see how long Qiong Xi'er would be able to frustrate Shamrock Enterprise for.

The emptiness of outer space was dark, but it was accompanied by gorgeous and colorful planets and stars.

A spaceship flew away from a planet and made its way towards the Innerverse.

The emblem of Shamrock Enterprise was on the side of the ship, marking it as a transport vessel that had just left a planet that grew raw materials for pharmaceutical manufacturing.

"Captain, we have more than half a month left before we reach the Astral River Ark. You should rest for now," said a woman in the vessel's control center. She was holding a drink in one hand as she gazed at the man in front of her in an admiring manner.

This man was the captain of the ship and a Cruiser. He had worked for Shamrock Enterprise for a hundred years, and not once had he made a single mistake. People said that he would soon become a Hunter, and once that happened, his status would transform as he would be able to relocate to the Innerverse.

"Rest? There's no time to rest. Carelessness can't be allowed," the captain retorted in a heavy tone.

The woman was confused by his words. "We've been transporting materials for so many years, and not once has anyone dared to touch Shamrock Enterprise's materials. What is Captain so worried about?"

A bitter smile appeared on the captain's face. "That's because we had no enemies in the past. However, we are currently enemies with the largest power in the entire Outerverse."

Right as he finished speaking, a beam of light shot by in front of them, and an alarm blared out within the ship.

"Captain, the vessel has been damaged! The enemy is attacking!" someone exclaimed in a panicked voice.

The captain's eyes went wide, and he stared off into the distance where a man was standing. His clothes made him look like an interstellar pirate.

The captain quickly broadcast, "This vessel belongs to Shamrock Enterprise! Do you want to become enemies with my Shamrock Enterprise?"

The man held a large knife, and a cruel smile spread across his face. "Leave the goods behind, and you can go."

"Arrogant!" the captain shouted, but laser beams shot out from the spacecraft towards the man in response. Naturally, since Shamrock Enterprise was transporting valuable medicinal materials, the ships were armed and armored to deal with ordinary attacks. However, a Hunter was a major powerhouse in the Outerverse, and Shamrock Enterprise had not prepared their Outerverse vessels to deal with such a foe.

It was not long before the ship was plundered, and the captain and crew from Shamrock Enterprise could only leave on a small spacecraft.

"Captain, how dare these pirates be bold enough to rob our Shamrock Enterprise!?! They're overstepping themselves!" Inside the small vessel, the woman was furious.

The captain asked in a bitter tone, "Do you really think that that man's a pirate?"

The woman was confused.

The captain looked towards the east. The confrontation between the Great Eastern Alliance and Shamrock Enterprise was intensifying quickly if even these sorts of tactics were being used now. It looked like Shamrock Enterprise would not be able to take away any of the materials that they had cultivated in the Outerverse.

"We'll head to the Innervese first," the captain said decisively. At this moment, it would be useless for him to return to the planet and try to bring out another shipment of raw materials. They would not be allowed to complete any transportation missions.

The captain wanted to return to the Innervese for new orders, but even though he was trying to be smart, he had forgotten that the Astral River Ark was in the Great Eastern Alliance's control.

Even though the alliance had abandoned Blazing Mist Flowzone, leaving it to the Ross Empire and the sylvan dragon clan, they had never abandoned the Astral River Ark. It was impossible for them to give that up.

No one from Shamrock Enterprise was allowed to leave the Outerverse. Qiong Xi'er intended to stop all of the company's normal operations in the Outerverse, and she also wanted to make it very difficult for them to return to the Innervese.

Similar scenes played out throughout the entire Outerverse, and even in the Innervese, Continental Shipping and various pirates in different flowzones made life difficult for Shamrock Enterprise.

Given the situation, Shamrock Enterprise mobilized all of their seeds.

Shamrock Enterprise's seeds were not ordinary people. They were specifically chosen and raised by the company. For example, Darkvoid, who had once been Lu Yin's classmate, possessed an innate gift of exploding the void.

The moment the company sent out their seeds was the moment Shamrock Enterprise revealed their fangs. This corporate giant that had spread across the entire Fifth Mainland unleashed a terrifying strength. Every seed that the company had cultivated was a powerhouse, and they caused the pirates to suffer heavy losses. There were also seeds within the Great Eastern Alliance itself, and others who had snuck onto the Astral River Ark. In fact, they almost seized control of the ark.

The Great Eastern Alliance treated the matter as declaring war, so the alliance's experts were naturally sent out in turn. The conflict with Shamrock Enterprise was picking up.

Far away from the Astral River Ark, in Darkmist Weave, a figure fled towards the north, chased by experts from the Great Eastern Alliance. They came from all different individual powers, including the Nine Allied Nations, Evenground Palace, and Aegis.

Suddenly, the fleeing figure was wrapped up in black mist as they instantly died. Topmist suddenly appeared, and he looked genuinely surprised. "Was that one of Shamrock Enterprise's seeds? What a powerful innate gift! Only a Cruiser, and yet he almost escaped."

"He's the same one who nearly took control of the Astral River Ark. If that attempt had succeeded, no one would have been able to endure His Highness's rage." A spectacled woman spoke up from near Topmist. She was the same woman who had once been the Melder realm Mistchild, but she was already an Explorer. Her cultivation had risen very quickly.

"A single person can't take control of the ark, but Shamrock Enterprise's seeds are really powerful. If all their Inniverse seeds attacked, the Great Eastern Alliance would be in a great deal of trouble," Topmist commented.

The Explorer Mistchild gazed to the south. Your Highness, when will you return?

She desperately wanted more of Lu Yin's poisons, as only Lu Yin could give her strong enough poison to improve her strength.

Back in the Honor Zone, there was an ugly expression on Yan's face. He had grossly underestimated the Great Eastern Alliance's preparations. Judging from the current situation, the Great Eastern Alliance had seemingly long since made preparations to move against Shamrock Enterprise, or at least contemplated the possibility of them falling out.

At the moment, Shamrock Enterprise had been crippled in the Outerverse. Not to mention supplying raw materials to other places, Yu Mu was unable to even return to the Inniverse. The company's seeds who had been sent to the Outerverse had also suffered heavy losses. Even if Shamrock Enterprise wanted to gain the Inniverse's support, doing so would require them to gather potential allies to fight against the entire Great Eastern Alliance.

Yan had not expected the conflict with the Great Eastern Alliance to develop in this direction. He seemed unable to stop the matter from devolving into all-out war, which could not be allowed to happen. Even though the Great Eastern Alliance had not been around for very long, it was very stable and profitable due to the aligned interests of its various members. The alliance was ready for a war of contrition, so Shamrock Enterprise could not afford to openly fight against the alliance.

This was not only because of the many resources being lost, but also because of a classified project. That particular project required far too many resources, and their delivery could not be delayed.

After thinking about it, Yan contacted Yu Mu. "Leaf King is about to leave seclusion. I'm going to be placed in a difficult position once this matter is resolved, but you're going to be even worse off. This whole thing was triggered by your stupidity."

Yu Mu hung up, his eyes darting about as he started to panic. While Shamrock Enterprise was not afraid of the Great Eastern Alliance, the losses that they had suffered were far too much for Yu Mu to take responsibility for. The Great Eastern Alliance had prepared far too well, and they had completely exceeded his expectations.

With no other choice, Yu Mu finally reached out to Lu Yin.

Chapter 1590: Influence

Lu Yin was very close to Fennel Flowzone. And since he had left the conflict with Shamrock Enterprise to Qiong Xi'er, he had no intention of interfering. It was now a matter of who gave in first, and there was nothing that Lu Yin could do to help.

His gadget beeped, and after Lu Yin looked down, a smile appeared on his face as he answered, "Speak."

Yu Mu's voice came through. "Alliance Leader Lu, I'm the one at fault for Overseer Cong Ying's attitude towards you. I can make this up to you."

Lu Yin laughed. "He is one of the Hall of Honor's nine overseers, and he is specifically targeting my Great Eastern Alliance. How can you compensate for that?"

Yu Mu clenched his fists. "Alliance Leader Lu made it so that my Shamrock Enterprise was unable to enter Mt. Microcosms, which badly affected our company. Does Alliance Leader Lu really want to become enemies with Shamrock Enterprise?"

"Are you threatening me?"

"I wouldn't dare. Given Alliance Leader Lu's current status, I'm truly a nobody. All I ask is for Alliance Leader Lu to give me a chance. Both Shamrock Enterprise and the Great Eastern Alliance hope to end this matter amicably."

"You were the one who instigated this entire affair."

Yu Mu had no grounds to argue. When he had first heard about the conflict, he had been thrilled, but who could have ever imagined that the Great Eastern Alliance would be so thoroughly prepared? They had so many moves prepared in advance that it was as though Shamrock Enterprise was their old enemy. It was even possible that the company's losses could affect that plan, which absolutely could not be allowed.

"Alliance Leader Lu, please look over the report that I have sent you. This conflict has only been going on for half a month, but during that time, the Great Eastern Alliance has lost three times as many cultivators as normal due to the lack of medicines. These numbers will only continue to mount as this conflict continues, and it in no way benefits the Great Eastern Alliance," Yu Mu said.

Lu Yin arched a brow. "Are the losses that bad?"

"The data doesn't lie," Yu Mu said seriously.

Lu Yin's gaze grew more focused. "I haven't even seen the Great Eastern Alliance's data yet, but you already have a report on it. That's truly impressive."

Yu Mu's heart dropped, and his mouth went dry as he replied. "My Shamrock Enterprise has serviced many different customers from many different places across the years, and we have many sources from which we gather our data. So, it wasn't difficult to tabulate these calculations."

Lu Yin was not really concerned. While information was indeed a weapon, he would simply pass this along to Wei Rong. Rather, it was more important to get the data from Shamrock Enterprise. "Am I understanding correctly that Mr. Yu Mu intends to settle this matter with just a few words?"

"I, Yu Mu, am willing to pay the necessary price and will do my best," Yu Mu stated.

Lu Yin sank into thought for a while. "You possess nothing that's worth my attention."

Yu Mu's voice dropped low as he asked, "Alliance Leader Lu, are you familiar with Leaf King?"

"Tell me."

"Leaf King founded Shamrock Enterprise, and he has been around for a very long time, possibly even longer than Yuan Shi. During all that time, he has studied the concepts of creation and healing, and his power level exceeds a million at the least. It's truly not that my Shamrock Enterprise is incapable of moving our headquarters' hidden world to Mt. Microcosms, but rather that we have simply never bothered to do so. While we may not be able to measure up to Mavis Bank or Aurora Enterprises, we are still fully capable of protecting ourselves.

"This conflict is unnecessary, and it would not be good if Alliance Leader Lu offended Leaf King," Yu Mu slowly said. He made sure to remove any threatening undertones from his voice, doing his best to speak as though he was merely stating facts.

"Offending such a powerhouse is really not smart. In that case, let's discuss compensation."

Yu Mu's eyes lit up. "Please tell me."

"First, the resources that Shamrock Enterprise sells to the Great Eastern Alliance must increase tenfold. At the same time, the losses caused by this matter will all be paid by Shamrock Enterprise. Don't try to pull anything, as you just shared all the data with me," Lu Yin said.

Yu Mu was stunned; he had never expected the data that he had provided to convince Lu Yin would suddenly turn around and become a way to determine the compensation they owed. "Alliance Leader Lu, you're asking for too much."

"I'm not negotiating this with you. At the moment, this dispute is still just a trivial matter since I have not stepped in yet. The moment I intervene, I can mobilize Leon's Armada and have them stop your Shamrock Enterprise from developing any further in the Outerverse. I can also ask them to stop you from being able to cross the Cosmic Sea and enter the Neoverse. Oh, I also forgot to mention that I have become a disciple of the Cosmic Sect, and I don't even need to bow when greeting the sect master," Lu Yin spoke slowly, not caring if Yu Mu believed his claims or not. It did not matter, as Yu Mu was unqualified to agree to Lu Yin's conditions.

"I need to report this further up," Yu Mu said as he excused himself.

Lu Yin simply ended the call.

"Aren't you worried that they won't agree?" Luo Shen was curious. Her eyes sparkled whenever she looked at Lu Yin, as though she could never get enough of him.

"It doesn't matter whether or not they agree. They don't have a choice."

"What about their medicines?" Luo Shen asked.

Lu Yin smiled. "I already made a request to the Hall of Honor about that, and several of the overseers agreed to help me. Still worried about medicines?"

Luo Shen nodded and stared at Lu Yin with eyes full of admiration. He enjoyed her worshipful gaze, but it became very uncomfortable whenever he thought about Luo Shen's feelings towards him. All he could do was wait for them to slowly dissipate.

A day later, just when Lu Yin was about to arrive in Fennel Flowzone, his gadget beeped again—he was being called by an unknown contact. Lu Yin picked up, and a pleasant-sounding voice immediately called out, "Alliance Leader Lu?"

"Who are you?" Lu Yin replied.

"The Shamrock Enterprise's Innaverse President, Balsam."

Lu Yin was surprised. "So it's the Innaverse's president. I understand that Yan is your secretary, correct?"

"That's right. Does Alliance Leader Lu have a moment to talk?" Balsam asked.

"Please, go ahead."

Balsam changed the audio call to a video call. Instantly, Lu Yin's eyes lit up. He had not expected Shamrock Enterprise's Innaverse president to be an amazingly beautiful woman.

Lu Yin's eyes remained completely focused, and he blocked out all distractions. Balsam and Lu Yin both stared at each other for a moment before she calmly started speaking. "Shamrock Enterprise is afraid of neither competition nor war, but in the end, we are businessmen. We try not to use force when we can simply solve things with money."

"So will you agree to my proposal?" Lu Yin asked.

"Before all this, Shamrock Enterprise was already providing the Great Eastern Alliance with a tremendous amount of resources, as these resources were all originally designated for the war against the Sixth Mainland. Even after the invasion ended, we did not cancel the flow of supplies, which was done to demonstrate our respect for the Great Eastern Alliance."

"You have my thanks," Lu Yin said, as he had already been aware of this.

"While the resources that we supply to you each year are not exorbitant, it is certainly not a small amount either. After all, we are supplying the entire Great Eastern Alliance. However, if those resources are increased tenfold, then does Alliance Leader Lu understand what will happen? It would cause Shamrock Enterprise's holdings in the Outerverse to nearly collapse. They would have to be supplemented by the Innerverse."

Lu Yin did not believe this one bit.

Balsam made her best attempt to show her sincerity as she shared the company's operations with Lu Yin.

"Increasing the amount of resources that we annually supply to the Great Eastern Alliance tenfold would place a heavy burden on my Shamrock Enterprise. However, as the amount provided in the past was nothing excessive, I hope that accepting this will allow Alliance Leader Lu to appreciate my Shamrock Enterprise's sincerity in this matter."

Lu Yin had no idea if the woman was being truthful or not, as he had no real understanding of business operations. While Qiong Xi'er would be able to go toe-to-toe with Balsam over such details, Lu Yin had no desire to put in so much effort. Instead, he simply pulled out the Chief Justice's emblem: the blood-red bell.

Balsam's pupils shrank, and she stared at Lu Yin in shock.

Lu Yin raised a hand, and stars began revolving around it to form the Celestial Sword Technique.

Balsam was further startled.

"You should understand what the Celestial Sword means within the Cosmic Sect, as well as what this bell is. With these two details and my influence with the nine overseers, I would like to hear just what price Shamrock Enterprise is willing to offer to stop this conflict. I'm all ears," Lu Yin said casually.

Shamrock Enterprise had been the sole instigator of this matter, so Lu Yin was insistent that they offer him compensation. He had thought that it would be unrealistic to expect them to compensate them for the initial conflict, which was why he had agreed to Qiong Xi'er's request for him to not interfere. But now, Balsam had reached out to him directly. Lu Yin knew that this matter would not continue for very long, and his foremost priority was to make sure that he received proper compensation. There was no need to drag things out.

Balsam had already known about Lu Yin's influence over the nine overseers as well as his good relationship with the Chief Justice and Arch-Elder Zen, but she never thought that Lu Yin would actually

have the Chief Justice's emblem or that he would have learned the Celestial Sword. That technique made Lu Yin's status in the Cosmic Sect perfectly clear to her.

Finally, Yuan Shi, Eversky Island, and the Lockbreaker Society all supported this person as well, which gave Lu Yin a truly elevated status.

Balsam had never expected such a young man to be capable of doing so much. The blazing title that Lu Yin had as the leader of the Great Eastern Alliance had blinded them to the far more terrifying powers supporting Lu Yin from behind.

There was a reason why Balsam had become Shamrock Enterprise's Inverse president, and she was much more decisive than Lu Yin's expectations.

"Ten times the annual resources is impossible, but I am willing to offer 500 million star essence to resolve this matter and to compensate the Great Eastern Alliance for the losses they've suffered due to the recent shortage of pharmaceuticals. Alliance Leader Lu, this is the best that I can offer you," Balsam stated.

While ten times the annual resources might not seem as much as 500 million star essence, since this was an annual offering, it was difficult to calculate what this would eventually amount to. Shamrock Enterprise was very wealthy, but their biggest fear was their production slowing down and harming their operations. That would be the worst possible result.

Lu Yin agreed, and the dispute summarily ended. Shamrock Enterprise would become extremely wary of the Great Eastern Alliance because of this conflict, but only Qiong Xi'er had moved against the company. Lu Yin's followers more insidious, like Wei Rong, had done nothing. Next time, Lu Yin would be prepared to swallow Shamrock Enterprise whole.

His only concern was the mysterious Leaf King.

"By the way, when we announce the truce, don't let the matter of this compensation leak. It wouldn't be beneficial for either of us," Lu Yin warned.

Balsam looked back at Lu Yin and stared at him for a moment as a sliver of fear rose from the bottom of her heart. This person had only just settled a conflict with Shamrock Enterprise, and he was already planning on making moves against others. It was no wonder how he had managed to become the leader of the Great Eastern Alliance and the master of the Outerverse.

A payment of 500 million star essence was not that much to Lu Yin, but it was still a tidy sum.

Qiong Xi'er received orders to stop all actions against Shamrock Enterprise, and everything returned to normal.

However, at the same time, she also received another order: 'Shamrock Enterprise Acquisition Plan.'

It was only a few words, and it was clear that Qiong Xi'er and Wei Rong were to fill in the details themselves. There was no need for Lu Yin to do everything personally.

He lifted his head to look up in front. They had arrived at Fennel Flowzone.