

ODYSSEY 1711

Chapter 1711: Opportunity

After passing through Southside Weave, the First Protector led Lu Yin and the others straight into what had once been Endless Weave.

Given the First Protector's strength, none of the surveillance methods present in Endless Weave were able to detect the small group, but this only applied to Endless Weave. As soon as they entered the Technocracy proper, regardless of the First Protector's strength, the Master Brain would detect him.

The route that Emperor Luo had shared was accessible from Endless Weave. Since it led to the region between First Edition City and Sky Creation Academy, it was highly improbable that the route would be discovered.

Long ago, Emperor Luo had entered Endless Weave from the Technocracy without ever being detected, but a long time had passed since then. It was not that the route had changed, but rather that the battlefield it led to had changed.

The war between Sky Creation Academy and First Edition City had changed, as the city had fallen to a disadvantage, and the battlefield had shifted closer to First Edition City. This was something that Emperor Luo did not know, and Lu Yin and the others were also completely ignorant of matters in the Technocracy. However, this meant that, soon after entering the route, they found themselves being attacked.

Pieces of massive mechanical claws were scattered all throughout outer space. Emperor Luo's eyes were flushed. "The route's still fine, but there's a lot of surveillance. The level of surveillance on the route was just as intense as anywhere else along the border to the Technocracy. Has the location of the battlefield changed?"

"It would be best to quickly determine a safe path. Otherwise, we'll draw the attention of the Master Brain soon," the First Protector warned.

Emperor Luo stared at a star chart.

Lu Yin frowned. It was quite normal for a route to change after so many years. "Let's first find an ordinary planet to hide on for a bit. It should be a planet where ordinary people live."

"We won't be able to find one of those here. If we are noticed by the Master Brain, then we'll be in deep trouble, and we'll drag in anyone living on a planet like that," the First Protector countered. He then grabbed Lu Yin and the others and left Emperor Luo's route.

They would absolutely be detected within the Technocracy, but it was also very difficult for them to move around in Endless Weave.

They found a random barren planet in Endless Weave, and Lu Yin started thinking. If he could not get to Sky Creation Academy, then he would not be able to implement his plan.

He was completely unconcerned about alerting the Technocracy to their presence and startling their target into hiding. After all, Lu Yin was the one who had invented the story of Sky Creation Academy

cooperating with the Neohuman Alliance. In fact, Lu Yin wanted to brazenly charge into the Technocracy in order to initiate his plan, but there was no way the First Protector would ever agree to such a thing.

The First Protector was on a mission to learn whether or not Sky Creation Academy had collaborated with the Neohuman Alliance.

Lu Yin stared towards the Technocracy. It seemed like their current plan would not work. He would instead have to wait for the Second Nightking and Liu Huang to fully recover before venturing into the Technocracy again.

One day later, the First Protector was just about to take Lu Yin and the others back to the Innerverse the same way that they had arrived when he suddenly noticed a group heading towards the Technocracy.

They were in the occupied Endless Weave, so any cultivators who appeared were most likely from the Sixth Mainland.

The First Protector did not want to get caught or entangled in a fight as he simply wanted to leave in peace. However, Lu Yin stopped the old man from doing that. "Senior, the Sixth Mainland has already fallen, and all of their people have moved into the Outerverse, which also happens to border the Technocracy. This isn't good for the Fifth Mainland, and this junior feels that we should get an understanding of the situation."

The First Protector just rolled his eyes. "That has nothing to do with this old man. My only task is to investigate Sky Creation Academy."

Lu Yin replied, "Senior's strength is more than enough to easily overpower those people. Our mission to Sky Creation Academy has already failed, so we'll at least be able to go back with something better than complete failure if we're able to get some information from those people."

The First Protector was not convinced. He looked towards the Technocracy. It was still too early to give up, and it was also obvious that this group had just left the Technocracy. They had been given a mission, and it would not do to make hasty decisions at this time.

He observed the Sixth Mainland cultivators. Their most powerful member was just an Envoy, so the First Protector could instantly capture the entire group while making sure they could not alert anyone. No one would notice a thing, and as long as they were able to extract information from these people, everything would be fine.

"Senior, why is the Sixth Mainland able to work with First Edition City? I feel like there are still many mysteries hidden from our Fifth Mainland, and if Senior can learn anything from these few people, it will be of great benefit to the Fifth Mainland, maybe even enough to be recorded in the Hall of Honor's archives." Lu Yin tried to tempt the old man.

The First Protector just sneered. "Kid, don't bother. Those kinds of records hold no interest to me. Still, it's fine to capture a few people and question them."

He then raised a hand and grabbed at the group.

Nothing changed in space. Everything was the same as before, but the Sixth Mainland cultivators had disappeared.

Back on the barren planet, more than a dozen people collapsed in a daze.

One of the people entered the true universe the moment he fell onto the planet, but the First Protector instantly stopped the Envoy. "He reacted pretty quickly."

The group from the Sixth Mainland all stared blankly at the First Protector and Lu Yin, and then one of them suddenly exclaimed, "Lu Yin?"

"Lu Yin?"

Even the Envoy stared at Lu Yin as though he had seen a ghost. "Lu Yin? Why are you here?"

The First Protector turned to look at Lu Yin and commented, "You're pretty famous."

Lu Yin smiled and approached the Envoy. "Family. Name. Destination. Tell me everything I want to know."

The Envoy just stared at Lu Yin before suddenly attacking by stabbing two fingers forward like a sword.

Lu Yin made no effort to dodge or move away from the attack, as his bodysuit armor was more than capable of stopping this attack. The Envoy was not particularly powerful, and he was far weaker than the likes of Cang Zhou. His power level was barely over 500,000, and he could not even penetrate Lu Yin's defenses.

Lu Yin set a hand on the Envoy's shoulder. "I'm going to ask you again, and you're going to tell me everything I want to know."

As he spoke, Lu Yin started to exert an increasing amount of strength, and he even started to use the Overlaying Stacks Path to make the force penetrate into the Envoy's body. The man coughed up blood, as his body could not bear the force of Lu Yin's hand, and his blood vessels started rupturing.

"Lu Yin, my Sixth Mainland and your Fifth Mainland have already stopped fighting and are coexisting in peace! Why are you here? Why are you still killing us?!" the Envoy grumbled in a deep voice as he gritted his teeth.

"What's this nonsense?" The First Protector lost his patience, and he started staring three inches below the Envoy's left shoulder. "I wonder, what sort of effect will happen if I destroy your stellar energy vortex?"

The Envoy flinched and grew pale. "Do you want to start a war between the Sixth and the Fifth Mainlands?"

"You aren't qualified to trigger a war," Lu Yin coldly retorted.

The Envoy gritted his teeth as he stared at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin frowned; he was not the one threatening to destroy the man's stellar energy vortex, so why was the man glaring at him? It was not always good to be famous...

"I'm from the Sage Martial Realm. I'm a swordsman under the Cloud Valley Master," the Envoy stated in a low voice.

Lu Yin was surprised. "The Sage Martial Realm? How uncommon."

The First Protector spoke up, "Why were you in the Technocracy?"

The Envoy hesitated upon hearing that question, and his eyes started to flicker.

"Once you reach the same level as me, you'll also be able to easily tell when someone lies. One wrong word, and your stellar energy vortex is gone," the First Protector threatened.

The Envoy struggled for a moment before letting out a sigh. "We were asking First Edition City if we could take their androids to the Outerverse."

"Why?" the First Protector quickly pressed. He had a hunch that they might have just learned about something important.

First Edition City and the Human Domain had always been enemies, so First Edition City clearly would not send androids to the Outerverse with good intentions. Given the Sixth Mainland's current situation, they could not reasonably launch a war against the Human Domain. However, if they joined forces with the Technocracy, and many androids were sent to the Outerverse over a long period of time, then if a war did break out, the Human Domain would instantly fall to a terrible disadvantage. It would be no different than a two on one battle.

However, this was also not something that the Human Domain could stop from happening. After all, Endless Weave bordered Southside Weave, and there was no room for the Hall of Honor to interfere.

The Envoy shook his head. "I don't know the specifics. All I know is that I was ordered to meet with First Edition City and bring back as many androids as possible."

"You really don't know why?" The First Protector did not believe this at all.

The Envoy grew pale. "I really don't know! I'm not qualified to be told such things."

Lu Yin's right hand slammed down onto the man's shoulder again. "Were you discussing moving against the Great Eastern Alliance?"

The Envoy was in agony, and he turned to look at Lu Yin. "The Outerverse was already given to my Sixth Mainland, so taking action against the Great Eastern Alliance would not be unwarranted. Alliance Leader Lu, it would be better if you tried to establish a better relationship with us now, rather than taking actions that could exacerbate tensions or even lead to war."

The First Protector was considering the entire Fifth Mainland, but Lu Yin was more concerned about the Great Eastern Alliance. After all, if the Sixth Mainland united the Technocracy to move against the Fifth Mainland, the Great Eastern Alliance would have borne the brunt of the damage.

The one thing that Lu Yin was certain about was that the Sixth Mainland was scheming against the Fifth Mainland. Qing Tan had been sent to Mt. Microcosms, and she had even gained control of an overseer. The Sixth Mainland would never give up taking control of the Fifth Mainland.

After securing the Envoy from the Sixth Mainland, Lu Yin had a private discussion with the First Protector. "Senior, this is our opportunity!"

The First Protector had to ask, "What opportunity?"

Lu Yin excitedly explained, "Pretend to be someone from the Sixth Mainland! Take control of the Cloud Valley Master's disciple and enter the Technocracy so that we can visit Sky Creation Academy."

The First Protector was taken aback by the proposal. "Are you crazy? Enter First Edition City? Do you know what that actually entails? That city is one of the Technocracy's most protected locations, and it's home to a powerhouse that even Arch-Elder Zen is cautious of. Why else do you think we humans have never defeated the Technocracy after all these years? That place is not as simple as you think!"

Lu Yin said, "This junior is indeed aware of that, but as long as we aren't found out, we'll be fine. Not to mention, even if we are discovered, with Senior's strength, couldn't we still quickly escape? I know that the Seven Courts' Elder Hui Kong stayed in the Technocracy for many, many years."

The First Protector bluntly refused. "I can't do that. First Edition City is too dangerous, and it's even more unrealistic to try to visit Sky Creation Academy after going to First Edition City. Do you think that they're united or even close? We're talking about the Technocracy here."

"Then how about this? We'll let these people from the Sixth Mainland lead us in, and after we get to the battlefield between First Edition and Sky Creation Academy that Emperor Luo mentioned, we cross the battlefield to get to Sky Creation Academy, which was our goal from the very beginning! That's what we've been trying to do all along," Lu Yin proposed.

The First Protector still wanted to refuse, but Lu Yin was not wrong. The First Protector had been given a task by Arch-Elder Zen himself, and that task was to investigate Sky Creation Academy. Of course, the premise of that mission was that Emperor Luo's route was safe, as otherwise, it would be impossible to get to Sky Creation Academy. It would change from an investigation to an invasion.

Since Hui Kong had been able to survive in Technocracy for so long, their small group might be able to do the same, but they also would not be able to complete their task, which would make staying in the Technocracy pointless.

They had just been given an alternate means of accomplishing their task, so even if the First Protector wanted to refuse, if Lu Yin mentioned this matter to Elder Chan, the First Protector would be in deep trouble.

Chapter 1712: Control

"Controlling these people from the Sixth Mainland and getting into the Technocracy while posing as them will be very easy if you're able to find the route that they use. Even if you can't get into the Technocracy, it won't be a problem to get out again. We won't be in any danger, and the worst that'll happen is us being discovered. This junior was able to survive my time in the Technocracy, and forcing your way into that place is even Eversky Island's graduation exam. As long as Senior doesn't attack First Edition City or the Master Brain, nothing bad will happen to us," Lu Yin continued to try to convince the First Protector.

Seeing that the old man was still hesitating, Lu Yin continued, "Even if we are found out, as long as the Sixth Mainland doesn't want to start a war with the Fifth Mainland, we'll be able to live as neither of us have a normal status."

The First Protector stared at the Sixth Mainland cultivators off in the distance before looking back at Lu Yin. "I'm quite curious—why are you so determined to get to Sky Creation Academy regardless of the cost?"

Lu Yin's eyes grew cold. "Because this junior has met Aeternus."

The First Protector's eyes suddenly went wide. Given his status, he naturally knew of Aeternus. That name was forbidden in the Fifth Mainland, though the Sixth Mainland had suffered the worst, not the Fifth Mainland.

"I've seen Aeternus and the endless battlefield, as well as humanity's miserable situation. This junior does not want the Fifth Mainland to repeat humanity's previous mistakes. If the Neohuman Alliance really has colluded with Sky Creation Academy, then the threat they pose is too big," Lu Yin explained.

The First Protector was not very familiar with Lu Yin. If the Chief Justice, Arch-Elder Zen, or Highsage Grandmaster were present, not a single one of them would believe Lu Yin's words. However, the First Protector was different. He rarely left Mt. Microcosms, and he did not know much about Lu Yin. In fact, most of what the First Protector knew about him was what Arch-Elder Zen had shared.

Arch-Elder Zen had a good impression of Lu Yin, so the First Protector had also received a good impression of the youth.

The First Protector saw Lu Yin as one of humanity's most talented youths who was willing to take grave risks by entering enemy territory for the sake of mankind. While the old man did not want to take this risk, he also could not find any reason to refuse Lu Yin's idea. So, the First Protector ultimately agreed.

The most difficult part of the plan was how they would control the Sixth Mainland cultivators. If their control was not strong enough, then they would be instantly turned over to First Edition City once they arrived and everything would be over.

"Senior, do you have a way to control them?" Lu Yin asked.

The First Protector turned around, approached the Cloud Valley Master's disciple, and then looked down at the man.

The Envoy's eyes twitched. "What do you want?"

The First Protector casually said. "This old man has an innate gift known as cocooning and self-binding. Simply put, it allows me to put my stellar energy into an opponent's body in the form of a silkworm. Everything, no matter if it's a person's stellar energy vortex, flesh, blood, or even their clothes, will be devoured."

As the First Protector spoke, he slapped a hand down onto another cultivator's shoulder.

The man was initially confused, but then he suddenly screamed as white threads of silk appeared over his body. He was wrapped up, and Lu Yin and the others watched on in shock as the silk threads turned

red before they started to shrink more and more. Finally, the unlucky man had become enwrapped in what looked like a large bug cocoon.

Lu Yin's expression changed. This was an extremely vicious innate gift. The cocoon devoured everything it enveloped, and it seemed like a very painful and cruel manner of death. He had not expected the First Protector's innate gift to be so brutal. Outer appearances were often deceiving.

This was the true face of the cultivation world: ruthless, decisive, brutal. Someone who believed in strength and respect for life was someone who saw life as a necessity.

At this moment, Lu Yin's impression of the First Protector changed. He could no longer be as comfortable with the old man, as a heart-felt fear had appeared in Lu Yin. This old man was not nearly as friendly as he appeared.

Lu Yin was not the only one frightened by the old man's actions; Emperor Luo and everyone else from the Sixth Mainland was similarly terrified.

The disciple of the Cloud Valley Master grew pale, and he stared at the red cocoon on the ground in horror. It once held a living person that had now met a tragic end. The Envoy had killed many people throughout his life, but this was his first time facing such a desperate situation, and he was frozen by fear and despair.

"You- what do you want?" The Envoy was still in a daze.

The First Protector smiled and slapped a hand onto the Envoy's shoulder, startling the man. "Stop! What are you doing?"

"Don't worry, I haven't done anything to you besides plant a cocoon inside your body. Behave yourself, and nothing will happen. But if you act out of line even once, I only need a thought to deal with you." The First Protector pointed at the red cocoon that was still on the ground.

The Envoy's pupils fluctuated as sweat poured from his forehead. He was an Envoy standing on a barren planet, but he still felt breathlessness at this moment.

"I might as well tell you that a Semi-Progenitor once tried to test out my innate gift and forcibly unravel it, but he failed." The First Protector sneered. "The person he tested it out on ended up in the exact same situation as the person on the ground, and not one bit of that person was saved. If you don't believe me, you can ask any of your Sixth Mainland's Four Emperors to try to save you, but it would be best if a Progenitor made the attempt. If a Progenitor tried to undo my innate gift, they probably would not have any trouble."

"What do you want?" the Envoy shouted. He stared at the First Protector in absolute terror.

Lu Yin then stepped forward. "We're going to First Edition City."

The Envoy was stunned. "First Edition City? What are you doing there?"

"Don't worry about that. We won't make things difficult for you—we just want you to take us to the path that leads from First Edition City to Sky Creation Academy. We'll find our own way after we get to First Edition City. Still, no matter how far apart we may be, you will still die if you act up. This man is the First Protector of the Hall of Honor's Mt. Microcosms with a power level of—"

At this point, Lu Yin turned to look at the First Protector, as Lu Yin actually had no idea how powerful the old man actually was.

The corners of the old man's mouth curled up into a smile. "From your Sixth Mainland, only your Four Emphyreans can fight against this old man."

The Envoy's hands trembled. "What guarantee do I have that you won't just kill me after leaving?"

"You can write down what happened here as an explanation to others. If some accident occurs, then you can tell everyone what we've done. We have no desire to end up surrounded and attacked by both First Edition City and Sky Creation Academy while in the middle of the Technocracy. Let me know when you get back to the Sixth Mainland's territory, and I promise, on my name as Lu Yin, that nothing about this agreement will change, no matter if we get back safely or not. We will not take action against you," Lu Yin promised.

The Envoys hesitated.

"You also aren't in any position to refuse," Lu Yin continued in a colder voice.

The Envoy closed his eyes. "What about them?"

He was referring to the other people from the Sixth Mainland who had followed him.

"Of course we'll all go together, but whether or not they say anything will be up to you. Basically, if we're caught because of anyone in your little group, you're the one who'll die," Lu Yin threatened.

"Deal with them yourself first." The First Protector suddenly said, and he raised a hand and pointed at the other people from Sixth Mainland. "Take care of them."

The people who had followed the Envoy were all frightened. "No! We won't say anything! We won't say anything!"

The Envoy clenched his fists. He finally turned around and swung a hand. The head of that person from the Sixth Mainland was separated from their body, and they instantly died.

The other cultivators from the Sixth Mainland trembled and collapsed in fear. None of them even dared to look up again.

The First Protector smiled with satisfaction. "That's how it should be."

Lu Yin took a long look at the First Protector. It seemed that the longer people cultivated, the more ruthless they became. If Lu Yin assumed that these old monsters were dumb, he would be the true idiot. When Lu Yin had been chased out of the Celestial Frost Sect's ruins by the Second Nightking, he had been rescued by Jiu Shen, but the elder from the Cosmic Sect had already planned out his own escape route before even entering the ruins. Each one of these old people had hidden means, and Lu Yin had to be careful. He absolutely could not afford to underestimate any of these old people.

Was this kindness?

Suddenly, the First Protector waved a hand, and one of the Sixth Mainland cultivators was smacked back. There was a yellow prayer mat in his hand.

Lu Yin's eyes lit up. A prayer mat? He waved his hand and used the Yu Secret Art. The prayer mat disappeared from the man's hand and reappeared in Lu Yin's possession.

"Isn't that the Seven Courts' Yu family's secret technique?" The First Protector was taken aback.

Lu Yin smiled. "The Yu family fled and hid in the Outerverse, and this junior was taught their secret technique by the survivors of the Yu family," Lu Yin answered as he held the prayer mat. When he looked up, he locked his eyes onto the person who had held the prayer mat.

The man's face had gone ashen, and he was unwilling to even look at the prayer mat in Lu Yin's hands.

"Why would you think that you could escape? Did you think that we wouldn't understand what you were doing?" Lu Yin smiled at the man.

The Envoy's eyes flickered and grew sharp as he glared at the man. Suddenly, the Envoy attacked and instantly killed the man.

"He only recently joined my Cloud Valley. He was an independent cultivator before that, and he still lacks determination. It would have been impossible to ensure that he would never say anything," the Envoy explained, actually sharing some information regarding the Sixth Mainland. Still, he had handled the matter himself, as it was his own life on the line.

Lu Yin looked down at the mat in his hand. The man had actually had a decent plan. If he had managed to sit down on the prayer mat, he would have left and been sent to the Fifth Mainland's Daosource Sect's ruins. If Lu Yin and the First Protector had not known what the prayer mat was, they might have reacted too slowly, and the man could have escaped.

Independent cultivators fought against the heavens and earth, and they were more experienced at competing with other cultivators. Disciples from large sects or powerful organizations held the advantage when it came to resources and battle techniques while independent cultivators generally had sharper wills and craftier wits.

After picking up the prayer mat, Lu Yin glanced over at Emperor Luo before looking at the First Protector. Lu Yin could ask someone to accompany him to the Daosource Sect's ruins, as the Sixth Mainland would naturally have powerhouses present to prevent Lu Yin from accessing the Nine Cauldrons Region again. Lu Yin did not want to be captured in the Daosource Sect's ruins, but as long as the First Protector accompanied him, he would be safe unless the Four Emyreans moved out themselves. Maybe then he could safely absorb the rest of the cauldron energy, as it was becoming more and more difficult to get access to them.

Lu Yin and the others followed behind the Envoy from the Sixth Mainland while pretending to be the First Protector's disciples. No one was worried that the Technocracy would detect the old man's true strength, as they believed that the Technocracy was on guard against powerhouses on Arch-Elder Zen's level, not anyone weaker than a Semi-Progenitor. The machines that were capable of monitoring the entire Technocracy might not be able to detect the First Protector's power level, but Lu Yin was still worried about the Envoys in their group.

"You really haven't thought this through the whole way. One wrong step, and we'll be in grave danger. I'm telling you right now that if we get in trouble in the Technocracy, I'm saving myself first," the First Protector said.

Lu Yin sneered. "Since Senior's here, I'll leave everything to you to decide. How can this junior's mind compare to your experience?"

The First Protector rolled his eyes. "I want to go back to the Honor Zone."

After speaking, he continued in a more casual tone. "Even if we do get discovered, they'll be fine."

Lu Yin was both surprised and confused by this. "Why?"

"Ask them yourself." The First Protector gestured to the three Envoys who were accompanying him.

Lu Yin looked at the three people. From the very moment they had met, not a single one of them had uttered a single word. Lu Yin had tried to speak to them several times, but he had never received a response.

"They're androids," Emperor Luo commented.

Lu Yin was stunned. "Androids?"

Chapter 1713: First Edition City

The First Protector smiled when he saw Lu Yin's surprise. "I have watched humanity's technology develop for countless years, and there are always some outstanding geniuses. The Technocracy is able to produce androids with the power of Envoys, and my Human Domain has the same ability. However, due to the limited supply of various materials, very few such androids can be produced."

Lu Yin's first thought after hearing this explanation was of the giants' technology.

There were stories from long ago about how the Expeditionary Forces had eliminated the giants' technology after they developed the means of producing weapons that could unleash attacks at the Envoy level. The rumors claimed that the technology had been destroyed, but Lu Yin always believed that the Hall of Honor had confiscated the technology instead. At this moment, his suspicions were finally validated.

Lu Yin initially thought that the giants' technology had been eliminated because the Hall of Honor did not want any of the Human Domain's civilizations or powers to develop too quickly, as that might threaten the Hall of Honor's status or create a terrible power struggle. However, after thinking about it for some time, Lu Yin felt that there was most likely a deeper reason, which was the materials needed to produce such weaponry.

The Hall of Honor had long since possessed the technology to create weapons as powerful as an Envoy, but the domain's severely limited materials meant that such things could never be mass-produced. While the giants had achieved similar results with their technology, they would still require materials at a similar level, which meant that they would have been competing with the Hall of Honor.

In that situation, how could the Hall of Honor possibly allow the giants' technology to continue? Thus, the Hall of Honor had assimilated the giants' research and technological accomplishments, as not only

would this allow the Hall of Honor to further optimize their own technologies, but they would also be able to acquire some desperately needed materials. For these reasons, the Hall of Honor naturally had not hesitated to move against the giants.

It could only be said that the giants had not developed their technology to a high enough level at the right time, and they had also not been able to keep their accomplishments secret. If Lu Yin had been Arch-Elder Zen, he would have also chosen to eliminate the giants' technology.

Regardless of whether the Hall of Honor had acted selfishly or domineeringly, it was still better for them to have the rare materials than for the giants to use them on their own technologies.

Suddenly, a flash of inspiration sprang up within Lu Yin's mind, stunning him into a daze. He had glimpsed some thought, but it had flashed by, and he had failed to hold onto it. What was it? He had instantly forgotten that momentary thought, but he knew that it was very important, and he even felt like it was the key to solving the various mysteries around him, but what was it?

Lu Yin frowned and stopped to think.

Emperor Luo and others looked at him oddly.

The First Protector's eyes flickered; was this an epiphany? No, this did not seem like that. The kid seemed more like he was spellbound.

Lu Yin remained frozen for an entire hour, but he was never able to recapture his previous thought. He even repeated every word that he had thought leading up to that glimpse of inspiration, but he simply could not remember whatever it had been.

He shrugged and let out a sigh. He had forgotten, and the ethereal thought had completely vanished. Still, it had probably been something very important.

"Let's go," Lu Yin said.

The group from the Sixth Mainland soon continued on their way. Their numbers were the same as before, but some people had been replaced by Lu Yin and the others.

The route that the Sixth Mainland cultivators had planned to take to First Edition City was different from the route that Lu Yin and the others had tried to take. They had been headed to a part of the Technocracy that was under Sky Creation Institute's control, and the new path was clearly closer to First Edition City.

Lu Yin had technically been dead when he entered the Technocracy the last time. After he woke back up, he had found himself on a planet with Fat Bro and Yan Xiaojing. Lu Yin recalled that the planet had been known as Star Duolun. After that, Lu Yin had met Hui Kong, who was extremely familiar with the Technocracy.

The Technocracy was full of machinery. When the Ghost Monkey had dragged Lu Yin across the border to hide in the Technocracy, Lu Yin's body had been skewered by a random piece of metal flying around the void at the border of the Technocracy.

At that time, Lu Yin hadn't even been able to see the Technocracy's defenses, but this time, when they reached the border, he saw metal spikes hidden in the void, as well as metal frames connecting various

planets in the distance. The planets and the metal frameworks actually formed nets that spread out far into the distance.

If an outside force tried to break into the Technocracy, the entire framework would instantly collapse upon them, and unless the invader's strength had reached a level that surpassed the Technocracy's defenses, they would be trapped and defeated regardless of their numbers.

This was Technocracy.

To Lu Yin's eyes, the strange thing was that he could not see where the metal framework even started. How far did the net extend? How was it fixed in place? He could not see any answers to his questions.

There were many planets in the Technocracy that were inhabited by ordinary people, much like Star Duolun where Huang San and Yan Xiaojing lived. There were many other similar planets in the Technocracy, and they were inhabited by more than just humans. As far as the Technocracy was concerned, humans were just another astral beast species, and the Technocracy did not ostracize any creatures.

As the Cloud Valley Master's servant and his party led Lu Yin and the others into the Technocracy, they were not blocked or inspected, and they simply continued moving further deeper into the Technocracy.

As they traveled, Emperor Luo kept verifying their route while also attempting to locate the battlefield that lay between First Edition City and Sky Creation Academy. Unfortunately, he could not locate the battlefield.

After several days passed, Lu Yin was passing the time by observing some of the Technocracy's planets, as well as a large number of androids and battleships. These vessels were not piloted by humans, but rather possessed their own self-awareness. They were essentially alive, could communicate, and even had emotions. They were able to merge with each other through fighting, and their existence shattered Lu Yin's understanding of life.

"Have you still not found a route?" Lu Yin asked. He was getting a bit anxious, as they were getting closer and closer to First Edition City. If they were not able to find the battlefield and a route to it soon, they would be forced to return to the Human Domain, as First Edition City was too dangerous to approach, and even the First Protector was scared of that place.

Emperor Luo shook his head. "The battlefield's moved. We tried to take the old route that I knew, but it's no longer useable since the battlefield changed. Half of the old battlefield was taken over by Sky Creation Academy, and the other half by First Edition City. They have a new battlefield now, but from my guesses, it isn't anywhere near the Human Domain. In fact, it might even be in the deepest regions of the Technocracy."

Emperor Luo's voice fell lower as he spoke.

Lu Yin stared off into the distance, as he was rather unwilling to give up.

The First Protector shrugged. "If that's really the case, then all we can do is return the way that we came and leave the Technocracy."

They heard a boom; some distance away, two planet-sized machines were fighting, and their battle was scattering countless bits of debris into space.

"That's a very common mechanical beast here in the Technocracy. After two of them fight, the winner will absorb material from the loser," Emperor Luo explained.

They had seen many similar sights in recent days. The Technocracy was not a place that was dominated by androids or any particular creature, but rather by the Master Brain. The Master Brain was the ruler of the Technocracy, and the variety of lifeforms that were found here was endless.

This was also true of the mechanical creatures. Humans referred to minds as brains, but this was not always true in the Technocracy. Instead, they typically referred to the mind that controlled a body as the dominant consciousness.

Near to the two fighting mechanical creatures, there was a densely packed group of strange, eight-limbed machines. They were the scavengers that Hui Kong had mentioned to Lu Yin. These machines worked to collect the trash from various battles.

The Technocracy operated through its own system. It was said that the Technocracy was devoid of life, but the creatures there were sapient, just not organic. The various mechanical creatures, including the scavengers and the androids, had no traditional signs of life.

Hui Kong had remained in the Technocracy for so long because he had been investigating why Progenitor Hui had established the Technocracy, and Lu Yin found himself holding the same curiosity.

"You can stop searching. We'll just go back the way we came," the First Protector commented.

The Cloud Valley Master's disciple's face twisted. "I can't go back."

The First Protector's expression turned grim. "What did you just say?"

The Sixth Mainland Envoy raised a hand and shared a message that he had received: Your location has been locked onto. Please proceed to First Edition City by following the suggested route. Thank you for your cooperation.

"I received this letter from the deputy master of First Edition City. The city's moved, and it's very close to our location now," the man explained.

The First Protector was scared by this change. "I can't go there."

"They've locked onto our location, so if we try to leave, we'll end up in trouble. First Edition City's already too close to us, and if they really do have a strength that even Arch-Elder Zen is wary of, then our current distance from the city is actually meaningless. We're already here, and if Senior tries to force your way out, we'll definitely struggle to survive," Lu Yin explained. He had not expected First Edition City to suddenly move over, and this was not something that Emperor Luo could have known about either.

The Envoy from the Sixth Mainland had also only learned of this development after they entered the Technocracy.

The First Protector was upset by this change. "If we enter that place, I can't promise that I'll be able to get any of us out of there safely."

"That's assuming that we get caught, but we still have yet to be discovered," Lu Yin retorted. If he did not carry out his plan, the Perennial World's attack would become an unpredictable inevitability. It would have been better for Lu Yin to travel to First Edition City with Hui Kong. That old man had stayed in the Technocracy for a very long time, and he had definitely been to both Sky Creation Academy and First Edition City. Getting into trouble in the Technocracy would only happen if they were discovered.

Lu Yin did not think that anyone would be dumb enough to be fooled by him, so his departure was classified as an adventure and not a mission.

The path of cultivation was far from smooth. Lu Yin had actually died on several different occasions, but he still had the courage to take risks when necessary.

"Senior, we don't have a path out any longer. The longer we hesitate here, the more suspicious we're going to look," Lu Yin urged.

The First Protector felt cornered. "I have a feeling that you'll end up being the death of me..."

He then looked over at the first disciple of the Cloud Valley Master. "Lead the way."

...

The universe was infinite and vast, and it was full of surprising sights. Still, Lu Yin had never thought that he would one day behold the current sight before him.

First Edition City was extremely technologically advanced, and it was incomparably massive. It floated through outer space along various air currents, and there was no soil or sky to be seen. Rather, when one looked up, they would see a glowing brain flickering with light. Down below, there was something gaseous flowing by. Upon closer inspection, the mysterious gas was actually some sort of cloud made out of light that propped up the entire city.

From a distance, First Edition City did not look like a city at all, but instead a human brain.

The city was illuminated by the brain, and this was the Master Brain that controlled the entire Technocracy. It was the ultimate authority in this place.

These details were not what surprised Lu Yin. Instead, what shocked him was the fact that First Edition City felt completely lifeless yet also full of activity.

Dead silent, but also brimming with life. These two conflicting concepts were vividly juxtapositioned in First Edition City.

There were androids everywhere in the city. Each and every one was neatly arranged and stored in a specific location in the city. What's more, there were pipes filled with air that connected the various regions of First Edition City, and they transported supercomputers from one place to another. Some of the supercomputers would exit in different places and merge with an android, which would activate, move around, and carry out various activities. Some of the supercomputers just continued drifting through the pipes. It was much like how an ordinary human might go sightseeing in a car and enjoy the

scenery of a city. However, these supercomputers were able to integrate with any of the various androids, which meant that the androids were essentially communal property.

Emperor Luo was very familiar with this sight, but Lu Yin had not been prepared for it. Hui Kong had told Lu Yin a great deal about the Technocracy, but he had never mentioned anything about what Lu Yin was staring at. It was possible that Hui Kong simply had not known how to describe this scene, but he had told Lu Yin that there were truly bizarre sights to be seen in the Technocracy.

The individuals in this place were the supercomputers while the android bodies were nothing more than tools.

This was a city in the Technocracy. The supercomputers were full of life, and they wandered all about the city. They could enjoy the entire city in whichever body they chose, but there was no hint of organic life to be seen at all.

Chapter 1714: Control VS Cooperation

Lu Yin had not expected the city to have no humans or even astral beasts, as the Technocracy was supposed to treat all creatures equally. Regardless of if one was human or an astral beast, they were just another life form. However, there were actually no living creatures within First Edition City at all.

The sky above the city had crisscrossing pipes covering it, and there were occasionally ripples in the void when a supercomputer integrated with an android body, not one of which was weak. Although there were no runes in this place, which made it impossible for Lu Yin to precisely determine the strength of anything, he was certain that there were terrifyingly powerful things in this city, as it had the strength to scare even the First Protector.

"Be careful. This place is giving an old man like me a few heart palpitations," the First Protector stated dryly.

Lu Yin pursed his lips. "This junior is also a bit nervous. Is this really a place where people can live?"

"Don't be ridiculous! Of course not. If you tried to, you'd find yourself going insane sooner or later," the First Protector retorted in a miserable tone. He was still terribly upset that they had been forced to enter First Edition City. Humans had always been the most prevalent species, but in this city, humans were seen as out of place oddities. The mechanical, interchangeable bodies were the most common sight in First Edition City, and it was a jarring change for humans.

Lu Yin still remembered Aeternus Nation. There had been ordinary humans living there, but all of them had been nothing more than livestock, reared for the corpse kings. That place had also had a dead feeling, much like First Edition City, but the cities in Aeternus Nation also contained a feeling of despair and violence.

To some degree, Aeternus Nation and First Edition City had similarities, as neither was a place where humans would willingly live.

"Everyone, please follow me. You've had a difficult journey to get here. I'm the vice city master, and I've already made arrangements for your quarters during your visit." The person who received them had the appearance of a beautiful woman who looked no different from a regular human. Her frowns and smiles

were both beautiful and natural, but Lu Yin had seen a brain enter the mechanical body just before it started to move.

This person was an android, though one with an exceptionally beautiful appearance. This individual most likely enjoyed a high status within First Edition City, and they were also quite strong, as they could compare to an Enlighter.

"Thank you, Vice City Master," the first disciple of the Cloud Valley Master replied.

The beautiful android smiled in reply before leading Lu Yin and the rest of the party towards the center of the city.

There were no identifiable streets within the city. For the supercomputer, the pipes acted as streets, and the android bodies were simply vehicles. They had no need to make actual streets for their "vehicles," as the androids were treated like spaceships or cars.

There were also no houses in First Edition City, but rather strange lightforms that could be found everywhere. Occasionally, an android would exit or enter one of these lightforms. This was simply a city of supercomputers.

Lu Yin and the others were provided with a house that was located close to a transportation pipe. According to the beautiful android, the lightforms could be altered at will, and people could control them with their thoughts.

Lu Yin created an ordinary-looking stone house with the lightform, and when he touched it, it even had the correct texture. This level of technology was simply magical.

Suddenly, a screen appeared far above the city, and Lu Yin and the others looked up to see fourteen figures appear on the massive screen. A loud voice announced, "Welcome, guests from humanity. Your visit to our city coincides with a once-in-a-decade competition. This android competition has reached the semi-finals, and the finals will take place in a month, just in time for our guests from humanity to spectate. You are all welcome to attend."

The whole city started buzzing.

Lu Yin walked out, and he was surprised at the announcement. "Android competition?"

Emperor Luo explained, "Both First Edition City and Sky Creation Academy have a number of research teams. These places don't actually have any families or sects, just research teams. They develop androids or weapons that appear in these competitions. The winners receive more resources, opportunities, and even a higher status."

Lu Yin understood that every place had their own competitions, and the Technocracy was naturally no different. The Human Domain's competitions took place in the form of conquests and internal conflicts while the Technocracy's way of competing was open for all to see.

These competitions were also events that could only occur in the Technocracy due to the Master Brain's absolute control over the place. The Human Domain could never pull off such a competition.

"Many dominant consciousness prefer to remain with an android that they built themselves. If you look up at the screen, you'll see profile pictures of fourteen individuals. Of the two at the top, one is the city

master, who's been famous for thousands of years. That dominant consciousness is very powerful, and in the past, they've led two research teams to participate in no less than ten of these competitions, and they've even won twice.

"The other one at the top is named R10, who's a talented inventor who only recently appeared. He's also leading a research team, but this is their first time participating in a competition. They've already qualified for the finals, and they also have got a good chance of winning," Emperor Luo explained.

Isn't that little R10? Lu Yin's eyes flashed. Wasn't that the person who had designed the android blueprints that he had pilfered and given to Ban Jiu? This was a fated encounter!

"How do you know all of this?" Lu Yin wondered. Emperor Luo had been absent from the Technocracy for many years, so he should not know about all this.

Emperor Luo pulled out a gadget and passed it to Lu Yin. "This is from the android that met us. They gave each of us one so that we can learn a bit about the Technocracy."

Lu Yin and the others had all stored their gadgets in their cosmic rings before arriving at First Edition City so that none of their information could be accessed or discovered by the Technocracy.

Once Lu Yin started browsing through the gadget, he quickly learned about the recent android competition, as well as a detailed summary that was readily accessible.

A total of 100 research teams had participated in the competition, but only two teams had reached the semi-finals.

The former champion team had mainly focused on developing weapons, so androids were not their forte. Still, they had developed some combat androids, so if they won, it could only be said that the Technocracy was biased.

The weapons that the former champions had created were very powerful, and Lu Yin took a look at some images of them. The weapons all looked very odd, and Lu Yin could not even understand the underlying principles behind them.

As for Little R10's team, they had focused exclusively on developing androids, and they had no weapons at all.

Little R10's androids were nothing surprising to Lu Yin, as the Great Yu Empire had already started producing the same kind of androids that were able to be upgraded and improved as long as there were materials of sufficient quality. It was impossible to predict the final limits of these androids.

Lu Yin had not dared to consider the implications before, but after he had returned from the Perennial World, he had started to believe that Little R10's android design might be able to reach the Envoy level as long as the materials requirement was met.

"For this android competition, the winners will be allowed to create an independent army that can join the war against Sky Creation Academy," Emperor Luo said in evident surprise.

Lu Yin had not yet reached that information in the event summary, and he looked up as soon as he heard Emperor Luo's comment. Sure enough, the man was genuinely excited. An independent army?

Did that mean that as long as Lu Yin could connect with the winning team, there was a possibility of being taken to the Technocracy's greatest battlefield?

After thinking of this possibility, Lu Yin quickly went to find the First Protector.

Lu Yin's news was like a bucket of cold water getting dumped on the First Protector. "Don't even consider it! Just wait for those guys from the Sixth Mainland to finish up their business so that we can go back. Why would anyone here take you to the battlefield? Are you trying to reveal your real strength while we're here?"

"What if it's possible?" Lu Yin and the First Protector stared at each other.

The First Protector finally snorted. "If you can make it happen, then it would be best for me to accompany you."

Lu Yin shouted, "I'll let you know as soon as everything's settled!"

A frown appeared on the First Protector face. He was feeling frustrated because Lu Yin was clearly too confident in pulling this off. "Are you sure you can do this?"

Lu Yin shook his head. "No, but it's better to try than to do nothing."

The First Protector nodded. "It's good that you want to destroy Aeternus, but everything depends on the given situation. Don't try to force anything. Arch-Elder Zen told me that there's a good chance that you'll eventually become a Progenitor, and there are just too many things that become possible once you reach that level. There are certain sacrifices that you need to make now in order to realize that future."

"This junior understands. Thank you for your concern," Lu Yin said.

The next day, the vice city master summoned the Cloud Valley Master's first disciple.

The Envoy was the only one invited, as Lu Yin and the others were merely his entourage. None of them were considered qualified to participate in the negotiations or even to listen to them. Of course, Lu Yin and the First Protector were not worried, as the only way the Sixth Mainland Envoy would betray them would be if he wanted to die.

This was not the Envoy's first time visiting First Edition City, as he had visited the place in the past when the Sixth Mainland had invaded the Fifth Mainland. Each time he visited, he saw the vice city master use a different appearance. This time, the vice city master was using an android that had the form of a bear.

The man felt rather awkward while having a conversation with a bear. He watched the bear drink some black beverage as though it was drinking tea. The black beverage was most likely actually something that supported the mechanical body: oil.

Sigh.

The bear opened his mouth and let out a sigh of enjoyment, letting a very unpleasant smell spread through the air. The Cloud Valley Master's first disciple maintained a respectful manner. "Lord Vice City

Master, I've explained to you why I've been sent here again and again. Might I hear First Edition City's reply?"

The bear stretched his legs and swung them about. The claws were sharp enough to terrify anyone as this bear clearly was not an ordinary one, as it was valuable and powerful enough to have the vice city master use it. It clearly had the power to compare to an Envoy.

"We have always cooperated with the Sixth Mainland. Even before your war, we helped you by sending you information on how you could deal with the Human Domain. Once you invaded, we took part in the fighting ourselves and helped to invade the Outerverse. It would seem that my city will answer whenever the Sixth Mainland calls, but this time is an exception." The bear was very serious as it stared at the Envoy. "We were defeated during that invasion, and while we do not know what Sky Creation Academy's support is, a new group of androids have appeared there that are terribly powerful. We are being pushed back again and again, and while we can support you by sending androids to the Human Domain's Outerverse, we cannot send very many at all. I am sorry."

The Envoy was not in any condition to discuss anything with the vice city master at this time, as he only wanted to return to the Sixth Mainland as soon as possible. However, he had been sent here to negotiate, and it would be too much if he left without making any attempts towards negotiating at all. "Sir Vice City Master, you also know the situation that my Sixth Mainland is facing. Even if you are unable to send the numbers that Bluedome Elder requested, even half will be of great help."

The bear shook its head. "We can't even send that. At best, we can send a million androids and a single android with the power of an Envoy."

The Cloud Valley Master's first disciple shook his head. "That's not enough."

"Go back and consider it, as there's only so much we can give you," the bear said.

The human left, and the bear stared at the man's back before taking another sip of his black liquid.

After the man returned to the Sixth Mainland's quarters, Lu Yin went to meet him.

"A million androids? And one Envoy level android?" Lu Yin frowned, as that was indeed a lot. While it was far from the numbers that Bluedome Elder had requested, it was still enough to deal with the Great Eastern Alliance. This put a great deal of pressure onto Lu Yin.

He had to ask, "Isn't it said that your Sixth Mainland controls half of the Master Brain? How can First Edition City even try to bargain with you?"

The Cloud Valley Master's disciple's face took on an unnatural expression. "We don't control it, but rather cooperate with it."

Lu Yin blinked. "Cooperate?"

The Envoy nodded. "The Four Empyreans tell everyone in the Sixth Mainland that we control the Master Brain, so only a few people know that we are actually only cooperating with First Edition City. They help us out, and in return, we provide them with resources and materials that they require."

"First Edition City does things for you? Like what?" Lu Yin wondered.

Chapter 1715: Lu Yin And Little R10

The Cloud Valley Master's servant grew embarrassed. "The Technocracy has always been at war with your Human Domain, and many times, they are the first to attack."

Upon hearing these words, Lu Yin instantly understood.

Of the Fifth Mainland's three domains, the Astral Beast Domain and the Human Domain were constantly at war with each other, and they had many conflicts. However, there was no reason for the Technocracy to fight against the Human Domain. Wars between the two did not make any sense. If it was about stealing materials or resources, then the Technocracy could not even enter the Human Domain. As for hatred between the two domains, there did not seem to be any real hatred. And yet, they were constantly fighting each other. Lu Yin had looked into the possible reasons behind this conflict, but he had not found any. After all, Hui Kong had stayed in the Technocracy for many years, and he had always been searching for the reason why the place had been established to no success.

The full name of the Technocracy was the Lost Science and Technology Domain, and it had been founded by Progenitor Hui. Progenitor Hui had been a human, so no one understood why his Technocracy was the Human Domain's enemy.

Over the course of countless years, it seemed to have become normal for the Technocracy and the Human Domain to be at war, but no one had investigated the core reason behind this. At this moment, it had been revealed that the Sixth Mainland was the most likely culprit.

The Fifth Mainland had only guessed that half of the Master Brain's authority had been usurped by the Sixth Mainland, but in truth, it was not a matter of control, but rather one of cooperation.

This was completely different.

Control indicated that the Technocracy carried out the will of the Sixth Mainland while cooperation meant that the Technocracy willingly took such actions itself. The fact that the domain was willingly cooperating with the Sixth Mainland showed that there was a desire within the Technocracy, and whatever it was that they wanted was important enough for them to cooperate with an enemy of the Human Domain.

This was actually worse than if half of the Technocracy was being controlled by the Sixth Mainland. Lu Yin would much rather have the Technocracy be under the Sixth Mainland's control than have it be voluntarily hostile towards the Human Domain and willing to go to war.

"How many resources has your Sixth Mainland provided for First Edition City over the course of so many years? Are they really willing to cooperate with you just because of the resources that you provide them?" Lu Yin asked.

The Envoy nodded. "It's just basic resources. The Technocracy is special, as each dominant consciousness is able to think and communicate on its own, but each one is only a mind. They need a vessel to inhabit, and each vessel requires resources. This is different from humans like us who can reproduce naturally and grow through eating food and absorbing nutrients. These dominant consciousnesses need raw materials, and an endless supply of them at that."

First Edition City had managed to obtain massive amounts of resources by cooperating with the Sixth Mainland, which had allowed them to continue their simultaneous war against both the Human Domain and Sky Creation Academy.

In that case, what about Sky Creation Academy? Why had they continued their war against First Edition City? There was only one possibility: the Perennial World.

Lu Yin stared at a star chart of the Technocracy. In his eyes, both First Edition City and Sky Creation Academy were no different from two bottomless holes that devoured endless resources. The materials that they had gathered or been given had become countless androids and weapons, and this had continued on for many years. Battles were constantly fought, and each battle was an opportunity for resources to vanish, which was what Huan Sha had discovered.

Materials would disappear from each place after each battle and war, but where had these resources gone? Lu Yin's eyes narrowed, and suddenly, the same thought that had flickered through his mind just outside of the Technocracy returned: ants. Those endless numbers of mechanical ants.

The scale of the war between First Edition City and Sky Creation Academy was massive, and after every single battle, a portion of materials would always disappear. After so many years, it added up to an astronomical amount of materials. It was impossible to claim that someone from inside the two forces had stolen so much over the course of so many years, and with the way that the Technocracy was structured, such a thing was not very likely. The greatest possibility was that all of those materials had been redirected to the manufacturing of endless mechanical ants.

Who had made those ants? If the materials used to create them were really the same ones that disappeared after each battle, it could not be just First Edition City or Sky Creation Academy behind the ants, but rather a combination of the two. The only possibility that Lu Yin could come up with was that this had something to do with the Master Brain.

The Sixth Mainland did not have the ability to control half of the Technocracy's Master Brain, so did that mean that the Master Brain was still intact? If that was true, then why did First Edition City wage war on Sky Creation Academy? Was the Master Brain at war with itself?

Lu Yin could not figure this out, but he had another thought: the Master Brain might have never been split or divided. Rather, it was using this method to gather resources from both the Sixth Mainland and the Perennial World in order to secretly gather enough materials to produce the mechanical ants.

If that was true, then it would be a huge secret. What need was there for so many mechanical ants? Was this truly the will of the Master Brain, or was it someone else's design?

Lu Yin thought about these possibilities for a long time even as the Cloud Valley Master's servant left. Since the First Protector did not come looking for Lu Yin, he continued to quietly ponder the matter until the following day.

The Envoy from the Sixth Mainland was summoned back to a meeting, and he once again spoke with the vice city master who was using the bear android.

The meeting had the same conclusion as the previous day, but the Envoy reluctantly maintained his facade of being frustrated and determined. Still, no matter what, the vice city master would not budge.

First Edition City cooperated with the Sixth Mainland in exchange for resources, but since the Sixth Mainland had been overrun by Aeternus, it was no longer possible for the Sixth Mainland to provide the same amount of resources as before. Instead, the materials came from the Outerverse, and the drop in quantity was no longer sufficient to whet First Edition City's appetite. This was the primary reason behind the city's change in attitude.

The third day. The fourth day. The fifth day.

The vice city master sought out the Envoy from the Sixth Mainland each day, and he met with the human each day in the guise of a bear.

The Cloud Valley Master's servant felt that it was almost time to leave. After this long, First Edition City would no longer suspect anything. However, even though the Envoy wanted to leave, Lu Yin refused.

Not only did Lu Yin refuse to leave, but he also became determined to sabotage the cooperation between First Edition City and the Sixth Mainland.

On the sixth day, Lu Yin followed the Envoy to his meeting with the vice city master. Starting on their third day in the city, the Cloud Valley Master's servant had taken one person with him to each meeting, so the deputy city master had become used to it.

The negotiations failed during the meeting on the sixth day as well. The vice city master insisted that only a million androids and no more than a single one at the Envoy level could be sent to reinforce the Sixth Mainland. However, it was impossible for the Sixth Mainland's representative to agree to such terms. The meeting did not last long before the deputy city master left.

"Master Sword Servant, his excellency Bluedome Elder was very clear: we need to get First Edition City to send at least five million androids to the Outerverse, at least three of which have the strength of an Envoy. Their attitude is terrible now, so please ask his excellency to step forward. His excellency already said that if First Edition City refuses to cooperate, the Four Empyreans will move together against the city and destroy it before forcing the Master Brain to fall under their control. After all, it's impossible to ask the Progenitor of Combat to come out at this time," Lu Yin spoke sharply.

The Sixth Mainland's representative's face twisted, but Lu Yin's hand was on the Envoy's shoulder, preventing him from speaking.

Off in the distance, the vice city master heard Lu Yin's words, and the bear's eyes started blazing. Do they want to take control of my First Edition City? The Sixth Mainland's lost their roots, and they're no longer able to provide with as many resources. The expected transaction is no longer possible, so they want to strong-arm us now. Hmph!

Lu Yin removed his hand, and the Envoy's face grew pale. "Are you not afraid to mention the Progenitor of Combat? Are you trying to intimidate this place?"

"This has nothing to do with you," Lu Yin replied coldly.

...

First Edition City was covered with pipes, and it was not a place that was suitable for human habitation. Still, there was one thing that was similar to human cities, which was the presence of plants.

The city was full of lush plants, and there were many gardens, some of which even had creatures living in them. They were rare oases of life within First Edition City.

When one wandered around the city, what they saw was only the tip of the iceberg. The dominant consciousnesses that lived in First Edition City needed ways to relax, and some of them would use vessels with a humanoid form, only to destroy the vessel later. There were others that used vessels to devour all kinds of metals. And there were still others who enjoyed the scenery of the verdant gardens.

At first, Lu Yin had no idea what the androids were doing, so he had looked through the provided gadget to learn more.

Humans had their own means of relaxing, and these dominant consciousnesses had their own as well, though their forms of pleasure were quite bizarre to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin visited a garden, from where the huge, glowing brain was only vaguely visible through the branches and leaves of the plants. There was more than one android in the garden, through most of them were sitting about in a daze. It was also in this place that Lu Yin saw Little R10.

Little R10 was staring at a lake, looking quite stressed. Lu Yin wondered what Little R10 was thinking about.

Lu Yin walked over and commented, "It's been a very exciting competition."

Little R10 was startled, and he looked over at Lu Yin. "Thank you. Are you a human?"

Lu Yin nodded. "Can't you tell?"

"Of course. I just need a glance to determine the make and model of any android, as well as their potential for future development," R10 proudly stated.

Lu Yin was impressed. "That's amazing! You deserve to be a semi-finalist."

When Lu Yin said this, Little R10 dropped his head. "This is about as far as I can go."

"Why? Are you not confident?" Lu Yin asked.

Little R10 shook his head. "I'm confident. I can easily see through the weapons and attack methods that powerhouses use, but I don't have the necessary materials to deal with such weaponry. While my android is powerful, it's not enough to withstand a bombardment from those weapons. That's why I'll eventually lose."

"That's not fair!" Lu Yin ranted.

Little R10 was surprised. "Not fair? Why?"

"Isn't it unfair to lose because of your limited materials? I've heard that your opponent's been famous for a long time, so the amount of resources that they've received far surpasses what you have," Lu Yin said.

Little R10 hesitated for a moment. "Are you humans really that naïve?"

Lu Yin was stunned by his reaction. "Why do you say that?"

Little R1O explained, "Materials are the most valuable resources in our Technocracy, and they're no different from your humans' battle techniques. Some of you even have what you call secret techniques, but do you demand that all of your fights with other humans be fair in terms of battle techniques?"

After considering this perspective, Lu Yin felt that it had merit. He had forgotten that, for the residents of the Technocracy, materials were the most valuable resources. There was nothing fair in the universe. After many more years, Little R1O would manage to gain more fame and be pitted against other research teams. In such a situation, the materials that they could acquire were simply another type of advantage.

"That's a pity. Your design's really impressive," Lu Yin said regretfully.

Little R1O glanced over, but he did not want to pay any further attention to the human. As far as Little R1O was concerned, how could any human understand the wonder of his android? This person was just bragging.

"As long as you give it the right materials, your android design can be instantly enhanced, which is completely different from other designs. Other androids are very difficult to upgrade, and that's even when the upgrade succeeds. Also..." Lu Yin began to talk on and on. Even though he did not understand all the details in the designs that he had pilfered, he could still remember what they were about.

Little R1O had developed the unique design himself, and Lu Yin was basically regurgitating Little R1O's own ideas back to him. This surprised Little R1O, and he could not help himself from continuing the conversation with Lu Yin.

Given Lu Yin's poor understanding of the technology, there was no way he was capable of keeping up with Little R1O, so Lu Yin quickly stopped talking. Instead, he just listened while making the occasional comment that built off of Little R1O's own ideas. This surprised Little R1O even more than before. To use human terminology, Little R1O felt like he had found a confidant.

Little R1O had never thought that he could have such a passionate discussion with a human. The more the conversation progressed, the more Little R1O realized that this human was highly intelligent. His ideas were so consistently aligned with Little R1O's own that they felt identical. This human was a genius on the same level as himself!

Chapter 1716: A Real Man

"What's your name? If you stay here in First Edition City, I'll make sure to get you the best resources available so that we can research and develop the most powerful androids together." Little R1O looked at Lu Yin with incredible excitement, as he truly needed such a talented assistant.

Lu Yin smiled. "You can just call me Ah Qi, but I can't stay here."

"Why not? I can give you everything that you could need as a human. Don't you humans need battle techniques, cultivation arts, and different resources in order to train? We have a lot of those things here in First Edition City, and I'll help you figure out how to get them," Little R1O insisted.

Lu Yin shrugged. "I'm sorry, but I really can't stay."

Little R10 was disappointed.

With that settled, Lu Yin and Little R10 continued to chat for a long time. Most of it was Little R10 speaking and Lu Yin just listening, as Lu Yin had run out of things to say. The measly knowledge that he possessed could not keep up with Little R10.

When Lu Yin saw Little R10's eagerness for him to present a new idea, Lu Yin just coughed. "I have no idea what the battlefield between First Edition and Sky Creation Academy is like, and I would really like to see it."

Little R10 felt curious. "Why would you want to go there?"

Lu Yin's expression betrayed his desire to see the battlefield. "There's a saying among humans: a real man should visit the battlefield."

Little R10 was completely lost. "Real men? Are there fake men?"

"Yes, a lot."

"What do they look like? We're able to choose the gender of each android, so for us, there's no difference between male and female. You humans really are difficult. It even seems like being able to cultivate is a matter of a person's innate physique. I've heard that there are even some research teams that are studying you humans' innate gifts," Little R10 commented.

Lu Yin's expression grew sharp for a moment before returning to normal. "There's a research team studying that?"

Little R10 nodded. "Research teams study all sorts of different things, and there are some that are studying humans' innate gifts while others are researching biological immortality. I've even heard that some are studying things like luck, but the most absurd research team that I've heard of is studying how to make particles become infinitely larger, as they are hoping to create a universe from the smallest of particles. Those supercomputer brains have gone haywire."

Supercomputers going haywire was a taboo topic in the Technocracy, as it was similar to human insanity.

Each research topic sounded farfetched, but many humans were scared of such research. However, it was clear that many similar things had been studied in the Human Domain; how was the brain in Gaia's Swamp any different from the dominant consciousnesses in the Technocracy? The key difference was that those in the Technocracy used androids and other machines as vessels while the imprisoned brain had once belonged to a human who had hoped to achieve eternal life.

"Actually, you didn't say why you wanted to see the battlefield. Is seeing a battlefield somehow related to becoming a real man? Also, what's a fake man?" Little R10 was eager to learn more.

Lu Yin clenched his fists. "If you are strong, then you're a real man. The battlefield is a place where men can become powerful."

"Isn't a battlefield a place where people go to die?"

"All you need to do is survive, and those survivors are real men."

"Oh, so that's why you want to see the battlefield. Unfortunately, I can't take you there. Only the winning research team is able to go there on their own, and the losers can't," Little R1O explained in a frustrated tone, as he had been reminded of his upcoming loss again.

Lu Yin started searching through his cosmic ring. "You just said that you're going to lose because of the materials that you have access to. I'm not sure if this stuff that I have with me can help you out, but I've picked it up over the course of many years."

Lu Yin then pulled a bunch of substances from his ring. Most of the stuff was materials that had been Disassembled but never used. The Great Eastern Alliance had taken control of all of Blazing Mist Flowzone, including the Ross Empire, so they had managed to collect a large amount of raw materials, and Lu Yin had Disassembled them whenever the opportunity arose. The materials that he pulled out were all substances without any descriptions on the Human Domain's network.

Little R1O scanned through the mountains of materials that had appeared in front of him, but he showed no surprise. For the supercomputers of the Technocracy, materials were regarded in the same manner as star essence in the Human Domain, and the amount that Lu Yin had brought out was not enough to make more than a few androids.

However, Little R1O was soon stunned, and then he quickly became confused.

"West Crystals? Is this Woodtooth of Light? Ancient Windsand? ..." Little R1O picked through the rare materials and commented on their names one by one.

Most of what Little R1O was looking at were materials that had come from the Ross Empire's mobile fortress, and Lu Yin had picked them up when he had confiscated the Ross Empire's star essence. Emperor Luo had gathered these materials in hopes of producing androids at the Envoy level.

Little R1O selected ten different materials, and he sucked in a quick breath as he turned to look at Lu Yin. Excitement filled the researcher's eyes. "You- are you really ok with giving all of this to me?"

Lu Yin nodded and smiled. "There's another saying among humans: don't worry about it and just use it."

Little R1O's eyes sparkled. After a few breaths' time, he stepped forward and embraced Lu Yin. "Friend, we're friends!"

Lu Yin smiled. "Friends."

"Ah Qi, you're Little R1O's friend, and Little R1O is Ah Qi's friend!" Little R1O excitedly declared.

Lu Yin suddenly felt a pang of guilt. He still did not understand these individuals that were the dominant consciousnesses of the Technocracy, but it appeared that they had no concept of friends. However, they were different from the cold and emotionless corpse kings. It was not impossible for the supercomputers that controlled the androids to experience complex emotions, but Lu Yin had no idea how to trigger such responses.

These individuals seemed to live in a world without lies, and each person was true to themselves while also appearing to be indifferent.

"Can you win with these materials?" Lu Yin asked.

Little R10 scratched his head. "It'll be difficult, but my chances are much better than before. Unfortunately, you don't have a material that can serve the most important function, which is to improve the control center. If you had something like that, then my win would be guaranteed."

The androids' core control center was something that Lu Yin had learned about from Little R10's blueprints, as this was the most important upgradable aspect in Little R10's android design.

Lu Yin raised a hand as he pulled out the initiate ore. "What about this?"

He had no idea what the metal could be used for, but it was definitely something special since the Celestial Frost Sect's Bai family had left it in the treasury of their sect ruins for their descendants.

Little R10 was surprised when he saw the ore. "What is this?"

He quickly took the metal and started examining it. "Initiate ore? This is something that's supposed to have only existed in ancient times. It's supposed to have vanished. How is this here?"

Lu Yin explained, "I happened to find it in the ruins of an ancient sect that was hidden in a pocket dimension, and I grabbed it."

Little R10 felt a wave of envy. "You humans are so fortunate!"

What did finding this metal have to do with luck?

"So how about it? Can you use it?" Lu Yin asked.

"I'm not sure, but I can try it. There's still more than a month left to go before the finals, so it should be enough time." Little R10 then looked up at Lu Yin. "Ah Qi, I'm going to head back to prepare to upgrade my androids. Do you want to come with me?"

Lu Yin shook his head. "I'm going to have to turn you down, but I'll see you in a month."

Little R10 nodded and stored all of the materials away. "I'll see you in a month. I'll definitely win! And then I'll take you to see the battlefield so that you can become a real man!"

The android then fled.

Lu Yin was stunned for a moment; had he mistakenly just convinced Little R10 that he was not a real man yet?

After Lu Yin returned to the human quarters, he found that the First Protector had been waiting to speak with him. As soon as Lu Yin returned, the old man said, "The Cloud Valley Master's first disciple received a message from the vice city master that their war with Sky Creation Academy has escalated, and First Edition City is temporarily unable to send out any androids at all to support the Outerverse, which means that we can leave."

After sharing this information, the old man's tone grew strange. "What did you say to them? You've infuriated these people so badly that even if we don't complete the mission we came for, you have still accomplished something amazing for the Human Domain."

Lu Yin smiled and looked at the First Protector. "Senior, do you really want to go back?"

The First Protector pursed his lips. "Do you want to stick around longer?"

"This junior's already found a way to get to the battlefield that lies between First Edition City and Sky Creation Academy. As long as we can get past that, we'll be in Sky Creation Academy's territory, and I believe that the academy should be somewhat close to the battlefield. Also, there's no way the surveillance surrounding the battlefield will be as tight as elsewhere else." Lu Yin was quite excited about this.

The First Protector was surprised yet again by Lu Yin. "You found a way in?"

Lu Yin nodded.

The First Protector was rendered completely speechless. He had already promised Lu Yin that if a path to the battlefield opened up, they would go to Sky Creation Academy. Still, the old man had not expected Lu Yin to actually accomplish such a thing. How was this even possible? They were not in the Human Domain, so was it possible that Lu Yin had connections to the Technocracy's dominant consciousnesses?

"How did you manage this?" The First Protector was stumped.

Lu Yin smiled. "It's a secret, so just wait and see, Senior."

"How long?"

"When the android competition finishes."

The First Protector considered this. "So we'll still have to wait for more than a month?"

"That's right. Actually, while we're waiting, I would like to ask for your help with something, Senior." Lu Yin suddenly grew very serious.

The First Protector frowned. "Does this have something to do with getting to the battlefield?"

Lu Yin shook his head. "It's related to the Fifth Mainland's Daosource Sect."

The First Protector's first eyes went wide. "Explain."

Lu Yin could not hide what he had been doing with the Nine Cauldrons. The Sixth Mainland already knew that Lu Yin was in the process of receiving some kind of inheritance from the Nine Cauldrons, and this information would eventually spread to the Fifth Mainland. Thus, it would be better for Lu Yin to take the initiative and explain the situation so that he could ask some of the Fifth Mainland's top experts to protect him and help him absorb the cauldron energy in safety.

He had initially wanted to get the Second Nightking to help, but since there was more than a month before the finals of the android competition concluded, he felt like it would be much better to ask the First Protector for his help. This old man was one of the strongest powerhouses in the entire Fifth Mainland, which meant that only the Sixth Mainland's Empyrean Imprinters could stand up to him. With the First Protector's assistance, Lu Yin would be perfectly safe to absorb the cauldron energy as he pleased.

The First Protector soon sank into thought.

Lu Yin was forced to wait for an answer. He had no idea if the First Protector would help him or not, as there was no real bond or connection between them. They were just two individuals who had been sent on the same mission, so the chances of the old man agreeing or refusing were equally likely.

"So you've actually been inheriting the Nine Cauldrons' battle technique?" The First Protector was shocked, and he stared at Lu Yin in disbelief. "I didn't think it was real. According to the legends, that's an invincible battle technique, and if the records are true, it's truly ancient and was created even before the Daosource Sect's establishment. The Nine Cauldrons have stood there for almost an eternity, but no one's ever managed to gain anything from them."

Lu Yin grew curious. "I heard some rumors that Nine Cauldrons' battle technique came from the nine ancient powerhouses who created the Nine Mountains and Eight Seas."

The First Protector shook his head. "It's even older than the Nine Mountains and Eight Seas. When the Fifth Mainland's Daosource Sect still stood, the Nine Cauldrons were always there, indestructible and indecipherable. Even Progenitors have examined them, but they never found anything."

Lu Yin grew puzzled, as he had simply relied on the Stonewall Scriptures to receive the technique in the Nine Cauldrons. Since he was made to memorize the Stonewall Scriptures by the old grandpa on Driftcharge Planet, it meant that other people could learn the scriptures as well. He refused to believe that none of the Progenitors who had controlled the Nine Mountains and Eight Seas had known the scriptures, so why had they not been able to resonate with the Nine Cauldrons and learn the battle technique?

Was there anything else that made Lu Yin unique aside from the Stonewall Scriptures? He could not understand this.

"Show me the invincible technique that you've received from the Nine Cauldrons." The First Protector stared at Lu Yin with his eyes full of expectations.

Lu Yin raised a hand, and his star energy gathered to form a blazing sun. Cauldron energy poured out to merge with the star energy, and one sun became two, three, and then four blazing suns that hung over Lu Yin's outstretched hand.

Chapter 1717: Broken

The four suns did not seem to be particularly powerful, but the First Protector could feel an unusual aura from the technique as he stared at four blazing suns. "Incomplete. It feels unfinished."

Lu Yin dismissed the technique. "Of course it's incomplete. What was Senior able to sense?"

The First Protector showed a bitter smile. "How could I see through an invincible battle techniques that even Progenitors once desired with my paltry strength? Still, while it feels incomplete, there's something to it that causes my heart to twitch. It's possible that, as you get closer to completing the technique, you'll be able to find the secret. I felt as if something was staring up at me from the underworld. The feeling that I sensed from the Nine Cauldrons' Technique was as though it was alive."

Lu Yin frowned. "Senior, can battle techniques possess their own life?"

The First Protector also felt that this was a bit extreme. "I don't know, and it was just a feeling of being stared at."

Lu Yin's scalp went numb upon hearing these words.

"Let's go to the Daosource Sect's ruins. You're from the Fifth Mainland, so you should spend some time there," the First Protector said.

Lu Yin immediately took out two prayer mats, one for each of them. He then left some instructions with the Cloud Valley Master's first disciple, Emperor Luo, and the others before sitting down on the prayer mat next to the First Protector. They then disappeared and entered the Fifth Mainland's Daosource Sect ruins.

The ruins were truly magical, as no one knew their precise location, and yet, they could be entered with the prayer mats from anywhere in the Sixth Mainland, the Technocracy, and the Human Domain.

The only place that Lu Yin had not checked was if the ruins could be accessed from the Perennial World, and he intended to do so the next time he was there.

He had no concerns of being discovered while in the Technocracy. Although the prayer mats were a secret in the Fifth Mainland, that was not true in the Sixth Mainland, and it was possible that the people of the Technocracy already knew about them.

Lu Yin entered the Daosource Sect's ruins, and he appeared in the plaza of the First Divine Gate. The First Protector appeared there as well.

The First Protector looked around after entering, as this was a new experience for him. He was deep in thought regarding the various records concerning the Fifth Mainland's Daosource Sect.

"What a pity that the overlord of my Fifth Mainland fell so far," the First Protector lamented.

Several people from the Sixth Mainland looked over from a distance, and one of them approached the two men and offered a respectful bow. "Junior Liu Fei from the Bloodburn Realm greets Senior."

The First Protector looked at Liu Fei. "What's the matter?"

"May I boldly ask, does the Senior who has entered the Daosource Sect's ruins have any requests? We would be more than delighted to complete them for you," Liu Fei solemnly explained. As he spoke, several other people stepped forward and bowed.

After it was discovered that Lu Yin was in the process of receiving the Nine Cauldrons' inheritance, the Sixth Mainland started frequently sending older powerhouses into the Daosource Sect's ruins. In the past, very few older experts entered the ruins, as the place was treated as a place of opportunity for youths to explore. The older generation had done the same in their youth, and it had become tradition. However, Lu Yin had forced the Sixth Mainland to break their tradition, and it had become rather common to find older powerhouses wandering around the ruins. Now, the younger cultivators from the Sixth Mainland had started ignoring the Daosource Sect's ruins, and they instead focused on waiting for older experts to enter. Then, they would then try to make a connection with the older experts. After all, it was simply too difficult to gain anything from the ruins, as they had already been explored countless times over by countless people.

"No tasks. We're leaving," the First Protector casually replied.

Although the youths were unwilling to leave things be and wanted to say something more, the First Protector had already disappeared.

Lu Yin stepped onto the path to the First Divine Gate on his own, and he waited for the First Protector in Budding Terrace.

It did not take long for the First Protector to appear.

"Boy, I came here with you, but will I leave with you?" the First Protector suddenly asked.

Lu Yin was caught off guard, as he had completely forgotten that everyone stayed in the Daosource Sect's ruins for different lengths of time rather than a fixed amount, as it was based on one's spiritual force. Lu Yin would leave after a month, but that did not mean that the First Protector would as well.

"Senior, your spirit force should not be particularly strong, right?" Lu Yin asked hopefully as he nervously looked at the First Protector.

The First Protector considered the question. "I don't specialize in spiritual force."

Lu Yin let out a sigh of relief.

"But my spiritual force is still strong enough to kill you, kid," the old man said.

Lu Yin's heart sank. This was the end. He had completely forgotten about this detail. It was easy to enter the Daosource Sect's ruins, but leaving was an entirely different matter. With the First Protector's strength, it would not be surprising if he stayed in the ruins for several months. Would Lu Yin be forced to wait in First Edition City for several months until the old man returned? If that happened, then what was the point in visiting the Daosource Sect's ruins? It would have been better to just not visit and waste some time in First Edition City.

The Second Night King and Liu Huang were both still at the Ross Empire's mobile fortress, and if Lu Yin did not return for a long time, it was impossible to know what would happen. Things would be fine with the Second Nightking as he was restricted by the Sealed Cage Technique, but the same was not true of Liu Huang. His relationship with Lu Yin was closer to what Lu Yin had had with Liu Ye and Fei Hua.

Lu Yin felt trapped, as he had already come to the Daosource Sect's ruins. The only thing that he could do was continue forward. He also held out a bit of hope that he would be able to stay in the ruins for longer than before, as both his spiritual force and his cultivation level had improved greatly since going to the Perennial World. It was entirely possible for his time limit in the ruins to have increased as well.

These thoughts were the only way that Lu Yin could comfort himself.

Turning his focus to the Nine Cauldrons, Lu Yin hurried towards them with the First Protector. Along the way, Lu Yin gave the First Protector an introduction to Budding Terrace, Heaven's Pit, the Scripture Pavilion, the Platform of Inception, and the other places. After hearing Lu Yin's explanations, the First Protector became eager to explore.

Lu Yin quickly cautioned the older man. "Senior, please remember that we're in the Daosource Sect's ruins, which is a place where Progenitors have shed blood. The Sixth Mainland's powerhouses typically

avoid this place not only in order to leave behind the remaining inheritances for their juniors, but also because it's easy for them to suffer a random accident in this place. It would be best if you don't roam about too much, Senior."

The First Protector gritted his teeth. "Why didn't you warn me about this before we got here?"

Lu Yin pursed his lips. "I forgot."

"Kid, you really are quite tricky. It's no wonder why you were able to conquer the Outerverse," the First Protector commented. Still, he did not seem particularly bothered, as this was just typical behavior for cultivators. How could one succeed at cultivation if they were constantly worried about others? The First Protector could not even count how many selfless people he had seen die early.

The experts standing guard at the entrance to the Nine Cauldrons Region were not always the same. After the Sixth Mainland learned that Lu Yin had obtained this lucky chance, all the eyes of the major powers in the Sixth Mainland had grown red. Each of them wanted to control the Nine Cauldrons Region, and as a result, the guards occasionally rotated. Who was standing guard also determined who was able to gain access to the space, as no one wanted to allow people from other powers to gain access to the Nine Cauldrons.

Man Li had been standing guard when Lu Yin had last visited, and Man Li had allowed people from the Arrow Sect to visit the Nine Cauldrons, as well as others from the Progenitor of Secret Arts' Territory while blocking almost everyone from the Progenitor of Combat's Territory and the Progenitor of Bloodlines' Territory. This time, Lu Yin saw that the Nine Cauldrons Region was being guarded by Ancestor Sightless, who was from the Bloodburn Realm. This man was a Cosmic Imprinter.

Lu Yin had already defeated Man Li once before, and during that session, he had shattered another one of the cauldrons. That had badly startled the Sixth Mainland, and after that incident, all of the guards stationed at the Nine Cauldrons Region had been a Cosmic Imprinter at minimum.

This was already the highest level of consideration that the Sixth Mainland could make. After all, it was impossible for someone like Zhutian Yinzhao to guard it in person. The cultivators at their level did not care about the Nine Suns Technique, and Master Qing Hua did not care.

Having Ancestor Sightless guard the Nine Suns Region was already enough to show the importance that the Sixth Mainland placed on Lu Yin.

Unfortunately, they didn't pay enough attention.

In the Nine Suns Region, Ancestor Sightless faced the First Protector with a dull expression and a circle of light behind him.

The circle of light was the ancestor's innate gift. During the Sixth Mainland's invasion, Lu Yin and the others had suffered greatly from this innate gift after they had entered the Innerverse from the Outerverse during a battle.

Given Ancestor Sightless's strength, his technique should be invincible, but he was currently facing the First Protector. The First Protector was someone of the same era as Arch-Elder Zen, and was an

unfathomable powerhouse even to the four venerables of the Sixth Mainland, . He simply stepped on the ring of light with one foot, knocking out Ancestor Sightless, who didn't even have enough time to notice his opponent.

In addition to the ancestor, there were more than ten other people in the Nine Cauldrons Region, but all of them were youths, and they instantly lost consciousness.

"Well, I did it. Nothing too unexpected, though that old guy there took a bit of effort to knock out," the First Protector commented in surprise as he looked at Ancestor Sightless.

Lu Yin replied, "He's an expert with a power level of a million. He's on the same level as Yuan Shi."

"Yeah, that's about right." The First Protector then looked out at the six cauldrons in the distance. "You said that there were nine cauldrons, so why are there only six?"

"Three broke."

The First Protector found this odd. "Broke? How did they break?"

Lu Yin told the truth, and after the First Protector heard the explanation, he stared at Lu Yin. "Kid, you better not have broken them on purpose so that no one else could learn the technique."

"Senior, if I was able to do that, then I wouldn't have needed to ask for your help," Lu Yin protested.

This made the First Protector think for a moment, as the Nine Cauldrons had been famous even when the Fifth Mainland's Daosource Sect had been standing strong. Those cauldrons were not something that Lu Yin could have damaged.

"Three cauldrons broke, and the pieces must have been taken away by people from the Sixth Mainland," Lu Yin explained. He then leaped up and entered the fourth cauldron. "This junior will start cultivating, so I will have to ask Senior to stand guard over me."

The First Protector just grunted as he approached the fifth cauldron. He stared at it for a long time and then entered the cauldron as well. He also wanted to see if he could grasp anything.

The Nine Cauldrons Region was no longer a public area. Anybody who qualified to enter the space would already be there, and nobody else would have any thoughts of visiting the place.

Lu Yin absorbed the cauldron energy, and soon, half a month passed. There was a bang, and the fourth cauldron shattered and collapsed.

The First Protector stared at the fragments of the fourth cauldron in shock. He had watched it break apart with his own eyes. This object had existed since ancient times, and while the First Protector had already been warned that it would happen, it was still a shock to see one of the Nine Cauldrons shatter.

The fourth cauldron had broken, and the sound roused Ancestor Sightless.

Ancestor Sightless sprang to his feet in horror. "A cauldron broke! Lu-"

But before he could say another word, he was knocked unconscious by the First Protector. "What a pain—I didn't use enough strength. I need to focus better next time."

Lu Yin looked at the shards of the broken fourth cauldron beneath his feet and then turned to look behind at the five remaining cauldrons. With a thought, his body flickered, and he appeared in the fifth cauldron. His time in the Daosource Sect's ruins had not run out yet, so he would continue absorbing the cauldron energy.

The First Protector did not say anything to Lu Yin. Instead, he bent down and picked up some of the broken cauldron fragments. When he squeezed down hard, the fragments were crushed into even smaller pieces. The old man was shocked; why were these pieces so fragile? He had already tested out one of the other cauldrons for half a month, but he had accomplished nothing at all. And yet, at this moment, the same material was so weak. Had something been extracted from the cauldron?

The old man thoughtfully looked over at the fifth cauldron. The youth had to be absorbing something from the cauldrons.

The First Protector was not the only one with such a thought, as the Sixth Mainland had come to the same conclusions. However, no one else was able to absorb anything from the cauldrons at all. Whatever it was that made the cauldrons indestructible was too valuable to not be desired.

A few days quickly passed, and a young man with an arrogant expression entered the Nine Cauldrons Region. He was a Realming, one of the newly appointed ones. All of the Realmings had permission to access the Nine Cauldrons and attempt to gain enlightenment, and this was the youth's first time entering the Daosource Sect after becoming a Realming.

He entered the space full of anticipation and excitement, eager to obtain the Nine Cauldrons Battle Technique. However, he passed out the moment he entered the region, and he never even saw anything.

Chapter 1718: Aspiring Youth

A day later, another person entered the place. He stepped right on Yu Zi's back before taking another step, only to also fall unconscious.

When Lu Yin's time was about to run out, he told the First Protector, "Senior, this junior is returning, as my time is up."

The First Protector stood. "I can't stay here any longer. Well, this old man will also go somewhere else."

He then stared at Lu Yin. "Don't leave First Edition City. Wait for me there."

Lu Yin replied, "If Senior's not there, how could I go to Sky Creation Academy? I will definitely find a way to stall for time."

Lu Yin's body disappeared from the Nine Cauldrons Region after he finished speaking.

After Lu Yin left, the First Protector had no reason to stay there, so he quickly left as well.

The fourth cauldron shattering was guaranteed to create major waves in the Sixth Mainland, as it meant that not even a Cosmic Imprinter was enough to stop Lu Yin. Would they need to send out Emyrean Imprinters after this?

Lu Yin appeared back in First Edition City, where he put away his prayer mat and exited the room.

The Cloud Valley Master's first disciple looked nervous when Lu Yin stepped out, and the Envoy quickly spoke up as soon as he saw Lu Yin. "The vice city master's looked for you several times! If you don't come with me to meet them, then their suspicions will be raised."

"Why would the vice city master look for me?" Lu Yin asked. "By the way, have the finals for the android competition started yet?"

"They've already started, but don't worry about that right now. Come on, we need to go see the vice city master," the Sixth Mainland's representative urged.

It was not long before Lu Yin was meeting with the vice city master along with the Cloud Valley Master's first disciple. In the past, the vice city master had not shown any interest in Lu Yin, but recently, they had been specifically requesting to meet with Lu Yin.

"Vice City Master, this is Ah Qi," the human Envoy politely introduced Lu Yin.

Lu Yin bowed. "Ah Qi greets the vice city master."

Lu Yin's appearance had been altered by the First Protector, so it would be difficult for anyone to see through his disguise.

The vice city master stared at Lu Yin. "Who do you represent?"

Lu Yin's eyes flickered. "The Daosource Sect's Protector Madam Hong."

The vice city master's voice dropped lower. "Why do you want to go to the battlefield? Specifically, the one where First Edition City fights against Sky Creation Academy."

Lu Yin had already guessed why the vice city master was looking for him, so his answer sounded perfectly natural. "First Edition City is unable to support us in the Outerverse because of your war with the Sky Creation Academy. I want to go to the battlefield to try to stop this war."

The vice city master let out a mocking laugh. "All by yourself?"

Lu Yin replied, "I understand that such thoughts are practically dreams, but in order to complete the mission that we've been given, all I can do is risk my life in an attempt. Even if stopping the war is impossible, stalling it would still be fine."

The vice city master gave a disdainful snort, ignored Lu Yin, and redirected his attention to the human Envoy. "Take care of your people and don't do anything unnecessary. You can visit the battlefield if you want, but don't hold anything against us when you die."

The bear then turned around and left.

The Cloud Valley Master's first disciple heaved a sigh of relief. His face had gone pale, and he glanced over at Lu Yin. He had heard of this youth even in the Sixth Mainland, and he was aware that Lu Yin excelled at stirring up trouble. Even the vice city master had personally stepped forward to deliver a warning.

The man felt that his life was on the line.

Lu Yin also let out a sigh of relief. As long as Little R10's research team won the competition, he would be able to visit the Technocracy's battlefield.

As far as the vice city master was concerned, Lu Yin was merely a loyal member of the Sixth Mainland. He was nothing more than an ambitious young man who was desperate to complete the mission that he had been given. In short, the vice city master saw Lu Yin as a stupid human being.

After the meeting with the vice city master ended, Lu Yin looked up above the city. There was a huge display in the sky broadcasting the android competition.

This android competition was essentially the Technocracy's equivalent of how humans battled for supremacy, but instead, it was a competition between androids.

Little R10 was the dark horse and challenger in this competition, and without Lu Yin's help, he would have been resigned to an upcoming loss.

But because of the materials that Lu Yin had provided, in just a month's time, Little R10's android had changed dramatically.

Lu Yin could not help himself from admiring the fight that he saw on the screen between the two androids.

Little R10's android was overpowering the former champion team's android. Even though the former champions had an odd android with powerful weapons, Little R10's design was even better.

Lu Yin had seen many odd methodologies from the Technocracy, such as the lightforms that formed giant beasts, or mechanical creatures that were controlled like the beasts in the Beast Tamers Flowzone.

Lu Yin was unable to understand most of the Technocracy's techniques, which was due to the sheer technological gap between the Human Domain and the Technocracy. He could not even understand the purpose of many of the Technocracy's weapons.

On the other hand, any battle techniques could be recorded down by the Technocracy as long as the technique was witnessed.

The android competition was very exciting, and the rewards were extremely generous. The competition had taken up the entire city's attention, but as far as Lu Yin was concerned, the battle was a bit dull. This was because even Little R10's most powerful android was only as strong as an Enlighter. Still, this was quite impressive. After all, how long did it take for a human to cultivate to that level of power?

There are many research teams throughout the Technocracy, but how many of them were able to design an android as strong as an Enlighter? Most such teams represented First Edition City, as it was so powerful that it would be a force to be reckoned with even in a fight against the entire Human Domain.

At this moment, the only thing able to rouse Lu Yin's interest was the fight between First Edition City and Sky Creation Academy.

"Have you ever met the city master?" Lu Yin asked the Cloud Valley Master's first disciple.

The Envoy shook his head. "I haven't ever seen them. The first time I came here, I was led by Bluedome Elder. His Excellency has met the city master, but I was not allowed to meet them."

Lu Yin looked up. It would be great if he could see runes in this place.

Lu Yin had no idea just how large a wave he had stirred up in the Sixth Mainland by shattering the fourth cauldron in the Daosource Sect's ruins. They had decided to force the Great Eastern Alliance out of the Outerverse and take complete control of the Outerverse. However, the Great Eastern Alliance would be allowed to retain their full territory if Lu Yin handed over what he had obtained from the Nine Cauldrons.

If Lu Yin refused to cooperate, then the Sixth Mainland would drive the Great Eastern Alliance out of the Outerverse. If he agreed, his Great Eastern Alliance would be preserved.

This meant that the Sixth Mainland was willing to trade a massive region of the Outerverse for a single battle technique. This was an incredible offer.

Naturally, they did not expect Lu Yin to agree, so the Sixth Mainland was simply waiting for the Technocracy to send androids to support them in their attack on the Human Domain.

In addition to the threat that the Sixth Mainland posed, the Great Eastern Alliance was also being targeted by the major powers of the Innerverse. At this moment, the Great Eastern Alliance was facing a situation that closely resembled what Madam Hong had predicted when she had spoken to Lu Yin. The difference was that the Great Eastern Alliance was not as weak as it had been in the past, and Lu Yin was in control. The Innerverse powers were completely ignorant as to the Sixth Mainland's true power.

As for the Sixth Mainland, they were clueless to the fact that Lu Yin was currently sabotaging their cooperation with First Edition City.

No upsets occurred in the android competition, and Little R10 eventually won.

After his victory, he immediately went to find Lu Yin. "Ah Qi, I won! Haha, I won! And it's all because of the materials that you provided! Ah Qi, thank you."

Lu Yin looked at Little R10's excited face on the display, and he happily replied, "Congratulations, friend!"

"Ah Qi, didn't you still want to see the battlefield? I've already submitted an application to the vice city master, and they agreed to allow me to assemble an independent army," Little R10 stated. Personally, he did not care about the battlefield at all, but he was very concerned about gaining First Edition City's support.

After his victory, Little R10 had received a great amount of materials from the vice city master, and it was enough to assemble an entire army of androids, though not a large one. At best, there would be a hundred. On top of that, due to the scarcity and rarity of the required materials, the androids would only have the strength of an Explorer. Still, this was enough. While First Edition City was forcing Little R10 to fight on the battlefield, they did not expect him to achieve anything. As for Lu Yin, he just wanted to witness and see the battlefield for himself.

Lu Yin's eyes lit up. "When do you leave?"

"You'll need to wait a while. I want to first put together a hundred androids, as I won't have an army otherwise," Little R1O replied.

Lu Yin nodded. He had no idea when the First Protector would return. "Take your time and don't worry. I'll wait for you."

"Alright. I'll let you know when I'm done. Ah Qi, thank you," Little R1O repeated before hanging up the call.

After the call ended, Emperor Luo's eyes flickered red. "The war between First Edition City and Sky Creation Academy is absolutely brutal, and the androids will all be shattered. If we really want to go there, then we'll have to determine Sky Creation Academy's location in advance. Otherwise, we might stumble into a monitored region when we try to move over."

Lu Yin already understood this. Their original plan had been to travel to the place closest to Sky Creation Academy via the route that Emperor Luo had once used to escape from the Technocracy. The First Protector would carry all of them through the true universe, and they would then work to search for any traces of the Neohuman Alliance. If they found a large number of corpse kings near Sky Creation Academy, that was proof enough that the Neohuman Alliance was working with Sky Creation Academy.

The plan was not perfect, but it was the best that they had been able to come up with to investigate Sky Creation Academy.

However, no one was aware that Lu Yin had never held any real plans to go to Sky Creation Academy. As long as he could reach the Technocracy's main battlefield, he would be able to carry out his plan.

Whether or not he could travel far enough to reach Sky Creation Academy or even investigate the potential presence of corpse kings was completely irrelevant to Lu Yin.

All Lu Yin needed to do was wait for the First Protector to return and for Little R1O to finish producing his androids.

Lu Yin did not expect this to be a short wait, so after thinking for a bit, Lu Yin brought out his die to try to roll six pips. There was nothing faster or more accurate for gathering information than Possessing people and browsing through their memories.

He quickly set up a Channeling Diagram sourcebox array around himself before lifting a hand and bringing out his die. After tapping it, he watched as it slowly came to a stop on two pips. Useless. Again.

The second roll was three pips, and Lu Yin waved his hand to dismiss the two screens of light. He continued, and his third roll landed on six pips. Lu Yin's eyes lit up. He had already set his cosmic ring aside before rolling, only keeping a small bit of star essence on his person, as he wanted to be sure that his Possession would be limited to people within the Technocracy. This should work out!

He entered the strange space filled with balls of light. Some of them were dim while others shone brightly.

Lu Yin saw a light that was too intense for him to merge with, and he continued on searching for a ball of light that would accept him.

Once he reopened his eyes, everything he saw made him feel as though he was in a dream.

The starry expanse of outer space was the same as ever, but there were countless rays of light that stretched into the unseen distance. Inside those rays of light was an enormous mechanical claw. An unbelievably far distance away, there was another one. Shockingly, there were massive mechanical claws at regular intervals.

He was in the Technocracy, and Lu Yin had Possessed an android with a power level of over 600,000.

When normal people looked about, the Technocracy appeared to be no different from the Human Domain. However, the Technocracy had an additional means of surveillance, which were these enormous mechanical claws that were concealed within the Technocracy's space. Thus, anyone who entered the Technocracy would be discovered.

The androids were able to see an additional level within the Technocracy, as they were able to sense more layers of space than humans. Thus, androids were able to perceive a layer of space unique to the Technocracy, and this layer contained the gigantic claws that carried the light of the Technocracy.

Chapter 1719: Thoughts Brought To Reality

Humans were able to walk and stand on the ground. After cultivating for a time, they could even fly and see much further than before. Androids could also walk across the ground or fly, but they were also capable of something more than humans, which was that they were able to access the unique layer of space that was filled with the light of the Technocracy. This unique layer of space was not a physical dimension, but something similar to the network of the Human Domain.. However, the Technocracy's unique layer of space was actually tangible and could be physically manifested.

This was also how those giant mechanical claws were able to remain hidden.

A tremendous number of memories struck Lu Yin as he was overwhelmed by the android's memories. He quickly understood that he was at the border of the Technocracy and the Innerverses, and was actually quite close to where he had entered the Technocracy years ago when the Ghost Monkey had dragged him in. Lu Yin also learned that the androids were able to directly access the light-filled layer of space, which meant that they did not need to use gadgets to send and receive messages. The network that humans believed connected the Technocracy was nothing more than an illusion.

What Lu Yin found even more incredible was that he discovered that the Technocracy was actually a unified entity that was enveloped within the Master Brain's thoughts that connected the entire region of space. The rays of light that Lu Yin was looking at were the Master Brain's thoughts.

Thoughts that were actually able to be manifested. Lu Yin would never have believed such a thing if he had not been able to access the memories of this android.

This actually meant that the clouds of light that carried First Edition City and the pipes that the supercomputers used to move about the city were nothing more than materialized thoughts.

Lu Yin had been moving about in other creatures' thoughts! This realization caused Lu Yin to feel chills that covered his entire body.

What a terrifying revelation this was! The entire Technocracy was completely controlled by the Master Brain. Lu Yin would never have learned this detail if he had not Possessed an android with the strength of an Envoy, as it was impossible that any average android would be allowed this information.

Androids could not betray the Technocracy. Emperor Luo was a cyborg that had originally been a human being, which meant that he had never been an android that was completely controlled by a dominant consciousness. This had been the reason that Emperor Luo had been able to escape the Technocracy, and also why he was ignorant of the truth of the Technocracy. The true androids were not even capable of possessing a thought of escape.

Lu Yin continued browsing the memories, and he was able to access an incomparably massive base of knowledge. Through these memories, Lu Yin was able to observe the war with Sky Creation Academy, as well as the war against the Human Domain. More and more memories kept pouring in.

Suddenly, Lu Yin returned to the strange space filled with spheres of light once again.

Lu Yin glanced around. His Possession had ended, as his star essence had been consumed.

The advantage of keeping a smaller amount of star essence on his person during a Possession was that he could somewhat limit the physical distance between himself and his target, but the disadvantage was that his Possessions were too brief.

With Lu Yin's eyes open once more, he looked down at the soles of his feet. He was currently inside the physical thoughts of the Master Brain, so did that mean that the Master Brain had already analyzed every detail of Lu Yin? The Master Brain was in control of the entire Technocracy, so why did the war between First Edition City and Sky Creation Academy?

More and more, Lu Yin felt that there was something wrong with the Technocracy. What had been Progenitor Hui's true purpose in establishing the Technocracy? Lu Yin was becoming more desperate to learn the truth than even Hui Kong.

An android with the power of an Envoy had access to so much information that Lu Yin felt inspired, and he quickly continued rolling his die.

One pip. Useless.

He needed to wait ten days before he could roll the die again. Ten days was not long for cultivators.

Lu Yin had already seen a lot of information about First Edition City with the gadget he had been provided. Everything he had access to was various humans' impressions of the Technocracy.

However, how could any of the humans be aware of the fact that the Master Brain covered the entire Technocracy, or that it was the Master Brain that had fought against the Human Domain for so many years and had traded with the Sixth Mainland.

Ten days quickly passed, and Lu Yin was impatient to roll his die again.

One roll. Two. Three. It was not until his fourth roll that he managed to roll a six. The moment he entered the strange space, Lu Yin had a suspicion that he would find it more and more difficult to roll six pips if he continued on. He had already seen this pattern before, as the more frequently he used his die, the more difficult it became to roll three or six pips. The reverse was also true.

There are many balls of light in the strange space, but Lu Yin immediately merged with a brighter orb. When he next opened his eyes, a large hand was falling. He was suddenly sent into complete darkness, and then returned to the strange space as he was sent back to his body. Sweat poured out of his entire

body, and the black and white mist within his chest suddenly surged and increased a small bit. He had just died, and it had been an instantaneous death.

Lu Yin's pupils fluctuated a moment. Even though it had been an incredibly brief experience, he had realized that he had felt the power of a Progenitor during his Possession. It had felt the same as when the Progenitor of Combat had appeared at ZENITH, or when Lu Yin had seen the scene of the fight between Progenitors in the Celestial Frost Sect's ruins. When Lu Yin had Possessed the body, it had felt like the body of a corpse king that had the strength of an Envoy. That corpse king had been instantly killed by a Progenitor.

Where had that been? The most likely answer was the Starfall Sea, just outside the horizontal black hole.

Lu Yin let out a long breath. He had died without even seeing where he had been. This was the first time he had been killed by a Progenitor.

His impression of the Sixth Mainland's three Progenitors had always been based off the fact that the Progenitor of Combat had been badly injured by the Rune Progenitor's remnant power in the Inverse, and also how the Progenitor of Secret Arts had destroyed Aeternus Nation, but had also been badly injured in the process.

The fact that both Progenitors had been seriously wounded had given Lu Yin a bad impression of the Progenitors' strength. They were far from being able to match up to Progenitor Chen or the Rune Progenitor, and they could not even compare to the Perennial World's Progenitors. However, this slap had been a wakeup call for Lu Yin: Progenitors were still Progenitors. No matter how weak the three Progenitors from the Sixth Mainland might be within their realm, they had each trained, step by step, to reach their level. They had all opened their three meridian points as well, as it was a requirement to become a Progenitor.

Anyone who managed to reach the level of a Progenitor would have been peerless within their realm. It was impossible to take such people lightly.

Lu Yin smiled bitterly; he had been slapped to death by a Progenitor. That corpse king had also been unlucky. What had the creature been doing in front of a Progenitor? The creature had not even struck the Starfall Sea before it had died.

Lu Yin continued rolling his die.

He watched as the die slowly came to a stop at one pip, and then a piece of grilled meat fell out. Lu Yin pursed his lips, and the meat was instantly reduced to ash. He needed to wait another ten days.

He had no idea when the First Protector would return, but Lu Yin was hoping it would not be far off from when Little R10 completed making his androids.

Ten days later, Lu Yin again raised his hand to continue rolling the die.

Lu Yin had no idea if it was good luck or bad luck, but on his very first attempt, he rolled Possession.

Lu Yin entered the mysterious space, and he did not hesitate at all before merging with a close and relatively bright orb, hoping it would be someone who was rather close to the Technocracy.

Lu Yin opened his eyes as soon as he Possessed the new body. He was met by a very familiar scene: he was not in the Human Domain, but in First Edition City.

Lu Yin had not expected to be able to Possess anyone in First Edition City. He had actually Possessed an android, so it could not be considered an actual creature.

Lu Yin looked down a transportation tube at the city that was held up by the cloud of light and his eyes darted around. If anyone from the Technocracy saw him at this moment, they would be stupefied. This was because Lu Yin had Possessed an android that was missing a dominant consciousness. It was merely a tool that could be used at any time that had the strength of an Envoy.

The city master held complete control of First Edition City, and the city controlled half of the Technocracy. Under the city master's orders, countless androids had been assembled. Some of the androids were kept in First Edition City for the dominant consciousnesses to use, while others were sent to be used as combat units.

Lu Yin had Possessed a top combat model android that had the strength of an Envoy.

The die's Possession ability could allow Lu Yin to Possess the body of a biological creature or something similar. He had learned this after Possessing Tian Hou, as it had meant that even something with a body that was closer to a black hole than a biological creature could be Possessed. After that, Lu Yin had also Possessed a mechanical ant, so an android was not really out of the question.

He had previously believed that he merged with the consciousness of an individual when Possessing their body, but he had come to understand that it was the vessel that he Possessed as well. As long as there was a vessel, he could Possess it.

There was no dominant consciousness present in the android, so it was nothing more than a tool. However, since it was able to be controlled by a consciousness, it was able to be Possessed.

Lu Yin was unfortunate that there was no dominant consciousness in the android, as it meant that there were no memories available. This Possession was wasted.

He turned his head and looked around. The android was somewhere high up in First Edition City, but Lu Yin was unfamiliar with the location. He had only been to a few places near the center, and the city was too big for him to have seen everything.

Aside from the android that Lu Yin had Possessed, there were three others in the same location, and it seemed that they all possessed the strength of Envoys.

It was not unusual for the same person to own four different androids with similar strength.

Lu Yin moved the body, and walked it forward, as he wanted to look around. It would be best if he could find something useful, but as soon as the android moved, a nearby alarm went off and strands of metal shot out from all directions to bind the android in place.

Lu Yin felt that this was a problem, as he had apparently been discovered. Not knowing what else to do, he moved to the room's door and punched, creating a deafening noise. Given the fact that the android was as strong as an Envoy, the void was shattered all around.

The alarm suddenly grew even more intense, and Lu Yin took the chance to evade the binding strands of metal approaching him.

The android he had Possessed was located in a lightform structure that was very high up in the city. Lu Yin's attack on the door had torn the void, and it caused the lightform structure to generate sparks and grow chaotic.

There was a transport tube nearby, and a row of supercomputers—no, a row of dominant consciousnesses exited the tube close to Lu Yin. There was the slightest flicker of light, which was an indication that the dominant consciousnesses were thinking and communicating with each other.

For them, seeing the Possessed android was like a human seeing a corpse rise up and move.

Lu Yin frowned. The star essence that he had set aside for this Possession would not last long. Thinking quickly, he raised an arm up high, and slammed it down. In front of him, the face of a massive bear suddenly appeared with raised arms. It was the vice city master.

Not only did Lu Yin's android fail to injure the vice city master's bear-shaped android, to Lu Yin's shock, the lightform structure cracked beneath his feet, and he fell.

The vice city master looked confused. "What's going on? Who's using the android? Are they trying to rebel?"

Suddenly, the bear's expression froze. It seemed they were receiving a message. After less than a second, rage overtook the bear's face, and its gaze turned malevolent. Unbelievable as it was, this android had gone out of control, but how was that even possible?

There was no such thing in the Technocracy as an android going out of control. Could it be a cyborg that had once been a human? No, as how could such a thing be in this place?

The bear form of the vice city master looked down.

Half of the android body that Lu Yin had Possessed was completely shattered. He took a moment, and then looked up, meeting the vice city master's eyes. They each saw the shock on the other's face.

Lu Yin was amazed at the vice city master's strength, as the bear had not even attacked Lu Yin. All the bear had done was block Lu Yin's attack, and yet the android with the strength of an Envoy had been shattered. This was an unimaginable level of power.

As for the vice city master's heart sank as it looked down again at Lu Yin. The bear shouted, "Who are you?" as it charged down.

Lu Yin forced the half-destroyed android to raise itself up and release as powerful of an attack as possible. The next instant, the vice city master was there, pressing a paw to the back of the android Lu Yin had Possessed.

Chapter 1720: The Sophic Rift

The moment Lu Yin opened his own eyes again, he immediately rose to go outside. He was trying to find where he had just been in the city. However, the commotion from Envoy-level androids fighting had not spread to where Lu Yin and the others stayed, as First Edition City was just too big.

Given such a big commotion, it was guaranteed that First Edition City would investigate the matter, and given the abilities of the Technocracy, it was possible that Lu Yin could be discovered at any moment. The First Protector had still not returned, which made this a very bad situation.

Lu Yin left his quarters and saw the First Protector outside with his back to Lu Yin.

"Senior!" Lu Yin was ecstatic.

The First Protector held up a hand. His face was solemn. Lu Yin followed the old man's eyes to see countless androids and several of the enormous mechanical claws had surrounded them from all directions.

The Cloud Valley Master's swordsman's face was pale; was it over? Had they been discovered?

The vice city master emerged from the true universe, still using the bear-shaped android. They looked at the swordsman in a searching manner. "Bring out everyone from your group."

The human subconsciously glanced over at Lu Yin, and Lu Yin's eyes flickered. He quickly stepped forward, and at the same time, the First Protector, Emperor Luo, and everyone else in their group followed the swordsman out.

Lu Yin was nervous, as he had created a bigger mess than he had expected. He was also scared of the power within First Edition City that left even Arch-Elder Zen on edge. Lu Yin was worried that someone would be able to see through his disguise that the First Protector had arranged for him, as that would mean that they would have to try to escape.

His die's Possession ability had always brought Lu Yin great benefits, but this time it had caused terrible problems, as there was no way out of this.

The bear form of the vice city master glanced at the human Envoy, Lu Yin, and even the First Protector. He saw all of the humans, as there were not many in their group. This was strange, could it not have been them?

"Vice City Master, what happened?" the Cloud Valley Master's swordsman asked nervously.

The bear and the human stared at each other. "Have any of your people left recently?"

The Envoy instantly replied, "No."

The huge bear's face swept back over all of the humans. None of them showed any signs of injuries, and it was impossible for any of them to have arrived before the vice city master, given their speed. Also, there had been no trace of them near the location of the rogue android. This matter had nothing to do with these humans.

"Apart from you Sixth Mainlanders, are there any other humans?" the bear asked.

The swordsman shook his head. "No, this is all of us."

"Are you sure? If we find anyone else, we will kill them without any mercy," the vice city master replied.

The swordsman was quick to try to reassure the bear, "Anyone else is not part of our group, as we're all here."

The bear nodded. "It was best to do this, as there could easily have been misunderstandings otherwise."

With that, the vice city master and all of the other androids left.

The swordsman heaved a sigh of relief when he saw the surrounding androids all leave. While he had no idea what had happened, he felt that anything going on had to have something to do with Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was still just happy to see the First Protector had returned, as his absence would have been very difficult to explain.

"What happened?" the First Protector asked in a deep voice. As soon as he had returned, he had been met with this situation. If he had not hidden his strength, he would have wanted to flee.

The Cloud Valley Master's swordsman shook his head, and then looked at Lu Yin with a bewildered expression.

The First Protector also looked over at Lu Yin. "What did you do this time?"

Lu Yin quickly tried to clear himself. "I don't know. I was in seclusion until just now, and I didn't do anything. Senior, you saw me come out."

The First Protector thought about Lu Yin's answer. He had returned a few days ago, and the Technocracy's androids had only just surrounded them. The First Protector had immediately looked for Lu Yin, and had seen that the youth had been present.

Could there be other humans in First Edition City aside from their group?

Who could possibly enter the Technocracy's capitol without being detected at all?

What Lu Yin was most concerned about was the possibility that this incident would change their plans to follow Little R10 to the battlefield. There were only a few ways to get to First Edition City, as it had always been difficult for anyone to hide from the Technocracy's surveillance and sneak in. This incident would be a terrible shock to First Edition City.

Lu Yin remained uneasy as he and the others waited for another ten days. After ten days, his gadget he had received from First Edition City beeped quietly. It was a call request from Little R10.

"Ah Qi, my friend! I've made all of the androids, see?" Little R10 excitedly showed off his recent creations to Lu Yin. Next to the researcher were rows of androids. There were a hundred of them, and they had all been made from the materials that had been provided by First Edition City. Little R10 had built his small army; these were the androids that were to be sent to the war against Sky Creation Academy.

This sort of thing was considered an honor by any of the dominant consciousnesses that lived in First Edition City. Similar to how Lu Yin had competed to enter Astral-10 from the Great Yu Empire, the dominant consciousnesses could receive glory by fighting against each other.

The Master Brain essentially controlled the entire Technocracy with its thoughts. Dominant consciousnesses were beings that could be controlled, but were also capable of independent thought. They also strove and fought for their accomplishments and desires.

Lu Yin was pleasantly surprised at this news. "Congratulations, Little R1O."

"Ah Qi, I've already submitted the application to the vice city master. You can choose a few of you clansmen or some other people to go with me to our battlefield with Sky Creation Academy, that is, the Sophic Rift. However, the one who brought you here, that swordsman, is not allowed to join." Little R1O looked a bit embarrassed to deliver this news. He had been clearly told by the vice city master that everyone in Lu Yin's group could go, but had very recently been told that the Envoy from the Sixth Mainland was no longer welcome to join the group.

Lu Yin hesitated. "Little R1O, could you ask the vice city master again? All of us are hoping to go see the battlefield."

Little R1O sighed. "I'm sorry, my friend. I would definitely do that if it would help, but the deputy mayor was very firm about this."

Lu Yin shrugged. "If that's how it is, then just forget it. We'll go."

Lu Yin then suddenly grew serious as he continued, "Little R1O, I don't want to lie to you; this trip to the battlefield isn't just because I want to see it. I also want to try to do as much as possible to stop the fighting, or at least stall things for a bit so that First Edition City can send more androids with us to the Outerverse to fight against the Human Domain.

"This is my goal for this trip. I don't want to lie to you about this."

Little R1O smiled. "I know, the vice city master already told me. Ah Qi, do whatever you want, as it won't affect our city. However-" He continued in a helpless tone, "I can't help you. You can only try to do this on your own. Don't worry though, I'll do my best to bring you back. After all, we're friends."

"Thank you, Little R1O." Lu Yin genuinely felt grateful. He chatted with Little R1O for a bit longer before hanging up. He then let out a sigh of relief, as it seemed that First Edition City did not doubt their group.

Despite countless years passing, no one had managed to sneak into the Technocracy undetected. Hui Kong had blatantly forced his way in at first, and it was unknown why First Edition City and Sky Creation Academy had never done anything about his presence. He had been allowed to live in the Technocracy for many, many years.

First Edition City had easily been able to determine the location of Lu Yin and the others in his group, which had made it easy to exclude them as suspects. However, it was their group that had been excluded as suspects, not the Sixth Mainland.

First Edition City had agreed to allow Lu Yin and the others to follow Little R1O to the battlefield, but the Cloud Valley Master's swordsman was kept behind as a hostage.

Lu Yin believed that First Edition City would never be able to determine the truth of what had happened. They felt that no one was able to enter their city without being detected, and no one could guess at the existence of Lu Yin's innate gift that was his die.

No matter what First Edition City believed to be true about the matter, Lu Yin was finally able to start towards the Sophic Rift.

the Sophic Rift was the name of the battlefield where First Edition City and Sky Creation Academy fought each other. No matter how the location of the battlefield changed, the name never changed.

No one knows what the Sophic Rift meant, especially humans. Many people had looked into the matter after learning the name of the battlefield was the Sophic Rift, as they hoped to be able to use the name as a starting point to look into the reason behind the endless war between First Edition City and Sky Creation Academy. However, no attempts had ever succeeded.

However, Lu Yin had come up with his own guess: the Sophic Rift was a gap in thought. The entire Technocracy was controlled by the Master Brain's materialized thoughts, but the battlefield could be a hole in the Master Brain's thoughts. This was what Lu Yin suspected to be true.

How could anyone who did not know the truth that formed the structure of the Technocracy guess at such a possibility?

Lu Yin had no idea if his thoughts were on track or completely wrong, and even if he was correct, he still did not understand why. Why would the Master Brain be divided? Could this be the same as a human with a multiple personality disorder?

The following day, Lu Yin received a message: Please go to the provided coordinates within two hours and report to the party there - First Edition City's Third Fleet.

Lu Yin knew almost nothing about First Edition City's fleets, but it seemed that the Third Fleet was about to be dispatched to the Sophic Rift to join the war against Sky Creation Academy.

For the first time since they had tried to enter the Technocracy from Endless Weave, Lu Yin and the First Protector were parting ways with the Cloud Valley Master's swordsman.

The Envoy stared at Lu Yin with eyes full of fear and questions about his future.

Lu Yin whispered, "As long as you don't do anything stupid, you can return to the Sixth Mainland and be at peace."

"You won't hurt me, right? If you get caught, I'll end up being taken down with you," the Envoy asked. This was his greatest fear from the moment that Lu Yin had mentioned that they could travel to the battlefield with Little R10. The swordsman had felt torn, but he could not betray Lu Yin and the First Protector.

If the Sixth Mainlander betrayed them, he would instantly die. Even if he did not expose them, he would be dragged down the moment that Lu Yin and the others had their true identities revealed, or if they did anything to harm First Edition City.

No matter what, the Envoy did not see a bright future for himself.

This was what was most terrifying for the Cloud Valley Master's swordsman; no matter how he looked at things, it seemed highly unlikely that he would be able to safely return to the Outerverse.

The First Protector coldly warned the Envoy, "Don't worry, we don't want to be discovered, and that's all you need to know."

The Envoy let out a sigh of relief. It was guaranteed that these people would be in grave danger if they were caught, so none of them would want to be discovered. "I can trust that."

Lu Yin spoke in a light tone, "Didn't I already tell you to write down everything that's happened and give it to someone you trust? That way, if you die, you'll still be able to expose us, and we don't want to die with you."

The Envoy's only option at this moment was to trust Lu Yin and the others.

Two hours later, to the east of First Edition City, Lu Yin, the First Protector, Emperor Luo, and three Envoys who had accompanied them all along saw Little R10. He was accompanied by an android.

"Ah Qi, this way!" Little R10 was very happy to see Lu Yin.

Lu Yin smiled and went to meet the researcher.

As soon as he was face to face with Lu Yin, Little R10 apologized again, "I'm sorry, my friend, but I wasn't able to convince the vice city master to allow all of you to go to the Sophic Rift."

Lu Yin just smiled. "You didn't need to do that, just us here will be going."

Little R10 looked past Lu Yin and saw the few others, along with the First Protector. "Just the few of you? You can bring more. The vice city master just said that that swordsman isn't allowed to go. Everyone else has permission."

"There's no need for that. If we can't succeed, then having more people with us will just mean more deaths," Lu Yin replied. First Edition City could never have dreamed that Lu Yin had been hoping for some accident to separate him and his companions from the Sixth Mainland cultivators. Before the vice city master had intervened, Lu Yin had been trying to come up with a plan to get rid of the Sixth Mainlanders after they reached the Sophic Rift.