

Odyssey 1731

Chapter 1731: A Trove Of A Secret Techniques

Kui Luo showed no surprise when he heard Lu Yin's words, though the First Protector would have been absolutely shocked if he had heard Lu Yin's request. First Edition City had fought against the Human Domain for eons. There had been people in the past who had wanted to stop the war and cooperate with the Technocracy, but all such attempts had failed. First Edition City had never shown even the slightest bit of goodwill towards the Human Domain, and yet Lu Yin wanted the two of them to cooperate.

Little Bear instantly started laughing and as he looked at Lu Yin with a mocking expression.

On the other hand, Midday showed great interest. "Cooperate? Alliance Leader Lu, are you toying with me?"

"I'm completely serious," Lu Yin solemnly replied.

The master of First Edition City answered, "The Hall of Honor has asked to cooperate with us before, but all such requests were rejected. My city has been at war with the Human Domain for countless years, and there has never once been any possibility of cooperation. What makes you bold enough to try?"

Lu Yin remained unflustered. "Because the Sixth Mainland is gone."

City Master Midday calmly gazed at Lu Yin for a long time.

Lu Yin finally continued, saying, "First Edition City cooperated with the Sixth Mainland for the materials that they supplied, and the people from the Sixth Mainland explained to me that your cooperation was based off of you fighting against the Human Domain in order to earn the supplied materials. With the Sixth Mainland destroyed, there is no longer any reason for you to cooperate with them, which makes it our turn."

"What? Do you think that your Human Domain has enough resources to even interest us? Even if there is, how can you represent the Human Domain? You can't represent the Hall of Honor! Even though I don't pay attention to the Human Domain's news, I still know that over the years, their hatred towards us is no worse than their hatred for the Sixth Mainland. Provide us with resources? What a joke!" Midday casually replied.

Lu Yin moved his fingers. "It would not be the Human Domain cooperating with you, but me."

Midday and Little Bear both stared at Lu Yin in shock. "You?"

Lu Yin nodded. "Yes, I am representing neither the Human Star Region nor the Great Eastern Alliance, but myself, Lu Yin. I will provide you with the resources that you need."

"Why you?" Little Bear could not stop himself from speaking up.

They had been cooperating with the massive Sixth Mainland, which had supplied First Edition City with untold resources over the years. Even if the city did decide to cooperate with the Human Domain, they should be negotiating with the Hall of Honor. No matter how rich and powerful Lu Yin might be, it was impossible for him to match the resources of the entire Human Domain.

Lu Yin just stared at Middy for a long time. "I don't have common materials that I can provide you with, but I do have some rare materials that ordinary people can't acquire, not even the Sixth Mainland. This is what I can provide you."

Middy's eyes flickered. "How can you possibly acquire materials that the Sixth Mainland can't?"

Lu Yin smiled. "Let me just say that it's an innate gift. I can perfectly separate the components of any substance, which allows me to obtain the purest form of the decomposed substance's original materials."

"Impossible!" Little Bear shouted while staring at Lu Yin. "Lies! Not even the best technology of my First Edition City can do that!"

Lu Yin condescendingly responded, "Just because you can't do something doesn't mean that I can't as well. Don't believe me? Let me prove it."

Middy silently stared at Lu Yin for a long time. His rationality insisted that Lu Yin's claims were impossible. Such rare materials had ancient origins, and they had all been used up long, long ago. While First Edition City did have a lot of items from the ancient eras, it was impossible to refine those items back into their raw materials. Thus, the only option was to search for new sources of those rare materials, but that was also impossible, as such things had all been dug up and used long ago. Despite all of that, this human youth was claiming to be able to perfectly refine and separate any material. How could this possibly be real?

Cultivators constantly fought throughout their long lives, and while experts with power levels of a million or Semi-Progenitors might have the strength of a god, there were still some things that were beyond their abilities.

Even Kui Luo looked at Lu Yin in surprise. Was it really possible for someone to perfectly refine any and all materials? This was very simple to do with regular items, and even some powerhouses that focused exclusively on battle were capable of doing so. However, those items never contained any truly rare materials. Such compounds could not be refined even with First Edition City's technology, so this was clearly not a simple claim to make.

There were even some items that looked to be perfectly ordinary but could not be refined either because of their age, an extremely complicated manufacturing method, or unique characteristics of the combined materials that did not allow for the item to be refined and recycled. No one could perfectly break down any substance, as it was simply impossible.

"City Master Middy, you can test me out. Find something that contains a material that you need but cannot refine. See whether I can refine it for you," Lu Yin said to the android.

Nothing happened for a long time, and then Middy looked at the bear-shaped android and winked.

Little Bear left.

Nothing was said for a long time.

"By the way, Alliance Lord Lu, was the commotion that broke out in my city some time ago connected to you?" Middy suddenly asked while staring straight at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's expression remained completely unchanged. "It doesn't matter."

The two stared at each other for a long time, but the android could not tell whether Lu Yin was hiding something or not. Actually, Midday also found this detail to be irrelevant because the android that had created a commotion had been quickly defeated without ever having any opportunity to go anywhere in First Edition City. He was still convinced that the Sixth Mainland was behind the incident, and he found it highly unlikely that there was any connection to Lu Yin.

Soon after, the bear returned, holding a shattered stone that was thrown to Lu Yin. He caught it, and his brows rose as he studied the stone.

"While this stone is just a stone, it contains a certain substance that's known as teardust. As long as you can extract that, I'll believe you," Midday solemnly declared.

Kui Luo was startled. "Teardust?"

Lu Yin grew curious. "Have you heard of it, Senior?"

Kui Luo nodded while still staring at the stone in amazement. "Teardust is a very ancient substance that hasn't been seen in countless years. I never expected to find some here."

He then looked up at Lu Yin. "Are you sure that you can purify this? You should know that teardust is extremely fragile. Not to mention you, but even someone who only just started cultivating could destroy teardust with the slightest bit of carelessness."

"What is it used for?" Lu Yin was curious.

Kui Luo. "Growing plants."

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Lu Yin blinked. "That's it?"

Kui Luo nodded. "That's it. It's actually a type of soil."

"Then why is it so valuable? Even Senior has heard of its value."

"It's said that plants grown in teardust will have greater spirituality than other plants of the same species. In fact, I once heard that Progenitor Hui's first Root of Intelligence was grown in teardust."

Lu Yin's expression changed, and he was suddenly overjoyed. "Really?"

"Alliance Leader Lu, please extract the teardust from this. How long will you need?" Midday finally interrupted to ask.

Lu Yin looked down at the stone in his hand. "Do you have anything more? Bring me all of it, as I don't have time to wait here and slowly refine it."

"As long as you are able to extract the teardust, our cooperation will begin. There will not be any need for Alliance Leader Lu to wait in First Edition City, as I will give you various items, and you can deliver them to us after they have been refined," Midday responded earnestly.

Lu Yin smiled. "You're acting like a decision's been made. However, City Master, I never mentioned my conditions for our cooperation. All I said was that I'm willing to cooperate with you."

"First extract the teardust." The master of First Edition City still did not believe Lu Yin's claims, so the android simply left.

Little Bear quickly caught up to Midday. "City Master, aren't you worried that he might already have some teardust that he can use to trick us?"

Midday took some time to reply. "If something so coincidental occurs, then it's simply fate to cooperate with him, so why fight it?"

Little Bear acted like he understood, though he actually did not.

Kui Luo also excused himself, leaving Lu Yin alone.

Lu Yin returned to the room where he had secluded himself before, and his eyes sparkled as a rush of energy swept out from Kui Luo that prevented First Edition City from monitoring Lu Yin.

"Don't worry about it," Kui Luo's voice reached Lu Yin.

He looked up, feeling as though he was able to see the Master Brain's manifested thoughts. Lu Yin did not know if the Master Brain could still see him at this moment, but even if it could, it was fine. Lu Yin's goal was to first roll his die's two pips, after which he could hide any of his die's other abilities.

While an innate gift for purifying materials into their raw state was rare, it was not enough to put Lu Yin in any danger.

He set his cosmic ring aside, and he also made sure that he did not have any star essence on himself.

He raised a hand and brought out his die. His finger tapped it, and after it slowly spun around, it stopped on five pips.

Lu Yin felt frustrated. While both Kui Luo and the First Protector had innate gifts, Lu Yin did not dare to rush over to either of them within the time limit of ten seconds and touch them. Instead, he rolled the die again.

The second roll resulted in three pips, but Lu Yin just shook his head when he saw the two screens made of light. He rolled again.

His third roll was lucky, as the dark vortex of his Blackhole Disassembly appeared. Lu Yin instantly threw the shattered rock in, and several different substances fell out. Lu Yin could only recognize the most common shards of rock, but there were also some bits of red and gray powder.

He threw everything back into the vortex, but nothing was refined any further. The materials were already at their purest.

That meant that one of the three substances before him was teardust. He felt that the gray dust was the most likely suspect as there was very little of it.

Lu Yin collected a bit of everything that had come out of the stone. While he needed to produce some of the teardust to prove his abilities, he did not need very much, and the androids had no idea how much had originally been in the stone.

Lu Yin's Blackhole Disassembly could only last for five minutes, but Lu Yin was in no hurry, as accomplishing his task too quickly would merely rouse suspicions.

After the vortex disappeared, Lu Yin closed his eyes and began practicing the Cosmic Art.

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Two days passed, and during this time, Little Bear had stopped by twice only to see that Lu Yin was still in seclusion. The bear's eyes remained indifferent as he left, as he did not believe that Lu Yin could accomplish his task.

Right when Little Bear arrived for the third time, Lu Yin emerged.

Little Bear quickly approached Lu Yin, and the bear's eyes were locked onto Lu Yin. "Did you fail?"

Kui Luo and the First Protector both looked at Lu Yin with curiosity as well.

Lu Yin smiled and lifted his hand. In it were several different types of debris. "Please check if any of this is teardust."

Little Bear stared at the powders in Lu Yin's hand, especially the gray powder. The android was completely shocked.

A good bit later, Midday also arrived. This time, he was using a different android as his vessel, and it was far more powerful than the one that he had used to meet with Lu Yin earlier. Upon seeing the gray powder in Lu Yin's hands, Midday looked up at Lu Yin. "Alliance Leader Lu, I look forward to cooperating with you."

Lu Yin handed the gray dust over to the Vice City Master as the First Protector watched on in a daze. Lu Yin then smiled at Midday. "Please come in."

"Thank you." Midday's tone of voice when speaking to Lu Yin had already completely changed.

The First Protector was still in a daze, dumbfounded from seeing how Lu Yin was just smiling and chatting with the master of First Edition City. How was this possible? The Hall of Honor had tried to negotiate or cooperate with First Edition City for so many years, but nothing had ever worked. What had Lu Yin done to pull it off?

Times were truly changing.

The Outerverse getting cut off from the Innerverse had allowed Lu Yin to unite the Outerverse, which had previously been seen as impossible. The Sixth Mainland's destruction had given Lu Yin the opportunity to cooperate with First Edition City.

Comparing the destroyed Sixth Mainland, which could no longer meet the First Edition City's needs, to Lu Yin, who was able to provide them with exceptionally rare materials, it was clear which one was more

worthy of the city's cooperation. Lu Yin had become a treasure in the eyes of First Edition City's City Master.

For the Technocracy, raw materials were comparable to battle techniques and cultivation arts in the Human Domain. If Middy's perspective was converted to a human perspective, then Lu Yin was no different from a trove of secret techniques!

Chapter 1732: New Terms

Even Little Bear's expression was different when he looked at Lu Yin. His guess that Lu Yin might have coincidentally possessed some teardust had vanished the moment the red powder had appeared. Even though the red powder was nowhere near as valuable as teardust, it was still a rare material. Although Little Bear had not said anything about the red powder, he had absolutely kept an eye on it.

The moment the red debris appeared, Little Bear had become absolutely certain that Lu Yin had truly extracted teardust, not brought out some that he had already possessed.

At this moment, Little Bear was looking at Lu Yin with a completely different light in his bear eyes. It was the same light that had appeared whenever he saw people from the Sixth Mainland before it had been destroyed.

Lu Yin and First Edition City's City Master spoke for a long time, though no one knew what words were exchanged between them. Even Kui Luo was ignorant of their conversation, though he simply was not interested in finding out.

From Kui Luo's point of view, Lu Yin was still traveling down the wrong path. A cultivator should focus exclusively on their cultivation, not waste time on these trivial matters.

Two days after Lu Yin's meeting with Middy, Little Bear was asked to bring out the Cloud Valley Master's swordsman.

The Envoy looked nervous when he appeared. His face was pale, and he looked quite ill.

"When we first captured you, you said that you didn't know who those people were, correct?" Little Bear asked in a cold tone.

The swordsman's voice shook as he answered, "I really don't know! I really don't!"

Little Bear just sneered, "Are you saying that you don't know Lu Yin?"

The Envoy was completely shocked, and his heart dropped to the bottom of a pit. Everything was over. First Edition City knew! Lu Yin and those with him would never know what the swordsman said, and he did not want to die. "Vice City Master, I was not part of this, but Lu Yin and the people with him planted a self-binding cocoon inside my body with an innate gift, forcing me to bring them here. I didn't want to lie to you, but if I hadn't, they would have killed me!"

Little Bear calmly stared at the swordsman. The bear then stood and moved behind the human. "A self-binding cocoon?"

The man nodded. "That's right. It's the innate gift of that old man following Lu Yin around. His innate gift is extremely powerful, and it can ignore distance to instantly kill me anywhere."

"If that's true, then why aren't you already dead?"

"Because I didn't say anything."

"But we already know about them, so why would Lu Yin believe that you weren't the one to tell us?"

The swordsman was startled, but he also found himself unable to answer this question.

Little Bear disdainfully said, "Ignore distance? You actually believed that? Let me tell you, Lu Yin and those others ran away long ago and fled the Technocracy. They can't do anything to you."

The swordsman was initially shocked, but he quickly became ecstatic. "Really? They escaped?"

Little Bear stared at the man with cold eyes. "Are you happy about that?"

The human quickly dropped his head. "I wouldn't dare."

Little Bear sat back down. "Tell me what they were trying to do here."

First Edition City already knew about Lu Yin's true identity, so the Sixth Mainland Envoy felt like he had no reason to hide anything, and he freely shared everything he knew.

Little Bear listened quietly before staring towards the Sophic Rift. It looked like Lu Yin actually had not lied. He really had wanted to visit the Sophic Rift even before he entered the Technocracy. How had he known that Origin Matter would appear there? Had someone told him?

"That's all I know. Vice City Master, Lu Yin and the others never even considered visiting First Edition City at the beginning, as their only goal was to get to the battlefield between First Edition City and Sky Creation Academy, though I have no idea why they wanted to go there." The swordsman spoke in a bitter tone, as he saw himself as an unlucky man. There were so many ways to enter the Technocracy from Endless Weave, and yet Lu Yin and the others had chosen the same particular path as him.

"I know their goal," Little Bear replied.

The human was shocked, but he did not ask.

"Lu Yin wanted to get to the Sophic Rift because of... Origin Matter," Little Bear solemnly explained.

The swordsman was confused, and he had no idea what Origin Matter even was.

Little Bear stared at the human. "I don't blame you for Lu Yin's actions. All I can say is that you were truly unfortunate. However, you can forget about us sending any androids to the Outerverse to help you with the Human Domain. We won't send even a single one."

The Cloud Valley Master's swordsman instantly grew pale. "Lord Vice City Master, there has never been a problem with your First Edition City cooperating with my Sixth Mainland. Even if Lu Yin caused some problems, it has nothing to do with my Sixth Mainland! This-"

Little Bear suddenly interjected, saying, "If it has happened once, then it will happen twice. Do you expect us to do nothing the next time someone from your Sixth Mainland is forced to bring outsiders into my city? Do not forget that my First Edition City has suffered this time because of this."

The swordsman remembered that he had been interrogated by First Edition City during the earlier commotion. When they had started questioning him, he had already guessed that Lu Yin and the others had made a move, but the investigation had shown no connection at all, which had greatly relieved the swordsman. However, regardless of if this new incident had anything to do with the Envoy, how could he possibly not be held somewhat responsible for escorting Lu Yin into the Technocracy?

The man went completely cold at this realization. He was the cause for First Edition City ending their cooperation with the Sixth Mainland, and not even ten of his lives would be enough to compensate for this loss. He would absolutely die upon returning.

The more the man thought about it, the more frightened he became. "Lord Vice City Master, please forgive me! What happened in your city this time was absolutely not something that Lu Yin and the others did! Also, this lowly one doesn't dare to ask that you send many androids, but please follow through with your initial offer! Just send as many as you can. If your First Edition City cuts off my Sixth Mainland, this one will absolutely die! Please, Vice City Master!"

After a long while, Little Bear finally said, "It's not that it's impossible to cooperate with your Sixth Mainland, but because of what happened due to Lu Yin's presence here, our cooperation will need to be renegotiated."

The Envoy was completely confused, and he could not understand what the android meant. Still, the only option was to listen to the end and hear all the details.

"The Sophic Rift is continuously drifting closer to First Edition City, and we are falling to more and more of a disadvantage in our war against Sky Creation Academy. This is why we need the Sixth Mainland's support for First Edition City: we need you to attack Sky Creation Academy from the opposite direction," Little Bear explained.

The swordsman was startled. "Attack Sky Creation Academy?"

"That's right, attack Sky Creation Academy. Of course, resources will also need to be supplied, as that agreement is the very foundation of any sort of cooperation between us."

The Envoy was facing a true dilemma; how could he make the decision to attack Sky Creation Academy?

"If you don't want to agree, then forget the matter." Little Bear's voice grew cold.

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The human started begging once again.

The bear-shaped android relented a bit. "Actually, we've met several times in the past, so by your humans' reckoning, we can be considered acquaintances. I don't want you to go back just to die."

The man hurriedly thanked the android.

"I'll accept your thanks, and I can even help negotiate our cooperation, but it's your choice about whether or not you want to agree," Little Bear explained.

The Envoy was again left puzzled.

"I mentioned that Lu Yin came here looking for Origin Matter, so just mention this when making your report. Sky Creation Academy currently possesses Origin Matter. In order to cooperate again, we need the Sixth Mainland to attack Sky Creation Academy, but we have no desire for the Origin Matter, so once it's found, it will belong to you," Little Bear explained.

The Cloud Valley Master's swordsman had no idea what Origin Matter was, but since Little Bear was offering a path to life, the man knew that this offer held merit. Out of desperation, the Envoy borrowed a gadget that was able to contact Endless Weave and beyond. He eventually made contact with one of the Four Emphyreans who was stationed in Southside Weave past Endless Weave: Mr. Lifeview.

Mr. Lifeview was one of the Four Emphyreans of the Sixth Mainland's Daosource Sect.

"Origin Matter? Such a thing actually appeared in the Sophic Rift?" Mr. Lifeview completely lost his composure. As one of the Four Emphyreans, there were very few things that could excite him this much.

Origin Matter was a requirement to become a Progenitor, and not even all Semi-Progenitors had acquired Origin Matter or opened their three meridian points.

The Sixth Mainland also possessed an understanding of the three meridian points, as if they did not, their three Progenitors would have never been born. There were very few among the Sixth Mainland's top experts who had opened their three meridian points, and it was precisely because of a lack of Origin Matter.

However, the person that they had sent to conduct their negotiations with the Technocracy had actually sent back word that Origin Matter had appeared in the Sophic Rift.

Mr. Lifeview's first reaction was that of disbelief.

Right after that, he received First Edition City's conditions that, to resume their cooperative relationship with the Sixth Mainland, they had to both attack Sky Creation Academy, which encouraged Mr. Lifeview's disbelief.

However, regardless of his own beliefs, this news had to be shared with the other three of the Four Emphyreans.

Soon, all of the Daosource Sect's Four Emphyreans convened: the Blood Homage Realm's Bluedome Elder, the Sage Martial Realm's Mr. Lifeview, the Rock Realm's Herb Immortal, and the newly appointed Qing Hua of the Brahman Realm.

The moment they heard Origin Matter being mentioned, none of the four hesitated to meet.

Bluedome Elder was the first to voice his doubt. "How could Origin Matter suddenly show up in the Technocracy? My Sixth Mainland has existed since ancient times, and yet we have no Origin Matter left, so how could the Technocracy have any?"

Mr. Lifeview replied, "That's true, but the Progenitor of Combat once mentioned that all of the Fifth Mainland's Semi-Progenitors possess the aura of Origin Matter, which means that the Fifth Mainland still has some left even after all these years. That's our real target, and also why we attacked the Fifth Mainland. It's nearly impossible to mistake Origin Matter for something else, which makes it even more

unlikely for any to have appeared in the Technocracy, as it holds no value to those mechanical creatures."

"It's not impossible," Herb Immortal interjected. He was the most low-key of the Four Empyreans, and he rarely voiced an opinion when they made decisions. However, no one would dare ignore him whenever he spoke, as he was senior to even Bluedome Elder and Mr. Lifeview.

"Don't forget, even though the Origin Matter may have appeared on the battlefield, it belongs to Sky Creation Academy, and Sky Creation Academy is connected to that place."

Bluedome Elder looked up. "The Fifth Mainland's split... The primeval surnames?"

Herb Immortal gently corrected, "The primeval surnames did not split up, but rather abandoned the Fifth Mainland. During the ancient war, my Sixth Mainland was able to alter the Fifth Mainland's sky precisely because the primeval surnames abandoned the Fifth Mainland. Without the primeval surnames leaving, the situation would have turned out very differently. This has always been clear to me, which was why I stationed someone at the Upper Three Gates; I did not want to allow the Fifth Mainland to use the Perennial World to revert their sky.

"Now that the Fifth Mainland's sky has been restored, more and more people are appearing from that place."

As soon as the Perennial World was mentioned, everyone's expression became a bit more solemn. While they might completely despise the Fifth Mainland, they also knew that if not for the primeval surnames' abandonment of the Fifth Mainland, the Sixth Mainland would have never been able to win the ancient war. After all, the Fifth Mainland had possessed more Progenitors than the Sixth Mainland at that time.

"If the Origin Matter truly did come from that place, everything makes sense. However, how could Origin Matter be given to Sky Creation Academy? Origin Matter is extremely rare, and it is also necessary to become a Progenitor. No one would waste such a thing," Mr. Lifeview wondered.

Chapter 1733: Kui And Luo

"This is nothing more than First Edition City's own claim that Origin Matter appeared in the Sophic Rift. No one can actually prove this. We can't attack Sky Creation Academy just because of something that most likely doesn't even exist, especially if it might have come from that place," Bluedome Elder said, "Let's talk about the Great Eastern Alliance instead. We've given them a great deal of time already, and it's time to drive them away or force them to surrender."

As soon as he mentioned the Great Eastern Alliance, Bluedome Elder shot a subtle glance towards Master Qing Hua. If his plans had proceeded smoothly, Qing Hua would have never become one of the Four Empyreans. Lu Yin had agreed to cooperate with Madam Hong, but he had later acted against what they had agreed upon. The Great Eastern Alliance had to either leave the Outerverse or surrender to the Sixth Mainland. The five weaves that had been agreed upon could not be given to the alliance.

However, Madam Hong had also never revealed the location of Progenitor Wushang's hide. Was it possible that Lu Yin had never given it to the woman? No, Bluedome Elder had promised to give Lu Yin five weaves for the Great Eastern Alliance even before the incident with Qing Hua. The agreement that

Lu Yin had made with Madam Hong had been five weaves in exchange for Progenitor Wushang's hide. This was something that Madam Hong had no authority to agree to, which was why she had tried to scheme against Qing Hua, as she needed a reasonable excuse to give Lu Yin the five weaves that they had agreed upon.

Quite a bit of time had passed between those two incidents, so naturally, Progenitor Wushang's hide should have been given to Madam Hong. Why else would Madam Hong have been so determined to get approval for five weaves to be given to Lu Yin?

Progenitor Wushang's hide had to be in Madam Hong's possession.

As Bluedome Elder was thinking about Progenitor Wushang's hide, Mr. Lifeview suddenly spoke up and roused the other Empyrean Imprinter. "Someone else also saw the Origin Matter: Lu Yin."

"Lu Yin?" Bluedome Elder, Master Qing Hua, even Herb Immortal were caught off guard by this.

"Why was Lu Yin in the Sophic Rift?" Bluedome Elder asked.

Mr. Lifeview then shared the information that he had received about how the Cloud Valley Master's swordsman and those with him had been captured and forced. The swordsman had not hid this matter, as he had known that it would be impossible to do so. All that he had kept hidden was the fact that First Edition City had wanted to completely end all cooperations with the Sixth Mainland.

Since First Edition City had proposed a new condition for them to continue cooperating, it was impossible for the Cloud Valley Master's swordsman to reveal First Edition City's first reaction. This was why even the Four Empyreans only knew that the Technocracy's conditions were continuing to increase; in addition to raw materials, First Edition City was also demanding them to launch a joint attack on Sky Creation Academy. Such a change was actually perfectly normal; after all, the Sixth Mainland had been destroyed, so the amount of resources that they could give to the Technocracy had greatly diminished. It only made sense that other conditions had been proposed.

"Even Lu Yin made his way to the Technocracy's battlefield for the Origin Matter. He must have received some inside information. It looks like the report about the Origin Matter is authentic." Herb Immortal sighed emotionally.

Mr. Lifeview looked over at Bluedome Elder. "What are your thoughts?"

Bluedome Elder was not entirely certain. "Lu Yin is someone who will not make any moves without being certain of coming out on top. Despite his youth, he makes excellent decisions and is patient enough to wait to act. If he was not such a person, he would have never managed to achieve all that he has. Honestly, when looking at the younger generation of our Sixth Mainland, we have no one who can compare to him, no matter if we look only at their combat strength or their ability to plot. Since he appeared in the Sophic Rift, it's very likely that the Origin Matter is real."

"The Human Domain and First Edition City have always been enemies, so if not for something like Origin Matter, he would not have taken the risk to visit the Technocracy's battlefield."

Mr. Lifeview shook his head. "But he should have picked up some Origin Matter in that place."

None of the four powerhouses could unravel this particular detail.

"Setting the issue of the Origin Matter aside for the moment, cooperating with First Edition City is unavoidable. Even if there is no Origin Matter, do we agree to these new conditions?" Herb Immortal asked.

"If we attack Sky Creation Academy, we will likely incite the wrath of that place. They abandoned the Fifth Mainland, and I do not wish to see them return. The primeval surnames are not easy to deal with." Master Qing Hua spoke for an unusually long amount of time. He looked sloppy, and he also did not particularly care if the Sixth Mainland cooperated with First Edition City or not. Instead, he cared almost exclusively about the security of the Sixth Mainland itself.

His words were met with approval, and the four men eventually reached an agreement and contacted First Edition City to ask the city to change its conditions. In fact, the Four Emphyreans had already planned to find another method of obtaining the materials that they needed to send to the Technocracy from the Fifth Mainland, such as by purchasing the materials from the Hall of Honor or something similar. However, with the realization that Lu Yin had discovered their cooperation, it would be impossible for the Sixth Mainland to get any resources from the Fifth Mainland, and the Hall of Honor had already most likely suspected the Sixth Mainland's intentions.

However, none of the four mentioned this possibility, as they all knew for a certainty that if the Fifth Mainland learned that the Sixth Mainland had requested reinforcements from First Edition City for the Outerverse, the relationship between the two mainlands would change, and the Fifth Mainland would likely start considering war.

During this meeting, there was another decision that was reached as well, which was that all four of them would stand guard in Endless Weave, and if any of them discovered Lu Yin, they would immediately kill him.

The people of the Sixth Mainland were not stupid, and it was impossible for them to readily agree to attack Sky Creation Academy just because of a possibility that some Origin Matter had appeared in the Sophic Rift. Lu Yin also had not been certain that the Sixth Mainland would be willing to move against Sky Creation Academy, but his whole intention had merely been to place some bait.

Everything depended on whether certain people from the Sixth Mainland would be able to resist the temptation of Origin Matter, as well as their willingness to continue cooperating with First Edition City.

Lu Yin stayed in First Edition City for a few days, and during that time, he Disassembled several materials for the vice city master, and he also verified the conditions of their cooperation.

Among Lu Yin's proposed conditions, the most important point was that First Edition City would keep an eye on Sky Creation Academy and contact him the moment another person from the Perennial World appeared.

This was also Lu Yin's primary motivation in traveling to the Technocracy, as he could not afford to be constantly worried about being hunted down. Even though Kui Luo had appeared, Lu Yin had no certainty that the man would constantly follow him around and protect him.

Lu Yin was not confident enough to even want a Semi-Progenitor as a bodyguard, even if Kui Luo had some sort of relationship with the Lu family. If one intended to be protected at all times, then they also needed to be able to monitor their protectors.

No one had a better understanding of Sky Creation Academy than First Edition City.

Lu Yin's time in the Technocracy was over. He had established a cooperative relationship with First Edition City, which included having First Edition City constantly surveil Sky Creation Academy for Lu Yin. He had accomplished everything that he had wanted to in the Technocracy. As for the First Protector, while he had not been able to confirm whether Sky Creation Academy was working with the Neohuman Alliance, he had learned the truth of Lu Yin's identity. Also, Semi-Progenitors from the Perennial World had shown up, including Kui Luo. These vital details all had to be immediately reported back to the Hall of Honor.

He had also learned that Lu Yin had started cooperating with First Edition City, which meant that it was very unlikely for First Edition City to remain enemies with the Human Domain. This was incredible news.

The First Protector was silent on their way back. The Fifth Mainland held powerful hatred for the primeval surnames, and thus, he had no idea how he should deal with Lu Yin, especially since it was possible that the youth would bring down disaster upon the Fifth Mainland.

As the First Protector thought about the primeval surnames, he became both nervous and resentful.

Kui Luo had an easier time of things, as Wang Si and Bai Laogui were both still imprisoned, and it would be impossible for the Perennial World to quickly send more powerhouses of the same strength. Lu Yin should be safe for a while, and Kui Luo had always wanted to visit the Fifth Mainland.

"Kid, take me to see that stone wall," Kui Luo said.

When Lu Yin had been in the Perennial World, he had told Kui Luo about how the old grandpa on Driftcharge Planet had carved the Stonewall Scriptures into the side of a cave. Lu Yin had also said that the old man had died, but he had agreed to take Kui Luo to visit the grandpa's grave.

This was also why Kui Luo had been willing to help Lu Yin and had even done so much to aid Lu Yin's escape from the Perennial World.

When Lu Yin heard Kui Luo's request, Lu Yin explained, "He's dead, but you can't see him."

Kui Luo instantly froze, and Lu Yin, the First Protector, and the two Envoy-level androids were all forced to stop at the same time.

"You lied to me?" Kui Luo's eyes became slits that seemed to contain great evil.

Lu Yin answered in a low voice, "Am I able to recite the sutra?"

Kui Luo's eyes narrowed even further.

"Who else knew about that aside from the person you've been looking for? Who else but him could have told me that scripture? Anyone at all? I didn't lie to you, but the planet was destroyed at the same time that he died," Lu Yin said.

"So you said that in the Middle Realm just to get me to help you." Kui Luo gritted his teeth.

Lu Yin nodded.

Kui Luo blew out a long breath, feeling quite sullen. He had told lies his entire life, and his tongue was vicious enough to kill a person with his words alone. Still, he had never considered the possibility of this kid deceiving him.

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Lu Yin shrugged. "You didn't know my real identity back then, and if I hadn't told you that, you probably wouldn't have helped me, right?"

Kui Luo stared off into the distance before shaking his head in a bitter manner. "Old man, I worked so hard to get to the Forsaken Land, and I just wanted to clean your tomb. I never thought that there wouldn't even be a tomb at all. Pitiful, just too pathetic."

Lu Yin grew curious. "Who the hell was he? Why did he know the scriptures that were my Lu family's inheritance? He told me that I needed to go to the Neoverse and deliver the scriptures to someone there for him. Who was that person? Why didn't I need to look for them?"

Kui Luo laughed. "The person he told you about? That was just a decoy. It was most likely someone he picked to save the legacy of the sutra, and he most likely didn't send you to them because he felt that you were a more reliable protector than who he was planning on sending you to. As for the sutra itself, he could have never known that he had given it to the one person who was most qualified to receive it."

"Who was he?" Lu Yin was very curious. The old grandpa on Driftcharge Planet had given Lu Yin the greatest opportunity of his entire life. The Arcane Art—Fatal Revival had brought Lu Yin back from death several times, and the Stonewall Scriptures had also helped him live through numerous disasters. Finally, with the help of the Cosmic Sect, it was possible for Lu Yin to receive Progenitor Chen's inheritance in the future. Without that old man, Lu Yin would have almost none of the incredible techniques that had paved his cultivation path.

He really wanted to build a monument to that grandpa.

Kui Luo glanced over at the First Protector and then at Lu Yin. After thinking for a bit, he finally spoke to only Lu Yin. "My name isn't Kui Luo."

Lu Yin's eyes went wide; was this was not Kui Luo?

"You aren't Kui Luo? That's impossible!" Many people had recognized the old man, and what other Semi-Progenitor was as vicious with their words as Kui Luo?

Kui Luo slowly explained, "Kui Luo was actually always two people—one named Kui, and the other Luo. I am Kui, while the old man that you knew was Luo."

Lu Yin was stunned. "Are you for real?"

Kui Luo nodded. "Absolutely. When the Lu family was exiled, we were both caught up in the mess, and we were forced to separate as we fled. Old Luo might have been captured, which was why I've always been searching for him."

"But didn't you fake your own death a long time ago? Why did you force yourself to keep suffering?"

"As I said, we followed the Lu family, but no one knew who we were. I've been looking for Old Luo everywhere in the Perennial World for so many years, but I have never found any trace of him. I didn't think to look for him here."

"What was your connection to the Lu family? Why did Old Luo know those scriptures?" Lu Yin asked.

Kui Luo rolled his eyes. "I've told you repeatedly: become an Envoy, and then I'll tell you. Focus on your cultivation until then."

Lu Yin pursed his lips, but did not respond.

"Also, where did Old Luo's grandson come from? Do you know anything about him?" Kui Luo was quite curious about this. When Lu Yin had first mentioned how Luo's grandson had died on Driftcharge Planet, Kui Luo had been very intrigued, but he had never had the opportunity to ask about it.

Lu Yin quickly shared the story of what had happened at the Cosmic Sect, though he did keep the fact that the pattern was on the bottom of his foot a secret.

Chapter 1734: He's My Junior Disciple Brother

Kui Luo was surprised by Lu Yin's story. "That youth should have been an adopted grandson. He became so good-natured all because of an adopted child..."

Good-natured? Lu Yin could still remember the first time that he had seen the old man on Driftcharge Planet, and there had been a dark aura around the man. That grandpa had forced Lu Yin to memorize the complete Stonewall Scriptures, and he had even threatened to eat Lu Yin as white meat. The old man's personality had not been pleasant at all, and he actually had been rather similar to Kui Luo.

"No wonder the Perennial World was never able to trap and capture you. Two Semi-Progenitors working as one? Who could have stood up to you?" Lu Yin muttered to himself.

Suddenly, he remembered something, and he turned to stare at Kui Luo. "Give me that leaf."

Kui Luo just rolled his eyes. "You threw it away."

"I was trying to find a way to instigate people into attacking Sky Creation Academy so that their collaborators from the Perennial World would have some trouble."

"Yet nothing happened, so that was pointless to do."

"That's because you stole the leaf!"

"Don't worry. As long as it actually showed up for some time, nobody who dreams of becoming a Progenitor could forget about it."

"Everyone will at least think that Sky Creation Academy has some Origin Matter. Do you think that those Semi-Progenitors are just idiots?"

"Quit trying to act smart. You raised hell in the Perennial World, but in the end, you were exposed by a girl who met you before. It wasn't Progenitor Long who figured out that you were an impostor, so don't bother giving people too much credit for being intelligent."

"People aren't stupid! Give it back!"

"You threw it away."

"Do you need Origin Matter too?"

"Duh! I also want to open my meridian points to become a Progenitor."

"Haven't you already done that?"

"What? Who else has Origin Matter in their possession other than the four ruling powers?"

...

It was not long before the group left the Technocracy.

Suddenly, Kui Luo was startled. "There's a powerhouse, and they are far from weak."

The First Protector's expression grew solemn. "That should be one of the Sixth Mainland's Emphyrean Imprinters."

Lu Yin had already expected that the Cloud Valley Master's swordsman had to have contacted with the Sixth Mainland, and it looked like they had received word early. There was no way that the Sixth Mainland would be willing to allow Lu Yin to return from the Technocracy.

"Boy, what do you want to do?" Kui Luo asked. He was actually quite curious about the Sixth Mainland's so-called imprints.

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Lu Yin shook his head. "Let's try to avoid them. The Sixth Mainland has Progenitors."

Kui Luo lost all motivation the moment he heard the word "Progenitor."

"Alright then, let's go."

With Kui Luo leading them, not a single one of the Four Emphyreans were able to notice Lu Yin and the others. After all, the First Protector himself was a powerful expert on the same level as an Emphyrean Imprinter.

As such, it did not take Lu Yin and the others long at all to leave Endless Weave and enter Southside Weave.

All of the Emphyrean Imprinters had been sent to Endless Weave to block Lu Yin's return, so Southside Weave was relatively safe.

Kui Luo prepared to leave the group after he confirmed that they had passed the most dangerous phase of their trip.

"Leave? Where are you going?" Lu Yin asked. "Are you not going to go to the Innerverse with me?"

Kui Luo rolled his eyes. "Why would I follow you around? Hey, this old man's tired from being stuck in the Perennial World for so many years, and I've never been to the Fifth Mainland. Now that I'm finally here, I want to wander around and see the various local cultures."

Lu Yin arched a brow—local cultures? He was well aware of the reputation that Kui Luo had built up for himself in the Perennial World. The old man had offended almost everyone and everything. He was a terrible person who was gifted at distorting the truth, fabricated stories left and right, and was always able to dig up some sort of earth-shattering event that had been kept secret.

This could be interesting... There were still many secrets in the Fifth Mainland that Lu Yin wanted to learn about.

However, Kui Luo could not be allowed to dig into Lu Yin's own secrets. "Cough, um... don't mess around here. People here are civilized, so just take it easy. If you can't get through, then will you just stay here in the Outerverse?"

At this moment, the First Protector checked his gadget and then looked at Kui Luo. "Arch-Elder Zen would like to speak with you."

Kui Luo and Lu Yin glanced at each other. "Arch-Elder Zen? That doesn't sound like a very nice name. Who is he? The boss of your Forsaken Land?"

The First Protector frowned; what kind of Semi-Progenitor acted like this?

Lu Yin whispered, "Arch-Elder Zen has always been the master of our Fifth Mainland's Hall of Honor. He is on the cusp of becoming a Progenitor, and he should be at almost the same level as the All Dao family's ancestor."

Kui Luo was shocked. "There's such a powerful person here?"

Lu Yin did not actually know how strong Arch-Elder Zen was, but it seemed appropriate to intimidate Kui Luo a bit.

"Arch-Elder Zen once spoke with the Sixth Mainland's three Progenitors as an equal," Lu Yin added.

Kui Luo instantly grew cautious. The All Dao family's ancestor was almost able to speak with Progenitors as an equal because all the Progenitors were absolutely certain the man would eventually become a Progenitor. That was an untouchable level of self-confidence, and yet this Arch-Elder Zen was capable of the same thing.

Kui Luo then started speaking with Arch-Elder Zen, though Lu Yin could not hear a word of their conversation. He simply hoped that Kui Luo would not create too many problems for the Fifth Mainland, such as revealing the existence and history of the Perennial World and other such things.

In the past, a sourcebox array had been planted within both Liu Ye and Fei Hua's bodies that was able to instantly kill either of them. However, Kui Luo was a Semi-Progenitor, and no one was capable of doing the same thing to him. All Lu Yin could do was hope and pray that the old man would exhibit a bit of self-control.

Kui Luo did not cause a scene, but he had a bad attitude throughout the conversation. Still, he never flipped out.

Lu Yin started thinking about his upcoming conversation with Arch-Elder Zen. The First Protector had already reported everything to the Semi-Progenitor, so Lu Yin was absolutely certain that Arch-Elder Zen would want to speak to him as well.

His conversation with Arch-Elder Zen would directly determine whether the Great Eastern Alliance would be allowed to continue existing.

If Arch-Elder Zen despised Lu Yin's true identity, the Great Eastern Alliance would instantly be erased. After all, they were in the Fifth Mainland, and the Hall of Honor was the absolute master of the Human Domain. Many of Lu Yin's accomplishments had only been achieved because of the Hall of Honor's backing.

Without the support of the Hall of Honor, no one would fear Lu Yin, and many people would lose all hesitation in acting directly against him.

It did not take long for Kui Luo to throw the gadget back at the First Protector. "I can't understand a thing that that old man says! That was a complete mess."

With that, Kui Luo left as the First Protector glared at his back.

The old man also took the Origin Matter with him; Lu Yin had not been able to get it back. The old man had refused to return it, and there was nothing that Lu Yin could do about it.

Kui Luo had been quite rude when speaking to Arch-Elder Zen, but the two were powerhouses on the same level, so the First Protector could not really say anything. He dismissed the matter from his mind after a moment's thought and looked at Lu Yin, only to find that the youth had already opened his own gadget. "Arch-Elder Zen, Junior Lu Yin needs to apologize to you."

The First Protector was completely speechless; this kid worked fast!

Arch-Elder Zen had also not expected Lu Yin to take action so quickly. The moment he had ended his conversation with Kui Luo, Lu Yin had called. There had been less than two seconds between the two calls.

"Should I call you Lu Yin or Lu Xiaoxuan?" Arch-Elder Zen solemnly asked.

Lu Yin grew bitter. "Before my amnesia, I was Lu Xiaoxuan, but now I'm Lu Yin."

The old man said nothing.

Lu Yin continued, "I'm sorry, Senior. The Fifth Mainland has given this junior too much support, and in return, I let you down."

Arch-Elder Zen answered in a light tone, "If you don't become a Progenitor, only then will you disappoint me."

"This junior is someone from the Perennial World, and I have a genuine primeval surname." Lu Yin continued his confession.

Arch-Elder Zen asked, "Are the primeval surnames in this Fifth Mainland fake?"

Lu Yin felt puzzled.

"The truth is that many of the ancestors of the families with primeval surnames in the Fifth Mainland came from the same place as you. While we hate it, we also do not. The primeval surnames abandoned

this place, leaving it desolate. This was their choice. However, have you ever seen the Hall of Honor hunt down those with primeval surnames?" Arch-Elder Zen continued his questioning.

Lu Yin answered in a low voice, "This junior understands."

"His identity as Lu Xiaoxuan will bring war upon us." The First Protector suddenly spoke up, and he did not keep his voice subdued.

Lu Yin's finger twitched. This was the matter that he was the most worried about.

Arch-Elder Zen remained silent for some time. "Lu Yin."

"This junior is here," Lu Yin quickly replied.

Arch-Elder Zen solemnly stated, "Humanity cannot survive an internal war, regardless of who is right or wrong in that place. You cannot do Aeternus's work for them. Do you understand?"

Lu Yin clenched his fists. "This junior understands, and Senior can rest assured that I will find a way to deal with this."

The old man then ended the call. Neither person had spoken clearly, but they both knew the truth of the matter. Lu Yin could not willingly accept his death, and Arch-Elder Zen could not allow the Fifth Mainland to go to war with the Perennial World. Everything would depend on how Lu Yin handled matters.

Lu Yin had expected such an outcome the moment he had been exposed as Lu Xiaoxuan. As the master of the Hall of Honor and someone aware of Aeternus, Arch-Elder Zen's response was not wrong. Lu Yin had already known just how large of a challenge stood before him, and yet he still wanted to lead his forces against the four ruling powers. This was another major obstacle in his path.

However, it was an obstacle that would have appeared sooner or later. Even if Lu Yin had not been exposed at this time, Arch-Elder Zen would have learned the truth as soon as the Perennial World's forces arrived. It was simply a matter of time.

Still, Lu Yin had not expected Arch-Elder Zen to let the matter drop so easily. The old man had not even brought up the Great Eastern Alliance, and he also showed no intention of driving Lu Yin out of the Fifth Mainland. When Arch-Elder Zen and the other Semi-Progenitors had first shown their support for Lu Yin, it had been because he had opened his three meridian points and because he had a chance of eventually becoming a Progenitor. This fact had, in some ways, given Lu Yin a status almost equal to the Semi-Progenitors. However, it had just been revealed that even if Lu Yin did become a Progenitor, he would not belong to the Fifth Mainland alone, but also to the Perennial World's Lu family.

Arch-Elder Zen did not seem to even mind this fact, which was beyond Lu Yin's expectations.

In the Neoverse, on Mt. Microcosms, Arch-Elder Zen lowered his gadget, stepped out, and quickly entered the Arbitration World. It was not that the old man was unbothered by Lu Yin's identity, and he had supported Lu Yin not just because he stood a chance of becoming a Progenitor. No, there was someone else who Arch-Elder Zen also needed to keep in mind when it came to Lu Yin.

There were many geniuses in the Neoverse. In fact, when Hightsage Wudi had led Lu Yin to Mt. Microcosms and created a big fuss, Lu Yin had not been a match for Shang Qing, and the Hall of Honor

had not placed the same value upon the two of them. Despite that disparity, Arch-Elder Zen had clearly shown his support for Lu Yin at that time, which had been the start of Lu Yin receiving the Hall of Honor's support.

Arch-Elder Zen was not concerned about Eversky Island, and there was no need to even mention a loose union of small powers like the Great Eastern Alliance. Such an organization could be destroyed with a single breath. No, the person behind Lu Yin was the same person who supported the Chief Justice.

In the Arbitration World, a voice spoke out from within the darkness. "Lu Xiaoxuan?"

In front of the darkness, Arch-Elder Zen had his hands clasped behind his back. "That's right, Lu Xiaoxuan. The Perennial World has changed drastically, and the Lu family was destroyed by the current four ruling powers, including the Celestial Frost Sect. Lu Xiaoxuan managed to survive under his current pseudonym of Lu Yin. Did you know about this?"

"He's my junior disciple brother."

Arch-Elder Zen stared into the dark, and it seemed that the old man's eyes could pierce through the darkness to see the Chief Justice himself. "Did your master know about this?"

"I don't know, but he is my junior, and that position has nothing to do with his identity."

Arch-Elder Zen sighed. "I already knew that he was a peerlessly talented youth, but who knew that he also came from a top family, or rather, the top family. The Lu family. You realize that it's possible that my Fifth Mainland will end up at war with the four ruling powers because he wants to fight against them by leading the Fifth Mainland to war, right? Did you know about all of this?"

"It doesn't matter. All I know is that he is my junior disciple brother."

"If he ends up being the cause of the destruction of my Fifth Mainland and inadvertently helping Aeternus, I will become humanity's greatest sinner," Arch-Elder Zen lamented.

The darkness surged, and a set of scales slowly appeared. It was the Chief Justice's innate gift.

Chapter 1735: Fairness: Right And Wrong

"It is the nature of cultivation for the strong to devour the weak. This has nothing to do with right or wrong, but I believe that this world still needs right, wrong, and fairness. Even if I can never achieve it, this remains my goal. Humans are not the walking dead."

"It is right for Lu Yin to attack the four ruling powers on behalf of the Lu family. He is entitled to his revenge. If humans are destroyed by Aeternus because of this, then he will be liable to the judgment of the entire human race. If I live to see that day, then I will judge him fairly. But how can he be convicted now by a future that has yet to occur? Who can decide when the scales have not yet settled?"

Arch-Elder Zen stared at the scales with a complicated expression. "Is this what your master intends as well?"

"I don't know, but this is my own decision."

Arch-Elder Zen nodded. "I understand now. I'll head out."

The old man then left the Arbitration World, but before leaving, he spoke one last sentence. "This place is not the Forsaken Land, but the ancestral land. Deserters will always be deserters."

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Lu Yin had no idea of what occurred in the Neoverse after his call, and he also was ignorant of the change in Arch-Elder Zen's mindset. As far as Lu Yin was concerned, regardless of Arch-Elder Zen's attitude, Lu Yin already knew what he needed to do. It was impossible for him to abandon his goal of leading his forces against the Perennial World just because of a few words from the old man. It would entirely be the Fifth Mainland's decision whether they attacked the Perennial World or not, and while Lu Yin would respect the decisions of those who followed him, he would not stop pursuing his goal. The words that he had spoken to the First Protector had been partly to voice his own opinion, but also because he felt pressured and helpless.

Humanity could not allow themselves to have any major internal conflicts. This was something that Arch-Elder Zen was adamant about, and Shaman God was just as eager to see it come about.

In the end, everything depended on how things were accomplished. It was clear that Shaman God's plan would play out, but the result might not be as the Skygod desired. It was possible that Aeternus would also be dragged into the mess as well.

How could Lu Yin possibly allow Aeternus to watch the fun from the sidelines?

Shortly after Kui Luo left, Lu Yin sent a message to Qing Tan.

Far away, on Mt. Microcosms, Qing Tan saw the message from Lu Yin, and her face went blank; what the hell was Origin Matter?

She had no idea, but she still did as Lu Yin requested.

In Endless Weave, Bluedome Elder had his eyes closed. All Four Empyreans were currently standing guard. Even if one of the Fifth Mainland's Semi-Progenitors appeared, they still might not be able to save Lu Yin from such a lineup. However, the four were very hesitant to kill the youth, as he was much more valuable as a captive than dead. He possessed Progenitor Wushang's hide, Origin Matter, the Nine Cauldrons' battle technique, and more. The child had too many secrets and too many treasures.

Suddenly, Bluedome Elder's eyes snapped open, as he had remembered the most important thing: Lu Yin had the legendary God of Death's inheritance!

The God of Death was just a legend that few people believed in, but Lu Yin's performance during ZENITH had roused a great deal of attention from many people, including Bluedome Elder.

After Lu Yin was caught, he had to be questioned about the God of Death's inheritance.

Right when the man was thinking about this, he received a message from Qing Tan. After Bluedome Elder glanced at it, his expression drastically changed.

Lu Yin has returned from the Technocracy and reported his trip to the overseers' council. He mentioned discovering Origin Matter in the Sophic Rift.

Bluedome Elder and the other Emyrean Imprinters had never actually believed the matter of Origin Matter appearing on the Technocracy's battlefield, but this message from Qing Tan left Bluedome Elder shaken.

They knew that Lu Yin had traveled to the Technocracy, but they had not been able to determine why. It was not impossible for him to have made such a trip for Origin Matter.

Had there actually been Origin Matter?

Bluedome Elder's eyes darted about. Origin Matter or Progenitor Wushang's hide—which was more important? They were both vital to the man.

Emyrean Imprinters were not necessarily Semi-Progenitors. Some had reached that level while others had not. Bluedome Elder had not, but he was still ambitious. This was because he was one of the few Emyrean Imprinters who had not become a Semi-Progenitor yet as he had only opened his lower and middle meridian points. He was truly desperate to become a Progenitor in the future.

If this were not so, he would never have captured Madam Hong.

After all, if his actions were discovered, a war with the Progenitor of Combat's Territory could easily erupt.

With further confirmation of the presence of Origin Matter, Bluedome Elder could no longer sit still. Regardless of whether the news regarding the Origin Matter was real, he had to send someone to First Edition City.

There was already a cultivator from the Sixth Mainland at the city, but that person was from the Progenitor of Combat's Territory. Bluedome Elder had to send his own people.

There was no longer any need to stand guard against Lu Yin, as he had already returned. Also, there was no need to pay any attention to the Great Eastern Alliance at this moment. If the Origin Matter was real, it was very possible that the Technocracy's war would tip in favor of Sky Creation Academy. In the end, nothing was more important than becoming a Progenitor.

...

The Astral River was magnificent. Strange fish occasionally appeared, and very rarely, a massive and unfathomable creature would swim through the Astral River with enough power to cause even the Astral River Arks to sway.

An older person had once mentioned that there were some creatures in the Astral River that were large enough to capsize even the massive arks.

After the Sixth Mainland moved into the Outerverse, they had gradually taken control of most of the Outerverse, forcing out or absorbing all the local powers. However, the two Astral River Arks to the east and west of the Outerverse had always remained under the Fifth Mainland's control, and the Sixth Mainland had never tried to seize either of the massive ships.

Even the Astral River Ark that was stationed to the west that provided direct access to the Outerverse's western weaves had been left alone.

Anyone who boarded the western Astral River Ark would directly enter the Sixth Mainland's controlled weaves in the western Outerverse. This demonstrated the Sixth Mainland's confidence and sense of superiority towards the Fifth Mainland. However, no one from the Sixth Mainland was allowed to enter the Innaverse.

Whether or not the Fifth Mainland was willing to admit it, it was a fact that the average Sixth Mainland cultivator was stronger than their peers from the Fifth.

When Lu Yin had gone to Flying Horse Manor to rescue the colossal giants, he had crossed the Astral River on the western ark. After that, he had used it once again when the First Protector had led Lu Yin towards the Technocracy. At this moment, Lu Yin was about to use the Astral River Ark yet again to cross the Astral River.

As he looked at the massive ship in the distance, Lu Yin grew curious about something. "Is the Sixth Mainland not allowed to use the arks?"

The First Protector replied, "I don't know. I don't ask about matters outside of Mt. Microcosms."

Lu Yin pursed his lips. Ever since he had been exposed as Lu Xiaoxuan, the First Protector's attitude had changed. He was no longer as close or friendly with Lu Yin, and he had become noticeably more vigilant and distant.

There was no avoiding this, as their differing origins was not something that could be ignored. This was true even for Arch-Elder Zen.

It was not long before a few people entered the Astral River Ark. Even though the First Protector's strength meant that their small group did not actually need to use the enormous ship, there was no need to do so. Cultivators did not need to always reveal their power, and accidents could occur at any moment.

As he stared at the roiling Astral River, Lu Yin remembered the incomparably terrifying number of runes that he had seen in it in the past. There were truly powerful creatures that hid within the river.

The Astral River Ark soon started moving and shuttling its passengers towards the Innaverse.

There were many spacecraft that lined up to enter the eastern ark, but the one to the west had very few passengers, as very few people were bold enough to enter the Sixth Mainland's territory. The Sixth Mainland had previously invaded the Innaverse, sowing a terrible hatred between the two groups. Few people from the Fifth Mainland were willing to visit the Sixth Mainland's territory.

At the moment, most of the people on the ark were from corporations or were independent cultivators. They were people without any other option but to try their luck. There were also some people who were native to the Fifth Mainland's Outerverse who were hoping to escape from the Sixth Mainland's rule by moving to the Innaverse.

"Another vessel's almost here, but unfortunately, they were too late," someone commented with deep empathy when they saw a spacecraft off in the distance.

"It doesn't really matter. The ark goes back and forth very quickly."

"Wait, look! Those people should be part of some force from the Sixth Mainland!"

This discussion entered Lu Yin's ears, and he turned to look. Sure enough, a vessel had stopped a bit behind the Astral River Ark, and there were cultivators surrounding the ship. The people's clothes looked familiar; were they from the Autumnfrost family?

Lu Yin was surprised; why would people from the Autumnfrost family be here? This was a considerable distance from their territory.

There was a bang, and the ship exploded. Two people shot out from the wreckage, dashing in different directions in an attempt to escape. One of the cultivators from the Autumnfrost family attacked. The man was an Imprinter Lu Yin was familiar with: Uncle Hua. He was trying to kill the fleeing people.

Many people aboard the Astral River Ark were watching. Although they were curious about who was trying to escape, no one felt any real surprise, as they had all seen similar scenes too many times before.

One of the escaping individuals was a young man, and his left arm had been unnaturally twisted around. His entire body was covered with cracked, dry blood.

Black patterns that looked like flames spread out from his hand and formed a massive flaming black palm print was further reinforced by three-lined battle force before shooting towards the approaching attack.

A knife flashed, and the palm print was torn apart. The slash continued traveling forward, and it seemed guaranteed to slice through the young man's neck.

The man was helpless, and his face turned pale. There was no way to escape. Was he about to die?

Suddenly, the slashing attack froze. Some unfathomable power fell down from above. Neither the young man nor the attacker from the Autumnfrost family were able to move at all.

The space tore, and Lu Yin emerged slowly to stare at the wounded young man with great excitement. "Senior Little Pao?"

The young man looked at Lu Yin, and his eyes suddenly flared and excitement filled them. They quickly reddened. "Ju- Junior Lu."

The young man who had nearly died after counterattacking with the Blackgold Palm was Lu Yin's senior from Astral-10, Little Pao. Naturally, the person he had been escaping with was Big Pao.

Long ago, Lu Yin and his companions from Astral-10 had escaped into the Starfall Sea in order to avoid Feng Mo. When they had left the sea later, Big Pao and Little Pao had stayed behind. They had still been there when the Sixth Mainland invaded the Inniverse and when the Outerverse had been separated. Lu Yin had not seen these two since they had parted ways all those years ago.

He had actually thought that his two seniors had died, and he had not expected to run into them in this place.

"Junior Lu, it's really you!" Big Pao shouted in excitement.

Lu Yin was thrilled. "Seniors, I didn't think that you were still alive! This is wonderful!"

"We also didn't think we'd see you again," Little Pao excitedly replied.

With Lu Yin's appearance, there was no longer any problem with Big Pao and Little Pao's safety. The Autumnfrost family cultivators were easily dealt with, which left the two older youths rather stunned.

Seeing their shocked expressions, Lu Yin had to ask, "Have you not heard about me?"

"What do you mean?" The two brothers were equally confused, but Big Pao quickly said, "Junior, this isn't the time to talk! Let's go, quickly! The people from the Autumnfrost family who came here are dead, so we need to quickly get back to the Inniverse."

Lu Yin tried to quickly calm the two down. It was clear that they had suffered badly, and Lu Yin had no idea what the two had been up to for so many years that they had not heard anything about his activities.

It was clear that neither of the two would be comfortable talking where they were, so Lu Yin turned around and asked, "Senior, could you please take us to the other side of the Astral River?"

Big Pao and Little Pao were both taken aback. Senior? Was there another person here?

The First Protector revealed himself and then easily carried Lu Yin and the other two across the Astral River into the Inniverse.

This absolutely destroyed everything that the brothers understood. In their minds, how could it be so easy to cross the Astral River? There were rumors that it was possible to travel through the Astral River unaided after reaching a certain level of power, but that was an unimaginable level of strength.

"Junior Lu, are we really back?" Little Pao was still stunned as he turned back to look at the Astral River that already looked so distant.

Lu Yin said, "Don't worry, Senior. We're no longer in the Sixth Mainland's territory."

Chapter 1736: Unfamiliar With Their Junior

Big Pao was stunned by Lu Yin's remark and asked, "How...?"

He then turned to look at the First Protector and quietly asked, "Is Senior actually an Imprinter?"

The First Protector just turned around and vanished. Imprinter? What an insult!

Lu Yin spoke up, "Almost. Tell me, Seniors, what happened to you?"

Big Pao and Little Pao glanced at each other. It was clear that they were both quite bitter about what they had gone through.

After separating from Lu Yin in the Starfall Sea, they had stayed at the Sea King's Dome. They had been pursued for quite a long time, so they had used that peaceful period of time to quietly cultivate.

Then, disaster had struck.

The Sixth Mainland had invaded, and the Starfall Sea had been conquered. The two brothers were among the unlucky first batch of people who were captured by the Sixth Mainland.

However, they had not been captured by the Autumnfrost family, but rather by Justice Manor.

Justice Manor was a power from the Grand Martial Realm, and they were comparable to Flying Horse Manor. A few years after the brothers' capture, they had been taken to Justice Manor in the Sixth Mainland and then transferred over to the Autumnfrost family. They were completely ignorant as to anything that had happened in the outside world during their captivity.

Later, the Sixth Mainland had been invaded by Aeternus, and the two had been transported to the Outerverse. Still, no matter where they had been taken, they had been told nothing at all as they were treated like mere cargo.

Lu Yin became curious; why would people from the Sixth Mainland have brought Big Pao and Little Pao with them when they had fled to the Outerverse from the Sixth Mainland?

"What were you doing for the Autumnfrost family?" Lu Yin asked.

Big Pao replied, "We don't actually know, but it was absolutely enormous yet also very precise. I guess you could call it a tool. I'm not sure how else to refer to it."

"It's huge—it spans entire galaxies, but it's also very precise," Little Pao added.

"We needed to study with the Autumnfrost family for three whole years before we were qualified to participate in the production of this thing, but we've become very experienced. Our seniority was actually why the Autumnfrost family lowered their guard towards us, which gave us an opportunity to escape," Big Pao said.

With this, Lu Yin finally understood. It was no wonder why the Autumnfrost family had made sure to save the two brothers from Aeternus; they had had to study for three years despite being Explorers. This made the difficulty of their task quite clear. The Autumnfrost family could not have very many Explorers, which meant that Big Pao and Little Pao had been more important than many of the ordinary Sixth Mainland cultivators during the retreat.

Still, Big Pao and Little Pao had not gone through too much during their captivity; for almost their entire time spent captive, they had been preparing to or working on the production of the tool. However, they never learned of the actual purpose of the tool they had been working on.

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The fact that it could span an entire galaxy left Lu Yin incredibly curious. While a galaxy would be considered small to cultivators of a certain level; a galaxy covered a region of space that was easily traversed, even to Auroras, making size a relative concept. To date, Lu Yin had never seen any sort of construction that was comparable to a galaxy in size.

While the Technocracy had massive claws that were part of their ubiquitous surveillance system, those claws only existed within the manifested thoughts of the Master Brain, and they could never exist without that unique structure.

The Sixth Mainland did not prioritize developing or researching technology, so what sort of tool could the Autumnfrost family possibly be making?

The more Lu Yin thought about it, the more he felt that something was wrong. After all, Ancestor Autumnfrost had died long ago. According to the timeline of the brothers' story, it seemed that Big Pao and Little Pao had been acquired by the Autumnfrost family after their ancestor's death.

"Was the Autumnfrost family already working on that tool before you joined the project?" Lu Yin asked.

The two looked at each other, but then they shook their heads. "Absolutely not. We were among the first to be trained."

Lu Yin's eyes glinted. It seemed that this project was something that the fake Ancestor Autumnfrost had initiated, and the true ancestor had been completely uninvolved. Things were becoming even more interesting. A tool that spanned a galaxy...

"Junior Lu, what level have you reached now?" Big Pao asked. He was quite curious, as they had just seen Lu Yin release an attack that was stronger than they could even imagine.

Lu Yin felt like he should act a bit modestly in front of his seniors. "I'm an Enlighter."

Big Pao and Little Pao started to freak out a bit. "Enlighter?"

Lu Yin nodded.

The brothers were absolutely stunned. "Bro, how- you're an Enlighter already? How did you pull that off? How long have you even been cultivating for? An Enlighter? That's a power level of over 200,000!"

Lu Yin pursed his lips; a power level of more than 200,000? No, his actual combat strength was higher than an Envoy with a power level of 600,000, but he could not say that to these two. It would shatter their mentality, as the two had lived pathetic lives recently. They had been slaves, forced to focus all their efforts on making a tool for another.

"Junior Lu, you should be very close to matching up to the Ten Arbiters!" Little Pao said. This was something that the two brothers had never even dared to dream of. They both stared intently at Lu Yin. For their generation, the Ten Arbiters were untouchable existences, and with the passage of so many years, neither of the two could imagine how strong those ten must have become.

Right after Little Pao asked his question, the Astral River Ark docked at the edge of the Astral River in the distance.

Lu Yin thought of how he should answer for a bit. "Actually, I can already fight against the Ten Arbiters. They don't pose much of a challenge."

Big Pao and Little Pao were left completely speechless. Their junior was too much for them to accept.

Lu Yin gave each of the brothers a gadget so that they could catch up on what had happened in the Human Domain while they had been gone. After that, Lu Yin went to the First Protector to ask the old man to visit the Autumnfrost family to investigate what sort of tool they had been making.

The First Protector just glared at Lu Yin. "I need to go back now. I don't have time for this."

Lu Yin could clearly sense the old man's displeasure. After all, Lu Yin had already tricked the First Protector numerous times during their trip to the Technocracy, and the old man had grown very wary of Lu Yin's ploys.

"Senior, the Sixth Mainland sent people to First Edition City to request a massive number of androids to be sent to the Outerverse. They clearly are not up to any good. Don't you want to find out what they're planning?" Lu Yin asked.

The First Protector snorted, but he otherwise ignored Lu Yin. So, Lu Yin continued persuading. "Right now, there aren't any powerhouses in the Sixth Mainland's territory who can threaten Senior, and we only need to go to the Autumnfrost family's territory, which is nowhere close to Southside Weave or the Sixth Mainland's Daosource Sect, which means that there's almost no chance of running into any of their Emyrean Imprinters. Senior, you're so strong that you're almost comparable to the strongest people in the entire Sixth Mainland. And what if this tool is some grave threat to the Fifth Mainland? This is basically a free meal."

The First Protector sneered and finally turned to look at Lu Yin. "Boy, say whatever you want, but it's all useless. A free meal? I don't need anything like that. Your status is high enough that I completed this mission, but I will most likely will not be leaving Mt. Microcosms anytime soon. Don't forget, I am the First Protector of Mt. Microcosms, not of the Interstellar Supreme Court, and certainly not of the overseers."

Lu Yin felt helpless, but it was clear that it would be useless to try to say anything more, as the old man was absolutely determined to leave Lu Yin.

Lu Yin did not dare risk going on his own, as Ancestor Autumnfrost was protecting the place that needed to be investigated. Even if the man was an imposter, there was no way that he was not a powerhouse, as there was no other way for him to have maintained control over the Autumnfrost family all this time.

This imposter was putting so much time and effort into building this enormous tool, and Lu Yin had only learned of it because Little Pao and Big Pao had managed to escape. They had to be carefully protected, and they would easily be discovered if they went with Lu Yin to investigate this matter.

At that moment, Lu Yin suddenly remembered that he had fought against the Autumnfrost family's Uncle Hua when the man and others from the Autumnfrost family had been asked to go after Aegis by the Di family. Uncle Hua had an imprint of Ancestor Autumnfrost, but since the ancestor had died, how could Uncle Hua possibly have a dead man's imprint?

"Alright, I'm going back to Mt. Microcosms now," the First Protector said while looking at Lu Yin. "You can take care of things by yourself."

Lu Yin bowed low. "Thank you for your efforts and protection on this trip to the Technocracy."

The First Protector shook his head and left with the two Envoy-level androids.

Lu Yin was left with only Big Pao, Little Pao, and Emperor Luo.

Lu Yin looked at Envoy, who quickly bowed and said, "I await the alliance leader's command."

The cyborg had watched in First Edition City as Lu Yin had summoned clouds and rain. Emperor Luo had truly believed that they would all die if their identities were exposed, and yet Lu Yin had somehow established a cooperative relationship with First Edition City out of nowhere. Not to mention, there was a Semi-Progenitor supporting Lu Yin.

A Semi-Progenitor... That was an unfathomable powerhouse.

Even though Emperor Luo knew nothing about the Perennial World or the Lu family, it did not matter. He still understood that Lu Yin's background was a universe-level power. With the Ross Empire gone, his options were to either rot away in prison or aid Lu Yin. It was impossible for Emperor Luo to even try to escape.

Lu Yin said, "Let's spend some time in the Great Eastern Alliance for now."

"Yes, Alliance Leader Lu," Emperor Luo responded in a very respectful manner.

"By the way, was Dark Beast the one who reached out to you?" Lu Yin asked. When he had conquered the Ross Empire, in addition to Emperor Luo, there had also been a creature from the Astral Beast Domain known as Dark Beast. The creature had been sent to eliminate the traitorous sylvan dragon clan, but it had been captured by Lu Yin. The beast was still being held captive, as Lu Yin had not released it. The entire matter was a secret that one else was aware of.

Emperor Luo replied, "It did indeed seek out your subordinate. According to my understanding of the Astral Beast Domain, the Human Domain has no knowledge of such a creature's existence."

"Is there any way to control it?"

Emperor Luo shook his head. "Dark Beast was sent here to eliminate the sylvan dragon clan. Since the Celestial Beast Empire felt comfortable sending the creature here, it means that they are fully confident that it will not betray them. After all, it is a great risk to send any of their powerhouses into our Human Domain."

Lu Yin was disappointed to hear this. He always hoped to gain more Envoys for the Great Eastern Alliance, as the more they had, the better. After all, Envoys were too uncommon. Unfortunately, if he could not control Dark Beast, the only option was to destroy the creature.

They boarded Lu Yin's vessel and started making their way towards Blazing Mist Flowzone.

Before they left, Lu Yin glanced back towards the Outerverse's western weaves. He could not be certain whether or not the Sixth Mainland would attack Sky Creation Academy, but still, with First Edition City keeping an eye on things, Lu Yin had accomplished his goal. This trip had been a success.

Origin Matter had appeared in the Sophic Rift, and that information had been shared with Qing Tan. Bluedome Elder and the Sixth Mainland's other top powerhouses would absolutely pay attention to this matter, but if they could not verify the existence of Origin Matter, it was possible that they would not be willing to attack Sky Creation Academy.

Lu Yin could only leave things up to fate, and he could not force this matter. Naturally, he had hoped to keep the Origin Matter that he had revealed as Sky Creation Academy's while also tempting the Sixth

Mainland into attacking. His hope had been to emulate Shaman God's plan, but that had been shattered by Kui Luo's appearance.

However, if Kui Luo managed to become a Progenitor, it would be a very good thing for Lu Yin, as that meant that he would gain the support of a Progenitor! Only the future would reveal if Lu Yin had eaten a loss or profited from this trip.

A day later, Big Pao and Little Pao had finally reviewed all of the major events that had occurred during their years of absence. However, almost all of the biggest events were connected to Lu Yin! They really could not believe what they read when they next saw Lu Yin.

Lu Yin laughed at the two. "What? Do you not know me anymore?"

Big Pao was at a loss for words. "You- you're Lu Yin."

"I'm not a fake."

Little Pao blinked. "The champion of ZENITH?"

"I got lucky."

"The leader of the Great Eastern Alliance?"

"It just happened."

"The enemy of the entire Inniverse?"

"Cough, that's just a misunderstanding."

"You invaded Blazing Mist Flowzone?"

"I just went to stop their war."

"Price gouging?"

"Never happened."

"Warmonger?"

"I'm a lover of peace."

...

"The Interstellar Supreme Court's Chief Justice's bastard son?"

"Who would spread such rumors?"

"The most handsome guy in the universe?"

"...I must be."

"Chronic liar?"

"I am the most honest person."

Chapter 1737: That Strange Place, Earth

Big Pao and Little Pao glanced at each other before looking back at Lu Yin with odd expressions on their faces. There was still something rather familiar about Lu Yin, though his answers to their questions were different from what was on the network.

He was the leader of the Great Eastern Alliance, and also the champion of ZENITH, but despite his accolades, he did not seem arrogant at all. Lu Yin still looked like the same person that had entered Astral-10 all those years ago and become their junior. He seemed so sincere, but that was really just his shamelessness.

"Junior Lu, do you have any idea what word is used to describe you the most on the network?" Big Pao asked.

Lu Yin felt slightly curious. "What?"

"A money-grubber." Little Pao did not hesitate at all to answer.

Lu Yin's expression changed, but just when the two brothers expected their junior to argue, he merely smiled. "Not bad."

The two were truly rendered speechless.

"It's been more than twelve years since we've seen each other." Lu Yin sighed.

Big Pao nodded. "Just about."

"Seniors, you've had a hard time. Have you already reached out to Astral-10's mentors?"

Big Pao instantly grew excited. "I called them, and the mentors were all happy to hear from us. Junior Lu, we're going back!"

Lu Yin smiled. "Of course, I'll take you there."

Given the speed of Lu Yin's spacecraft, it would only take them a bit more than half a month to reach Astral-10.

During this time, Big Pao and Little Pao learned more about what had happened in the Fifth Mainland during their absence. However, the more they learned, the more amazed they were by Lu Yin, especially after they saw his fights with Lan Si, Nightking Zhenwu, and Liu Tianmu.

They still had the impression that the Ten Arbiters were the peak of the younger generation, but they had just learned that several of the Ten Arbiters had already been defeated by Lu Yin. This revelation gave them an indescribable feeling, as it toppled their worldview. Still, they also felt incredibly proud, as Lu Yin was an alumnus of Astral-10.

"Seniors, I'm actually still one of the Ten Arbiters." Lu Yin could not help but remind them of this.

It was a fact that Lu Yin was still one of the Ten Arbiters, as no one would dare to strip him of the title. However, Lu Yin only held this status in name. No one from the Universe Youth Council had once sought him out to fulfill any sort of responsibility for the council even once, as Lu Yin had long since superseded such a level.

Also, Lu Yin no longer needed the Universe Youth Council to achieve any of his goals. He had already cemented his relationships with the various Inniverse powers, and the influence of the Universe Youth Council was unable to affect such matters.

"By the way, Junior Brother Lu, I just remembered that while we were working for the Autumnfrost family on their odd tool, I once accidentally saw something that was being protected by Ancestor Autumnfrost himself," Big Pao suddenly mentioned.

Lu Yin immediately asked the man to draw what he had seen.

Lu Yin frowned when he saw the picture of an irregularly shaped black crystal. "You saw that?"

"Isn't it just an ordinary energy crystal? A flame one? Maybe lightning? Or something else? A lot of mediocre cultivators use crystals like these when cultivating or to execute certain battle techniques. They're super common," Little Pao commented.

Lu Yin remembered that Gerlaine's older brother, Gerbach, who had once been a Hall Master of Yu Academy, had used thunder energy crystals to use a lightning battle technique. That incident had left a profound impression on Lu Yin back then.

Big Pao replied, "You're correct, and energy crystals usually aren't very important, but this thing has to be due to its size."

"How big was it?"

"As big as a planet."

Lu Yin was startled. "As big as a planet?"

Big Pao nodded and hesitantly continued, saying, "Because of its size, and also because that was my first time seeing Ancestor Autumnfrost. I was really impressed, and I think that it was about ten years ago."

"Why didn't I see it?" Little Pao wondered.

Big Pao explained, "I saw it when we were taking turns resting, and I happened to see it when it was my turn to work."

Lu Yin started thinking. Energy crystals the size of a planet were truly rare, and Ancestor Autumnfrost would not casually protect an object himself without ample cause, even if he was an imposter.

Lu Yin stared at the picture of the energy crystal and fell deep into contemplation.

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It was considered normal for cultivators to leave home to train for decades, or even hundreds of years without returning. But for Big Pao and Little Pao, it was a little more complicated than that as they returned to Astral-10.

Astral-10 was not just a place where they had trained and learned, but it was also a place where they had grown up. The mentors there were like teachers and fathers to the brothers.

Even though they had already called Astral-10, the two were still unable to calm down.

The closer they drew to Astral-10, the more excited Big Pao and Little Pao became. "Sure enough, there are a lot more people here now."

"Well, a long time ago, Lu Yin won the Astral Combat Tournament, which made Astral-10 the top-ranked branch of the Astral Combat Academy. Naturally countless youths want to come and study here now. This place hasn't changed one bit, though—it's like I was just here yesterday."

Lu Yin also let out a sigh. When the three of them had all been students, Astral-10 had been horribly suppressed, and the academy's mentors had all been unwilling to teach the students much. Enlighters were rarely seen powerhouses to them, and Envoys had been so distant that Lu Yin had not even heard of that realm.

Everything had changed since then.

Climbing high allowed a person to see further, but there were times when people did not want to see so far. After all, the further one saw, the more trouble they would see.

They docked the ship at the academy's space station. Emperor Luo stayed with the vessel while Lu Yin, Big Pao, and Little Pao all continued on to enter Astral-10.

When they saw the familiar teleportation device, the brothers became more uneasy than ever.

"Which of the mentors are you going to go see first?" Lu Yin asked with a smile.

Neither of the two hesitated to reply, "Rainmaster."

Lu Yin realized that, of Astral-10's mentors, the Trialmaster constantly played deaf, either ignoring people or being rude to them whenever they visited. The Sandmaster was very strict, the Starmaster was silent, Old Cai was almost always rude, and the headmaster was insane! The Rainmaster was the only normal one among the entire teaching staff.

The Rainmaster had also been the first of the mentors whom Lu Yin had met after joining Astral-10.

Rain sprinkled down on the Rain Observatory, wetting the moss on the stone platform. In front of Lu Yin, Big Pao and Little Pao both bowed to the pouring rain. "Mentor, us two disciples are back."

The Rainmaster calmly emerged from the rain, though Lu Yin could see how happy the older man was. "You just came back."

...

Lu Yin's luck was quite good, as his return to Astral-10 with the brothers coincided with the Astral Combat Tournament, though Astral-10 should really be called Astral-9 after Astral-3 had been completely destroyed.

While Big Pao and Little Pao met with the Rainmaster, Lu Yin went to visit the Trialmaster, and he bowed to the old man.

The Trialmaster opened his murky eyes to look at Lu Yin. "It's you."

"Mentor, this disciple would like to observe the Astral Combat Competition," Lu Yin respectfully requested.

The Trialmaster nodded. "Go ahead. Astral-10 has produced some impressive talents these last few years."

Lu Yin bowed again, and he passed behind the Trialmaster to enter the Three Realms Six Daos, which was where the Astral Combat Tournament was always held.

Upon seeing the towering cliffs once again, complicated emotions surged within his chest. More than ten years had passed since he had last visited this place!

There were many students from Astral-10 who were sitting along the cliffs, as well as the Sandmaster and Old Cai. Unlike when Lu Yin had attended Astral-10, there were quite a number of mentors keeping watch over the students.

Lu Yin found an empty place and sat down in a cross-legged position to enter the Three Realms Six Daos.

This time, the Astral Combat Competition was being held in the Dao of Heaven, which made the location incredibly lively. Inside a giant technological construct, two figures were engaged in a fierce fight. Each would occasionally gain some ground, only to pull back before closing back in once more.

This was the scene that greeted Lu Yin's arrival.

He actually had not wanted to attend the tournament, but the Rainmaster had specifically requested it. After all, Lu Yin was one of Astral-10's guest instructors. Even if he still had not officially graduated yet, he was obligated to see the students.

There were many large bits and pieces around the mechanical ruins, including spacecraft, battleships, and even skyscrapers. The entire region looked like a technological advanced world that had gone through an apocalypse.

The students watched the match from up close while the mentors maintained a farther distance. Still, they were not too far, and they remained in sight of all the students.

Lu Yin arrived at an iron cube that was 100 meters tall. Many of the mentors were standing atop the cube, and Old Cai and the Sandmaster represented Astral-9.

Lu Yin's arrival startled many of the mentors, as no one had expected him to suddenly appear.

Even Old Cai was surprised. "What are you doing here?"

Lu Yin smiled. "I brought my two seniors back, and I wanted to take a look at the Astral Combat Tournament."

"Thank you for bringing those two boys back alive." Old Cai seemed to struggle to offer thanks.

The Sandmaster also spoke up. "Thank you."

Lu Yin casually replied, "There's no need for any thanks."

There was another mentor from Astral-9 atop the iron block, though Lu Yin did not know it. Still, there was someone else whose presence surprised him: Liu Xiaoyun.

Liu Xiaoyun and Lu Yin both looked at each other and nodded before greeting each other.

Lu Yin then asked, "Why are you here?"

Liu Xiaoyun simply said, "I'm an acting mentor for Astral-7."

Acting mentors were different from guest instructors, as they were people who had been brought in to handle minor miscellaneous tasks. Liu Xiaoyun was not strong enough to qualify as a guest instructor.

"Will you stay at Astral-7 in the future?" Lu Yin asked.

Liu Xiaoyun nodded.

Lu Yin did not say anything, as he wanted to avoid conflict with her if possible. Everyone knew that Lu Yin was looking to dominate the Sword Sect, so if Liu Xiaoyun remained at the Sword Sect, the two were guaranteed to become enemies. This was Liu Xiaoyun's way of compromising, as it was better for her to stay in Astral-7.

The Astral Combat Academy had a rather special status within the Fifth Mainland. Lu Yin would never forget what he had heard the insane headmaster say all those years ago. The Astral Combat Academy carried the seed of inheritance, and all of the ten headmasters were Envoys, which was an impressive lineup for any power. In fact, it was possible that not even the Hall of Honor could mobilize ten Envoys at once.

This demonstrated the uniqueness of the Astral Combat Academy.

Lu Yin still had no idea how the Astral Combat Academy's headmasters were chosen, but the insane one was certainly the most special. Despite his strength, he was rather clueless.

"Watch the match. You'll be pleasantly surprised," Old Cai said.

Lu Yin became curious. "Surprised?"

Old Cai just smiled. "There's a new faction in the current batch of students, and this particular faction is made entirely of students from Earth. They've been doing very well."

Lu Yin was surprised; something like this had happened?

Lu Yin looked at where Old Cai had indicated, and he saw a group of students filling up a whole section as they watched the match. Several of the students were standing atop a massive broken screw, and at the front was a woman with her back to the rest of the students. Lu Yin could not see her face clearly from where he was standing, so he turned back to watch the match instead of waiting for her to turn around.

"Earth is truly a bizarre place. We've taken in many students from there over the last few years, and almost all of them possess innate gifts," the Sandmaster said.

"Yes. Several years ago, the Rainmaster actually went to visit Earth, but he found nothing special aside from many cultivators with innate gifts," Old Cai added.

Lu Yin already knew that Earth was special, though he had no idea why.

After Lu Yin left Earth, the next group of Earthlings to leave the planet had gone to study at the Yu Academy. There had been several incredibly talented cultivators in that group, and Lu Yin had later

heard that many had been accepted as students of Astral-10. It seemed that some of them had even entered the Top 100 Rankings, which was truly shocking.

At the moment, the group of Astral-9's students from Earth were all quite young. Most were only sixteen or seventeen years old, and even the oldest was no more than twenty.

Inside the mechanical ruins of the arena, the match between the two students ended, and Astral-5's students started cheering. Clearly, the winner had been one of their own.

The next match was between students from Astral-9 and Astral-2.

Chapter 1738: Habitual Madness

The branches of the Astral Combat Academy were ranked according to how their students placed during the Astral Combat Academy's assessments. However, the ranking had remained unchanged for many, many years. The only exception to this was Astral-10, which had insisted on remaining Astral-10 even when it ranked first.

Lu Yin watched each match with great pleasure as he reminisced about his time as an Astral-10 student.

The students he saw were all quite talented. There were no less than four who had cultivated four-lined battle force, which was even more than Lu Yin's class. There were also many with domains or innate gifts. However, there was a lack of top powerhouses. When Lu Yin had fought in the Astral Combat Tournament, the Thirteen Swords had appeared along with Nightqueen Yanqing and Starsibyl. There were no powerhouses on their level in the tournament that Lu Yin observed.

However, Lu Yin did see a genius from the Mavis family participating in the tournament, and from what he could see, this person was even stronger than Grandini Mavis had been during the tournament that Lu Yin had fought in. This person was readily acknowledged as one of the strongest participants in the competition.

After watching the matches for a long time, Lu Yin lost interest and moved to leave.

"Leaving already? Don't worry, a genius from your Earth is about to fight. Won't you watch them?" Old Cai said.

Lu Yin stopped and turned to look.

At the end of the current match, the next round started, which was the top sixteen. This was the round that would determine the top eight students within the Astral Combat Academy.

The girl standing in front of the other students from Earth on top of the massive screw disappeared and reappeared in the arena. A man showed up in front of her. He was covered with tattoos from the neck down, his eyes were hideous, and his hands were several times larger than those of ordinary people.

It was at this moment that Lu Yin finally saw the girl's face. He was shocked. Was it really her? The person down in the arena was Zhou Xixi, Zhou Shan's daughter.

Lu Yin had not even considered that Zhou Xixi could be here; was she even old enough to participate? After Earth's apocalypse, when Lu Yin had left for the Great Yu Empire, the girl had not even been born,

but in the blink of an eye, she was already this old. After thinking about it, Lu Yin realized that the girl should be about sixteen years old! Time had really flown by.

Three-lined battle force shrouded the tattooed man's body, and he charged straight at Zhou Xixi without using any sort of battle technique. She gracefully dodged the attack and seemed completely unfazed by the man's up-close combat style. He spread the fingers of one hand and launched a palm attack that contained the Overlaying Stacks Path.

Lu Yin's meteoric rise had also caused the Overlaying Stacks Path to rise in popularity in the universe. Countless people wanted to learn the method, especially after Lu Yin had revealed his Vacuum Palm. There were untold numbers of people who coveted that technique.

The Vacuum Palm was a technique that had both power and speed, and it was even invisible. It truly was one of the best attack techniques.

The man's mastery of the Overlaying Stacks Path was quite good, and when that was combined with his three lined battle force, he would have attracted a lot of attention even if he had participated in Lu Yin's Astral Combat Tournament.

Still, the man's efforts were useless against Zhou Xixi.

A smile stretched across Lu Yin's face, as he saw that Zhou Xixi was having a happier time of things than he had. The girl had no worry about having enough resources, as her father was the headmaster of the top cultivation academy on Earth, which was also Lu Yin's home planet. The planet enjoyed a very special status in the Great Yu Empire, and the amount of resources that Earth had received was surpassed only by Zenyu Academy. Given such tremendous resources, Zhou Xixi was more powerful than her peers, and her cultivation was also at a much higher level than others of her age.

That was even ignoring battle techniques. Lu Yin had provided a tremendous number of battle techniques to Yu Academy, and Zhou Xixi was qualified to learn any of them.

Her foundation was not something that the regular students of the Astral Combat Academy could compare to, and even the descendants of the Wen and Liu families might not have received her level of treatment.

The tattooed man was quickly defeated, and Zhou Xixi easily achieved her victory. She looked around with clenched fists. Defeating this opponent was no accomplishment to her eyes. Instead, her goal was to be the strongest person in the entire Astral Combat Academy. She intended to be recognized as the most powerful student so that she could proudly stand before her Uncle Lu.

Her father's greatest regret was that he had not been able to leave Earth with her Uncle Lu. Since her father had failed, Zhou Xixi intended to replace him. One day, she would be able to help her Uncle Lu and not just be the child of some old friend.

What?

Zhou Xixi's eyes suddenly went wide as she looked at the iron cube off in the distance. Was that her Uncle Lu standing with the academy's mentors?

Lu Yin and Zhou Xixi locked eyes, and he smiled and nodded to her.

Zhou Xixi was incredibly excited, and she instantly left the arena and headed straight toward the iron cube.

It was clear that she was very excited, and her actions drew many people's attention. After all, she was one of the strongest contenders for winning the entire competition.

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"Uncle Lu!" Zhou Xixi shouted in excitement as she leaped onto the iron cube and came face to face with Lu Yin.

Lu Yin smiled at the girl. "I didn't expect you to already be so big."

"Uncle Lu, why are you here? Did you watch Xixi's match?" Zhou Xixi eagerly asked.

Lu Yin snorted. "It was a good fight. Zhou Shan taught you well."

Zhou Xixi felt proud. "Uncle, just watch! Xixi will definitely become the champion! Uncle, you won your tournament, and Xixi will do the same."

"Haha, go for it, but that Mavis girl isn't weak."

"Yes, Uncle."

...

Many of the students surrounding the arena stared at Lu Yin as he laughed with Zhou Xixi atop the iron cube. All of them were shocked to see him. "It's Arbiter Lu!"

"It really is Arbiter Lu! I didn't expect him to come."

"The leader of the Great Eastern Alliance, the champion of ZENITH actually came to see our Astral Combat Tournament!"

"Senior once studied at Astral-10, and it looks like he's a bit of a nostalgic person. We have to do our best this time!"

"You were already eliminated, and yet you're talking about working hard? Only the top eight can have a chance of entering Arbiter Lu's eyes. I want to join the Great Eastern Alliance and gain glory."

"You're just looking at the top and seeing stars."

"No way! Remember, Arbiter Lu came from Earth."

...

Lu Yin had intended to leave after Zhou Xixi's match, but he got caught up talking to her and ended up watching a few more matches.

"Uncle, the finals will take place in just half a month, and Xixi will definitely win! Will you stay to watch, Uncle?" Zhou Xixi asked with high expectations as she stared at Lu Yin with glittering eyes.

Lu Yin replied, "If at all possible, I'll try to be here."

Actually, he had felt that something was off this entire time, and it finally clicked at this moment: he was being called an uncle!

Lu Yin looked like he was around the same age as Zhou Xixi, so he felt very awkward being referred to as "uncle."

At this time, Old Cai and the Sandmaster both suddenly disappeared. Lu Yin frowned; something had happened, and something in the real world was most likely causing problems.

Upon realizing this, Lu Yin told Zhou Xixi, "Have a good match. I'm going to head out for now."

He then immediately left the Three Daos Six Realms.

When Lu Yin's eyes opened, he immediately leaped off the mountain. The Trialmaster was not outside the entrance, and there were some students off in the distance, shouting, "The headmaster went crazy! He lost his mind again!"

"Where?" Lu Yin asked loudly.

"The Rain Observatory."

Lu Yin instantly disappeared.

"Hey, he looked really familiar. Who was that?"

"I think that was Arbiter Lu..."

...

Rain was still falling at the Rain Observatory. Off in the distance, there was a person laughing wildly and shouting, "You provoked the war, and you'll suffer the consequences on your own! Hahahaha, you provoked the war!"

It was the insane headmaster.

After he started shouting, the enormous trees started to collapse one after another, and shockwaves swept over the Rain Observatory and across Astral-10 with enough power to shake the void.

Outside of the academy, multiple layers of the void were torn asunder, and even the nearby planets exploded.

The Starmaster, Old Cai, the Rainmaster, the Sand Master, and the Trialmaster all attacked as one. Lu Yin could not even understand what they were doing, but they somehow surrounded the headmaster and stopped him from moving.

Lu Yin approached the Rainmaster and looked at the bizarre scene.

Astral-10 had always been different from the other branches of the Astral Combat Academy. For one, Old Cai and the other mentors were not true mentors. Rather, they were the headmaster's caretakers. The academy's original mentors had all left long ago. This was why the headmaster had to beg the men to teach Lu Yin and the other students of his generation.

Astral-10 was a guide in the unknown, a battleship, and it carried the torch of humanity.

A long time later, the mad headmaster finally recovered, and he instantly disappeared without even looking towards Lu Yin.

Old Cai and others were all exhausted. "I don't know when these days will stop."

The Rainmaster asked, "Do you actually think that they will ever end?"

Old Cai rolled his eyes. "It would be fine if this place was just a cage, but I have to also shoulder the endless responsibilities of teaching all those students now. It's such a pain."

After hearing their conversation, Lu Yin butted in, "Does the headmaster act like this often?"

The Stormmaster, Trialmaster, and Sandmaster all left, and Old Cai answered, "Sometimes."

"It has been hard on all of you mentors," Lu Yin said.

Old Cai suddenly sounded upset, "If you know that your mentors have been working so hard, then you should contribute! If not for your class, Astral-10 would have been shut down long ago, and we wouldn't have so many responsibilities. Just look at how busy we are—we can't even watch a match."

Lu Yin let out a wry smile. He was curious about the insane headmaster's words, but he knew that the mentors would not tell him anything.

He was about to leave, but just as he turned around, Zhou Xixi arrived through the teleportation device. "Uncle Lu."

Lu Yin felt a sudden headache, but he still forced a smile. "Xixi, what's wrong?"

Zhou Xixi had not come by herself, as there was a large crowd of students behind her. All of them stared at Lu Yin in a starstruck manner. This was not Lu Yin's first time seeing such expressions.

"Uncle, they would like to get your autograph," Zhou Xixi stated clearly.

Lu Yin was speechless. "My autograph?"

As soon as Lu Yin spoke, he was swarmed by the students. Some offered him a piece of clothing, and others their hands for him to sign. The worst was a student who was about to disrobe and have Lu Yin sign her chest.

Before Lu Yin could even respond, Zhou Xixi drove the young woman away in anger. "Bah, shameless!"

Lu Yin felt quite embarrassed, as the woman was quite beautiful.

After finally chasing all of the students away, Zhou Xixi grabbed Lu Yin's arm. "Uncle, are you leaving?"

Lu Yin nodded. He reached up to rub Zhou Xixi's head. "Yes, I'm leaving, but I'll see you next time."

Zhou Xixi was disappointed. "I knew that Uncle Lu would be too busy to stay here for Xixi's competition."

"Don't worry, I'll be back to see it."

Zhou Xixi obediently nodded. "Then can you accompany Xixi to the Stargazing Deck?"

"Have you not been there yet?" Lu Yin was caught off guard. According to the rules, each student could only visit the Stargazing Deck a single time, as a second visit would only allow a person to witness the same scene again.

Zhou Xixi whispered, "I heard that the Starmasters of the other eight branches of the Astral Combat Academy are absent, so I wanted to try to sneak in again, in case our Starmaster is also gone."

Lu Yin found this amusing. "Sorry to disappoint you, but our Starmaster is here."

He was about to continue speaking when he finally processed what she had said and became startled. "The other eight branches' Starmasters are absent?"

Zhou Xixi nodded and blinked. "That's what my classmates told me."

Lu Yin has always been very concerned about the Stargazing Deck. Long ago, he had held the goal of visiting each of the ten Stargazing Decks so that he could comprehend the Skybeast Claw, but besides Astral-10's, he had only ever managed to visit Astral-9's Stargazing Deck. He had never made it to any of the other branches of the Astral Combat Academy.

He had actually forgotten about that particular goal, but Zhou Xixi had just reminded him of it.

Chapter 1739: Triggering Destiny

The Stargazing Deck could allow a person to see both the past or the present. This was not something that Lu Yin had paid much attention to in the past, but as more time passed, he had gradually realized that the Stargazing Deck was very mysterious.

It was also not a trivial matter that all of the other eight Starmasters had disappeared at the same time.

"Uncle, let's go. Will you go with Xixi to the Stargazing Deck?" Zhou Xixi asked as hope filled her eyes. She was actually quite afraid of what would happen if she were discovered on her own. So, she wanted to drag Lu Yin along in order to feel safe.

Lu Yin nodded, as he also wanted to go see the Stargazing Deck again.

How many times had Lu Yin visited the Stargazing Deck? After thinking about it, he felt that this was his fourth time. He had used the Stargazing Deck twice and been refused access once.

Zhou Xixi was disappointed to see the Starmaster present at his post. "He's really here... Forget it, I won't be able to use it today."

"Xixi, there's something that I need to speak with the Starmaster about, so head on back first," Lu Yin said.

Zhou Xixi looked at Lu Yin. "Uncle, you'll definitely see Xixi's next match, right?"

Lu Yin nodded with a smile. "Of course. Now go on."

Zhou Xixi snorted, but it only took her three steps to leave after she turned around.

After the girl left, Lu Yin respectfully greeted the Starmaster. "Student Lu Yin would like to enter the Stargazing Deck."

The Starmaster looked at the young man. "This is your fourth time asking, and the answer is no this time as well."

Lu Yin shrugged. "This student still hasn't graduated, and my strength is completely different from before. Could Starmaster make an exception? This student is confident that I'll see a different vision from before."

The Starmaster responded in a relaxed tone, "In that case, what should I do if all the Enlighters and Envoys ask to enter the Stargazing Deck?"

"This student still has not graduated," Lu Yin protested.

"It's because you are a student that you cannot repeatedly use the Stargazing Deck."

Lu Yin changed tactics. "This student was asked to become a guest instructor by the headmaster."

"But you haven't agreed to accept that position yet," the Starmaster retorted.

Lu Yin spoke loudly, "This student agrees to the headmaster's request."

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The Starmaster stared intently at Lu Yin, and Lu Yin stared back just as intently.

After a while, the Starmaster simply said, "Guest Instructor Lu, you can enter the Stargazing Deck, but only once."

Lu Yin was thrilled. "Thank you, Starmaster."

Lu Yin thought back to the scene that he had witnessed when he had first used the Stargazing Deck. He was absolutely confident that he would be able to see deeper and further than back then, getting a different picture.

Lu Yin stepped forward and moved to the top of the Stargazing Deck. Suddenly, his body froze midstep. After a moment, his chest became hot, and all the fatesand inside his body suddenly appeared. The Stargazing Deck remained the same as ever, but in Lu Yin's sight, Astral-10 had completely disappeared. The scene outside of Astral-10 started trembling violently. Images flashed by Lu Yin, but he could not get a clear look at any of them. It was as if he was watching time fly by, but it also felt like he was seeing imprints of events that had been left in time.

He tried his best to see any of the images clearly but failed.

At this same time, far away in another part of the universe, Xuan Jiu was eating a delicious meal when he suddenly vomited blood, and his face grew pale. He could not stop himself from clutching his head and screaming.

In the Astral Beast Domain, Skymender also spat up blood and slumped to the ground.

In the distant Perennial World, there was a woman who suddenly started bleeding from her mouth. Her eyes opened to reveal a piercing gaze filled with coldness and dignity as she spat out blood and muttered, "Everything has come to naught. Who? Who is it that is inviting Destiny?"

Lu Yin was clueless about all these events. The only thing occupying his mind was his attempt to see one of the scenes that flickered across his vision. He concentrated so hard that his eyes began to bleed.

Finally, the flickering images converged onto a single scene that Lu Yin could clearly observe. He saw a random Champions' Stage set within a courtyard that has not been cleaned for a long time. There were bloodstains on the Champions' Stage, and there was also a man kneeling on the ground close by.

The man looked uneasy as he knelt on the ground. It was impossible to know how long the man had held that position for. When Lu Yin saw the man's face, it seemed extremely familiar, but at the same time, he could not recognize him.

Suddenly, the vision vanished, and Lu Yin felt as though he was falling through endless time and space to return back to Astral-10. His mind was spinning, and he almost collapsed. At the same time, his fatesand dispersed in all directions.

He wanted to stop it, but at this moment, his strength was completely gone and he could only watch as the fatesand scattered in every direction.

Fortunately, he was in Astral-10, and the scattered fatesand did not make it far before the Starmaster caught and suppressed it.

Lu Yin was gasping for air, and sweat was pouring down from his forehead. His entire body felt weak for a while, especially his chest. All of the death energy that he had accumulated from Gaia's Swamp had completely vanished.

What had happened? He stared at the Stargazing Deck. Was there a connection? Lu Yin had possessed fatesand in the past when using the Stargazing Deck.

Could it have been the Starmaster?

Lu Yin raised his head and looked over at the Starmaster.

The Starmaster was staring at Lu Yin, he and solemnly stated, "I had nothing to do with any of it."

Lu Yin was confused. "Starmaster, what just happened?"

The Starmaster shook his head. "I don't know what you saw, but-" The man raised his hand to reveal the thirty nine pieces of fatesand that had left Lu Yin's body. "It's possible that possessing this caused you to trigger Destiny."

Lu Yin was even more confused than before. "Trigger Destiny?"

The Starmaster returned the fatesand to Lu Yin, and the youth absorbed them back inside his body. Fortunately, nothing bad had happened.

"People from time immemorial often entrusted their unfulfilled wishes to the gods, and according to the legends, Destiny was the god that was trusted with those wishes. The Stargazing Deck is a place that the ancient people built to worship the gods," the Starmaster slowly explained.

Lu Yin listened quietly. Destiny. It was Destiny again.

"However, this is just according to the legends. What relationship might exist between the Stargazing Decks and fatesand? No one knows, but both are related to Destiny in the legends. It's possible that Destiny actually existed, or that there is some other connection between fatesand and the Stargazing Deck. The truth remains that nothing can be proven and that all we have to go on are myths and legends."

Lu Yin asked, "Starmaster, do you believe in the legend?"

The Starmaster stared at Lu Yin. "Whether I believe in it or not makes no difference, as it has nothing to do with me."

"Why does every branch of the Astral Combat Academy have a Stargazing Deck?"

"Humanity's development and inheritances are inextricably tied. The Astral Combat Academy holds an inheritance that no one can destroy unless a catastrophe appears that humanity cannot withstand."

Lu Yin's eyes flashed. As far as he understood, each of the nine headmasters of the Astral Combat Academy's branches was an Envoy, and even though Astral-3 had been destroyed, their headmaster had still killed the Sixth Mainland's Imprinters. Not to mention, Astral-10's mad headmaster had even forced back Xia Meng.

Every headmaster of the Astral Combat Academy was a very powerful Envoy.

This was a terrifying level of power.

It had to be acknowledged that, even at their peak, the Daynight clan had only possessed two or three Envoys. Not even the monstrous powers in the Neoverse possessed more Envoys than the Astral Combat Academy.

The Starmaster had spoken truly: the Astral Combat Academy contained an inheritance that could not be destroyed. Even if every power in the Inverseverse joined together, they still would not be able to destroy the academy. The only reason why Astral-3 had been destroyed was because the Sixth Mainland had invaded and brought disaster upon the entire Fifth Mainland.

"The Stargazing Deck and the Three Realms Six Daos are both unique inheritances that were placed in the Astral Combat Academy. Is there no history regarding the Stargazing Decks?" Lu Yin was very curious about this fact. He felt that, as he accumulated more and more fatesand, his connection to Destiny had become more and more complicated. Thus, he was very eager to learn more.

He still remembered Xuan Jiu's caution to not become involved with Destiny, but in the end, it seemed that Lu Yin had still influenced Destiny.

"No. Legends are just legends in the end. Those things are too old, and the Stargazing Deck is only used to guide new students when they first enter the academy now. When you first arrived, you also received this guidance, and that's enough." The Starmaster then sat down and closed his eyes.

Lu Yin shrugged and looked back at the Stargazing Deck. Too many images had appeared when he stepped onto that place; were each of the scenes that had flashed by guidance from Destiny? Why would Destiny guide him at all? He had seen a Champions' Stage in one of the images, so did that mean

that Destiny somehow knew that he was a part of the Lu family? Could the connection have been perceived through blood? His innate gift? Or even time?

Aside from the Champions' Stage, there had been too many other scenes. What were the other ones? Did they also have a connection to Lu Yin? Or was it possible to see images that were related to other people? Was this Destiny's power?

Everyone was entitled to their own privacy, but the scene that Lu Yin had just witnessed caused him to suddenly tremble. Was it possible that Destiny could freely spy on everyone?

Although the thought left him terrified, Lu Yin still wanted to see it again. He let out a long breath and looked up. "Starmaster, the Stargazing Decks are very important to the Astral Combat Academy, right?"

The Starmaster said nothing.

"Are the Stargazing Decks really nothing more than a guide? In that case, why did all of the other eight Starmasters leave their posts? If I'm right, they should be out searching for the Stargazing Deck that was lost when Astral-3 was destroyed," Lu Yin theorized.

The Starmaster still remained completely silent.

Lu Yin knew that the man would not say anything, so without any other options, he simply bowed and turned to leave.

After Lu Yin was gone, the Starmaster's eyes opened once again, and they contained conflicted emotions this time. "Triggering Destiny? I did not expect that there could be such a person. This might not be a bad thing."

After Lu Yin left the Stargazing Deck, he visited Astral-10's other mentors, hoping to learn more about the Stargazing Deck. However, no one could give him a real answer.

Old Cai's response was simply lazy. "The Stargazing Deck? Who knows what's going on with that. Anyways, when I got here, that thing was already here. If I knew how the hell it works, I'd be able to know everything."

The Rainmaster showed surprise. "The Stargazing Deck? I don't understand it, but it is found nowhere else in the entire universe. They are only located in my Astral Combat Academy."

The Sandmaster smacked a student into the sand sea with a punch. "The Stargazing Deck? How should I know? I've never visited it. Curious? Of course I'm curious about it. The Stargazing Deck, the teleportation battles, and the Three Realms Six Daos are all mysteries. Are you going to explain them all to me?"

The Trialmaster opened his eyes. "The Stargazing Deck? Is there something like that here?"

Lu Yin was stuck. After he said his goodbyes to Big Pao and Little Pao, he left Astral-10 with Emperor Luo.

The Astral Combat Tournament was still going on, but Lu Yin intended to visit Gaia's Swamp to replenish his death energy.

Without any death energy, he would not be able to use the God of Death's Transformation. He also did not have any easy means of getting more death energy, which left him feeling very nervous.

At this moment, he knew of two different places where he could replenish his death energy: Gaia's Swamp and the pocket space in the Outerverse on Aegis's headquarters where the Bizarre Sect's ruins were located.

Aegis's headquarters was in the Outerverse, on the border between the Sixth Mainland and the Great Eastern Alliance. While it was rather inconvenient to travel to Gaia's Swamp because of the distance, it was still a much better choice than returning to the Outerverse.

As for the Stargazing Deck, although Lu Yin could not understand it, it was clearly connected to Destiny. Also, since the God of Death had been a real figure in history, then Destiny must have existed as well.

They were both Ancient Progenitors, and it was possible that one really could access Destiny's inheritance by accumulating all the pieces of fatesand in the universe. Lu Yin started to get some ideas. After all, even though he was afraid of Destiny, the urge to see those mysterious scenes of the future again was too strong.

There was also the scene of the Champions' Stage and the person kneeling beside it. Thus, there had to still be people of the Lu family, and Lu Yin really wanted to know where that person was.

Chapter 1740: Limited Time

Just two days after Lu Yin left Astral-10, a major event occurred in the Outerverse.

The Outerverse had technically already been given to the Sixth Mainland, but due to time and logistical limitations, it had been impossible for them to take control of the entire Outerverse in one move.

This meant that the Great Eastern Alliance still had time, and the border to the west was under Shui Chuanxiao's supervision and constantly being patrolled.

In addition to the Fourth Division of the Allied Forces that patrolled the border, Yuan Shi was also present there.

One day at the Great Eastern Alliance's border, the Fourth Division's commander, Sigmund Mathers, looked out to see more and more people from the Sixth Mainland approaching in the distance. He quickly grew pale and immediately sent an urgent message to En Ya.

Sigmund Mathers had originally been a part of the Lu Office of Defense, and he had been posted in Grandtop Weave. However, as the Great Eastern Alliance had grown and acquired additional people with talent and qualifications, Sigmund Mathers had been transferred and made commander of the Allied Forces' Fourth Division. This was completely unrelated to his skills as a commander or his strength; he had been given this position purely because he was someone whom Lu Yin could trust.

More and more people started to appear at the border. They were from the Di family, the Mojiang family, and the Autumnfrost family. Members of the Bloodburn Realm's Yan family, the Blood Homage Realm's Nong family, and the Blackblood Realm's Sightless clan also showed up. There were even cultivators from the Sage Martial Realm's Cloud Valley, Grand Martial Realm's Justice Manor, and more. Altogether, these people represented followers of all three of the Sixth Mainland's Progenitors.

Ancestor Autumnfrost, Justice Manor's Cemetery Keeper, Ancestor Sightless, the Cloud Valley Master, and the Nong family's ancestor were all present. Their arrival caused space itself to tremble.

The Allied Forces' Fourth Division remained silent. Not a single soldier dared to move before the presence of so many powerhouses.

Sigmund Mathers' face went pale as he stared out at space. His battleship's device to measure power levels had actually exploded a bit ago, so he had known that an unimaginable powerhouse was approaching.

Each of these experts alone could eliminate the entire Fourth Division with the twitch of a finger. Their lives were not their own at this moment.

Fortunately, Yuan Shi quickly appeared and dissipated the pressure that had been sweeping towards the Fourth Division.

"For so many experts to appear from the Sixth Mainland, do you have something to say?" Yuan Shi's expression was solemn as he spoke.

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Ancestor Sightless, the Cloud Valley Master, and the Nong family's patriarch were all Cosmic Imprinters, which meant that they were at the same level of strength as Yuan Shi. He had no confidence in being able to defeat any of them since cultivators from the Sixth Mainland held an innate advantage against anyone from the Fifth Mainland. With three such powerhouses present, Yuan Shi was under unbelievable pressure.

The Cloud Valley Master glanced at the Fourth Division of the Allied Forces. Wherever his eyes fell, the soldiers grew terrified. They felt as though they had just been sliced with a sharp blade, and no one dared to look at the man.

Finally, the Cosmic Imprinter looked at Yuan Shi. "Leave the Outerverse. My Sixth Mainland is taking control of this entire place."

Yuan Shi frowned. "Given the size of the Outerverse, even if your Sixth Mainland wants to take it over--"

But before he could finish speaking, the Cloud Valley Master interrupted him, saying, "Whether or not we can take control of the entire place has nothing to do with you. Leave the Outerverse within a month. Any who remain after that time will be treated as submitting to the Sixth Mainland."

Yuan Shi's expression grew even more somber.

It was impossible for the Fifth Mainland's forces to completely abandon the Outerverse in a single month as there were just too many people in the Great Eastern Alliance. There were countless people in the eastern weaves who wanted to leave the Outerverse, as they did not want to be ruled by the Sixth Mainland. How could all of these people be moved away in a month with just the one Astral River Ark that they had access to? Doing so even in one, two, or even ten years would be a challenge.

There were also countless people in the western weaves who had wanted to flee the Sixth Mainland, but had not had time.

"Is this your decision or that of your Sixth Mainland's Daosource Sect?" Yuan Shi asked.

The Cloud Valley Master casually replied, "The Daosource Sect's."

"A month is impossible." Yuan Shi refused.

The Cloud Valley Master's expression grew sharp. "My Sixth Mainland has already given you so much time, and yet you have not left. One more month is all you get."

Yuan Shi shook his head. "I just told you that a month is impossible. If you try to force this, my Fifth Mainland will treat it as a provocation."

The Cloud Valley Master just laughed, and a sword appeared in his hand. It was covered with golden patterns, and suddenly, a terrifying aura swept towards Yuan Shi.

The Cloud Valley Master's aura was fierce and peerless while Yuan Shi's was vigorous.

When the two auras clashed, space trembled, and stars moved.

At this moment, Ancestor Sightless stepped forward. He was another Cosmic Imprinter, and his entrance into the fight meant that Yuan Shi was instantly suppressed by the Cloud Valley Master and Ancestor Sightless.

Yuan Shi clenched his fist. He was alone here, and he could not stop the Sixth Mainland by himself.

The Sixth Mainland was going to completely ignore his presence. He had already received the information that Lu Yin had learned in the Technocracy; the Sixth Mainland had asked First Edition City for support in the Outerverse in the form of androids, and everyone understood that this had to mean that they were planning to go to war against the Fifth Mainland. With that matter exposed, the Sixth Mainland had cast aside all restraints. They wanted to move against the Fifth Mainland.

The hatred between the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands ran too deep and had existed for far too long. The Sixth Mainland had won the ancient war and covered the Fifth Mainland's sky. On the other side, the Fifth Mainland's Progenitor Hui had put into play a scheme spanning countless years that had resulted in a calamity for the Sixth Mainland; their entire homeland had been destroyed.

The hatred between the two Mainlands far exceeded the grudges that existed between the Human Domain and the Astral Beast Domain.

The Fifth Mainland had only agreed to give the Sixth Mainland the Outerverse because they needed the Sixth Mainland's three Progenitors to keep Aeternus outside of the hole in the barrier that protected most of the Fifth Mainland.

Each side was incredibly familiar with the other, and the Sixth Mainland was eager to take total control of the Outerverse. Their next goal was to move on and seize control of the Innerverse, and then even the Cosmic Sea and the Neoverse.

There was no going back.

There was no way to resolve such animosity of the two in the short term, not to mention a cure for greed.

Both sides were completely on edge.

Sigmund Mathers' fists were clenched tightly. The moment a battle broke out, his Fourth Division would be done. They did not have the strength to stand up to the Sixth Mainland's powerhouses.

At this time, someone coughed, and Nong Laohan stepped forward awkwardly. "Um... we never finished our discussion, so why start fighting already?"

The Cloud Valley Master and Yuan Shi both looked at the old man.

"What else is there to even talk about?" The Cloud Valley Master's voice was frigid. He had always looked down on Nong Laohan, as the man was simply lucky. When it came to actual strength, the man was worthless.

Nong Laohan was a true legend in the Sixth Mainland. His luck was truly heaven defying, and he had encountered countless lucky opportunities. This was the reason why he had managed to become a Cosmic Imprinter. As for his battle strength, few people had ever seen him fight, and it was generally well known that he was weak at fighting. He had only been brought along as a bit of support.

Nong Laohan said, "Cloud Valley Master, have you already forgotten what Bluedome Elder told us? After all, the leader of the Great Eastern Alliance is Lu Yin."

The old man then turned towards Yuan Shi. "We need to talk to Alliance Leader Lu."

The Cloud Valley Master's face twisted in distaste—Lu Yin? He was just a child.

"That's right. Let us speak with Alliance Leader Lu," Ancestor Sightless agreed.

It was hard for the Cloud Valley Master to interfere after two Cosmic Imprinters spoke out.

Yuan Shi had not expected to hear such a request. Even though Lu Yin was very famous and held a very high status, he was still just a junior. He was not qualified to take part in decisions that could affect the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands. Why did these people want to talk to Lu Yin?

"Lu Yin? What is there to say to him?" Yuan Shi asked.

Nong Laohan smiled. "You're Yuan Shi, correct? Although you are a true powerhouse, you are nothing more than a protector. You don't have the authority to decide whether the Great Eastern Alliance stays or leaves. Have Alliance Leader Lu come speak with us, and he might just willingly join my Sixth Mainland, haha."

Yuan Shi could not understand the Sixth Mainland's intentions at all. "You must give your word that you will not attack Lu Yin."

Nong Laohan solemnly replied, "Even if war does break out, we can give Lu Yin a bit of time to leave in safety, as long as he is not the first to attack."

Yuan Shi thought for a moment and then asked the Fourth Division to call Lu Yin. After all, Lu Yin was the leader of the Great Eastern Alliance, and Yuan Shi was also not good at making decisions.

Only a brief bit of time had passed since people from the Sixth Mainland had appeared at the Great Eastern Alliance's border, but Lu Yin had already received a report. As soon as he received the news, he had instantly shifted course for the Outerverse.

At the same time, he had reached out to Wang Wen, Shui Chuanxiao, and his other advisors. He hoped that they could find a way to stall for as much time as possible so that the Great Eastern Alliance would have a better chance to move into the Innaverse.

Lu Yin had not expected the Sixth Mainland to move against him so quickly.

Wang Wen and others felt similarly helpless at the news. They were all brilliant people, but they could not counter a move like this. The Sixth Mainland had dispatched multiple powerhouses, and it was obvious that they had already made a decision. No matter what they tried to do against the Sixth Mainland, it would all be useless.

Beep beep beep!

Lu Yin's gadget beeped, and he quickly answered the call.

"The Sixth Mainland wants to talk to you. Will you come?" It was Yuan Shi.

Lu Yin solemnly answered, "Of course I'm coming. Before I get there, I must ask Senior to try to avoid fighting with them, as it's likely that the Sixth Mainland wants to start a war."

"I've already reported this matter to the Hall of Honor, and the Neoverse will send experts as well. The three Progenitors are all outside the Starfall Sea, and without them, the Sixth Mainland doesn't have much of an advantage over my Fifth Mainland, even if war does break out," Yuan Shi explained.

"This junior already knows." Lu Yin hung up.

Aside from the Sixth Mainland's three Progenitors, they also had quite a few Envoys, but Lu Yin had no idea how many Semi-Progenitors they had.

The Fifth Mainland had once had seven Semi-Progenitors, but Lingzhi Mavis had died, so there were only six left. The Astral Beast Domain and the Technocracy were considered to be peers of the Human Domain, and it did not seem likely that the Sixth Mainland would be much weaker even with the absence of their Progenitors. This meant that the Sixth Mainland must have been keeping their Semi-Progenitors hidden, especially those who intended to try to become Progenitors themselves.

If war erupted between the Sixth and Fifth Mainlands once again, the Great Eastern Alliance would bear the brunt of the damage, which would not be good for Lu Yin.

He did not want the war to start.

There were both small and big plans in play. While Madam Hong and others could use people like Qing Tan and other means to scheme against Lu Yin, in the face of the entire Sixth Mainland's movements, such plots were not even worth mentioning.

While Lu Yin waited for the Second Nightking and Liu Huang to meet up with him, he stared at a star chart. This was a very important matter, and he needed a plan that oversaw the entire situation. However, what could he do? How could he avert this crisis?

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More than ten days later, Lu Yin rushed to the Great Eastern Alliance's border at his top speed to meet with the Cloud Valley Master and the other Sixth Mainland powerhouses.

Upon seeing the majestic number of runes that filled space before him, Lu Yin realized just how many experts the Sixth Mainland had sent. This was not a force that the Great Eastern Alliance could stop, and it would be difficult for even the full power of a united Inverse to stop this army.

The Cloud Valley Master and others immediately noticed Lu Yin, and they all stared at him.

None of them had ever seen Lu Yin before, but they had all heard of him, and they had watched him fight during ZENITH. This child was a true legend, but what concerned the three Cosmic Imprinters the most was the peerless battle technique that Lu Yin had gained from the Nine Cauldrons Region in the ruins of the Fifth Mainland's Daosource Sect. That, and the God of Death's inheritance that Lu Yin had received.

Lu Yin had single handedly defeated all of his peers in his generation. This was a level of strength that only future Progenitors could possess. Thus, it was not surprising for Lu Yin to already have such impressive bearing.

"Lu Yin greets his seniors." Lu Yin's face carried an indifferent expression as he met all of the old men in the emptiness of outer space. He carried himself with unparalleled confidence, and he faced the Cloud Valley Master and others with a calm arrogance.

The Cloud Valley Master coldly asked, "Are you Lu Yin? Junior, take your Great Eastern Alliance out of the Outerverse within a month, or else my Sixth Mainland will attack. Anything that remains after a month will be treated as part of my Sixth Mainland."

A smile appeared on Lu Yin's face. "A month is not enough."

"You don't get to decide if it's enough or not," the Cloud Valley Master coldly retorted.

To the side, Nong Laohan was staring at Lu Yin with open curiosity. A young man like Lu Yin was truly rare. Still, the most important thing to him was that Lu Yin had stolen something from the Nong family.