

Chapter 1011: Meaning

A group of people that looked like cyborgs within the spacecraft clutched at the walls, only steadying themselves after a bit of difficulty.

A woman flew out of the ship. She had the appearance of a rather pretty human, but her eyes were mechanical, and even her hair was inorganic. She glared at Hui Kong with clear fury on her face. "Stupid baldy! Pay us back for our family's items!"

Hui Kong disdainfully replied, "Beat it, doll."

"Stupid baldy! Smelly baldy! If you have the ability, then suppress your realm and fight us! I'll use your bald head as a ball to kick around!"

"Dollface, go back and drink your milk."

"Stupid baldy, you're infuriating me to death!"

Hui Kong laughed.

Down on the planet, Lu Yin's face grew strange. Hui Kong was actually not killing this group, and they also did not seem to be afraid of him, which was very confusing.

A long while later, the spacecraft shakily left, and it could not even be seen after it shot off into the distance.

Hui Kong descended onto the planet and let out several loud laughs.

Lu Yin was curious about the matter. "Bro, who were those people?"

"Oh, they're from the Technocracy. They're a part of the Semi-Android family, and they are a power that belongs to a certain research team."

Lu Yin had his doubts. "They actually dare to try to make trouble for you?"

Hui Kong chuckled. "Actually, the Technocracy and Human Domain aren't mortal enemies, but that's something that you'll come to understand later."

Lu Yin did not really understand at this moment, but he still nodded. "Right, bro, they asked you to repay them. What for?"

Hui Kong smiled drily. "It's nothing much. Actually, when I'm hungry, I tend to go and steal some of their treasures. Sometimes, I accidentally make some trouble by ruining their stuff. That group is just a bit stingy."

Lu Yin was left speechless.

Some days later, another incomparably huge monstrosity attacked Hui Kong, but it was also easily reduced to scrap material by Hui Kong. He tossed the pile of junk over to Lu Yin. "Do you want this?"

Lu Yin shook his head. "I can't fit that in my ring."

Hui Kong thought about it and then left. The next day, he threw a cosmic ring to Lu Yin, and Lu Yin's mouth gaped open when he looked inside it. This cosmic ring was about a hundred times larger than his current one, which was too ridiculous. He gasped in amazement. "Bro, this is?"

"Borrowed," Hui Kong replied indifferently.

Lu Yin blinked. "Does it need to be returned?"

Hui Kong gave the question some serious thought. "Sometime in my lifetime."

At this moment, Lu Yin came to an understanding, and he suddenly realized why that group of people had been so enraged that they would risk their lives to demand repayment from this old man. Hui Kong definitely hadn't simply destroyed their items, and the value of just this cosmic ring alone was absolutely priceless. Lu Yin guessed that not even an Envoy-level powerhouse might own such a cosmic ring, which was too scary of a thought. This man was an old pirate, but Lu Yin liked his style.

With his new absurdly huge cosmic ring, Lu Yin unceremoniously stored the ruined remains of the mechanical monstrosity.

For something to be sent out to deal with Hui Kong, even if its power level had not reached a million, the machine's strength had to have at least reached the strength of an Envoy. And to produce a machine of such a level, its component materials would naturally be rare and extraordinary, and Lu Yin did not have a problem with gathering more such materials.

At regular intervals, giant machines would attack Hui Kong. After one of these attacks, he told Lu Yin that he used to shatter them into dust, but he was showing mercy now in order to try to leave some materials for Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was very grateful, and he was even happier as he collected the scrap metal.

More than a month passed in this manner.

Hui Kong looked up at the sky with eyes full of reminiscence.

"Bro, are you thinking of home?" Lu Yin asked.

Hui Kong smiled. "No. My immediate family are probably all dead by now, and who knows which generation is still alive now."

"Where are you from, Bro?" Lu Yin asked. This was the first time he asked the old man such a question, as he had been concerned about being rude before. Now that they had spent almost two months together, they were quite familiar with each other.

Hui Kong did not hide anything. "The Neoverse."

"Bro's from Neoverse? Could you tell me a bit more about the Neoverse?" Lu Yin was very interested.

Hui Kong was astonished. "You haven't been to the Neoverse?"

Lu Yin shook his head.

“Alright then, I’ll tell you about the Neoverse, though this knowledge is from a very long time ago, and I don’t know much at all about the current situation. Still, things shouldn’t have changed too much.”

Hui Kong paused and looked at Lu Yin. Upon seeing that the youth was listening attentively, he continued, saying, “The part of the universe where we live is the Fifth Mainland, and it’s divided into three domains: the Human Domain, the Technocracy, and the Astral Beast Domain. The Human Domain itself is also divided into different sections: the Outerverse, the Innerverse, the Cosmic Sea, and the Neoverse.

“You’re from the Outerverse, so there’s no need to say much about it. Most of the various powers are in the Innerverse, and that place is filled with complex relations. I don’t understand that place too much, and there’s no need to know too much as the true core of the entire Human Domain lies within the Neoverse.

“The Neoverse is the core zone of the Human Domain, and it’s also where you’ll find the top elites of the entire Human Domain. The one that stands at the very top is the Hall of Honor. They govern the entire Human Domain since they have a Semi-Progenitor overseeing things. In addition, they also have several powerhouses whose power levels are above 1,000,000. Nobody knows if there are any other stronger powerhouses, but that’s because no one has ever learned of the Hall of Honor’s true strength.

“The Hall of Honor stands alone, but right beneath it are the Mavis family, the Cosmic Sect, Gods’ Origin, and Aurora Enterprises, all of which have influence that stretches throughout the entire Human Domain. However, those guys are just the legitimate forces. Opposite them are the Three Dark Hands—namely, the Neohuman Alliance, the Seven Courts, and Burial Garden. Based on your current level of strength, you should have heard of pretty much all of them. Still, there are other forces outside of these powers, but they keep themselves hidden and never expose themselves at all. One of them is Eversky Island.”

Lu Yin was taken aback; there were still more powers?

Hui Kong’s expression grew even more solemn. “If you ever have the opportunity to go to the Neoverse one day, don’t ever underestimate anyone there, even if you are already considered unrivaled within your generation. That’s because this Fifth Mainland contains more than the strength of just one mainland. Rather, it is actually five that have combined together. The simplest example is one of the Three Dark Hands, the Seven Courts. They are actually seven families from the five shattered mainlands, and each one of them has their own secret technique.”

Lu Yin had never looked down upon those people. Even when the Fifth Mainland had seemed to be in danger due to the Sixth Mainland’s invasion, there were still some powers that had never made any moves at all.

“Bro, what’s the meaning behind the existence of the Neoverse?” Lu Yin asked.

Hui Kong stared deep into Lu Yin’s eyes. “Do you know something?”

Lu Yin gave the old man a brief rundown of the Sixth Mainland’s invasion.

Hui Kong was stunned. “So something like that actually happened? And the sky was restored? That Sea King bastard has guts, hahaha! I admire him.”

“Bro, even when the Sixth Mainland invaded and the Fifth Mainland was about to be extinguished, the Three Dark Hands never took action, and neither did that Eversky Island you mentioned or the Mavis family. It seemed like none of them helped at all.” Lu Yin was puzzled.

Hui Kong shook his head. “You’ll learn all this in the future. The Sixth Mainland is not the true enemy, and this whole invasion was just a farce. That Sea King fellow disrupted the Neoverse’s movements, but he’s also very courageous. There’s no use in explaining these things to you right now.”

The two talked for a very long time, and Hui Kong was also very curious about the battle style of the Sixth Mainland cultivators. According to his own words, he had been born long after the war between the two mainlands, and since he had been stuck in the Technocracy all this time, he had not been able to witness their fighting techniques with his own eyes.

When he heard that the Sixth Mainland cultivators used imprints as their primary method of cultivation, Hui Kong revealed a disdainful look. “Fools! Those idiots were not deceived casually.”

“Deceived?” Lu Yin was puzzled.

Hui Kong explained, “The older generation said that the Sixth Mainland was deceived by something. It seems that it was not just in terms of battle, as even their entire cultivation system is off.”

Lu Yin suddenly thought of a sentence that he had heard in the Rune Technology Civilization’s ruins. Those words had also indicated that the Sixth Mainland had been deceived somehow, though it sounded more like some monster had cheated them. Just what kind of monster could that have been exactly?

Lu Yin really wanted to learn more secrets from Hui Kong, as he felt that Hui Kong knew something, but Hui Kong remained very tight-lipped. The old man would not speak any further on that topic no matter what.

He patted Lu Yin on the shoulder and sighed. “Alright, stop trying to get more information out of me, Bro. Once you reach a certain level, you’ll naturally be able to find out more. It actually might not be a good thing for you to learn about this too early, as your entire being might just collapse, hahaha.”

Lu Yin proudly responded, “Bro, my willpower is very strong.”

“I can tell. I admire you alot, hahaha.” Hui Kong laughed, as he was truly quite happy.

Lu Yin looked at Hui Kong. This old man seemed to have a great deal to say, but he was completely tight-lipped when it came to certain secrets. “Bro, I’ve wanted to know the answer to one certain question for a long time.”

Hui Kong grinned. “I’m hungry. Wait a moment while I go and hunt. We’ll talk while we eat.”

He then flew up and disappeared.

Not long after, a giant shadow crashed down that caused the ground to split open. A terrifying astral beast had been thrown onto the planet, and it was already dead.

Lu Yin probed it with his Overlaying Stacks Path, but he could not break through the corpse's defense.

Hui Kong smiled. "Your physical strength isn't bad, and you also use the Overlaying Stacks Path. Interesting. Still, why just One Hundred Stacks? With your strength, you should be able to use at least One Hundred Fifty Stacks."

Lu Yin shrugged. "I don't know any further."

Hui Kong nodded. "It's a pity that I don't know the Overlaying Stacks Path, though I can still teach you."

Lu Yin's eyes lit up. "Bro, you know how to deduce it? With your strength, deducing over One Hundred Stacks shouldn't be hard at all."

Hui Kong chuckled. "Why get others to deduce it for you? Can't you do it yourself?"

This question left Lu Yin stumped, and an intense rumbling struck his brain that parted the fog. Right, was there any reason why he could not deduce it himself? In the past, when he had been in the Sentinel and Melder realms, he had asked the Astral Combat Academy's Rainmaster to deduce the Overlaying Stacks Path for him, but it had just been a few stacks. With Lu Yin's current strength, he no longer needed the deductions for those few stacks, as he could use his own power to demonstrate the technique and even guide others.

Since he could deduce several stacks by himself, then was there any reason why he could not deduce more of the Overlaying Stacks Path?

Lu Yin sat down cross-legged and immediately started peacefully meditating.

Hui Kong smiled and shook his head. "Interesting."

A few days quickly passed, and nearly half of the massive astral beast had been devoured by Hui Kong. At that moment, Lu Yin opened his eyes. His expression looked a bit lost and troubled, though there was also a glint of anticipation for the future.

"How was it? Did you deduce it?" Hui Kong asked.

Lu Yin shook his head, "It's not that simple. At most, I can deduce Twenty Stacks."

"That's because you're not experienced enough. Read more books and search for natural treasures that can help you to calm down and focus. Maybe then you'll be able to deduce more," Hui Kong suggested.

Lu Yin nodded. "Thank you for the tips, Bro."

Hui Kong laughed. "That wasn't any sort of tip—I'm just lazy! Otherwise I would have helped you deduce it, but you can't always rely on others in the future. The day you deduce One Hundred Stacks by yourself, you'll be able to unleash much more power than what you are capable of right now. The Overlaying Stacks Path will always be stronger if it is self-deduced rather than inherited from someone else."

Lu Yin fell deep into thought.

Chapter 1012: Route And The Hui Family

“Come on, have something to eat.” Hui Kong tossed Lu Yin a giant beast’s thigh.

Lu Yin caught it, and began to devour it without any hesitation.

Soon, there was just a pile of bones left on the ground. Lu Yin patted his stomach and wondered to himself if he had grown fatter.

“Oops, I forgot something.” Hui Kong suddenly smacked himself in the head, which startled Lu Yin and made him jump.

Lu Yin gave the old man a blank look.

Hui Kong looked down, thinking to himself for a moment. Suddenly, he grew annoyed. “How could I have forgotten about him?!”

“Bro, what’s the matter?” Lu Yin asked.

Hui Kong looked to be in agony, and he apologetically said, “I’m sorry, bro, but I might not be able to send you to the Outerverse anymore. Can you wait another hundred years or so?”

Lu Yin blinked. “Bro, stop kidding.”

Hui Kong sighed. “I’m not joking. With how long it’s been since I first barged into this broken place and started wreaking so much havoc, do you really think that the Technocracy relies on just those mechanical monsters to try to deal with me? That’s too naive. In order to restrict me, the Technocracy’s Master Brain sends an absolute powerhouse to deal with me every once in a while, and each fight will last for a hundred years.

“I wanted to send you off, but alas, it might already be too late.”

Lu Yin’s heart sank, as he did not want to be stuck in the Technocracy for a hundred years. After that much time, everything he was working towards would have already gone cold. “Bro, is there no other way? With your strength, it should just take you an instant to pass through the Technocracy.”

Hui Kong smiled bitterly. “In the Human Domain, it really is that easy to travel around the universe, but the situation here in the Technocracy is different. This place is littered with technological defenses, and wherever I go, those defenses will start to endlessly increase. Also, there are traps hidden everywhere, even where the void has solidified. Let’s put it this way—within the next hundred years, even if I wanted to leave, I can’t.”

Lu Yin’s face went pale. What should he do if he could not leave? After a hundred years, let alone the Innerverse; even the situation in the Outerverse would completely change. Those powers that had been forcibly incorporated into the Great Eastern Alliance would likely leave, and they might even turn around to deal with the Great Yu Empire. Also, there were still other unstable factors within the Great Eastern Alliance, such as Undying Yushan—nobody even knew if the previous emperor was dead or alive. There was also the Hidden Earth Society and other such organizations. Of course, most importantly, what about Ming Yan? Was she supposed to just wait for him for a hundred years?

If it took him a hundred years to return, then he would be too late for everything.

“Bro, when will that powerhouse arrive to deal with you?” Lu Yin asked.

Hui Kong thought about it. "Anytime now."

Lu Yin silently muttered to himself.

Hui Kong had a pained look. "I've let you down. I was only thinking about keeping you around a bit longer to chat, and I never expected to accidentally leave you stranded here. It really wasn't intentional."

Lu Yin quickly replied, "I know that bro didn't do it on purpose."

Hui Kong sighed helplessly. "Just stay if you have to. It will also be good for you to watch me fight for a hundred years. With your aptitude, you'll end up reaching at least the Enlighter realm after that long. Relax and don't worry about resources or things like that. I'll just steal them for you."

Steal? Lu Yin's eyes lit up. "Bro, you understand the Technocracy well, right?"

Hui Kong patted his chest. "You must be joking. I've been fighting here for many years."

Lu Yin hurriedly took out the star chart that showed the path that connected the Inniverse to the Outerverse that he had received from Endless Borders. He then passed the map over to Hui Kong. "Bro, do you recognize this place?"

Hui Kong looked at it, puzzled. "This place is pretty close by. What's up with this? Why do you have a star chart of part of the Technocracy?"

Lu Yin was thrilled. "Bro, this star chart is one that was mapped out by Endless Borders, and it shows a path between the Inniverse and the Outerverse."

"So there's even something like this? But there shouldn't be any holes in the Technocracy's surveillance." Hui Kong found this matter quite strange.

Lu Yin explained, "One of Endless Borders' exploration teams really did manage to successfully map out this route. Although there are strange phenomena on this route that make it dangerous, they really did get to the Inniverse."

Hui Kong looked at Lu Yin. "You want me to send you through this route so that you can return to the Outerverse?"

Lu Yin nodded.

Hui Kong thought about it. "If this route is real, then there's no problem. However, if there's any sort of problem, then you might really die. Think about this carefully."

Lu Yin felt like he had no other choice. "I really can't wait for a hundred years. Honestly, I was framed, and I lost in the Inniverse. I still need to get revenge. If I can't return soon, then everything to do with that matter will be over soon."

Hui Kong frowned. "There's no bit of business more important than your own life. I'll promise you that I'll get the unknown generation of my Hui family's descendents to help you. You're from the Outerverse, and my descendants also might not have lived up to my expectations, but they should still be able to help you gain control of a few weaves."

Lu Yin blinked. "I've already unified half of the Outerverse."

Hui Kong blankly stared at the youth. "How? The Innerverse, Neoverse, and the Hall of Honor all just watched on as you did that?"

"When the sky changed, the Astral River's energy surged, and the Outerverse ended up being isolated from the Innerverse," Lu Yin explained.

Hui Kong finally understood what had happened. This was a matter of Lu Yin taking advantage of the extraordinarily rare opportunity where the Outerverse was isolated from the Innerverse, and he had managed to achieve something unprecedented. Under normal circumstances, it would not be possible for anyone to unite half of the Outerverse. Even if the Hall of Honor had agreed to such a thing, those top powers from the Innerverse would not readily agree.

"I've really underestimated you. Alright, I'll send you on your way, and your life and death will depend on the will of heaven. Tell me, who is your enemy? If you die during this, I'll get revenge for you when I head out," Hui Kong said.

Lu Yin did not hesitate to carve Nightking Zhenwu's name into the ground. His greatest enemy at this moment was Nightking Zhenwu.

Hui Kong was astonished. "A Nightking? So you offended the Daynight clan, and one of the Nightking's descendants at that." He was about to make another comment, but his expression suddenly changed. "Not good! The enemy's here."

He quickly grabbed a hold of Lu Yin and stepped forward, vanishing from the surface of the planet.

Hui Kong had only just left when a semi-mechanical man appeared on the planet, his gaze sweeping across the surface of the planet. After a moment, he also tore through the void to leave the planet.

All Lu Yin could feel was a sensation of his body being cut open, and the next instant, there was a cyclone that engulfed the region of space in front of him. Hui Kong stood tall in outer space as he grabbed Lu Yin. "Bro, this is as far as I can take you. This is the route that you showed me, so I'll see you off here."

Lu Yin's entire body tensed up, and he immediately put on his universal armor. "Bro, will we be able to meet again?"

Hui Kong laughed. "Of course! Nobody can kill me!"

The man then forcefully tossed Lu Yin straight into the cyclone, and the youth was swallowed as he spun towards the north.

Lu Yin had only just been thrown out when the semi-mechanical man appeared next to Hui Kong, staring at the old man.

Hui Kong turned around to face the newcomer. "Hahahaha, now we can have a good match!"

The very next moment, the heavens themselves ruptured.

Lu Yin had been thrown by Hui Kong's incredible strength, and the youth's breathing slowed as his entire body was forced to endure a tremendous pressure that almost exceeded the limit of what his body could withstand. When the cyclone swept him up, it looked like the sky was spinning above him. When he was finally able to open his eyes, the cyclone had disappeared, and he was in a strange part of the universe.

This was where the route started.

Lu Yin did not know how to determine where the route started exactly, but he could use his gadget to find out.

Before long, he gained his bearings and shot off in a certain direction.

This route was one of the few loopholes in the Technocracy's border surveillance, and as long as one could evade the terrifying phenomena, they would be able to reach the Outerverse.

This last journey to the Innerverse had felt like a dream. He had not realized that he had already reached a very high level. After just a few years had gone by, he had become more famous than ever and shocked the Innerverse.

However, the event that had left the deepest impression on Lu Yin was naturally his battle against Nightking Zhenwu, as it seemed impossible to stop the Heart Seeker secret technique. Anyone who fought against Nightking Zhenwu could be struck by that technique at any time, and with Nightking Zhenwu's personality, he would never expose such a sneaky attack in advance. The Nightking had comprehended Skybreaker, and now that he had captured Zhuo Daynight, he even had a chance of obtaining Night's End, Daybreak from her.

That man had already gained control of the Nightking bloodline's greatest inheritance, and he had also received the Sixth Mainland's Arrow Progenitor's inheritance. On top of that, after seizing the Champions' Stage, it was highly likely that Nightking Zhenwu would also become one of the Cosmic Five, thus obtaining one of the Fifth Mainland's Progenitors' inheritances. If everything went according to his plan, then he would become unrivaled within his generation, and even the Sixth Mainland's Daosource Three Skies might not be able to stand up to him.

Nightking Zhenwu was like the child of heaven, as bright as the moon in the night sky above. He carried the mandate of heaven, but the only thing that he had failed to do so far was kill Lu Yin.

Lu Yin clenched his fists, his eyes cold.

Nightking Zhenwu might seem to have everything going as planned for him for the time being, but Lu Yin strongly believed that he still had an opportunity to thwart the Nightking's plans and stop him.

Nightking Zhenwu—it would not be too long before they met again.

Suddenly, Lu Yin thought of something. He had forgotten to ask about something, as he had been interrupted by Hui Kong's hunting.

He had wanted to ask the old man about the primeval surnames, as Hui Kong would likely know about them due to his advanced age, but Lu Yin had forgotten.

“Seventh Bro, are we heading back to the Outerverse now?” the Ghost Monkey asked.

Lu Yin grunted in acknowledgement.

The Ghost Monkey fell silent for a moment and then asked, “Seventh Bro, have you heard of the surname Hui before?”

Lu Yin did not understand the question. “No, have you?”

“Within the Seven Courts, there’s a family with the Hui surname,” the Ghost Monkey explained.

Lu Yin was surprised, but then he casually replied, “It’s no wonder why his family’s so powerful. So they’re a part of the Seven Courts.”

“There’s another thing that Seventh Bro might not know, or perhaps you didn’t really pay too much attention to it.” The monkey paused for a moment before continuing, saying, “The Technocracy was birthed from Progenitor Hui.”

Lu Yin’s gaze trembled, as he suddenly remembered hearing something about that before.

“Do you remember when the Tong family and the Sightless clan attacked the Outerverse? Yuan Shi used a Progenitor’s item to stand up to Ancestor Sightless, and he said something at that time.” the Ghost Monkey slowly said.

Lu Yin finally recalled that moment. At that time, Yuan Shi had used Progenitor Wushang’s hide to fight against Ancestor Tong and Ancestor Sightless, and Ancestor Sightless had mentioned a “Progenitor Hui who had created technology.”

“The Technocracy was born from Progenitor Hui?” Lu Yin was astonished.

The Ghost Monkey answered in a dull voice, “Probably. Otherwise, who else could have created such a massive civilization from nothing? The Technocracy was originally known as the Lost Technocracy, which shows that it was abandoned at some point in time, and that it possibly has Progenitor Hui’s inheritance.”

“Progenitor Hui... The Seven Courts’ Hui family. Could it be the same bloodline?” Lu Yin muttered.

“Hui Kong might not be staying in the Technocracy for reasons as simple as you were assuming. He might actually be searching for Progenitor Hui’s inheritance,” the monkey said.

Lu Yin nodded. “That’s possible. Hopefully, he finds it.”

The monkey was puzzled. “Hopefully? Seventh Bro, he’s someone from the Seven Courts’ Hui family, and he might even be one of the family’s ancestors. They’re one of the Three Dark Hands!”

Lu Yin smiled. “So what? He’s my brother. He sent me here, and he also reminded me to deduce the Overlaying Stacks Path myself. He told me about a lot of things.”

The Ghost Monkey fell silent.

Humans were humans, and they would not always remain rational. Hui Kong had indeed been pretty good to Lu Yin; he had not done much to the youth, and the old man hadn’t even tried to coax any

information out of the youngster, never taking the initiative to ask any questions. All of their interactions had been very natural, and Lu Yin would not become enemies with such a person regardless of whether they were from the Three Dark Hands or the Hall of Honor.

Chapter 1013: Return

Lu Yin had been able to feel Hui Kong's sincerity through his interactions with him, and he naturally intended to repay the old man in kind. This was completely different from his relationship with Nightking Yuanjing. Even if Lu Yin called Nightking Yuanjing "Grandpa," the old Nightking was merely a target for Lu Yin to manipulate, just like how he himself was a target to be manipulated by Nightking Yuanjing.

In contrast, Lu Yin's relationship with Hui Kong was genuine.

But Lu Yin did not have that much time to think about such things. Up ahead of him, the void had split open, and there was a pulling force constantly sweeping through the region.

Lu Yin used his physical strength to rush forward at a high speed, evading the pull and shaking it off with some difficulty. Next, another attractive force swept through the area. Anyone weaker than an Enlighter would not be able to escape from it, as the strength of this force had almost reached a power level of 300,000.

Lu Yin was rendered speechless at this sight. Just who had said that as long as a person had the strength of an Enlighter, they would not need to be afraid of the various phenomena on this route? Even normal Enlighters might not be able to resist this force; had this phenomenon matured?

He had only made a casual guess that this route had changed, but Lu Yin suddenly saw a massive spatial crack appear up ahead of him, seemingly splitting the universe in two. The appearance of this crack confirmed his theory that the route had changed from what was on the star chart.

The phenomena along this route were extremely varied after the change. But even before stepping foot here, when Lu Yin had first learned that this path could be used to travel to the Inverse from the Outerverse by way of the Technocracy, he had held some doubts.

The Technocracy would not leave any loopholes in their border surveillance, and even if there were any, they should have been discovered long ago.

After rethinking things, Lu Yin realized that this route might not actually be an oversight of the Technocracy, but rather a path that could not be traveled. There was a chance that the exploration team that had successfully mapped out this route to the Inverse had simply been lucky enough to encounter this route during a certain phase where the various phenomena had not been as powerful. However, now that Lu Yin was personally walking this path, he was able to clearly see the power of the phenomena along this route.

Just crossing the massive spatial crack in front of Lu Yin required him to have a power level of close to 400,000. What's worse, this was most likely not even the most dangerous part of the route.

The power of the cosmic phenomenon along this route was like an inflating balloon. At this moment, it might take someone with a power level of close to 400,000 to travel this route, but later on, even an Envoy or a monster with a power level of 1,000,000 might have difficulty traveling through this path.

Under normal circumstances, Lu Yin would have no way to travel this route, but fortunately, he had some powerful items in his possession.

He took out the beaded bracelet. He had already used two of the five beads, but there were still three left.

Lu Yin used up another pearl, but this time, he did not merge the overwhelming power into a battle technique. Rather, he fused it straight into his body to upgrade his physical strength.

With his body's power level boosted by 300,000, Lu Yin let out a soft growl as he shot forwards. He easily tore through the spatial crack in the void and passed over it. After that, he continued to charge towards the Outerverse at the fastest speed that he was capable of, following the path that had been mapped out.

Since his physical strength's power level had been boosted to almost 400,000, his speed exploded, and he quickly neared the Outerverse.

Along the way, he forcibly swept aside all the cosmic phenomenon that obstructed his progress, but before he got out, the boost to his physical strength dissipated.

He was still some distance away from arriving in the Outerverse, but the cosmic phenomenon around him was constantly shifting.

Lu Yin gritted his teeth as he merged with another bead from the bracelet. An overpowering physical strength erupted from him once more as he continued to tear apart the cosmic phenomenon around him.

After the strength from the bead was depleted for a second time, he had gotten very close to the Outerverse, but there was still a boundless phenomena right in front of him.

Without any other choice, Lu Yin could only use the last bead in his bracelet to get past this obstacle, exploding with an unprecedented speed for the third time.

Once he slowed down for the last time, Lu Yin did not even know how far he had traveled. The only thing before him was an astral cemetery that extended far out into the distance and was filled with all sorts of space debris. This meant that he had made it back to the Outerverse, as this was the astral cemetery that the Tong family and the Sightless clan had attacked when they had attempted to invade the Outerverse. He was not too far from Southside Weave—he had actually made it back.

Lu Yin let out a slow breath as he spread out his star energy and unleashed his domain. Suddenly, he started to laugh maniacally. He had indeed made it back alive.

At that moment, multiple figures streaked towards him at high speeds.

Lu Yin focused on them and saw that their group contained a few Explorers and even a Cruiser.

“Who goes there?” the Cruiser barked as he kept a wary eye on Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was quickly surrounded, but he just smiled. “You don't recognize me?”

The Explorers all gaped at Lu Yin, and the Cruiser was a bit surprised at first, but he quickly became shocked. "You- you're the Alliance Leader?"

Lu Yin's lips curled up. "That's right."

It had been seven months since the Tong family had joined forces with the Sightless clan to attack the Outerverse, which meant that it had been seven months since Lu Yin had left the Outerverse.

Seven months was not a very long period of time, and the Great Eastern Alliance had not changed much during these few months, even if the invasion had caused the Great Eastern Alliance to suffer some losses. The Central Coalition's military had similarly sustained heavy losses, but more importantly, Lu Yin's contributions during the invasion were simply too tremendous. In fact, they had reached the point where the Hall of Honor had even publicly announced its support for the Great Eastern Alliance's establishment, and it had also declared its support for the Great Yu Empire. The rewards that they had given Lu Yin were simply incomparable.

Everyone knew that the greatest contributor to their successful defense had been Lu Yin. Without him, nobody would have even known about the attack before it was too late. The Tong family and the Sightless clan's invasion would have caught the Outerverse by complete surprise since nobody would have been at the Astral River to stop them. Even Yuan Shi could only stop a single powerhouse at best, and there was no need to even consider the rest of the invasion force. If the Sixth Mainland focus had not been ambushed, then it would have simply been a matter of time before the Sixth Mainland eventually destroyed the entire Outerverse.

In fact, Lu Yin's information was just what the Hall of Honor had publicly announced as his contributions. His true efforts were actually even greater than that, as he had also given Yuan Shi Progenitor Wushang's hide. Then, during the battle, Lu Yin had given Yuan Shi Peach's inherited arrow from the Neo-Vestige Sect. That arrow had allowed Yuan Shi to contend against the two Sixth Mainland powerhouses who were in the same realm as him.

And even all that wasn't his greatest contribution. The severe injuries of Venerable Tong was directly related to him, but this contribution was fated to remain unknown to everyone else.

Yuan Shi was the Fifth Mainland's greatest contributor in that battle, as he had blocked two Cosmic Imprinters on his own. The person second only to that ancient powerhouse was Lu Yin.

The honor of a puny Cruiser obtaining such great contributions could only be imagined.

If the war had ended at that moment, then Lu Yin would have been rewarded handsomely by the Hall of Honor, and he would have smoothly entered the most resplendent time of his life. However, he had gone missing after the battle had moved into the Innerverse, which meant that he had died. Death gave him even greater glory, as nobody minded piling achievements and prestige onto a dead person's name. In fact, even those who had opposed Lu Yin felt no different about the matter.

The combination of everyone assuming that Lu Yin had died, Yuan Shi's sincere appreciation for the youth, and Wang Wen and the others' scheming behind the scenes meant that Lu Yin's prestige had expanded endlessly throughout the Outerverse. He had been posthumously named as the Outerverse's Allied Forces' Commander who had resisted the Sixth Mainland's invasion. This was a special privilege

granted by the Hall of Honor, and it gave him the authority to command the entire Outerverse during wartime.

Such a privilege had never been given to anyone since the dawn of time. Lu Yin had received it only because he had died, as a dead person was incapable of using such absurd authority. Thus, no one had objected to such a thing.

However, everything became awkward the moment Lu Yin had not died.

A spacecraft flew towards Southside Weave, and within it, the Cruiser occasionally threw weird looks at Lu Yin. The man's eyes could not hide his astonishment—This person was actually not dead, which meant that, if there was a border war, Lu Yin would be the commander of the Allied Forces, as that position had been given to him by the Hall of Honor itself! That was just too much, as this youth would be able to order about the entire Outerverse's troops during wartime. Just what kind of authority was that?

Not even the Hall of Honor's own people had such extreme power. The closest person to such a position was Elder Daggs, who guarded Endless Weave's border. The other was Elder Lohar, who was standing guard at Ironblood Weave's border.

The authority that Lu Yin wielded during wartime was actually the sum of these two Hall of Honor elders.

Actually, his authority even went beyond that, as his authority was effective during wartime. Thus, if just the Astral Wilderness invaded the Human Domain, that would be considered a war, and Lu Yin would immediately become the commander of the entire Outerverse's Allied Forces. He would have the unique authority to command all of their troops and distribute its resources. One person now stood at the peak of the Human Domain's Outerverse, the first person to ever do so since the beginning of history.

Lu Yin himself was completely unaware that he had been given such authority, and he was simply curious about how Yuan Shi and the others had returned to the Outerverse after the battle.

He asked the Cruiser some questions, but the man was not very clear on the details. All that he knew was that the majority had managed to escape.

Lu Yin called Wendy Yushan, and she calmly answered, "I knew you weren't dead."

"You were that confident in me?" Lu Yin teased.

Wendy Yushan's lips curled. She rarely smiled, but when she did, it was very pretty. "Bad people live longer."

Lu Yin grinned. "How did you guys escape back then?"

"There were many imprisoned Innerverse cultivators on the transport continent, and they joined forces to escape. Of course, the losses were not small, and reportedly, even Yuan Shi was injured. When we escaped to the Outerverse, the top powerhouses resealed the Astral River behind us, and we've all been recuperating ever since," Wendy Yushan explained.

Lu Yin was glad that he had stopped Starsibyl from taking her group away. Despite Yuan Shi's impressive strength, he would not have been able to bring that many people back to the Outerverse.

After his call with Wendy Yushan ended, Lu Yin reached out to people like Wang Wen and Wei Rong in order to find out what the Great Eastern Alliance's current situation was, and he quickly discovered that everything had remained calm. Wang Wen and Wei Rong had both been very confident in Lu Yin, and their former arrangement had continued despite Lu Yin's reported death. During their call, Wang Wen informed Lu Yin of his new authority.

Lu Yin was amazed. "Commander of the Outerverse Allied Forces?"

Wang Wen smiled. "That's right, congratulations. You've formally ascended to the highest peak of authority in the entire history of the Outerverse. Aside from the Hall of Honor that rules over the entire Human Domain, you've truly reached the peak of the universe now."

Lu Yin had never even dreamed that he would suddenly obtain such authority.

"How did this happen?" Lu Yin asked.

Wang Wen smiled. "It's quite simple: you were the one who mobilized everyone to fend off the invasion, and you also had the greatest performance during the battle. That led the Hall of Honor to have a wonderful impression of you, especially Yuan Shi. Just what did you do to cause the elder to be so active in your affairs? After that, we did a few things in the background, and suddenly, it was possible."

Lu Yin's brain flashed. "You must have been the one who spread the news that I was dead."

"That wasn't me, but rather Wei Rong. I was responsible for all of our dealings with the Hall of Honor while Wei Rong was in charge of public opinion. When someone is dead, nobody will say anything about rewarding them, not even if we had given you even greater authority. And with Yuan Shi supporting our idea, everything went according to plan," Wang Wen explained.

Lu Yin rejoiced that he had taken the two geniuses under his wing. Otherwise, he would not have been greeted with such overwhelming authority at his return, and at best, he would have received some insignificant accolades.

"Although your position as the Outerverse Allied Forces' Commander was only granted by the Hall of Honor after your supposed death, now that you've appeared alive, the title still won't be revoked. So, use it well," Wang Wen said.

Lu Yin muttered to himself, deep in thought. Although the premise of this position as the Allied Forces' Commander relied upon times of war, even if it was regarding pre-war preparations, he still had the Commander's authority. However, it was not up to him whether or not war was declared. After thinking about his new situation, Lu Yin's lips curled up. He then looked to the west, as the weaves in that direction seemed to have quite a significant amount of resources.

Lu Yin returned, and then he went to report the situation to Yuan Shi at the first opportunity.

News of his return spread out extremely quickly.

The first to obtain news of Lu Yin's survival was, naturally, the western weaves.

Chapter 1014: Shock

There was a clang as a teacup shattered. Tanno Phoenix's expression instantly changed as he shouted, "What did you say? Lu Yin's back? He isn't dead?!"

Across from him, a cultivator from the Dark Phoenix family went pale in the face as sweat beaded on his forehead. "That's correct; Lu Yin is not dead. He's returned."

Tanno Phoenix sank into his chair and exhaled deeply, feeling rather exhausted. He had actually survived.

The current Lu Yin was completely different from the Lu Yin from seven months earlier. Back then, the Central Coalition had established their own military force to resist the Great Eastern Alliance's expansion. But now, when Tanno Phoenix thought about how the Hall of Honor had announced their support of Lu Yin, how influential the youth's current status in the Outerverse was, and how the kid had killed two Imprinters during the battle against the Sixth Mainland, the Dark Phoenix patriarch felt utterly helpless.

"Send out these orders: the Dark Phoenix family will close its doors and refuse any visitors for a hundred years," Tanno Phoenix spoke in a feeble voice.

"Yes, patriarch."

In the Silentflock System, Yan Chen was surprised by the news. "Lu Yin's back?"

Across from the chairman, Captain Shi nodded. There was a serious look on the captain's face. "I never thought that he would come back alive. The Outerverse has been peaceful for several months, but it seems that it will be thrown into chaos soon again."

Yan Chen looked into the sky. "This means trouble. He's now the Outerverse Allied Forces' Commander, and given his bold personality, who knows what sort of ruckus he'll stir up next."

"More importantly, the Hall of Honor is too supportive of him, and Yuan Shi has even personally ordered them to protect the Great Eastern Alliance."

Yan Chen heaved a deep sigh. "Forget about it. It's none of our business since we never were enemies with him."

On Enron Planet, Elder Tong stared at his gadget in complete amazement. Lu Yin had actually returned alive. The man immediately informed Elder He, as it might be possible for them to learn about the Sea King's circumstances from Lu Yin.

In Millions City, Qiong Xi'er was absolutely speechless; that brat had actually made back it alive, and more importantly, the Outerverse still had not reconnected to the Innaverse yet. So just where had he come from? This was quite the mystery.

However, since this person had returned, the Outerverse was definitely going to experience some truly massive changes. The position of the Outerverse Allied Forces' Commander held tremendous authority, and these developments were enough to be recorded down in history.

"Xi'er, what stand should we take?" Qiong Shanhai could not help but ask.

Lu Yin had vanished for seven whole months, and during this time, the Hall of Honor, or perhaps it was mostly Yuan Shi, had blatantly told the entire Outerverse that Lu Yin would be defended, even if he was in the wrong. No one could take action against Lu Yin's friends or relatives. This was discrimination, pure and simple, but nobody could do anything about it.

Lu Yin's contributions had simply been too extreme, and Yuan Shi favored the youth too much. Thus, some even suspected Lu Yin of being Yuan Shi's illegitimate child.

Now that Lu Yin had come back alive, his rewards could not be taken away, and they actually might even be increased further. The Hall of Honor's discrimination, combined with the power of the Great Eastern Alliance and Lu Yin's personal strength that was enough to take out two Imprinters in one fell swoop, raised a question in everyone's mind—just who in the Outerverse could stop him?

“Stand? What stand?” Qiong Xi'er was puzzled.

Qiong Shanhai replied, “To be his friend or foe?”

Qiong Xi'er grudgingly answered, “Dad, isn't that just nonsense? Since he's being protected by the Hall of Honor, who would move against him? He's the Outerverse Allied Forces' Commander. Just one word from him is enough to move an entire weave. Who would actually dare to not listen to him? Right now, he can only end up on top, and no one should even think about fighting him. Becoming enemies with him is just asking to die.”

“Then what if he really wants to unify the Outerverse?” Qiong Shanhai asked.

Qiong Xi'er shook her head. “Don't forget that he's always been a cultivator. Even if he ends up with even greater authority, cultivators always require resources. Just how many times can he use his authority? Besides, the alliance isn't truly united, so just leave him be. We'll just go along with the flow and watch if he ends up leaving his mark in history or dies.”

Qiong Shanhai stared at Qiong Xi'er. Although she had spoken those words without any effort, her thoughts were clearly completely different from what they had been seven months ago. Back then, she had been the one who had advocated for the Central Coalition the most, but now, she did not even have the slightest thought of resistance.

Qiong Shanhai was well aware of just how intelligent his daughter was. If even she did not have any thoughts of resistance, then it just proved how absolutely helpless their situation was. It seemed that Lu Yin's dream of unifying the Outerverse was an inevitability that could not be stopped.

Who would have thought that the recent changes in the Outerverse would end up creating an absolute monster by ushering in Lu Yin's successes?

Those who were still in the Innaverse would never even be able to imagine what the Outerverse had gone through during these few years of isolation. When the Outerverse eventually reconnected to the Innaverse, just what would those people's expressions be?

Speaking of which, the diminishing energy in the Astral River had reduced tremendously. Thus, it would not be much longer before the Innaverse and the Outerverse were connected again.

When news of Lu Yin's return spread to the weaves in the central region of the Outerverse, the previously calm members of the Central Coalition instantly grew agitated. Everyone was stunned as they all looked to the east. What now?

In contrast, everyone within the Great Eastern Alliance was cheering, and every planet in Frostwave Weave that had joined the Great Yu Empire was celebrating. Countless people exuberantly shouted Lu Yin's name, as Lu Yin was the one who had carried them to the peak of the Outerverse. Frostwave Weave had previously been a place that nobody cared about, and even Endless Borders' had not explored the weave much. But in just a few years, it had become one of the most bustling weaves in the entire Outerverse.

All of these changes had been caused by Lu Yin's actions, as he had gradually transformed Frostwave Weave into the core of the Outerverse.

He had spread the name of the Great Yu Empire throughout the entire Outerverse.

At this time, who did not want to join the Great Yu Empire? However, few would be able to succeed, as it was too difficult to join the Great Yu Empire now. This was also a part of Lu Yin's accomplishments.

Countless planets had erected statues of him, and countless people praised him as they paid their respects.

On Earth, every city had a statue of him.

On Shenwu Continent, Ming Yan looked rather withered, as Lu Yin had gone missing for seven months, and she had long since heard of this news. Shenwu Continent was no longer isolated, and they were aware of many matters of the universe. In fact, some of the cultivators from this continent had even joined the Great Eastern Alliance's Allied Forces.

Over the course of the past seven months, her life had not been good, and she had become significantly skinnier.

Suddenly, a maid barged into Ming Yan's room and excitedly exclaimed, "Your Majesty, the Alliance Leader has come back safely!"

Ming Yan excitedly leaped to her feet. "What did you say?"

The maid emotionally repeated her words. "Alliance Leader has come back alive."

Ming Yan's eyes closed and two streams of fresh tears flowed down her face as she sank back into her chair. Everything would be fine as long as he was back.

The pressure that had been hanging over her head during the recent months instantly dissipated.

As she relaxed for the first time in seven months, Ming Yan fell into a deep sleep.

Not long after Ming Yan fell asleep, her hair turned white, and the white-haired Ming Yan opened her eyes. Her expression was cold, but there was also a hint of excitement in them. "Hmph, consider yourself lucky! If you ever dare to die, I'll bury you myself!"

Her eyes then closed once more as she too fell into a deep sleep.

Few people were able to influence the entire Outerverse by simply returning, but Lu Yin was one of them, as his influence on the Outerverse was truly too pervasive.

His name resounded within countless ears in the Outerverse, and innumerable people heard his name even in their dreams.

...

A spacecraft came to a stop in outer space, and Lu Yin emerged to take a look. He then took a deep breath as his figure vanished.

“Junior Lu Yin pays his respects to Yuan Shi.” Lu Yin’s voice reverberated throughout space.

Ahead of him, Yuan Shi emerged, his expression showing a rare bit of emotion. Due to his long life, he had long since moved beyond simple emotions, but Lu Yin’s return still moved the old man.

“Everything’s good so long as you’re back.”

Lu Yin could clearly sense Yuan Shi’s genuine concern for him, and he bowed deeply toward the ancient powerhouse. “Junior Lu Yin would like to seek justice from Yuan Shi.”

Yuan Shi was puzzled at this request. “What for?”

Lu Yin recounted the events that had occurred in the Innerverse, focusing most of his time on Nightking Zhenwu. He had not forgotten how Nightking Zhenwu had said that he would ruin Lu Yin’s reputation, and with the Nightking’s abilities, it truly would not be too difficult for him to do so. Only Leon’s Armada would help Lu Yin in the Innerverse, along with a few other powers like Astral-10. However, their influence could not compete with the Daynight clan’s, and on top of that, the Daynight clan controlled all of Daynight Flowzone, and there were also other powers that were antagonistic towards Lu Yin, such as the Blaze Realm.

Lu Yin’s reputation had very possibly already been ruined beyond redemption.

More importantly, the Ten Arbiters did not have low statuses within the Hall of Honor. Although Lu Yin’s relationship with Yuan Shi was quite good, and although he was also quite well received by the Outerverse’s Hall of Honor, that did not mean that Lu Yin’s status with the Innerverse’s Hall of Honor would be anywhere close to the same level.

The moment that Nightking Zhenwu borrowed others’ influence to sway the Innerverse’s Hall of Honor, Lu Yin might very well be declared a traitor to the Human Domain.

This was why he needed Yuan Shi to support him. At the very least, this would ensure that the Hall of Honor would not make a move against Lu Yin.

The Hall of Honor dominated the entire Human Domain, and it was a colossal force in the truest meaning, and Lu Yin had never dared to underestimate them.

Yuan Shi exclaimed, “Who knew that you would experience so much while in the Innerverse!? The Daynight clan, huh? I understand. You are my Honor Chosen, and once your identity is announced, the Hall of Honor definitely will not make things difficult for you.”

“This junior was the one who seized the Champions’ Stage, but it was taken away by Nightking Zhenwu. Such actions are truly despicable, and Junior hopes that Yuan Shi can uphold justice. I also hope that the Hall of Honor will not intervene in my impending battle with Arbiter Zhenwu,” Lu Yin stated respectfully. This was what he truly wanted. He was quite worried that, after receiving an inheritance from the Astral Tower and becoming one of the Cosmic Five, Nightking Zhenwu would be protected by the Hall of Honor. At that time, whether or not Lu Yin could get his revenge would depend entirely on the Hall of Honor’s mood.

Yuan Shi was placed in a difficult position. “The Cosmic Five are the hope of the entire Human Domain. If the situation were the same as in the past, then we could still resolve things. There have been quite a few Cosmic Five throughout history, and while some matured, others died early. However, this generation is different, as the Fifth Mainland’s sky has finally been restored. Thus, there’s a possibility that one of them might become a Progenitor. This generation’s Cosmic Five might very well be protected by the entire Human Domain.”

Lu Yin frowned, as this news was troubling. If he wanted to deal with Nightking Zhenwu, then would he need to challenge the entire Human Domain?

“Yuan Shi, Nightking Zhenwu has a venomous heart, and his character is absolutely despicable. If someone like that became one of the Cosmic Five, it might not actually be a blessing for our Fifth Mainland.” Lu Yin could not help himself from speaking up.

Yuan Shi explained, “In the path of cultivation, only the final results ever matter. As long as there’s even a possibility of him becoming a Progenitor, he will be supported. From your description, this person even managed to obtain an inheritance from the Sixth Mainland’s Arrow Progenitor, grasping that Progenitor’s secret technique. His methods are absolutely brilliant, and someone like that might actually have an easier time of becoming a Progenitor, so even I might not be able to interfere in this matter.”

Lu Yin’s heart sank; so even Yuan Shi would not be able to interfere?

“A Progenitor is the root of an entire mainland. Anyone with even a hope of becoming a Progenitor will likely receive that mainland’s protection. This is a fact that has not changed since ancient times, and you should understand this,” Yuan Shi said.

Lu Yin took a deep breath. “Then what if this junior is even more talented than him?”

Yuan Shi smiled slightly. “Then naturally, you’ll receive greater protection.”

Lu Yin’s gaze trembled. He was only worried that he did not have enough time. As soon as Nightking Zhenwu became one of the Cosmic Five, even if one ignored the inevitable dramatic rise in his personal strength, the Daynight clan’s influence would also be affected. With them gaining more people in their circle of influence, it would truly become too difficult for Lu Yin to deal with them at that time.

Yuan Shi stared off into the distance. “The Inverse may soon reconnect with the Outerverse.”

Lu Yin was surprised. “They’re going to reconnect? When?”

Chapter 1015: Planetary Warehouse

Yuan Shi thought about Lu Yin's question before responding, "Not long from now, though it depends on the rate at which the energy wanes. At the current rate, it could still take several years, but the energy level continues to drop faster and faster. Thus, we may very well be reconnected within a year."

"When does the contest for the Cosmic Five begin?" Lu Yin asked urgently.

Yuan Shi shook his head. "I'm not sure."

Lu Yin's eyes flickered as he stared off into the distance. If the contest for the Cosmic Five occurred before the Outerverse reconnected to the Innerverse, then he would be too late.

Furthermore, it would not be easy to deal with Nightking Zhenwu. This was something that would not be settled by just a duel between two youths, as far too much was on the line. Even the simplest resolution depended on more than if Lu Yin even had the ability to defeat Nightking Zhenwu; would the Daynight clan allow Lu Yin to casually do as he wished? Would those who supported Nightking Zhenwu allow him to be defeated? And this was not even taking into account the powers that would join Nightking Zhenwu's side just because he was about to become one of the Cosmic Five.

Their conflict might end up dragging in almost half of the Innerverse as well as some powers from the Cosmic Sea and the Neoverse. Lu Yin needed more time to plot against Nightking Zhenwu, but did he have enough time to do so?

If Lu Yin had sufficient time, then he would naturally be able to deal with Nightking Zhenwu. Otherwise, Lu Yin could only lay some minor scheme that stopped Nightking Zhenwu from dealing with Lu Yin, such as by relying on Yuan Shi to rebuild his reputation.

Lu Yin believed that Nightking Zhenwu would do as he had said, and at this time, it was quite possible that half of the Innerverse believed Lu Yin to be a traitor to the Human Domain.

Yuan Shi took out an item that he then passed over to Lu Yin. Lu Yin looked over, and his mind was stunned as his body twitched. He only returned to his senses after Yuan Shi pulled the youth out of his shock.

The old man had returned the piece of Progenitor Wushang's hide back to Lu Yin, which the youth had originally lent to Yuan Shi so that the old expert could fight against Ancestor Tong and Ancestor Sightless. Yuan Shi was returning the borrowed item.

Progenitor Wushang's hide was the first Progenitor item that Lu Yin had ever obtained. The hide was quite large, and it was also extremely useful.

"Without Progenitor Wushang's hide, it is impossible to say what the outcome of the battle in the astral cemetery would have been. It's a pity that the arrow was damaged." Yuan Shi sighed.

Lu Yin replied, "At least it was useful. Thanks to Senior Yuan Shi, the Outerverse was able to survive."

Yuan Shi stated, "A Progenitor's item is something that is capable of changing the situation of an entire battlefield. You are fated with Progenitors, so cherish this item." The old man paused for a moment before continuing on, saying, "You gained many achievements during the battle in the astral cemetery, and the Hall of Honor will not be stingy with the reward for your personal contributions to the defense of the Outerverse."

Lu Yin was moved; was he about to receive another walnut or beaded bracelet again? Those two incredibly useful power vessels were both already gone.

Yuan Shi seemed to have guessed Lu Yin's train of thought, and he shook his head with a bitter smile. "I originally wanted to compensate you for the power vessels that you used up, but I was severely injured during the battle in the astral cemetery, and I still have not recovered. It's not easy to make such power vessels, so you will have to wait a while longer. I heard that you need resources, so I've already instructed Da Gu to allocate some for your cultivation, and I will also increase your Honor Points to twenty in total.

"You used the correct methods to assist in that battle, and the Hall of Honor has formally given you the position of the Outerverse Allied Forces' Commander. I hope that you'll cherish it well."

Lu Yin was grateful. Although he felt that it was a pity that he could not get any more life-preserving items, he felt that once Yuan Shi recovered, the old man would stay true to his word. Besides, the other rewards were still quite decent. Other than the position of the Outerverse's Allied Forces' Commander, Lu Yin's Honor Points being increased to twenty was a very good thing in and of itself. If he remembered correctly, even if he betrayed the entire Human Domain, he still would not be killed. Instead, at worst, he would be imprisoned like Grand Marshal Shui Chuanxiao.

As for the allocation of resources, the way that Yuan Shi had used the word "allocation" was rather interesting, and Lu Yin looked forward to seeing what he would receive.

Yuan Shi himself had been severely injured, so Lu Yin did not chat with the old man for much longer. Right after leaving, he ran into Elder Daggs.

Elder Daggs looked at Lu Yin with an appreciative look. "Exactly how did you get back? The Allied Forces have been patrolling the Astral River this entire time, but there wasn't any indication that something tore through it."

Lu Yin was quite satisfied. "Before the battle, I received a star chart that mapped out a route between the Outerverse to the Innerverse that traveled through the Technocracy."

Elder Daggs was surprised. "There's actually such a path?"

Lu Yin nodded. "I got it from Endless Borders."

"Ah, no wonder," Elder Daggs said.

Lu Yin explained a bit further. "It's a pity that the route has changed, and it's almost impossible for anyone whose power level is under 400,000 to pass through. In fact, it becomes more challenging the further along the route you travel."

"Then how did you pass through?" Elder Daggs did not believe Lu Yin's words, and he felt that Lu Yin was exaggerating.

Lu Yin proudly replied, "I've already killed two Imprinters."

Elder Daggs was stunned, but then he remembered that during the battle in the astral cemetery, this youth had indeed killed two Imprinters with one attack, instantly changing the balance of the battlefield. When Elder Daggs recalled this event, he looked at Lu Yin with an even stranger expression. Throughout

all of history, no Cruiser had ever performed such exaggerated achievements, and this kid was simply a monster.

Lu Yin enjoyed seeing this look on Elder Daggs' face, and it seemed that Lu Yin's status had already surpassed this elder.

"Hehe, Elder Daggs, how's the defensive border in Southside Weave? Should I go on patrol?" Lu Yin asked, as he felt that he had such a responsibility.

Elder Daggs was taken aback, and he suddenly recalled that this kid was actually the Outerverse Allied Forces' Commander. Although Lu Yin had been given special privileges during wartime, the border would essentially always be in such a situation. This kid's privileges were simply disgusting.

"If you want," Elder Daggs replied noncommittally.

Lu Yin smiled. "I won't for the moment. Right, Yuan Shi mentioned that some resources would be allocated to me as a reward. I wonder how much there is?"

Elder Daggs's lips stretched tight. "How much do you want?"

Lu Yin's eyes turned radiant.

Elder Daggs felt his heart turn cold, as he knew that this person loved money more than his own life. He was the type of person who would conduct business even on a battlefield. Whenever possible, Elder Daggs preferred to do business with this youth, as that allowed the elder to see what he was paying for. This kid had selflessly provided numerous pills, and his contributions for the last battle had been beyond excessive, which had led to Lu Yin receiving Yuan Shi's deep appreciation. Thus, Elder Daggs had no way to reject this youth, but he also did not want to give away too much. All he could do was allow this youth to request what he wanted as a reward and then pray that the requests would not be too exaggerated.

Lu Yin suddenly looked excited. "Could Elder take Junior to take a look at the Hall of Honor's treasury?"

Elder Daggs felt a chill run down his spine. "Don't you just want some resources? You can just tell me what you would like. Why is there a need to take a look at the treasury?"

Lu Yin blinked. "Those are Yuan Shi's instructions."

Elder Daggs swallowed nervously. "Actually, after these recent battles, the Hall of Honor isn't as well-off anymore."

"I never said that I wanted money, though, of course, the money that belongs to me needs to be paid back. I remember that, back then, Elder mentioned that, after the battle, not only would great quantities of star essence be given to me, but large amounts of military contributions would be given as well," Lu Yin said with a smile.

Elder Daggs pursed his lips. "Your service is more than enough, and your current status has even surpassed mine."

Lu Yin clapped his hands together. "Even better! As the Allied Forces' Commander, do I not qualify to visit my own treasury?"

My own treasury? These words made Elder Daggs's hair stand on end, but he was completely helpless at this moment. "Please."

Lu Yin truly wanted to follow Elder Daggs to take a tour of the Outerverse Hall of Honor's treasury, but no matter what Elder Daggs said out loud, he did not want to take Lu Yin anywhere near that place. In the end, the two of them arrived at Southside Weave's battlefield treasury.

It was not that Lu Yin had never visited one of the Hall of Honor's treasuries before, but rather that this was his first time visiting a main one and not a simple branch treasury.

The main treasury for the border defense was not too far from where Yuan Shi stayed, as the Hall of Honor was worried about their stores being pillaged. When they had been preparing for the Sixth Mainland's invasion, the Fifth Mainland had not been completely united, and forces such as the Neohuman Alliance were very likely to take advantage of such a situation to wreak havoc. Thus, the Hall of Honor had specifically placed the treasury close to Yuan Shi. With him protecting it, nobody would dare to attack it.

Elder Daggs stood in outer space as the two of them looked down at a very ordinary-looking planet.

Lu Yin was puzzled. "The warehouse is on that planet?"

Elder Daggs's lips twitched. "That planet is the warehouse."

Lu Yin was completely lost. "What do you mean?"

Elder Daggs repeated, "That planet is the warehouse."

Lu Yin was stumped, but after he came to his senses, he was stunned. "Are you saying that the planet, the entire planet, is the warehouse?"

Elder Daggs nodded.

Lu Yin was left in a daze, and he stared at the planet, completely dumbfounded. Was he serious? Although the planet was not that big, only about as large as Earth's moon, which was much smaller than Earth itself, that was still too ridiculous. How many resources could an entire planet hold?

"The cultivators normally stationed at the border warfront number in the billions, and that doesn't even include the mandatory conscription that was sent out to the whole Outerverse. This is the border's main warehouse, and there are also branch warehouses. Still, we don't have enough resources. Back during the defense of the astral cemetery, many powers had to pay for their troops' expenses out of their own pockets, and they did not even gain any resources from the border," Elder Daggs explained.

Lu Yin marveled, "Only the Hall of Honor could have an entire planet as a warehouse. Right, Elder, how much star essence is here?"

Elder Daggs muttered to himself, obviously not wanting to say anything, but after he glanced over at Lu Yin and saw the youth's determined expression, the elder helplessly revealed, "It's not very polite to speak of a concrete amount, and it's also a little muddled. However, there should be several hundreds of millions on this planet."

Lu Yin's mouth actually fell open, and he suddenly felt that he was in poverty and was truly too poor. In the past, he had actually been excited by the meager amount of wealth that he had carried on himself, believing that he had escaped from poverty. However, at this moment, he understood the true meaning of wealth.

The Hall of Honor was wealthy, as they easily had several hundreds of millions of star essence. What a joke!

Lu Yin suddenly remembered the endless amounts of star essence that he had seen beneath the transportation continent's mountain ranges. There had easily been several billions of star essence.

Only by comparing would one even understand the difference, and Lu Yin was suddenly a bit embarrassed by the meager amount that he carried in his cosmic ring. It was no wonder why, when Elder Daggs had bought items from Lu Yin, there had never been any haggling; there was simply no need for it.

Elder Daggs coughed, and his eyes flickered. "Let's head on down."

"Seventh Bro, this guy isn't telling you the truth! Look at how bad his acting is and how his beady little eyes are darting all over the place. There's definitely got to be more than several hundred million star essence!" the Ghost Monkey shouted.

Lu Yin looked over at the elder.

Elder Daggs had a rather guilty look as he stepped forward and disappeared.

Lu Yin's lips pursed; if it was not just a few hundred million, then could it be a few billion star essence?

A single mountain range could hold around 100 million star essence, and just this planet alone could have multiple mountain ranges. However, not everything on this planet would be star essence, and the majority of the resources on this planet should be cultivation resources, food, ores, and other similar items, not to mention star crystals. After all, the Outerverse typically used star crystals rather than star essence as its primary currency.

Even cultivators in the Cruiser realm might not qualify to cultivate with star essence, and most of them probably still used star crystals. This suddenly made things more reasonable. If even just 100 million star essence were exchanged for star crystals, then the amount would be staggering. One star essence was worth 100,000 star crystals, which meant that such an exchange would require 100,000 mountain ranges of star crystals. To use an entire planet as a warehouse suddenly did not seem too exaggerated when one thought on this scale.

Lu Yin stepped out and entered the planet's atmosphere.

The environment on the planet was pretty good, and it seemed to be untouched and absent of any large creatures. It was as if this planet had only just started to give rise to primordial organisms.

Just a glance was enough to see the piles of resources, unique spacecraft, and star crystals laying around in unending mountain ranges. The star essence were the seas.

Lu Yin quickly caught up to Elder Daggs. "Elder, please give me an introduction."

Chapter 1016: Understood

Elder Daggs felt sick to his heart when he saw Lu Yin's expression. It was almost as if his own home was being scoped out by a master thief. "There's no need for any introductions, so just take a look around by yourself. There are piles of star essence and star energy crystals everywhere, and in the seas, there are mostly metallic resources. Of course, there are also some battle techniques, arts, and power vessels that were gathered by the Hall of Honor to reward those with sufficient contributions."

"How much can I take?" Lu Yin looked towards the sea with fervent eyes.

Elder Daggs thought about this question. "Actually, if you had returned after the battle in the astral cemetery ended and had not received any other rewards, then you would have been able to choose from any of the resources in this place. In fact, you would have been able to take as many star essence as you could carry, so long as your cosmic ring is large enough."

Lu Yin's eyes lit up, and he silently thanked Bro Hui Kong for his help with supplying him with the super-sized cosmic ring.

"However," Elder Daggs continued speaking, and his tone suddenly turned delighted, "You were posthumously given the position of the Outerverse Allied Forces' Commander, and your Honor Points were even increased to an exceptional number of twenty. On top of all of that, my Hall of Honor has even openly spoken in support of the Great Eastern Alliance. Thus, much of your reward was already given to you. Hence, the amount of star essence that you can take from here is the amount that I promised you back then." He then raised one finger. "One million."

Lu Yin's expression changed, and his tone instantly grew harsh. "Elder, before we came here, you yourself said that you would let me choose however much I wanted, and Yuan Shi also previously mentioned that I would be allocated a portion of resources. One million star essence is just too little."

Elder Daggs had no choice. "Alliance Leader, even if we disregard your status as the Great Eastern Alliance Leader, you yourself are not just the Outerverse Allied Forces' Commander, but you are also an Honor Chosen of my Hall of Honor. Shouldn't you be a little more considerate for the Hall of Honor? Although the resources on this planet seem to be more than adequate, the reality is that there simply isn't enough to go around. The more you take from this place, the more unfair we will have to be towards others. Many others also contributed to the defense of the Outerverse."

Lu Yin raised a hand. "But still, one million is just too little."

"How much do you want?" Elder Daggs asked.

Lu Yin smiled and changed the subject. "It can't be that comfortable staying in the Outerverse all the time."

Elder Daggs's brows rose. "What do you mean by that?"

Lu Yin leaned closer and proudly explained, "I, Lu Yin, have only cultivated for eleven years, but I have already reached my current position. Doesn't Elder know what that suggests?"

Elder Daggs was puzzled.

Lu Yin indifferently continued, saying, “It means that my future will at least be on the same level as the Ten Arbiters’, and my status as an Honor Chosen means that I’m already an internal member of the Hall of Honor, which qualifies me to climb to even higher positions in the future. I have Yuan Shi’s appreciation, which means that I will have a bit of influence in the Hall of Honor in the future. Does Elder still not understand?”

Elder Daggs’s expression suddenly changed. Once Lu Yin put it in that way, the Elder suddenly remembered just how freakish this person was; Lu Yin had achieved so much despite his young age. It was impossible to even guess what the youth would accomplish in the future. Once the Inverseverse reconnected to the Outerverse, Yuan Shi would only have to make some casual remarks to the Hall of Honor’s headquarters before Lu Yin’s status would immediately undergo great changes.

“Elder, don’t forget what I lent to Yuan Shi back at the border,” Lu Yin leisurely commented.

Elder Daggs’s pupils shrank—the blood-red bell! That was the Chief Justice’s emblem.

Lu Yin’s lips curled upwards. “Elder Lohar is much more clear on the situation than Elder Daggs. He never stopped me from doing what I wanted while in Ironblood Weave. In fact, he even sent his disciple, Akira, to protect Zenyu Star so that I would not have to be concerned about its safety. Comparing actions, Elder Lohar definitely has a brighter future.

“When I return to the Neoverse and see the Chief Justice, I will definitely compliment Elder Lohar and try to get him transferred to the Neoverse at the earliest opportunity.”

Return to the Neoverse? Return? Elder Daggs’s mind trembled, and he stared at Lu Yin in shock. This person was definitely from the Neoverse, and he was not someone who was from the Outerverse.

During the couple of months that had passed since the battle at the border, Elder Daggs had already forgotten about the Chief Justice’s emblem, and he had actually started to think that Lu Yin was someone who had been born in the Outerverse. The elder felt that he was truly foolish, as how could anyone from the Outerverse possibly climb to such heights in only eleven years? And why else would this youth have so many powerful items? There had to be someone supporting this person from the shadows, and that person might very well be the Chief Justice.

The Interstellar Supreme Court’s Chief Justice was an existence that stood at the very top of the Hall of Honor. There could be no mistake about it, and Elder Daggs became certain that the Chief Justice was the one behind this youth.

Every single bit of Elder Daggs’ being grew excited at this thought, and he felt that he had suddenly come to an understanding. Would he not take a shortcut when one became available? Would he continue to rely on just earning military contributions to return to the Neoverse? Wasn’t such thinking just being foolish?

As he thought about things, Elder Daggs’s expression changed quite severely. “Alliance Leader Lu need not say anything more. Your military contributions are able to speak for themselves. Right, how many star essence were you considering just now?”

“Seventh Bro, you’ve bluffed him.” The Ghost Monkey started snickering.

Lu Yin smiled in an indifferent manner. "I can't remember. With the military contributions that I have, how many can I take?"

Elder Daggs casually waved a hand. "Twenty million."

Lu Yin sucked in a cold breath and suddenly sized Elder Daggs up and down in a serious manner. He then said in an appreciative tone, "There will definitely be a place for Elder in the upper echelons of the Neoverse's Hall of Honor in the future."

Elder Daggs smiled. "I'll still need a great deal of guidance from Alliance Leader Lu."

"Elder is being too polite."

"I wonder, can Alliance Leader Lu's cosmic ring store twenty million star essence? If not, there's a cosmic ring right here."

"No need, I can store it, it was given to me by a senior."

"That's wonderful. Alliance Leader Lu, please."

Please."

"Seventh Bro, this old fart is simply too shameless," the Ghost Monkey said.

Lu Yin adjusted his expression. "Don't spout nonsense. Everyone has their own ambitions, and there's nothing wrong with his desire to return to the Neoverse. He's contributed to the Outerverse's military and border defense for so many years. Also, I didn't ask for anything more, which means that twenty million star essence is the limit of what he's capable of giving with his authority. Do you really think that he'd just give me as many as I ask for? For someone to be given the position of commander of the border warfront, he must have a great deal of self discipline."

"Going from one million to twenty million is still too much of a jump," the monkey commented.

Lu Yin looked at Elder Daggs; was twenty million star essence an exaggerated amount to this elder? Not at all—it was simply what was within his authority.

The planet's sea of star essence receded as an unimaginable amount was swept into Lu Yin's cosmic ring, but the movement quickly ended.

At this time, when Lu Yin put his cosmic ring back on, he felt that it was much heavier than before.

He was truly no longer poor, and in the current Outerverse, there should be nobody wealthier than him. Perhaps he should go to Millions City's Qiong family and conduct a comparison of their assets.

Hehe, low profile, I should keep a low profile. He had to maintain a low profile, so he could forget about comparing his wealth to the Qiong family's. Millions City had accumulated its funds over countless years, and the amount that they possessed had to be an absolutely astronomical amount. Without even considering anything else, each shot of the mobile fortress's cannon consumed countless star essence, or in other words, Millions City practically fought by burning money. Even Lu Yin felt that such an expenditure level was a bit much.

"Alliance Leader Lu, it's no longer early. Shall we head out?" Elder Daggs asked courteously.

Lu Yin smiled. "Does Elder have something that you need to do? If that's the case, then please go on ahead. There's no need to entertain me, as I simply wish to roam around a bit."

Elder Daggs was stumped for a moment, but then he hurriedly countered, "There's no need to be concerned. Since Alliance Leader Lu wants to explore, then allow me to lead the way. This way, please."

The elder did not dare to leave, not even if he was beaten to death. He had thought things through and was now willing to express his goodwill towards Lu Yin since he might be able to return to the Neoverse with this youth's influence. However, he was still the border warfront's top commander, and he would not allow Lu Yin to run amok. It was still his duty to watch over this youth.

Lu Yin revealed a faint smile and then flew towards the coastline with Elder Daggs behind him.

Along the way, Lu Yin saw many resources on the warehouse planet. Not only did he see ores and herbal medications, but he also saw many strange items.

When it came to different cultivation systems in the universe, star energy was the most prevalent system by far, but there were also other cultivation systems that focused on other forms of energy. For example, on Shenwu Continent, cultivating required martial crystals. The Sixth Mainland also had its own method, such as cultivating a bloodline. There were simply too many different ways to cultivate, and those myriad methods had led to many of these strange items being placed there.

The overwhelming amount of resources that Lu Yin had originally believed to be on this planet simply did not exist, as he could not even use many of the items he saw.

Elder Daggs stayed beside Lu Yin, and the elder would occasionally explain which resources came from which civilization, and what effects they might have. This allowed Lu Yin to broaden his horizons despite the fact that these various cultivation methods could not compare to what he had personally achieved.

The planet was quite small, and circling it once would not take much time. Elder Daggs did not try to hurry Lu Yin, as he was afraid that this youth might be the type of person who would go slower the more they were hurried.

Fortunately, there were too many items in this place, which meant that Lu Yin could not easily pick out the best ones.

At that moment, Lu Yin suddenly descended into a green forest as Elder Daggs watched on. The older man secretly had a bad feeling about Lu Yin's movement, and he exclaimed, "Alliance Leader Lu, there's nothing in this place. It's just a pile of some metals."

Lu Yin smiled and then stomped down with a foot, causing the ground to split open. Countless ores were revealed beneath the surface, and they were of all sorts of metals. There were also many other materials that Lu Yin could not even recognize. However, there was no need for him to recognize anything, as his target was a specific item hidden beneath all of the ore.

There was a thumping sound, and Elder Daggs's expression suddenly changed. He moved forward and hurriedly tried to stop Lu Yin's actions. "Alliance Leader Lu, what are you trying to do?"

But Lu Yin had already pulled out something from underground. It was a tattered-looking metallic right arm. It was quite massive, and it was around two meters long in total. It also looked very ancient with marks of corrosion from the passage of time on it.

“Elder, what is this?” Lu Yin asked.

Elder Daggs smiled bitterly. “Alliance Leader Lu, how did you notice this item?”

Lu Yin answered with interest in his voice. “I have my own ways. Elder, this item should be able to injure an Enlighter.”

Elder Daggs exclaimed, “I truly admire Alliance Leader Lu’s methods, as you are quite right. This arm came from an ancient race that has long since disappeared. They were adept at manufacturing methods and were very technologically advanced. This metal arm was something that they made, but unfortunately, it’s just one component. It was left here with the intention of it being a reward for those with the proper contributions.”

Lu Yin waved the arm about, noticing that it was a bit heavier than it looked. He had discovered this thing due to the fact that its rune lines surpassed a power level of 200,000, which was quite interesting.

He exerted a slight bit of force but found that he could not crush the arm. Lu Yin was astonished. “Elder, I can use this item.”

Elder Daggs’s expression changed, and his voice grew hoarse. “Alliance Leader Lu, please stop joking around. This arm is so large, so how could you conveniently use it?”

Lu Yin’s lips curled up. “It is convenient, look!”

He then put his own right arm into the end of the metal arm and used star energy to create a connecting joint that allowed him to smoothly manipulate the arm. Now, when he clenched his fist or waved his hand, the arm copied his motions.

Elder Daggs’ smile was bitter. “Alliance Leader Lu, I’ve already given you twenty million star essence, which is the furthest I can press my authority. Due to this, other items truly cannot be given to you.”

Lu Yin replied, “I can take less star essence.”

He then decisively tossed away a hundred thousand star essence. “That should be enough.”

Elder Daggs sighed, as he knew that Lu Yin was determined to have this arm.

Lu Yin glanced over at Elder Daggs. “Items are dead while humans are alive.”

Elder Daggs sighed to himself again. “Alright, since Alliance Leader Lu likes it so much, I’ll make the decision to give it to you, and you can also take back your star essence.”

Lu Yin gave the man a slight smile. “There’s no hurry. Let’s keep browsing.”

Chapter 1017: Merits And Mistakes

After hearing Lu Yin’s words, Elder Daggs quickly stopped in his tracks. “Alliance Leader Lu, you’re placing me in a very difficult position.”

Lu Yin replied, "It's just taking a look. If Elder Daggs is unwilling to give anything, then I will definitely not force things. How does that sound?"

Elder Daggs grudgingly replied, "Alright, since Alliance Leader Lu insists, then please proceed."

Lu Yin nodded. "Thank you."

He then stored the metal arm within his cosmic ring and continued to tour around the warehouse planet.

Before much longer, he discovered an ordinary looking one-way mirror. It seemed to be something a non-cultivator would use, but this mirror actually possessed enough rune lines to match a power level of 50,000; it was a power vessel.

Elder Daggs did not pay much attention to the mirror, as it did not have many uses. It could forcibly absorb star energy within a certain range, and if used well, it could allow one to break through their enemy's battle techniques. However, at best, this mirror could affect Explorers. Thus, it was not very useful at the border.

Lu Yin stored the mirror away, and Elder Daggs did not mind.

Next, another set of strange weapons caught Lu Yin's eye. They were paper thin, fingernail-sized bombs. The strength of these items also matched up to a power level of about 50,000 based off of its rune lines. Lu Yin found it rather close to the mirror.

Elder Daggs cared a little bit more about this item. "These items are Sealed Cannons, and they are slightly more useful on the battlefield. They're quite sneaky, as they can explode and destroy everything within a certain radius. Unfortunately, there are only about twenty of them left now, so giving them to you is no issue."

"Who made this thing?" Lu Yin asked curiously, as the creator had managed to condense the explosive power of a Cruiser into something the size of a piece of paper no bigger than a fingernail. This was quite ingenious.

Elder Daggs shook his head. "They're a piece of ancient technology, and when they were first discovered, there were hundreds of thousands of them. They helped us destroy many of the Technocracy's tiny machines, but there's only twenty or so of them left now, so they aren't very useful."

"You guys never tried to reproduce them?" Lu Yin was puzzled.

"We've constantly been trying, but we've never had any results. If Alliance Leader Lu likes them, then just take them," Elder Daggs generously offered. In any case, this item was no longer very useful, as something that only had the power of a Cruiser could not draw the elder's attention.

Lu Yin took the tiny bombs without any hesitation, and the moment after he put it away, his vision focused in another direction, and there was a profound look in his eyes.

Elder Daggs was growing afraid, as Lu Yin had picked up several items in quick succession. Although nothing had been particularly important, it still would not be too good if Lu Yin's final amount was too great. Thus, the elder hurriedly urged Lu Yin onward, hoping to take the youth away.

“Seventh Bro, there’s something here that this monkey can use,” the Ghost Monkey suddenly spoke up.

Lu Yin’s eyes flashed. “What’s that?”

“Blood. A Semi-Progenitor’s blood.” The monkey hesitated for a moment before answering.

Lu Yin took a deep breath, stopping in place as he turned to look at Elder Daggs. “Elder, is there any Semi-Progenitor’s blood here?”

Elder Daggs’s pupils shrank. “Alliance Leader Lu, a Semi-Progenitor’s blood is something that can only be provided by Yuan Shi, and it cannot be given to anyone.”

Lu Yin’s eyes narrowed. “Is there really a Semi-Progenitor’s blood?”

Elder Daggs paused, but then he solemnly nodded. “That’s right.”

Lu Yin muttered to himself.

The Ghost Monkey grew anxious. “Seventh Bro, as long as I can obtain a drop of a Semi-Progenitor’s blood, then I can jump to the strength of a Hunter! That would be just too useful for you. We astral beasts don’t improve our strength by slowly absorbing star energy, but rather by comprehending our own innate gifts. As long as my Ghost Monkey bloodline absorbs a Semi-Progenitor’s blood, my strength will instantly improve by leaps and bounds!”

With the Ghost Monkey’s status as one of the Spiritual Academy’s Masters, rising to the strength of a Hunter would allow the monkey to threaten even the Ten Arbiters, which would be of immense help.

However, Lu Yin did not believe the monkey’s claims. Just what sort of level was a Semi-Progenitor? Although they were not a Progenitor yet, they had absolutely surpassed Empyrean Imprinters, or perhaps they were around that level; he was uncertain. However, there was one detail that Lu Yin was clear on: no matter how powerful the Ghost Monkey’s bloodline might be, it could not possibly rely on a Semi-Progenitor’s blood for cultivation. Just where would there be enough blood for an entire clan to cultivate with?

“Seventh Bro, trust me! As long as I can reach the Hunter Realm, I will definitely take you to Progenitor Wushang’s tomb, and you will be able to obtain Progenitor Wushang’s inheritance!” the Ghost Monkey anxiously cried out.

Lu Yin ignored the monkey, as he had never been too comfortable with the Ghost Monkey’s existence. From the very beginning, the beast had not been as strong as Lu Yin, yet he was privy to even more secrets than Lu Yin, such as information concerning the Seven Courts. The stupid monkey was definitely still hiding many things.

The Ghost Monkey reluctantly continued speaking. “Seventh Bro, you and I are of one body; can I even harm you? Besides, even if I gain the strength of a Hunter, I still won’t be able to threaten you.”

Lu Yin paused and then looked at Elder Daggs. “Elder, can I really not be given the drop of Semi-Progenitor’s?”

Elder Daggs smiled bitterly. “This is something that you must ask Yuan Shi.”

“A Semi-Progenitor’s blood isn’t a Progenitor’s item, so is it really so important?” Lu Yin had trouble believing the value that was being placed on this blood.

Elder Daggs explained, “Neither of us qualify to come into contact with such an item given our levels, but there’s one thing to remember: anything that includes the word ‘Progenitor’ in it will have undergone some intrinsic changes.”

Lu Yin’s gaze suddenly trembled, and he said to the Ghost Monkey, “I’ll find you some Envoy blood.”

“That won’t work. It has to be blood from a Semi-Progenitor.” The monkey was determined.

“How about this—the blood of a 1,000,000 power level powerhouse or even a powerhouse at the level of an Empyrean Imprinter,” Lu Yin continued.

“Seventh Bro, it has to be blood from a Semi-Progenitor.” The Ghost Monkey was insistent.

Lu Yin frowned. The term Semi-Progenitor involved the word “Progenitor,” so could this stupid monkey’s cultivation actually be related to the word “Progenitor?” A Progenitor represented a qualitative change, but the monkey was just an Explorer. Just what sort of relation could it have with a Progenitor? Lu Yin could not connect the dots.

Lu Yin felt certain that he could not obtain the Semi-Progenitor’s blood, so he and Elder Daggs left the planet.

The Ghost Monkey could only sigh in disappointment.

After they left the planet, Elder Daggs’ entire body relaxed greatly, though he recognized that Lu Yin’s harvest had still been rather plentiful. Aside from the twenty million star essence, he had also taken away that metal arm, the one-way mirror, and the Sealed Cannons. If Lu Yin had spent any more time on the warehouse planet, then he would have likely found even more good items to take away.

Lu Yin felt rather appreciative towards Elder Daggs, and he hinted that he would like to take a tour of a branch warehouse sometime in the future, but that insinuation frightened Elder Daggs so badly that he hurriedly bade the youth farewell.

Lu Yin had wanted to continue, but he also realized that it would not be very realistic to continue pulling out items from Elder Daggs.

Lu Yin was also quite satisfied with what he considered a plentiful harvest.

“Monkey, with your strength, can you even absorb the blood of a Semi-Progenitor?” Lu Yin asked.

Perhaps it was because they had already left the planet and there was no longer the temptation regarding the Semi-Progenitor’s blood, but the Ghost Monkey’s tone had returned to normal. He was no longer so agitated that he would reveal anything. “Actually, the more powerful the blood that my Ghost Monkey bloodline absorbs, the better. I said that I had to absorb a Semi-Progenitor’s blood as I was hoping that Seventh Bro would be able to get it for me, but since you can’t, it’s fine. There’ll be more opportunities in the future.”

Lu Yin smiled, as the monkey had just changed its tone yet again.

Interesting, the Ghost Monkey bloodline. Lu Yin would have to do some investigating in the future.

He reported his departure to Yuan Shi, and then left Southside Weave.

Aboard his spacecraft, Lu Yin fiddled with the one-way mirror, as it could forcibly absorb the nearby star energy. This meant that it could disrupt an enemy's battle techniques and arts, which was too useful.

Of course, this mirror might not be very useful to others, but Lu Yin was able to upgrade it. If it could reach the level where it could interfere with an Enlightener's strength, then any attacks from Hunters would simply be completely nullified.

Lu Yin hoped that the mirror's base materials would be good enough for him to upgrade continuously, as it would be ideal if it could even threaten Envoys.

Wait, no. Envoy-level powerhouses did not seem to use star energy.

After he had just left Southside Weave, a person stopped Lu Yin. It was the Sea King's Dome's Elder He.

Lu Yin stepped out of his spacecraft. "Elder He, did you stop this junior to ask about the Sea King?"

Elder He looked at Lu Yin with clear expectations. "Does Alliance Leader Lu know?"

Lu Yin shook his head. "I'm sorry, I don't know."

Elder He was disappointed.

"However, according to my best guess, the Sea King might not be dead," Lu Yin continued.

Elder He was not surprised by this. "During the battle in the astral cemetery, we already knew that the Sea King had not died. We simply didn't know where he was."

"I'm sorry, but Junior doesn't know either," Lu Yin said.

Crestfallen, Elder He left.

The closer Lu Yin came to the truth regarding the Sixth Mainland's invasion, the more he was unable to judge the Sea King.

Without question, the Sea King was a bold character. The Fifth Mainland's sky had been covered by the Sixth Mainland, which meant that the Fifth Mainland had been completely unable to give birth to any Progenitors, which the Sea King had clearly known. Hence, he had risked his life to break through the Upper Three Gates and shatter the Sixth Mainland's sky. However, his actions had also triggered the Sixth Mainland's invasion, which had led to terrible atrocities and countless deaths.

From the very beginning, the Sea King had held good intentions and plenty of courage, which had even surpassed the Hall of Honor's. However, after the battle in the Cosmic Sea, Lu Yin felt that the Fifth Mainland was not as simple as he had once believed. In support of that feeling, both the Yu Family Elder and Bro Hui Kong had mentioned that the Fifth Mainland had very deeply hidden powers. Neither the Hall of Honor nor the Three Dark Hands had appeared in full force during the invasion, and with Lu Yin's

current status and line of thought, he could only think of one thing: the Neoverse was still hiding its true self.

He had no idea what exactly the Neoverse might be planning, but one thing was for certain; they did not seem to be afraid of the Sixth Mainland's all-out invasion. In other words, the Sixth Mainland had covered the Fifth Mainland's sky, but the false sky might not have been unbreakable.

If Lu Yin's guesses were correct, then the Sea King's actions had been impulsive, and he might have disrupted some other arrangements.

Of course, this was all just Lu Yin's conjectures. It was also possible that the Three Dark Hands had the same attitude as the Neohuman Alliance where they did not care about the war between the two mainlands at all. It was also possible that the Hall of Honor had actually given its all. Lu Yin was just a Cruiser, and he had no way of discovering the truth at this time.

From Lu Yin's perspective, even if his conjectures were correct, it was possible that many people had cursed the Sea King, but Lu Yin himself still felt a bit of respect for the Sea King. Through his own strength, the Sea King had freed the Fifth Mainland's sky, and no matter what the ultimate result might be, the man's courage was unmatched, and he had a boldness that surpassed countless others.

Whether his actions would turn out to be an achievement or a mistake was left up to history. At the moment, the outcome had been positive, as the Sixth Mainland had retreated with heavy casualties. However, if they invaded once more, then they would likely try again or a second and a third time. The Sixth Mainland definitely had not given up yet, and the time before the next attack might not be very long.

Lu Yin had originally been planning on directly returning to Zenyu Star, but he suddenly thought of the Dark Phoenix family, as their home planet was not too far from where Lu Yin currently was.

The Phoenix family and the Dark Phoenix family, huh? Lu Yin thought to himself as he then changed direction for a visit.

The Dark Phoenix family lived on Darkflame Continent, which had originally been located in Endless Weave. During the border war, Mister Mu had shifted the entire border, causing Darkflame Continent to be moved into Southside Weave.

Darkflame Continent was not very far from the border of Southside Weave, and with his collapsible spacecraft, it only took Lu Yin around ten minutes to get there.

He looked at the black flames that were burning space itself rage in front of him, and Lu Yin's eyes burned with excitement. Had this been specially prepared for him?

"Darkflame Continent" was just a name, as not everything was truly burning. However, in front of Lu Yin, there truly were black flames covering the entirety of Darkflame Continent.

The void distorted in front of him, and a figure emerged. He saw a middle-aged man emerge. "Guest, the Dark Phoenix family will be in seclusion for the next hundred years, so we will have to send you off with our apologies."

Lu Yin stepped out of his vessel and into outer space before storing his collapsible spacecraft away. He then stared at the middle-aged man and replied, "Please announce that Great Eastern Alliance Leader Lu Yin has arrived for a visit."

The middle-aged man was astonished. "You- you are Lu Yin?"

Lu Yin's lips curled up. "That's right."

Chapter 1018: Sixteen Layers Of Darkflames

The middle-aged man's expression instantly changed. He was a Cruiser, and he also had a bit of status within the Dark Phoenix family, so he naturally knew that the family had suddenly gone into seclusion precisely because of this person. The person who the patriarch wanted to see the least was this youth in front of him.

"Alliance Leader Lu, I'm sorry, but the entire family is currently in seclusion, and we are not receiving any visitors. Please return then, as we'll only lift this restriction in a hundred years. At that time, we will definitely reach out to Alliance Leader Lu," the middle-aged man spoke courteously, but his gaze remained wary.

Lu Yin's eyes swept past the middle-aged man as he scanned Darkflame Continent. "The entire family is in seclusion. Is that the reason behind all of this fire?"

The middle-aged man solemnly answered, "Alliance Leader Lu, please forgive the Dark Phoenix family for not politely receiving visitors. We'll be sure to make amends after a hundred years' worth of time."

"Actually, the main thing that I came here for was to visit the Dark Phoenix family, but I also came to tour your Darkflame Continent. I wonder if that might still be possible? Please rest assured—I won't disturb the Dark Phoenix family," Lu Yin courteously replied.

The middle-aged man's eyes narrowed. "I'm truly sorry, but after the Sixteen Layers of Darkflames have been released, there's no way to shut them down. The flames will automatically extinguish themselves, but only after a hundred years. At that time, we will be able to freely enter and leave. Hence, even if our patriarch wished to invite Alliance Leader Lu on a tour of our Darkflame Continent, there's no way to do such a thing."

"So if I enter by myself, you won't stop me?" Lu Yin asked.

A trace of disdain flashed through the Cruiser's eyes. "If Alliance Leader Lu is willing to make such an attempt, then I would not dare to stop you. Alliance Leader Lu, please feel free." The man then turned to leave.

Lu Yin focused on the black flames that were burning space itself before taking a step forward. This was truly a perfect place for cultivation, though he hoped that the temperature of these flames would not turn out to be too low.

Across from Lu Yin, the middle-aged man returned to a nearby planet. This planet was essentially the Dark Phoenix family's gatehouse, as according to the family's rules, anyone who wished to visit the family had to first visit this planet to be announced and verified.

However, after the Dark Phoenix family announced that they had sealed themselves off for a hundred years, there were no longer any outsiders on this planet.

The middle-aged man returned to the planet as a few other members of the family walked out. "Who showed up this time? We clearly sent out an announcement, so are these people just blind?"

"Ignore them. They're all just trying to establish some kind of relationship with our Dark Phoenix family."

"Hmph! After being sealed off for a hundred years, our profits will have all disappeared. We can only blame that Lu Yin, as he actually managed to return alive."

The middle-aged man growled, "Alright, stop talking. The person who showed up this time is actually the one you all hate the most."

The others were all puzzled.

The middle-aged man continued. "Lu Yin."

"What? Lu Yin's here? What for?" They were all astonished.

The middle-aged man answered, "I don't know, but he wants to try to force his way through the Sixteen Layers of Darkflames."

The other people were all caught off guard, but then they began to howl in laughter. "The Sixteen Layers of Darkflames were set up by our ancestor, and not even almighty Enlighters can force their way through it. Just what can he do?"

"Even those stupid Phoenix family bunch can't barge through, not even when they sent an Enlighter with a power level of 400,000. Lu Yin's way too confident."

The middle-aged man thought so as well. The Dark Phoenix family was wary of Lu Yin, which was why they had been forced to seal themselves off for a hundred years. This was partly because their ancestor had died, but mostly because Lu Yin's identity and background made them nervous. They were actually quite afraid of him. However, if they ignored all of that, what did the youth himself actually possess? He simply did not know his own strength if he hoped to force his way through the Sixteen Layers of Darkflames.

"Watch the Darkflames, and we'll see how many layers he can make it through. Then we'll report back to the family," the middle-aged man ordered.

The few others immediately grew more serious as they looked out at Darkflame Continent.

The Sixteen Layers of Darkflames had been set up by the Dark Phoenix family's Yen Phoenix, and he had been an Envoy realm powerhouse, though he had unfortunately perished during the border defense against the Sixth Mainland. However, he had left behind quite a few things for his Dark Phoenix family, and the Darkflames barrier was one of them.

With this barrier protecting them, the Dark Phoenix family was indeed able to enter isolation. Aside from a select few in the Outerverse, there was almost nobody who could force their way through the Darkflames barrier.

Lu Yin stepped into the Darkflames. The barrier was made up of sixteen layers, and the temperature grew higher the further one progressed.

Even the outermost layer was hot enough to cause Hunters to be cautious, and they would barely be able to enter. Lu Yin quickly passed through the first five layers, but once he reached the sixth layer, he became a bit hesitant. It was strong enough to cause even Enlighters to be nervous.

Lu Yin's physical strength was very impressive, and it could match that of a physically focused Enlighter whose power level was at around 200,000. In fact, Lu Yin's body could even contend against that of a regular Enlighter whose power level was around 300,000. Even with such a tough body, Lu Yin was only able to endure up to the heat of the eighth layer.

On the planet that was just outside of Darkflame Continent, the middle-aged man and the others were all stunned. They had all made their own guesses at how many layers Lu Yin would be able to pass through, but none of them had ever imagined that he would be able to reach the eighth layer. Not even an Enlighter might be able to reach that far!

The middle-aged man was in the same cultivation realm as Lu Yin, and he actually surpassed Lu Yin slightly, as this Dark Phoenix family's Cruiser had completed seven cultivation cycles. Even though he was from the Dark Phoenix family, he could only cross the first layer at best. The difference between the two was too great.

His only source of consolation was that Lu Yin had most likely used all of his powerful items to make it that far. Thus, the Dark Phoenix family's Cruiser could still accept that Lu Yin had reached the eighth layer given all the powerful items Lu Yin was so famous for having.

Within the Sixteen Layers of Darkflames, at the eighth layer, it was so hot that Lu Yin's very star energy was burning off of his body. He sat down cross-legged in the sky, panting heavily. He had relied on his personal strength to force his way up to now, but it would not be very realistic for him to proceed any further. The Dark Phoenix family had relied on these Darkflames flames to seal off their clan. This meant that, no matter if they were facing powers from the Outerverse or the Innerverse, they had a certain degree of confidence in their safety.

Perhaps the innermost layer of the Darkflames could cause peak Enlighters to be cautious, and even Envoys might take notice of such a barrier.

It was no wonder why the Dark Phoenix family was known as one of the three Outerverse powers that could not be provoked.

Lu Yin let out a mouthful of steam and looked up before focusing on the inside of the flame barrier. Others might not be able to pass through such flames if they attempted to barge through, but unfortunately for the Dark Phoenix family, Lu Yin was the one making the attempt.

After thinking about his circumstances, Lu Yin pulled out an item: the Skyblaze Stone.

The Skyblaze Stone was able to absorb flames, and it was actually the origin of the fiery dragon from the Skyblaze Dojo. Although Lu Yin was unsure of just how powerful that fiery dragon had been, it had most likely possessed the strength of an Envoy at the least. Otherwise, it would not have been able to help Tian Yanzi fight against the Sixth Mainland powerhouses.

Thus, this stone should be able to absorb the flames in this place!

As soon as the Skyblaze Stone was taken out, the surrounding Darkflames suddenly distorted. The flames then shot towards the Skyblaze Stone like a storm before being directly absorbed.

Lu Yin's eyes lit up, as this was indeed the right way forward.

At the same time, within Darkflame Continent, the Dark Phoenix family's Tanno Phoenix was gazing into outer space. The border of the continent was blocked off by the flames of the Sixteen Layers of Darkflames, but the continent itself possessed no warmth.

"In isolation for a hundred years. Hopefully, after this, the Outerverse will reconnect with the Innerverse, and that kid will have been suppressed by the various powers from the Innerverse," Tanno Phoenix commented.

Behind Tanno Phoenix stood Goldric Phoenix. This youth had once been completely unknown, but he had become the Dark Phoenix family's number one genius after awakening his innate gift. He had also taken Alan to the Dark Phoenix Lavazone, and he was estimated to have the strength to challenge the top ten of the Top 100 Rankings.

Goldric Phoenix's calm face belied his complex emotions. They were the powerful Dark Phoenix family that had slaughtered their way out of the Innerverse, and they were known as one of the three unprovokable powers of the Outerverse. However, just because they were cautious of a single youth, the family had sealed themselves off for a hundred years. What a joke.

Still, this was the truth of the matter, and Goldric Phoenix could not change it. That youth was simply too freakish whether one considered his personal strength, tricks, background, or even his opportunities. Goldric Phoenix could sympathize with the patriarch's decision.

"If the Outerverse manages to rejoin the Innerverse within the next five years, then I hope that you will challenge the top three on the Top 100 Rankings, Goldric," Tanno Phoenix said with some expectation in his voice as he looked back. When the Innerverse and Outerverse reconnected, there would no longer be any reason for them to be wary of Lu Yin. At that time, the family would be able to release the seal isolating the entire family before the allotted one hundred years since Lu Yin would not have the attention to create trouble for them at that time.

Goldric Phoenix had a determined look. "I want to challenge the Ten Arbiters."

Tanno Phoenix's eyes narrowed. "If you can become a Hunter by then, you can give it a try."

Goldric Phoenix nodded. Becoming a Hunter was nothing difficult for him. To many people, breaking through to the Hunter realm was a key checkpoint in their path of cultivation. However, for a genius like Goldric, who had the resources of the entire Dark Phoenix family, such a thing was very simple. The difficult aspect was actually accumulating enough of a foundation while in the Cruiser realm, as the deeper that foundation was, the more powerful he would become once he broke through to the Hunter realm.

The three youths who currently held the top places in the Top 100 Rankings were all able to break through to the Hunter realm, but none of them had done so. This was because they would not be able to reach the same level as the Ten Arbiters even if they did break through.

The Ten Arbiters were a standard, but that standard had nothing to do with cultivation realms. They represented a supreme boundary of ability, and the current strength of the top three on the Top 100 Rankings did not qualify to become a part of the Ten Arbiters even if they did become Hunters.

Five years, was it?

“Patriarch, if the Inniverse reconnects with the Outerverse, will we exit this seclusion early?” Goldric Phoenix asked, as he was also considering this.

Tanno Phoenix was just about to respond, but his expression suddenly changed as he moved to leave.

At the same moment, quite a few of the Dark Phoenix family’s experts similarly noticed a fluctuation in the Darkflames, and they all rushed to the continent’s barrier.

The Sixteen Layers of Darkflames was shrinking, which was what Tanno Phoenix and the others saw as soon as they arrived at the continent’s border.

“Patriarch, what’s happening?” Zax Phoenix asked. He had been the Dark Phoenix Lavazone’s Commander, but he had also been summoned back when the Dark Phoenix family announced their hundred years of isolation.

Tanno Phoenix also could not understand what was happening, and he stared into the distance in bewilderment.

Nobody could explain what was happening, so Tanno Phoenix ordered the entire clan to search through their ancient texts, and at the same time, he transferred his authority to Goldric Phoenix. This allowed the youth to read through Yen Phoenix’s journal as they all searched for a reason behind this anomaly in the Sixteen Layers of Darkflames.

While the Dark Phoenix family was investigating the reason behind the strange behavior of the Sixteen Layers of Darkflames, Lu Yin was very excited inside of it. This was because the Skyblaze Stone was constantly being replenished, and he would soon be able to use the Skyblaze Stone for another accelerated cultivation session. The Dark Phoenix family’s decision to go into seclusion had just been too timely, as if they had not done so, Lu Yin would have never discovered such a boundless source of black flames.

As time passed, the range of the Sixteen Layers of Darkflames grew smaller, and Lu Yin gradually saw the true terror of the Darkflames’s inner layers. In those areas, the rune lines could almost rival an Envoy’s. Sure enough, this defensive barrier was sturdy enough to cause even Envoys to be cautious.

Outside Darkflame Continent, on the gateway planet, the middle-aged Cruiser and the others had been stunned for a long time, and they simply stared on in stupefaction as the Sixteen Layers of Darkflames changed. They did not know what they should do at this time.

In front of Lu Yin, the Skyblaze Stone grew hotter and hotter, and it even started to give off indistinct snarls.

Lu Yin frowned—could this thing actually allow that fiery dragon to be reborn? If it truly revived, he would not be able to control it. He hoped that that was not the case, as he wanted to use this Skyblaze Stone to cultivate.

As the snarls grew louder and louder, Lu Yin became more and more anxious. Eventually, he decided to stow it away and not let it absorb any more flame in case the fiery dragon truly reemerged.

As for the Sixteen Layers of Darkflames, there was not much of it left—just the innermost layer that possessed the highest temperatures. Leaving this last bit could be considered as him leaving a bit of face for the Dark Phoenix family.

Of the sixteen layers of the Darkflames, fifteen had been absorbed by the Skyblaze Stone.

With only one layer of Darkflames separating them, Tanno Phoenix and the others were all able to see Lu Yin, and Lu Yin could similarly see them. He waved at them before turning to leave.

Tanno Phoenix and the others were stunned. Lu Yin? Why was he here?

The situation instantly became clear. Lu Yin was here, so the changes in the Sixteen Layers of Darkflames absolutely had something to do with him.

Chapter 1019: Beating The Battle Drums

Tanno Phoenix watched on as Lu Yin left, completely dumbfounded at what he was seeing and clueless as to what he should do. Should he forcibly detain this youth? Whether or not they could even do so was merely one detail, as Yuan Shi was not very far away, and such a powerhouse could arrive within the blink of an eye. However, if this person was allowed to leave, then who would they go to for compensation for the Dark Phoenix family's losses?

Tanno Phoenix pondered his options for just a moment, but Lu Yin had already left.

Someone could not help but speak up. "Patriarch, he's about to escape."

"Shut up!" Tanno Phoenix barked, frightening the man.

Zax Phoenix had a bitter smile, as it was better for Lu Yin to leave than for him to stay behind given the current circumstances. As for the family's losses, Zax Phoenix could only try to bear the cost himself.

None of them knew that, if not for Lu Yin being worried about the fire dragon reemerging from the Skyblaze Stone, he might have only stopped after absorbing all of the Sixteen Layers of Darkflames. At that point, they would have been forced to meet him regardless if they wanted to or not.

Although Lu Yin had not absorbed the entire flame barrier this time, he felt that it was still fine. There was no way for these Darkflames to escape. Once he depleted the Skyblaze Stone's heat, he could simply take another trip here.

These darkflames of the Dark Phoenix family reminded Lu Yin of the Phoenix family. If this Dark Phoenix family had such terrifying flames, then the Phoenix family and the Blaze Realm could only be stronger. Those places were simply treasures in his eyes.

Absorbing the Dark Phoenix family's darkflames had been an unexpected boon, and Lu Yin left the Dark Phoenix family's territory with a sense of excitement as if he had just robbed them blind. He looked back and saw that there was no one pursuing him, but he still hastened to take his leave.

His journey had been exceptionally successful this time, and Lu Yin started to use his special privileges to return to Frostwave Weave via the express military routes. This meant that the return journey only took him ten days.

When he saw Zenyu Star, a sense of returning home sprang up within him, completely unbidden.

Although he had only been gone for a bit more than half a year, the suffering that he had experienced during this time had made it feel much longer.

News of Lu Yin's return to Zenyu Star spread quickly, and all of Frostwave Weave grew jubilant.

The masters of the Great Eastern Alliance's various leading powers all made a trip to offer their congratulations, and many people hoped to learn of the Innaverse's circumstances. However, everyone was turned away with the excuse that Lu Yin needed to recuperate from some injuries.

When he returned to Zenyu Star, the first thing that Lu Yin did was give the Twelfth Squadron the wreckage of the giant mechanical monster that had attacked Bro Hui Kong back in the Technocracy. He wanted them to study its materials.

The Twelfth Squadron also gave Lu Yin a surprise of their own: 3,000 androids.

These androids had been manufactured according to the blueprints that Lu Yin had pilfered from his die. Each of these androids had the power level of an Explorer, and they had proven their tremendous value in the previous battle at the astral cemetery.

There had only been several hundred androids at that time, and each had only had the strength of an Explorer. This time, Lu Yin was greeted by 3,000 androids. Although the strength of these androids were still only comparable to an Explorer's, their power level approached the level of a Cruiser's, and their defenses could definitely match a Cruiser's.

3,000 androids with Cruiser-level defenses were more than enough to shock the entire Outerverse.

In the past, the majority of the Great Yu Empire's Thirteen Imperial Squadron Captains had only been Cruisers. Thus, it was quite clear how badly these 3,000 androids would shock the outside world when they were revealed.

In addition, Ban Jiu had also discovered quite a few rare materials within the Great Eastern Alliance, and he was testing their combinations. Once he was successful, the androids would be upgraded yet again.

They were already reaping the benefits of uniting the Outerverse, as one such benefit was easy access to all sorts of materials. Lu Yin's King Zishan's palace had also been renovated, and all of the secret rooms had been reinforced with the sturdiest materials available, and they were almost sturdy enough to resist Hunter-level attacks. On top of that, a secure lockbreaking room had been specially installed inside the palace, and it was completely constructed from Spiritual Thread.

As the preeminent power of the entire Great Eastern Alliance, the Great Yu Empire had taken the leading position in all aspects whether it was economy or military power. In the past, the empire had

actually needed the Nalan family and other similar organizations to financially support them. However, at present time, Zenyu Star alone was able to support the Great Yu Empire's economy.

The street that held Lu's Grand Auction was still there, though it had been changed owners thousands of times now despite the exorbitant property value of that street that had exploded by almost ten thousand times. In the past, quite a few financial organizations had been pushed out of this street, and it was currently almost entirely occupied by giant companies that spanned dozens of weaves.

Even organizations that covered an entire weave were not able to maintain a shop on this street.

Lu's Grand Auction had not received any premium goods from Lu Yin in the past half a year, but due to its reputation, it had received enough rare items that they had still been able to hold an auction every three months. This was quite a valuable source of income for Lu Yin, but Lu Yin could simply disregard that amount with his current assets, so all of the profits were thrown to the recently established Lu Charity.

"Word has spread throughout the outside world that I died, but despite that, there really was no chaos within the empire?" Lu Yin asked curiously. Across from him were Wei Rong, En Ya, Huan Sha, Gavin, Hill Auna, and other top officials of the empire.

As the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hill Auna was also a member of the Imperial Cabinet, and he was the one who spoke up first. "The Hall of Honor itself promised that regardless of what happened to Your Highness, they would protect the Great Yu Empire and ensure a thousand years of peace."

Lu Yin finally understood: a thousand years of peace. This guarantee was enough to make many financial organizations envious. This meant that the empire had essentially become another Millions City, and it was even a strengthened version at that.

"Your Highness, there's one matter that your subject feels has to be brought to your attention," Gavin spoke solemnly. "The Great Yu Empire cannot have only a Royal Regent."

The moment this matter was brought up, the expressions of the entire crowd changed, but not one of them showed any hint of surprise.

In truth, Lu Yin's status had been discussed by countless people within the empire since long ago. The Royal Regent was a title that could substitute for the ruling authority of the empire, and there would naturally be no issues if this was still the same Great Yu Empire as before. However, Lu Yin was also the Great Eastern Alliance Leader as well as the Outerverse Allied Forces' Commander. Both of these positions far surpassed the prestige of the Great Yu Emperor, but Lu Yin still had not taken the throne. This had led to even further discussions among the populace, especially those in the Great Eastern Alliance, who all spoke of how the Great Yu Empire had internal conflicts.

Wendy Yushan had also come under great pressure, as she had no desire for any authority. Despite that, many people criticized her directly because she was the person who was the most qualified to inherit the throne, even more so than Lu Yin.

Lu Yin muttered to himself, as he had actually forgotten about this matter.

Ever since he had become the Great Eastern Alliance Leader, the throne of the Great Yu Empire no longer held much attraction to him. However, he had never considered how his current status might bring about such trouble.

“This matter can be postponed for the moment,” Lu Yin said.

Gavin wanted to say something further, but he was stopped by Hill Auna.

Wei Rong then said, “Your Highness, during the seven months that you were gone, the empire’s infiltration of the weaves in the western region has advanced greatly. With your return, quite a few more weaves in the central area are now willing to join the Great Eastern Alliance.”

Lu Yin nodded. “You, Wang Wen, and En Ya can discuss this matter amongst yourselves, as you know best what to do to those who are unwilling to join the alliance. The title of the Outerverse Allied Forces’ Commander cannot be wasted.”

Wei Rong smiled. “Got it.”

“Your Highness, the Nalan family delivered a message to us yesterday...”

...

Within the sprawling Great Yu Empire, the even larger Great Eastern Alliance, as well as the even more expansive Outerverse, there were many matters that had been waiting for Lu Yin’s approval, as he was the only one who could make a decision for many issues. He had no choice but to delegate the tasks bit by bit.

It was dusk when Gavin and the others finally left.

After they departed, Wendy Yushan arrived.

As Lu Yin looked at her, he felt like the last time he had seen her was a lifetime ago. “I nearly died, and I even thought that I would never be able to see you again.”

Wendy Yushan’s gaze trembled. “What happened?”

Lu Yin would not say much about his experiences to the others, but he shared a great deal with Wendy Yushan, as there were certain things that he simply had to vent.

Her expression turned cold. “Nightking Zhenwu, that guy isn’t easy to deal with.”

“I know, and I won’t be rash. After fighting him once, I won’t lose to him the next time,” Lu Yin said confidently.

Wendy Yushan muttered, “There’ve been more people in the Daosource Sect’s ruins.”

“That’s normal as the Sixth Mainland has retreated. It would probably be best for you to not go back for now. After the battle in the astral cemetery, you might be recognized over there,” Lu Yin said.

Before too long, Wendy Yushan also left.

Lu Yin muttered to himself for a bit before switching on his gadget. A person soon appeared on the screen: Wang Wen.

“Royal Chesspiece, it’s been a long time!” Wang Wen smiled, looking very happy.

Lu Yin grew very serious. “I want to deal with the Daynight clan.”

Wang Wen rearranged his expression. “What did you say? Beg your pardon?”

Lu Yin repeated, “I want to deal with the Daynight clan, so help me find a way.”

Wang Wen’s eyes lit up, and his lips involuntarily curved upwards, revealing a deep excitement that his heart could not suppress. Rather than fear, he felt a willingness for battle. “How interesting. I had guessed that after uniting the Outerverse, you would refocus on the great clans of the Innerverse, but I had assumed that it would be the Blaze Realm or the Ross Empire. I never even considered that it could be the Daynight clan. Chesspiece Bro, your appetite has increased.”

“Can we do it?” Lu Yin asked seriously.

Wang Wen answered with a rejoinder. “Do you have the means to go against a super powerhouse with a power level of 1,000,000?”

“Yes,” Lu Yin replied.

“Do you have the method to resist thousands, millions, or even tens of millions of cultivators who make up the Daynight clan troops?”

“Yes.”

“Are you able to remove the Daynight clan’s internal influence on the Hall of Honor?”

“Yes.”

“How about stalling the Daynight clan’s allies’ troops?”

“Yes.”

“Then one last question.” Wang Wen’s face showed an unprecedented degree of seriousness. “Do you have the determination to defeat Nightking Zhenwu?”

Lu Yin’s gaze trembled, and his mouth cracked open as he smiled. “That’s naturally the case.”

Wang Wen laughed. “Alright! Then let’s play a game with the Daynight clan as our opponent!”

At that moment, a chess piece mysteriously appeared in his hand that he slammed into the table, shattering the piece.

Lu Yin clenched his fists as the void distorted. It sounded as if battle drums were echoing out. At this moment, he wanted to make the Daynight clan his mortal enemy and to find a way to use the entire Outerverse’s strength to extinguish the Daynight clan. Also, he wanted to take out Nightking Zhenwu.

In a secure room within King Zishan’s palace, Lu Yin surveyed the area. This place had clearly been extensively renovated, and the walls were now much sturdier. Reportedly, they were able to resist

Hunter-level attacks. Although this might be a bit exaggerated, it should at least be able to prevent the aftershocks of Lu Yin's cultivation sessions from spreading out.

He did not see many other changes aside from the walls' reinforcement.

Lu Yin's domain swept out. He then sat down, raised a hand, and caused his die to appear.

It was time to upgrade his items, and he felt that there were many things to do, as upgrading his new items was just one task. The Skyblaze Stone had already been completely restored, so he could use it for another cultivation session, which would improve his realm to complement his current strength. That was of the utmost importance. Also, he hoped to return to the Daosource Sect's ruins to absorb the second cauldron's cauldron energy. Also, there was the Daynight clan's stone of inheritance.

His spiritual force was already very powerful, but Lu Yin had never learned how to properly use it. The Daynight Punch was his only spiritual force attack, but it was too crude. Lu Yin hoped to take advantage of the Daynight clan's inheritance stone and obtain an attack that was similar to the Skybreaker, as that would drastically improve his battle ability.

All of these tasks had to be completed step by step, and Lu Yin's first step was to upgrade his items.

He tapped out, and his die spun. Finally, it stopped on one pip, which was a common occurrence. One pip was the most common roll.

As Lu Yin watched one, a small piece of herbal medicine fell out that emitted a flickering light. Lu Yin seriously appraised the herb, but he quickly found that it was perfectly ordinary, which left him slightly disappointed.

He restored the die and tapped out again. This time, his luck was better, and he rolled three pips: Enhance.

Chapter 1020: Upgraded Items

When he saw the two light screens, Lu Yin immediately threw the giant, mechanical right arm onto it.

This item's rune lines were already comparable to an Enlighter, and in some ways, it was similar to the bracer that he had worn on his right arm before.

That bracer had been limited by its composite materials, and even though Lu Yin had upgraded it to the absolute limit, it had only been able to increase his physical strength to the point where he could match up to an Enlighter with a power level of about 300,000. However, this massive mechanical arm was different.

Lu Yin continuously threw out piles of star essence, and the giant arm was upgraded once, twice, thrice, and until it passed through the screens six times before no longer being able to be upgraded. This was the limit of the arm's materials, and six was the maximum number of times that it could be upgraded.

As Lu Yin observed the giant arm that had been upgraded six times, he sucked in a breath of cold air. At this moment, the giant arm's number of rune lines were tremendous, and they surpassed every Enlighter that Lu Yin had ever seen, including even Yu Mu from Shamrock Enterprises and other such absolute experts. This arm should be infinitely close to the level of an Envoy!

Lu Yin took in another breath of cold air as he touched the giant right arm. The Outerverse had been isolated from the Innerverse for more than six years. Back then, he had been able to upgrade items to the level where they could threaten Enlighters, but now, his items were nearly reaching the level of an Envoy. Lu Yin himself was also improving.

No, it was due to his wealth.

Actually, that was not really true either. With his previous abilities, even if he had possessed more money, he would have been restricted by the intrinsic materials of the item that he wanted to upgrade. At best, they would have been able to threaten Enlighters.

There was still a difference in levels.

Lu Yin reflected on his situation for a while, but then he stored the massive right arm away and took out the Sealed Cannon. This little toy was incredibly effective in ambushes, as it was extremely minuscule. It would not attract any attention, but it was impressively powerful despite its small size.

The power of the Sealed Cannon already approached that of an attack from a Cruiser with only a power level of 50,000, but that was not bad for the Outerverse. After all, this thing had been stored in one of the Hall of Honor's primary border warfront warehouses. Still, that level of power was really not of much help to Lu Yin.

He placed all of the Sealed Cannons on the top light screen and then began to frantically upgrade them all at once.

After upgrading them nine times, they had reached the maximum level once again, restricted by their base materials.

After nine upgrades, the Sealed Cannons' number of rune lines neared those of an Enlighter with a power level of just over 200,000.

This was not bad. Although the power level was nothing impressive, there were quite a few of these tiny bombs. Besides, Lu Yin was only a Cruiser himself while these Sealed Cannons were able to threaten an Enlighter. They were about as powerful as the gun that he had first upgraded, so this was actually pretty decent.

Upgrading the giant right arm had consumed 1.3 million star essence, and upgrading the more than twenty Sealed Cannons nine times had depleted 1.4 million. Thus, all in all, the two upgrades had already cost Lu Yin 2.7 million star essence.

If not for him having gained a fortune recently, there was no way he would have had enough resources to upgrade everything that he wanted.

As he thought about this, Lu Yin took out the mirror, as this was the next on his list of items to upgrade.

This little thing was able to forcibly absorb all of the star energy within a certain range, and if used well, it would disrupt an opponent's battle techniques, arts, or even their innate gift.

The mirror's rune lines were already at a similar level as the Sealed Cannons, and they could barely match up to those of a Cruiser with a power level of 50,000. However, this mirror was made of much higher quality materials than the Sealed Cannons; after all, this was a power vessel.

Lu Yin repeatedly upgraded it until he reached the limit of thirteen upgrades.

Thirteen upgrades had cost him 1.18 million star essence, but as a result, the mirror's runes were so impressive that they had surpassed the rune lines of someone at Yu Mu's level.

These rune lines might even surpass those of an expert whose power level was greater than 400,000!

Upgrading just three items had already depleted nearly four million star essence. This level of expenditure was too extravagant, and the further Lu Yin progressed and the higher he climbed, the more valuable the items he would come into contact with. This meant that he would constantly require more and more money to fully upgrade his items.

It turned out that he was still poor.

Lu Yin glanced down at his cosmic ring. He still had more than twenty million star essence in his ring, so he still had enough for the moment.

Actually, to Lu Yin, the most important item was still a set of universal armor, or rather, a holistic set of defensive equipment. The giant arm could barely count as a defensive item, as its large size meant that it could protect his entire body if used well. Still, he needed another piece of equipment that was similar to a set of universal armor.

His current armor could, at best, defend against attacks from Enlighters whose power levels were at about 200,000. This was enough for him to roam about the Outerverse unimpeded, but in the Innaverse, especially if Lu Yin was going to face off against the Daynight clan, this armor was clearly lacking.

He hoped Ban Jiu would be able to find some powerful new materials soon.

Lu Yin suddenly slapped himself hard. He had already given the scraps of that strange mechanical monster that had attacked Bro Hui Kong to Ban Jiu. Even if the captain of the Twelfth Squadron was able to determine what materials the machine monster was made out of, he did not have the ability to refine anything. Despite how weak the mechanical creature had appeared to be after being instantly torn apart by Bro Hui Kong, that was because it was Bro Hui Kong, who was an ancient monster with a power level of at least 1,000,000.

This kind of mechanical monster must have been on the level of an Envoy at the very least.

After his thoughts reached this point, Lu Yin left the secure room and headed straight towards the research facility.

At this time, Ban Jiu was feeling quite stressed in the underground research lab that lay beneath the Twelfth Squadron. Vice Captain Shalosh stood next to the captain, and they were both staring at the scraps of the mechanical monster that currently occupied the entire underground space.

"Captain, His Highness gave this to you?" Shalosh asked.

Ban Jiu nodded.

Shalosh reluctantly said, "With our current technology, we have no way of removing any of these pieces from the rest, and even a randomly selected component can't be refined. Just where did His Highness find such a thing?"

Ban Jiu stared at the fragments of the mechanical creature and touched some of the components. "This thing is from the Technocracy."

The other nearby researchers were overwhelmed. The Technocracy! That civilization was not something humanity was able to come into contact with. Although they were constantly at war with them, when the Technocracy was seriously discussed, no one had any real understanding of the Technocracy, as nobody had ever managed to force their way very far past the border.

"His Highness was actually able to bring back such a huge thing from the Technocracy. How astounding," a senior researcher marveled.

"What can His Highness not do? We're the ones who are too weak, and there's no way for us to catch up to him."

"With the ability of our Technology Department, there's nothing that we can do with this thing at all. It's possible that even Morrow Weave, the most technologically advanced weave in the Outerverse, wouldn't be able to do anything either."

...

Ban Jiu grew jittery as he listened to the ongoing discussions. "Alright, you guys can head out first. I'll think of something."

Before long, most of the people left until only Ban Jiu and Shalosh remained behind.

"Captain," Shalosh spoke. Next to him, the void suddenly split open as Lu Yin stepped out.

Seeing Lu Yin suddenly appear, Shalosh's face went pale. "Greetings, Your Highness."

Back during the trial on Earth, Shalosh had tried to help Sicar's son, Raas, take care of Lu Yin. Although this matter had occurred several years ago, every time Shalosh saw Lu Yin, he could not help but feel fearful, as he was terrified that Lu Yin would get revenge.

But Lu Yin simply did not care about Shalosh at all.

When Ban Jiu saw Lu Yin appear, he bowed. "Greetings, Your Highness."

Lu Yin looked over towards the fragments of the mechanical monster. "How is it? Do you have any ideas?"

Ban Jiu sent Shalosh out, and then answered with a serene expression, "Your Highness, we are unable to break down such a mechanical organism, and we can't even analyze these materials' properties."

Lu Yin was not surprised. "If I can break this machine down, then will you be able to make use of the resulting materials?"

Ban Jiu's eyes lit up. "We could make use of some of them, but most of the materials would have to be fused to something else. We simply don't have a strong enough heat source."

Lu Yin replied, "I have the heat source you need. I need a brand new set of armor made from the best possible materials, and I'll support you completely in this endeavor. Send me any metals that you need melted."

Ban Jiu nodded. "Understood. Your subject will certainly construct the best armor."

Lu Yin gathered up the fragments of the mechanical creature and left. He went straight to an uninhabited planet, caused his die to appear, and then tapped it. Once again, he rolled one pip: Pilfer.

No rush. Again.

The die spun before slowly coming to a stop. This time, it finally landed on four pips: Timestop. It was time to enter the Timestop Space.

After entering the Timestop Space, Lu Yin was in even less of a hurry. This space rendered three of the rolls useless: Pilfer, Gift Copy, and Possession. However, Blackhole Disassembly and Enhance were both still useful.

Perhaps all of his luck had vanished after rolling three pips: Enhance, but Lu Yin ended up spending almost half a month in the Timestop Space before he finally rolled two pips: Blackhole Disassembly.

Blackhole Disassembly could be used to break items down into their component materials, but the deconstructing blackhole would only last for five minutes. However, that time could be extended by spending star crystals.

Lu Yin quickly dragged the scraps of the mechanical monster over to the blackhole, and all sorts of strange metals fell out. He picked them up and continued to disassemble them. He knew that these metals were alloys, and since Ban Jiu's techniques would likely be unable to refine any of them, Lu Yin decided to just break everything down all the way!

As the scenery changed before Lu Yin's eyes, he returned to the uninhabited planet. Without wasting any time, he stepped out to return to the underground Technology Department back on Zenyu Star.

He passed the countless different strange materials that had been obtained from the Blackhole Disassembly over to Ban Jiu. As Ban Jiu stared at them in astonishment, Lu Yin left the underground lab.

Ban Jiu planned on manufacturing the new equipment that had been requested, but he first needed to study all of the various materials, which would require time. Lu Yin intended to use this time to cultivate and explore the Daynight clan's stone of inheritance.

In the secure room within King Zishan's palace, Lu Yin had a complicated expression on his face as he took out the Daynight clan stone of inheritance which had sixteen faces.

Back during the trial on Earth, Lu Yin, Xia Luo, and Lulu Mavis had all managed to obtain battle techniques from this stone of inheritance. Logically, only the people from the Daynight clan should have been able to do so, but Lu Yin had not thought much about the strangeness of the situation back then. Now that he had become much more experienced, Lulu was from the Mavis family, so it was not surprising for her to have mysterious methods. But what status did Xia Luo have?

None of the primeval surname holders were simple, and those who dared to openly travel across the universe with a primeval surname were an even more extreme case.

Also, Lulu was from the Mavis family, so why had she gone to Earth? In the past, Lu Yin had assumed that she had been there for the Undying Manual, but he now realized that that assumption might not have been correct.

Earth hid many unknown secrets. In fact, her presence might have even been related to the Hidden Earth Society. He needed to visit Jupiter again in the future, but he would wait until he broke through to the Hunter realm.

Lu Yin held up the stone of inheritance and sensed the vast changes of time that it had gone through. He then raised his hand, causing the ancient stone to float up before cutting open a small wound on his finger and dripping fresh blood onto the stone. In an instant, Lu Yin's vision shifted, All he could see was a dark space, and the colors black and white suddenly interchanged to form a giant fist that fell towards him. This was the exact same scene that he had seen when he had entered the stone of inheritance last time.

This had caused Zhou Shan, Wu Sheng, Jenny Auna, and the others to all fail when they attempted to access the stone of inheritance. None of them had even been able to enter the corridor of inheritance.

In the past, Lu Yin had relied on the Cosmic Art to enter the corridor. This time, his body slightly trembled before the Daynight Punch simply vanished and his body fell outside the corridor.

At the same time, in the Daynight clan's ancestral grounds, beneath a towering stone plaque, countless Daynight members were looking up. Some of them were excited, some of them looked expectant, and others showed blatant disdain on their faces.

This stone plaque revealed the degree of comprehension that all of the Daynight members had attained within the stone of inheritance. The higher their comprehension, the higher their image would climb up the stone plaque.

Nightking Zhenwu unquestionably held the top position on the plaque, and the one second to him was Zhanlong Daynight.

The images on this stone plaque did not take one's cultivation realm into consideration. Rather, it only factored in the level of their battle technique comprehension and what sort of inheritances they had received.

At this moment, there were quite a few Daynight members who were competing in climbing up the stone plaque. Among them were Tiankong Daynight, who had studied in the Astral Combat Academy, Chilian Daynight, Rou Daynight, Nightqueen Yanqing, Nightking Gu, and more.