

Chapter 1121: Design

The battle taking place over the city was still growing even more intense as the fighters were using more and more powerful battle techniques. All of the cultivators stared at the battlefield in excitement, studying the battle techniques that the grey humanoid figures used.

The cultivators did not immediately leave, as they intended to get as much out of their stay in the tablet world as possible. Some of them even held desires of possibly comprehending one of the battle techniques even if it was nearly impossible.

The great battle over the city lasted for an entire day, and during this time, there were as many different battle techniques as there were countless stars in the sky. Even some secret techniques appeared.

However, the secret techniques were not that attractive to the watching cultivators, as they could not learn those techniques through observation.

After a whole day passed, the city's appearance had completely changed compared to the beginning of the battle when the city master had been torn apart by a Skybeast Claw. The cultivators outside the city continued to watch the events unfold.

Lu Yin watched as the Dream Finger crushed another corpse king, and he tried his best to see the person behind the Dream Finger, but the attack had taken place too far away.

After thinking about it, Lu Yin turned and whispered to Black and White, "You two wait here and don't go anywhere. I'm going to head into the city to take a look."

Black grew curious. "What're you going into the city for?"

Lu Yin's expression grew complicated. "To look for the truth."

He then leaped towards the city.

Lei Nü and Qiu Shi also raced towards the city from another area. At this time, only experts at their level would dare to enter the city and observe the battle more closely. Only such people were confident of avoiding the battle's aftershocks.

The other cultivators could only watch on in envy.

Even God Taiyi did not dare to enter the city. After all, this was the tablet world, and he could not see any runes here, which crippled his strength. This was why he did not want to take such a huge risk.

Lu Yin effortlessly avoided the battle's shockwaves after entering the city, and he made his way toward the place where the Dream Finger had crushed the corpse king. There, he silently waited, hoping to see the person hidden within the void.

Aside from Lu Yin, there were a few other cultivators who had moved back inside the city.

Tai Yuanjun had survived the first day of the battle, and when the cycle caused the battle to repeat once more, he raced forward to escape from the city. At that moment, the stutterer suddenly appeared behind Tai Yuanjun. "Ta- ta- take me!"

Tai Yuanjun harshly whispered, "Shut up! Are you trying to get yourself killed?"

The stutterer leaped up, grabbed a hold of Tai Yuanjun's clothes, and dangled behind him like a kite. "G-go!"

Tai Yuanjun wanted to kick this bastard aside, but he was afraid this stutterer would shout out and draw the attention of the grey humanoids. Thus, Tai Yuanjun had no choice but to reluctantly drag the man along as he raced out of the city. His hatred for the stutterer was overflowing by now, and he planned to slaughter the man as soon as they left the city.

The stutterer was clinging tightly to Tai Yuanjun's back when he happened to turn around and see Lu Yin. Excited, he started shouting, "Me- meat!"

Tai Yuanjun's expression abruptly changed, and he slapped the leech's face. "Shut up!"

The stutterer grew sullen, but he could only point at Lu Yin and mouth, "Meat."

Lu Yin blinked when he saw Tai Yuanjun dragging the stutterer away. Lu Yin was confused, Meat?

"Seventh Bro, get out of the city! What are you doing here? Don't let those ghosts find you!" The Ghost Monkey was terrified, as this place was indeed quite frightening.

Lu Yin took a deep breath and looked around. He made sure to avoid every aftershock of the battle, but he was focused on the void.

Before much more time passed, the grey corpse king figure charged forward in the exact same position as before.

At this moment, Lu Yin's eyes opened wide, and he clenched his fists as he carefully watched.

The void split open, a finger descended and directly shattered the corpse king, and then immediately vanished.

Lu Yin had not seen the figure behind that finger, and he felt frustrated. He was still too far away, and it had not worked. He would try again.

The next day, Lu Yin carefully watched the same scene take place once again.

The corpse king crashed forward, the finger tore through the void, and it fell onto the grey figure. A solitary finger shattered the corpse king.

This time, Lu Yin was standing much closer to the corpse king, and the shockwaves from the finger attack almost touched him. But despite how close he was, he still could not see anything clearly, though he had seen a bit of long hair.

Lu Yin's breath quickened; it was a woman! The person who had used the Dream Finger was a woman!

His eyes grew feverish. Again! He had to see it clearly.

This time, he moved even closer, basically standing right next to the corpse king.

Off in the distance, Qiu Shi was staring at the sky. This entire time, she had been observing the ancient powerhouse using the Cosmic Art, but out of the corner of her eye, she saw where Lu Yin had positioned himself, and her gaze trembled. "Move further away. You'll get caught up."

Lu Yin did not seem to hear her as he ignored her.

Qiu Shi frowned, "You'll die if that attack even glances at you. Move back. You can't handle an attack on that level."

Lu Yin looked over at her. "Mind your own business."

Qiu Shi's eyes grew cold. "Don't drag us down if you want to die! Move back."

Lu Yin growled, "Shut up!"

Qiu Shi's expression froze over, and she wanted to make a move, but there were grey humanoids locked in intense battle all around her. She would be easily discovered if she attacked. "This is the only opportunity you'll have. Don't make this mistake."

According to Lu Yin's estimations, the scene should be taking place soon.

The next moment, the corpse king rushed forward.

Just like before, the void split open, and the Dream Finger fell.

Lu Yin could personally feel the power of that finger from where he was standing next to the corpse king. This finger carried an unimaginable coldness along with a power capable of destroying heaven and earth. It felt as though the sky had frozen over and been sealed by this power. It was a strength that normal people could not withstand.

Even if Lu Yin was capable of unleashing attacks whose power level exceeded 300,000, in front of this finger he was no stronger than a commoner.

As the finger descended, Qiu Shi's expression changed even though she was observing it from some distance away.

A chessboard suddenly appeared beneath Lu Yin's feet; it was the Ce Secret Art, Astral Chessboard. He repositioned his body and instantly vanished as the corpse king was crushed by the finger. Lu Yin reappeared beside the shattered void, and he looked within to see a grey humanoid hiding there. There was a carved, grey symbol on the figure's chest, and it seemed to be shaped like a cloud.

The shattered void would have normally restored itself, but Lu Yin's sudden appearance attracted the attention of the hidden grey humanoid. The figure in the void actually raised a finger once again, this time aimed at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin felt his hair stand on end, and he felt his heart skip a few beats. He reflexively used the Ce Secret Art again to try to escape, but the Dream Finger shot past his side, shattering his shoulder along with half of his body. Fresh blood splashed down to the ground.

Lu Yin's entire body crashed to the ground, and he spat out a mouthful of blood; half of his body had practically disappeared.

Due to the sudden change in this area, the grey humanoids that had originally been locked in intense battle were all drawn over, and they all attacked Lu Yin.

Off in the distance, Qiu Shi's expression grew ugly. That idiot!

Lu Yin looked up and saw numerous grey figures ready to attack him from all sides. These remnant spiritual force figures had all been quite powerful in their life, and there were even corpse kings among them. Lu Yin struggled to stand up as he gritted his teeth. Being surrounded meant death.

He then glanced over at Qiu Shi.

Qiu Shi's heart fell, and a bad premonition washed over her.

Lu Yin used the Ce Secret Art again, this time repositioning his body in front of Qiu Shi. "Sorry, I'll make this up to you in the future!"

He then shot out of the city. He was hoping to use Qiu Shi as bait to distract his attackers.

The grey humanoids that had been lured over suddenly rained their attacks down, targeting both Lu Yin and Qiu Shi.

At this moment, Qiu Shi felt nothing aside from an overflowing hatred towards Lu Yin. This scoundrel had actually dragged her down, and if she had known that this would happen, she would have defeated him back in the Cosmic Sect.

However, Lu Yin had truly been left with no alternatives, as there was no way for him to escape on his own. However, if it was with Qiu Shi, then things were different.

This was the same situation as when Lu Yin and the others had been found themselves on the Sixth Mainland's transport continent. Lu Yin had only managed to save the Outerverse cultivators after dragging the people from the Innerverse down along with them.

They would either live together or die together.

Qiu Shi had light feet, and she instantly shot past Lu Yin. She looked back at him with cold eyes. "If we survive, I'll make you pay for this."

She then left him far behind.

The Astral Chessboard reappeared underneath Lu Yin's feet. "If that's the case, then I won't be polite any longer. Grand Senior, I'm sorry."

Lu Yin disappeared, and he reappeared far in front of Qiu Shi.

She snorted as hundreds of stars appeared around her. A faint halo was emitted from her body as the stars all revolved. This light then formed a sword of stars, and it slashed down at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's expression changed, and he quickly waved a hand and used the Yu Secret Art to divert the sword slash. The attack streaked through the void and sliced open the earth, attracting the attention of even more grey figures.

At this moment, the surrounding stars suddenly vanished, and more swords formed and slashed at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was horrified; what sort of sword technique was this?

The sword qi covered the sky, and in Lu Yin's current situation, there was no way for him to endure such an attack.

Qiu Shi did not launch any fatal blows at him, as she was instead merely using the sword qi to trap him as she shot past with a cold glint in her eyes.

Lu Yin attempted to use the Vacuum Palm to break up the starry sword technique, but half of his body was still numb, which left him unable to use the technique.

The two traded several blows within the span of just a few breaths. Lu Yin had been trapped by Qiu Shi's sword technique, and although he wanted to use the Ce Secret Art to escape, he had already used it several times in a row. Thus, his body would not be able to take another use. Countless grey figures had appeared and surrounded him from all directions.

As he watched Qiu Shi leave, Lu Yin was left with no choice. His die appeared in his hand, and he tapped it with a finger. The die spun as Lu Yin dodged the various attacks from Qiu Shi's sword technique.

The die eventually stopped on three pips: Enhance. Lu Yin waved a hand, instantly dispelled the two light screens, gathered some star energy, and formed a star energy crystal that instantly restored the die.

He tapped out again.

All around him, the grey humanoids were drawing closer, especially from above. A grey figure smashed down at him, and it seemed to be another corpse king.

The die stopped again. Four pips: Timestop.

The scenery changed before his eyes, and he appeared in a grey-white space.

Lu Yin heaved a sigh of relief. Fortunately, the die had finished in time. Otherwise, it would have been very difficult for him to escape.

Lu Yin endured his suffering as he collapsed to the floor. His cosmic ring had been taken away upon entering the Mountain and Seas Zone, so he did not have anything to treat himself with. All he could rely upon was time.

Fortunately, he was a Cruiser, which meant that he could forcefully converge star energy to form star crystals. There was no star energy in this grey-white space, but the amount of star energy that revolved within his own body was enormous.

Lu Yin screened the Ghost Monkey off and began to revolve the star energy within his body and gather it over his palm. The process was not fast, but was enough to maintain the timer in the Timestop Space.

Lu Yin's star energy reserves could rival those of an Enlightener, so it would be no problem for him to form star energy crystals equivalent to hundreds of star essence. As he did this, his injuries slowly recovered.

He looked around the space and then thought of the design that he had seen within that spatial tear. Lu Yin was certain that he had never seen a design like that before and decided that he would not think of it any further for the time being.

As he recited the Stonewall Scriptures, he continued to form star energy crystals.

A month soon passed, and he had recovered to where half of his body was no longer numb, though that also meant that he was now forced to suffer the full force of the pain.

Lu Yin gritted his teeth and slowly exhaled. Continue.

Without any medications, he could only slowly recover through his body's natural ability.

Another month passed, and then another. Soon, two months had gone by.

He had spent more than four months in the Timestop Space now, and the shattered half of his body had recovered about half way. Continue.

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As the scenery changed before his eyes, Lu Yin emerged from the Timestop Space to see Qiu Shi fleeing into the distance. Above him, there was still the grey figure that had been a corpse king in the past, and it was descending with an attack. Also, he was surrounded by the blades of Qiu Shi's sword technique.

The Astral Chessboard appeared beneath his feet, and he repositioned himself.

The next moment, Lu Yin appeared outside of the encirclement formed by the sword technique, and he was not too far away from Qiu Shi.

Qiu Shi turned around, surprised. Impossible!

Lu Yin could not possibly use a secret technique that many times in a row. Even if he had several secret techniques, he had already used this one several times before, so how could his body endure the stress?

Chapter 1122: The Cosmic Sect's Secret Technique

No matter what Qiu Shi considered, she could not think of an explanation for how Lu Yin had used his secret technique again. On top of that, Qiu Shi was shocked to see that the half of Lu Yin's body that had been almost entirely shattered was now fully recovered.

Lu Yin used the Ce Secret Art twice in a row to move in front of Qiu Shi, and then he turned around to wave goodbye.

He was even able to use the Ce Secret Art once more to escape.

Qiu Shi's gaze trembled. "Lu Yin, have you heard of my Cosmic Sect's secret technique?"

Lu Yin hesitated, and he turned back around.

Qiu Shi calmly continued, "The Cosmic Sect's secret technique, Star Transference."

As she spoke, her body vanished. Then, she suddenly appeared right where Lu Yin had been standing while he appeared in her previous position.

Lu Yin was overwhelmed; what kind of secret technique was this? Trading positions?

Qiu Shi smiled softly, and stars revolved around her body as she picked up her pace.

Lu Yin gritted his teeth, and the Astral Chessboard reappeared beneath his feet, as he wanted to escape. However, right before he could do so, a claw shot out from underneath him. This was the Skybeast Claw, and the howl of an ancient beast echoed through the void, sounding like it was emerging from the river of time.

When the beast howl reached Lu Yin, the chessboard beneath Lu Yin's feet actually shattered apart. This Skybeast Claw carried an incomparably overbearing strength, as it was even able to destroy even a secret technique. From Lu Yin's memories, he had only ever encountered a single battle technique that had been able to affect secret techniques—a Progenitor's battle technique: Nightking Zhenwu's unnamed arrow technique. Was the Skybeast Claw also a battle technique from a Progenitor?

Regardless of whether or not the Skybeast Claw had been created by a Progenitor, at this moment, Lu Yin could only endure the attack. He did not even have time to use the Yu Secret Art.

Fortunately, he still had his Fatesand and nine lined battle force.

Lu Yin curled up as his nine lined battle force shot into the sky and wrapped around his entire body. There was a loud explosion, and Lu Yin was smacked away like a ball. His back took the brunt of the attack, and the sheer power drove his Fatesand back inside his body while his nine lined battle force instantly shattered. The power of this attack absolutely surpassed a power level of 300,000, possibly even one of 350,000. Fortunately, it was still within Lu Yin's tolerance, as this attack had not carried with it the full power of the Skybeast Claw.

Blood dripped out of Lu Yin's mouth, and he used the momentum from the Skybeast Claw to fly out of the city, though in a different direction than Qiu Shi.

Lu Yin had assumed that some of the grey humanoids would chase after him after he was struck by the Skybeast Claw. However, when he turned to look, he saw that countless grey figures were still chasing after him. One of them raised a hand, using the Skybeast Claw once again.

Lu Yin's expression changed tremendously, and he pushed his body to its limits to use the Ce Secret Art once more. His body was relocated a vast distance away, and he arrived outside the city.

When he appeared, not even a hundred meters away, Lei Nü was staring at him in astonishment.

The two exchanged glances, and Lu Yin blinked before taking off again. He shot past Lei Nü as he fled the city in the direction where Black and White were located.

Lei Nü had thought that Lu Yin would attack her, but he had simply gone past her. However, this did not make her relax, and on the contrary, she grew even more cautious. She soon saw the endless number of grey figures off in the distance that were racing towards her.

Even with Lei Nü's mental resilience, she was a bit intimidated by the sheer number of grey figures, and she immediately fled without another thought.

Lu Yin had left her far behind. There were only a few cultivators who had remained outside the city, and among them was God Taiyi. Lu Yin raced towards Black and White. "Hurry! Leave the tablet world!"

Not only were the twins quick on their feet, but their responses were also quite fast. They instantly realized that Lu Yin was in trouble based on his panicked behavior, so they immediately pulled out the stone tablet, pressed their hands to it, and were sucked into the tablet.

God Taiyi and the others soon saw the countless grey figures chasing after Lu Yin, who passed them all in an instant. When he did, God Taiyi could not stop himself from cursing. “Damn that ass!”

God Taiyi turned tail and ran. Some others also pulled out stone plaques to make their escape while others fled into the distance.

God Taiyi was one of the ones who fled into the distance, as he had not found a stone plaque.

Coincidentally, he saw Lu Yin’s trio leave the tablet world, and he felt sullen.

Suddenly, he saw Qian Zou.

As a person who had developed a habit of multiple escape routes, Qian Zou had developed a habit to first secure an escape route wherever he went. Hence, after entering the tablet world, the first thing that he had done was shake off Lu Yin’s trio while the second thing had been to visit that brothel. The third, then, had been to find a stone plaque that would allow him to leave the tablet world whenever he wanted.

Qian Zou had made the right decision with his actions, and when he saw the endless cloud of grey figures that filled the sky, he frowned. He calmly cursed Lu Yin, and, satisfied with his own foresight, pressed a hand to his stone plaque. His expression was proud; who cared how many ghosts there were? He would simply leave.

However, the next moment, right before Qian Zou disappeared, a hand clasped his shoulder. God Taiyi had arrived. “Bro, let’s go together.”

Qian Zou was rendered speechless. Why was he always the unlucky one?

As the scenery changed before their eyes, Lu Yin, Black, and White all appeared on the seabed, exactly where Qian Zou had entered the tablet world. People would always exit from where they entered—this was another one of the tablet world’s rules.

Although God Taiyi had taken advantage of Qian Zou to leave the tablet world, when he emerged, he appeared right where he had entered.

Just as Lu Yin’s trio emerged, Qian Zou appeared right behind them, and he immediately saw the small group. He almost failed to stop himself from cursing out loud, but when he remembered the difference in their strength, he stifled the urge.

Lu Yin’s behavior was truly hateful. The cycle within the tablet world had been that of the battle over the city, which contained countless battle techniques. This scene had been beneficial to many cultivators, but because of Lu Yin’s actions, many of the cultivators had been forced to flee, and many of them were cursing him at this moment.

Lu Yin knew that he had created trouble for many people, but he had had no other choice. There was no way he could take any of the grey humanoids away, and he had also wanted to survive. Thus, the other people could only be considered as unlucky.

“Eh, your expression isn’t very friendly.” Black stared at Qian Zou in a provoking manner.

Qian Zou blinked, but then he forced out a smile. “Everyone, if there’s nothing else, I’ll take my leave first. Goodbye!”

Lu Yin smiled and watched as Qian Zou left.

Lu Yin was very interested in Qian Zou’s movement technique, but it was not something that Lu Yin could really take, especially since many members of the older generation were watching everything. Forget it, there would definitely be an opportunity to learn a good movement technique in the future.

Also, the Ce Secret Art made up for Lu Yin’s lackluster speed to a certain extent.

Lu Yin then remembered Qiu Shi and the Cosmic Sect’s secret technique, Star Transference. What a good secret technique!

“Let’s go and look for a current,” Lu Yin said. There was no time limit to the Astral Tower contest, and it was mostly determined by when people reached the golden screens. Once people appeared there, it meant that the final part of the contest had begun. No one had moved there thus far, which meant that most people had not started climbing the mountains yet.

Lu Yin did not want to become everyone’s target. Lei Nü was an Enlighter, which meant that Shang Qing was definitely one as well. However, what about the others Neoverse heirs? Who knew how many people in the Mountain and Seas Zone were actually Enlighters? Thus, Lu Yin did not want to make the first move.

The Mountain and Seas Zone had inheritances within the seas, so there were naturally some on the mountains as well.

Many people searched the seas for inheritances, but others went to climb the mountains.

The mountains were so tall that normal mortals would never be able to climb any of them, much like the mountain in the space with the golden ocean. Back then, Lu Yin had only managed to climb the mountain by relying on the strength of the Stonewall Scriptures. Fortunately, these mountains did not seem to be the same as the mountain in the space with the golden ocean, as that mountain had been able to make people vanish.

The five mountains in this zone were all difficult to climb, but none of those who were able to participate in the Astral Tower contest were simple.

At the bottom of one mountain, there were several cultivators making their way up with great difficulty.

Each of these mountains had been created by Progenitors, and thus, each one had its own prestige. They had a pressure that was not intentionally released, but was rather one that came from the might of a Progenitor. Those with weak spiritual forces could not even approach a mountain, let alone ascend it.

Each mountain had varying degrees of ascension difficulty, so the obstruction that the climbers faced would clearly differ.

This particular mountain was special in that a boulder would occasionally roll down it. These boulders were not real rocks, but were rather objects formed from star energy that had coalesced into boulder-like forms. If anyone was struck by these boulders, they would definitely suffer.

The higher one climbed, the larger the boulders that they would encounter.

These cultivators had climbed for more than ten days, but they had not even made it a fifth of the way up the mountain.

“If I had known that it would be this difficult earlier, I wouldn’t have chosen to climb this mountain. It’s easier to find a current in the seas, and I might have been able to enter the tablet world and watch an ancient battle,” one person complained.

Some distance away, a girl sharply retorted, “When we made this decision together, you didn’t voice any objections to climbing this mountain, so what’s the use in complaining now? Keep climbing. There are definitely more inheritances on the mountains than in the seas.”

“That’s right! Stay strong and keep climbing,” said an unflustered man who was the furthest ahead.

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About an hour later, a boulder came crashing down, and the small group joined forces to shatter it. Beneath them, there was a person who was quickly ascending the mountain, and this boulder did not delay him even the slightest.

The few cultivators stared at the approaching man in surprise. “It’s Xia Jiuyou from the Xia family.”

“One of the top heirs. It’s no wonder why he’s so fast.”

Soon after, Xia Jiuyou had overtaken the few of them as he headed toward the peak.

As they watched Xia Jiuyou leave them behind, the cultivator who had been complaining suddenly groaned. “What’s he so happy about? Ever since he’s entered the Mountain and Seas Zone, I’ve lost count of the number of people who’ve beaten him. Even the Seven Courts won’t care about him much anymore after how he’s embarrassed the Xia family.”

The others did not respond, but they all held similar thoughts.

Since ancient times, the heir of the Seven Courts’ Xia family had always been a pinnacle expert. Even if the family’s heir could not measure up to Shang Qing’s Tri-Yang Technique, they should still at least be comparable to the Second Honor Chosen, and they definitely would not be any weaker than the top youths of the Cosmic Sect or the Mavis family. However, the current generation’s Xia Jiuyou was truly too lacking when compared to these other top figures.

As these people thought about this, another figure sped past them. This person’s body was wrapped about with three qi flows, and he chased after Xia Jiuyou.

The group of cultivators was overwhelmed. “That’s the Tri-Yang Technique! That was Shang Qing!”

“Shang Qing is actually here?”

Up above them, Xia Jiuyou helplessly looked down to see the stream of qi rocketing towards him. "Brother Shang Qing, there are no grudges between us, so there's no need to chase me."

Shang Qing waved a hand, causing a flow of qi to whistle through the air that Xia Jiuyou barely managed to dodge. "During this contest for the Cosmic Five, there's no place for your Seven Courts. Give up."

Xia Jiuyou repeatedly dodged the attacking qi stream, though it was a terrible struggle for him. It was not that his reactions were slow. Rather, he also had an impressive physical strength, and he had comprehended several powerful battle techniques. But in the end, Xia Jiuyou failed to dodge the qi stream, and he was struck directly in the chest and cast off from the mountain.

Shang Qing watched as Xia Jiuyou fell down, and he shook his head. The current generation's Xia family heir was too weak. He had not even cultivated the Xia family's secret technique.

The Xia Secret Art, Nullify, was the most domineering of all of the Seven Courts' secret techniques. Xia Jiuyou did not deserve his surname since he had not cultivated the secret technique.

Outside the Mountain and Seas Zone, there was a group of older powerhouses observing a screen. There were many scenes of what was taking place during the Astral Tower contest, but most of them were focused on the most powerful Neoverse heirs.

The Cosmic Sect's Elder Yuan Ke, Eversky Island's Highsage Shenwei, the Hall of Honor's Mu En, the Mavis family's Qinmei Mavis, and many other powerful figures were all observing the contest. This tiny place in outer space hosted a gathering of multiple experts with power levels exceeding 500,000, and there were even some whose power levels exceeded 900,000. Among them was the Xia family's Xia Meng, who was considered a goddess, as she had once entranced the entire Neoverse with her beauty and style.

Chapter 1123: Splitting Mountains And Inheritances

Xia Meng calmly observed the screen. Although she had lived for countless years and was not that much younger than Yuan Shi, time had barely touched her face. She was as absolutely stunning as in her youth. Rather, the ages had given her a mature flavor like a fine wine, only growing more fragrant as it aged.

Highsage Shenwei's eyes were filled with infatuation whenever he looked at her, as this woman was truly too stunning.

"Cough, cough." Some distance away, Mu En coughed to break the awkward atmosphere. "The current Xia family heir is rather weak."

The others glanced at Xia Meng, but she did not show any reaction.

Highsage Shenwei spoke up, "He's not weak. Rather, anyone who goes against the Tri-Yang Technique will suffer the same fate."

Mu En looked over at Highsage Shenwei, bemused. "That fellow representing Eversky Island is not weak either, and he was even able to trade blows against the Tri-Yang Technique before eventually escaping unscathed. He's strong enough that even Shang Qing has to be cautious around him. When he fought against Lei Nü, both sides suffered some injuries, and he left Lei Nü with no choice but to reveal her

strength as an Enlightener. In the entire Mountain and Seas Zone, there are extremely few who can do this.”

Highsage Shenwei smiled. “He’s alright, but just that.”

Elder Yuan Ke said, “That Lu Yin’s not bad. I rather like him.”

Highsage Shenwei grew even happier, though he did not forget Xia Meng, and he walked over towards her. “Actually, every generation of the Xia family heir has been pretty good. Take him back and have him train hard, and he can be brought up in the end.”

Xia Meng looked up, her crescent eyes sweeping past Highsage Shenwei as she glanced over everyone gathered. She calmly said, “My Xia family does not want to ruin anyone’s plans, but my family wants a seat among the Cosmic Five.”

Everyone looked at Xia Meng, each one with a strange expression on their face. The most exaggerated one was on the Hall of Honor’s Mu En, who gave her a bizarre look. “At this time, there’s no use even if the Xia family pays a steeper price. The outcome has already been decided, and nobody can change it.”

Xia Meng’s lips curled up, brightening the universe in an instant. “I like you.”

Everyone was dumbfounded, and Highsage Shenwei was left utterly speechless, and even a bit stupefied. Mu En also seemed to be at a loss for words.

“-r last sentence,” Xia Meng slowly finished.

The crowd heaved a sigh of relief.

Highsage Shenwei felt drained. “Don’t speak in half-sentences! You could easily frighten a person to death.”

Mu En was speechless.

Xia Meng smiled and said nothing more.

At this moment, the crowd considered Xia Meng’s words; she liked Mu En’s last sentence? Mu En’s last sentence had been “nobody can change it.” What was she saying?

Mu En looked at Xia Meng in a serious manner; was she really that confident in her Xia family’s heir?

Within the Mountain and Seas Zone, Shang Qing had just thrown Xia Jiuyou off of the mountain, but he did not continue making his way upwards. Instead, he sat down, seemingly waiting for something.

Another ten days quickly passed by, and during this time, Lu Yin had been following along a current and picking up treasures every now and then. Among them were minerals, natural treasures, and even some battle techniques, though he had found nothing that was of much use to him.

During these ten days, he did not meet any of the other Ten Arbiters, though he heard about quite a few incidents.

One of them said that Wen Sansi had been severely injured and that he had fallen to the bottom of the sea. Another person said that Ling Gong had run into Yuhua Mavis and had been driven out of the

Mountain and Seas Zone. And yet another one said that the Sword Sect's Thirteen Swords had been broken and that the person from the Sword Sect had been sliced apart by an invisible person.

Along his way, all the news concerning the Ten Arbiters that Lu Yin heard was bad.

Although Lu Yin was confident in the Ten Arbiters' abilities, Qiu Shi, Yuhua Mavis, and the others were all top heirs of the Neoverse's strongest powers. Additionally, the most terrifying part of it all was that they might all be Enlighters.

Lu Yin believed that the Ten Arbiters were some of the strongest youths in the Mountain and Seas Zone, but it was no coincidence that the Ten Arbiters were unable to beat their opponents. After all, Lu Yin himself had been unable to defeat Lei Nü.

As for the other Arbiters, their victory and defeat was unrelated to Lu Yin. He was not worried about their survival, for the Ten Arbiters were people who could join together at the very least. Lu Yin did not feel that he was some genius who could face off against these elite Enlighters on his own.

Although he was representing Eversky Island, in the end, he had still come from the Inverse, which meant that he represented the Inverse and the Outverse.

On one particular day, Lu Yin, Black, and White were all arguing over how their loot was being distributed. At this time, a distant mountain began to split apart.

At the exact same time, all five mountains began to split apart, and each revealed an extraordinary scene.

One mountain revealed giant eyes that covered the peak and looked down at the Mountain and Seas Zone. The pupils seemed to be glazed over, though each one contained a world within it, as well as numerous stars.

One mountain exposed a plant that looked like a root. It looked quite normal, but anybody who saw it would have a miraculous feeling, as if their minds were being cleared.

An overflowing fog appeared atop one mountain, and different scenes could be seen within the fog.

One mountain exposed a bizarre phenomenon. It sounded as though countless people were reciting something, and the entire area seemed to be resonating with the chanting.

A droplet of blood appeared atop the mountain that stood closest to the trio, and this drop illuminated the Mountain and Seas Zone, causing half of the continent to turn red. The light fluctuated with the illumination from the golden screens.

Lu Yin's little group were dumbfounded as they stared at the five mountains splitting open, and they were all flabbergasted.

The Ghost Monkey's voice suddenly rang out, and he sounded quite excited, "Progenitor's blood! That's Progenitor's blood! Seventh Bro, hurry! Go and grab the Progenitor's blood!"

Lu Yin was stunned, and he looked at the droplet of blood that had appeared atop the fractured mountain. "That's a drop of Progenitor's blood?"

“That’s right! Seventh Bro, you have to get it! A Progenitor’s blood is priceless—you can use it to comprehend the Progenitor’s inheritance or even use it like a Progenitor’s weapon to attack. It’s very profound, and it’s simply too valuable. You have to take it!” The Ghost Monkey was extremely agitated, and he had started babbling somewhat incoherently.

Lu Yin was also moved, as who would not be moved by something from a Progenitor?

“Go.” Lu Yin no longer cared about fighting over a bit of loot with Black and White, and he led the two brats closer to the mountain. Regardless of if they could actually seize the drop of blood, they still needed to at least try.

When the mountains cracked open, all of the cultivators in the Mountain and Seas Zone grew excited and dashed towards the various mountains.

At the base of the mountain with the eyes, Ce Jiu, Unseen Light, and the young master of Aurora Enterprises all appeared. An astounding battle immediately ensued.

Under the mountain with the weird rhizome, Xia Luo, Shu Jing, God Qingguang, and the experts from Gods’ Origin appeared.

Little Leaf King, God Taiyi, Xia Tian, and others all converged under the mountain with the roiling fog.

Beneath the mountain with the strange sound, there was Qing Longlong, the Hui family heir, the Yōu family heir, and Starsibyl.

Lan Si arrived at the base of the mountain with the Progenitor’s blood, and at the same time, so too did a veiled woman. Her eyes were as clear as flowing water, and her presence was intoxicating. Lu Yin’s group was also rushing toward this mountain.

The Astral Tower contest had already gone on for more than a month now, and most people had started making their way towards the mountains since then.

When the mountains split open, it coincidentally took place as when many cultivators had started to arrive at the bases of the mountains.

Shang Qing stood up from where he had been sitting on the side of the mountain with his eyes directed towards the top. When he looked down towards the base, he saw Ce Jiu, Unseen Light, and the young master of Aurora Enterprises locked in a fierce battle. Shang Qing’s gaze trembled, as everything was proceeding as planned. No accident had occurred, and none would in the future either. The so-called “Cosmic Five” had already been chosen long ago, and the only thing preventing them from announcing it was an opportunity to go public.

The Astral Tower contest appeared to be impartial, as everyone could compete for a Progenitor’s inheritance. However, was the universe really that absolutely impartial?

The inheritance of the five mountains and five seas truly did exist, but how could the Hall of Honor let such a thing go to outsiders? The inheritances of the Mountain and Seas Zone had been taken away long ago, and they had actually already been given away. All that was left was a pitiful charity that needed to be maintained in order to uphold the popularity and reputation of the Astral Tower contest.

If not for the inheritances from the Mountain and Seas Zone, then how else could the Hall of Honor possess so many powerful battle techniques and secret techniques?

These people were too pathetic. Each one of them was trying to vie for the position of one of the Cosmic Five, but none of them knew that the opportunity had already been taken away long ago. The Cosmic Five were something that was determined internally, and the inheritances that the five youths would receive had been given to them long ago.

This was the truth of the universe; some people were destined to be nothing more than supporting actors, and that was the simple fact of the matter.

At the foot of the mountain, Ce Jiu used his inherited battle technique, Combat Doctrine, to merge various battle techniques together. Combat Doctrine simplified the complicated, and it allowed the user to display a level of battle techniques that far surpassed what their peers could attain. Ce Jiu had even complemented this technique with his forcefield, and at the start of the battle, he had managed to suppress Unseen Light. However, Unseen Light's domain was far too powerful, and the moment he opened his eyes, not even Combat Doctrine could predict his actions anymore, though Unseen Light was now able to see through Ce Jiu's next moves.

Not even a minute later, Ce Jiu was pathetically beaten back, and he stared at Unseen Light with shock filling his eyes. This person's domain was extremely powerful—so this was one of the Innerverse's Ten Arbiters. They were complete monsters. Ce Jie had the Ce family's inheritance as a foundation, and he had also cultivated within the Neoverse. However, he had been completely overpowered by this person. Just how had the Innerverse given birth to such freaks?

Nearby, the young master of Aurora Enterprises had already retreated, and he did not even look back, which confused Unseen Light.

The mountains had already split open, and the inheritances were about to emerge. Leaving at this time meant giving up. Or, was there another, greater inheritance?

Unseen Light was wrong with this line of thought, as the heir from Aurora Enterprises was not hoping to find a greater inheritance. Rather, he had seen who was already on this particular mountain: Shang Qing. With the Hall of Honor's First Honor Chosen present, there was no reason to contest for this mountain.

A bolt of lightning flashed by as Ku Lei appeared, and he charged towards the mountain peak, ascending with a shocking speed. He had also noticed Shang Qing, but Ku Lei believed that he could withstand the Honor Chosen by relying on his secret technique. In his mind, he could obtain the inheritance as long as he entered the place with the giant eyes.

Ce Jiu frowned as the Astral Chessboard appeared beneath his feet. Ce Secret Art, Astral Chessboard!

The next moment, Ce Jiu arrived behind Ku Lei, and his forcefield manifested as a massive ruler above him that smashed down.

Ku Lei barked, "Scram!"

He tapped out with a finger.

The Ku family's Finger Tap and the Ce family's Combat Doctrine collided with each other.

The Ku family's Finger Tap had a strange power that caused the targeted person to lose all desire to resist.

On the other hand, the Ce family's Combat Doctrine was able to merge multiple battle techniques together and simplify the complicated. This allowed the user to respond to various situations during a battle, and this naturally included the Ku family's Finger Tap.

The Seven Courts had joined forces to retain control of Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum, but they also internally competed with one another.

Ku Lei and Ce Jiu both retreated at the same time.

At this moment, Shang Qing landed and lifted a hand. Three qi streams swept out to strike at Ku Lei, Ce Jiu, and Unseen Light.

The three youths could all feel the power of the Tri-Yang Technique, as there was no attack that could deal with this technique. It was also extremely powerful.

Ku Lei and Ce Jiu both attacked Shang Qing at the same time while Unseen Light's forcefield became a giant version of himself. The colossus then smashed a palm down towards Shang Qing.

A qi flow shot out, piercing straight through the forcefield from bottom to top. Then, it continued moving on after that, aiming for Unseen Light.

Unseen Light was able to predict his opponent's attacks and could thus formulate the ideal response for all situations, but he felt rather helpless against the Tri-Yang Technique, especially because his domain was not of much use against it.

With the arrival of Shang Qing, this battle had already ended.

This entire competition was just a show put on by the Hall of Honor. Shang Qing and a few others were the protagonists whereas Unseen Light and the others were simply the supporting cast. That was the truth of the matter.

At the foot of the mountain with the rhizome, Shu Jing and God Qingguang fiercely fought against each other while Tai Yuanjun faced off against Xia Luo.

Chapter 1124: Five Mountains

Originally, Tai Yuanjun had not paid much attention to Xia Luo, but after trading blows, Tai Yuanjun realized that he was a fearsome opponent. Xia Luo's star energy control was very impressive, and all of Tai Yuanjun's attacks were being dissolved. To be more precise, Xia Luo was using lockbreaking to dissolve all incoming attacks, which rendered any attack that used star energy useless against Xia Luo. He also did not use any battle techniques and only released casual attacks. It was as if Xia Luo could fight however he wished.

Tai Yuanjun was feeling very sullen. Then, he formed a flute with his star energy and started playing A Gentleman's Eulogy; this was a melody to send off a gentleman.

The flute released a melody that formed ripples, but they dispersed before they could reach Xia Luo. The melody was simply unable to touch him.

Tai Yuanjun was shocked. This person was also a Cruiser, and he seemed have only recently broken through at that. However, he was already able to withstand Tai Yuanjun's full strength attack.

Xia Luo calmly observed Tai Yuanjun. "Second on the Top 100 Rankings. You live up to your rank."

Tai Yuanjun kept a wary eye trained on Xia Luo. "Who are you?"

Xia Luo smiled. "I attended the Astral Combat Academy, and I'm a classmate of Lu Yin's."

Tai Yuanjun was shocked. "You're from the Innerverse?"

Xia Luo smiled. "Not really."

Tai Yuanjun's flute spun in a circle over his palm, and he took a series of light steps approaching Xia Luo. "Wherever you're from, get out of here!"

Xia Luo moved to the side, but his focus slipped past Tai Yuanjun and locked onto the surface of the nearby sea. A graceful figure slowly appeared where Xia Luo was looking, and there was a strange red and white mask covering this person's face. Lei Nü had arrived.

Lei Nü's appearance caused the few people present to immediately stop fighting.

Although Lei Nü was only the Second Honor Chosen from the Hall of Honor, her battle record was not far from Shang Qing's, especially when people remembered her fight with the Ten Arbiters' Liu Tianmu that had taken place before the start of the Astral Tower contest. The news of Liu Tianmu's defeat had spread everywhere, and everyone knew that Lei Nü was terrifyingly strong.

Suddenly, an overwhelming amount of star energy swept through the area and caused the surface of the sea to start boiling. It felt like the sky and the air itself had suddenly frozen solid.

Tai Yuanjun, God Qingguang, and the others were stunned. "An Enlighter?"

Lei Nü had revealed her power as an Enlighter immediately after appearing, and she had also activated her innate gift. Ripples spread out and gradually enveloped the base of the mountain as she tried to use her innate gift of hypnosis to strike everyone down at once.

God Qingguang's pupils shrank as a screen appeared in front of his body. It looked identical to what Jin He had used against Lu Yin, and various weapons soon appeared all around his hands, ready to attack Lei Nü.

In this situation, God Qingguang seemed to be the only one who could put up a fight against Lei Nü, as Shu Jing would not. God Qingguang was a Hunter, so he was the only opponent that Lei Nü would even bother with.

Lei Nü's eyes had been fixated on God Qingguang from start to finish, but nobody present thought that he could beat her. If God Taiyi was present, then there might be a bit of hope, but only the faintest glimmer.

At the bottom of the mountain with an overflowing fog covering its peak, the Little Leaf King and God Taiyi fought against each other. One of them sealed his opponent's star energy while the other erased their opponent's runes. Both sides' attacks were somewhat strange as the two became entangled.

The Little Leaf King had a cool expression, though internally, he was actually feeling rather helpless. Back during his time, there had not been this many young experts, and there had not been any Arbiters around. However, the current generation had the Ten Arbiters, and all of the Neoverse's great powers had youths who were incredibly difficult to deal with.

Aside from the Little Leaf King and God Taiyi, Xia Tian, the stutterer, and others had also gathered at this mountain. All of them were standing at the foot of the mountain, thinking of a way to reach the top.

These people were all locked in an intense battle when green grass suddenly appeared atop the sea's surface. This grass seemed to be overflowing with vitality, but there was also an unshakeable strangeness to it.

It was impossible for grass to normally appear on top of the sea, and the only possible reason behind its appearance was Yuhua Mavis's arrival.

The Mavis family controlled the finances of the Human Domain, and their foundation was truly unfathomable. Yuhua Mavis was the Mavis family's most important heir, but she had never taken action up till now. Despite that, she was publicly recognized as one of the most powerful members of the younger generation, and she was seen as an existence that could rival Shang Qing.

Her arrival caused all of the fighting to stop.

"This inheritance is not related to any of you, so leave." Yuhua Mavis spoke as her eyes swept over everyone in front of her.

God Taiyi and the Little Leaf King froze while Xia Tian carefully observed Yuhua Mavis.

As the person on the top of the Top 100 Rankings, Xia Tian had challenged many people in the Inniverse who were from the Mavis family, and his greatest impression of them was, first their money, and second their absurd physical strength. It was not as simple as merely being strong. Who knew what these women ate while growing up, but all of them had an insane level of physical power.

The woman standing before him was the only member of the Mavis family who had been sent to the Astral Tower contest, and her power would definitely be overwhelming.

The stutterer stood some distance away, carefully watching Yuhua Mavis. He violently swallowed his saliva and was clearly rather afraid; this woman seemed to be very powerful, and after thinking about it, he quickly moved over to the Little Leaf King's side.

The Little Leaf King carefully studied Yuhua Mavis. During his time, there had also been a Treeheart Descendant in the Mavis family, and her strength had indeed been shocking. It left him wondering just how strong this era's Treeheart Descendant was.

Yuhua Mavis knew that just talking would not be enough to chase anyone away. After a moment's consideration, a field of green grass spread out from beneath her feet, and it covered the sea's surface

as far as anyone could see. After that, the green grass grew frantically and twined together to form a massive green fist, similar to what had dealt with Ling Gong.

Dozens of giant fists smashed towards the gathered cultivators.

There had been more than twenty cultivators locked in an intense battle at the foot of the mountain earlier, but at this moment, all of them were faced with the green fists. One cultivator tried to receive a fist head on, but they were sent flying the moment they made contact with the attack.

The other cultivators all suffered the same fate.

The stutterer ran away at the first sign of danger, as he did not dare to go up against such an attack.

The Little Leaf King used his Starswapped Leaf, and the star energy surrounding Yuhua Mavis's body transformed into leaves that trapped her.

Yuhua Mavis was surprised, though there was still a smile hanging on her lips as she glanced at the Little Leaf King. Then, an emerald green flashed through her eyes before the leaves that had trapped her melted back into star energy; the Starswapped Leaf had failed.

The Little Leaf King's pupils shrank, and he looked stunned. Right after that, he used Starswapped Leaf to trap all of the other cultivators.

God Taiyi carefully watched on as the green fist blasted at him, and he used Truesight to erase some of its rune lines. However, to his shock, the star energy surrounding his body suddenly turned into leaves that trapped him. He turned to glare at the Little Leaf King only to see that the man's eyes were sluggish. Once he saw that, God Taiyi's heart sank as he remembered the Mavis family's innate gift. Unable to do anything, he silently cursed, and there was a thump as his body was struck by a green fist and sent crashing into the sea.

Even God Taiyi had suffered such a fate, so there was no need to mention the others.

Yuhua Mavis had only used one attack, and she had even included God Taiyi among her targets. Despite that, everyone had been beaten to the bottom of the sea, and she had even taken control of the Little Leaf King, who was also smacked into the sea. The green fists did not dissipate, and they reformed themselves into tendrils of green grass that tied everyone down to the seabed.

Yuhua Mavis looked down and glanced at all her prisoners. She then smiled faintly as she stepped onto the mountain.

She suddenly paused and then turned around. A person had shot out of the sea, and although they were in a rather pathetic state, this person had still broken free of the green grass's grasp. It was none other than God Taiyi.

"You were able to break free?" Yuhua Mavis was surprised.

God Taiyi panted heavily, and there was blood dripping down from the corner of his mouth. His pupils transformed into runes, and he stared directly at Yuhua Mavis. A screen of star energy surrounded him as the weapon in his hands constantly changed shape until finally settling into the shape of five black balls. He let go and the five balls spiralled towards Yuhua Mavis.

Yuhua Mavis smiled. “The Perception Realm of Rune Technology. You are the first person to attain the Perception Realm in your generation from Gods’ Origin. It’s no wonder why you’re their top heir. Unfortunately, you haven’t reached the Enlighter realm yet.”

The five black balls surrounded Yuhua Mavis and then exploded one after another. Each explosion formed an incomparable shockwave that tore through the void, and the five explosions overlapped with each other, increasing the power of the attack until the void where Yuhua Mavis was standing shattered.

Even with God Taiyi’s strength, it was not easy for him to form these five black balls, and this was his strongest attack.

As the smoke cleared, he saw an unscathed Yuhua Mavis standing in the same place. The green grass was gradually dissipating, but there was not even the slightest wrinkle on her clothes.

God Taiyi was overwhelmed; how was this possible?

Yuhua Mavis looked at him. “When has your Gods’ Origin ever defeated my Mavis family?”

She then lightly tapped out with a finger; God Taiyi’s legs had been wrapped about by green grass without him even realizing it, and it suddenly pulled back with Yuhua Mavis’s move. He wailed in agony and immediately tried to weaken the grass’s rune lines, but it was already too late. He was dragged down to the sea floor by the grass, and once there, he spat out a mouthful of blood as his strength drained away.

Yuhua Mavis turned to continue making her way up the mountain.

Under the mountain with the phenomenon of countless chanting voices, the Hui family heir, Hui Santong, was locked in battle with the Yōu family heir, Yōu Qin. Aside from these two, Qing Longlong, Starsibyl, and a dozen others were also present.

Starsibyl left those who tried to attack her feeling sullen, as she was able to predict all of their actions and always be one step ahead.

Anyone who tried to attack her would ultimately give up in frustration.

She stared up at the phenomenon and silently listened to the chanting, looking as though she would be able to receive the inheritance from where she stood.

Qiu Shi arrived from the distance, her face calm. She had only just arrived at the base of the mountain, but she was surrounded by almost a thousand stars that enveloped everyone gathered. Next, she used just one Cosmic Palm to cause the stars to explode, affecting everyone present.

Hui Santong cursed the woman, and used the Hui Secret Art that could eliminate all battle techniques. He then shuttled amidst the exploding stars to appear in front of Qiu Shi, and golden meteors appeared over his palm as he slapped out with it.

Qiu Shi looked up and vanished only for Yōu Qin to appear in her place. She had used the secret technique Star Transference to swap positions with Yōu Qin.

Originally, Yōu Qin had been busy dodging the explosions of stars, but unexpectedly, she suddenly traded places with Qiu Shi, who then left. She had no idea that she would have to face not only the exploding stars, but also Hui Santong's golden meteors.

She was slightly slow to react, and her shoulder was struck by a golden meteor. Her face turned deathly pale, and she plummeted down into the sea.

The other cultivators also tumbled down, one after another, just like raindrops.

Qiu Shi waved a hand, revealing her strength as an Enlightener. The stars revolved about her once again before exploding. Hui Santong felt overwhelmed, as the power of this attack was even more terrifying than before. He could not repeatedly use the Hui Secret Art and thus could only reluctantly try to dodge. However, this Cosmic Palm had enveloped the entire area around him, and he could not dodge the attack, which caused him to be injured by the exploding stars. Hui Santong thus also ended up falling into the sea.

This was Qiu Shi's strength. So what if her opponent was the Hui family heir? The Seven Courts had started declining long ago, and it was possible that after just a few more years, Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum might not be in their control anymore.

Qiu Shi then glanced over at Starsibyl. From start to finish, this woman had not moved at all, yet all of the exploding stars had not harmed her in the slightest.

Starsibyl gave Qiu Shi a slight smile. "I don't plan on climbing the mountain."

Qiu Shi's gaze trembled. "You're this generation's Starsibyl? Help me divine who this generation's Cosmic Five will be."

Starsibyl smiled. "Why bother with a divination?"

She then looked at the five mountains. "These five directions were already divided up by you all long ago, isn't that right?"

Qiu Shi's face was calm, but she gave Starsibyl a measured stare before stepping past her and continuing on towards the mountain. "Don't try to act smart, as you might just invite trouble upon yourself."

Starsibyl did not respond, and she silently watched Qiu Shi ascend.

Five mountains, five directions, five top-notch heirs. This was what the Cosmic Five represented.

Chapter 1125: Burial Garden's Inheritor

"The Neoverse is truly dark. So this is how the Hall of Honor handles things. The so-called "Astral Tower contest" is actually just a massive stage to them, and not even the Seven Courts can change this," Starsibyl mumbled to herself as she stared off into the distance. She hoped that the rest would do as they had said, as only by joining forces could they create a miracle.

Strangely enough, Starsibyl suddenly thought of Lu Yin. That person was the only variable in her plans, as she could not divine anything about Lu Yin.

“I hope that you’ll be able to create a miracle,” Starsibyl muttered, though she did not even know who she was talking about.

...

Lu Yin led Black and White along towards a tall mountain at a startling speed. As they arrived at the foot of the mountain, they saw Lan Si sweeping out in all directions with Vacuum Palms, beating all of the other cultivators until they could not even move. By this time, quite a few people were already floating in the sea and wailing in agony.

When he saw Lu Yin arrive, Lan Si’s eyes lit up. “I knew that you’d come! There’s no way you’d miss out on something like this.”

Before Lu Yin even had a chance to reply, White spoke up. “Hey, Lu Yin, introduce us to this handsome guy.”

Black also looked highly expectant.

Lu Yin was speechless. “This is Lan Si. Is he handsome?”

Black and White both nodded vigorously.

Lan Si looked at the two brats in surprise. He then seemed to remember something, and a strange expression appeared on his face. “Are they from Eversky Island?”

Lu Yin nodded, and helplessly said, “And full of trouble .”

Black and White glared at Lu Yin, as though they were signalling for him to shut up.

Lan Si was amused.

Off in the distance, a veiled woman observed the group as she drew closer.

Lu Yin’s group looked over at her in turn.

After drawing close, the woman peeled off her veil and revealed her unique features.

The others were all stunned, even Black and White.

“Azure Mansion’s Flower Queen Ming Yu?” Lu Yin blurted out, rather surprised.

Azure Mansion’s Flower Queen Ming Yu, Ming Yu, was standing in front of them. Lu Yin had seen this woman in the Azure Mansion outside of the Mountain and Seas Zone, and she had left a rather deep impression on him.

She smiled, “Hello, everyone.”

“Why are you here?” Lu Yin was puzzled.

Ming Yu smiled. “Although Azure Mansion is a place of entertainment, it’s also one of the Neoverse’s great powers. The Mountain and Seas Zone is the entire Human Domain’s inheritance, and any who know its location are free to enter.”

Lu Yin instantly understood.

“Eh? Lu Yin, you went to Azure Mansion? I’m going to tell Master!” Black exclaimed as she glared at Ming Yu.

White was also quite upset. “We definitely need to tell Master and Senior Shenwei as well.”

Lu Yin really wanted to interject and say that Highsage Shenwei was the person who had first taken him to Azure Mansion, but he did not dare to say anything after thinking about it. After all, Highsage Shenwei might be staring at Lu Yin right at this moment.

Lu Yin had not guessed wrongly, as Highsage Shenwei was indeed staring at their small group at this moment. Or rather, he was staring at Ming Yu with a readily apparent look of infatuation. What a beautiful lady.

Lan Si had no interest in Ming Yu, and he turned to Lu Yin. “If I’m not wrong, this should be a drop of Progenitor’s blood. Brother Lu, if you want it, you can have it.”

“Seventh Bro, quit messing around! Go and grab the Progenitor’s blood! That’s Progenitor’s blood!” The Ghost Monkey had lost his patience.

Lu Yin apologized to Lan Si. “I’m sorry, but this Progenitor’s blood is very valuable to me, so I’ll pay you back when we get out of here.”

Lan Si shook his head. “There’s no need.”

He then muttered, “On our way to Neoverse, Starsibyl told us that we had to join forces if we wanted any possibility of one of the Ten Arbiters becoming one of the Cosmic Five. We have to try our best to break the norm of the Cosmic Five only coming from the Neoverse.”

Lu Yin laughed. “If you guys actually listened to her, then you wouldn’t be known as the Ten Arbiters.”

Lan Si smiled. “She underestimated us. Even if all of us fail to become one of the Cosmic Five and fail to obtain an inheritance, we still won’t team up. The Ten Arbiters are ten individuals, though these are just my own thoughts.”

“But at the time, you guys still agreed to join forces, right?” Lu Yin was puzzled.

Lan Si explained, “Only so that we could get some more information about the Astral Tower contest. Besides, don’t you feel like the Starsibyl Sect is too obsessed with this contest for the Cosmic Five? The Starsibyl Sect has always been pretty much considered supernatural, and yet, they created the Top 100 Rankings while excluding the Ten Arbiters. Now, they’re trying to interfere with the Neoverse’s Cosmic Five. I have a nagging feeling that they’re plotting something.”

Lu Yin nodded, as he had the same feeling as well. The Starsibyl Sect had always been exceptionally mysterious, and it was not strange to suspect that they were plotting something.

“Seventh Bro, go get the drop of Progenitor’s blood!” The Ghost Monkey was really feeling frustrated.

Lu Yin laughed, as there was no reason to be so anxious. That was because a fearsome strength had appeared long ago from another direction. Both Lan Si and Azure Mansion’s Flower Queen Ming Yu were able to sense it; why else would they be idly chatting away at the foot of the mountain?

That terrifying strength definitely belonged to an Enlighter, though they did not know who the powerhouse was.

The others did not speak anymore, and they all made their way towards the tall mountain.

To their right, the sea surged, and the seawater was scorched by a high temperature. At the same time, white fog also appeared.

A warhorse whinnied, and an illusory black fire burned the void. An expert from Burial Garden had appeared at the foot of this mountain: Yōu Qi.

The Yōu family's heir was Yōu Qin while Burial Garden's heir was known as Yōu Qi; their names were off by just a single letter.

Azure Mansion was an entertainment venue, but they had an impressive reputation throughout the Neoverse, especially after the Sixth Mainland's invasion. During that time, one of the Azure Mansions had made its way into the Cosmic Sea, and it had flown through the sky there.

Ming Yu was Azure Mansion's Flower Queen Ming Yu, and she was a super genius who had already become a Hunter. Naturally, she was also able to see the person from Burial Garden.

Black and White were similarly able to see him.

It could be said that, of those who had gathered around Lu Yin, they were all among the cream of the crop within the Mountain and Seas Zone aside from Black and White. However, the two brats were so fast that not even Ku Lei could catch up to them, and nobody could deny that they were among the top in their generation.

As Lu Yin looked at the slowly approaching Yōu Qi, he took a deep breath. The image of this person matched that of the warhorse-riding illusory figure that Lu Yin had once seen in the Outerverse. "An eye of cold indifference" was clearly meant to describe this person.

When Lu Yin saw that figure in the Outerverse, the person had ridden the warhorse through space, and they had almost destroyed his spacecraft. That person had clearly been from Burial Garden.

Of the Three Dark Hands, Burial Garden was the most mysterious.

Lu Yin seemed to have some connection to Burial Garden, as Xuan Jiu had once said that Burial Garden would come to look for Lu Yin.

The illusory black flames spread out, and they burned the base of the mountain before spreading out all over the sea.

The other cultivators hurriedly moved away, as there were some who could not even see Yōu Qi, though those who could had slipped away at the first opportunity.

Lan Si's face turned solemn, and he took a step forward. "Brother Lu, I'll pave the way for you."

Lu Yin frowned. "Be careful."

Lan Si approached Yōu Qi, step by step.

The illusory black flames covering Yōu Qi formed a spear that he raised up to point at Lan Si. “Leave the Mountain and Seas Zone.”

Lan Si looked up and boldly charged forward while unleashing a palm: One Hundred Fifty Stacks.

Yōu Qi’s black spear shot forward.

A palm and spear collided, and the void shattered in a spiderweb-like pattern. Lan Si’s expression immediately changed. He had known that Yōu Qi was very powerful, but the Arbiter had not expected his opponent to be capable of directly blocking One Hundred Fifty Stacks. Was this person’s physical strength really that impressive?

No, it was the might of the warhorse.

Yōu Qi was a cavalier, and he had merged his strength with his warhorse, pushing his strength to a level unimaginable to the layperson.

Even so, Yōu Qi was still shocked at the strength of Lan Si’s Overlaying Stacks Path. Yōu Qi was confident that very few could actually block his spear; Liu Tianmu had relied on the Thirteen Swords to do so while this Lan Si had relied on his Overlaying Stacks Path.

The warhorse whinnied and screamed at the sky, causing the illusory black flames to shoot forward to swallow Lan Si.

Lan Si fell back, and his palm quivered as he struck out with a Vacuum Palm. Off in the distance, Lu Yin’s eyes went wide.

Not only was Vacuum Palm one of Lan Si’s trump cards, but it was also his most powerful attack. Vacuum Palm was an invisible palm strike, and even if one was able to sense it, they still might not be able to dodge it let alone withstand its power.

In Lu Yin’s experience, only two people had been able to receive a Vacuum Palm head on so far. One was Mu Ziyang, who could rely on his innate gift of wood armor, though he had not been able to take more than just a few blows. The other person was Shang Qing, who had resisted it with his Tri-Yang Technique.

Shang Qing was the only person who had been able to take a full force Vacuum Palm, as even Lei Nü had spat out blood after being struck.

The rune lines of each Vacuum Palm were numerous, and Lu Yin could see this palm attack pass through the void before arriving in front of Yōu Qi. Suddenly, the illusory black flames flared up; the Vacuum Palm did not land on Yōu Qi and instead struck the black flames that now enveloped his body. The attack managed to dissipate quite a few of the black flames, but Yōu Qi did not take even half a step back.

Lan Si had a solemn expression, as very few were able to receive his Vacuum Palm like this. This person from Burial Garden was quite terrifying.

Yōu Qi looked at his opponent with admiration. “The Ten Arbiters truly have a justified reputation. Liu Tianmu was very powerful, and you are also very powerful. What a pity.”

Suddenly, a desolate and miserable whistling rang out, and a strange book appeared above the cavalier’s head.

“There was once a powerhouse in the ancient times known as Dun Jiu, and his innate gift was that of a shield,” Yōu Qi slowly stated. As he spoke, the black flames covering him vanished and a shield appeared in front of him instead.

Lan Si’s brows rose. Yōu Qi had retracted his black flames, which indicated that those flames were not able to take more than a few Vacuum Palms. Thus, Lan Si should have simply unleashed a barrage of Vacuum Palms, but suddenly, those flames had been replaced by a shield.

Some distance away, Lu Yin’s eyes grew sharp; what kind of innate gift was this? Dun Jiu’s shield? Could Yōu Qi borrow other people’s innate gifts?

At Lu Yin’s side, Azure Mansion’s Ming Yu turned pale. “Legend has it that Burial Garden is a place where the dead are reborn. It’s indeed true that Dun Jiu was a powerhouse who died many years ago, and his innate gift was indeed the shield that’s being used right now.”

Lu Yin was overwhelmed, as this person was really borrowing someone else’s innate gift and a dead person’s at that.

Black and White looked panicked, and they stared at Yōu Qi with fearful faces. This person was very strange.

Lan Si did not think much on the matter, and he simply attacked with a Vacuum Palm.

His Vacuum Palms were extremely powerful, and this one shot through the void to arrive right before Yōu Qi. There was a loud bang, and the shield protecting Yōu Qi had a section of it visibly sink in, but it was able to block the Vacuum Palm.

Yōu Qi raised his spear and charged at Lan Si, thrusting his spear forward. The shaft spun in his grip, and the tip pierced through the void.

Lan Si tried to dodge, and the spear that Yōu Qi had thrust at the Arbiter was suddenly forcefully diverted, and it stabbed at Lu Yin instead. Since he was not able to strike Lan Si, Yōu Qi had decided to attack someone else, as he wanted to strike someone.

Black and White screamed and took off.

Ming Yu wanted to dodge, but Yōu Qi’s spear had frozen her in place, and she could not move. Although she was a Hunter, how much battle experience could she have accumulated while growing up in an entertainment venue like Azure Mansion? When Lu Yin saw the spear stab towards him, he grabbed Ming Yu, tossed her aside, raised a hand, and then grabbed the spear. Nine lined battle force shot into the sky, and One Hundred Seventy Stacks vibrated from his hand.

The shield protecting Yōu Qi’s body grew unstable, and he was not able to hold his spear steady.

Lu Yin barked, “Get down!”

He then used his strength to try to force Yōu Qi to the ground.

Yōu Qi released the spear in his hand, allowing the weapon to be taken away by Lu Yin. The cavalier then grabbed his warhorse's reins, prompting the beast to release a high-pitched whinny as its forelegs rose high into the sky before crashing down onto Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's pupils transformed into runes as he stared at the warhorse's descending hooves and erased some of its runes. At the same time, his left palm lashed out with a Vacuum Palm.

There was a bang, and Yōu Qi was struck. This time, he was truly struck, and he was blasted off of his horse. When the warhorse's hooves slammed into Lu Yin, he only retreated a few steps. Then, Lu Yin raised his hands and converged Twin Suns to attack the warhorse.

Chapter 1126: Lu Yin Vs Yu Qi

Illusory flames burned atop the warhorse, and Lu Yin's Twin Suns also began to blaze.

The Twin Suns were both hurled at the warhorse, which neighed as the black flames on its body were suppressed. It continuously moved back while making a wailing noise.

Yōu Qi wanted to remount his warhorse, but Lan Si attacked him at that moment, and a Vacuum Palm struck Yōu Qi on his back, forcing him even further away. Although the Vacuum Palm had not managed to break through Dun Jiu's shield, the attack had still pushed him further away from his warhorse.

Yōu Qi's expression grew cold, and a terrifying star energy swept out in all directions as he released his Enlighter-realm power. He raised his hands, and the illusory black flames filled the sky before falling down.

There were quite a few cultivators off in the distance who had fled in terror.

Those black flames were of no threat to Lu Yin or Lan Si, but that was because their defenses were too obscene. However, it was different for the others, and these flames were enough to make them simply disappear.

Black and White had run even further away.

Ming Yu had also repeatedly pulled back, and she stared at the unfolding battle in shock.

Yōu Qi had revealed himself to be an Enlighter, and both Lan Si and Lu Yin were feeling the pressure. After all, their opponent was an expert from Burial Garden, and the fact that he dared to break through to the Enlighter realm showed that he had accumulated a satisfactory foundation. He had revealed his full power, not because he could not deal with these two opponents with the power of a Hunter, but rather because he did not want to waste his time.

The warhorse was struck by Lu Yin's Twin Suns, and it screamed in anguish as drops of its blood scattered about.

Yōu Qi spoke in an ice cold voice. "Defeating two of the Ten Arbiters at once is enough to pave my path to becoming one of the Cosmic Five."

Lu Yin and Lan Si both moved at the same time: Vacuum Palm.

Yōu Qi's eyes went wide, as he had no time to mount any sort of defense. The shield protecting his body immediately broke apart, and he was forced back a dozen steps.

Lan Si followed up with another palm, as he did not want to give Yōu Qi any time to recover.

However, the palm attack passed straight through Yōu Qi and struck the distant sea, which caused the water to sink in the shape of a palm.

Lan Si was surprised; what was going on?

Yōu Qi's body seemed to have turned transparent and illusory. His cold eyes swept over Lu Yin and then over Lan Si. The same book from before appeared in front of his head. "An ancient powerhouse known as Liu Guai used the Eleventh Sword, Particle Diffusion."

Lu Yin and Lan Si felt their scalps go numb when they heard Yōu Qi's words: the Eleventh Sword? From the Thirteen Swords? Could this person even use the Liu family's Eleventh Sword? How was that possible?

No matter how ridiculous this information was, the strange book above Yōu Qi's head suddenly caused a burst of sword light to appear.

At this moment, Lu Yin felt a chill run down his spine, and every single one of his cells felt like they were trembling. He reflexively used the Ce Secret Art, and an Astral Chessboard appeared beneath his feet. At the same time, the air, the sea, and the nearby star energy all were turned into chesspieces as were Lu Yin, Lan Si, and Yōu Qi. There was also one more chesspiece: the falling Eleventh Sword.

Lu Yin had absolutely no idea when the Eleventh Sword had appeared or how the attack would strike. All he could do at this time was instantly shift his body to avoid the Eleventh Sword. He could not even save Lan Si.

The sword disappeared as the sea was slashed apart. The sword qi sliced past Ming Yu, Black, and White. All three women felt a cold chill that left them not even daring to move.

As for the cultivators who were even further away, they were all stupefied, as they simply could not understand this sword attack.

Everyone stared at Yōu Qi, though Yōu Qi himself was looking elsewhere, which happened to be where Lu Yin had appeared.

Lan Si remained in the same place as before, and his eyes went slack as he slowly bent over. Fresh blood dripped down his chest, staining half of his body red. He had suffered a direct hit from the Eleventh Sword, and he had not even had a chance to dodge.

Lan Si had long since known that the Eleventh Sword was terrifying. As one of the Ten Arbiters, he had naturally challenged Liu Tianmu. Lan Si had already gone up against the first Ten Swords, and he had believed that he should be capable of enduring the Eleventh Sword with his innate gift and defenses. However, he had never expected to be unable to even dodge the Eleventh Sword after finally encountering it.

He had not even seen when he had been sliced.

His Vacuum Palm was an attack that relied on speed while the Eleventh Sword disregarded speed entirely. It was as though the attack simply emerged from the void.

With a thump, Lan Si fell down to the sea below. A circle of blood soon appeared on the water's surface.

Lu Yin waved a hand, pulled Lan Si up from the sea, and tossed him over to Black and White. "Take care of him."

After that, Lu Yin turned around and faced Yōu Qi with a serious expression.

Yōu Qi stared at Lu Yin, as the cavalier had assumed that the battle would end with that attack. He had never thought that Lu Yin would be able to dodge the Eleventh Sword. Yōu Qi had always been the one that others made assumptions and guesses about, as he was a mysterious existence. But at this moment, he was feeling that towards Lu Yin, as Yōu Qi could not fully grasp Lu Yin's strength.

Evading the Eleventh Sword was not as simple as just using the Ce Secret Art; otherwise, Ce Jiu would be a high unbeatable existence. This was a matter of awareness and timing, and Lu Yin's battle awareness was extremely acute. Once it reached a certain level, he would be able to use it to predict the future.

Lu Yin was just a Cruiser, so what had he relied on to dodge the Eleventh Sword? And that wasn't even mentioning how an Enlighter had used the technique.

Lu Yin stared at Yōu Qi. "You can borrow the strength of the dead? Exactly what sort of existence is your Burial Garden?"

The pages of the book above Yōu Qi continued flipping, and the black flames covering his body surged as his warhorse trotted over from the distance.

He leaped onto the steed and stared at Lu Yin. "My Burial Garden is not something that you can understand. However, you've exceeded my expectations by dodging the Eleventh Sword, and you're qualified to be my opponent. Unfortunately, you will still ultimately be defeated."

Lu Yin frowned, as Yōu Qi was truly a difficult opponent, and his innate gift was completely bizarre. It allowed him to borrow the Liu family's Thirteen Swords and also completely disregard his Vacuum Palms. How had he done that? Was Yōu Qi actually able to ignore his Vacuum Palms? If so, then why had he not done so at the beginning?

"Seventh Bro, you have to get the Progenitor's blood! Please!" the Ghost Monkey solemnly begged.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed, and he kept a wary eye on Yōu Qi while slowly tightening his fists.

Off in the distance, at the foot of another mountain, Shang Qing looked up before proceeding to slowly climb the mountain. Below him, at the base of the mountain, floating in the sea, were the defeated Ce Jiu, Ku Lei, Unseen Light, and other contestants.

At the same time, Lei Nü made her way up her mountain as Tai Yuanjun, God Qingguang, and the others had similarly been defeated by her. To her, such people were meaningless, and the so-called "contest" to become one of the Cosmic Five was merely a formality.

In one corner of the Mountain and Seas Zone, an heir from the Xia family was participating in the contest, and he was known as Xia Kang.

At this moment, Xia Kang was lying on the sea and staring up at the golden screen in the sky. His eyes slowly closed as his body gradually vanished.

Yuhua Mavis was also climbing a mountain as not even God Taiyi had been able to stop her. This was an inevitable conclusion.

However, in this place, Xia Tian's body was gradually dissipating in the same manner as Xia Kang's.

Qiu Shi made her way up a mountain since Hui Santong and the others had already been beaten. Starsibyl stood at the foot of the mountain, her eyes flickering. It was impossible to know what she seemed to be calculating.

There were five mountains and five directions; the battles at the other mountains had already concluded, and Yōu Qi was the only Enlighter who had encountered a variable. However, in Yōu Qi's perspective, this was nothing more than a delay, and he would quickly finish it.

"I've heard of your name, Lu Yin. You've united the Outerverse and then consecutively defeated two of the Ten Arbiters. Within the same generation, you can be considered unrivaled. If I hadn't already become an Enlighter, then this battle with you would be incredibly taxing. However, your fate today has already been decided," Yōu Qi slowly declared, his voice as gloomy as ever. As he spoke, the warflag that he had been carrying this entire time suddenly melted down into a strange forcefield that wrapped around his body. Then, Yōu Qi's entire aura seemed to undergo a massive change, and even the sky grew darker.

Lu Yin's pupils shrank, as Yōu Qi's rune lines had already been much greater than Lu Yin's own, but at this moment, their number actually surged even higher.

Lu Yin had been able to fight against Yōu Qi so far because he had been relying on Truesight to constantly erase some of this person's rune lines. But now that Yōu Qi's power level had surged, Truesight would no longer be enough to compensate for the difference in power levels.

The warhorse whinnied, and Yōu Qi pulled at the reins as it charged at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin raised a hand: Vacuum Palm.

The illusory flames surrounding Yōu Qi's body twisted the void, and Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm slammed into the flames, shattering a portion of them. However, it was only a portion.

This was the difference in their strength. If Yōu Qi had not become an Enlighter, then there would have been no way for Yōu Qi to block Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm that easily.

As it stood, Yōu Qi was using the disparity in cultivation realms to forcefully make up for the disparity between Lu Yin's Vacuum Palms' power and his defense.

The black flames merged into a long spear that thrust forward, and the black radiance on the spear tip left Lu Yin's scalp feeling numb. His body flickered and disappeared.

Yōu Qi's eyes grew cold, and his black flames swept out in all directions, covering everything around him. Countless black lights flickered about like the infinite stars of the universe.

When Lu Yin reappeared, the black lights all flashed towards him. Although he was able to dodge several of them, he still ended up being struck by a dozen. The black lights beat Lu Yin's Fatesand back into his body while also nearly shattering his nine lined battle force.

Lu Yin crashed into the sea, and Yōu Qi raised his spear to thrust it forward again, the black light on the speartip utterly terrifying.

Down on the seafloor, Lu Yin looked up and waved his left hand to activate the Yu Secret Art.

The black spear was forcefully diverted in a different direction, which caught Yōu Qi off guard. The spear stabbed into the sea, but at the very last moment, Yōu Qi managed to suddenly stabilize his weapon, and the black light at the tip of the spear caused ripples to spread across the seafloor.

Lu Yin could tell that something was wrong, so he immediately dashed out of the sea.

The next moment, endless black flames covered the sea, and at the same time, Yōu Qi pulled his spear back and thrust it at Lu Yin once again.

There was no place to flee to, not in the sky above nor the earth below. Even if Lu Yin dodged at his top speed, he would still eventually be smoked out by the endlessly spreading flames.

Off in the distance, beyond the black flames, Black and White helped Lan Si up as they watched the flames in fear.

Ming Yu was stunned by this sight. This was truly one of the top-tier battles in the Mountain and Seas Zone.

Lu Yin's expression grew fierce as he looked at Yōu Qi's approaching spear. In response, he raised a finger and tapped out.

Nine lined battle force twined around the finger, and a domain suppressed everything as spiritual force wound around it as well. At the same time, the tip of the finger contained the Overlaying Stacks Path while Truesight weakened the enemy's runes. This was the battle technique that the Eversky Bridge had derived from Lu Yin's various techniques as he walked across it. This was a battle technique that was unique to him alone.

He had named it the Seventh Bro Finger.

The Seventh Bro Finger was an attack that encompassed spiritual force, physical strength, and even Lu Yin's domain.

He tapped out with a finger, and Yōu Qi felt stunned; his spear was able to block the Overlaying Stacks Path and the battle force on it, but it was unable to stop the devastating spiritual force.

Lu Yin's spiritual force was powerful enough to withstand Nightking Zhenwu's Skybreaker, and no one in the same generation had a spiritual force that surpassed Nightking Zhenwu's. Even if Yōu Qi's spiritual force was not weak, he would still faint for the briefest moment.

Lu Yin had been aiming for that exact moment, and he lifted a hand to unleash a Vacuum Palm.

As the palm descended, it pierced through the black flames, but then it passed through Yōu Qi and struck the sea.

Lu Yin immediately pulled back as he stared at Yōu Qi.

What was going on? How was this person able to avoid his Vacuum Palms? Was it an innate gift? No, his innate gift was that book.

Across from Lu Yin, Yōu Qi raised his head to look at Lu Yin. “You might be the most powerful person under the Cosmic Five. Not even the Ten Arbiters’ Liu Tianmu is guaranteed to be your match. If you had reached the Enlighter realm like me, then it’s true that I might not be your opponent. However, for now, this battle can’t be changed.”

Lu Yin felt helpless, as he could not defeat this person. Even his Seventh Bro Finger had failed to gain an advantage, as Yōu Qi was able to take such an attack head on.

Chapter 1127: Swallowed

“You might believe that I can’t beat you, but you can’t beat me either,” Lu Yin shot back.

Yōu Qi stared at him. “Is that so?”

The book suddenly reappeared above his head.

Upon seeing the book, Lu Yin instantly felt a flash of fear run through him; who knew what sort of innate gift or battle technique this person could borrow next? The Eleventh Sword had already left a scar on Lu Yin’s mental state.

Neither of the two dared to allow themselves to be distracted in the slightest during their battle, and so neither of them had noticed that the Ghost Monkey, who had been in his imprint on Lu Yin’s right arm so far, had just left.

The Ghost Monkey was a streak of shadow, and at this time, endless black flames were burning atop the sea. Thus, nobody was able to notice the surreptitious shadow making its way through the black flames.

Although the black flames were ineffective against Lu Yin and Lan Si, the flames still held an exceptional power. Logically, no Explorer should be able to handle the black flames and not be devoured.

However, the monkey completely disregarded the black flames as he dashed towards the distant mountain. As a shadow, nobody would notice him climbing the mountain either.

His desire for the drop of Progenitor’s blood had surpassed his limits of self-control.

Outside the Mountain and Seas Zone, the group of older powerhouses were watching the battle between Yōu Qi and Lu Yin.

Mu En sighed. “This fellow is actually able to almost fight on par with Burial Garden’s top disciple, who’s an Enlighter. He’s also only cultivated for a dozen years—his talent is too terrifying.”

Highsage Shenwei was thrilled. “That’s my Eversky Island’s nominal disciple!”

Yuan Ke chuckled. “He’s my Cosmic Sect’s interim disciple.”

Off to the side, Xia Meng was also looking at Lu Yin. “The time isn’t quite right for him. Once he’s given a few more years to develop, aside from two or three other youths, no one else in his generation will be his opponent.”

“He’s not the only one either. None of the Innaverse’s Ten Arbiters are weak in any way, and that Lan Si also managed to trade blows with Burial Garden’s top disciple despite not being an Enlightener. The Innaverse’s Ten Arbiters are not bad—it’s just that their cultivation realm is a bit lacking along with their foundations,” Mu En commented.

“This stage is not fated for them,” Highsage Shenwei commented with pity.

Within the Mountain and Seas Zone, Yōu Qi slowly said, “An ancient powerhouse named Liu Guai once used the Eleventh Sword.”

Lu Yin’s expression changed, as it was the Eleventh Sword yet again. He instinctively used the Ce Secret Art to escape, and the place where he had been standing was split open while the sea was slashed apart. Even the black flames were cut in half.

When Lu Yin reappeared, he heard the sound of the warhorse’s whinny behind him, and his back erupted in pain. Yōu Qi had appeared behind Lu Yin, and his speartip stabbed towards Lu Yin’s back. His nine lined battle force cracked before finally shattering; Yōu Qi’s spear plunged into Lu Yin’s back, causing a trickle of blood to appear. The black flames seeped into the wound and tried to incinerate Lu Yin from the inside.

Lu Yin turned around and unleashed an attack, but his Vacuum Palm phased through Yōu Qi yet again.

Yōu Qi swept his spear to the side and smashed at Lu Yin’s body. Lu Yin could only bring both of his arms up to try to block the attack, and the blow sent him flying into the sea with two broken arms.

Up on the mountain, the Ghost Monkey turned around to see Lu Yin being overpowered. “Hold on just a bit more, Seventh Bro! This monkey will help you, just a bit longer.”

He then continued to race towards the mountain’s broken peak. Progenitor’s blood! Progenitor’s blood!

Yōu Qi had stopped everyone else from climbing the mountain, which was the same as helping the Ghost Monkey, as he was able to race up the mountain without any obstacles. Aside from the resistance coming from the mountain itself, the monkey encountered no other hindrances.

Also, the mountain’s natural suppression was surprisingly ineffective on the monkey.

Off in the distance, Ming Yu felt helpless, as Lu Yin was not able to match up to Burial Garden’s top disciple. As long as he revealed even a hint of an opening, Lu Yin would be defeated in an instant. The disparity between the two was too great.

Black and White were both nervous.

Lan Si had regained consciousness, and he looked into the distance. “What’s going on?”

Ming Yu pursed her lips. “Lu Yin’s losing.”

Lan Si was frustrated, but the fact was that Lu Yin's opponent was an Enlighter. If Lu Yin had become a Hunter, then they could have a real fight. However, he was just a Cruiser.

It was a difference of two major realms, and as long as Yōu Qi could land a hit, Lu Yin's loss would be sealed.

Down on the seafloor, Lu Yin was suffering from an excruciating pain in his back. He gritted his teeth and forced himself to endure the stinging injury. The black flames spread down to the seabed, and they emitted black lights that swept out once again.

Lu Yin had already planned to give up on fighting against this person head on, so he was actually looking for an opportunity to withdraw.

He had already fought with Shang Qing, Lei Nü, and Qiu Shi, and now, he was fighting against Yōu Qi.

Lei Nü, Qiu Shi, and Yōu Qi were all Enlighters, and Shang Qing was definitely one as well. There turned out to be four Enlighters in the Mountain and Seas Zone, and Lu Yin could not measure up to any one of them.

These people stood at the true pinnacle of the Neoverse's younger generation.

Yōu Qi rode his warhorse and towered high above Lu Yin on the sea's surface, looking down as Lu Yin repeatedly dodged about on the seafloor. Yōu Qi's eyes grew sharp.

He could tell that Lu Yin wanted to withdraw, but Yōu Qi refused to let this person escape that easily. He was extremely powerful, so he had to leave Lu Yin in the same manner that he had with Liu Tianmu: severely injured. Otherwise, Lu Yin might become a variable later on.

Off in the distance, on the side of the mountain, the Ghost Monkey had encountered no delays, and he was fast approaching the Progenitor's blood.

Down on the seafloor, Lu Yin felt mentally strained. He raced away, but Yōu Qi had no plans to let Lu Yin off. "An ancient powerhouse, known as Jun, had an innate gift of caging."

As he spoke, the endless black flames that had spread across the sea suddenly changed. They no longer looked like flames, as they had transformed into a cage that started to shrink, moving to trap Lu Yin.

Lu Yin gritted his teeth, and 520 stars revolved about him before suddenly exploding.

The power of so many stars' eruption shattered the cage.

Outside the Mountain and Seas Zone, Elder Yuan Ke was blown away; how had this fellow actually simulated 520 stars? This was too shocking! What kind of talent was this?

Elder Yuan Ke was not alone, as all of the old powerhouses were similarly shocked.

Lu Yin was representing Eversky Island, which meant that, even if he had learned the Cosmic Art, his grasp of it should not be too deep. However, he had just revealed 520 stars, which startled all of them.

Xia Meng exclaimed her admiration for Elder Yuan Ke, saying, "The Cosmic Sect is truly generous."

He was speechless, as not even he had known that Lu Yin had reached this level in the Cosmic Art.

Highsage Shenwei's lips curled upwards, as he understood the truth.

During the Astral Tower contest, everyone had been watching the heir of their own power, so Shenwei had naturally been focused on Lu Yin, Black, and White. Lu Yin had already revealed that he could use the Cosmic Art with 520 stars, but the others had not noticed. However, Shenwei had. At that time, he had jumped from being startled, but he had not said anything. At this moment, he was able to smugly watch everyone else twitch in shock.

As he watched the stars of the Cosmic Art revolve around Lu Yin's body, Highsage Shenwei thought back to what the Cosmic Sect's leader Yuan Qiong had mentioned. Shenwei then looked at Lu Yin oddly; did this fellow really have some fate with the Cosmic Sect?

Within the Mountain and Seas Zone, Lu Yin had used the Cosmic Art to break free of the innate gift caging him. However, he was still no match for Yōu Qi.

Yōu Qi's spear pierced through the void, and a point of black light shot straight at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin once again used the Yu Secret Art to divert the attack. He did not follow up with a counter and instead immediately fled into the distance.

Lu Yin's opponent could not be hit, so it was meaningless to fight against him.

Trading blows with Yōu Qi was even more stifling than fighting against Shang Qing. Shang Qing relied on the Tri-Yang Technique to defend himself against attacks, but Yōu Qi did not even need to defend himself. Instead, he completely ignored the attacks, which was too disgusting.

Lu Yin wanted to escape, but Yōu Qi had no intentions of letting his opponent get away, and he relentlessly chased after Lu Yin. Fortunately, Lu Yin was fast enough, and he also had the Ce Secret Art and the Yu Secret Art. Even if he was not able to defeat Yōu Qi, Lu Yin could still get away.

At that moment, the light given off by the Progenitor's blood on the mountain peak began to react. Before, its light had dyed half of the Mountain and Seas Zone red, but at this moment, its red light covered the entire Mountain and Seas Zone.

Aside from that red light, there was also a black shadow that covered Yōu Qi, Lu Yin, and the others. It looked like a black cloud covering the sun.

Everyone looked up to see the Ghost Monkey grab the Progenitor's blood.

Yōu Qi's pupils shrank, and he shouted, "Stop!"

He stabbed his spear forward, and it transcended space itself to stab at the Ghost Monkey.

The Ghost Monkey panicked. "Seventh Bro-!"

Lu Yin had no idea when the Ghost Monkey had left, and at this moment, he did not even care what the monkey's objective was; he could not allow Yōu Qi to kill the monkey. With this thought, Lu Yin waved a hand and used the Yu Secret Art to divert Yōu Qi's spear.

Yōu Qi waved his hand as well, causing more black flames to spread out towards the mountain. Lu Yin raised his hand once again, launching more than ten Vacuum Palms in an instant to disperse the black flames.

Yōu Qi was furious, but he had no time to bother with Lu Yin. The book reappeared over his head. "There was once an ancient powerhouse known as Liu Guai, and he used the Eleventh Sword, Particle Diffusion."

When the book appeared, Lu Yin raised his finger and tapped out: Seventh Bro Finger.

He did not attack Yōu Qi himself. Instead, Lu Yin aimed at the book, as attacking Yōu Qi was pointless.

Sword light flashed out and slashed at both the mountain and the Ghost Monkey.

The monkey was overwhelmed, and just as he was about to reach the Progenitor's blood, the sword light suddenly vanished. The Eleventh Sword had vanished the moment it was about to strike the Ghost Monkey.

Lu Yin's finger had dispersed the book. He might not be able to directly contest the Eleventh Sword, but he could still interrupt Yōu Qi's innate gift.

Yōu Qi flew into a rage, and he whirled around and furiously slashed his spear at Lu Yin to knock him aside. Lu Yin spat out a mouthful of blood as he sailed through the air, falling back into the sea.

Yōu Qi turned back to look at the mountain, but the Ghost Monkey had already seized the Progenitor's blood, and while everyone watched on in confusion, he swallowed it.

At this moment, Yōu Qi and the other nearby cultivators were not the only stunned ones, as even the people outside the Mountain and Seas Zone were left speechless.

They were all able to tell that the Ghost Monkey was Lu Yin's tamed beast, so they had not minded it when the monkey grabbed ahold of the Progenitor's blood. Lu Yin had already been defeated, so the blood would still ultimately go to Yōu Qi; this was what they had promised Burial Garden, and there would be no accidents.

However, who among them could have predicted that the Ghost Monkey would swallow the Progenitor's blood as soon as he grabbed it? That was the blood of a Progenitor! It could be considered a Progenitor's weapon, and even Envoys could not endure the power of a Progenitor's blood. How could a mere Explorer-level tamed beast swallow such a thing? How could it even dare to do so?

The Ghost Monkey's actions left everyone doubting their eyes.

Everyone was so stunned that nobody was able to act. Instead, they all carefully watched the Ghost Monkey, waiting to see what changes would occur.

Mu En and the others all carefully observed the Ghost Monkey, as even in the ancient era, nobody had dared to swallow a Progenitor's blood. Even those top-notch experts from the Astral Beast Domain had not done such a thing, as swallowing a drop of blood with that much power was no different than asking for death. However, Lu Yin's tamed beast had just done so.

Lu Yin opened his eyes down on the seafloor. He was panting heavily, and he spat out a mouthful of blood before leaping up to the surface of the sea. He had not seen the monkey swallow the Progenitor's blood, but he could still see the monkey standing on top of the mountain. So, he hollered at the beast. "Get down here!"

Lu Yin's shout roused Yōu Qi and the others from their stupor, as they had been carefully observing the Ghost Monkey. Why wasn't it dead?

On top of the mountain, the Ghost Monkey had taken the form of a shadow that constantly quivered; occasionally, it was black, and at other times, it was red. It was truly a bizarre sight.

Yōu Qi did not move to interfere, and instead, he merely watched on from the side.

Lu Yin was confused, but a buzzing sound quickly entered his ears. Lan Si was transmitting his voice from a distance, and he quickly filled Lu Yin in on what had just happened.

Lu Yin was stunned; that stupid monkey had actually swallowed the Progenitor's blood?!

He suddenly thought back to when he had been in the Hall of Honor's warehouse at Southside Weave's border. At that time, the monkey had desperately asked him to obtain the drop of Semi-Progenitor blood that had been there. The Ghost Monkey had said that his bloodline could absorb the drop of Semi-Progenitor blood to improve his strength and that it would become as strong as a Hunter at the very least.

That had only been a drop of Semi-Progenitor's blood whereas the monkey had just swallowed a drop of Progenitor's blood.

Could an Explorer-realm beast absorb a Progenitor's blood? Despite how it sounded, this was no joke.

Such a thing was as laughable as a commoner instantly taking out an Explorer.

However, such a laughable situation had just occurred under everyone's eyes, and it had obliterated everyone's understanding of the world.

Chapter 1128: The Ghost Monkey's Name

Lu Yin stared at the ball of shadow that the Ghost Monkey had become, and his eyes flickered. He had never really trusted the Ghost Monkey from the very beginning, and Lu Yin had always tried to screen the monkey off whenever he used his innate gift of the die. The primary reason behind all of Lu Yin's caution was the fact that the Ghost Monkey knew far too many secrets.

A person's knowledge was related to their environment, and the monkey was too knowledgeable on too many matters. He definitely had not gained all that knowledge by raiding tombs.

Even if Lu Yin had taken precautions towards the Ghost Monkey, the beast had never done anything threatening to Lu Yin. Thus, Lu Yin had never been overly concerned.

However, at this moment, the Ghost Monkey's strange behavior left Lu Yin feeling completely uncertain.

The understanding that Lu Yin had about Beast Tamers was that, if he died, his tamed beast would also die though the converse was not true. When a tamed beast died, the controller would still be relatively fine. At worst, they would suffer severe injuries.

However, this was the case for when one used the Beast Tamers' technique. The Ghost Monkey, on the other hand, claimed to have used the reverse technique to forcefully become Lu Yin's tamed beast. This was also the one detail that Lu Yin doubted the most.

Lu Yin only hoped that no accident would befall the stupid monkey, as who knew what the outcome of a reversed beast-taming technique might be. Even if Lu Yin and the monkey became enemies, it would still be better than Lu Yin being injured if the monkey died at this moment.

Across the Mountain and Seas Zone, figures started to appear atop the golden screens.

While Lu Yin and the others were watching the Ghost Monkey as he shifted between shadows, Shang Qing appeared atop the golden screen at one of the distant mountain peaks. His expression seemed completely unbothered, and three qi streams swirled about him, giving him a deific appearance.

To him, ascending the mountain and stepping onto the screen were both perfectly normal occurrences.

Yuhua Mavis soon followed him.

Subsequently, Lei Nü and Qiu Shi emerged atop the other golden screens.

The Mountain and Seas Zone was very large, but those who had stepped upon the golden screens seemed to be magnified tremendously. Everyone was able to see each one of them.

Yōu Qi looked up and glanced in every direction. His expression grew cold as he looked back at Lu Yin. He thrust his spear forward, as he did not want to waste any more time.

The black spear shot forward, its tip glittering with a black light. While Lu Yin was distracted, the blade pierced his heart, and fresh blood dripped down from the speartip.

Yōu Qi's eyes grew exceptionally cold. "Don't blame me—you can only blame yourself for standing in my way."

The spear suddenly shuddered, and he tossed Lu Yin aside.

Yōu Qi pulled his spear back, about to make his way up the mountain, when he suddenly felt that something was off; had Lu Yin really been struck that easily? He slowly turned around to see that Lu Yin was still standing in the same place with a strange expression on his face.

Yōu Qi's expression sank as he closed his eyes and pulled at his horse's reins. The beast whinnied and black flames rose into the sky to form a fiery dragon that covered the surface of the sea. There was a loud bang as the void was torn open; Yōu Qi saw Lu Yin standing through the shattered space, but the Lu Yin that he saw had already drawn close and was swatting down at him with a Vacuum Palm.

Yōu Qi snorted; this was an illusion. Someone was trying to trick him with an illusion.

Lu Yin's palm passed through Yōu Qi. This time, it was not just his palm—his entire body phased through Yōu Qi as his palm passed through the man, just like before.

Yōu Qi instantly recovered and stabbed forward with his spear. Lu Yin dodged, but as he did so, he raised a hand to grab the spear shaft. When he tried this, it was not as simple as grabbing ahold of the spear like the first time. Yōu Qi was using his full strength as an Enlightener, and regardless of if it was his physical strength or his star energy, all of his abilities had surged in power. He had also been even further strengthened by his warflag, and not even Lu Yin's physical strength was enough to keep a steady grip on the spear.

However, Lu Yin's goal was not to actually grab the spear, but rather to simply make physical contact with it.

As one hand held the spear, Lu Yin's other slapped out with a Vacuum Palm.

Yōu Qi released his hand, and the Vacuum Palm passed through his body yet again, missing.

Lu Yin's eyes lit up. Sure enough, there was a condition behind Yōu Qi's ability to turn immaterial, which was that no one could be in contact with his real body. Once contact was made, he would not be able to turn immaterial.

Yōu Qi sat astride his warhorse as its forelegs rose up to smash down on Lu Yin.

Lu Yin stood in place without moving, allowing the warhorse's hooves to smash him down to the seafloor.

Yōu Qi immediately felt that something was wrong, and he realized that this was yet another illusion. The black flames shrouding his body rose high into the sky, shattering the illusion once again. Then, he suddenly looked over towards the tall mountain, only to see that the Ghost Monkey's shadow that should have been on the mountain had disappeared.

The Ghost Monkey had been the one who had cast several illusions on Yōu Qi.

In the past, the Astral Beast Domain had sent several individuals to participate in the Tournament of the Strongest, and the Ghost Monkey had been one of those chosen participants. However, he had not been able to participate because he had already become Lu Yin's tamed beast by then.

As one of the five lords of the Astral Beast Domain's Spiritual Academy, the monkey's talent was excellent, and once someone fell under his illusions, few within the same generation could shake them off.

Even if the monkey could not leave others completely oblivious like Night's End, Daybreak, his illusions were still enough to threaten an enemy.

In the past, the monkey had not been able to help Lu Yin much since Lu Yin had grown far too quickly for the monkey to keep pace. The Ghost Monkey's cultivation simply had not been able to keep up with Lu Yin's, and Lu Yin's opponents had become far too powerful lately. However, the monkey had just consumed the drop of Progenitor's blood, and he had already broken through to the Hunter realm; he was now strong enough to battle alongside Lu Yin.

Even more importantly, it wasn't just his illusions that had improved, as the monkey's innate gift of shadows had also been enhanced.

When Yōu Qi realized that the Ghost Monkey was using illusions, it was already too late as the monkey had already transformed back into shadows and merged into the surrounding.

Once the Ghost Monkey merged with Yōu Qi's shadow, Lu Yin took action, using the Vacuum Palm once again.

But this time, the palm directly struck Yōu Qi.

Yōu Qi was blasted off of his horse and into the sea. Lu Yin quickly slapped out with another palm, smacking Yōu Qi into the seabed.

Yōu Qi had not expected to be beaten so miserably so suddenly. Lu Yin had various attack techniques, at least two different secret techniques, other strange attacks, and even a tamed beast. The sheer variety was rather unbelievable to Yōu Qi.

Even if Burial Garden was more mysterious than it already was, it could not exceed the mystery that Yōu Qi saw in Lu Yin at this moment.

In particular, Lu Yin's physical strength was so extreme that he was basically a humanoid monster. Otherwise, Yōu Qi's earlier spear thrust would have ended the battle then and there.

Liu Tianmu had not been able to stop Yōu Qi's spear, and aside from the other four Enlighteners in the Mountain and Seas Zone, there was nobody else who could stop his spear let alone when he used the Sword Sect's Eleventh Sword.

But once the Ghost Monkey merged with Yōu Qi's shadow, Yōu Qi's ability to turn immaterial had been sealed off. He looked up, only to see another one of Lu Yin's palm land on him.

Yōu Qi was beaten by one Vacuum Palm after another until he was driven down to the seabed. He was unable to endure the bombardment, and he spat out a mouthful of blood.

Outside the Mountain and Seas Zone, Mu En shook his head. "This generation's Burial Garden's top disciple is too weak. He can only able to rely on their formless battle technique and their willpower secret technique to fight, so how could he rise to the pinnacle? That innate gift is very powerful, as it allows him to search through and use the innate gifts and battle techniques of the dead. However, there are heavy restrictions on it as well."

Highsage Shenwei commented, "Actually, it's not that he's weak. During the previous contests for the Cosmic Five, only the generation with the four captains of the Dead Regiment could compete against this kid. Unfortunately, there are simply too many geniuses in this era."

"I'm more curious about that child, Lu Yin. Just how did he cultivate? When you and I were his age, we would have been considered decent if we had obtained even half of his current strength. He actually qualifies to compete for a position in the Cosmic Five," an elder spoke.

Mu En slowly said, "The Cosmic Five of this generation should truly stand at the pinnacle above all of the previous contest winners. Even the inexplicable Tri-Yang Technique has reappeared even though it is truly unfair to the others. The Ten Arbiters, if any of them were placed in any other generation, would have all become a part of the Cosmic Five. It's a pity."

Xia Meng looked over at Mu En. “If the Sixth Mainland hadn’t invaded, then even if they were stronger, they would have never qualified to participate. Besides, this show to determine the Cosmic Five has already ended.”

Mu En did not reply and continued to quietly watch the screen.

Highsage Shenwei had an exasperated expression. The Cosmic Five had been decided upon long ago, and yet he couldn’t help but stare at Lu Yin on the screen. Even if Lu Yin managed to win, so what? All that would await him was an even more overwhelming opponent.

Within the Mountain and Seas Zone, the black flames gradually dissipated from the surface of the sea. In the distance, Ming Yu and the others all nervously watched on.

Lu Yin stood tall on the surface of the sea as he stared down at the seafloor. He could see that Yōu Qi’s rune lines had significantly decreased. Who cared if Yōu Qi was already an Enlightener? His Vacuum Palm was an attack that ignored realms, and once struck, whether or not a person could endure it all depended on their defense.

Yōu Qi was an Enlightener, and his attacks’ power level easily surpassed 300,000. However, his defenses were even more impressive, as he could not be struck by any attacks. But once his battle technique that let him turn immaterial was sealed off, his defenses were insufficient to protect him from a Vacuum Palm.

If Yōu Qi had not become an Enlightener, then Lu Yin guessed that a single Vacuum Palm would be enough to beat his organs out—his physical defenses were actually a notch lower than Lan Si and Nightking Zhenwu’s.

Yōu Qi’s flaws were too clear.

A shadow slowly ascended from the seafloor and then merged into Lu Yin’s arm; it was the Ghost Monkey.

Lu Yin’s eyes flashed. “You really didn’t lie. So you really could have used a drop of Semi-Progenitor or even Progenitor’s blood to raise your strength. You actually broke through and became a Hunter while you were just an Explorer before.”

The Ghost Monkey remained silent for a moment, but then he said, “Seventh Bro, from the very beginning, you’ve never trusted me, have you?”

Lu Yin did not deny the accusation, as there was no need to do so. At this moment, he wanted to clarify the relationship he had with the Ghost Monkey. If Lu Yin could not gain the monkey’s trust, then he would rather erase it.

It was rather terrifying for a creature to step from the Explorer realm straight to the Hunter realm. Who knew if the Ghost Monkey could suddenly rise to the Envoy realm? Then, the guest might even become the host.

Also, the stupid monkey had absorbed a drop of Progenitor’s blood, and it was impossible for the blood to have been fully absorbed in one go. The monkey’s strength might surge again in the near future.

“Seventh Bro, I really am called a Ghost Monkey, but there’s never been a Ghost Monkey bloodline in the Astral Beast Domain. Since ancient times, there’s only ever been one Ghost Monkey: me,” the monkey explained.

Lu Yin silently listened.

“And this name, ‘Ghost Monkey,’ comes from... Progenitor Wushang.”

Lu Yin’s pupils shrank, his expression betraying his shock. “What did you just say?”

The Ghost Monkey let out a long breath. “This monkey knows that it’s difficult for you to accept it, but these are the facts. My appearance was a complete accident, as I was birthed from Progenitor Wushang’s shadow and blood. Ever since I first appeared and became conscious, I was with Progenitor Wushang. In other words, I was created by Progenitor Wushang.”

Lu Yin had a massive frown on his face, and he did not quite dare to believe such a claim. “You were created by Progenitor Wushang?”

“You can’t believe it, can you? That’s why I never said anything about it, as I was afraid that you wouldn’t believe me even if I told you the truth. In fact, if I said anything, you might even view me as your enemy and simply eliminate me. But I can’t stay silent, as it only took this monkey a moment to jump from the Explorer realm to the Hunter realm. If I don’t tell you now, then with your vigilance, you could very well wipe me out of existence. So, I had no choice,” the Ghost Monkey reluctantly explained.

Lu Yin suppressed his shock, and calmly asked, “What are you relying on to convince me?”

“Aside from an organism created by a Progenitor, what else could simply skip over the Cruiser realm? And what else could absorb a Progenitor’s blood while in the Explorer realm? Only this monkey, who has observed history throughout countless ages, can. No other creature can do what I just did—no one else can absorb Progenitor’s blood like me, and that’s because this monkey was born from Progenitor Wushang’s blood. Thus, I can directly absorb a Progenitor’s blood,” the monkey explained.

Lu Yin fell deep into thought and stayed silent.

“Seventh Bro, do you remember when I told you that the Astral Beast Domain’s Celestial Ice Phoenix clan is a part of my harem? That’s actually true. When this monkey was born, Progenitor Wushang was thrilled, and he thus made the Celestial Ice Phoenix my harem. This is something that is only known to Progenitor Wushang, the Celestial Ice Phoenix clan’s ancestors, and me, though it’s recorded down in their clan’s history. If not for the accident that happened later on, then I might have become one of the oldest powerhouses in the Astral Beast Domain right now!” the Ghost Monkey proudly proclaimed.

Chapter 1129: You’ve Won

After hearing the Ghost Monkey’s words, Lu Yin felt curious about something. “What mishap?”

The monkey sighed. “I can’t remember that many events, and I can only vaguely recall that I was very powerful at my peak. When my consciousness next returned, countless years had passed, and I could only recall bits and pieces of a few ancient matters. Most of my memory had been lost.”

“Then where did you get your news about the various aspects of the current universe?” Lu Yin asked.

The Ghost Monkey said, "Seventh Bro, this monkey didn't lie to you about this part. Because I'm a shadow that was born from Progenitor Wushang's blood, it's very difficult for me to die. This is why I frequently look for hidden graves, and it's also how I've come to know many things that lie beyond the knowledge of commoners. Searching through tombs isn't just a hobby, as it's also a way for me to find out the truth."

"The truth?" Lu Yin was puzzled.

The monkey continued to explain. "I want to find Progenitor Wushang's Tomb, and I want to know why Progenitor Wushang disappeared so long ago. Also, is dead or alive? Or is he in cryostasis? Just what happened back then? This monkey really wants to know all of these things."

Lu Yin fell silent. He could not believe the monkey's words, but it was also impossible to deny them.

Based on Lu Yin's personality, he should exterminate the Ghost Monkey right now. After all, the beast was a potential threat to him. However, they had been together for so long, and Lu Yin was not a completely ruthless person; he could not kill the Ghost Monkey based on some groundless conjectures.

Lu Yin's thoughts were complicated at this time, and he did not know what to do.

At this moment, Yōu Qi dashed up to the surface from the seafloor, and stood there as he panted heavily. His warhorse galloped over from the distance, and it lightly rubbed up against Yōu Qi.

Yōu Qi stared at Lu Yin as the same book reappeared over his head.

The Ghost Monkey instantly transformed back into a shadow and shot towards Yōu Qi.

Yōu Qi noticed the shadow, and his black flames flared up to stop it. However, they were not able to cause any harm to the shadow. This thing was a complete mystery to him, as a shadow had actually managed to block his attack.

As the Ghost Monkey merged back into Yōu Qi's shadow, the black flames shrouding Yōu Qi's body vanished, and he calmly looked at Lu Yin. "You've won."

Lu Yin relaxed his clenched fists. He had won even though the method had been a little dishonest.

Before the Ghost Monkey became a Hunter, Lu Yin had been unable to find any way to deal with Yōu Qi's techniques. Although Lu Yin had been aware of the person's flaws, as they were very obvious, Lu Yin could not take advantage of them. Thus, it had been the same as if Yōu Qi had no shortcomings.

Lu Yin had once faced off against the Astral Beast Domain's Cosmic Hou, who had similarly used an unbreakable power. Against it, even Starsibyl had been defeated.

Yōu Qi was someone even more powerful than the Cosmic Hou, and his battle techniques and secret techniques from Burial Garden were all very strange. At one point in the battle, Lu Yin had actually given up.

However, the Ghost Monkey had broken through the Hunter realm, allowing his shadow form to withstand Yōu Qi's attacks. This allowed the pair to seal off Yōu Qi's ability to turn immaterial, which had turned the tides of the battle and allowed Lu Yin to obtain victory.

Although Lu Yin held the spotlight in this battle, the monkey had helped at the most critical moment.

“Battle force, domain, spiritual force, physical strength, battle technique, secret technique, and even a tamed beast. Lu Yin, congratulations, you’ve won. You are one of the Cosmic Five,” Yōu Qi said in a low voice. No unwillingness or resentment could be heard. There was only a sense of calmness as well as something strange.

Lu Yin stood there with his arms folded, and he looked at Yōu Qi with respect. “You’re very strong.”

Yōu Qi leaped onto his horse. “Of course, but unfortunately, I ran into you. Honestly, your tamed beast is very powerful, and without it, you could not have defeated me.”

The Ghost Monkey merged back into Lu Yin’s arm. “Seventh Bro, we won!”

Lu Yin’s heart skipped. We, we... Is it we?

He sighed as he thought to himself, That’s right, we: you and me. One body. Even if I feel nervous or am second guessing myself, none of that can erase the years and the connection that’s been built between you and me.

Whether or not he believed the monkey’s story, Lu Yin could not bring himself to kill the beast. The two had been together for far too long. Perhaps a day would come when Lu Yin peeled the Ghost Monkey away, as it might be better for the monkey to have his freedom in the future.

Lu Yin looked at Yōu Qi. “Even if I beat you, it doesn’t mean that I’m one of the Cosmic Five.”

Yōu Qi spun the warhorse to face another direction. “Defeating me means that you should be one of the Cosmic Five, unless there are still other people who don’t accept it.”

He then slowly changed into a mass of illusory black flames that dissipated, vanishing.

Black and White supported Lan Si and approached from the distance.

“Lu Yin, you won! That’s great!” Black and White celebrated.

Lan Si was shocked, as he had not expected Lu Yin to win. His opponent had been an Enlightener who was also Burial Garden’s top heir. Neither his secret technique nor his battle techniques had been weak, and his innate gift had been downright freakish—it was almost as though Yōu Qi had merged bodies with Liu Tianmu. Lu Yin had improved once again, and Lan Si felt like he would never be able to defeat such a person.

Lu Yin smiled bitterly and looked up; had he really won? The Cosmic Five were not guaranteed to be five people, so where were the other four? Eh? Lei Nü?

While Lu Yin had been fighting with Yōu Qi, Shang Qing, Lei Nü, Qiu Shi, and Yuhua Mavis had all climbed onto the golden screens. Standing on that stage was symbolized that they had become one of the Cosmic Five. At this moment, Lu Yin assumed that the fifth screen had been meant for Yōu Qi.

There were five Enlighteners, and Lu Yin did not believe that this was a coincidence. There was only one option that he could only think of: the Cosmic Five had been decided upon long ago.

Yōu Qi's words had cemented Lu Yin's previous assumption, and since he had defeated Yōu Qi, it meant that Lu Yin had replaced Yōu Qi.

However, Lu Yin did not feel comfortable at this moment. He knew that the final victors had already been decided upon beforehand. Lu Yin and the rest of the Ten Arbiters, and even everyone else from the Neoverse, were just there to play supporting roles for those five.

Since the Cosmic Five had already been decided, it was possible that Lu Yin taking Yōu Qi's place could lead to backlash from the other four victors.

The moment Lu Yin looked up, he was already prepared to greet attacks from the other four.

He had only managed to defeat Yōu Qi because the man's weaknesses had been too blatant while his strengths had coincidentally been countered by the Ghost Monkey. The other four would not be dealt with as easily. There was Shang Qing's Tri-Yang Technique, Lei Nü's innate gift and Autumn's Sorrow, and Qiu Shi's Cosmic Art and secret technique. Although Lu Yin had not run into Yuhua Mavis yet, there was no way that she was weak. Of the four, not one of them would be an easy opponent.

Lu Yin was not very hopeful towards his chances of becoming one of the Cosmic Five. Not unless he somehow managed to get ahold of some star essence and was able to enter the Time Stop Space and cultivate to the Hunter realm.

However, at this moment, Lei Nü had not arrived atop the golden screen.

It was not just Lu Yin—Shang Qing, Qiu Shi, and Yuhua Mavis were also all looking in the direction where Lei Nü should have been, as she had descended from the screen.

...

At the foot of the mountain that held the Root of Intelligence, a man had appeared, and he raised his head to face Lei Nü.

This man was the reason why Lei Nü had descended the mountain. "I thought that you had been driven out of the Mountain and Seas Zone by Shang Qing, Xia Jiuyou."

The man standing at the foot of the mountain was none other than Xia Jiuyou. After entering the Mountain and Seas Zone, he had faced many powerful foes one after another, but he had constantly been beaten. As a result, he had been mocked as the weakest heir of the Xia family since ancient times, and he was also being used as a symbol of the Xia family's fall.

However, this same person had actually forced Lei Nü to take him seriously at this moment. In fact, she was even somewhat fearful of him.

Right now, Xia Jiuyou was completely different from when he had crossed paths with Shang Qing, and the greatest change was in his realm. He had also broken through to the Enlighter realm.

"Isn't it a little greedy for the Hall of Honor to hope to occupy two of the Cosmic Five's positions?" Xia Jiuyou casually asked, as if he was not the person who had recently been defeated many times in a row.

Lei Nü coldly replied, "Just see if you can stop me."

Xia Jiuyou shrugged and lightly stepped forward. He vanished, and Lei Nü also suddenly disappeared.

There was an explosion as two opposing star energies collided, causing the void to warp and begin tearing apart. The terrifying aftermath from the collision swept out, shooting in all directions and even disturbing the sea.

The two passed by each other, but Xia Jiuyou suddenly clutched at his heart as blood appeared on his lips. He turned back, only to hear the words, "Autumn's Sorrow," enter his ears.

Lei Nü turned around and stared at Xia Jiuyou. Ripples spread through the air and expanded as they enveloped Xia Jiuyou. This was her innate gift of hypnosis.

Xia Jiuyou's gaze grew sharp, and he suddenly slapped down with both hands. Lei Nü appeared in front of him, and he lashed out with a palm which carried a gloomy light with it. "Yōu Reinforced Palm."

The palm passed straight through Lei Nü. He had been hypnotized, and the Lei Nü that he saw in front of him was fake.

He heard, "Autumn's Sorrow," call out once again, this time from behind. Xia Jiuyou coughed; just like Lu Yin, Xia Jiuyou could not determine where these attacks were coming from.

Xia Jiuyou was struck, and although Lei Nü wanted to follow through with her attack, her pupils suddenly shrank as a chill shot down her spine. At some unknown time, a palm print had appeared on her back. This wound was from Xia Jiuyou's Yōu Reinforced Palm, though Xia Jiuyou had clearly always been in front of her.

Lei Nü's back gradually froze over, and she struggled to dissolve the ice even with her star energy. She stared at Xia Jiuyou in confusion. "When?"

Xia Jiuyou wiped the blood from his lips. "It's an innate gift. You won't be able to figure it out."

He then charged at Lei Nü and struck out with the Yōu Reinforced Palm once more.

Lei Nü was extremely apprehensive towards Xia Jiuyou's Yōu Reinforced Palm, as the palm print on her back was something that she could not dissolve or melt. As time passed, more and more of her back froze over, greatly affecting her mobility and attacks. When she saw that Xia Jiuyou's attack had arrived once again, the ripples coming from her body expanded even further.

Xia Jiuyou shook his head. "Hypnosis is indeed a powerful innate gift, but it depends on who you use it on."

A Yōu Reinforced Palm shot out. This time, it was not just one, as there were over a dozen, and they shattered the void in all directions.

"Autumn's Sorrow," Lei Nü's voice rang out again, and Xia Jiuyou's expression changed. Pain erupted from his heart, as he had been struck once again. How was the attack approaching him? What was this, exactly?

Lei Nü's Autumn's Sorrow was as unfathomable as Yōu Qi's ability to turn immaterial. Unfortunately, Xia Jiuyou was not as lucky as Lu Yin, who had been able to perfectly counter his opponent's strange ability. However, Xia Jiuyou did not actually need to do so as Lei Nü was simultaneously suffering from his Yōu Reinforced Palm.

Even if Lei Nü immediately retreated after her attack, she was still struck in the shoulder by the Yōu Reinforced Palm. Just like her back, her shoulder gradually began to freeze over.

Her face went pale as she stared at Xia Jiuyou with fear. Xia Jiuyou was able to endure many of her attacks, but she would not be able to take many more of these Yōu Reinforced Palms; more importantly, she could not stop the freezing from progressing.

Xia Jiuyou raised a hand, still using the Yōu Reinforced Palm, but this time, he did not strike out. Instead, the gloomy light gathered over his palm in the shape of a long knife. He then looked over at Lei Nü. "Triple Blade Will."

Lei Nü's pupils shrank; was this the Xia family's famed Triple Blade Will?

The Seven Courts' Xia family had passed down the Triple Blade Will from ancient times. One blade superimposed over another, and the strength of each consecutive blade would double the former, and the third blade was essentially unrivaled within the same realm. It was one of the strongest battle techniques in the Neoverse. Although it was not completely unrivaled like the Tri-Yang Technique, it was still a top-notch battle technique.

The more peerless a technique was, the harder it was to successfully train in it. The Tri-Yang Technique had not been successfully cultivated in hundreds of thousands of years, and the Xia family's Triple Blade Will was also something that had also not been successfully cultivated in tens of thousands of years. Many people had actually forgotten about it, but at this moment, Xia Jiuyou was actually using it.

Lei Nü did not even think as she reflexively pointed a hand at Xia Jiuyou. "Banishment."

This was one of the Hall of Honor's secret techniques: Banish. This technique banished the victim to some remote distance, and it was not something that could be fought or resisted.

The Xia family's Triple Blade Will gave Lei Nü a nervous feeling, so she had instinctively fallen back to using her secret technique to banish Xia Jiuyou and interrupt his usage of the Triple Blade Will.

Banishment was a secret technique, and it could not be seen or felt, though it certainly existed. However, Xia Jiuyou did not even move or even twitch.

Lei Nü's eyes grew large. "The Xia Secret Art, Nullify!"

Chapter 1130: Xia Jiuyou

Xia Jiuyou looked up and slashed out with the blade that had formed in his hand. A jet-black glint swept past the void, which separated like simple paper as the blade light glided towards Lei Nü.

Lei Nü's star energy gathered in front of her to block the Triple Blade Will while she simultaneously tried to dodge to the side.

However, Xia Jiuyou's blade severed her star energy and moved through the sea, splitting it in two.

The next blade fell soon after, and the strength of the attack had doubled.

Lei Nü's pupils were pinpricks now, and she charged straight at Xia Jiuyou with a look of determination on her face.

Xia Jiuyou's blade struck, but then it suddenly changed directions. The attack that should have cut Lei Nü down had shifted the tiniest bit, and the attack once again parted the sea. Meanwhile, Lei Nü suddenly froze and stopped her mad dash towards Xia Jiuyou.

Although Xia Jiuyou's Triple Blade Will had not finished, Lei Nü's expression gradually calmed down.

The place fell silent.

At that moment, a figure had appeared on the previously unoccupied golden screen that was off in the distance. At this new development, the two youths turned to look.

It was Lu Yin.

The Ghost Monkey had swallowed the drop of Progenitor's blood atop one of the split mountains, and Lu Yin had ascended that same mountain. Step by step, he had arrived atop the golden screen.

His appearance grabbed everyone's attention.

Shang Qing was shocked. Ever since he had first arrived in the Mountain and Seas Zone, he had remained indifferent no matter what happened. However, at this moment, Lu Yin had surprised him.

Burial Garden's top disciple should have appeared on that screen, so why was Lu Yin standing there instead?

Although Shang Qing had once mentioned that he hoped that Lu Yin would become one of the Cosmic Five, Shang Qing did not actually believe that Lu Yin was capable of defeating Burial Garden's top disciple.

When Qiu Shi saw Lu Yin standing on the golden screen, her expression grew cold. She was reminded of the incident in the tablet world, particularly how Lu Yin had managed to suddenly fully recover from all of his injuries and how he had repeatedly used a secret technique more times than should be possible. This person was a royal pain.

Yuhua Mavis looked at Lu Yin with curiosity; was this the classmate that Lulu had mentioned?

For someone of Lulu's age to reach this stage was very mysterious.

In another part of the Mountain and Seas Zone, Jin He saw Lu Yin step onto the golden screen. He looked casual and relaxed, but the depths of his eyes contained a profound terror. He was the third member of the Ten Arbiters who had been defeated by Lu Yin, and if not for those fools from Gods' Origin, Jin He would have been in mortal danger.

If Lu Yin was really able to become one of the Cosmic Five, then that would be terrible news for Jin He. Not even his status as one of the Ten Arbiters would be enough to save him in that case.

Tai Yuanjun watched Lu Yin up on the golden screen. Envy, jealousy, and hatred all flashed through his eyes. This creature who had once been a mere ant had actually surpassed him in just a few short years, and he had even surpassed most of the Ten Arbiters. What a monster.

Qing Longlong, the Little Leaf King, Shu Jing, Mu Ziyong, Hua Xiao, Yao Ji, God Taiyi, God Qingguang, Ku Lei, Hui Santong, Ce Jiu, Xie Xiaoxian, and more were all staring at the people on the golden screens. These people represented the true peak of the Fifth Mainland's youth.

Lu Yin's appearance left many people shocked, though those who had exchanged blows with him were not as stunned. They knew that Lu Yin's talent was truly peerless. Thus, they were not surprised to see him climb up no matter what stage it might be.

On top of the golden screen, Lu Yin walked over, step by step. From this height, he could clearly see the Mountain and Seas Zone, and atop the golden screen, he seemed to be observing everything through a magnifying glass. Here he could clearly see every corner and inch of the Mountain and Seas Zone.

He saw Mu Ziyong's trio, Tai Yishen, Ku Lei, Jin He, and even the fight taking place between Xia Jiuyou and Lei Nü.

Upon seeing the confrontation between those two, Lu Yin suddenly realized why Lei Nü had retreated from her screen—she had an opponent to face.

Lu Yin had never met Lei Nü's opponent, but the young man's appearance was very similar to Xia Luo's. Thus, he should be someone from the Xia family.

The Xia family was the leader of the Court of Seven Names, but recently, rumors that the current Xia family heir, Xia Jiuyou, was quite lacking and that he was destroying the Xia family's reputation had been spreading rampantly. But at this moment, he did not seem like the weakest of the heirs, but rather the most powerful. Lu Yin was well aware of Lei Nü's strength, and it looked like she was actually at a disadvantage in her fight against Xia Jiuyou.

Shang Qing and the others who had glanced at Lu Yin just now ignored him again. They all turned to continue watching the showdown between Xia Jiuyou and Lei Nü.

There were three layers of golden screens. The first layer started at the peak of each mountain and the second spread towards the center of the Mountain and Seas Zone, covering nearly half of the entire continent.

The third layer was the highest point of the Mountain and Seas Zone, and it lay in the center. Only those who could reach this highest screen would have proven their qualifications to be one of the Cosmic Five. There were some rumors that it was possible to become one of the Cosmic Five through fate, but that was just false hope offered by the Hall of Honor. Rather than obtaining it through destiny, the Cosmic Five were positions that had always been internally decided long before the contest ever started.

Shang Qing and the others did not move from where they were standing on the golden screens that formed the first layer. Lu Yin did not move either, and they all watched the battle between Xia Jiuyou and Lei Nü take place. This battle would determine who was qualified to climb the mountain and the golden screens.

Hold on, where were Wen Sansi and the others?

Lu Yin suddenly remembered the other Arbiters: Wen Sansi, Liu Tianmu, Ling Gong, Liquor Hero, and Unseen Light. Not one of them could be seen from his vantage point. Were they all at the bottom of the sea? Or had they been killed?

Off in the distance, Xia Jiuyou looked away from Lu Yin and focused on Lei Nü again. "If I haven't guessed wrongly, then you were planning to take my second Will of the Blade while using the secret technique Discipline to transfer that injury back to me."

Lei Nü calmly answered, "So that's why you gave up on the third blade."

"There aren't many people who are as capable as you. Aren't you afraid to die?" Xia Jiuyou was curious.

Lei Nü replied, "I am, but you can't kill me."

Xia Jiuyou laughed. "Those who should have revealed themselves have all come out, and I don't want to waste any more time. This battle should end now."

After saying that, the gloomy radiance formed over the center of his hand once again as he leaped towards Lei Nü and slapped out.

Ripples spread out from Lei Nü's body. She was still trying to use her innate gift of hypnosis, but this time, she was not successful. Xia Jiuyou thrust his palm at an empty area, but he struck Lei Nü.

Lei Nü was struck by the palm, and her body was smacked back a hundred meters. Xia Jiuyou did not pause his assault as he quickly released another palm. Right before he seemed to be about to land a hit on Lei Nü, he turned around as his palm moved half a body width to the side. Then, it landed, hitting Lei Nü once again.

Lei Nü had already been struck by four of Xia Jiuyou's Yōu Reinforced Palms, and half of her body had been frozen. She was only able to sluggishly move around now, and she suddenly understood what had happened; Xia Jiuyou was able to find her through sensing the location of the frost left behind by the Yōu Reinforced Palm.

She had previously been struck by two of his palms, and the frost from those two meant that she was no longer able to evade any more of Xia Jiuyou's attacks.

Xia Jiuyou stared at Lei Nü. "It looks like you've figured it out. The moment you were struck by my first Yōu Reinforced Palm, the battle's outcome had already been determined."

Lei Nü's eyes were cold. "Not necessarily."

She then raised a hand and pointed it at Xia Jiuyou. "Secret technique: Discipline."

Xia Jiuyou suddenly felt a burst of agony on his back as the air chilled and froze while a palm print appeared on his back.

Xia Jiuyou frowned, but he did not even try to dodge it. This was one of the Hall of Honor's secret techniques, Discipline, and it could not be evaded.

The Hall of Honor's most infuriating secret technique was precisely this Discipline, as it allowed the user to transfer their injuries to their attacker. This technique could not be dodged or blocked in any manner, and it could only be endured.

This was the Hall of Honor's secret technique that had shocked the Neoverse: Discipline.

Within the Neoverse, whenever the Hall of Honor was mentioned, countless people would first think of the Honor Zone. Then, they would think of the hall as the masters of the Human Domain. Finally, their third thought would be of the secret technique Discipline.

The Hall of Honor had more than just one secret technique, but Discipline was the only one that universally induced fear and disgust.

Nobody wanted to suffer from their own attacks, but this secret technique forced them to do so. Just the fear of potentially suffering from this technique could cause many people to hold back and not put their full force into their attacks. Using more power in their attack could backfire on them. However, if they did not put forth their full efforts into the fight, then how could they win?

Discipline was the most frustrating secret technique.

Nobody knew which Progenitor had developed this secret technique, but if it were to become known, then that Progenitor would be cursed for countless ages.

Xia Jiuyou was forced to endure the bitter result of being struck with his own Yōu Reinforced Palm. He had not allowed the Second Will of the Blade to land as he had precisely been worried about this secret technique.

Lei Nü continued to point at Xia Jiuyou. "Secret technique: Discipline."

Xia Jiuyou did not move a muscle, but his shoulder absorbed the force of his Yōu Reinforced Palms and quickly frosted over.

Next was the third Yōu Reinforced Palm, which struck his chest.

He was in the same condition as Lei Nü now, and half of his body was frozen.

Lei Nü panted heavily as she stared at Xia Jiuyou, unwilling to accept her situation. Secret techniques were not battle techniques, and she could not use Discipline however she wished. This was her limit.

Xia Jiuyou's lips curled up. "Have you finished venting? You can admit defeat now."

Lei Nü closed her eyes and silently stood atop the sea. "I've lost."

A Yōu Reinforced Palm dealt a great deal of damage, but its more troubling aspect was the cold that froze the opponent and impeded their movements. The frost could also be used to detect the opponent's location, which was how Xia Jiuyou had countered Lei Nü's innate gift of hypnosis.

Lei Nü had been able to give Xia Jiuyou the same injuries as she had suffered from the Yōu Reinforced Palms, but she could not borrow the Yōu Reinforced Palm itself to attack him. In Xia Jiuyou's eyes, Lei Nü's actions were nothing more than venting her anger, which was fairly accurate.

Lei Nü had been defeated, and Xia Jiuyou's body suddenly trembled. The ice covering him shattered and fell into the sea. It turns out that the Yōu Reinforced Palm was actually ineffective against Xia Jiuyou.

He smiled at Lei Nü and then started making his way toward the tall mountain. He had replaced Lei Nü and become one of the five people qualified to stand atop the golden screens. If nothing unexpected happened, he would become one of the Cosmic Five.

Outside the Mountain and Seas Zone, the group of older powerhouses were all silent, especially Mu En.

The appointment of the Cosmic Five needed to be seen as a contest to the outside world, and it should be something that required destiny. However, to the Hall of Honor, these contests were merely a formality, as they had already decided on the youths who would be the Cosmic Five. This time, they were supposed to have been Shang Qing, Lei Nü, Yuhua Mavis, Qiu Shi, and Yōu Qi.

This decision had not been made with just the consideration of the Cosmic Five's matchless strength. More importantly, there was the distribution of benefits for the powers behind them.

The Hall of Honor controlled the Honor Zone, and it was the power that ruled over the entire Human Domain. However, despite being the most powerful organization, they could not possibly rule over the Human Domain all by themselves, and there was a power balance. That was why there had previously been some people from the Seven Courts who had become a part of the Cosmic Five.

This balance had not been broken in many years, and it could not be allowed to be broken.

This Astral Tower contest was no different, and the power of the various heirs of the Seven Courts were all known. None of them should have presented a threat to the five youths who had been preselected to become the Cosmic Five.

The other powers of the Neoverse, and even the Inniverse's Ten Arbiters, had all been evaluated by the Hall of Honor. They had determined that there were no threats to the appointed five, which was why this Astral Tower contest had been allowed. However, none of them had expected that Xia Jiuyou would suddenly spike in strength to reveal an astounding power that allowed him to defeat Lei Nü. Her defeat had not been a simple thing in Mu En's eyes, as he had watched her be crushed by her opponent.

Lei Nü's Autumn's Sorrow was very difficult to defend against, and she also had two secret techniques, her innate gift, and various battle techniques that she had received from the Hall of Honor. Whether it was her physical strength or spiritual force, every aspect of her was practically perfect. However, all of that had been completely neutralized by the combination of Xia Jiuyou's Yōu Reinforced Palm and his innate gift. Although Xia Jiuyou had been injured during the fight, it was nothing much that would affect his future battles.

To the Hall of Honor, this was not an outcome they had predicted, but rather an accident that had broken the equilibrium.

This was an accident that could actually threaten the others.

Also, it had not only been Xia Jiuyou who had upset the balance, as there was also Lu Yin. He had actually managed to defeat Yōu Qi and take his place as another one of the Cosmic Five, which was something that had shocked Mu En and the others even more badly.

