

### **Chapter 1151: Aeterna**

Just like how the humans in Aeternus Nation wore robes to hide the fact that they were nothing more than toys for the zombies, the Neohuman Alliance masked Aeternus Nation's dark underground with a beautifully scenic surface.

Silver led Lu Yin underground.

Lu Yin was no longer being suppressed, and there was nobody watching him either. This was because there was simply no way for him to escape from Aeternus Nation.

Beneath Aeternus Nation, the underground section was shrouded in darkness. Zombies aimlessly wandered about, occasionally growling.

"Only zombies that have developed intelligence are allowed topside. Otherwise, they have to remain underground. Captain, this will be your future home."

Lu Yin surveyed his surroundings, and something in the distance caught his eye. There were numerous rune lines there, and some of the clusters that he saw were enormous while others were minute. Also, there were some in constant flux.

The primary detail was that the entire underground was enveloped by a single rune.

Lu Yin raised his hands towards black matter that was floating in the air. This is?

Silver looked at Lu Yin. "That's death energy. Captain, you likely haven't seen it before. It is a unique power that my Specter Clan possesses. It has an unusually powerful effect when fused into corpse kings, and it is why our tribe was allowed to smoothly join the Neohuman Alliance without being remodeled."

Lu Yin stared at the death energy around him.

I haven't seen this before, huh? Heh. Not only had Lu Yin come into contact with death energy in the past, but he had also discovered that he was able to suppress it. Back in the Sea King's Dome, Lu Yin had ordered Faceless to eliminate Feng Mo and the Bo Duo, and Faceless had obeyed because of this ability.

At that time, Lu Yin speculated that Arcane Art, Fatal Revival had something to do with death energy, but there had been no way for him to validate that hypothesis.

No matter what, the fact still remained that he was able to suppress death energy.

Lu Yin subconsciously moved away from Silver. Silver was from the Specter Clan, and if Lu Yin remained too close to Silver, then his secret might be discovered. If that happened, it would only lead to more trouble for him.

"Oh right, captain, I should tell you one more thing. Your remodeling will be different from any other." Silver grinned slyly as he continued on, saying, "Twelve years! You've cultivated for just twelve years, and your accomplishments have caused us to have great expectations for you. Thus, your remodeling process will be different. The almighty Seven Skygods want to use you to create the ultimate fighting machine, so, congratulations, captain. You won't be immediately remodeled into a corpse king."

“So what then?” Lu Yin impassively asked.

Silver’s eyes went wide as he met Lu Yin’s gaze. “So, this is your only chance to escape.”

Lu Yin laughed hoarsely. “Run away? Are you kidding me? This is the Neohuman Alliance’s headquarters, Aeternus Nation. All of the Seven Skygods are here, and you want me to try to run away?”

Silver looked at Lu Yin and grinned as he waved a hand. “I’m just joking. Don’t take things so seriously, captain.”

Lu Yin had never been able to understand what Silver was thinking or his true intentions. When the man smiled in this fashion, it always creeped Lu Yin out.

Aeternus Nation’s underground was filled with death energy. As they continued walking along, Silver told Lu Yin many things about the Neohuman Alliance, possibly because he assumed that Lu Yin would not be able to escape, or possibly because Silver was lonely. No matter what, this gave Lu Yin a much better understanding of the Neohuman Alliance.

Corpse kings were not the only beings involved in the governing of Aeternus Nation, and some humans were also involved. In fact, there was also a Dark Interstellar Supreme Court comprised of the Specter Clan and certain powerhouses from other powerful factions who were currently undercover.

Many of these Neohuman Alliance spies had infiltrated powerful factions throughout the Human Domain.

While this might have been a shock to Lu Yin, he also found it reasonable to accept.

Humans feared death, and he was no exception. Those who would choose death when there was still an opportunity to keep living were rarer than rare. Most would choose to continue living.

“One of the Seven Skygods is the most mysterious, and even I haven’t seen them. They are known as Whiteless God, and not only are they the most mysterious of the Seven Skygods, they are also the only one who has the list of people in the Human Domain who are working for the Neohuman Alliance—Aeterna.”

Lu Yin listened in silence.

“I’ve heard that Whiteless God is a beauty, but who knows. Captain, if your remodeling goes well and you become the ultimate combat weapon, then maybe you’ll get to meet Whiteless God,” Silver commented with a smile.

Lu Yin calmly followed along.

As they continued walking, he saw hordes of corpse kings.

Back on Earth, all of those zombies had given rise to no more than five corpse kings. But in this place, there were at least fifty thousand of them.

Among the zombies, there were some whose rune lines were similar to Lu Yin’s, and there were even a handful that made Lu Yin feel chilled after taking just a glance.

“These corpse kings are here all year round, just absorbing death energy. They’re just like my favorite companion, Beast,” Silver rambled on.

A cry was heard from far away.

Lu Yin focused on that direction.

There’s someone over there.

There was a man cowering in fear, kneeling on the ground. Wounds covered his entire body, and all of his hair had fallen off. Death energy was seeping through his wounds and into his body, and he released it as he exhaled from his nose.

The man was obviously experiencing some kind of excruciating pain, and he was wailing and mumbling incessantly. At times, a sense of viciousness would surface, while at other times, it was a deep madness.

Lu Yin stood there, watching the man. This person was not a corpse king, but rather a regular human who was being remodeled by the abundance of death energy.

Silver snapped his fingers and pointed to the man.

A handful of corpse kings immediately rushed over to the man and dragged him away.

“Sorry about that, captain. You witnessed a failed experiment.” Silver smiled.

Lu Yin remained silent.

Silver smiled and continued walking.

Before much more time passed, he stopped and turned to look at Lu Yin before finally stepping away.

Lu Yin felt this was rather absurd, but then he saw a pair of eyes with white pupils that were staring at him. They looked utterly lifeless and devoid of all emotions.

The moment Lu Yin met those eyes, he felt paralyzed.

An innate gift?

These eyes belonged to a malevolent looking corpse king. When Lu Yin’s body went numb, the corpse king charged at him with a raised fist.

Lu Yin’s body trembled once before he regained his mobility. He then raised a hand and smacked the corpse king away.

The corpse king struck the ground hard, and it howled in rage. Soon, the corpse king’s eyes went grey. It had transformed. The corpse king’s aura instantly spiked, and it charged at Lu Yin once again.

Lu Yin frowned and slapped the creature back again, slamming it to the ground once more. The corpse king growled, and black death energy enveloped the corpse king before taking on the shape of a blade. The corpse king once more moved to attack Lu Yin.

Lu Yin smacked the corpse king away yet again, but this time, the corpse king was smashed to pieces and was completely destroyed.

From behind, Silver clapped. "Captain, you're as powerful as I thought. Our Specter Clan's eye technique isn't able to stop you."

"What's this about?" Lu Yin asked blandly.

Silver smiled and answered, "That corpse king was a successful experiment. Originally, before their death, that person was an Explorer with a budding talent. After they successfully completed their first death energy remodeling process, they were able to use our eye technique. After the second remodeling, they were able to use the corpse king transformation. If the third remodeling succeeded, then they would have regained their sapience. At that time, it would have been able to work for us by going into the Human Domain.

"And this, captain, is your future. I just wanted you to know your fate."

Lu Yin looked at the puddle of flesh on the ground. "What are the chances of success for these kinds of experiments?"

Silver frowned. "About one percent."

Lu Yin glared at Silver. This one percent did not mean one person out of a hundred, but rather one person out of a hundred cultivators who had above average talent. The other ninety nine would be reduced to mindless zombies, corpse kings, or simply die.

Lu Yin was now more convinced than ever that the Neohuman Alliance was the number one enemy of the entire Human Domain. Even the Astral Beast Domain and the Technocracy sought to destroy the Neohuman Alliance. They were a loathsome abomination of an organization.

"What meaning would your life have if all humans were turned to zombies by the Neohuman Alliance?" Lu Yin questioned.

"We don't have to turn everyone into zombies. We can keep some of them alive. Didn't humans begin raising livestock the moment they gained intelligence?"

Lu Yin peered deep into Silver's eyes. There was nothing more to say to this person.

"Captain, your mindset will change after you undergo the remodeling procedure. Let's go. The place where you'll be remodeled isn't far from here." Silver gestured.

Lu Yin followed Silver deeper underground.

The deeper they went, the denser the death energy became. This also meant that more powerful corpse kings could be seen.

Lu Yin was eventually brought to the deepest section of the underground area, before a massive pit. A thick layer of death energy emanated from the pit.

Silver looked at Lu Yin with surprise. "Apart from the Specter Clan, everyone who approaches this place should have their bodies infiltrated by the death energy. Captain, I'm really impressed that you've managed to endure for this long."

Lu Yin faltered for a moment. He had forgotten that a regular cultivator would be unable to tolerate such densely concentrated death energy.

Silver merely spoke his thoughts, and he did not pry any deeper. He knew that Lu Yin was aware that, no matter what secrets he tried to keep for now, once he was remodeled by the death energy, he would have no choice but to join the Neohuman Alliance. The Hall of Honor would never allow him to live.

No matter what secrets Lu Yin had, they would only serve to benefit the Neohuman Alliance in the future.

There were no corpse kings around the pit as the death energy in this place was not easily endured. Apart from the members of the Specter Clan, all other beings could only slowly absorb the death energy; otherwise, they would simply burst from the excess.

The place where Lu Yin was to absorb death energy was not at the huge pit, but rather ten thousand miles past it. Silver had only led Lu Yin to the pit for him to see it. It was just as Silver had said; as long as Lu Yin started to absorb death energy, he would be very close to being remodeled.

It was unclear where the death energy in the pit was coming from.

Lu Yin eventually arrived at the location where he was to absorb death energy, and there were many corpse kings sitting around them cross-legged as they absorbed the death energy.

“Captain, you may now begin. Don’t make things hard for both of us.” Silver stood next to Lu Yin and grinned at him.

Lu Yin clenched his fists. He was unwilling, but he eventually loosened his fists and chose a place to sit down. No matter whether or not he was willing, he had no choice but to eventually resign himself to his fate of absorbing death energy.

Lu Yin would always leave countermeasures in place when doing things. For instance, when participating in the border defense war, he had been holding Mister Mu’s jade talisman. When he had fought against Nightking Zhenwu, he had been supported by Leon’s Armada. Under regular circumstances, Lu Yin would never do something without confidence.

However, the fate of cultivators was never determined by themselves. Nobody could truly protect themselves from everything. Lu Yin had faced many mortal dangers in Ironblood Weave, and he had even been killed by Nightking Zhenwu once. His greatest epiphany had occurred on Driftcharge Planet, and it was when Lu Yin had realized how insignificant an individual was.

Back then, he had then sworn to himself that he would never end up in a similar predicament. However, his journey to the Mountain and Seas Zone could very well be his last.

### **Chapter 1152: Absorbing**

Even if Lu Yin had his cosmic ring on him, he still would have been captured by Shaman God. There had simply been no chance for Lu Yin to escape. His fate had been sealed the moment he had set foot in the Neoverse.

Lu Yin lifted his head and looked around the dark underground space. He thought to himself that this might very well be the end of his road. The only chance of a miracle was Mister Mu, but even Mister Mu

might not be able to save him from this place, as just finding this parallel space was quite difficult. Even though, for countless years, every discovered member of the Neohuman Alliance had been instantly eliminated, the dark power was still standing tall, and that was not without reason.

Silver did not press Lu Yin, and he only silently watched from the side. The same smile as always decorated his face.

Lu Yin fell deep into thought, and then he asked Silver, "Silver, do you have any human emotions?"

Silver's smile slowly faded as he stared at Lu Yin's back. "I might. Look at how polite I am to you, Captain."

Lu Yin sighed. "I'll absorb the death energy, so you can leave now."

Silver shrugged. "Then I'll be going. Captain, next time we meet, you might not be yourself anymore. Till next time. Oh wait, there won't be a next time..."

His words trailed off as he turned around and left.

Lu Yin then turned to look in the direction of the massive pit. He had no other choice in the Aeternus Nation, even if it was simply trying to drag things out. Despite Silver being polite, and even though Shaman God had not used any force, Lu Yin knew that the moment he tried to stall, he would be forced the death energy.

His only glimmer of hope was to proactively absorb the death energy. If he lost initiative and became reactive, his secrets might be unveiled.

Lu Yin was very decisive about this matter. His ambition had allowed him to become the first person in history to successfully unite the Outerverse. Hence, he had the courage to proactively absorb this death energy as well.

If one was unable to avoid a specific fate, then taking charge of the situation would be more beneficial. Lu Yin had already resigned himself to his fate, the fate of absorbing death energy. However, that did not necessarily mean that his mind would be corrupted by the death energy. This was the only way that Lu Yin could calm himself, as having a tiny sliver of hope was better than nothing at all.

Lu Yin released his domain and then retracted it. This pulled the death energy into his body, where it was absorbed. At the same time, he began to recite the Stonewall Scriptures in his mind. More often than not, whenever Lu Yin was in a perilous situation, he would find himself relying on the scriptures for a miracle and a sense of security.

Silver turned around and looked at Lu Yin from a distance. His eyes flickered for a moment as he watched Lu Yin absorbing the death energy. He then turned away, muttering, "This really is it. Goodbye, Captain."

Aboveground, the Ghost Monkey shuddered in fear inside Shaman God's tower.

Shaman God cackled. "It has finally begun! He's absorbing death energy to create the perfect weapon! With this kid's physical prowess, he'll be able to cultivate the Specter Clan's eye technique to at least the gold eyes. Then, he'll be able to use the corpse king's transformations to the fourth or fifth change. Once

he succeeds, he'll be unrivaled within his generation. To hell with the Tri-Yang Technique! Even if Progenitor Chen was at this kid's cultivation level, he still wouldn't be a match. Heuheuheu."

The shadow of the Ghost Monkey lamented beneath Shaman God. "Seventh Bro, this is the end for us. It's not that I don't want to help you, but rather, it's that I don't have a choice either. You'd better pray for a miracle. I think that you're pretty lucky, so good luck! We're each on our own for now."

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In the Neoverse's western region's Azure Mansion, Ming Yu returned with a pale face. Her trip to the Mountain and Seas Zone had greatly broadened her perspective.

As Azure Mansion's Flower Queen, she had seen many talented youths, and there were even powerhouses with power levels of more than a million. However, none of that had had the same effect as what she had witnessed atop those golden platforms.

In particular, the Tri-Yang Technique had toppled her entire worldview.

Such an incredible technique actually existed in the universe!

Aside from Shang Qing, the other people atop the screens had also given her quite a shock. The one who had left the deepest impression on her was actually that Beast creature from the Neohuman Alliance.

Thud, thud, thud.

"Come in," Ming Yu said.

The madam stepped into the room with a subservient smile. No matter how innocent and kind this woman appeared to be, Ming Yu knew that it was all just a façade. There were only six Azure Mansions, but there were hundreds of madams. If their demeanor was deemed improper, then they would immediately be removed from their position, and more often than not, a tragic fate awaited them after that.

Normally, most madams would not be allowed to enter Azure Mansion, but those who could were people capable of doing anything.

"Ming Yu, how was your trip? Was there anyone who caught your fancy?" the madam asked coquettishly.

Ming Yu indifferently answered, "You must not have heard the news. The Mountain and Seas Zone no longer exists."

The madam remained smiling. She was fully aware of this groundbreaking news. After all, she had been close to the Mountain and Seas Zone when everything had happened. What's more, she was fully aware that Ming Yu was mocking her, but the woman did not pay it any mind.

There were many madams. But the Flower Queen? There was only one.

"Young Master Tian said that the competition for the Cosmic Five was unsuccessful. It's possible that there will no longer be a Cosmic Five in the future. So, he is very concerned about where your loyalties lie." The madam chuckled.

Ming Yu's expression grew cold as she stared at the madam. "Tell Young Master Tian that I, Ming Yu, already have someone I favor, and that person has promised to take my hand in marriage. So, please, don't concern yourself with this matter any longer."

The madam shook her head and said, "Your time here at the Azure Mansion hasn't been short. You should be well aware of our influence. Even in the Mountain and Seas Zone, there were people working for Young Master Tian. Don't think for a minute that Young Master Tian does not know about what you were doing in the Mountain and Seas Zone. You never made any contact with Shang Qing, Xia Jiuyou, Wen Sansi, or any of the other promising talents."

The corner of Ming Yu's lips curled up. "Everything is fine if Young Master Tian knows about this. Go and ask him yourself who I spent most of my time with in the Mountain and Seas Zone."

The madam was stupefied as her eyes flickered over Ming Yu's figure. She had thought that Ming Yu was lying, but apparently, that was not the case.

Ming Yu stood up and said, "Please, make yourself at home. I'm going to pay Sister Yan Yu a visit."

As she spoke, she left the room.

The madam fell deep into thought as she watched Ming Yu leave. After a while, she used her gadget to call someone.

After Ming Yu left her room in disgust, she moved towards another room and opened the door.

Inside this room was Ming Yan. She faced the sky, but her expression was one of despair and hatred. However, there was also resolution.

"Sister Yan Yu, have you not thought things through?" Ming Yu asked.

Ming Yan answered coldly, "Cut the bullshit."

Ming Yu sighed. "Azure Mansion will not force you to sell your body, but you must make an appearance..."

Soon, the madam followed Ming Yu into Ming Yan's room with an unpleasant expression. "Were you looking for Lu Yin or Lan Si?"

Ming Yan whirled around when she heard the madam's words.

Lu Yin?

Ming Yu smugly answered, "Lu Yin, of course."

The madam brows furrowed. "He agreed to marry you?"

Ming Yu nodded. "That's right."

Ming Yan stared at Ming Yu in shock.

The madam responded, "What a pity. Lu Yin was captured by the Neohuman Alliance, and he will never return in his lifetime. Even if he does, he will be eliminated by the Hall of Honor. You can't rely on him."



Ming Yu said, "It doesn't matter whether or not he returns. He promised to marry me, and I have already informed Lan Si as well as Black and White from Eversky Island of this matter. They will relay that message to Lu Yin's people. Go and ask Young Master Tian if he still dares to lay a hand on me. I am already Lu Yin's fiancée."

The madam's eyes grew cold as she glared at Ming Yu.

Azure Mansion's motto was to be friends with all and offend no one. They aimed to build a network with people of high value. The reason why Lu Yin had been so highly regarded was not because he had unified the Outerverse. Any powerful faction in the Neoverse was capable of doing the same, and breaking the Outerverse back up could be easily accomplished.

The true reason was Lu Yin's backing. He had Eversky Island and the Hall of Honor's Yuan Shi supporting him. These two were tremendously robust support pillars for Lu Yin, and if given a choice, Azure Mansion would not easily choose to offend such forces.

Now that Ming Yu had claimed that she belonged to Lu Yin, if Young Master Tian dared to lay a hand on her, that would essentially be slapping Eversky Island and Yuan Shi in the face. Not only would the master skin Young Master Tian's hide, but the madam's fate would also be far worse.

The madam felt utter regret. She wanted Young Master Tian's support, but Ming Yu was too cunning. She was now regretting ever letting the girl go to the Mountain and Seas Zone.

She did not doubt Ming Yu's words, as it would not be too difficult for a Flower Queen to find a marriage partner.

Ming Yu felt extremely smug. This was the effect that she wanted. This was the sole reason why she had entered the Mountain and Seas Zone.

Young Master Tian had always had his eyes on her, so Ming Yu's only option had been to find someone who Azure Mansion was unwilling to offend. This was the precise reason why she had made contact with Lu Yin and Lan Si.

She wanted Young Master Tian to grow wary and abandon any plans for her.

Her beauty was not the only thing that she had relied upon to reach her position of Flower Queen Ming Yu, and her cunning was just as sharp.

"Young Master Tian will send someone to verify this matter. Ming Yu, you are truly clever." Although the madam was filled with regrets, she did not forget to praise the girl and force out a smile.

Ming Yu completely ignored the woman.

The madam then shifted her attention to Ming Yan. "Strange. Are you feeling unwell, Yan Yu?"

Ming Yan seemed to be lost in thought, and she ignored the madam.

The madam was seething with rage, but she could not show anger before the two girls standing in front of her.

Ming Yu won't do it, but I can hand Yan Yu over to Young Master Tian. Also, Ming Yu can stay as the flower queen.

As she thought about this, the madam smiled radiantly and looked at Ming Yan before throwing another glance towards Ming Yu.

"Ming Yu, guide Yan Yu well, as she will be your successor," she said as she left the room.

Ming Yu heaved a sigh of relief. It seems that she would be safe for the moment.

"You said that Lu Yin agreed to marry you?" Ming Yan blankly stared at Ming Yu as she tried to conceal her emotions.

Ming Yu nodded and answered, "Alright now, let's not talk about this any longer."

"Was Lu Yin captured by the Neohuman Alliance?" Ming Yan asked another question.

Bewildered, Ming Yu commented, "You seem very concerned about Lu Yin"

Ming Yan remained expressionless. "I've heard of him, as I'm also from the Outerverse."

Ming Yu immediately understood. "Oh right, you're also from the Outerverse. Yes, he was captured."

Ming Yan clenched her fists and turned around, facing away. She trembled, though she did manage to keep her emotions under control.

Ming Yu had no intention of staying and chatting with Ming Yan, as she had to find a way to conceal the lie that she had concocted.

"Think about it, Yan Yu." With those words, she left the room.

After Ming Yu left, Ming Yan was no longer able to control her surging emotions as she crumpled to the ground and silently wept. Her hair changed from black to white and then back to black once again. The excruciating pain left her gasping for air.

Even if Ming Yu had claimed that Lu Yin had agreed to marry her, Ming Yan did not believe it. She knew what kind of person Lu Yin was, and she knew that he would not agree to marry Ming Yu so quickly. However, it was true that he had been captured by the Neohuman Alliance, and that was what had dealt her such a harsh blow.

After a long time, Ming Yan regained control of her emotions, and her fists loosened. Blood dripped down from where her fingernails had cut into her palms. She vehemently swore, "Brother Lu, I will definitely avenge you. I swear!"

### **Chapter 1153: Break Through**

When the news that Lu Yin had been captured by the Neohuman Alliance spread, it was not some sort of groundbreaking news for the Neoverse. After all, he had only recently visited the Neoverse for the first time.

Eversky Island and the Cosmic Sect were the only ones affected by this news.

However, once this news reached the Cosmic Sea, it was bound to induce a ripple effect.

Young Master Shao was comfortably laying atop a bed within an Azure Mansion as a seductive maid attended to him.

When he heard the madam's report, Young Master Shao first suppressed his rage, but he soon thought of something else. "The Outerverse... Does this mean that no one controls the Outerverse right now? Hahahaha, luck is on my side! I have to thank the Neohuman Alliance for this, hahahah."

The madam's face instantly blanched, as there would be severe consequences if these words ever left this room, even as a joke.

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In the underground space beneath Aeternus Nation, Lu Yin continued absorbing death energy. Eventually, he shuddered when he reached his limit, so he stopped and began to recite the Stonewall Scriptures. He then looked down at his hands in confusion.

He soon continued to absorb the energy only to stop once again. This time, his expression changed to one of anticipation.

As if he had discovered something, Lu Yin quickly continued to absorb the death energy.

Somewhere in the distance, a corpse king roared and glared at Lu Yin with white eyes. The creature started to approach Lu Yin, and he could hear its ragged breathing as it drew closer.

Lu Yin opened his eyes and faced the pair of white eyes.

This corpse king might have once been a human who had transformed after absorbing the death energy, or it might have been a corpse king that had been modified by the death energy. It was not a strange sight in this place.

Lu Yin's gaze struck fear into the corpse king, and it did not move any closer after sensing how powerful Lu Yin was.

As for Lu Yin, he was able to tell that the owner of these eyes was a Hunter at the very least.

If a Hunter was in this place, then they must have been a former human who had managed to successfully absorb death energy and then undergone a corpse king transformation. Such beings were what Silver deemed successful experiments. Only the successful ones were allowed in this place.

The corpse king quickly left, and Lu Yin continued absorbing death energy.

Every once in a while, he would open his eyes. If someone was there to see him, they would see his expressions shift between confusion, anticipation, and even trepidation.

Lu Yin's feelings of unrest persisted until a new person arrived and joined the underground crowd.

Silver had returned, and he had brought another successful experiment with him. This experiment was a man who was a Hunter.

This man had come of his own accord, and he looked at the death energy in the area in excitement. Lu Yin overheard their conversation. The man had come from the Cosmic Sea, and he had once been a member of a pirate crew. However, he had been abandoned by his crew mates and then unintentionally

joined the Neohuman Alliance. He sought to obtain greater power in order to obtain revenge against his former crew.

Death energy was seen as a shortcut to increase his powers, so he began to greedily absorb the death energy.

Silver turned to look at Lu Yin, and smiled. "Captain, there's no reason to stall. Nobody will be able to save you."

After that, he left.

Lu Yin looked at the man who was absorbing death energy.

The man hastily absorbed death energy, and he did not pause for even a single moment. After just half a day, he had already undergone tremendous changes. First, the man went mad, and he had been overcome by an insatiable bloodlust. His hands started scratching the skin off of his body, and his eyes turned grey. He howled frenziedly, and soon, he combusted in an explosion of flesh that littered the ground.

He had failed.

Silver soon returned, and he commented, "What a pity. A pawn that could have been used in the Cosmic Sea was lost just like that. Captain, I hope that you'll succeed."

After Silver left, Lu Yin was extremely bewildered. Even though the man seemed to be in a hurry with the absorption, he certainly had not absorbed more than what Lu Yin had.

Silver thought that Lu Yin had only absorbed a little of the death energy, which would explain why there were no noticeable changes in his physique. However, in reality, Lu Yin had already absorbed a tremendous amount of death energy.

Why had there been no changes to his body? Actually, there had been, as the death energy had entered his body in the same manner as star energy, and it was actually replacing his star energy as it circulated through his body.

This was extremely bizarre, as death energy was not something that should be able to replace star energy. The Specter Clan was the only known group that could utilize death energy, so was Lu Yin actually a member of that clan? Otherwise, how could he display no changes despite absorbing so much death energy?

Death energy was a very aggressive energy, and it was no different than poison to a normal human's body. However, the energy remained perfectly docile after entering Lu Yin's body, and actually gave him quite a comfortable feeling. It was as though he had discovered the source of his strength.

Again.

Lu Yin focused his gaze.

Now, Lu Yin began to absorb copious amounts of death energy, much more than what he had taken in before. He also began to drag over more death energy from his surroundings.

However, he still felt extremely comfortable as a flood of death energy entered his body. In fact, it was so comfortable that he nearly panicked.

It would be acceptable if death energy pained him while he absorbed it, but why was the process so comfortable?

What the hell?

Lu Yin started to panic, and he even began to question his existence as a human. No, even the members of the Specter Clan were human; it was just that they cultivated differently. In that case, what was happening with his body?

He thought back to the incident when he had crushed Faceless. At that time, Faceless had assumed that Lu Yin was a high-ranking member of the Specter Clan. Now, Lu Yin was discovering that not only could he suppress death energy, but apparently, he could also absorb it.

Lu Yin was extremely confused, and he did not know what was happening with his body. The only logical explanation that he could come up with was the Arcane Art, Fatal Revival.

He had been a dead person before, and he had actually died three times so far.

The first time had been on Driftcharge Planet, and the second had occurred after leaving that planet. His third death was in the Technocracy. He had already died, so was that why he was able to absorb death energy?

That was the only conclusion that he could come up with.

Of course, the dead used death energy to cultivate. After getting used to this power, Lu Yin realized that using death energy to cultivate was much faster than using star energy. In the Cosmic Sect, he had broken through and become an eighth-cycle Cruiser, but during this time underground, the energy that he had absorbed was the equivalent of a hundred thousand star essence. It was entirely possible for him to use this death energy to reach the ninth cycle, or possibly even become a Hunter.

If his conjectures were right, then his biggest problem at the moment was how he could keep this matter hidden.

He suddenly realized that he had been putting on a show the moment he had entered the Neoverse. He had gone to the Cosmic Sect and pretended to learn their Cosmic Art all so that he could use it publicly, and in this place, he needed to demonstrate that he was being influenced by the death energy.

Lu Yin swallowed a gulp of saliva as he thought of the man who had exploded not too long ago.

Boom!

Boom!

The earth trembled.

Silver appeared, along with Shaman God and the Ghost Monkey who had taken the form of a shadow.

"The kiddo's started. I'm going to force him if he still doesn't absorb the death energy. Gagagaga."

Shaman God sniggered.

Silver's eyes sharpened. "Goodbye, Captain."

From the ground, the shadow that was the Ghost Monkey watched Lu Yin from afar. The person who understood Lu Yin the best was not Ming Yan, Wendy Yushan, or Big Sis, but rather the monkey. He had spent more than a decade with Lu Yin, and he was perfectly aware of what Lu Yin was doing. He was ten thousand percent certain that Lu Yin was putting on an act.

Seventh Bro, your acting skills really suck.

The monkey panicked, and he was extremely scared that Lu Yin's act would be discovered. He immediately said, "Lord, this insignificant one wishes to revere the magnificence of the Aeternus Nation and look upon the almighty Tower of Darkness.

Shaman God looked down at the Ghost Monkey with some satisfaction. "Almighty" and "magnificent" were indeed accurate words to describe him. "Go on then."

"Lord, this insignificant one wishes for you to grant me power," the monkey spoke up again, getting Shaman God and Silver's attention.

Shaman God replied, "You need to absorb blood to improve your cultivation. When you were just a Explorer, you were actually able to absorb the blood of a Progenitor. That is truly incredible. Let's go. I have to take another look at this."

The Ghost Monkey fumbled around and looked over at Lu Yin. Seventh Bro, I can only help you this much. Good luck!

"Oh almighty, unrivaled Lord Shaman God, you are the figure of worship for even deities. I wish to remain beneath your feet even as a shadow and serve under your radiance.

"Oh almighty, unrivaled Lord Shaman God..."

...

Silver watched Shaman God leave, and then he looked back at Lu Yin. His lips curled up, but then he followed the other two to leave.

...

There was only darkness beneath Aeternus Nation. When Lu Yin counted the time, he realized that he had already spent a month in this place. During this time, he had absorbed a veritable sea of death energy, but his thoughts still remained clear. While this act left him feeling exhausted, he was unable to cause his eyes to change colors.

One's eyes would change color when they absorbed death energy. The eyes of the man from earlier had turned half-white, which was the trademark of the Specter Clan.

Despite the amount of death energy that Lu Yin had absorbed, his eyes still did not change color, which made his entire act extremely unconvincing. He could not fake this change either, as the eyes of the

Specter Clan were able to affect their enemies' senses. Lu Yin was aware of this, and he knew that these eyes could not be faked.

Now what?

Lu Yin was growing rather frustrated, and he slowed down how quickly he was absorbing the energy. This caused Silver to pay a visit, which left Lu Yin with no choice but to continue.

By now, the death energy had started replacing the star energy that had once circulated through his body.

There were two reasons to absorb star energy after becoming an Explorer: to cultivate and to prevent aging.

Lu Yin did not know if death energy would have the same anti-aging effects. Perhaps! Either way, he already saw himself as a dead man at this time.

Soon, another month passed.

Lu Yin absorbed enormous amounts of death energy on a daily basis, and on this day, he could no longer control himself, and he broke through.

He was extremely exasperated, as he did not want to break through, but Silver had been keeping a constant eye on things. Putting on an act was driving Lu Yin crazy, and absorbing so much death energy had naturally forced him to break through and enter the ninth cycle.

Despite his unwillingness, the death energy was too effective for Lu Yin's cultivation, and it was far more efficient than star energy. The two sources were in completely different classes, and just two months of absorbing the death energy had allowed him to break through.

Also, there was not one bit of discomfort throughout the entire ordeal. The death energy was like air to him.

Sometimes he wondered if the people of the Specter Clan like Silver would fly into rage if they discovered his secret. Lu Yin was confident that his rate of absorption was faster than theirs; otherwise, Silver would have reached a higher cultivation level by now, and he would not just be an Enlighter.

Lu Yin frequently wondered if he was actually a member of the Specter Clan. After all, he had lost his original memories.

Even if he was one of them, he might as well be their ancestor with the capabilities that he possessed.

While the physical effects of breaking through were not huge, this news still spread throughout Aeternus Nation like wildfire.

Normally, it was a long and arduous process for humans to absorb death energy and cultivate with it. Nobody was capable of making such progress in just two months like Lu Yin.

### **Chapter 1154: Ultimate Weapon**

Lu Yin's breath was ragged, and he growled as dark death energy started to fill his eyes.

Silver stood behind him and observed with a frown. Shaman God was also present.

“How is it? Have you figured out why?” Shaman God asked.

Silver shook his head. “Should I invite the clan leader over?”

Shaman God replied, “There’s no need for that. There’s more important research for us to focus on. So, I guess that this kiddo should be considered a successful experiment, no?”

Silver carefully eyed Lu Yin as he raised his head and roared at Silver. Silver’s eyes gleamed as he raised a hand and set it on Lu Yin’s shoulders. The roaring stopped.

Silver furrowed his brows. He had suppressed Lu Yin with death energy, which was what was supposed to happen. However, even though Lu Yin had been suppressed, Silver felt like something was off, though he could not quite put his finger on it. He could not feel the superiority that the Specter Clan held concerning death energy.

One possible explanation was that Lu Yin was already able to control death energy, but Silver was highly skeptical of that theory. Even other members of the Specter Clan were not able to control death energy that quickly.

But what is this strange feeling?

Silver stared into Lu Yin’s eyes. They had not turned white, and everything was a bit strange.

When regular humans absorbed death energy, their eyes would change color, regardless of their success or failure. But what was happening with Lu Yin? There was death energy in Lu Yin’s eyes, but they had not turned white.

Strange.

“So what’s the verdict? Can he undergo a second remodeling?” Shaman God pressed on.

Silver deferentially replied, “It’s better to not perform the second remodeling just yet, as his eyes have not turned white. Proceeding could allow for an unimaginable consequence to occur.”

Shaman God was extremely displeased. “The Specter Clan has never let me down when it came to controlling death energy.”

“My lord wishes to obtain the perfect weapon, and at the moment, Lu Yin has not reached that state yet. Only after his eyes have changed color will he be able to cultivate the corpse king transformation.”

Shaman God snorted derisively. “Then show me some results now.”

Silver nodded and snapped his fingers. Far away, a crouching figure stood up.

Lu Yin continued to act crazy, and with death energy in his eyes, he saw Beast, which had attacked him in the Mountain and Seas Zone, draw close. This was the same corpse king that had managed to nearly capture even Shang Qing, and it had actually managed to injure the First Honor Chosen with its claws. This creature was peerless within the younger generation.



It possessed a strength that was comparable to Progenitor Chen's when the progenitor had been an Enlighter.

"Attack," Silver ordered with a grin that would give a person chills.

Beast growled as its crimson eyes went grey—first transformation. It rushed at Lu Yin while raising its claws.

Lu Yin stood rooted in place and allowed Corpse Beast to slash his shoulder. The attack drove Lu Yin into the ground. He suffered through the pain with a low growl before leaping up high. His body was wrapped with death energy as he charged back at Beast, using the same clawing motion. Beast was sent flying a hundred meters back, and it left a huge pit in the ground upon landing.

Lu Yin did not stop and charged at the transformed corpse king again. His body was shrouded with black death energy as he stomped at the creature.

This time, Beast's eyes turned green—second corpse king transformation. It met Lu Yin's foot with a punch of its own, catapulting Lu Yin away. Beast then leaped up and sent another punch flying at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin simply absorbed the death energy shrouding his form back into his body and punched back.

Boom!

The violent impact sent massive ripples throughout the underground area, causing many corpse kings to roar.

In the past, without transforming, Beast had been no match for Lu Yin. After the first transformation, its strength had rivaled Lu Yin's. And with the second green eyes transformation, Lu Yin had been outclassed even with his nine lined battle force. But at this moment, he was able to fight the creature with just brute strength and death energy.

This was the power of death energy.

However, after the third corpse king transformation, Lu Yin was sent flying by another punch, and he vomited a mouthful of blood as he crashed into the ground.

Beast wanted to continue attacking, but it was stopped by Silver.

Silver looked over at Shaman God.

Shaman God commented in a satisfied tone, "Not bad. With his physical strength and death energy, he's already able to fight against a twice transformed Enlighter realm corpse king. He's indeed worthy of becoming the perfect weapon. Even if the Mavis family's Treeheart Descendent was remodeled with death energy, she wouldn't be much stronger than him."

Silver smiled. "The Treeheart Descendent is an Enlighter, so this humble one believes that once Lu Yin becomes a Hunter, he will definitely be able to surpass the Treeheart Descendent or even Shang Qing even if they were remodeled by death energy."

Shaman God cackled at those words and left some words behind before returning topside. "Will he be able to achieve that much just by becoming a Hunter? Interesting. Continue letting him absorb death

energy to become the perfect weapon. Once he has regained control of his mind, force him to hand over his secret techniques.”

“Yes, my lord,” Silver replied.

Silver turned towards Lu Yin after Shaman God left.

Lu Yin was still growling where he lay on the ground.

Silver looked down at Lu Yin and said, “Do your best to absorb more death energy and become a Hunter. Then, you will be able to fight against Beast after he uses the third corpse king transformation. As for me, I’ll have another weapon on my hands, as well as more assurance for my upcoming journey to Progenitor Chen’s Mausoleum. Captain, do your best.” Silver left and took Beast with him. However, before that, he had Corpse Beast toss Lu Yin next to the pit that emanated death energy. The concentration of death energy in that place was even stronger.

After they left, Lu Yin stood up and roared while internally cursing them.

It’s so painful!

Beast’s attacks had been overwhelmingly strong, and Lu Yin had been forced to face all of the attacks head-on during their fight.

Fortunately, he had become a nine cycle Cruiser, and with the additional strength of the death energy, he had been able to fend off the corpse king even after the second transformation. The third, however, was powerful enough to maim him with any random move.

Lu Yin observed his surroundings and saw that there was a dense concentration of death energy all around him. He then recalled Silver’s words.

What’s that about Progenitor Chen’s Mausoleum? Isn’t it protected by the Seven Courts? He’s able to get there?

He remembered that, back in the Outerverse, Ku Wei had come from the Neoverse and had invited Lu Yin to pay the Ku family a visit after the competition for the Cosmic Five was over. Then, the two of them were supposed to enter Progenitor Chen’s Mausoleum together.

Did this mean that Progenitor Chen’s grave was about to open? Only descendants from the Seven Courts were able to enter that place, so Lu Yin was once again surprised by the influence that the Neohuman Alliance wielded.

However, that meant that Lu Yin could also go! His eyes sparkled with excitement.

Progenitor Chen’s Mausoleum was an opportunity for him to leave Aeternus Nation and escape.

Lu Yin’s breathing started to grow labored as he studied the death energy around him. If he accompanied Silver to Progenitor Chen’s Mausoleum and escaped, then he would no longer have the opportunity to cultivate with this death energy in the future.

Lu Yin was rather reluctant to abandon this power that had left him feeling extremely comfortable.

I'll have to make use of this time, then. Lu Yin opened his mouth and began to deeply inhale the death energy.

...

Lu Yin continued absorbing death energy beneath Aeternus Nation. In the outside world, news of the Neohuman Alliance capturing him had spread everywhere, and the Great Eastern Alliance descended into chaos. The Great Yu Empire grieved the loss of their leader, and everybody appeared to pay respects to Lu Yin's statues.

The common consensus was that even if Lu Yin had not died after being captured, he would still be turned into a corpse king. It was over for him.

This news dealt a heavy blow to many people.

But before they could even react, another piece of news spread out.

The Hall of Honor ordered the Great Eastern Alliance to release the Astral River Ark to facilitate travel between the Inverse and Outerverse. At the same time, control of the Great Eastern Alliance would temporarily be given to Bu Laoweng.

At this moment, on the Great Yu Empire's capital, Zenyu Star, all of the high-ranking members, such as Wei Rong, the Imperial Cabinet, the Lu Cabinet, and the Lu Defense, were engaged in a heated discussion.

"The Royal Regent has been captured, and the Hall of Honor immediately sent someone to take charge of us? They're too much!"

"With the Royal Regent's abilities, he might still be able to return. Let's contact someone higher up in the Hall of Honor and ask for them to wait for the Royal Regent's return."

"Immediately contact Ye Gui! He is the guardian of Zenyu Star! He's an Enlightener stationed here by the Royal Regent. He's the only one who can contact the higher ranks of the Hall of Honor."

"And the Lan family as well. Didn't Lan Si and the Royal Regent travel to the Astral Tower competition together? Request their aid. With the status of one of the Ten Arbiters, he should be able to contact the Hall of Honor as well."

...

The entire Outerverse was thrown into disarray by the news of Lu Yin's capture.

Within Grandtop Weave, Tian Ming was feeling extremely apprehensive. He had managed to become the leader of the Nine Stacks Sect due to Lu Yin's support, but with Lu Yin gone, how could he remain in this position? After the news spread, he had felt the attitude of the higher members of the sect abruptly change.

In Lars Weave, the leader of the Six-Fingered Tribe, Bach Shamus, had complicated feelings. When he had agreed to join the Great Eastern Alliance, it had been in order to deal with the Wei family, but now

that the Wei family had assimilated into the Great Eastern Alliance, the tribe's common foe had vanished. Even if the Great Eastern Alliance ended up fracturing, the Wei family no longer posed any threats to the tribe.

Bach Shamus did not know how to feel. Was he looking forward to Lu Yin's return, or was he hoping that the youth would never come back?

No, Lu Yin definitely was not coming back.

If he could not come back, then there was no reason for the Six-Fingered Tribe to listen to others' orders. Heed the orders from the Hall of Honor? Impossible!

Bach Shamus was not the only one with such thoughts, as all of the powerful factions within the Great Eastern Alliance, including Greenpeak Gorge, the Vastdearth Sect, Evenground Palace, the Neo-Vestige Sect, the Dark Phoenix family, and the others were completely unwilling to accept orders from some stranger.

Lu Yin had succeeded in unifying the Outerverse due to the Outerverse being isolated from the Innerverse and his various methods. However, was everyone expected to heed orders from some new guy? On what basis?

This outcome was well within the expectations of the Hall of Honor. Now that travel between the Innerverse and Outerverse had returned to normal, the Innerverse had no desire to see an united Outerverse, not even if the Hall of Honor wished for such a thing.

A unified Outerverse would not benefit or profit the Innerverse powers.

The Hall of Honor was naturally aware of such things, so they immediately released Bu Laoweng's identity: he was one of the Hall of Honor's overseers.

On the surface, the decision-making group within the Hall of Honor was the overseers. They had the authority to pass judgment and conduct trials.

Even if they were not powerful individuals, they had been given absolute authority, and to some extent, they could even affect the Interstellar Supreme Court, the Lockbreaker Society, and other such powerful organizations.

Bu Laoweng was naturally a powerful authority figure who stood at the peak of the Human Domain as the overseer.

Such a figure would oversee the Great Eastern Alliance. This caused the various factions who had intended to break away from the Great Eastern Alliance to break out in a cold sweat. They all wanted to leave, but nobody wished to be the first to make such an attempt.

It was evident that the Hall of Honor had disclosed Bu Laoweng's identity as a warning to such powers. Most likely, they would be immediately dealt with if they tried to break away.

At this moment, even the Innerverse did not dare to lay any plans regarding the Outerverse.

As for the competition for the Cosmic Five, that fever had died down after the massive changes within the Neoverse. The Mountain and Seas Zone no longer existed, and naturally, the same was true of the Cosmic Five.

### **Chapter 1155: A Minor Episode**

On Eversky Island, Higsage Shenwei's gadget rang. He sighed as he accepted the call, and a projection of Higsage Leon appeared.

"Senior Brother, what happened to Lu Yin? Why didn't you protect him?" Higsage Leon roared, his eyes bloodshot.

Higsage Shenwei exasperatedly replied, "I'm sorry, Junior Brother. Everything happened in a flash. Nobody could have predicted that the Seven Skygods would personally take action this time around."

Higsage Leon shouted, "Then why are all those kids from the Hall of Honor still unscathed? Everyone else was also safe except for Lu Yin!"

Higsage Shenwei shook his head as he answered, "I don't know. The Neohuman Alliance only captured Lu Yin, and Shaman God himself was the one who did it. Even if Master had been there, he might not have been able to prevent it."

Higsage Leon huffed and tightly clenched the hilt of his cutlass, his emotions still unstable.

After some time, Higsage Leon regained his composure and said, "I believe that Little Lu will return. He's always been lucky, so things won't end just like this."

Higsage Shenwei wanted to say something in response, but he ultimately held his tongue.

"We can't possibly let Bu Laoweng take control of Lu Yin's resources! Senior Brother, Eversky Island cannot remain silent on this issue," Higsage Leon's voice boomed.

Higsage Shenwei nodded and said, "Don't worry. Master will personally see to this matter. No harm will come to the Great Yu Empire, and no one will gain control of it."

"What of the Great Eastern Alliance?"

"Junior Brother, you should be well aware that a unified Outerverse is not the same Outerverse as before. Someone must take control of the Great Eastern Alliance. If the Great Eastern Alliance were to break apart, then it would never reform ever again."

"All of this was done by Little Lu."

"I know, and so too does Master. There's also Yuan Shi behind Little Lu, and you know how high Yuan Shi's status within the Hall of Honor is. Nobody will be able to touch Little Lu's properties. If he comes back alive, then Eversky Island will do our best to return what he deserves to him. However, with how things have turned out, we must accept the truth. What we can do, however, is protect his loved ones. The Hall of Honor is not trying to claim his resources—they are only moving in so that they can stabilize the Outerverse. There are some things that have to be done."

Higsage Leon was not an unreasonable person. With Lu Yin gone, it was understandable for the Hall of Honor to send someone to oversee the unified Outerverse. Despite that, Higsage Leon was unable to accept the truth of this matter that quickly.

“Please tell Master to wait for Little Lu’s return. If he comes back, then not only will the Hall of Honor have to give him what he deserves, but they will also have to return the Great Eastern Alliance to him.” Higsage Leon said.

“That’s all well within reason. If Little Lu returns, then neither Bu Laoweng nor any of the nine overseers will be able to keep hold of the Great Eastern Alliance. While the Neoverse cannot interfere with matters of the Outerverse, Eversky Island will stand by Little Lu. Master has also promised to teach him all of Eversky Island’s battle techniques, even our secret techniques.”

Eversky Island felt rather guilty over what had happened to Lu Yin. They had always been aware of the plan regarding the Mountain and Seas Zone, as well as the fact that the Cosmic Five were merely bait used to lure the Neohuman Alliance out. However, no one had expected that the Neohuman Alliance would capture Lu Yin alone.

Higsage Shenwei did not know how to account for this matter, and no promise was more valuable than a life. The Neohuman Alliance had sent Shaman God to capture Lu Yin, not kill him. Otherwise, they would have simply taken his life in the Mountain and Seas Zone. It would be better if Lu Yin never returned, as who knew what the Hall of Honor or other powerful factions would do to him if he did eventually reappear.

Higsage Leon ended the call. Forcing Eversky Island’s hand was something that he could do, and as long as Eversky Island’s stance was made clear, the Hall of Honor would proceed with caution. Little Lu, you must come back!

In the Neoverse. Tian Shao looked at his gadget and laughed. “Although the Outerverse is a wasteland, with such a position, I might be able to climb to a higher position in the future.”

He was Bu Laoweng’s grandson, and his grandfather was one of the Hall of Honor’s nine overseers. Tian Shao had an official position that allowed him to accompany Bu Laoweng to oversee the Great Eastern Alliance. While everyone knew that this was merely a stepping stone for the youth, he would later be able to assume the position of overseer as long as he did not mess up this assignment.

Tian Shao grew more excited at the possibility of his name being recorded down in the annals of history.

The Outerverse had never once been unified throughout history, and Lu Yin had been the first to do so. However, he had been captured by the Neohuman Alliance, and everyone knew that he had not been captured to be killed. Tian Shao fervently wished for Lu Yin to return as a zombie. If that happened, his reputation would be destroyed, and Tian Shao’s grandfather, Bu Laoweng, would be granted the greatest accomplishment for governing the Outerverse. Tian Shao would then inherit that honor, and he would thus step into the highest echelons of the Hall of Honor, as well as that of the Human Domain itself.

Deep in his heart, Tian Shao felt extremely grateful to Lu Yin. Without Lu Yin, he would have never had such an excellent opportunity to make such rapid progress.

“Don't worry, I'll protect your assets well. Although we have never met, I will definitely remember your contributions,” Tian Shao muttered under his breath as he looked in the direction of the Outerverse. While it seemed like a forsaken territory for now, it marked the beginning of his ascension.

...

The mastermind strategy spanning eons that was devised by Progenitor Hui to protect the Fifth Mainland...

The Hall of Honor interfering in order to reestablish transit between the Innerverse and Outerverse...

The calamity that had befallen the Sixth Mainland...

All of these momentous events had quickly occurred over a very short timespan. Nobody knew what consequences they would have on the Human Domain—not even the Starsibyl Sect was able to predict the future.

In the massive universe, there were also some changes that occurred on Earth.

Earth was the beginning of Lu Yin's journey, and more than a decade had passed since that time. It had originally been destined to be ruled by the Great Yu Empire and become an ordinary planet. However, because of Lu Yin, Earth's status had drastically changed. Its reputation throughout the Outerverse had become extremely impressive.

The major cities of the planet changed tremendously, going through more than a thousand years' worth of development in this short amount of time. Technology and cultivation were the focal point.

Jinlin, one of Earth's largest cities, was the city where Lu Yin had spent most of his time while on Earth. It had also experienced many changes, but the city's oldest buildings had been preserved.

From the perspective of the universe, the history of the small city was not even as extensive as a cultivator. However, many of the humans from Earth were grateful to that they could protect some of their heritage.

Jinlin also had a statue of Lu Yin.

Countless people paid homage to this statue every day. When news of Lu Yin's capture arrived, more people began to frequent this place as they prayed for his safe return.

One young man walked out from a cafe close to the statue. He pressed his bucket hat down on his head as he played with a straw that was in his mouth. He then took a sip of the drink in his hands and looked around. “Is this the Jinlin of this parallel world? Interesting. After so many parallel worlds, the heritage that has been preserved in this Jinlin is pretty good. Father will be happy if he learns of this. Back then, he found great-grandfather in Jinlin.”

The youth was rather shocked once he noticed the many people kneeling on the ground in front of the statue despite the scorching sun. “Why do they show so much respect for that dude? Back then, pops saved Earth, but he never received this much respect! This guy should be pretty good at this shit, huh?”

His words were overheard by several burly men who just happened to be passing by. They flew into rage and surrounded the young man while glaring at him with menacing eyes. "Little runt, what did you just say?"

The young man thought for a moment while staring blankly at the men. "I forgot what I said. Could you give me a hint?"

One of the muscular men stepped forward and glared down at the young man. "You said 'pretty good at this shit,' didn't you? How dare you pay respects to Lord Lu in such a manner?"

The young man blinked several times. "But I'm not paying him my respects."

The man grew livid. "You scum! You're from Earth, are you not?"

The young man sheepishly nodded.

"Since you're an Earthling, then why don't you know the meaning of gratitude? If not for Lord Lu, we would all be slaves out in the universe. Earth's cultivators would have been sent to the battlefield to become cannon fodder. Don't you know that? He's why you're able to keep living on Earth and sip that drink in your hands this casually!" the muscular man shouted in fury.

The more Earthlings learned of the outside universe, the more grateful they were towards Lu Yin. Only by experiencing the darkness were they able to understand the light that Lu Yin had brought with him.

The commotion soon drew over more people.

The muscular man glared at the young man and shouted, "Little rascal, what's your name? How did your parents raise you? Don't you understand respect? Don't you understand gratitude?"

People from all around chimed in and began aggravating the situation. "Find his family and tie them up! Make them kneel in front of Lord Lu's statue!"

"Tie him up!"

"Tie him up!"

"Tie him up!"

The young man saw that the crowd was pressing in on him closer and closer. Each of them was fiercely glaring at him. He forced out a laugh and with one breath, downed the rest of his drink and gestured his departure with his hands. "My apologies, I don't quite understand the history of your parallel world. I'm just someone chasing after a lightning rabbit. Sorry!"

With those words, he disappeared, leaving behind nothing aside from an empty cup that fell to the ground with a light thud.

The people in the area all looked at each other in confusion. They were not willing to accept this outcome, but none of them could even find a trace of the young man's shadow.

...



Back beneath Aeternus Nation, Lu Yin had been busy sucking in the large amounts of death energy that emanated from the deep pit. Every now and then, he would pause, but after sensing that the death energy still had not caused any negative effects, he would continue. There was an urge to use this death energy to break through to the Hunter realm.

However, one day, possibly due to the massive amount of death energy that he had absorbed, Lu Yin finally felt like something was off. Images of massacre and slaughter began to fill his mind. There were images of his past. He saw Puyu, Feng Mo, Nightking Zhenwu, and every enemy that he had slain, and his heart filled with pleasure upon seeing these scenes.

Not right.

Lu Yin opened his eyes. The death energy had finally started affecting him. He immediately stopped absorbing the energy, but somehow, he found himself unable to. Even against his will, the death energy continued to move, forming a cycle between him and his surroundings.

Without any concern for potential consequences, Lu Yin tried to move away from the pit, but he found that he was unable to move his body. The death energy was now suppressing him, and his body was just like a puppet. Death energy continued to flow into his body and settle down before part of it left his body. This cycle continued to repeat.

Damn it.

Lu Yin's heart sank as he felt chills run down his spine.

Silver was extremely prudent. Lu Yin had appeared to have been successfully remodeled, but there had been no signs of his eyes changing to match those of the Specter Clan. Thus, Silver had quickly decided to throw Lu Yin over to the deepest part of the pit.

Even members of the Specter Clan would be unable to withstand such an intense concentration of death energy. Even if Lu Yin had been faking his situation, he would not be able to continue for long after being placed right next to the pit.

### **Chapter 1156: A Black and White Mist**

The fact that Lu Yin had cultivated for just twelve years made his accomplishments absolutely extraordinary. He had already become accustomed to the changes that occurred in cultivation, and he quickly resigned himself to the fact that even if he was able to stop the current of death energy from entering his body, he would not be able to completely stop the pit's death energy from affecting him. Not even an Envoy could do such a thing.

Lu Yin desperately gasped for air as images of slaughter flashed through his mind even more rapidly. He felt as though he was hallucinating; his enemies were appearing before him one by one as zombies, and they surrounded him.

"GET! LOST! Go away, all of you!" Lu Yin hammered the air with his fists as he shouted, and the death energy dissipated at the places he punched, but it soon returned as if nothing had ever happened.

Lu Yin half-knelt on the ground, his entire body trembling. He had simply absorbed far too much death energy, and he was losing control.

Several days passed, and a massive amount of death energy had already settled down within Lu Yin's body. This death energy could function as a replacement for star energy, and it was nearly enough for him to break through to the Hunter realm. His rate of absorption in this location was ten times higher than the previous one. However, his consciousness was heavily impacted. His thoughts constantly drifted around, and even reciting the Stonewall Scriptures was fruitless.

Death energy was not a form of spiritual energy, so the Stonewall Scriptures were not able to help in this matter.

Countless images had flashed through his mind by this time, and Lu Yin continued reciting the scriptures in a bid to retain his consciousness. He had considered using the Arcane Art, Fatal Revival, as this technique seemed to be the reason why the death energy had not initially affected him.

Could I nullify the effects of death energy if I circulate the arcane art around my body?

That's not right. Arcane Art, Fatal Revival might absorb even more death energy!

Lu Yin's haphazard thoughts were running wild. Suddenly, an idea flashed into his mind. If the arcane art was able to absorb death energy, then would the reversed technique be able to suppress death energy?

The arcane art had the power to suppress the natural healing ability of a person's physical body, and it would force someone to the brink of death. This was why nobody had been able to successfully cultivate it despite the passage of countless years. However, once one succeeded, they would experience a qualitative improvement in their overall strength. As for the reversed technique, Lu Yin already knew it: it was the Daynight Restoration Technique.

The Daynight Restoration Technique was able to elevate the healing potential of the physical body to allow for nearly limitless recovery.

In the past, on Shenwu Continent when Lu Yin had fought against Zhanlong Daynight, he had felt suppressed due to Zhanlong Daynight using the Daynight Restoration Technique. This was because it was the polar opposite of Lu Yin's arcane art.

The Daynight Restoration Technique was a powerful technique that belonged to the Daynight clan. Its power terrified its foes, and its fame had spread throughout the universe. Even though it had been suppressed by Lu Yin's Fatal Revival, the technique was not a low grade one.

It was a coincidence that Lu Yin had stolen the stone of inheritance from Nightking Zhenwu later on. When he entered the inheritance hallway, he had also learned the Daynight Restoration Technique.

At that time, he had thought that the Daynight Restoration Technique would basically be poison to him since he was already practicing Fatal Revival. However, in this current situation, it was necessary to take that poison.

If his conjecture was correct, death energy benefited Fatal Revival, so it was possible that the Daynight Restoration Technique might reject death energy.

Lu Yin set his mind to this task. If he continued to allow the death energy to remodel his body, it was very likely that he would end up becoming a weapon for the Neohuman Alliance.

There was also the possibility that the Daynight Restoration Technique would harm him even further, but at this moment, he did not have a choice.

Cultivating the Daynight Restoration Technique was not easy. Otherwise, someone besides Zhanlong Daynight would have done so. Despite merely being a member of the Daynight clan, Zhanlong Daynight had been able to defeat Nightking Yanqing because of this technique, which was proof of its powers.

Lu Yin inhaled deeply. As long as it was not a Progenitor level technique, he would be able to comprehend it quickly.

Soon after, Lu Yin managed to circulate the Daynight Restoration Technique through his body.

The result was like a huge rock had been suddenly tossed into a peaceful lake. The moment the technique circulated through his body, the death energy inside him began to sizzle, as though it had met its natural nemesis. Soon, the death energy was surging endlessly in an attempt to overpower the Daynight Restoration Technique.

The Daynight Restoration Technique would be quickly suppressed if Lu Yin lost consciousness, so he did his best to retain what little awareness he had left as he used the last bit of star energy in his body to cycle the Daynight Restoration Technique and fend off the death energy.

All of a sudden, the natural cycle between the death energy in his surroundings and his internal body was severed. His body was no longer part of the circle, and death energy no longer entered his body.

Lu Yin heaved a sigh of relief.

It works!

He was absolutely ecstatic.

I have to hold out until Silver takes me to Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum. I must!

Lu Yin felt extremely grateful towards Nightking Zhenwu; if the Nightking had not carried the inheritance stone on his person, Lu Yin would have never been able to learn the Daynight Restoration Technique, and he might have become the Neohuman Alliance's weapon here.

Lu Yin thought of the Ghost Monkey and wondered what had happened to him. The monkey had actually been born from Progenitor Wushang's shadow, so it was no wonder why he could absorb the blood of a Progenitor and immediately rush through two realms by doing so. Could realms be crossed that easily? There was no way it could happen ordinarily, and that scene had toppled Lu Yin's understanding of the universe. The Ghost Monkey should have been a powerhouse in the past, but it had somehow lost its memory, just like Lu Yin. That was the only logical explanation.

Lu Yin then thought about the battle to determine the Cosmic Five. When the Neohuman Alliance had invaded the Mountain and Seas Zone, the people on the golden platform had all been taken away. In that case, why had Silver not been taken away as well? Damn it.

It's rather chilly here. I wonder if I can get some more clothes to wear or if I'll see some familiar faces. Forget it. It's better if I don't see anyone, as I would probably be forced to kill them.

...

Lu Yin circulated the Daynight Restoration Technique through his body as his thoughts ran free. Various useless thoughts streamed through his mind, but if he lost consciousness, it would all be over.

He had never guessed that the venomous Daynight Restoration Technique would one day be his only salvation.

The universe is indeed an interesting place. Back when I was a librarian on Earth, I perused many books, and one of them explained the concept of natural laws and cycles. Could this be one such case? It's been a while since I've visited Earth. If I manage to leave this place alive, I'll go with Ming Yan. It's time to marry her.

Should we have kids? A boy or a girl? That's a question worth considering...

If it's a boy who looks like me, he'll only be an average person. It'd be better to have a daughter who looks like Ming Yan. But Ming Yan is just so pretty, and I might be reluctant to marry off my daughter in the future.

Maybe I'll have a boy and a girl. I hear that only people with good fortune are able to have a pair like that. Wait a minute, with my lifespan, I'll be able to have ten boys and ten girls! Oh, kids should only be made at night, but the white-haired Ming Yan is the one who usually appears at night. She's not easy to deal with...

Will she bite?

...

Lu Yin let his mind run wild. His consciousness did not fade, which meant that he was not controlled by the death energy. The Daynight Restoration Technique continued circulating through his body as it fended off the death energy.

While in this state of semi-consciousness, Lu Yin lost track of time. He did not know how much time passed, but then, he suddenly heard footsteps behind him. He instantly jerked awake and began putting on an act and growling like a beast.

Silver appeared next to Lu Yin and placed a hand on his shoulders.

Lu Yin immediately suppressed the death energy in his body.

Silver moved in front of Lu Yin and looked him in the eyes.

Silver's heart sank the moment he saw Lu Yin's pupils. They were deep like the abyss, and it was as if all light would be devoured by them.

Silver frowned.

What the hell? I've never seen anything like this.

Lu Yin was fully awake at this moment, and he controlled his death energy, concentrating them in his eyes. He himself was not aware that his eyes had changed color, but they had turned into something unrecognizable even for Silver.

Silver carefully observed Lu Yin before pulling out his butterfly knife and using his right hand to slash at Lu Yin's arm, leaving a gash. Apart from some blood flowing out, death energy also leaked out from the wound.

This was a symptom of absorbing excess death energy.

Silver was extremely puzzled. Had Lu Yin absorbed so much energy that even his eyes had become abnormal?

"Captain, you've become quite strange. We of the Specter Clan have never seen a pair of eyes like yours. Perhaps your remodeling has been successful, or maybe you're just putting on a show. No matter which is true, I'm still taking you with me to Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum to compete for what I want. If you're putting on an act, I'll give it to you." Silver eyes smiled as he spoke. He then gestured for Lu Yin to follow behind him, the same as any zombie.

At this time, Lu Yin had to put on his best zombie act, and he started observing his body. There was a strange ball of something that looked similar to mist, but at the same time, it seemed to be a fusion of clear and dark skies. He did not know what this thing was, or what its true appearance was.

Does this have something to do with Fatal Revival and the Daynight Restoration Technique?

He did not have much time to think about this matter for the moment. That strange ball of matter could be sealed away by using his fatesand to cover it up. Lu Yin currently had three grains of fatesand himself, and they were stored in his heart, his left arm, and right leg. He had also absorbed Hong Ying's fatesand, though it was rather small.

From now on, if possible, I'll have to absorb more fatesand so that I can cover this thing up better. I wonder, who has more fatesand? Nobody in the Mountain and Seas Zone showed any. Was that because they didn't have it, or because there wasn't time to use it?

\*\*\*

Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum was located in the Neoverse's southern region. It was a place filled with darkness, and it was where the Seven Courts were found, along with many of the Neoverse's more restless powerhouses. Burial Garden was also in this region, and the Neohuman Alliance had many rendezvous points in the area as well.

There was a phrase from the Neoverse: someone from the southern region can live anywhere in the universe.

The southern region was a chaotic place where many powerhouses gathered.

The Seven Courts were arranged in a circle, and in the middle of that circle was Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum. As such, nobody could force their way past the Seven Courts to reach the mausoleum.

The Court of Seven Names had been formed because of Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum. There would be no Seven Courts in the current era if not for Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum.

Each century, Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum would open.

The Seven Courts' descendants had been preparing for this day for a very long time.

There was a river in the Neoverse's southern region that was known as the Great Abyss, and its surging waves could corrode anything. As for the Seven Courts' Yōu family, they were located right in the middle of the Great Abyss.

A spaceship landed outside of Great Abyss. The Yōu family heir, Yōu Qin, and the elder, Yōu Ren, had arrived at the riverside, and they silently waited.

There were many disciples of the Yōu family who guarded along the edge of the river, but in truth, there was no need for any guards; the Great Abyss itself was the best form of defense.

A small boat slowly drifted over to the riverside. The boatman was an elderly man who slowly moved the oars while humming an unknown song.

When the boat arrived, Yōu Qin and Yōu Ren both bowed and greeted the elder.

"Children, come now, and board the boat," the elderly boatman said to Yōu Qin and Yōu Ren with a smile.

Yōu Qin was the Yōu family heir, and she was the strongest in her generation. Thus, it was acceptable for her to be referred to as a child. However, Elder Yōu Ren had lived for many years, and was even an Envoy. Being called a child sounded strange, yet both Yōu Qin and Yōu Ren seemed to accept this as natural. They were indeed children before this boatman.

### **Chapter 1157: The Seven Courts**

The boatman hummed a little ditty as he rowed, and the small boat disappeared into the distance as it crossed the Great Abyss.

"Yōu Qin pays her respect to the matriarch."

In front of Yōu Qin was a tall woman wearing a dark-colored robe made of a sheer fabric. "You have suffered."

The woman's voice was beguiling to the extreme, and her tone contained a mature sense of beauty. However, her face was concealed by a veil. This was the Yōu family's matriarch, Yōu Kexin.

Yōu Qin bowed, but he did not speak.

"How was your trip to the Mountain and Seas Zone?" Yōu Kexin asked indifferently.

Yōu Qin's gaze went soft. "Your daughter is still too weak. So weak that I was not a match for any of the people upon the golden screens. I lost face for our family."

Yōu Kexin slowly turned to face Yōu Qin. "No worries. You were never the Yōu family's first heir. It wasn't easy for you to achieve what you have. Your mission is simply to live and pass down the Yōu family's inheritances."

Yōu Qin's eyes betrayed her, as she did not want to accept this fate.

Yōu Kexin sighed. "Have you seen your big brother?"

Yōu Qin's body trembled and she nodded. "I have."

“Is... he still okay?” Yōu Kexin hesitated as she asked her question.

Yōu Qin felt extremely bitter. “Mother, are you asking about the status of his body? He is nothing but a dead person!”

Yōu Kexin suddenly shrilly yelled, “He’s not dead!”

“Being resurrected from the Burial Garden only revived his physical body and his innate gift! Big Brother has long since died!” Yōu Qin could not hold herself back as she shouted back.

Yōu Kexin raised a hand, and there was a loud smack as she slapped Yōu Qin to the ground.

Yōu Qin was already accustomed to such treatment, and she quickly stood back up. Blood appeared at the corner of her lips.

Yōu Kexin instantly regretted her behavior, and she opened her mouth, wanting to say something. However, she ended up remaining silent.

“If mother does not have any further orders, I will take my leave,” Yōu Qin said coldly.

Yōu Kexin stared at the girl for a while before waving a hand in a tired manner. “Go. Remember, your safety comes first in Progenitor Chen’s Mausoleum.”

Yōu Qin did not say another word and simply left.

After Yōu Qin left, Elder Yōu Ren walked up to Yōu Kexin and said, “Matriarch, you’re being too hard on her.”

Yōu Kexin responded indifferently, “If I were to reveal the expectations that I hold for her, she would risk her life to compete with those youths who stand at the top. I have already lost a son, and I don’t want to lose my daughter as well.”

Yōu Ren sighed and said no more.

“I’m the leader of the Yōu family, but I don’t even know the family’s greatest secret. Nobody was willing to explain to me what really happened in the Mountain and Seas Zone. This is truly pathetic.”

“Elder, how much do you know?” Yōu Kexin added the last part with a complicated expression on her face.

Yōu Ren shook his head and answered, “I don’t know much, only that the Mountain and Seas Zone exploded and that any further news has been locked down by the Hall of Honor.”

“Yōu Lao would definitely know.” Yōu Kexin looked out at the Great Abyss, as if trying to catch sight of the small boat.

Yōu Ren’s face instantly went pale. “Leader, you must not ask! Yōu Lao has reasons for not mentioning these things.”

Yōu Kexin harrumphed. “I know.”

She opened her mouth as if to say something else, but when she looked at Yōu Ren, no words left her mouth.

Yōu Ren knew what she wanted to say, so he said, “Burial Garden’s top disciple is Yōu Qi, and he had originally been chosen to become one of the Cosmic Five. However, he was defeated by the Outerverse’s Lu Yin. However, Yōu Qi was eventually saved by the Hall of Honor, so you can rest at ease.”

Yōu Kexin’s expression grew cold. “Lu Yin?”

Yōu Ren continued, “Yes, Lu Yin. He is an extraordinary genius who has cultivated for merely twelve years and yet is capable of competing with the top youths. If his cultivation wasn’t rather lacking, he might not be any weaker than the Cosmic five.”

“I’ve heard of him. He’s the one who unified the Outerverse. He has a strong determination,” Yōu Kexin commented.

Yōu Ren laughed hoarsely. “Unifying the Outerverse is a complete joke. If the Outerverse and Innerverse had not been separated, then not even the Hall of Honor would have been able to accomplish such a thing.”

“But he still did it,” Yōu Kexin countered.

“He was captured by the Neohuman Alliance. Shaman God himself took that youth away,” Yōu Ren said.

Yōu Kexin’s voice grew cold, “So the Neohuman Alliance actually values him so highly. It seems quite likely that he will be a public enemy of the entire Human Domain when he next appears.”

...

The land that was next to the Great Abyss was the Voidsoul Region, and that was where the Ku family resided.

Ku Wei had returned immediately from the Mountain and Seas Zone, and at this moment, he was standing before the Ku patriarch, Ku Pu.

“Father, things can’t end like this! The fight for the Astral Tower was organized too soon. If we had gone into Progenitor Chen’s Mausoleum first, and then to the Mountain and Seas Zone second, then the results would have been completely different.”

Ku Pu turned around with a stern expression on his face. “A loss is a loss. You did not make it up any mountain, but despite that, you’re boasting before me now?”

Ku Wei tried to reason with his father. “The battle for the Astral Tower has always occurred after Progenitor Chen’s Mausoleum was opened. This is the only time the order has been reversed, and it was extremely unfair to us. The Hall of Honor’s First Chosen, Shang Qing, already received his inheritance, but what about us? If we had gone to Progenitor Chen’s Mausoleum before, then our strength definitely would have risen a level, and then we could have fought against Shang Qing then.”

Ku Pu snorted derisively. “Even if your power spiked up twice, it would still be useless. The Tri-Yang Technique is invincible. Don’t do anything for now and just focus on cultivating. Do your best to become an Enlighter. Otherwise, you won’t even have a chance to enter the list.”

Ku Wei was not resigned to this, but he did not say another word as he turned around and left.



Ku Pu felt exasperated.

...

Beside the Voidsoul Region was a strange area, and planets littered this region like pieces strewn across a chessboard. If one observed this place from a bird's eye view, they would see that a full chess board had been set up here. This was the Starpiece Region, and it was where the Ce family was based.

Ce Jiu concentrated on the chessboard in front of him. He had held a piece in his hand for more than ten hours, but he still had not decided where to place it. Across from him sat Ce Laoyan, the Ce family patriarch, who was slowly sipping some tea.

Finally, Ce Jiu decided upon his move and set the piece down on the chessboard.

Ce Laoyan shook his head and said, "I'm rather disappointed. You were still too hasty."

Ce Jiu pursed his lips. "But Father, I've already spent twenty six hours considering this move!"

"So what? Back when I played chess with Elder Yue, I spent several hundred years on one move." Ce Laoyan was unhappy.

Ce Jiu was left rather speechless, and he simply replied, "I'm still young."

Ce Laoyan chuckled. "Surely you've learned something from this trip to the Mountain and Seas Zone."

Ce Jiu nodded and said, "I'm still not at the level of the Cosmic Five. For instance, the Hall of Honor's Honor Chosens and the Innerverses's Ten Arbiters are astoundingly strong. I really wonder how those monsters trained."

Ce Laoyan replied, "Our Seven Courts have no lack of talent either."

Ce Jiu nodded in agreement. "There's Xia Jiuyou, who's apparently cultivated the Nine Clones Technique. However, why can the Innerverses's Starsibyl also cultivate that technique?"

Ce Laoyan said, "You don't need to know why. Sometimes, knowledge can cause more harm than good. The only thing that you need to know is that you must do your best in Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum. However, staying alive is your top priority."

Ce Jiu replied, "I know."

Ce Laoyan looked at the chessboard and said, "I hear that not only does little fellow Lu Yin know the Yu family's secret technique, but that he also knows our Ce family secret technique?"

Ce Jiu said, "Father, I was about to tell you about this. It's true. I really don't know where he picked up the secret technique. Should we send someone to the Outerverses to investigate this matter?"

"I already sent someone out, but I don't have high hopes. An Outerverses cultivator actually managed to learn our Ce family's secret technique, which is truly bizarre," Ce Laoyan remarked with an incredulous expression.

"Could this have something to do with the Zhu family in Millions City?" Ce Jiu asked.

Ce Laoyan shook his head and explained, "The Zhu family does not know the Ce secret technique. Besides, in order to learn the Ce secret technique, one must emulate our ancestral chessboard. This is the greatest mystery at play; what if there's another, similar chessboard in the Outerverse?"

...

Beside the Starpiece Region rose a tall and lofty series of mountains that formed a mountain range that spanned all the way to the Honor Zone. People named this range Nature's Manifestation, and it was the home of the Hui family.

Nature's Manifestation was the Hui family's territory, and the Root of Intelligence had come from this place.

The Root of Intelligence had been grown by Progenitor Hui, and the Hui family's inheritances also came from him, which were the Hui secret technique and the methods to grow the Root of Intelligence. However, the effects of the Root of Intelligence that the family grew were inferior to those that had been personally grown by Progenitor Hui.

Despite that, the Roots of Intelligence that grew within Nature's Manifestation were still treasures that people sought.

Since ancient times, many wise people had emerged from the Hui family, and people associated that trend with the Root of Intelligence. The Hui family did not deny the rumors either.

Hui Santong had returned from the Mountain and Seas Zone, and he was standing on a region of arable land. A middle aged-looking man was in the field, bent at the waist as he tugged at something in the ground.

"Hahaha, I've found you! Did you think that you could hide? Nature's Manifestation is only so big. Did you really think that I wouldn't be able to find you? Hahaha!" The middle-aged man laughed heartily. He was Hui Zhi, the current Hui family patriarch.

Hui Santong looked at the Root of Intelligence in Hui Zhi's hands and said, "Congratulations, Father. You've found another one."

Hui Zhi looked at Hui Santong with displeasure and said, "You did not accomplish much during this trip to the Mountain and Seas Zone, and you were no different from a commoner. You cast aside our face!"

Hui Santong laughed. "We of the Hui family aren't barbarians. Fighting simply isn't our style."

Hui Zhi chortled. "Hah. Then tell me of your discovery."

Hui Santong said, "Even though the Hall of Honor hid the signs of the Mountain and Seas Zone's explosion, my guess is that this was a part of a chess game-like plan that has been being played out for a very long time. What's more, the mastermind should be Progenitor Hui."

Hui Zhi stared at Hui Santong in surprise. "Not bad, you've become quite smart. How'd you guess it?"

Hui Santong laughed. "It was just a wild guess."

"That's why I'm asking," Hui Zhi pressed.

Hui Santong pursed his lips. "It was simply a guess."

"Based on what?" Hui Zhi could not hold back his curiosity.

Hui Santong laughed merrily. "Father, you've already said that I guessed it. That's the only basis."

Hui Zhi was momentarily taken aback, but then he burst out laughing.

Hui Santong joined him in laughing.

"Alright, enough is enough. Get some rest. Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum is about to open. This time, I want you to carefully watch the Xia family's Xia Jiuyou. He cultivated the Nine Clones Technique, and he even managed to pull the wool over the eyes of our Hui family. Even the Starsibyl Sect's Starsibyl knows this technique. There is something very suspicious going on between them."

Hui Santong nodded, and he was about to take his leave, but then he suddenly recalled something. In a solemn voice, he asked Hui Zhi, "Father, the Ten Arbiters' performance was rather peculiar. One of them was clearly an Enlightener, but they kept their strength hidden from beginning to end, and they even lost on purpose. This surely has something to do with Starsibyl. The Starsibyl Sect has sacrificed a great deal for this competition for the Cosmic Five."

Hui Zhi replied, "Alright, I'll take a look."

"It's a pity that Lu Yin was captured by the Neohuman Alliance," Hui Santong added.

...

Beside Nature's Manifestation was an enormous landmass. This was not connected to the Honor Zone, and rather, it remained in its own space, connected to many planets that drifted nearby.

If one looked at this from a distance, they would see that this landmass was shaped like a saber.

According to the rumors, one of the clones of Progenitor Chen's Nine Clones Technique wielded a saber as a weapon. The Xia family was the descendants of Progenitor Chen, and they were masters of weapons. However, countless years had passed, and nobody from the Xia family had been able to wield this saber since. It had eventually transformed into a landmass that became the Xia family's ancestral grounds.

### **Chapter 1158: Progenitor Chen's Clones**

According to the Xia family's traditions, if any of the family's descendants were able to cause the saber to tremble, they would immediately assume the position of patriarch and would inherit everything that the Xia family had passed down.

Aside from Shang Qing, who was truly invincible within his generation due to his Tri-Yang Technique, the next most outstanding person was Xia Jiuyou with the Nine Clones Technique. He was the only person from the Xia family who had successfully cultivated this technique throughout the entire history of the Xia family.

Progenitor Chen had been acknowledged as being peerless in the universe with his nine clones. Thus, the Xia family treated Xia Jiuyou, who had also cultivated the Nine Clones Technique, as Progenitor Chen's inheritor.

The Xia patriarch, Xia Yi, peacefully looked at the sky, toward the direction of the Honor Zone. "Even as the family patriarch, I still don't know how you managed to cultivate the Nine Clones Technique. Only our family's Elder Meng knows how, and it was no wonder why Elder Meng insisted on accompanying you for this trip to the Mountain and Seas Zone. She was worried that something might happen to you."

Xia Jiuyou looked over at Xia Yi, who had an indifferent expression. He was not the patriarch's only child. Xia Yi had more than ten sons, which essentially meant that there were more than ten people in the line of succession. Xia Jiuyou's abilities, however, had shone through, and he had become the sole scion of the Xia family. As for Xia Kang, he was a clone from Xia Jiuyou's Nine Clones Technique, and the deception had been assisted by Elder Meng.

"Do you blame me for the things that I did in the past?" Xia Yi looked at Xia Jiuyou, seemingly having read the youth's mind.

Xia Jiuyou shrugged the question off. "No. Patriarch has done nothing wrong. The Xia family is the leader of the Seven Courts, so even if you have to have your sons duke it out to choose a winner, it's still not wrong."

Xia Yi stared at Xia Jiuyou. "You have to understand me. You will become the patriarch in the future. When you are standing in this place and reach a different viewpoint, your actions and choices will become different as well."

Xia Jiuyou nodded.

Xia Yi sighed. It was one thing to simply talk about such things, but in reality, those who were capable of doing so were truly brutal. Xia Yi had allowed more than ten of his sons to plot, scheme, and kill each other until only one was left: Xia Jiuyou.

At the same time, Xia Yi's thoughts wandered to Elder Meng. If not for that woman, Xia Jiuyou would have become a weapon answerable only to the patriarch himself, and the fact that Xia Jiuyou had clones would not have been hidden from the older man.

"I know that you blame me, but there is still something that I must tell you—the Nine Clones Technique originated from Progenitor Chen, and it will only grow stronger the longer you cultivate it. However, there is one fatal flaw." Xia Yi carefully observed Xia Jiuyou. "And that is the retaliation from the clones."

Xia Jiuyou's expression grew cold. He had already absorbed Xia Tian and Xia Kang, the two strongest clones, and that had allowed him to immediately break through and become an Enlightener. Originally, he had planned to absorb Xia Luo as well, but that attempt had failed. At that time, when he had been competing for the Astral Tower and fighting to become one of the Cosmic Five, Xia Jiuyou had not dwelt on the matter. However, now that he thought about it more fully, he was unable to discover any trace of Xia Luo's whereabouts.

"Progenitor Chen cultivated the Nine Clones Technique, and with his temperament, he managed to combine all nine souls into one because Progenitor Chen was a straightforward man who had no deceit.

You, however, have kept this secret from even your own family, which is actually detrimental to your cultivation progress. If one of your clones develops a stronger spirit than you, then you will most likely face that clone's retaliation and end up as his clone instead. You need to watch out." Xia Yi then left after sharing those words.

Images of his clones flashed through Xia Jiuyou's mind before finally settling on Xia Luo. Xia Luo was not a particularly strong clone at this time, but he was able to conceal himself extremely well. Furthermore, Xia Jiuyou was unable to predict Xia Luo's movements.

This won't do. I have to find him!

...

Of the Seven Courts, the Xie family was the one shrouded in darkness.<sup>1</sup>

The Bone Plains was where the Xie family's dwelling in the universe. The reason why the place was known as the Bone Plains was because there were many human and beast skeletons strewn about in this part of the universe, which had something to do with how the Xie family cultivated. To people who did not know the family, the Xie family embodied eeriness and terror.

The matriarch of the Xie family was Xie Ahua.<sup>2</sup> Her name was simple, and her name followed a somewhat different convention than the other family members.

"The Specter Clan is out and about, stirring up chaos again?" Xie Ahua looked at Xie Xiaoxian as she spoke.

The two women were both wearing revealing clothes. However, one sparkled with youthfulness while the other had a mature seductiveness.

Xie Xiaoxian stood in front of Xie Ahua as she spoke, "Yes, and he's quite powerful. He was able to control a corpse king that could undergo three transformations. Even the Mavis family members and disciples from the Cosmic Sect didn't dare to get close to him."

Xie Ahua's eyes turned cold. "You definitely have to kill him the next time you see him."

"But first I'll need to beat him..." Xie Xiaoxian muttered.

After a pause, Xie Ahua continued, saying, "You've let me down, coming back this time without a single inheritance."

Xie Xiaoxian grew rather exasperated. "You really can't blame me! It wasn't easy for me to sneak up a mountain, but the inheritance there was actually related to controlling star energy! I'm not a Lockbreaker, so I couldn't understand anything. However, that Lu Yin got the best out of everything."

Xie Ahua grew somewhat curious. "Lu Yin? The young man who united the Outerverse and directly confronted the Mavis family's Treeheart Descendant while merely a Cruiser?"

Xie Xiaoxian nodded. "That's the one. You don't know how infuriating he is! He almost let me die."

"Is he that powerful?" Xie Ahua asked

Xie Xiaoxian nodded again and seriously replied, "He's extremely powerful. And he really is only a Cruiser. If he was a Hunter, then he most likely would have been able to fight against the inheritors and scions from the top Neoverse powers."

"You're also one of those, so why aren't you at the top with the others?" Xie Ahua chided.

"I have no way to beat them! Why don't you help me find some powerful bones and give them to me?"

"Find them yourself in Progenitor Chen's grave. If you can find a piece of Progenitor Chen's bones, then you'll absolutely be invincible," Xie Ahua retorted with palpable annoyance.

Xie Xiaoxian pursed her lips.

The Seven Courts of Xia, Yōu, Yu, Ce, Ku, Hui, and Xie. These seven families had settled down in a circle that protected Progenitor Chen's grave, which was located in the middle of their combined territories.

Due to various reasons, the Yu family had disappeared. Despite that, the stars and planets that had been under the Yu family's jurisdiction were still protected by the remaining six families. They would not allow anyone else to get close to Progenitor Chen's grave.

On one particular day, in the middle of the Seven Courts, at an area that was normally peaceful, a rip tore open in space, swallowing up many pieces of earth that were connected to this space.

This was Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum.

Many people began to appear just outside the spatial tear, and the whole situation seemed as if it had been previously arranged.

The various patriarchs of the Seven Courts appeared, leading their descendants to this spatial tear. They still needed to wait for several days before they could enter.

Ku Wei was absolutely ecstatic. He had been waiting for this day for a long time. Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum had already been scoured multiple times, and everyone present was very familiar with the internal layout. A senior member of the Ku family had even drawn out a map, and Ku Wei only needed to follow the map to obtain what he needed.

This was not just true for the Ku family, as the other families of the Seven Courts were in the same situation. Even though there were many places within the tomb that were still sealed off, there were multiple choices available.

For instance, the Hui family's sole goal was to find the Root of Intelligence.

Although Progenitor Hui had raised his own Root of Intelligence, Progenitor Chen had received a few roots as well. The two ancient powerhouses hailed from similar eras, and they had even met at one point. Thus, it was no wonder that Progenitor Chen had managed to gain something from Progenitor Hui. If Progenitor Hui had not given Progenitor Chen the Root of Intelligence, then the Hui family might have never been able to learn the methods of growing a root.

As for the Xie family, their only goal was Progenitor Chen's bones.

Legend had it that one of Progenitor Chen's clones had possessed the bloodline of giants and that he had been capable of reaching an enormous size. The bones of that body had naturally grown to epic proportions. The Xie family had previously located these bones, but they had been unable to take them out. Once the Xie family managed to do so, even if it was just a small bone fragment, their powers would surely skyrocket.

Apart from all these treasures, Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum also had ancient battle techniques that he had personally gathered. According to the legends passed down, this grave even held the oldest, most powerful secret technique of the Progenitors. This rumor alone made the grave a fatal attraction for the Seven Courts.

It was not just the Seven Courts that valued the mausoleum, as the entire universe lusting after the treasures in there. However, the Court of Seven Names was extremely strong, and they had already received inheritances from Progenitors. They possessed secret techniques, power vessels, and powerhouses that served as guardians of the tomb. Not even the Hall of Honor dared to make reckless moves against the united Seven Courts. Hence, Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum had always remained in the Seven Courts' possession.

The various patriarchs of the Seven Courts led their scions to just outside Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum.

Ku Pu, the Ku family patriarch, looked over at Hui Zhi and said, "Brother Hui, what exactly happened in the Mountain and Seas Zone? Can you tell us?"

The other patriarchs also turned to Hui Zhi.

However, Hui Zhi merely smiled and said, "If Brother Ku does not know, then how could I?"

Ku Pu chuckled. "Come now, all of us know that your inheritance is from Progenitor Hui. How could your Hui family not have made any preparations for an event as massive as this?"

At this time, the Ce family patriarch, Ce Laoyan, spoke up. "Ku Pu, you're just jealous. How could they know everything, even if they are very wise? Besides, even if they knew, why should they tell you? Don't assume things of others just because you're such a dunce. Hmph."

Ku Pu was outraged. "Ce Laoyan, don't put on pretenses! Don't you also want to know?"

Ce Laoyan laughed hoarsely. "They'll tell you if they want to. Are you going to force them?"

Hui Zhi only smiled. On the surface, Ce Laoyan seemed to be defending him, but in reality, Ce Laoyan was trying to force Hui Zhi's hand.

Yōu Kexin, the Yōu family matriarch, was nearby, and she quietly said, "When the time comes for you to know, then you will naturally know. The fact that you don't know at this time is because you don't possess the right to know."

Her words instantly offended two people. However, Ku Pu and Ce Laoyan were not the least bit angry. They understood this woman, Yōu Kexin, too well. After the death of her son, her entire demeanor had changed. There were times when she spoke without thinking.

“Hah hah. Every time we gather, I’m able to see you people fight like this. Back then, when our own patriarchs led us here, you all ended up squabbling like this as well. It’s quite nostalgic.” Xie Ahua beamed, and even her eyes smiled.

Ku Pu’s eyes flashed. “Back then, we weren’t the only ones to gather for Progenitor Chen’s Mausoleum opening.”

He then turned to look at the taciturn Xia Yi. “Brother Xia, will Burial Garden’s people come again?”

“Even if they are coming, it’s nothing to be surprised about. Even though we Seven Courts stand guard, Burial Garden’s people can still easily enter. They have already done so several times in recent years. Nobody can completely stop the four commanders, the Deathly Quartet of the Dead Regiment,” Ce Laoyan said.

Xia Yi spoke, “They most likely won’t be coming this time, as they would have informed us in advance.”

The others heaved sighs of relief.

While it might seem like Progenitor Chen’s Mausoleum belonged solely to the Seven Courts, there were always anomalies. It just so happened that Burial Garden was one of these anomalies.

All of the members of Burial Garden were able to turn transparent and be hidden from others. The stronger the powerhouse from Burial Garden, the more undetectable their presence would be. As for the Deathly Quartet, they were all top tier powerhouses. Even if they entered the interior of the Hall of Honor, not many people would be capable of sensing them, not to mention trespassing in the Seven Courts’ sealed region.

Burial Garden was truly an anomaly in the universe.

Ku Lei and Ku Wei stood behind Ku Pu. After hearing his elders’ words, Ku Wei grew somewhat frightened. He had seen Burial Garden’s dead people when he had last been outside Progenitor Chen’s Mausoleum, and he would never ever forget the feeling, as it was too disturbing.

The fact that that charlatan, Xuan Jiu, had predicted this course of events was a miracle.

Ku Lei glared at Ku Wei. He did not understand how this fellow had made it to Progenitor Chen’s Mausoleum. The other patriarchs had only brought their scions, but the Ku family had actually brought two youths.

### **Chapter 1159: Liberation**

“Hey, Brother Ku, why did you bring two children along? Don’t tell me, are you letting both of them in?” Xie Ahua asked Ku Pu.

Everyone switched their attention to Ku Wei.

Ku Wei immediately felt the pressure mount, but he shrugged it off. He unconsciously smiled as he felt rather afraid.

Ku Pu indifferently replied, “Tell them yourself.”



Ku Wei cleared his throat, stepped forward, and raised his hands. "Seniors, fellow brothers and sisters, my family sent me to the Outerverse on a mission, and I accidentally chanced upon the Yu family's remaining bloodline there. An elder from the Yu family decided to give me their slot to enter Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum. So... I'm here."

The people around were surprised, and they all carefully studied Ku Wei.

In a deep tone, Xia Yi asked, "You found the remnants of the Yu family? Tell me, who's alive?"

Ku Wei was rather scared of Xia Yi, as this patriarch was known to be a ruthless person who was harsh even to his own sons. "No- I don't know who they are specifically. He's an elder who spends most of his time in cryostatis."

"Did you learn the Yu secret technique?" Yōu Kexin asked Ku Wei.

Ku Wei gulped and shook his head. "No. I only obtained a slot."

"How did Lu Yin learn the Yu secret technique?" Xie Xiaoxian brightly asked.

Ku Wei shook his head. "I don't know."

"Are you not acquainted with Lu Yin?" Xie Xiaoxian was rather puzzled.

Ku Wei proudly replied, "Of course I am! I'm also the captain of the Tenth Squad of the Outerverse's Great Yu Empire!"

"Stop embarrassing yourself," Ku Pu scolded the youth.

Ku Wei jumped in fright and fell silent.

"So you're pretty close to Lu Yin, then? Do you know how he learned our Ce secret technique?" Ce Jiu asked.

Ce Laoyan turned around to glare at Ce Jiu. "Hold your tongue!"

Ce Jiu hung his head, and Ku Wei pretended to not have heard the question.

Xia Jiuyou eyed Ku Wei with curiosity. "Brother Ku, with what you know of Lu Yin, do you think that he'll be able to escape after being captured by the Neohuman Alliance?"

Everyone looked at Ku Wei to hear his answer.

While Lu Yin was just a child in their eyes, his very existence influenced too many things. Aside from his feat of unifying the Outerverse, he was also supported by Eversky Island, and he was also one of the Hall of Honor's Honor Chosen who had been nominated by Yuan Shi. Due to his twelve short years of cultivation, no one believed that there were any powerhouses behind him guiding him. Even the patriarchs of the Seven Courts had specifically sought out information regarding this youth.

Ku Wei was placed under incredible pressure as all the family leaders looked at him. He wished that Lu Yin could appear at this moment and remove this burden from him. The two of them had previously agreed to explore Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum together by kicking Ku Lei off of the list of eligible participants. They had been brothers in arms, but Ku Wei had been left alone.

Ku Wei cleared his throat as he looked around the crowd. He saw Ku Lei's disdain, Yōu Kexin's indifference, Xie Xiaoxian's ridicule, and Xia Jiuyou's arrogance, which enraged Ku Wei. Suddenly, courage surged through him, and he solemnly replied, "What nonsense. Of course he can."

Xia Jiuyou's brows furrowed, and his expression towards Ku Wei immediately grew unkind.

This guy's just asking for a beating.

However, the rest of the crowd was rather surprised. This cowardly fellow actually dared to speak in such a manner?

Ku Wei felt nothing but regret after spouting off. He had clearly offended Xia Jiuyou. Still, he had been unable to stomach any more of Xia Jiuyou's arrogance.

Does he really think that he's invincible after learning the Nine Clones Technique?

Ku Wei also hated the fact that the women present were disregarding both him and Lu Yin. Not to mention, there was also Ku Lei's look of contempt.

I received a slot based on my own merit!

Ku Pu looked at Ku Wei in confusion. Originally, the patriarch had not favored this disciple of the Ku family, but he had come to rather appreciate the young fellow.

He's got the guts to speak loudly. Not too bad.

"Enough with the questions. Get back," Ku Pu ordered.

Ku Wei tottered back to Ku Pu's side, his eyes lit up with excitement. When he saw Ku Pu's eyes, Ku Wei knew that his action had been appreciated. Not once has the patriarch ever looked at me like this! It was always only Ku Lei, even though I'm second only to him.

However, on this day, Ku Wei had seen a glimmer of hope, and he suddenly felt liberated.

Ku Lei quietly said to Ku Wei, "Once we enter Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum, you must fight off anyone who tries to hold me back. I won't treat you unfairly in the future."

"Go and play by yourself! Big Bro Ku Wei wants the best inheritance," Ku Wei reflexively retorted.

Ku Lei grew furious and he glared at Ku Wei. "You dare to talk to me like that?"

Ku Wei smacked his lips and was quite frightened. Still, since he had already spoken, he forced himself to muster up all his courage and simply looked away.

Does that Xie family scion know no shame? She's so pretty, but she's wearing so little. Still, I like it!

Ku Lei only grew more furious after seeing Ku Wei's reaction. "Just wait. People always grow stronger after entering Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum. You, however, will forever be crushed by me!"

Ku Wei was extremely upset at these words, so he replied, "Big Bro Wei likes girls, so go and play by yourself."

Ku Lei clenched his fist and snorted in derision.

After speaking back to Ku Lei twice, Ku Wei seemed to have become fully liberated. He was no longer afraid of Ku Lei, so he turned around and teased Ku Lei with a grin, which nearly caused Ku Lei to erupt in rage and attack.

“No one from Burial Garden is coming this time, though the Hall of Honor will be present,” Xia Yi spoke once more in a low voice.

Xia Yi’s words shocked the juniors who were present. The Hall of Honor was actually able to send their people here? Based on what? The united might of the Seven Courts was able to ward off the Hall of Honor, but the Hall of Honor was still somehow participating? This was just too bizarre.

But none of the patriarchs present were surprised.

“We have no choice but to give this one up,” Hui Zhi commented.

Yōu Kexin looked at Hui Zhi and asked, “Is it worth it?”

Hui Zhi replied in a somber voice, “Extremely.”

“Care to elaborate?” Ku Pu enquired.

“I can’t.” Hui Zhi smiled.

Ku Pu was thoroughly unhappy to hear this reply, as it was a repeat of what had happened when he had asked about the events at the Mountain and Seas Zone. The patriarchs were not aware of the reason why the Hall of Honor had been given a slot at this time. All that they had been told was that there was a list of names, all of whom were placed under observation. The strongest powerhouse of each of their families had told them that a slot had to be given for a person, but they had no idea why.

Ce Laoyan was rather sullen, as Hui Zhi was still staying silent about what he knew.

“I can divulge a little.” Hui Zhi looked around at the crowd as he solemnly explained, “Those who did not make it onto the observation list have almost zero chance of becoming a Progenitor. As for those who are on that list, even their chances are just over one percent.”

Xie Ahua was rather shocked. “Do you mean that we have a chance?”

“Of course. The Sixth Mainland is already on the verge of destruction,” Ku Pu said.

Hui Zhi smiled. “And that is why, while our chances are greater than zero, they are still infinitely close to it. If the false sky of the Sixth Mainland were still present, then we would have no chance at all. As for the people who made it onto the list and were placed under observation, their chances of becoming a Progenitor is over one percent.”

Xia Yi and the rest were rather shocked. This meant that the person who had received this extra slot was not someone controlled by the skies.

How had they managed to do that?

Hui Zhi continued, "For this distant and elusive chance, our Hui family is willing to gamble everything that we have. Also, this list is not limited to the Human Domain. The Technocracy and Beast Domain each have their own additions. Does everyone present understand the importance of this?"

Only a fool would not understand after hearing so much.

To put it simply, this observation list belonged to the entire Fifth Mainland. The Hall of Honor was not the only one controlling this list. Rather, they merely had the right to choose who could be placed on the list.

This was the Hall of Honor, the ruler of the Human Domain.

Countless years had passed since the Seven Courts had banded together to repel all outsiders, but they had just as many internal conflicts as external ones. In the Mountain and Seas Zone, Ce Jiu and Ku Lei had fought each other, and there were many other examples to be found.

Over the next few days, while everyone waited for Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum to fully open, the patriarchs mocked and ridiculed each other, leaving Ku Lei and the other youths quite stunned. They had never seen their normally stern family heads act in such a manner.

All of the bickering came to a stop the moment the people from the Hall of Honor arrived.

The Seven Courts were always united against outsiders, but especially so against the Hall of Honor.

The Hall of Honor's Mu En was the ambassador this time. He was the Judicial Commissioner of the Interstellar Supreme Court, the Virtue of Righteousness, and he had a rather good relationship with people as he was the type of person who smiled at everyone he met. He left people feeling quite comfortable.

Lei Nü and Shu Jing followed behind Mu En.

This was not outside of the Seven Courts' expectations. The strongest Honor Chosen was Shang Qing, and he had no need to obtain any inheritances from Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum. As for Lei Nü, she was a bit weaker than the First Chosen, but not by much. Shu Jing was the Third Honor Chosen, though he was clearly inferior to Shang Qing and Lei Nü, and it was natural that he had been sent over.

Lei Nü stared at Xia Jiuyou the moment she arrived. She had been beaten pretty badly when fighting against him in the Mountain and Seas Zone, and she had barely managed to do any damage to him.

Xia Jiuyou returned her look, and his expression sharpened.

Although he had beaten her, Lei Nü's strength was not something that he could ignore.

"So, is this Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum?" Mu En looked at the spatial tear in surprise.

Hui Zhi smiled and replied, "Judicial Commissioner, please wait a bit longer. Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum will open soon."

"There's no hurry, no hurry at all." Mu En smiled. Receiving an opportunity to enter Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum was extremely precious.

Two more days went by, and after a cold gust of wind swept through the region where everyone was waiting, the rift widened. Xia Jiuyou, who was standing behind Xia Yi, immediately shot forward. Ku Lei also moved like lightning as he flashed through the opening, as did the rest of the youths, all at similar speeds.

Lei Nü and Shu Jing managed to stay right behind them. They were at an extreme disadvantage in this place, as they had no information concerning Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum at all, which was why Mu En had told both of them to stay close to one of the Seven Courts' inheritors. That would increase their chances of finding something good within the tomb.

Lei Nü had her eyes on Hui Santong. Progenitor Hui's descendants were all extremely intelligent, so it seemed quite likely that his descendants would also find plenty of opportunities in this tomb.

As for Shu Jing, he had chosen to follow Xie Xiaoxian. He wanted to raise his physical strength, and the Xie family were known to excel in this area.

Once they entered Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum, there was a dark, black dome looming over their heads, and the inside resembled that of a normal mausoleum. Suddenly, a loud whistling sound came from far off in the distance. Xia Jiuyou immediately ducked, and the air where he had just been standing warped as a giant club swung down. He raised his eyes and saw a giant over a thousand meters tall.

"It's the guardian giant!" Hui Santong shouted as the club came smashing down towards his head. His eyes flashed as a golden light flashed as a shooting star appeared beneath his feet, sending him away.

The club was swung about more than once as the guardian giant roared and flailed his club recklessly.

Yōu Qin was the first to be struck, and she spat a mouthful of blood that sprayed all around her. Next, Ku Wei and Xie Xiaoxian were hit. Shu Jing, who had been flying in a straight line, was also hit, and he nearly fainted from the impact. He was just too easy of a target.

Ku Lei transformed into lightning and easily avoided all the attacks.

As for Ce Jiu, he used the Ce secret technique and simply vanished.

### **Chapter 1160: An Opening And Conditions**

Lei Nü used the club's momentum to shoot towards Hui Santong. The trail of golden light that had appeared beneath Hui Santong's feet allowed him to move extremely quickly, and Lei Nü did not want to lose sight of him.

The guardian giant bellowed at the ground as everyone split up. Nobody wanted to face the guardian giant head on, and their decision was made based on experience that had been handed down from the Seven Courts' predecessors.

Although the guardian giant didn't have any battle technique and also could not use star energy, its physical might was something rarely seen in the universe. When it had first come into existence, it had already possessed enough physical power to destroy planets, and it had only grown larger and more impressive as time passed. An adult guardian giant was strong enough to force an Enlightener to be serious. Otherwise, Progenitor Chen would have never used one of his clones to absorb the giants' bloodline.

One guardian giant was enough to drive these invaders back.

Three figures appeared in the distance. They were led by Silver with Lu Yin and Beast following behind him, each hidden beneath a black robe.

“Lord Shaman God’s space transfer technique is getting better and better. As long as we have the coordinates, he can be quite accurate. The teleportation of this sourcebox array is really powerful.” Silver felt rather rueful.

Lu Yin stood behind him, death energy filling his eyes. Shock spread through him as he listened to Silver’s words.

It’s no wonder how Silver and Beast entered the Mountain and Seas Zone before and Progenitor Chen’s Mausoleum now. There’s actually a teleportation array that ignores the laws of space and time. But just having the coordinates? Does that mean that there’s someone who’s cooperating with the Neohuman Alliance? That must be how they obtained the coordinates for the Mountain and Seas Zone and Progenitor Chen’s Mausoleum.

Off in the distance, the guardian giant continued to roar.

Silver’s lips curled up as he said, “Look, captain, that guardian giant is a mutant from a certain ancient race of giants. That ancient giant race was rumored to have been completely annihilated by the Sixth Mainland just because one of Progenitor Chen’s clones used their bloodline to turn himself into a giant.”

Lu Yin showed no emotion on his face. Silver had been talking the moment they arrived, and he was treating Lu Yin like a normal person.

Lu Yin actually was a normal person, and he could have shedded his disguise the moment they arrived. However, Lu Yin still had not thought through how he could account for his whereabouts to the Seven Courts. On top of that, he wanted to know what Silver needed from this place, and Lu Yin also had very little knowledge of Progenitor Chen’s Mausoleum.

Oh right, did Ku Wei make it here? Lu Yin was rather looking forward to it.

...

At the same time that Progenitor Chen’s Mausoleum opened up, the Sixth Mainland’s Daosource Sect had started to crumble.

“Why have these creatures appeared here? Weren’t they eradicated long ago?”

“Why would these creatures come to our Sixth Mainland?”

“It’s the Fifth Mainland! They’re the ones who caused the universe to crumble!”

“The Fifth Mainland... Either you or us will die!”

...

Blood soaked the Sixth Mainland as countless people died. As for those who survived, they were utterly desperate.

With the fall of the Daosource Sect, an indescribable wave of powerful energy coursed through the entire Sixth Mainland, and their three Progenitors appeared. With their might, they managed to force all of the monstrosities out of the Sixth Mainland and erect a barrier centered around the three of them that surrounded the entire Sixth Mainland.

The barrier that they had created started above the Mara River, and beyond the barrier was the blackhole that had been created by the explosion of the Mountain and Seas Zone. On the other side of the barrier, there were countless pairs of crimson eyes staring inwards at them.

The Progenitor of Combat looked out at the endless horde of creatures outside the barrier and roared, "Why has this calamity befallen our Sixth Mainland? What happened? And why?"

The Progenitor of Secret Arts struggled to find the words, but then he said, "This was the result of a scheme by the Fifth Mainland. We were too careless."

"We should have destroyed the Fifth Mainland's Neoverse back then! Then all of their scheming would have ended!" the Progenitor of Bloodlines roared with rage.

"The plan behind this could not have been devised by the current Fifth Mainland. There was definitely a Progenitor behind this," the Progenitor of Combat observed.

The Progenitor of Secret Arts concurred. "The only person who could have done this was the Fifth Mainland's Progenitor Hui."

"How dare a dead person from the Fifth Mainland scheme against us? Once this ordeal is over, we need to invade the Fifth Mainland again and wash its lands with blood!" The Progenitor of Combat was clearly livid.

The Progenitor of Secret Arts looked at creatures massing outside the barrier that stretched endlessly into the distance. There were existences that even the three of them were reluctant to fight, and there were even some that they knew they could not match up against. This was a calamity in the truest form. Would they be able to fend this off? Perhaps, but at what cost?

The Sixth Mainland was the only one of the six mainlands that was still intact, but at this moment, they faced the same dire straits as the rest. Perhaps this was a destined outcome.

Had they made the right choice during the ancient war in the past?

Progenitor Hui had seen past the sands of time, and with this unique arrangement, he had helped the Fifth Mainland escape from this calamity, and they had even retaliated against the Sixth Mainland for its actions in the ancient war. He had caused the Sixth Mainland to suffer this time.

While Progenitor Hui had done his best to plan for the future, nothing could ever go exactly as planned. His scheme had deviated, or perhaps it had changed because his successors had been the ones to execute the plan. This had led to the blackhole having a small opening. This opening also just happened to connect the Fifth Mainland and the Sixth Mainland.

This opening was not large, and it only allowed a few people to pass through at the same time. The three Progenitors had noticed it, as had the owners of the countless crimson eyes. The monsters howled and shot forth towards the opening.

The three Progenitors could help the Fifth Mainland block the opening, but they did not do so. To them, it was better for the Fifth Mainland to suffer than the Sixth Mainland.

Suddenly, a powerful surge of bloodthirsty energy swept around the barrier and shot towards the opening.

This overwhelming force of this bloodthirst shocked even the three Progenitors. Although the power level of this energy did not reach that of a Progenitor, it was definitely at the level of a Semi-Progenitor. That, combined with the unique fighting style of these creatures, meant that this power was enough to overwhelm everyone aside from the Sixth Mainland's three Progenitors.

Just as this bundle of energy was about to pass through the opening and enter the Fifth Mainland, a figure appeared, raised its hands, and then pressed down. The surge of energy gradually dissipated before eventually disappearing.

The three Progenitors looked towards the opening and at the figure who had appeared, and they could not believe their eyes. "Impossible! Why are you here?"

The figure stood in front of the opening, blocking the horde of creatures. With a wave of a hand, many of the creatures simply vanished. The figure then looked at the three Progenitors and said, "We need to talk."

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Right when the bloodthirsty surge of energy was approaching the opening of the Fifth Mainland, Arch-Elder Zen opened his eyes in utter shock.

How?

He took one step and vanished into thin air.

Not only did Arch-Elder Zen leave the Neoverse at that time, but Highsage Grandmaster, a woman from the Mavis family, and other apex experts also did the same. In total, seven people moved out. They all made their way towards the Mara River, the entrance of Starfall Sea. The opening was in that place.

When Arch-Elder Zen and the others arrived, they saw that the opening in the blackhole barrier had been blocked by the three Progenitors using the barrier that they had set up. The seven people stood face to face with these three supreme beings.

A Progenitor represented a realm, a boundary, and immeasurable time. Even more than that, they represented a sort of faith.

The Fifth Mainland had no Progenitors, so even just the Progenitor of Combat was enough to leave the Fifth Mainland in despair.

The only being who could rival a Progenitor was another Progenitor.

While a Semi-Progenitor and a Progenitor were only separated by a single word, the difference between them was like heaven and earth.



Arch-Elder Zen and the other six people stood in front of the opening in the barrier as they looked past the opening and into the Sixth Mainland and at the three Progenitors. The three Progenitors were also looking at the small group.

“We pay our respects to the Progenitors.” Arch-Elder Zen and the other six people bowed. Even though the two sides were enemies, the seven people still had to maintain decorum when confronting a Progenitor.

Across from them, the Progenitor of Combat was rather surprised. “The Fifth Mainland actually has seven Semi-Progenitors? That’s more than our Sixth Mainland. You guys have concealed yourselves quite well.”

The Progenitor of Bloodlines spoke up, “You guys are no doubt from the Fifth Mainland that produced the Nine Mountains and Eight Seas. We have belittled you.”

The Progenitor of Secret Arts did not speak, but the shock in his eyes was apparent.

These three Progenitors stood at the top of the Sixth Mainland’s hierarchy. Beneath them were the Four Emyreans, who were each Emyrean Imprinters. While this did not mean that there were only four Emyrean Imprinters, there were still fewer than seven of them. On top of that, an Emyrean Imprinter was not at the same level as a Semi-Progenitor.

This meant that if the three Progenitors were disregarded, there were more Semi-Progenitors in the Fifth Mainland than the Sixth Mainland. Also, the Fifth Mainland sorely outnumbered the Sixth Mainland when it came to people at the Emyrean Imprinter level.

“We express our gratitude to the three Progenitors for helping us protect this opening,” Arch-Elder Zen and the other six people said. However, they did not understand why the three Progenitors had chosen to help them, as they were technically enemies. If the opening was not blocked, then the Fifth Mainland would have become the crimson-eyed creatures’ feasting grounds. This would only serve to benefit the Sixth Mainland, so the seven powerhouses did not understand why the Progenitors had done such a thing.

The Progenitor of Bloodlines derisively snorted. “There’s no need for thanks. We have our own terms.”

“Please, speak your mind,” Arch-Elder Zen solemnly requested.

The Progenitor of Bloodlines was rather unwilling, but he finally spoke up, “Even if the three of us tried to hold back those creatures, we might not be able to endure. Thus, we need to have our people transferred into the Fifth Mainland.”

Arch-Elder Zen and the other six looked at each other. They were not surprised by this at all, as it was the only logical reason why the three Progenitors would protect this opening for the Fifth Mainland.

The seven people remained silent and quickly calculated the advantages and disadvantages of the Sixth Mainland moving into the Fifth Mainland.

The Progenitor of Combat spoke in a cold voice, “Agree, and we will help you block this opening. If you don’t, then we’ll remove our barrier, and you can guard it yourselves. With your strength and the inheritances that your predecessors from the ancient past have left behind, it’s possible that you’ll be

able to fight against the creatures and perish together. That would also benefit us. No matter what your answer is, we'll still be able to accept it. Choose now."

Finally Arch-Elder Zen answered in exasperation, "Very well, we agree. Where are you three Progenitors looking to move to?"

The Progenitor of Bloodlines replied, "We won't make things hard for you. The Outerverse will suffice."

Arch-Elder Zen and the others heaved sighs of relief. They had been afraid that the three Progenitors would demand the Innaverse, which would spell trouble for them. Although the Innaverse was not as important as the Neoverse, it was still home to several powerful factions. For instance, there was the Sword Sect, the Daynight clan, the Wen family, and a few others. These factions had members who were powerful enough to enter the upper echelons of the Hall of Honor, and such a decision could not be made lightly. However, the Outerverse was different.

"The Outerverse is rather huge, and it will not be easy to find a suitable place for your Sixth Mainland. Please give us some time," Arch-Elder Zen requested.

"That's acceptable. The opening is merely this large, so even if we wanted to move quickly, it would take some time. However, there's another condition." The Progenitor of Combat stared down at Arch-Elder Zen and the others. "You all are in possession of several Matters of Origin, aren't you?"

The expressions of Arch-Elder Zen and the others instantly changed, and they all grew wary.

The Progenitor of Bloodlines ridiculed, "Don't panic. We won't make any moves against you. Since we have agreed to cooperate, we will demonstrate cooperative behavior. However, we are quite curious. If you guys had one Matter of Origin, then it could be explained as your predecessors leaving it from the ancient past. However, you are in possession of more than one, and one of them has an aura that is not very dense or strong, which means that you only obtained it after Progenitor Chen and the rest perished. How did you get your hands on such a thing?"

Arch-Elder Zen and the others all remained silent.

The three Progenitors stared at them in silence.

Before long, after Arch-Elder Zen and the others finished considering the situation, they helplessly decided to share a few matters with the three Progenitors. Now that the lives of those in the Fifth Mainland had been placed in the hands of these three Progenitors, there were some secrets that needed to be shared. The three Progenitors had been the ones to gain the upper hand this time.