

### **Chapter 1201: The End Of The Inheritance Corridor**

Zhuo Daynight's image on the ancestral plaque had become a terrible eyesore to the majority of the Nightking clan after she had taken the top position away from Nightking Zhenwu. Just below her was Lu Yin, who was an even worse eyesore. Their ancestral plaque was topped by a traitor and an enemy.

Zhanlong Daynight ranked third, but he had also moved to the Outerverse with Zhuo Daynight, which made him as well as everyone from the Daynight clan more traitors.

The fact that these three had claimed the top ranks on the Daynight clan's plaque in their ancestral grounds sent the entire family into a depressive mood. None of their youths were able to surpass these three, not even Nightqueen Yanqing, who had risen to fourth place.

Ever since Lu Yin had killed Nightking Zhenwu and used the Daynight clan as a stepping stone to enter the Neoverse, the Daynight clan had completely sealed themselves off. They could no longer compare to their former glory days when all of them had been tyrannical and proud. Their insufferable arrogance had drastically diminished since their loss.

Even when Lu Yin had been captured by the Neohuman Alliance, the Daynight clan still had not uttered even a single word. Everyone was focused on the images on the plaque in the ancestral grounds, determined to surpass the top two.

No matter how despicable or conceited the Daynight clan might behave, the pride that they held in their own clan was something that ran deep in their blood. They were the strongest clan in the universe, and they would not allow anyone else to step on that pride. As long as they were unable to surpass Lu Yin and the two traitors to the clan, then the Daynight clan would remain sealed away from the universe.

Even pitiful people would have some repulsive traits just as detestable people also possess some respectable traits. The Daynight clan's methods of handling things were frowned upon by the various top powers of the Innerverse.

Numerous Daynight clan members were sitting cross-legged beneath the plaque in the ancestral grounds. Everyone here was trying their best to better comprehend the clan's battle techniques and push their images up the stone plaque. People occasionally coughed up blood, but they still persisted in their training.

Directly beneath the plaque, Nightking Dijiang personally kept watch over everyone, though his eyes were fixed on Nightqueen Yanqing, who was sitting in the distance.

After Nightking Zhenwu's death, Nightqueen Yanqing had become the Daynight clan's greatest hope due to her excellent talent. Although she was severely lacking compared to her brother, it was still possible for her to improve her talent.

Moving on, Nightking Dijian's eyes turned to Nightking Gu, and the old man silently shook his head. Nightking Gu had long since graduated from the younger generation, and his potential was now continually declining rather than improving.

The old man then looked at each of the other members of the Nightking Clan in turn, but he only felt displeasure concerning them. He also turned to look at the Daynight clan members, though he just shook his head yet again.

The Daynight clan's current younger generation had produced many gifted prodigies, but the more experienced clan elders had once said that the entire generation's luck had been seized by Zhenwu. However, that was not actually the case. Zhuo Daynight, Zhanlong Daynight, and even Nightqueen Yanqing all possessed extraordinary talent. However, the clan's most gifted youths had all betrayed the clan with the sole exception of Nightqueen Yanqing.

As Nightking Dijiang recalled how he had been suppressed by Highsage Shenwei, the Daynight patriarch's expression grew sinister, and a murderous intent surged forth, chilling the entire ancestral grounds.

Beneath the plaque, most of the people from the Daynight clan felt cold as chills ran down their spines, but they all remained silent out of fear. They had felt this oppressive aura emanate out from their patriarch multiple times recently, and they constantly felt like they were balancing upon the precipice between life and death.

Nearby, the elders of the Nightking clan sighed as one, though they did not dare to make any sounds.

To some degree, each and every one of the elders felt responsible for how they had allowed a mere child to overturn their great Daynight clan.

Nightking Yuanjing's eyes were icy. Lu Yin, you bastard, he thought. If he had known that such a day would come, then he would have eliminated that disastrous child early on. But unfortunately, it was already too late.

These thoughts filled through Nightking Yuanjing's mind as he raised his head to look up at the stone plaque. He stared at Lu Yin's image so intently that the elder almost seemed to want to devour the youth.

Suddenly, Lu Yin's image flickered, and right after that, he replaced Zhuo Daynight's image at the peak of the stone plaque.

Nightking Yuanjing was dumbstruck, and he stared at the image in utter disbelief, as if he had seen a ghost.

Similarly, the others also quickly took note of this change. Countless members of the Daynight clan continuously entered the inheritance stone to improve their comprehension of the clan's battle techniques even though they were risking their lives. This was because every single last one of them was completely focused on taking one of the three top spots on the stone plaque. However, just now, Lu Yin had shot to the top of the plaque, seizing the position that should have belonged to Nightking Zhenwu. Of course, everyone would immediately notice such a change.

A solemn silence filled the Daynight clan's ancestral grounds as everyone present looked up at the peak of the plaque in a daze.

Nightking Dijiang was only momentarily stunned before a killing intent filled his eyes like never before.

Zhuo Daynight had taken a full day to comprehend the Dayking clan's ultimate technique and reach the peak rankings on the stone plaque, but Lu Yin had actually managed to surpass her. What exactly had he comprehended? Could it possibly be...?

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The long corridor that the inheritance stone gave access to was as dark as ever. This was not Lu Yin's first time here, and he was actually quite familiar with it. So, he just continued to move straight forward.

In the past, he had traveled quite far down the corridor, so this time, he quickly returned to where he had previously reached his limit, which was also where he had comprehended Night Advent.

He continued to advance further into the long corridor, steadily moving towards the deepest regions.

As Lu Yin walked down the corridor, amazing strikes appeared before his eyes. These were not physical attacks, but rather attacks condensed from spiritual force. This was Skybreaker.

Lu Yin had not expected that just one more step would allow him to learn Skybreaker, and his eyes radiated excitement as he quietly recited the Stonewall Scriptures, keeping his eyes fixed forward.

He was well aware of Skybreaker's awesome power, as he had suffered at its hands more than once before. If not for the Stonewall Scriptures, Lu Yin actually would have died to this technique long ago, but at this moment, he had an opportunity to learn it for himself.

Nightking Zhenwu's ultimate technique had also been the battle technique that the First Nightking had used to subdue his generation. At this moment, the technique had revealed itself and bared its mysteries to Lu Yin.

There were two ways to learn the Daynight clan's inherited techniques. The first was to enter the long corridor and allow the will of the inheritance stone to bestow the techniques upon oneself as a member of the Daynight clan, This was how Zhanlong Daynight had managed to comprehend the Daynight Restoration Technique during his time in the corridor.

The other method was to forge ahead by relying on individual ability. As long as a person could force their way into the depths of the corridor, they would be able to learn any technique available to the Daynight clan. This was the method that Lu Yin was using; since he was not an actual member of the Daynight clan, no technique would be bestowed upon him by the corridor. So, he needed to acquire them by force.

After an unknown amount of time, the scenery changed before Lu Yin's eyes as the corridor vanished. He was thrilled. So this is Skybreaker.

He raised a hand, and a visible, strange power manifested. It was his spiritual force, and it was now able to take on the form of slashes that tore through the void. Although Lu Yin had not reached the same level of mastery over the technique as Nightking Zhenwu, there was still a visible amount of strange power, which was spiritual force, gathered around him. It then morphed into a series of slashes that tore through the void. Although his Skybreaker had not yet reached the level of Nightking Zhenwu's, Lu Yin's control was still significantly better than most people's.

Ever since he had learned Night Advent, Lu Yin had felt that its power was a bit lacking, but now, he had finally obtained a powerful offensive spiritual force technique.

He did not stop there, instead continuing forward, as he was only an arm's length away from the wall that marked the end of the long corridor.

An endless amount of spiritual force repelled him when he tried to proceed further, and Lu Yin could not understand how a youth could possibly withstand such an intense spiritual force. Even the old monsters in the Daynight clan who had nearly become Envoys might not be able to endure this much spiritual pressure.

Luckily for him, Lu Yin was able to hold on due to the Stonewall Scriptures and his comprehension of the Inception Array, which had given him a deeper understanding of spiritual force.

He raised his foot to take another step, and this was the single step that had caused him to surpass Zhuo Daynight and claim the top position on the stone plaque in the Daynight clan's ancestral grounds.

He was right at the end of the corridor, and Lu Yin saw a series of murals on the walls, though he could not understand them. They seemed to be portraying ancient stories, something about a war. Lu Yin took a closer look since he still was unable to receive any sort of inheritance or battle technique. All he could do was stare at the mural on the corridor walls and observe the vivid lines that made up each detail. He saw creatures of all shapes and sizes as well as—clouds.

Lu Yin's expression grew somber as he stared intently at a "cloud" symbol engraved on a girl's clothing in the mural. He had seen this symbol in the Mountain and Seas Zone's tablet world, on the body of a spiritual force figure. This symbol represented the faction behind the person who had used the Dream Finger.

Lu Yin had not expected to see this symbol painted on the walls of the Daynight clan's stone of inheritance's corridor. This symbol clearly represented some sort of faction or belief, and it was also a power that triggered his deepest hatred.

What exactly did this symbol represent?

Lu Yin's breathing grew ragged as he forcefully resisted the overpowering spiritual force all so that he could take a closer look. He stepped forward once more, and this time, he managed to place his hand atop the mural at the end of the corridor. At the same time, he tore through the void with a single finger, and his pupils constricted. The Dream Finger?

That's not it. Lu Yin's expression wavered. The finger that he had just seen encompassed both day and night, and it was clearly a spiritual force battle technique that belonged to the Daynight clan. The moment he had seen it, it was as though he had also heard the words "Nightking Advent Immortal Finger" ring through his head.

This finger was clearly the same, but it also was not. Lu Yin could not suppress his urge to raise his hand and reach out his finger to make contact with the Nightking Advent Immortal Finger. The two techniques seemed similar, but one embodied an inexplicable grace at the fingertip while the other was a spiritual force battle technique that unleashed an irresistible and oppressive pressure.

Although they looked identical, they were clearly not the same. But ironically, they clearly didn't originate from the same battle technique.

Lu Yin's eyes flickered. This battle technique had only appeared at the very end of the corridor, but its power paled in comparison to Skybreaker. He must have either comprehended this finger technique incorrectly, or it must have some special meaning separate from its power.

This battle technique definitely had something to do with the Dream Finger and the organization represented by the "cloud" symbol.

As soon as Lu Yin comprehended the Nightking Advent Immortal Finger, the oppression from the spiritual force in the entire corridor vanished. Lu Yin raised his hand to touch the mural on the wall, and it was as though he was touching each and every one of the ancient scenes that had been recorded down on it.

The end of the corridor only had one mural, and it did not appear to be anything special. No matter what, Lu Yin was simply unable to uncover the great treasure that was supposedly hidden in here.

After half a day passed, he retracted his hand. He had not managed to gain anything. This was the end of the corridor in the Daynight clan's stones of inheritance, but it only contained the Nightking Advent Immortal Finger.

However, Lu Yin was not disappointed as he had at least found out that the faction represented by the "cloud" symbol might have some kind of relationship with the Daynight clan.

Lost in thought, Lu Yin turned around and exited the long corridor.

After just a few steps, he suddenly froze in place. What appeared before his eyes was no longer the corridor, but rather outer space. There were countless spacecraft and innumerable experts able to freely move throughout the universe, but they were all on their knees. "We pay our respects to the Alliance Leader," they chanted.

"We pay our respects to the Alliance Leader!"

"We pay our respects to the Alliance Leader!"

...

Far away, the Astral River was as resplendent as ever, and many more people could be seen kneeling atop the Astral River Ark. Even further away, past the Astral River, Lu Yin could see the Blaze Realm within the Blazing Mist Flowzone as well as Daynight Flowzone. These powerhouses, all of them individuals who had once stood tall and proud in the universe and hailed from influential families with glorious heritages, were kneeling to him. This was the scene that greeted his eyes.

After that, Lu Yin shifted his gaze past the Inniverse and into the Cosmic Sea. He was able to see the Neoverse, the Honor Zone, and even the entirety of Mt. Microcosms.

Everyone was bowing to him, acknowledging and revering his new status.

At that moment, Lu Yin reached the pinnacle of his entire life. He was standing at the peak of the entire Human Domain. There was no one above him, as everyone was beneath him.

He was the master of the universe.

Lu Yin blinked a few times. He was feeling quite dumbfounded; just what was going on? Suddenly, he remembered something, and his lips curled up. It turned out that Night's End, Daybreak was not only hidden within the Dayking clan's bloodline, as it also existed within the inheritance corridor.

Night's End, Daybreak was the battle technique that the Dayking had used to dominate an entire generation. It was known as the most powerful illusion technique, and it could swallow people without them ever realizing that they had fallen into an illusion.

Zhuo Daynight had once attempted to immobilize Nightking Zhenwu by using Night's End, Daybreak, and she had nearly succeeded. Considering the large disparity in their strength at the time, it showed that the power of Night's End, Daybreak was indeed incomparable.

Lu Yin had originally given up any hope of obtaining Night's End, Daybreak, but the thought that he would actually be able to comprehend it here was incredible.

### **Chapter 1202: Daynight Praises**

Still, this was to be expected. The corridor that the inheritance stones connected to represented the entirety of the Daynight clan's inheritance, and Night's End, Daybreak was naturally a part of that inheritance as well. Lu Yin had walked to the deepest portion of the corridor and touched the mural at the end, which essentially meant that he had successfully completed the entirety of the long corridor. This also meant that he could comprehend all of the battle techniques belonging to the Daynight clan, which included Night's End, Daybreak.

At this point in time, Lu Yin watched space change before him once more. This time, all of the people who had originally been paying their respects to him merged into a beam of light that formed into a falling blade that bisected the entire universe.

Lu Yin's expression of pride faded away, and he immediately started reciting the Stonewall Scriptures. His footsteps grew lighter as he attempted to shake off the illusion.

He ran into the stone walls of the corridor with a loud thud, knocking himself out momentarily. When he regained consciousness, Lu Yin's vision had changed once again, and he found himself back within the corridor.

He rubbed his forehead as he carefully examined his surroundings. After all, he was still in a bit of shock from being nearly cleaved in two.

He had just experienced Night's End, Daybreak, which was able to draw anyone into an illusion, even if they were fully aware of that fact. As Lu Yin panted from the shock of the event, the scenery around him returned to what he had just seen. Confused appeared on Lu Yin's face. This was not Night's End, Daybreak. Was it—Daynight Praises?

The Daynight clan was very rich and powerful, and those aspects had been particularly strong during the time of the First Nightking and the First Dayking. The two of them had commanded the respect of their peers for years, but even they had been unable to push their Daynight clan into the Neoverse, which proved that there were multiple powerful factions that were even scarier than the Daynight clan.

Daynight Praises was the result of that union.

The combination of Skybreaker and Night's End, Daybreak was surprisingly powerful. The result seemed to combine the offensive power of the two, and the combination technique had even been used to eliminate an exceptionally strong opponent who had been beyond the founders' level in the past. That event was also the reason for the Dayking's death.

Even though none of the Daynight clan's records accounted for the Dayking's death, there were still numerous speculations about it circulating around. In truth, Daynight Praises had been the cause behind the Dayking's death. Not only had the death of that exceptional powerhouse enraged the organizations behind him, but the existence of Daynight Praises had also pushed the Daynight clan to even greater heights, which had triggered a great deal of dissatisfaction amongst some people.

Daynight Praises was a technique that unleashed Skybreaker within the illusion cast by Night's End, Daybreak.

The unique characteristic of Night's End, Daybreak was how it forced the target to fall into the illusion before taking advantage of that illusion to unleash unavoidable damage. This damage occurred both within and without the illusion, so if Skybreaker, which was known for its countless attacks, was somehow added on top of such an illusion, then just how terrifying would that combination be?

Lu Yin's breathing grew ragged. This had to be the final inheritance of the entire corridor: Daynight Praises.

It was no wonder why Nightking Zhenwu had always wanted to gain Night's End, Daybreak. He must have already known about the existence of Daynight Praises, and if he had ever gotten hold of this technique, his strength would have completely transformed. Lu Yin could imagine the horrifying scene of Nightking Zhenwu using Night's End, Daybreak to entrance everyone before unleashing an infinite barrage of Skybreaker. Such an attack would have been able to suppress all of the younger powerhouses who had managed to climb atop the Astral Tower and were competing for the positions of the Cosmic Five.

The reason why some of the Ten Arbiters had not attempted to break through to the Enlighter realm yet was because of their lacking foundations, but this Daynight Praises would have been the perfect technique to solidify Nightking Zhenwu's foundation before that next breakthrough.

If Nightking Zhenwu had managed to learn Daynight Praises and also become an Enlighter, then Lu Yin was absolutely certain that the Nightking would have been one of the few youths at the absolute peak of the Mountain and Seas Zone.

Yuhua Mavis's unparalleled physical power, Unseen Light's peerless domain, and Nightking Zhenwu's mastery of spiritual force meant that each one of them represented the pinnacle in a specific aspect. Now, such a pinnacle had been handed over to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin spent ten days or so odd days trying to comprehend the techniques that he had just gained from the inheritance stone.

These ten days were utterly tortuous for the Daynight clan. Everyone stared at Lu Yin's image atop the stone plaque in their ancestral grounds. All of them felt dazed, angry, helpless, or frustrated. Countless complex emotions surged forth within the hearts of the members of the Daynight clan.

Even Nightking Dijiang was only able to blankly stare at Lu Yin's image.

If this young man were to fully mature, then would there be any room for their Daynight clan's survival in the future? Nightking Dijiang desperately wanted to kill Lu Yin, but it was already too late.

Nightqueen Yanqing's fists clenched as she stared at the image of Lu Yin. The distance between them was constantly growing, and the gap had already become so massive that she was in despair; could she ever surpass him in the future?

Lu Yin's consciousness returned to the Lockbreaker World, and he felt a bit lightheaded when he returned. He had overused his spiritual force during this trip, but he still felt invigorated. His shortcomings concerning spiritual force had finally been shored up, and if he also managed to learn Unseen Light's domain methods, then Lu Yin would have everything.

As Lu Yin exited from his seclusion, he noticed Xiao Shi and Xiao Chi next to him. Lu Yin also saw a stunningly elegant personal spacecraft with a streamlined shape that made it look like a beam. The hull was mostly black, which gave it a more intimidating look, but more importantly, it was a collapsible spacecraft, which meant that it had to be a blackhole-grade Aurora. According to common knowledge, this ship was still in development.

The two mushroom-heads were constantly circling the vessel with envy written on their faces.

Lu Yin approached and asked, "Whose ship is this?" Other than the three of them, he was not able to sense any other presences on the entire planet.

The two bowlcuts jumped in startlement, and after realizing that Lu Yin had called out to them, Xiao Shi finally responded in a longing voice. "It's yours."

"Any Lockbreaker will be rewarded by the Lockbreaker Society when they become a Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker, and you've received a blackhole-grade, personal collapsible Aurora as well as two million star essence," Xiao Chi said right after Xiao Shi.

Lu Yin was caught off guard, but he was instantly thrilled. "Really? All that's mine?"

Xiao Chi nodded and held out his hand, offering Lu Yin a red bank card from the Mavis Bank. "This card contains the two million star essence that the society gave you."

The Lockbreakers Society was far too generous, and Lu Yin had not expected to receive such ample rewards. Other than the blackhole grade collapsible Aurora and the two million star essences, the planet located in the Lockbreaker World that he had received was already a substantial reward. On top of all of that, there was also what he had gained from unlocking the advanced sourcebox itself, as that was also considered his. That was sixteen particles of fatesand! After giving two of them to the mushroom-heads, Lu Yin still had fourteen left, and each grain of fatesand was a priceless treasure.

On this day, Lu Yin merged his newly acquired fatesand into the grain that was already next to his heart one by one. He intended to conceal the black and white fog stored there as best as he could.

Lockbreakers were famous for their wealth, but weren't these rewards simply too much for Lu Yin's feat of becoming a Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker? Did all the other Lockbreakers receive similar rewards when they became Advanced Lockbreakers?

As all of these thoughts swirled through Lu Yin's mind, he was suddenly reminded of something; it had been quite a few years since he had become the Great Eastern Alliance Leader, but he had never received any sort of salary from the alliance. Clearly, there was something wrong going on there.

When he had become the Great Yu Empire's Royal Regent, the empire had actually needed financial assistance from him because of its crippled economy. However, things had changed, and now, the Great Eastern Alliance and the Great Yu Empire should instead be paying Lu Yin for his services.

Everyone was aware of how highly Lu Yin regarded money. As soon as he had the thought that someone might be docking his pay, Lu Yin became upset as he was struck by a feeling of discomfort. He could not wait to set things straight, so he immediately called En Ya.

Thankfully, he had acquired the newest gadget that CyNet had given him. Otherwise, Lu Yin would have no means of calling the Outerverse.

Before long, he heard En Ya's voice. "Your Highness."

Lu Yin nodded back in greetings, and then thought for a moment before asking, "How has the Outerverse been, En Ya?"

"Everything is fine. Please do not worry, Your Highness," she replied.

Lu Yin hummed in acknowledgement before continuing, "Right, despite being the leader of the Great Eastern Alliance, it seems like the alliance hasn't given me any sort of salary, have they?"

Salary? En Ya was stunned for a moment. This word was quite strange to her, as it was something that cultivators rarely heard. "Your Highness, I applied for a Mavis Bank card on your behalf during the alliance's one year anniversary, and I personally delivered it to Zhao Ran."

Lu Yin arched a brow, as he felt like he had been ripped off. Zhao Ran was a little brat who suffered from a severe case of short-term memory loss.

"Did Zhao Ran not give the card to Your Highness?" En Ya asked.

"I don't remember. Could you tell me how much money was in the card?" Lu Yin said.

"Please wait, Your Highness," En Ya replied.

Lu Yin eagerly waited.

Before long, En Ya spoke up again. "I apologize, Your Highness. The alliance has only been established for a very short amount of time, and compared to the entire Outerverse, the resources allotted to you have not amounted to much."

Lu Yin's heart sank.

“However, as the alliance solidifies, the economy will strengthen along with the increasing number of safe shipping routes. Naturally, the resources allotted to Your Highness will increase correspondingly,” En Ya explained.

“You just need to tell me how much money was in that card,” Lu Yin said, having already lost all hope.

“11,520,000 star essence,” En Ya reported.

“Come again?” Lu Yin was stupefied, and he actually wondered if he had misheard.

“11,520,000 star essence,” En Ya repeated.

How was that considered not much? Lu Yin was rendered speechless. Eventually, he managed to come to terms with it. After all, he was essentially the ruler of the Outerverse. Even if the total amount of resources in the Outerverse was less than the Innaverse’s, it would still be an impressive sum. Lu Yin only received around eleven million star essence despite having served as the Alliance Leader for eight years. Really, that did make for a rather unimpressive salary.

Compared to the ruler of the Outerverse, even the leaders of the Innaverse’s eight major flowzones’ guiding powers would earn more money than what Lu Yin had over the same amount of time.

“Your Highness, the alliance has only been around for a short while, and there are still many details that need to be worked out as well as the establishment of a unified military. Besides that, there were also the campaigns launched against Daynight and Blazing Mist Flowzones. That, combined with various other expenditures—”

En Ya was cut off by Lu Yin before she could finish. “Enough, I get it. That’s all I need.”

“Yes, Your Highness,” En Ya softly replied.

Lu Yin ended the call, and his eyes sparkled in excitement. Although eleven million star essence was an amount that could be considered a small for the leader of the Outerverse, to Lu Yin, who had never received any sort of monetary compensation, it was basically free money. Besides, the benefits that he enjoyed as the leader of the Outerverse amounted to a great deal more than this sum of money.

If Lu Yin had not become the leader of the Great Eastern Alliance, then how would he have ever managed to fight against Daynight Flowzone or stall all the reinforcements from Blazing Mist Flowzone? Those details were the true benefits to his position. With his status, he enjoyed full control over the Outerverse along with access to its historical records. Compared to these benefits, some mere piles of star essence were insignificant.

These eleven million star essence were more like an unexpected gift that had just fallen into Lu Yin’s lap. Also, the more time that passed, the more that he would earn.

That little rascal Zhao Ran was so unreliable—she had nearly caused Lu Yin to lose an enormous amount of money. If Lu Yin had not randomly thought to ask En Ya about this matter, he would have unknowingly suffered a great loss.

“This has been such a great day! Oh, your hair looks great, too,” Lu Yin said emotionally. He was so thrilled at this moment that his words left the two mushroom-heads tilting their heads in confusion.

“Thank you for your compliment! A mushroom head is a man’s romance!” Xiao Chi was ecstatic, and he felt that Lu Yin must have finally been enlightened.

Xiao Shi stared at Lu Yin and asked, “Do you want to get a mushroom-head too? If you do, we’d no longer be the Eat Shit Duo.”<sup>1</sup>

Lu Yin hurriedly waved his hands in refusal. Just the idea was frightening.

Once Highsage Wudi’s punishment ended, he immediately contacted Lu Yin, hoping for the two of them to return to Eversky Island.

Thus, Lu Yin bade farewell to Xiao Shi and Xiao Chi.

The two bowlcut youths clearly did not wish to separate from Lu Yin so soon. “Remember not to rashly unlock anything or else you’ll suffer a calamity! Very, very scary ones!” Xiao Shi reminded Lu Yin as he waved goodbye.

“Go and get your hair cut into a mushroom-head. That’s the secret to a man’s romance.” Xiao Chi waved goodbye to Lu Yin as well.

Lu Yin left the Lockbreaker World without turning around, as he was terrified that he would be seen as a part of those two mushroom-heads’ little group. The Eat Shit Duo? The Eat Shit Yin Trio? Just the thought of such an appellation sent chills running down his spine.

### **Chapter 1203: The Champions' Stage Titles**

The moment Lu Yin left the Lockbreaker World, he saw Highsage Wudi.

Highsage Wudi appeared to be unharmed, and he chuckled as he greeted Lu Yin. “It seems like you’ve reaped a pretty good harvest these past few days, huh?”

“I just got lucky. Senior Wudi, have you been alright?” asked Lu Yin.

Highsage Wudi smirked. “I’m fine, I’m fine.”

“Oh right, did you tell Junior Leon about how you’ve been?” Highsage Wudi asked.

Lu Yin nodded and explained, “Yes, I sent him a message.”

Lu Yin felt a little weird about contacting Highsage Leon from the Honor Zone due to Highsage Leon’s status as the Pirate King.

Highsage Wudi told Lu Yin, “Junior Leon was the most anxious one when you were captured by the Neohuman Alliance. He got into a big fight with Junior Shenwei, and he even behaved badly in front of master. Because of all that, Master finally agreed that, if you managed to escape, you would be allowed to enter my Eversky Island and choose battle technique, art, or even secret technique to learn as compensation.”

Lu Yin was ecstatic; his luck had really been amazing recently. First, he broken through to the Hunter realm. Then, he had managed to resolve the issue with his revoked Honor Chosen status. After that, he had managed to reclaim control of the Great Eastern Alliance. On top of all of that, he had also become

a Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker, comprehended Daynight Praises, received more than ten million star essence, and now, he was learning that he was entitled to receiving even more!

Such exorbitant gains felt unreal to Lu Yin; could he possibly still be trapped within the illusion of Night's End, Daybreak?

The battle in the Mountain and Seas Zone had been particularly memorable to Lu Yin. Before that battle, he had believed that defeating Nightking Zhenwu meant that he had reached a new height. However, he had soon learned that there were much higher peaks still above him.

Even though Lu Yin had managed to defeat Yōu Qi, from start to finish, Lu Yin was more of a spectator to the true peak competition of the Astral Tower.

But if he had joined the battle in the Mountain and Seas Zone with his current strength, Lu Yin was certain that he would have to fear no one, as Shang Qing was the only one who might have posed any sort of threat to him.

"Senior Wudi, what sort of battle techniques and arts does Eversky Island have?" Lu Yin asked out of curiosity.

Highsage Wudi lifted his head and replied, "There really are countless of them, but my Eversky Island has thirteen ultimate techniques that are renowned throughout the universe. We also have battle techniques, arts, secret techniques, and even a sourcebox array. If you name it, the island has it. You can learn anything you desire."

Lu Yin was stunned. "There's even a sourcebox array?"

Highsage Wudi burst out laughing as he answered, "That's right!"

"Can I only choose one thing?" Lu Yin asked anxiously.

Highsage Wudi's laughter ceased, and he told Lu Yin, "Little rascal, just one thing is already more than enough to keep you busy. How many do you want to learn? Speaking of which, you've recently become a Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker, so you probably can't wait to learn a sourcebox array. Am I right?"

Lu Yin nodded eagerly.

Highsage Wudi shook his head as he reminded Lu Yin, "A sourcebox array isn't something that ordinary people can even fathom. The number of Boundless Advanced Lockbreakers in the Lockbreakers Society is quite high, but there are few to none who have comprehended a sourcebox array. Just focus on stabilizing your lockbreaking abilities. With your talent, you'll eventually come across a sourcebox array in the future, and at that time, you can attempt to comprehend it. However, don't bother getting your hopes up."

Lu Yin grunted in acknowledgement. He had actually already comprehended two sourcebox arrays, but unfortunately, he could not tell Highsage Wudi about either of them since they were both related to the Cosmic Sect's Teleportation Formation. It would be nice if Lu Yin could become the disciple of the Cosmic Sect again one day, as that way, he could officially learn the Teleportation Formation.

"Senior, are there any Mavis Banks near Mt. Microcosms?"

Higsage Wudi nodded and gestured, "Come on, I'll take you. There are Mavis Banks scattered all over the universe."

"Is it true that the Mavis family lives on the back of a massive tortoise?" Lu Yin asked curiously.

"That's right. That tortoise is known as the ancestor tortoise. No one knows how long it's lived for, not even the Arch-Elder or master. We only know that it comes from a forgotten part of history and that the tree growing out of its back gave birth to the Mavis family."

"The Mavis family was born from a tree?"

"Who knows? The Mavis family have their own secrets, just like how we members of Eversky Island have our own. There are even some who claim that those of Eversky Island are related to the Mavis family, but those are just baseless rumors."

"I wonder, how did the Mavis family earn so much money?" Lu Yin mused to himself.

Higsage Wudi chuckled. "Money is just a material item. If I wanted to, Eversky Island could also achieve the same thing. Once your strength reaches a certain level, certain things come in easily, so don't place too much importance on money."

Lu Yin nodded seriously. It was true that cultivators as a whole did not place much importance on money, but he was clearly an exception.

Lu Yin sometimes wished that Higsage Leon was supported by the Mavis family instead of Eversky Island; then, everything would be perfect.

There was a large tree in front of the two that shot up through the clouds with drooping branches. Here, star essence decorated the smallest twigs. They were disgustingly rich, and this was simply them bragging.

This enormous tree could practically shroud an entire mountain range. It had billions of branches, and the star essence hanging from the branches clearly added up to a few tens of millions! This tree was openly flaunting more wealth than what Lu Yin had gathered throughout his entire lifetime. This was a physical display of the Mavis family's wealth in Mt. Microcosms. They really were just too rich.

As for this place, it was not one of the wealthiest branches, but rather the wealthiest branch of the Mavis Bank. After all, it was located on Mt. Microcosms, which was where the heart of humanity lay.

Lu Yin successfully withdrew everything that had been deposited in his name with the Mavis Bank, including even the bank card that Zhao Ran still physically possessed. Even without the card, he was still able to access the funds that it represented, and the entire process was much easier than Lu Yin had expected.

His sum of more than ten million star essence did not seem to be much at this particular branch. At the very least, it was not enough to attract the bank manager's attention. After all, far too many influential people visited this store.

At the same time, En Ya sent details of Lu Yin's annual salary over to him.

Lu Yin looked at it for a bit and was shocked to realize that his salary increased exponentially as the years went by. The amount that the alliance had paid him before the battle against Daynight Flowzone was practically equal to the amount that he had been paid for the past few years. The amount really did climb quickly as the years passed.

He suddenly had visions of the mountains of star essence that had been piled on that small transport continent that had been bringing plundered resources back to the Sixth Mainland. The star essence had veritably filled entire mountain ranges and had truly been incalculable.

If he possessed that much star essence, he would be completely confident. Regardless, Lu Yin was not doing badly for the time being.

Before Lu Yin had arrived at Mt. Microcosms, not many people in this place had heard of Lu Yin before, but when he was leaving, more people began to take notice of him.

The attitude that Arch-Elder Zen had shown Lu Yin was clear for all to see, and many people had affirmed that Lu Yin was someone not to be messed with.

As he left, Lu Yin turned around to take one last look at Mt. Microcosms. Who knew when he would next return to this place?

“Senior Wudi, what does someone have to do to obtain a hidden world?” Lu Yin asked. It sounded as though he was speaking about something that he had been meaning to ask for a while.

“They’re not easy to make, and the materials for them are hard to come by as well. Moreover, the Hall of Honor forbids any hidden world from staying outside the Honor Zone long term. So, if one is discovered, it will be immediately seized while others race over to buy it,” Highsage Wudi replied.

Lu Yin was disappointed, though he actually held little hope of obtaining a hidden world anytime soon. “Does Senior Wudi know about the Champions’ Stage?”

Highsage Wudi’s eyes lit up, and he looked at Lu Yin. “Why do you ask?”

Lu Yin responded, “In the past, I was nearly killed by Nightking Zhenwu because of the Champions’ Stage, and so, I would like to take it with me as a sort of memento and motivation for cultivating. I’d be happy to buy it.”

Highsage Wudi shook his head. “Buying it is out of the question, as the Hall of Honor will never sell it to you. The Champions’ Stage is no ordinary item, so just set such wishful thinking aside.”

Lu Yin indicated his understanding, but his eyes shone brightly. Could the Champions’ Stage be the same as his second innate gift? If that were the case, then the original owner of the Champions’ Stage was likely related to Lu Yin in some way.

Innate gifts could be inherited through blood, and it was basically impossible for something like the Champions’ Stage to appear in the universe without it having any connection to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin left Mt. Microcosms and started making his way toward Eversky Island. At this moment, in the Outerverse, Yu Mu solemnly submitted a video showing the fight between him and Lu Yin, and he made specific points about Lu Yin's mechanical right arm.

"What are you trying to prove?" A voice resonated from the man's gadget in a listless tone.

Yu Mu replied quietly, "This technology comes from a supposedly extinct tribe of giants. I'm wondering if Lu Yin has anything to do with that giant tribe."

"Even if he does, it's none of our business. We, Shamrock Enterprises, were not the ones who exterminated that giant tribe in the past."

Yu Mu replied, "If Lu Yin gained bits of the giants' technology, then he might be able to revive the past glory of the giants' civilization. Don't forget—the reason why the giants were destroyed was because of the massive threat that they posed. Besides, Lu Yin has amassed a great deal of power in the Outerverse over the last few years, and his various items and power vessels could very well come from the giants' civilization."

The other person remained silent.

Yu Mu grew indignant. "Are you just going to give up on the giants' civilization? That civilization was capable of creating armors that could even withstand the power of an Envoy! Even the Hall of Honor was apprehensive of that powerful force."

"I understand. I will investigate this matter." The party on the other end of the gadget immediately disconnected after saying this.

Yu Mu let out a sigh and stared at the video. "Don't blame me for doing this, Lu Yin. If there's anyone to be blamed, then it would only be you for being too excellent of a weapon. The universe is not simple, and you do not see things as clearly as you believe."

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A great distance away from Yu Mu, Wei Rong was speaking with someone else. His companion looked young, but they also acted more mature than they appeared. However, their eyes were filled with uncertainty and doubts. This person had a cautious and curious expression, though there was a tiny bit of excitement as well. Wei Rong adored such expressions.

Someone else was also next to Wei Rong: Lilyrose.

"Brother Paige, what sort of service might we be able to provide to your Gasfire Alliance? Or should I say, how are we able to help?" Lilyrose asked with a mild smile.

Lilyrose clenched her fists as she eagerly stared at Paige. The day was finally approaching.

Paige took a few deep breaths before impatiently whispering, "We have a plan."

Lilyrose's smile grew wide, and she said, "Of course. I love working with organized people. His Highness will be delighted to hear this as well. Now, we can finally begin our discussion, and the Blaze Realm is a good place to start."

Paige nodded in excitement.

Wei Rong's lips curled up in delight.

In the entire Great Eastern Alliance, Lu Yin held the highest seat, and below him were Wang Wen and En Ya. Wei Rong did not possess much real authority, as he was more of a military advisor. Wei Rong had the authority to maneuver hidden forces, such as trading information, giving orders to Aegis' assassins, and such.

Before speaking to Paige, Wei Rong had issued an order to find the sylvan dragon that was hiding in the Outerverse, Long Erhuo.

Wei Rong was a strategist, and he could quickly analyze the situation on a battlefield in a mere glance. Furthermore, he tended to influence the outcome of wars through ever-changing ruses and often took advantage of external factors to influence his likelihood of winning a war.

Wang Wen was the complete opposite. He did not participate in war, or rather, he was too lazy to participate. This was mostly because he had already set his sights on goals far beyond mere wars: the entire universe.

Wars served interests, but Wang Wen was keen to secure the greatest interests possible.

At this moment, in Ironblood Weave, Wang Wen was looking at a star chart of the Innaverse as he spoke aloud. "This day is finally coming, how exciting! This is something that no one has ever managed to accomplish, but I wonder, how well will Chesspiece Bro fare?" As he spoke, Wang Wen's eyes shifted from the Blaze Realm to another region, and his expression gradually grew heated.

#### **Chapter 1204: Rebel**

On the other side of the Neoverse, inside an Azure Mansion, Ming Yu had an uneasy expression as she occasionally glanced at the door.

The anxiety welled up every time she heard footsteps.

All of a sudden, a series of knocks sounded on her door, and Ming Yu's expression drastically changed. "Who is it?"

The door opened, and the local madam entered with a smile plastered on her face. "Ming Yu, have you still not managed to get in touch with Lu Yin? He's already been free for quite a long time."

Ming Yu gritted her teeth and begged, "Please, just give me a bit more time."

The smile on the madam's face vanished, and her expression grew ice cold. "A little more time? One year? Ten years? Or maybe a hundred more years?"

Ming Yu turned as pale as a ghost.

She had previously lied about being engaged to Lu Yin to force Tian Shao to back down, and the madam had allowed it since it had been common knowledge that Lu Yin was not someone to be messed with. Everything had been going according to her plan, but unexpectedly, Lu Yin had actually escaped from the Neohuman Alliance. What's more, his status had even been cleared by the Hall of Honor.

The moment that Ming Yu had learned of Lu Yin's return, she had realized that she was doomed. She had no means of even contacting Lu Yin, let alone marrying him.

"It was impossible to take anything into the Mountain and Seas Zone when we were there, so Lu Yin said that he would only be able to pass his contact information to me after leaving. That's why I haven't been able to reach him," Ming Yu nervously replied.

The madam scoffed. "Really?"

Ming Yu was insistent. "Of course!"

Although the madam was unable to verify the truth of Ming Yu's claims, excitement gleamed in the older woman's eyes. "You better not be lying to me. Well, it's fine even if you just deceive me. However, if it turns out that you've also lied to Tian Shao, you already know what the consequences will be. No one can save you from that."

The madam turned around and left after issuing her threat. Next, she went to the room where Ming Yan was staying.

The madam was absolutely confident that Ming Yu had lied, but regardless of the situation, a new Flower Queen was still needed, and Ming Yan was the most suitable candidate. The madam needed to make sure that all of Ming Yan's preparations were complete in order to avoid any potential mishaps.

Upon entering Ming Yan's room, the madam's attitude hardened, not nearly as gentle as when she had addressed Ming Yu. "In a few months, you'll be replacing Ming Yu as the new Flower Queen, and at that time, Azure Mansion will be yours to manage. You better not get into any trouble during this time."

In an emotionless tone, Ming Yan replied, "There won't be any trouble." As she spoke, she picked up a glass of water and slowly brought it to her lips.

She drank slowly, very slowly.

What should have been a perfectly ordinary action caused the madam's composure to shatter. She hurriedly approached Ming Yan, snatched the girl's arm, and yanked the glass of water away. Having stopped Ming Yan, the madam stared at her while exclaiming, "What are you doing?!"

Ming Yan calmly turned to look at the madam. "What do you mean?"

The madam's brow furrowed as she looked at the remaining water in the cup. Ming Yan's behavior just now had made the madam feel uneasy, and she had assumed that Ming Yan was trying to end her life by drinking poison. However, after thinking about it, the madam felt that this was a bit far-fetched. After all, this entire mansion was under constant surveillance, and there was no way Ming Yan could even gain access to any sort of poison.

Ming Yan smiled. "You took my cup."

The madam grew more uncomfortable the longer she stared at Ming Yan. She did not know why, but she was absolutely certain that something was wrong.

After casually disposing of the cup, the madam looked back at Ming Yan, but just as the madam was about to speak, she abruptly coughed up a mouthful of blood while every strand of her hair quickly

turned white. The madam lost all strength, and she nearly collapsed from the sudden onset of weakness. Realizing that she had been poisoned, she fiercely glared at Ming Yan and accusingly cried out, "You poisoned me?"

Ming Yan slowly walked towards the madam. "I told you, you took my cup."

The madam glanced at the cup that she had thrown away; had the cup been laced with poison?

"That's impossible! Where could you have gotten any kind of poison, let alone snuck it past me!" The madam was incredulous, as she was a powerful Enlighter while Ming Yan had not even reached the Explorer realm yet.

The madam suddenly attacked Ming Yan, but Ming Yan's only response was to narrow her eyes and coldly state, "Look at your own hand."

The madam hesitated and looked down at her hand, only to see that it had become old and desiccated. She frantically rolled up her sleeves, but she only found more wrinkled, dead skin. It was as if she had aged decades in but a moment. "What kind of poison is this? You- what exactly did you poison me with?"

Ming Yan calmly observed the madam's reaction before raising a hand and pointing in three different directions. She had pointed to the precise locations of the guards tasked with monitoring her. Ming Yan was not even an Explorer yet, but she was already able to sense her guards even though they consisted of two Hunters and an Enlighter. On top of that, she even dared to directly deal with these guards.

Despite Ming Yan's provocative actions, there was no reaction from the guards, which made it abundantly clear that they had already been dealt with.

The madam had no idea how Ming Yan had accomplished such a thing, and the only thought in the older woman's mind was how her strength was continuously ebbing away. In any case, she had never been very good at fighting.

Ming Yan stood tall above the madam and stared down at the woman with glacially cold eyes. Ming Yan's poison stemmed from the Neohuman Alliance's regression poison. Despite her poison's potency, Ming Yan had never revealed it until now, as it would be easily neutralized if the target had an idea of how it worked.

She had taken advantage of her extended time in the room by allowing her poison to slowly infiltrate the bodies of her three guards. And at this moment, Ming Yan had managed to take control of the madam in one decisive move.

Naturally, the madam felt indignant upon discovering that someone had been leading her along for some time. However, unfortunately for the madam, Ming Yan's poison was too potent, and soon enough, the madam was not even able to stand straight.

She glanced sideways at the hallway outside the door. There were some people that followed the madam wherever she went, and they would soon sense that something had happened. As soon as they raised the alarm, that little brat, Ming Yan, would not be able to resist them with her pitiful strength. Her people would definitely be able to force her to hand over the antidote.

“Who are you waiting for? Your guardians? Or your watchers?” Ming Yan asked mildly.

Right after that, the door opened, and Ming Yu entered the room. The look of unease that the madam had seen in Ming Yu’s eyes just a few moments ago was now gone. Instead, it had been replaced by a look of contempt.

Madam instantly understood—the two of them had joined forces.

This revelation made it clear how the people watching Ming Yan had been poisoned; with Ming Yu’s help, it would be simple for Ming Yang to do all this. Regardless of everything else, Ming Yu was still a Hunter, and any youth able to reach the Hunter realm was someone capable of overcoming numerous challenges without much issue. Even if Ming Yan had not used her poison, Ming Yu’s abilities were definitely enough for her to take out three guards without alerting anyone else in the Azure Mansion.

However, for Ming Yan to poison the guards, the story was completely different.

The madam looked at the two women. One was the present Flower Queen while the other was the future queen. The madam could scarcely believe that she had fallen to the schemes of these two brats!

Ming Yu glanced over the madam’s hands and then nervously turned to look at Ming Yan. “You’ve achieved your goal, so what are you going to do next? Escape from Azure Mansion?”

Ming Yan shook her head. “I’m going to take back what belongs to me.”

Ming Yu was confused because she actually just wanted to leave Azure Mansion forever.

Ming Yan looked at Ming Yu and asked, “Can you escape? Even if there aren’t many Azure Mansions, that Tian Shao guy is quite influential. As soon as word of your escape spreads, it’s quite likely that they’ll capture you and drag you back here.”

The light in Ming Yu’s eyes flickered, but she remained silent.

The madam was limp on the floor and desperately trying to catch her breath. As she watched herself slowly age, her face betrayed her panic. With a fierce glare at Ming Yan, she croaked out, “What exactly did you poison me with? If you give me the antidote, I swear that I’ll never make things difficult for you again!”

Ming Yan locked eyes with the madam and asked, “Do you think that we can leave the Neoverse?”

Without any hesitation, the madam replied, “That’s impossible. The Forgotten Land’s Black Street is Azure Mansion’s backer, and they roam the Neoverse as outcasts and forsaken fugitives. With these kinds of people, information spreads like wildfire, and that’s not even mentioning how the leader of Black Street can easily grasp everything that happens in every corner of the Neoverse. You guys will never be able to escape, so stop daydreaming and give me the antidote right now! I swear that I’ll make your lives easier.”

Ming Yu gritted her teeth. She was capable of coming up with complex schemes, but the more she thought things through, the more apprehensive she was towards Azure Mansion. What did it matter if she managed to escape from the Neoverse? She had heard of Black Street before. Forget about leaving the Neoverse—even if she managed to make it all the way to the Outerverse, there would still be people hunting her down unless she actually married Lu Yin.

“There is no place for you in this entire universe,” Ming Yan said gently.

Ming Yu looked at the other girl and asked, “Then what do you suggest we do?”

Ming Yan matched Ming Yu’s gaze and replied, “We will work together to take down Azure Mansion.”

Ming Yu was momentarily stunned, as she had just heard something incredible.

The madam was similarly dazed by these words, and she let out a strange squawk that seemed to be a bit of mockery mixed with fear. It was as if she was trying to hold in her laughter after hearing the world’s greatest joke.

“Do you know what Azure Mansion represents? Do you even know what Black Street, the organization behind Azure Mansion, represents? And yet you want to take over Azure Mansion?” Ming Yu cried out.

Ming Yan’s face was as calm as still water as she stared at Ming Yu. “With this poison, I can do it.”

Ming Yu was in utter disbelief.

Ming Yan had been the empress of Shenwu Continent for several years, and despite having split personalities with one of the two seeming incredibly naive, she was still able to see through Ming Yu’s concerns with a glance. “Let’s just give this a try. If we fail, I still have a way out, and I can guarantee that we’ll both get out of this unscathed.”

Something flashed through Ming Yu’s mind as she looked at Ming Yan. Ming Yu did not believe Ming Yan’s words. If the girl could make such a guarantee, then how had she ended up in Azure Mansion to begin with?

Ming Yan looked down at her gadget, and a small smile appeared. “I... I am Lu Yin’s woman.”

...

In the southern region of the Neoverse, where the Ku family resided in the Voidsoul Region:

The Voidsoul Region was the Ku family’s ancestral land. The name came from how this land was the transition area between a place filled with life and the void.

Thunder and lightning swept through the Voidsoul Region all year round, and the Ku family’s power vessels, the Withered Bark, was made from the many wilted trees that grew on this land.

In one region of the land, within a mountain range, two large beasts were growling and snapping at each other.

Each of the beasts had the power of an Explorer at the minimum, and the snapping of their fangs caused mountain creeks to shatter and rivers to flow in reverse.

All of a sudden, a human in a sorry state emerged from the void. He gingerly held his abdomen and was gritting his teeth as he looked around. His eyes burned with rage.

Right after his appearance, a bolt of lightning flashed and incinerated the two fighting beasts. Lightning began to gather together in the void, and it soon took on the form of Ku Lei, who stared down at the

pathetic figure from high above. “Where do you think you’re going? This is the Voidsoul Region, and I can track you down no matter where you try to go.”

The pathetic figure was actually Ku Wei. He had been running from Ku Lei’s murderous pursuit for many days now, and Ku Wei was in a sorry state. His entire body was exhausted and had been pushed to the limit.

Ku Wei had gravely offended Ku Lei in Progenitor Chen’s Mausoleum. Originally, Ku Wei had planned on becoming one of Lu Yin’s followers and earning Lu Yin’s protection after leaving the tomb. However, to his surprise, Lu Yin had been immediately sent to the Hall of Honor for testing without being able to bring anyone along with him. Ku Pu, the Ku family patriarch, had even stopped Ku Wei from following after Lu Yin.

Then, Ku Wei had become Ku Lei’s target the moment they returned to the Voidsoul Region. Not only were all of Ku Wei’s resources seized, but he also no longer even had the right to meet with the patriarch, let alone leave the Voidsoul Region.

Ku Lei seemed to enjoy playing a game with Ku Wei, like a cat chasing a mouse.

There was a sizzling sound as lightning flashed and tore a hole through Ku Wei’s knee. Excruciating pain wracked Ku Wei’s body, but he resisted the urge to drop to his knees with his entire being, instead glaring angrily at Ku Lei.

Ku Lei lamented, “Come on, run! Let’s see you run some more. So you don’t want to kneel? Then I’ll make sure to hit you hard enough for you to kneel to me. To think that a member from our great Ku family would submit to an outsider! Just the thought disgusts me.”

Ku Wei stayed quiet. From recent experience, he had learned that the more he spoke, the more he would suffer.

Ku Lei scoffed, “Where’s the successor of the Yu family?”

Ku Wei lowered his head and stayed silent. A few days ago, he had realized that everything was over when Ku Lei first asked him that question. This was not a question from Ku Lei, but rather from the patriarch. Only then had Ku Wei understood everything—it was no wonder why Ku Lei was allowed to wantonly attack Ku Wei and mercilessly toy with him. It was because the Ku family had never intended to take Ku Wei’s life from the very start; all the family wanted was to learn of the Yu family’s whereabouts.

Another bolt of lightning struck Ku Wei, and the impact sent Ku Wei violently crashing to the ground. He coughed up a mouthful of blood, and his skin tore apart, revealing raw flesh.

Ku Lei arrogantly proclaimed, “We’ll pause our game for today. Let’s see how many more days you can endure this for.”

After speaking, Ku Lei transformed into lightning and shot away.

Ku Wei stared at where Ku Lei had disappeared in indignation. He had fallen into complete despair.

Ku Wei washed his wounds as he endured the severe pain. Before much time passed, a figure appeared right beside him, but the figure disappeared right after setting a gadget down next to Ku Wei.

Ku Wei stared at the figure in a daze.

### **Chapter 1205: The First Disciple**

Elsewhere, Lu Yin had already left Mt. Microcosms with Highsage Wudi. The two of them were currently riding on the back of a cniu.

Every time they passed by a hidden world, Highsage Wudi would briefly introduce Lu Yin to it, leaving Lu Yin envious of the man's knowledge.

These hidden worlds were arranged in a cluster around the Hall of Honor, possibly as a form of protection for the heart of the Human Domain. But more likely, it was so that experts from the Hall of Honor could conveniently and easily access these hidden worlds whenever they destabilized and needed maintenance.

"Why doesn't the Hall of Honor allow hidden worlds to exist in the Inniverse?" Lu Yin asked in a puzzled manner.

Highsage Wudi explained, "It's too easy to destroy hidden worlds. If someone powerful shows up and destroys a hidden world, then none of the people inside it would be able to escape. It would be too late for the Hall of Honor to even try to stop it even if they wanted to."

It was just barely an acceptable explanation, but Lu Yin seemed to have understood something.

At this moment, his gadget beeped with an alert. Ku Wei was calling. Lu Yin had almost forgotten about this qualified lackey.

"Your- Your Highness, you must save me!" Ku Wei's voice was weak as it came through the gadget.

"What happened to you?" Lu Yin asked.

Ku Wei shared everything that he had recently suffered through before bitterly begging, "Your Highness, I can't stay with the Ku family any longer! Ku Lei's going to kill me! Please, take me with you."

Lu Yin felt troubled, as the Ku family was a part of the Seven Courts, and they were in no way subordinate to Lu Yin. It would not be easy to go through them and take Ku Wei away.

Lu Yin looked at Highsage Wudi, who had overheard the entire conversation.

Highsage Wudi shook his head. "Eversky Island has never had much contact with the Seven Courts, but there's also no bad blood between us. It wouldn't be appropriate for us to stick our heads into this situation."

Lu Yin sank deep into thought. Ku Wei had helped Lu Yin in the past, and he was also the captain of the Great Yu Empire's Tenth Imperial Squadron. In essence, Ku Wei was one of Lu Yin's men, and if Lu Yin did not even try to save one of his loyal followers, then he would look bad. Still, trying to help Ku Wei would get Lu Yin involved with the Seven Courts.

Lu Yin had no intention of looking down on the various powers of the universe just because he had managed to topple Daynight Flowzone. The Seven Courts had dared go against the Hall of Honor after joining together, so they clearly had their own hidden strengths. Even if Lu Yin tried to deal with each

family separately, each and every single one of them had their own incredible powerhouses. Lu Yin simply was not in a position to interfere.

“Your Highness, I understand that it’s a difficult task, but I’m begging you. You have to take me with you! If I stay here, I’m dead.” Ku Wei started panicking, as Lu Yin’s silence had sent Ku Wei’s heart plummeting straight into the abyss.

Lu Yin was also pondering how he could take Ku Wei along.

Ku Wei anxiously pleaded, “Your Highness, I’m one of your men.”

“Give me some time to figure this out. It’s not a simple situation,” Lu Yin said.

Highsage Wudi casually said, “You’ve just become a Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker, so you’re able to take in disciples. Lockbreaking disciples, that is.”

An idea instantly flashed through Lu Yin’s mind. “Thank you, senior.”

Lu Yin instantly turned back to Ku Wei and asked, “Do you have any problem with becoming my disciple?”

“Of course not! I’ll even become your grandson!” Ku Wei exclaimed.

Lu Yun was left speechless by Ku Wei’s shamelessness. “I will officially bring up the matter of taking you in as my disciple to the Lockbreakers Society. All I need for you to become my lockbreaking disciple is your consent.”

Ku Wei’s eyes flashed, “Your Highness, you’ve become a Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker?”

“That’s right.”

Ku Wei was overjoyed, and he immediately accessed the Lockbreakers network.

In no time at all, another line was added to Ku Wei’s profile page on the Lockbreakers network. In addition to his title as a three star Perceptive Intermediate Lockbreaker, he also gained another line as Lu Yin’s disciple. It noted Ku Wei as a disciple of a Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker.

Lu Yin immediately filed the application with the Lockbreakers Society and requested for Ku Wei to immediately be transferred over to the Lockbreaker World so that he could watch over Lu Yin’s planet.

With that finished, Lu Yin put his gadget down. Whether or not Ku Wei could be saved was now up to the Lockbreaker Society. Lu Yin did not hold any high hopes for success; even if Ku Wei had become Lu Yin’s disciple, he was still a part of the Ku family, and the Lockbreaker Society would never meddle in internal affairs.

Ku Wei also put his gadget away and braced himself, ready to accept whatever came his way.

In the center of the Voidsoul Region, the Ku patriarch, Ku Pu, stood with his hands clasped behind his back. Ku Lei was kneeling in front of him.

“In both the Mountain and Seas Zone and in Progenitor Chen’s Mausoleum, your performance was greatly disappointing for the Ku family,” Ku Pu said solemnly, his tone brimming with discontent.

Ku Lei suppressed his frustration, as he currently felt helpless.

Ku Pu stared straight at the youth for some time, as the patriarch was not sure what to say. If he were to be compared to the geniuses of past generations, Ku Lei was certainly not weak, but in the current era, far too many freakishly talented people had been born. Thus, it was easy to overlook Ku Lei's abilities.

"ZENITH is coming up, and if your strength has not increased substantially by then, then reaching the Enlighter realm will at least allow you to seize a decent position. Whatever you do, do your best to make it into the top ten, as only the top ten spots are worth anything," Ku Pu said.

Ku Lei's eyes revealed his determination. "I will. I must uncover the Yu family's whereabouts and then master the Yu Secret Art. Gaining the Ku and Yu families' secret techniques will allow us to defeat any and all foes."

Ku Pu silently shook his head. Surpassing one's foes was something that was easier said than done. Even without taking into account the other domains, the Tri-Yang Technique alone was already indomitable, which meant that one of the top positions was already taken. The Mavis family, the Cosmic Sect, and Burial Garden were all powers to be reckoned with as well. On top of that, it was still necessary to consider the Astral Beast Domain, the Technocracy, and the Sixth Mainland. Powerful opponents were simply everywhere.

The Seven Courts' only hope in ZENITH seemed to be the Xia family's Xia Jiuyou. If he managed to fuse with his clones created by the Nine Clones Secret Technique, then his abilities would absolutely become strong enough for him to compete for one of the top ten positions.

In the end, hopes would always be hopes, and Ku Pu was hoping for a miracle. "If you want to find the Yu family, then do that on your own."

Ku Lei grunted in acknowledgement as his eyes lit up with excitement. The Ku family no longer cared about whether Ku Wei lived or died, which was good news for Ku Lei. He was fully confident that he could extract the Yu family's location from Ku Wei.

At this moment, Ku Pu's gadget started beeping, and he glanced at it. Immediately, his expression transformed into one of rage. "This is ridiculous!"

Ku Lei was confused.

Ku Pu suppressed his anger and tried to speak with the person on the other end of the call. Before long, he looked over at Ku Lei and helplessly said, "Let Ku Wei go. Just leave him alone."

Ku Lei was shocked. "Why?"

Ku Pu became annoyed. "Just do as I say. Don't touch him again, and let him go."

After that, Ku Pu left with a dark expression on his face.

It was rare for him to feel so frustrated and offended since becoming the Ku family patriarch.

The Lockbreaker Society had summoned Ku Wei to the Lockbreaker World as the disciple of the Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker, Lu Yin. Ku Pu had assumed that he could simply refuse the arrangements given his position, as the Lockbreaker Society would likely not try to suppress the Seven

Courts. However, the one who had issued the request for Ku Wei's transfer had actually been the president of the Lockbreaker Society, Xiu Ming. This grandmaster had always been an enigma to Ku Pu—even when he had been young, Xiu Ming had already been the president of the society. However, even though Ku Pu had become an old man, Xiu Ming still held the same position, and he even looked exactly the same as he always had.

There were not many people in the Neoverse who were able to leave a lasting impression on Ku Pu, but Xiu Ming was certainly one of them.

Since Xiu Ming had personally submitted the request on Lu Yin's behalf, Ku Pu could not respond disrespectfully. Not even the Ku family's strongest experts could afford to refuse that man's request.

Ku Pu was completely baffled; just how had someone from the younger generation managed to get Xiu Ming to help him out with such a request?

The truth was that Lu Yin had never even considered the possibility that Xiu Ming would make the request for him.

On an island, above the Ancient Spirit Sea, Xiu Ming slowly leaned back and forth on his rocking chair, looking incredibly relaxed.

Arch-Elder Zen was nearby, and he chuckled lightly. "You're doing a favor for that little rascal?"

Xiu Ming laughed. "I didn't have to do much, and if he does well in the future, then we'll all need to pin our hopes on him anyway."

Arch-Elder Zen nodded in agreement. "With that guy here, nothing will go wrong."

"Let's certainly hope so."

Ku Wei left the Voidsoul Region in a miserable state. He looked back with hatred blazing in his eyes. "Just you wait! Ku family, I'll be back."

Lu Yin and Ku Wei had agreed to meet at Eversky Island, and during the journey to the island, nothing much happened.

After traveling for half a month, Lu Yin and Highsage Wudi finally left the Honor Zone. With Highsage Wudi's abilities, he was able to directly tear through the void and bring Lu Yin across the Neoverse. Thus, they arrived at Eversky Island in no time at all.

When Lu Yin had first arrived at the Honor Zone, he had not felt much, but upon leaving, all sorts of strange emotions suddenly welled up within him. It was as though this place was where he needed to stay and that returning to outer space was the same as becoming a rootless, wandering ball of duckweed.

Lu Yin did not mention these feelings to Highsage Wudi, as Lu Yin was guessing that it might be related to how humanity might have been originally born on that landmass.

This land was the root of humanity. Six mainlands had once existed in the universe, and this had been the Fifth Mainland.

Lu Yin remembered that Highsage Shenwei had once mentioned how people could cultivate more quickly when on the soil of the Fifth Mainland. The reason why cultivators from the Sixth Mainland were able to receive imprints and why they possessed an innate suppression over people of the Fifth Mainland was because the Sixth Mainland had not been shattered.

There was some sort of connection between humans and their native mainlands.

After returning to Eversky Island, Lu Yin finally met the famous Highsage Grandmaster.

On Eversky Island, there was a shriveled and scrawny old man who was standing rather close to Lu Yin. This old man was wearing a gray robe, and he had a rather ordinary appearance. In fact, he looked no different than a common old man who could be seen walking down any random street. His appearance would never catch anyone's eyes, as he was simply too commonplace.

If not for Highsage Wudi and Highsage Shenwei standing before the old man with great respect and Highsage Wudi calling him "Master," then Lu Yin would have thought that the old man was simply another one of Black and White's pranks.

"Junior Lu Yin pays his respects to Highsage Grandmaster." Lu Yin bowed in a courteous manner with a serious look on his face.

Highsage Grandmaster nodded and admiringly scanned Lu Yin from head to toe. "This old man has lived for a long time, so long that it would be difficult to even trace my history. Throughout all the ages I've lived, I've seen too many blessed with an exceptional innate gift, but you, my boy, are unlike any I've ever seen before. For you to cultivate your skills to this level where you stand at the pinnacle of your generation in merely twelve years, it's possible that your cultivation talent might only be rivaled by Progenitor Chen during his rise."

Lu Yin quickly replied, "You flatter me, Highsage Grandmaster. I've just been lucky."

Highsage Grandmaster laughed. "Well, luck is also a type of strength. You possess powerful physical strength, spiritual force, a domain, and the highest quality battle techniques. There are far too few whose abilities can stand on the same level as within your generation. Even that Tri-Yang Technique hailed as being invincible would struggle to defeat you."

Lu Yin was thrilled to receive such recognition from Highsage Grandmaster.

The Tri-Yang Technique had always been universally praised as a truly invincible technique. It was true that everyone believed that Shang Qing was unbeatable after he had revealed the technique's true power, as it was simply unreal. Despite that, Highsage Grandmaster still saw Lu Yin up as comparable to the user of the Tri-Yang Technique, which vividly expressed Highsage Grandmaster's admiration and praise for Lu Yin.

"Wudi," Highsage Grandmaster called out.

Highsage Wudi bowed and answered, "Master."

“Contact the Hall of Honor and let them know that I, Highsage Grandmaster of Eversky Island, recommend Lu Yin to be one of the gatekeepers at Zenith Mountain,” Highsage Grandmaster said.

Highsage was not surprised, and he simply acknowledged the orders, “Yes, your disciple understands.”

Lu Yin was confused. Zenith Mountain? Gatekeeper?

Highsage Grandmaster did not give bother explaining anything to Lu Yin. Instead, he simply waved his right arm, causing all sorts of images to appear in midair. Some of the images took on the form of tiny humans that unleashed incredibly powerful battle techniques. Other images morphed into arrays that were impossible to derive due to their complexity and mysteriousness. The final group took on the form of pictures that could not be properly interpreted.

“My Eversky Island possesses thirteen ultimate techniques, which consists of one secret technique, five sourcebox arrays, and seven peerless battle techniques. You may choose any one that you wish to learn,” Highsage Grandmaster informed Lu Yin.

### **Chapter 1206: Grandmaster**

Lu Yin stared at the images before him, but he could only see one tiny human, who was surrounded by multiple other people attacking the solitary figure. The various attackers unleashed a multitude of different battle techniques, but they were all simply reduced to vapor before they could strike the little human in the middle, the remnant wind simply brushing past him.

“That is Eversky Island’s secret technique, Thousand Rivers Return to the Sea. It is able to reduce all your opponents’ attacks to the original energy state,” Highsage Shenwei explained before adding on, “It is a very powerful secret technique.”

Lu Yin felt his interest pique. Thousand Rivers Return to the Sea. Just the name alone sounded compelling. However, Lu Yin already had the Yu secret technique, which could redirect enemy attacks as well as the Ce secret technique, which helped him avoid enemy attacks. Thus, this particular secret technique seemed to overlap with the abilities he already had.

While pondering his options, Lu Yin looked to the side, where he saw a tiny human wielding a massive blade. The weapon sliced through the air in a domineering fashion.

“This is one of Eversky Island’s battle techniques, Overlord Slash, which junior Leon uses with great skill. One attack of the Overlord Slash is in no way inferior to the Xia family’s Triple Blade Will. Additionally, the more intimidating the user is, the stronger their power will be. The key is in dominating others,” Highsage Shenwei continued to explain.

Lu Yin’s gaze moved past it. Dominating, huh?

He was capable of unleashing such an aura, but his was different from Highsage Leon’s forthright and unrestrained dominance. The dominance that Lu Yin possessed revealed itself in a more subtle manner, but he was still just as individualistic, refusing to accept any law above him. It was clear that this battle technique was not for him.

Lu Yin continued to observe all the battle techniques that Eversky Island possessed, after which he focused on the five arrays. Arrays... Are these sourcebox arrays? Five of them! You've got to be kidding me!

"Are these all sourcebox arrays?" Lu Yin guessed as he looked up at Highsage Grandmaster.

Highsage Grandmaster nodded with a smile and looked at Lu Yin as he answered, "I've heard that you've reached the Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker level, so I think that it's time for you to comprehend a sourcebox array. Only Lockbreakers who have grasped a sourcebox array can call themselves true Lockbreakers. The vast universe is limitless, and it is often extremely difficult to approach precious and hidden things. The path of Lockbreakers is one that resists the fate given to us, but of course, the universe is not a force to be underestimated. Thus, it would only be natural for sourcebox arrays to be even more terrifying."

From what Highsage Grandmaster had just said, it was clear that he hoped that Lu Yin would pick a sourcebox array.

Lu Yin found it strange that Highsage Grandmaster had five sourcebox arrays. Wait... Highsage Grandmaster, MASTER! It couldn't be...

Lu Yin looked up at Highsage Grandmaster in complete shock. "Senior, you- are you an Array Grandmaster?"

Lockbreakers were categorized as Discerning Elementary, Perceptive Intermediate, and Boundless Advanced. But there were still more levels above the Boundless Advanced level: Array Master, Senior Array Master, Realm Array Master, and finally, the highest rank that any Lockbreaker could achieve, Array Grandmaster.

A Lockbreaker could only claim the title of Array Master after comprehending at least five sourcebox arrays and designing their own, unique sourcebox array.

Comprehending and mastering five sourcebox arrays was not an easy task.

The Teleportation Formation that Qiu Shi had comprehended from the Cosmic Sect was the lowest level of sourcebox arrays, and it might have been even further simplified. Despite that, it would still take her a substantial amount of time before she mastered it and was able to casually use the array as she wished. Lu Yin had grasped two sourcebox arrays so far, but they were both extremely simple ones.

He also had five pages of True Insight in his possession, but the only sourcebox array that he had managed to comprehend from those pages was the Inception Array. Lu Yin needed at least a few more years before he could comprehend any of the other sourcebox arrays even though his lockbreaking foundation came from the Daosource Sect's Platform of Inception and Gu Yue's journal.

Not even Qiu Shi could comprehend the Inception Array as quickly as Lu Yin had, and she was considered one of the universe's most gifted Lockbreakers. She was someone who stood at the same at the true peak of their generation as the Lockbreaker Society's Wu Dan.

It took time to comprehend a sourcebox array, and to become an Array Master, a Lockbreaker also had to design their own array. That was an entirely different sort of struggle compared to simply learning an array.

It was a pity that the sourcebox array recorded within Gu Yue's notes was incomplete. Otherwise, Lu Yin would have had at least some chance of comprehending it. It was impossible to know if the damage had been made by Gu Yue himself or by someone else, but regardless, it was quite unfortunate.

"Of course my master is an Array Master! Why else would everyone else call him Highsage Grandmaster? Idiot!" Highsage Shenwei grumbled angrily.

Lu Yin stared at Highsage Grandmaster in absolute awe. So this was what the appellation "Master" indicated. From what Lu Yin knew, there was only one person in the entire Human Domain who was a Celestial Array Master, and that was the president of the Lockbreaker Society, Xiu Ming. He had never expected that Highsage Grandmaster would also be one.

It was no wonder why Eversky Island had five sourcebox arrays.

Highsage Grandmaster turned to glare at Highsage Shenwei before scolding him. "Shush! Even though this old man has become a Celestial Array Master, each of my disciples end up being more useless than the last! Not a single one of you were able to even become a Senior Array Master, and yet you still dare to spout such crap."

Highsage Shenwei let out a dry laugh, but he did not dare to say anything more.

Highsage Grandmaster looked back at Lu Yin and smiled. "Little rascal, although you haven't been formally recognized as one of Eversky Island's disciples, a nominal disciple is still a disciple. I suggest that you choose to learn a sourcebox array."

Lu Yin bowed respectfully as he responded, "I thank Highsage Grandmaster for your good will, but I am already in the process of comprehending a sourcebox array. Even if I wished to comprehend a second one, at this juncture, I'm afraid that it would be too much for me to handle."

Highsage Grandmaster was taken aback. "You have a sourcebox array?"

Lu Yin grunted in affirmation and started thinking of some way to explain how he had gotten it to Highsage Grandmaster.

Unexpectedly, Highsage Grandmaster did not press the matter any further. "Well that's fine. Since you already have a sourcebox array, then you should focus on fully comprehending it. In that case, what else do you desire? Secret techniques? Battle techniques?"

Lu Yin raised his head and asked, "Senior, are my choices limited to only secret techniques and battle techniques?"

Highsage Grandmaster furrowed his brows. "Child, are you not interested in the secret technique or the battle techniques that this old man has?"

Highsage Shenwei and Highsage Wudi both turned to look at Lu Yin, shooting him repeated and pointed looks.

Lu Yin sighed. "I have already learned the Yu and Ce families' secret techniques, and their abilities happen to overlap with the effects of your Thousand Rivers Return to the Sea Secret Technique. As for battle techniques, my humble self already has a few too many. Thus, I would be extremely hard pressed to learn anything more."

Also, Eversky Island's battle techniques were rather incompatible with Lu Yin. None of them suited him well even though they were each very powerful.

Hightsage Grandmaster carefully scanned Lu Yin from top to bottom, and then he seemed to remember something. "Indeed, even when you crossed the Eversky Bridge back then, you already had an abundance of battle techniques. There was the Cosmic Art, one of the Ku family's techniques, the Daynight clan's techniques, the Overlaying Stacks Path, and more. Add your innate gift and secret techniques on top of that, and you'll be all set. It would indeed be meaningless for you to learn anything more." As the old man considered the matter, he looked at Lu Yin and said, "However, I promised Leon that Eversky Island would properly compensate you if you returned safely."

Lu Yin immediately replied, "I understand that Hightsage Grandmaster has your reasons for doing this, but I don't need any compensation."

The smile on Hightsage Grandmaster's face vanished. "I can't renege on a promise that I made to my disciple. Little rascal, just now, you asked me if there's anything else that you could learn, but I can't think of anything. In that case, what do you want?"

Lu Yin pondered for a bit before meeting Hightsage Grandmaster's gaze. "Would Senior happen to have something for protection?"

Right now, Lu Yin was still lacking a power vessel that could protect him from true top-level experts. He had offended far too many people, and with the Outerverse being handed over to the Sixth Mainland, there was still a great deal more that he needed to accomplish.

Hightsage Grandmaster thought for a moment before raising his hand and causing an item the size of a palm to appear. "I do have something that can help save your life, but this item's force is too overwhelming, and it covers too large of an area. If you're not careful, then you might be caught up in it yourself.

"This item contains a sourcebox array that I designed myself, the Desolate Array. Once used, an entire galaxy will be wiped clean. The force of this array is enough to reduce a cultivator with a power level of 800,000 to a smoking corpse."

Lu Yin's eyes went wide with shock. The walnut-looking power vessel that Yuan Shi had given Lu Yin had been powerful enough to reduce an expert with a power level of 700,000 to ashes, but this tiny item was able to threaten a powerhouse with a power level of 800,000! And on top of that, it had an area of effect!?

Hightsage Shenwei spoke up. "Master, wouldn't this be pushing things for him? He'll destroy himself if he's not careful."

Hightsage Grandmaster replied, "With his ability as an Advanced Lockbreaker and Truesight, he should be able to escape death. The power of this Desolate Array might be strong, but it's not overly complicated. It's a purely offensive sourcebox array."

Lu Yin was thrilled, and he exclaimed, "Thank you Hightsage Grandmaster! I shall choose that then!" Such a powerful item was exactly what he had been lacking. Everything would be perfect after he returned to the Outerverse and asked Yuan Shi for a few more of the walnut-shaped power vessels.

After taking the item that held the Desolate Array, Lu Yin carefully stored it away in his cosmic ring.

Higsage Grandmaster spoke up, "Eversky Island has now fully compensated you. Little rascal, keep up the good work and continue to cultivate hard. You should be able to enter the top ten in the upcoming tournament, ZENITH, and it will be entirely up to you to seize any opportunities that appear before you. Remember, when you arrive, avoid causing conflicts as much as possible, but if you are forced to make a move, then never show mercy. You must seize what you need."

After saying that, Higsage Grandmaster left.

Lu Yin did not understand what the old man meant, so he turned to Higsage Wudi.

Higsage Wudi shrugged. "Just keep Master's words in mind. You'll understand in the future."

Higsage Shenwei moved in front of Lu Yin and leaned close while studying the youth up and down in a weird manner. "Are you sure that you're not under the Neohuman Alliance's control? We all thought that you were dead meat! Even Master wasn't able to guarantee you making it back safely. Otherwise, he would have never agreed to Junior Leon's request to make things up to you."

Lu Yin replied, "It was a narrow escape."

Higsage Shenwei sized Lu Yin up. "You've cultivated death energy?"

Lu Yin nodded. It seemed that almost everyone had learned of this. He really needed to thank the person who had told Bu Laoweng about this matter; it was most likely Mu Tianlun, the Calm of Despair. Lu Yin intended to remember this favor that he owed the Judicial Commissioner.

"The Specter Clan can use death energy to easily suppress other people that cultivate it, so you should watch your back, alright? I don't want to hear anything about you joining the Neohuman Alliance in the future," Higsage Shenwei cautioned.

Lu Yin still needed to wait at Eversky Island for Ku Wei to arrive, so Lu Yin called him again. Ku Wei replied that he was still a few days away, so Lu Yin decided to take another walk across the Eversky Bridge out of boredom. He wanted to see what the bridge would bring him this time.

However, the results left him greatly disappointed, as there was no reaction from the bridge whatsoever. It seemed that a person could only cross the bridge once in their lifetime.

After crossing the bridge, Lu Yin heard a strange laughter echoing out from somewhere. He pursed his lips. Just when he had been thinking about where those two brats might have gone, they showed up.

Black and White were actually moving slightly faster than when they had been in the Mountain and Seas Zone. As they ran around, they looked like a black and a white shadow, clearly hoping to startle Lu Yin. He unleashed his domain in response, causing a tree to appear from the ground as he used his forcefield. The tree branches quickly wrapped around the two brats' ankles, and Lu Yin purposefully shaped the branches to look like demonic claws, nearly scaring the twins to death.

Only then did Lu Yin appear.

Black and White's faces were both extremely pale, and they glared at him in a menacing fashion. "Little Lu, you're so mean! And you're getting meaner!"

"To think that we were worried about you, Little Lu."

Lu Yin chuckled. "You guys tried to scare me first. So, was it fun?"

"Hmph!" White turned her head away.

Black rolled her eyes.

Lu Yin laughed and ruffled their heads. "You've gotten quite a bit faster. Have you been working hard at cultivating?"

"We're going to fight in ZENITH," White bragged.

Black clenched her fists. "We're going to represent Eversky Island!"

Lu Yin found their antics amusing. Despite the girls' young ages, neither of them were in any way weak. It was a shame that no team fights would take place at ZENITH. Otherwise, the twin's Black and White Combo would have been enough to overwhelm other Hunters.

...

Lu Yin stayed at Eversky Island for a few more days before Ku Wei finally arrived.

The moment Ku Wei saw Lu Yin, he completely broke down. "Your Highness! Seventh Bro! Your Little Wei has been bullied so badly!" he wept as he ran to Lu Yin.

### **Chapter 1207: First Flowzone**

Lu Yin endured Ku Wei's flurry of whining, remaining rooted to the ground. However, he now looked at Ku Wei in a new light. "I remember you being quite dependable when I first met you, but it seems that you've become increasingly sloppy."

Ku Wei exaggeratedly replied, "Little Wei only behaves like this when I see Your Highness! Please, you have to treat me fairly."

"Little Lu, this guy's super gross." White suddenly showed up, though she was looking at Ku Wei with disgust.

Ku Wei's eyes went wide. "Preposterous! How dare you speak to His Highness like that? Hurry up and apologize to His Highness!"

"Brown-noser," White mocked.

"That insult is only a compliment in my ears. I proudly serve His Highness and him alone," Ku Wei proudly stated.

Lu Yin was rendered speechless, and so was White.

Ku Wei had gradually taken on more and more of a subordinate's mindset as he interacted with Lu Yin. By now, he was tightly fixated onto a single belief, and he was determined to cling onto Lu Yin and never

let go. After all, not even the Neohuman Alliance had been able to keep Lu Yin down. That accomplishment, combined with Lu Yin's various backings and his own status, meant that Ku Wei felt that he could rely on Lu Yin regardless of what happened.

Ku Wei had already completely discarded any bit of self-respect stemming from his background as a member of the Seven Courts' Ku family. Rather than meeting his end there, Ku Wei would much rather leave and be free.

...

Highsage Shenwei had brought Lu Yin into the Neoverse, and he was also the one escorting Lu Yin out.

Half a month later, Lu Yin arrived at the Inneverse's First Flowzone. This was the Sword Sect's territory.

Highsage Shenwei then turned around to return to the Neoverse while Lu Yin whipped out his radiant-grade collapsible Aurora. This was the ship that he had received from Hai Qiqi, and he had always kept it stored away within his cosmic ring. He still hadn't found an opportunity to use the blackhole-grade collapsible Aurora that he had received from the Lockbreaker Society since that ship was meant for personal use and was quite small. The radiant-grade Aurora was able to seat two, but otherwise, it was quite similar to the personal vessel.

"Your Highness, this is the Sword Sect's First Flowzone. When I think back on it, Your Highness has managed to defeat the Thirteen Swords multiple times, which still amazes me to no end," Ku Wei said in a shocked manner. It appeared as if he had completely immersed himself in the role that he had created for himself.

The First Flowzone and the Sword Sect—Lu Yin had been looking forward to seeing this place for a long time. "Do you know how to get to the Sword Sect?"

Ku Wei shook his head and immediately spoke up again, saying, "We can just grab any random person and ask them. Does Your Highness want to visit the Sword Sect?"

Lu Yun nodded. He had never found out about what had happened to Li Zimo after sending him to the Sword Sect, and Lu Yin had invested quite a bit of effort into getting to know the sword genius. On top of that, Lu Yin was essentially the ruler of the Outerverse. Surely, that gave him enough weight even with the Sword Sect. Also, if possible, Lu Yin wanted to experience the Thirteen Swords again.

All of a sudden, Ku Wei shouted, "Your Highness, news about ZENITH is out!"

While shouting in excitement, he shared his screen with Lu Yin.

At the video's start, all that could be seen was darkness. After a moment's pause, a tall mountain appeared out of nowhere. One black shadow after another flickered about, fighting each other as all of them struggled towards the peak of the mountain. Strangely enough, even though this was just a promotional video, it still ignited flames of passion within the viewers' hearts. More shadows continued to appear, and battle technique after battle technique was unleashed. The unending flood of attacks and energy was all focused on a single point: the mountain peak.

At last, one figure arrived at the top. It lifted its hand and set it down upon the mountain peak. This one hand enveloped the entire mountain.

There were no words, and it was just a video. However, the background music combined with the battle techniques that were both familiar and unfamiliar made Lu Yin's blood boil.

He envisioned those figures as being Shang Qing, Yuhua Mavis, Liu Tianmu, Wen Sansi, and the other matchless powerhouses who dominated the universe.

Everyone had their eyes on a single prize: the peak.

This was ZENITH. Although Lu Yin had been told to place within the top ten, a mountain only had one peak. For him, placing second would not be enough. If Lu Yin was to participate, then how could he merely aim for the top ten?

Ku Wei clenched his fists. "Your Highness, you'll definitely be able to stand at the very top."

Lu Yin focused on the towering mountain and on the figure that had set down their hand to cover all the other shadows. That was the peak. That was the pinnacle that Lu Yin and all his peers striven for, both from the Fifth Mainland and the Sixth Mainland.

Taking that position was the only way anyone would ever be recognized as truly invincible within their generation.

During the trip back to the Inniverse, Lu Yin had asked Highsage Shenwei about what it meant to be a gatekeeper. Highsage Shenwei had explained that ZENITH would be held on Zenith Mountain and that the mountain had five entrances located in the north, south, east, west, and center. Only the participants who managed to break through the entrances would actually be allowed to participate in ZENITH.

This competition was meant to encompass both the Fifth Mainland and Sixth Mainland. Thus, the number of prospective participants would be so high that it was simply impossible to even estimate. As such, they had created this elimination round to limit the number of participants. From these entrances known as gates, five individuals out of the entire generation would be chosen, one for each entrance. Only by making it past these entrance guardians would a person receive a ticket to participate in ZENITH.

Two entrances had been reserved for the Fifth Mainland's Human Domain, two for the Sixth Mainland as well, and the last for the Astral Beast Domain. These five youths would be the five gatekeepers tasked with filtering out the competition.

Lu Yin, as a nominal disciple of the esteemed Highsage Grandmaster, had been recommended to be one of the five gatekeepers.

With the opportunity to step onto the greatest stage in both the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands that included all of humanity, it was a given that everyone would want to participate and show themselves. The five gatekeepers would undoubtedly be the center of attention. After all, simply being gatekeepers meant that they had already been recognized as individuals capable of taking one of the top ten positions without exception.

Essentially, by becoming a gatekeeper, Lu Yin had been given the task of suppressing a fifth of the universe's ambitious youths by stopping them from reaching Zenith Mountain. Lu Yin would be seen as

an obstacle by countless people, but he would simultaneously be recognized as one of the strongest members of his generation as well.

When he first heard of this elimination round, the first thing that Lu Yin thought of was the Three Academies Guarding the Gate event during the Astral Combat Tournament. Even though he had not returned in time to witness that scene for himself, he had still watched videos of it afterwards. To his surprise, the rules were quite similar to what ZENITH was employing.

With so many people clamoring to participate from all over the universe, this mass elimination round was already the best solution possible. Otherwise, ZENITH would never end.

Hightsage Shenwei had also told Lu Yin that the elimination round with the five entrances would cut the number of contestants in half.

With Lu Yin's strength, the number of opponents that he was to face had already lost all meaning. Additionally, it would also be impossible for him to be knocked out by just a single formidable opponent. He planned to allow anyone who could persist for two or three breaths after receiving his attacks through. His job as a gatekeeper was simply to weed out the weak while also demonstrating the absurd power of the five gatekeepers.

There were only two spots for the entire Human Domain, so Hightsage Grandmaster's confidence in recommending Lu Yin for this prestigious position made it abundantly clear how highly he regarded Lu Yin's potential.

The youths who had fought for the position of the Cosmic Five at the Astral Tower had basically already reached the pinnacle of the Human Domain's younger generation. Shang Qing, Lei Nu, You Qi, Yuhua Mavis, Qiu Shi, Xia Jiuyou, Wen Sansi, Unseen Light, and the rest were all already Enlighteners. However, aside from Shang Qing, none of the others could confidently be recommended to be a gatekeeper.

Lu Yin himself was not entirely certain that he would be confirmed, but he was feeling nonchalant about the whole affair. He was fully confident that he would make it to the final ten regardless of what happened.

"Your Highness, there's a spacecraft heading toward us from the distance," Ku Wei announced.

Lu Yin raised his head to take a look, but he did not see too many rune lines from the approaching vessel, which meant that the most powerful person aboard was a Hunter. Of course, Lu Yin's calculations would change if the person had hidden their true strength.

"Ask him for directions," said Lu Yin.

Ku Wei immediately exited the vessel and stood before the approaching ship. He watched as a sword-shaped spacecraft quickly approached them.

Lu Yin was taken by surprise. Since it was a sword-shaped spacecraft, it had to belong to the Sword Sect, right? What a coincidence!

The occupants of the sword-shaped spacecraft did not seem to notice Ku Wei, and the ship crashed straight into him.

Ku Wei was incredibly offended, and he instinctively raised a hand to attack whoever was trying to plow through him. Although Ku Wei was still just a Cruiser, he was also a realmbreaker who was perfectly capable of standing up to a normal Hunter. His one attack completely destroyed the spacecraft.

A man's angry groan could be heard from within the wreckage, and aforementioned man quickly rushed out, angrily wielding a sword as he tore through the void. Clearly, he was a high-level Hunter.

Ku Wei scoffed. Although he willingly debased himself in front of Lu Yin, Ku Wei was still an untamed and obnoxious man against all others. In fact, he regularly went around and calling himself "Brother Wei."

Ku Wei watched as the sword approached him, but he merely raised his hands and countered with a Finger Tap.

Finger Tap was a battle technique that came from the Ku family's legacy, and it was famous for quelling the target's battle intent. And without any intent, the tip of a sword would lose its sharpness.

Ku Wei's Finger Tap struck the tip of the sword, and the blade shattered into multiple pieces that flew in all directions. The swordsman in the Hunter realm was shocked when he realized what had happened, and he stared at Ku Wei in aghast. "Who are you?"

The Sword Sect's cultivators were usually the challenged ones, so he had not expected to be challenged like this on this day. Additionally, he was thoroughly embarrassed that he had not even been able to hold his sword correctly against his challenger. Still, despite his raging emotions, the Hunter did not continue his attack. He was someone who had managed to become a Hunter, and he was definitely experienced enough to understand what sort of situation he was in.

Ku Wei's Finger Tap had left quite an impression on the Hunter, as it was an extraordinary battle technique.

"Judging from your appearance, you must be from the Sword Sect, correct?" Ku Wei asked.

The man warily stared at Ku Wei before shifting his focus over to the spacecraft where Lu Yin was still sitting. Suddenly, the Hunter went pale. He had recognized the collapsible Aurora after noticing the Sea King's Dome's emblem that decorated the hull. "Are you from the Sea King's Dome? Why did you block my path? I'm a Sword Sect cultivator who's carrying out his duties."

Ku Wei lazily replied, "Brother Wei here isn't trying to block you. I'm just trying to get some directions. Which way is the Sword Sect in?"

The man stared at Ku Wei with open suspicion. "Just who exactly are you? Why would you ask me for the Sword Sect's location?"

Ku Wei was losing his patience. "Just do what I tell you to do! Stop yapping!"

The man's eyes narrowed further, and he secretly tapped his fingers against his gadget. While doing so, he kept a close eye on Ku Wei. This person did not appear to be a decent human being no matter how he looked at him.

At that moment, Lu Yin emerged from the spacecraft. He faced the man and courteously said, "Please report to the Sword Sect that Lu Yin wishes to visit."

The man was momentarily stunned, and then his expression quickly changed to one of surprise. He stared at Lu Yin and asked, "Are- are you Lu Yin?"

Lu Yin nodded.

The man repeatedly scanned Lu Yin up and down. "Are you really Lu Yin?"

"Why? What is there to doubt? Don't you feel his domineering aura and invincible aura?" Ku Wei roared loudly as he moved over to stand beside Lu Yin.

Lu Yin frowned; was this bastard Ku Wei trying to mock him? If not, then why was it so uncomfortable to hear him spout all this flattery?

The man hurriedly replied, "Please wait a moment. I'll make the report now."

With that, he raced back to his ruined spacecraft.

Ku Wei complained, "Your Highness, that guy was so blind! Despite Your Highness's endless grace, he wasn't able to recognize you even though he's from the Inniverse. How useless! It's no wonder why he's stuck as a Hunter even after all his years of cultivation. He's certainly not young."

Lu Yin calmly responded, "Don't ever refer to me as 'domineering' or 'invincible' in the future. I haven't reached that level yet. Actually, call me Seventh Bro from now on."

Ku Wei was thrilled. "Seven- Seventh Bro? Does Little Wei have the right to do so? Your Highness, you're too good to me! Little Wei will give you my all! I'll gladly lay my life down for you."

Lu Yin was rendered speechless, and he suddenly recalled that this bastard was actually Lu Yin's lockbreaking disciple. If Lu Yin asked Ku Wei to address him as 'master,' then would Ku Wei start another insane session of bootlicking right away? The thought sent chills down Lu Yin's spine.

Before much time passed, the man returned and respectfully informed Lu Yin, "Alliance Leader Lu, we are quite far from the Sword Sect. So, Elder Liu has invited you to join him at Charm Mountain Flowzone before traveling to the Sword Sect together."

Lu Yin asked in confusion, "Charm Mountain Flowzone?"

The man nodded and replied solemnly, "The Sword Sect is about to wage a war against the Charm Mountain Sect and exterminate them."

### **Chapter 1208: War Against The Sect**

Charm Mountain Flowzone lay between First Flowzone and Daynight Flowzone. It was a smaller flowzone, around the same size as Northline Flowzone. The flowzone only contained one power, and it was known as the Charm Mountain Sect, which was also the source of the flowzone's name.

The backstory of why the Sword Sect was moving to exterminate Charm Mountain Flowzone was long and complicated. Charm Mountain Flowzone contained a natural resource known as the Charm

Mountain Herb, and since this smaller flowzone was sandwiched between two of the great flowzones, it meant that this herb was a common reason for conflict between those two great flowzones.

In the past, First Flowzone had lost the contest, and Charm Mountain Flowzone had been annexed by Daynight Flowzone. However, after Lu Yin had overturned Daynight Flowzone, First Flowzone had seized the opportunity to forcibly occupy Charm Mountain Flowzone. To the Charm Mountain Sect, their job was similar to Ironblood Weave's clean-up operations.

Lu Yin had never expected his actions to be the trigger for this war.

Daynight and First Flowzone were both part of the Innaverse's eight major flowzones. As a result, their activities generally affected things on a greater scale, and they also held widespread influence. With the help of Leon's Armada and the power of half of the unified Outerverse, Lu Yin had wreaked havoc in Daynight Flowzone. Its resulting near collapse had strongly influenced the Innaverse's political situation to the point where it was nearly unrecognizable compared to before.

Daynight Flowzone had always been so domineering that the other powers did not even dare to speak out even though the Daynight clan usually took a large proportion of the Innaverse's resources for themselves. Now that the tables had turned, the resulting implications were just as severe. The situation with Charm Mountain Flowzone was just one of the consequences, and there were many more that Lu Yin had not noticed yet.

This was not a war fought for principles, but rather one for leverage and influence.

The Innaverse was different from the Outerverse in that it was much crueler and more unreasonable.

Lu Yin stared out at a distant point in space where the war was unfolding, but his expression remained calm.

The Charm Mountain Sect's forces were much stronger than most Outerverse powers. Even though they were not on the same level as the Neo-Vestige Sect, the Charm Mountain Sect still had multiple powerful Enlighters.

Sword qi filled this entire region, tearing at the fabric of space. Tens of thousands of Sword Sect disciples were participating in the battle, and just the sight of their sharp and polished swords was enough to induce fear in any foe. The countless swords all struck at once, slicing one of Charm Mountain Sect's Enlighters apart in one blow.

Ku Wei was stunned speechless by the scene. "Seventh Bro, the Sword Sect's pretty ruthless. They didn't even let him finish his sentence."

Lu Yin indifferently replied, "Since they're here to exterminate their opponent, it's already too late for words."

The commanders and officers in the Central Coalition that Lu Yin had ordered hits on had not had a chance to speak up either.

There was a loud roar, and waves of energy swept across the entire battlefield. Off in the distance, a few stars collapsed and formed a black hole. At the same time, one of the Charm Mountain Sect's

battleships caught fire and was shredded into countless pieces by sword qi. Not a single intact corpse could be found amongst the wreckage.

"The Charm Mountain Sect is willing to surrender to the Sword Sect. Why not put an end to this slaughter, Sword Sect? The Charm Mountain Sect is willing to surrender!" shouted an old, male Enlightener with a maniacal desperation, but his skull was soon pierced through by a streak of sword qi. The light left his eyes as despair filled them right before he died. His expression stood in stark contrast to the Sword Sect disciple who was still standing.

The person who had killed the elderly Charm Mountain Sect Enlightener was a powerful disciple of the Sword Sect, and he was wearing a crimson red robe. In Lu Yin's eyes, this man had the second highest number of rune lines on the entire battlefield, and according to Lu Yin's estimation, this man's power level should be greater than 400,000. The person with the most rune lines on the battlefield was actually a scrawny, unremarkable man on the side of the Charm Mountain Sect. It was possible that the people from the Sword Sect had not realized it yet, but that scrawny man was actually the strongest person on the entire battlefield.

Currently, the scrawny man's opponent was a mere Hunter from the Sword Sect. No matter how amazing the sword techniques unleashed by the Hunter were, everything was easily swept away by the scrawny man's power.

Upon seeing that the death of Charm Mountain Sect's elder did not bring a stop to the Sword Sect's slaughter, the scrawny man's eyes grew cold. "Sword Sect, you've gone too far!"

As he spoke, he grabbed the Hunter's sword and instantly crushed it. The skinny man then slapped the hilt out of the Hunter's hand, and to the Sword Sect disciple's shock, disintegrated the hilt within the void.

A terrifying pressure emanated out from the scrawny man and washed across the battlefield, attracting the attention of numerous Sword Sect powerhouses. A wave of sword qi quickly attacked the man.

The scrawny man simply scoffed and nonchalantly waved a hand to dissolve all of the incoming sword qi.

At that moment, the Sword Sect powerhouse in the crimson red robe appeared. "So you're still alive. Were the rumors from a hundred years ago fake?"

The scrawny man's eyes remained as cold as ice. "Does it matter if they were real or fake? Since I'm not dead, I beseech you, Elder Li: end this war. My Charm Mountain Sect is willing to submit to the Sword Sect."

Elder Li sneered, "You should have known that this would happen sooner or later. The Charm Mountain Sect made its choice back then, and you must now face the consequences."

The scrawny man fiercely growled, "The reason why you want to exterminate my Charm Mountain Sect is just because we tried to help Daynight Flowzone during the recent chaos. Elder Li should understand our difficult position, as we are stuck between the Daynight clan and the Sword Sect. It's difficult for us to even survive."

"There's no excuse for swaying wherever the wind blows. The Sect Leader personally ordered the Charm Mountain Sect's doom this day. In fact, he no longer wishes to see the words 'Charm Mountain Flowzone' on a star chart. It's time for this flowzone to have a new master." As Elder Li spoke, he drew his sword. This time, his sword qi had reached a power level of more than 400,000, and it sent a shockwave rippling through the battlefield. It was impossible to tell how far the force of this sword could go, and it was possible for it to even split Charm Mountain Flowzone in half.

The scrawny man shouted in rage, "Today the Sword Sect exterminates Charm Mountain Flowzone, and tomorrow, another flowzone might fall as well! Do you have no fear of the surrounding flowzones allying together to withstand the Sword Sect's tyranny?"

"Try us!" Elder Li cried out.

Within his spacecraft, Lu Yin simply watched the fight. This showdown between the two powerhouses had left the rest of the battlefield in silence. The aftershock from the collision of the two powerhouses' techniques swept through the entire region.

Lu Yin realized that he had forgotten about a certain detail. Out of the Inverse's eight major flowzones, the most powerful ones had always been the Sword Sect and the Daynight clan. Naturally, the two had always been fighting for the top position and had thus kept each other in check. However, after Lu Yin had destabilized the Daynight clan with a massive blow and forced the Daynight clan to essentially isolate itself, the Sword Sect had immediately seized this opportunity to take action. They had become uncontrollable in their advances due to the lack of a strong rival, and that was not good.

Lu Yin glanced over at the Sword Sect cultivator escort nearby. Could they have brought Lu Yin to this place so that he would witness the battle as a warning? Could they be setting their sights on the Outerverse?

A united Outerverse was not something that benefited the Inverse, and at this moment, the strongest and most influential power in the Inverse was the Sword Sect. In other words, the Sword Sect would suffer the most from a united Outerverse.

Upon realizing this, Lu Yin's eyes grew cold.

Everyone else on the battlefield was forced to endure the shockwaves coming from a battle between two powerhouses whose power levels exceeded 400,000.

All of the Sword Sect's disciples retreated, as did the Charm Mountain Sect's disciples. This entire area was left empty for this final confrontation.

The reverberations from the multiple clashes shook space, and they caused Lu Yin's spacecraft to shake like a small boat caught in rough waves.

Many people felt suffocated by the experts' star energy's oppressive force. Elder Li's sword qi was particularly violent, and it blinded many who simply caught sight of it.

Even though the man from the Charm Mountain Sect surpassed the Sword Sect's Elder Li in terms of sheer power level, Elder Li was from the Sword Sect. Thus, it was not possible to properly evaluate his strength by just looking at his rune lines. Before long, the scrawny man from Charm Mountain Sect had been suppressed, and he was clearly at the end of his rope.

The people from the Sword Sect were fully confident in Elder Li, and they calmly watched the fight approach its conclusion.

Conversely, the Charm Mountain Sect disciples fell into despair.

“Sword Sect, you’ve gone too far! Even if the Charm Mountain Sect vanishes today, we’ll take you down with us!” the skinny man screamed with everything he had.

Elder Li had a ferocious expression, and he was about to swing his sword to end the fight, but at that moment, a figure appeared in front of him. That person was wearing universal armor, and they raised their left hand to block Elder Li’s attack. The skinny man from the Charm Mountain Sect struck the armor with full force, but the person remained unaffected. The figure then raised their right hand, held it against the Charm Sect cultivator’s abdomen, and sent the man from the Charm Mountain Sect flying with a loud bang as raging waves of energy shot out in all directions.

This immense impact tore the void apart and even forced Elder Li to instinctively retreat a few steps. Once he had re-stabilized himself, he looked at the figure in utter shock; just who was this person with such monstrous strength? This armored person had even managed to catch him by surprise, so if they had launched an attack instead... Elder Li did not dare to think of the outcome.

The person who had moved was naturally Lu Yin. He had not really saved Elder Li, as Lu Yin could tell from the rune lines of the Charm Mountain Sect’s elder’s attack that Elder Li would not have been badly injured even without Lu Yin’s intervention, but Lu Yin had still made a move. He wanted to do the Sword Sect a favor while also simultaneously demonstrating his own strength.

The Sword Sect planned to instill fear in other organizations with this war, but Lu Yin intended to do the same exact thing to them.

Elder Li was aware that the attack from the man from the Charm Mountain Sect would not have done much damage to him, but the surrounding Sword Sect disciples did not know this. To them, Lu Yin had just done them an unrequested favor.

“I apologize, Elder Li. This junior could not resist the urge to join the fight,” Lu Yin said apologetically.

Elder Li met Lu Yin’s eyes.

Some distance away, the man from the Charm Mountain Sect was coughing up blood, and he turned to stare at Lu Yin in terror. That child had actually completely disregarded his full strength attack and then caused him to spit out blood with just a slap! What monstrous strength.

Lu Yin’s universal armor had been upgraded seven times, and its rune lines were closely approaching a power level of 500,000. Naturally, someone with a power level of 400,000 could not break through it.

It had been a long time since Lu Yin had used his items to make up for a difference in strength, and it was invigorating to do so once again.

Elder Li shifted his eyes over to look at the Charm Mountain Sect’s elder. The coldness in Elder Li’s eyes turned into sword qi as he raised a hand and thrust his sword forward, piercing a hole in the void. This move was far more complex than any attack that he had previously unleashed. From what Lu Yin could

tell, this move even contained some of the Thirteen Swords' concepts. This strike reminded Lu Yin of Liu Xiaoyun, who had also made many attempts to imitate the Thirteen Swords despite never inheriting the technique.

The man from the Charm Mountain Sect had coughed out a mouthful of blood after taking a full strength blow from Lu Yin. This was actually to be expected as Lu Yin could fight against the corpse king, Beast, after it had undergone three transformations. Even though Enlighters with power levels over 400,000 could not match up to the skinny man's strength, Lu Yin's slap had injured the man quite badly, and it had left him too weak to avoid Elder Li's blade. At last, the skinny man was cut to death.

As he watched the corpse of the man from the Charm Mountain Sect drift through outer space, Lu Yin was reminded of Northgate Taisui. Lu Yin had been terrified when he had first encountered someone with a power level of more than 400,000, but he had already become someone who could pose a threat to such powerhouses. How time flew by!

Surprisingly, more than half of the Ten Arbiters did not exceed the age limit of forty years old, and were thus still considered a part of the younger generation. Many of them were likely very close to the limit, but were lucky enough to qualify for ZENITH.

The death of the Charm Mountain Sect's strongest member meant that the entire sect would collapse soon.

Such a scene was more than familiar to Lu Yin, and so, he felt no sympathy for the Charm Mountain Sect. If it were not for the Sword Sect, then the Charm Mountain Sect definitely would have helped the Daynight clan when Lu Yin had made his move, which would have ruined his plans. Ultimately, everything boiled down to fate.

Lu Yin had also experienced similar moments of despair on multiple occasions. This was simply the cruel reality of the universe.

"Are you Lu Yin?" Elder Li stared at Lu Yin with eyes that were filled with animosity and killing intent. It was clear that killing had become second nature to the man.

Lu Yin nodded and removed his universal armor. "Junior Lu Yin pays his respects, senior."

Elder Li scanned Lu Yin, and his eyes gradually moved down to Lu Yin's right hand. "Your strength is quite formidable. Not even I can match up to you."

Lu Yin laughed. "Elder Li vastly surpasses me in terms of sword technique. I just happen to have a little more physical strength, so how could I compare with Elder Li?"

"Reaching a pinnacle is strength." With that, Elder Li turned around and left.

### **Chapter 1209: Internal Strife**

After Elder Li left, another elder by the name of Liu Shen approached Lu Yin. He was much more polite and friendly to Lu Yin. "Alliance Leader Lu, I've heard a great deal about you. I am Liu Shen."

"Junior Lu Yin pays his respects to Elder Liu."

"Please, there's no need to be so formal, Alliance Leader Lu. You are the master of the Outerverse, and your status is much higher than a mere elder like me," Liu Shen said with a light laugh.

Lu Yin remained humble. "Elder Liu, you're too kind. Despite everything else, I am still your junior."

The two exchanged a few more niceties with a backdrop of the Charm Mountain Sect's total annihilation. To these two people, the countless deaths that came with a sect's extinction was a rather typical occurrence.

In the distance, a certain man observed Lu Yin with surprise, but he only took one glance before charging straight at the survivors of Charm Mountain Sect. The man was Li Zimo, and he had joined the war efforts against the Charm Mountain Sect as a Sword Sect disciple.

Lu Yin had also noticed Li Zimo, but it was impossible for them to acknowledge each other in the current situation. Thus, they simply pretended that they had not seen each other. Lu Yin even avoided looking at Li Zimo in order to prevent anyone from the Sword Sect from learning that the two knew each other. Lu Yin felt that it was enough to know that Li Zimo had successfully joined the Sword Sect.

With Li Zimo's talent for the sword, he should be able to climb quite high in the Sword Sect in the future.

Liu Shen was a polished and discerning individual. He used polite words to test the waters with Lu Yin before trying to sweet-talk Lu Yin. His adulation was so excessive that it even seemed like Liu Shen was worshiping Lu Yin.

Lu Yin had never been one to fall to flattery, and Liu Shen's skills at the verbal arts were severely lacking compared to the journalists from the Outerverse who had gone all out to praise Lu Yin. Even Ku Wei was better at flattery than Liu Shen, though that was mostly due to the fact that Ku Wei lacked any sort of shame when doing so.

At this time, Ku Wei was standing behind Lu Yin and staring at Liu Shen with a look of contempt; this fool did not even know how to properly bootlick! Ku Wei had tossed away his shame, and he felt that this Liu Shen would do well to learn from him.

Liu Shen tried his absolute best to demonstrate the Sword Sect's good will towards Lu Yin while Lu Yin did his best to show Liu Shen the same in return.

Before long, the assault on the Charm Mountain Sect calmed down. Not only had the Sword Sect eliminated the vast majority of their foes, but most of their opponents during this battle had also been core members of the Charm Mountain Sect. The survivors were captured by the Sword Sect, though Lu Yin did not know why.

Liu Shen and Elder Li escorted Lu Yin back to the Sword Sect's headquarters.

During the trip back, Lu Yin saw someone familiar aboard the Sword Sect's vessel: Long Yun.

In the past, when they had both been on Planet Pyrolyte, Lu Yin had only been able to comprehend six lines of battle force due to Long Yun's assistance. Lu Yin had a strong impression of Long Yun, and he was also aware that Long Yun was someone who excelled at hiding his true power.

"It's been almost eight years, hasn't it? Many things have changed since then, and you're already the leader of the Outerverse," Long Yun spoke with nostalgia as he sat down in front of Lu Yin.

Lu Yin smiled. "You've almost surpassed the Hunter realm, right? What about your battle force? You've probably already passed eight lines by now."

Long Yun let out a small laugh. "Isn't it embarrassing for me to speak of battle force with you? Back then, you used my help to raise your battle force to six lines when I was still at seven. But what about now? You've already reached nine lines while I'm still stuck at eight. I went from standing in front of you to lagging behind. Ah, how quickly do the tides turn."

Lu Yin chuckled. "I heard that you received the title of Marquis."

Long Yun nodded. "The Sixth Mainland invaded us, and I nearly lost my life."

"Me too," Lu Yin replied.

Long Yun turned his head to look straight at Lu Yin. "But you've already gotten your revenge. Nightking Zhenwu was someone who dominated our entire generation, but you actually managed to kill him. Honestly speaking, I didn't quite believe it when I first heard the news, though I had no reason to doubt it either."

Lu Yin had a deep understanding of the position that the Ten Arbiters occupied in the hearts of Long Yun and many other youths; to them, those ten were truly invincible. Lu Yin had first defeated Lan Si, shocking both the Inniverse and Outerverse, but then, he had proceeded to also defeat Nightking Zhenwu, which had created an even bigger commotion due to the various forces behind Lu Yin and Nightking Zhenwu.

Suddenly, Lu Yin really wanted to know what sort of expressions Long Yun, Liu Shaoqiu, and the other Sword Sect disciples would have if Lu Yin also defeated Liu Tianmu. Would Liu Shen still be all smiles? Lu Yin started looking forward to finding that out!

"Who's the next Arbiter that you're going to defeat? Oh, right, you're already a part of the Ten Arbiters now, so there's probably no reason for you to fight them now. The people you should be aiming for should be those guys from the Neoverse and the people who will be in ZENITH," Long Yun remarked.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed at the words, and he asked, "Speaking of ZENITH, how many people from the Sword Sect will go?"

Long Yun shook his head. "I'm not too sure, but there's no limit to how many people can join, so probably a lot."

"What about you? Will you be joining?" Lu Yin asked.

Long Yun sighed. "At first, I didn't want to because I know that there's no way I can make it into the top ten no matter what. However, those old farts in the sect forced me to join. I didn't have a choice."

Lu Yin did some mental calculations. Liu Tianmu, Liu Shaoqiu, and Long Yun were all participating from the Sword Sect, and Liu Xiaoyun should also be going as well. That meant that there were already four people without taking anyone else into account. Lu Yin felt that a safe guess was that around ten people from the Sword Sect would go, and the other Inniverse powers would probably send a similar number. And that wasn't even mentioning how many people from the Cosmic Sect's top rankings would want to

join. The same was also true of the other Neoverse powers like the Seven Courts, and this was still just the Human Domain.

The number of competitors that would compete at ZENITH would be astronomical.

"I don't even understand why the Hall of Honor is holding ZENITH. There's going to be so many people taking part, and I heard that they're planning on having some elimination round to cut the number of the participants in half right away. If they're going to do that, then why not just let the Ten Arbiters and the best youths from the Neoverse go at it? Why bother dragging everyone else in?" Long Yun complained. He hated troublesome things.

Lu Yin had a bit of insider information concerning the competition, but he was not able to share it with Long Yun.

They heard a distant commotion, and both Lu Yin and Long Yun looked towards the noise. Ku Wei had arrived, and he was gloating over what had happened. "Seventh Bro, there's some sort of internal fight within the Sword Sect."

Curious, Lu Yin moved closer to the commotion.

The Liu family had stood at the top of the Sword Sect for generations. In addition, all of the sect masters had been from the Liu family. This was why the members of the Liu family were considered elites compared to the rest of the Sword Sect.

Even though Liu was a primeval surname, the Liu family was widely recognized as the most powerful family in the Sword Sect.

Since the Liu family essentially controlled the Sword Sect, they were naturally able to cultivate their family's disciples to a level above the rest. They had reserved a large portion of the Sword Sect's resources for themselves, and they often oppressed the more average disciples. Most of the Sword Sect's disciples had already become numb to the situation, but newcomers were the exception.

On a spacecraft, some disciples of the Liu family had gathered together along with some of their followers. Across from them were standing some disciples who had recently joined the Sword Sect.

For someone to be able to enter the Sword Sect, they had to have exceptional talent with the sword, and they had also all been elites before joining. Thus, many of them had impressive backgrounds and were not afraid to confront members of the Liu family.

Besides, there were only a few members from the Liu family's main branch who were actually valued. The rest were from various side branches.

When Lu Yin, Long Yun, and Ku Wei arrived, they were met by the sight of many disciples arguing with each other.

"Give up your resources like we told you. In the Sword Sect, the Liu family calls the shots," one man arrogantly ordered.

On the other side, another man stubbornly retorted, "If Liu Shaoqiu were telling me this, then I wouldn't dare to disobey, but you? I'm not scared of you!"

“How brazen! The Liu family stands as a single entity yet you dare to resist our orders? It’s ridiculous that you didn’t bother finding out what happened to all the other disciples who joined right before you. Some of them were just as cocky as all of you are right now, but now, they know how to behave.”

“Swordsmen are known to openly display their skills, but within the Sword Sect, you’d better know your place! We’re the Liu family.”

“Know your place.”

“So what? I doubt that the sect will make things difficult for us new disciples just because of you guys.”

“The sect won’t back you guys either.”

...

Long Yun just shrugged. “Don’t pay them any mind, Brother Lu. This happens frequently. They’re from the Liu family, after all, and they all expect to receive some special privileges in the Sword Sect.”

Lu Yin responded, “The Liu family members that I’ve met were never like that.”

Long Yun said, “The higher you stand, the clearer you are of what lies before you. It’s lonely at the top, and everyone is constantly trying to pull you down. Rather, the ones at the bottom are more prone to behaving arrogantly, but they won’t take things too far.”

“Did Brother Long also experience something like this when you first joined the Sword Sect?” Lu Yin asked curiously.

Long Yun responded with nothing more than a smile.

Soon after, Liu Shen arrived and scolded everyone.

All of the disciples from the Liu family were unafraid of Liu Shen, and they were already used to him scolding them. Instead, it was the new disciples who did not dare to make any noise and instead suppressed their grievances.

Lu Yin scanned the area and noticed Li Zimo standing behind the group of new disciples. However, he stood some distance away and had not participated in the skuffle.

Most of these disciples who had recently joined the Sword Sect were only Limiteers, and only a handful were Explorers. On the other hand, the Liu family members seemed to have higher quality members, as there were several more Explorers in their group.

The battlefield for most of these people should have been at the Charm Mountain Sect, not in outer space.

“Just you guys wait! We’ll teach you guys a lesson when we get back to the sect!” someone from the Liu family threatened.

Liu Shen shot a fierce glare at the instigator.

At that time, a dainty-looking girl from the Liu family asked, "Elder, in the past, you've always had us send representatives from each side to fight it out with the winner getting the last say. Why don't you do that this time as well?"

In a low voice, Liu Shen answered, "Can't you see that we have a guest with us today? You're embarrassing yourselves! Leave now."

Many of the people looked over at Lu Yin and Ku Wei.

Ku Wei felt pleased with himself, and he looked down at the crowd with blatant contempt. His rude expression had thoroughly angered the Dark Phoenix family in the past, and it had actually triggered a fight between him and them at that time. At this moment, even though he was around people from the Sword Sect, Ku Wei actually had not toned down his behavior at all. Instead, he had kicked things up a notch! His ability to incite hatred and hostility had caused even Liu Shen to become upset.

Ku Wei was not even doing this on purpose. Rather, as someone from the Neoverse, there was an immense sense of internal arrogance that was hard to cast aside, even if he had separated from the Ku family.

"Elder Liu, please don't pay me any mind. Since the girl wishes for a fair fight, I'd also like to see the abilities of the Sword Sect's talented disciples." Lu Yin encouraged the two parties.

The girl who had spoken stared at Lu Yin and furrowed her brow as she said, "You look familiar."

Long Yun chided the girl, "Don't be rude. This is Arbiter Lu."

Everyone felt a bit confused, and some of them even gasped. "The Lu Yin who defeated Arbiter Zhenwu? The leader of the Outerverse's Great Eastern Alliance?"

As soon as one person recognized Lu Yin, everyone else did as well, and they all stared at him in disbelief.

Regardless of if they were from the Liu family or recently members of the Sword Sect, everyone stared at Lu Yin in complete shock. It was like they were meeting a person straight out of a legend.

The dainty-looking girl from the Liu family blurted out, "You're the Lu Yin who defeated Brother Shaoqiu?"

Lu Yin made eye contact with the girl and asked, "Are you Liu Shaoqiu's little sister?"

"I'm his cousin! Lu Yin, I challenge you!" the girl cried out.

"Shut your mouth and leave right now! How embarrassing!" Liu Shen loudly reprimanded the girl.

She felt indignant and continued to stare at Lu Yin.

Ku Wei laughed. "Little girl, why don't you let Brother Ku play with you?"

Lu Yin instantly scolded Ku Wei, "Zip it and back off."

Ku Wei retreated without question.

"Lu Yin, if you're really that strong, then accept my challenge!" the young girl goaded.

Lu Yin found the matter quite amusing, as the girl had not even broken past the Explorer realm, yet she still wanted to challenge him. While thinking of this, he looked across the new Sword Sect disciples. He pointed at them and said, "Your opponents are over there."

The girl dismissed them all and said, "They're all way too weak for me."

Liu Shen wanted to scold the girl once again.

Lu Yin countered, "Why don't I choose your opponent? If you can defeat him, then I'll accept your challenge."

The girl was thrilled. "Really? Who is it? The vulgar man behind you?"

Ku Wei glared at the girl in annoyance.

Lu Yin found the whole thing quite entertaining, but he simply pointed at Li Zimo and said, "Him."

Everyone turned to look at Li Zimo.

Li Zimo remained perfectly calm as he met Lu Yin's eyes.

Lu Yin continued to smile, though it was hard to tell what he was thinking.

#### **Chapter 1210: Lu Yin's Confidence**

Liu Shen's eyes flickered as he looked back and forth between Li Zimo and Lu Yin before finally commenting, "Alliance Leader Lu, you've got a good eye."

Lu Yin was surprised. "What do you mean?"

Liu Shen laughed. "That disciple is known as Li Zimo, and during the Sword Sect's recruitment assessment, he placed first. At that time, Elder Lianxin took him in as a disciple, and he immediately inherited the Inner Peace Sword Arts. Out of the tens of millions of the Sword Sect's disciples, he's always managed to retain a place at the very top."

Lu Yin responded in a knowing manner. "It looks like my luck's pretty good."

Upon seeing that Lu Yin had selected Li Zimo to be her opponent, the girl from the Liu family frowned. Li Zimo had already built quite the reputation for himself in the sect due to him becoming Elder Lianxin's only disciple and creating quite a commotion when he joined the Sword Sect. On top of that, Li Zimo had always been very strong, and it had to be acknowledged that he had even created his own sword techniques. The Liu girl had no confidence of victory, but since she had already agreed to Lu Yin's conditions, she had no choice but to face Li Zimo.

"Li Zimo, come!" The girl from the Liu family grabbed her sword as she moved out of the crowd and stared at Li Zimo.

Li Zimo did not move.

The girl from the Liu family pointed her sword at him. "Li Zimo, come at me!"

Li Zimo raised his head to look at the girl. "My sword is not a performance to be watched."

Liu Shen spoke a warning in a low voice, “Li Zimo, since Alliance Leader Lu has made a request, just have a duel with Liu Ling. You only need to go through the motions.”

Li Zimo furrowed his brow, but he still stood up. He stretched out his right arm, and a sword materialized. The tip of the blade was pointed at Liu Ling.

Everyone else retreated to leave space for the two fighters.

Liu Ling’s eyes narrowed and she said, “I’ve always wanted to see just what you’ve learned from Elder Lianxin and also to witness your self-created, so-called ‘Silent Sword.’”

After speaking, she conjured forth countless shadows with her blade, which looked quite similar to the Myriad Swords Sect’s Ten Thousand Swords as One, but at the same time, there were key differences. The core idea of the Ten Thousand Swords as One technique was to merge the various blades to form one large sword that would cut through everything to unleash the most powerful sword. In contrast, Liu Ling’s skill locked the void with the countless sword shadows that she had conjured.

Neither of the two sword techniques were necessarily better than the other, as it truly depended on how the user wielded them.

Lu Yin praised, “Impressive sword skills.”

In the face of Liu Ling’s aggressive assault formed from countless void-locking shadows, Li Zimo unhurriedly raised his sword and stepped forward. His sword fell down, and his body moved with the sword. A light “clank” sound was all that anyone heard, but Liu Ling remained frozen in place, dumbstruck. The sword in her hand cracked, and Li Zimo suddenly appeared behind her.

At this moment, Lu Yin felt like he was once again seeing Li Zimo defeat Tang Si from the Reverent King’s Residence. Lu Yin remembered being utterly amazed by just one slash of Li Zimo’s sword, and he had been unable to decide whether Li Zimo or Liu Shaoqiu was stronger. Currently, Li Zimo’s sword skills had progressed much further. He was still as precise as ever, and he left no traces behind when moving his sword. That was the essence of his Silent Sword, and its power was comparable to the Thirteen Swords’ First Sword.

Most of the people watching this match had never seen Li Zimo’s Silent Sword before, and they were stunned by his skill.

Even Liu Shen was taken back, and he could not help but exclaim, “The First Sword?”

However, he came to his senses immediately after his unbidden outburst. Although the Silent Sword closely resembled the Thirteen Swords’ First Sword, the two were not the same. The First Sword was a ranged slash that struck from a distance whereas the Silent Sword demanded that the swordsman’s body move with the sword.

Liu Ling could not believe that she had been defeated in just one move. She was an elite from the Liu family, but she lost after her opponent moved his blade a single time.

Li Zimo glanced over at Lu Yin with cold eyes before returning to his place where he leaned against the wall. He acted as if the match had never even happened.

At that moment, despite how unruly the Sword Sect disciples from the Liu family were, they all looked at Li Zimo with respect and fear.

The Sword Sect's top expert within the younger generation was undoubtedly Liu Tianmu followed by Long Yun and Liu Shaoqiu. Liu Shaoqiu had a particularly certain air of superiority to him even though he only ranked third even after inheriting the Thirteen Swords.

Li Zimo's sword skills had silenced the crowd. They felt that it might even be possible for him to challenge Liu Shaoqiu.

Clap, clap, clap!

Lu Yin applauded the exchange. "As expected of the Sword Sect. One can pick out any disciple, and they'll find someone with amazing sword skills." After that, he looked over at Liu Shen and asked, "You said that that disciple's name is Li Zimo?"

Liu Shen averted his eyes from Li Zimo and replied, "That's right. He's Elder Lianxin's only disciple. Have you taken an interest in him, Alliance Leader Lu?"

"Elder Lianxin?" Lu Yin questioned.

Liu Shen explained, "Elder Lianxin is an elder only below the Sect Leader. She's an Envoy."

Lu Yin was surprised. "So she's an Envoy! It's no wonder that she raised such an impressive disciple. I, Lu Yin, openly admit my admiration."

Liu Shen laughed and looked back at Li Zimo.

Lu Yin looked over at Li Zimo as well and said, "I hope to see you in ZENITH. The technique that you used was fascinating."

Li Zimo met Lu Yin's eyes, but he looked unhappy and threatened, "Do you want a taste of it?"

The atmosphere immediately grew tense.

Liu Shen instantly scolded Li Zimo. "Impudent! How can someone at your level even dream of challenging Alliance Leader Lu? He's one of the Ten Arbiters, and he defeated Divine Fist Lan Si as well as Arbiter Zhenwu. Even in the Neoverse, his accomplishments are absolutely outstanding. He's someone who has actually stood upon the highest stage of all humanity, but you want to challenge Alliance Leader Lu? Not in this lifetime!"

Lu Yin shot a look at Liu Shen. The man was essentially stirring up Li Zimo's animosity against Lu Yin. Most people would not take such words well, and this man was indeed someone who hid daggers behind a smile.

"If you wish to challenge me, I'll be your opponent anytime," Lu Yin replied with a smile.

Li Zimo stared at Lu Yin for a long moment before lowering his head and withdrawing.

Liu Shen turned to apologize to Lu Yin. "Alliance Leader Lu, I'm to blame for his lack of discipline. When we return to the Sword Sect, I'll make sure to report this matter to Elder Lianxin and have her punish him."

The other Sword Sect disciples left one after another.

Liu Ling was the only one who remained in place, dejectedly standing still. Though, she was soon dragged away by the other Liu family disciples.

Just before all of the disciples left, Elder Li, who was the elder with crimson robes, appeared.

Everyone from the Sword Sect immediately bowed. "We pay our respects to Elder Li."

"We pay our respects to Elder Li."

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Elder Li calmly looked at Lu Yin. "Alliance Leader Lu, since you've had the opportunity to see a demonstration put on by my Sword Sect's youths, then why don't you give us a demonstration of your own?"

Upon hearing Elder Li's words, all of the Sword Sect's disciples grew excited. It was almost impossible to get the opportunity to witness one of the Ten Arbiters unleash their power.

Li Zimo turned back towards Lu Yin.

Lu Yin gave a small laugh. "Does Elder Li intend to have a match with junior Lu Yin?"

Elder Li arched a brow. "Is there anything that you're looking to learn from me?"

Lu Yin's lips curled up. "I wouldn't dare. Excuse my impudence, but out of everyone here, who else has the strength to take a move from me aside from Elder Li?"

All the disciples of the Liu family, including Liu Ling, were thoroughly enraged. This was too arrogant!

Long Yun was also taken aback; this rascal had indeed grown even cockier.

Liu Shen had not expected Lu Yin to reply with such conceited words, as the youth had been a pleasant conversationalist up until this point.

Elder Li locked eyes with Lu Yin, but he shook his head after a moment. "If word gets out that I had a match with you, I would be ridiculed." He then turned to Long Yun and ordered, "You, go."

Long Yun was stunned for a moment, but he had no choice but to step forward. The only youth present who was capable of going up against Lu Yin was indeed Long Yun, though his defeat was also a foregone conclusion. Long Yun was not sure why Elder Li was so insistent on making Lu Yin reveal his strength.

Lu Yin was also uncertain as to what Elder Li was planning, but since the elder wanted Lu Yin to make a move, then Lu Yin was fine with it. He was even willing to face off against Elder Li. If it came down to it, then Lu Yin could simply use some of his items, as it was completely impossible for Elder Li to force Lu Yin to reveal his full hand.

If Lu Yin's opponent was Long Yun, then the fight would be a contest of battle force, or at least, that was what everyone assumed.

Lu Yin still remembered his last match against Long Yun on Planet Pyrolyte, though at that time, Lu Yin had only been a Limiteer.

Eight years had passed since the two had met, and many things had changed in that time. Upon seeing each other again after so long, Lu Yin was no longer the weaker of the two, as that position had fallen to Long Yun.

As much as Long Yun did not want to fight with Lu Yin, there was no other choice. So, if it was bound to happen, Long Yun would not pull any punches. "Brother Lu, give it your all. I don't want you to go easy on me."

With a solemn expression, Lu Yin replied, "Out of respect to you, I wouldn't."

"Thank you," Long Yun said calmly. After a moment's thought, he continued, "But don't take things too seriously. I still want to be able to take part in ZENITH."

Lu Yin laughed. "Sure."

The other Sword Sect disciples all grew nervous. From Long Yun's words, it was clear that he was feeling hesitant.

Long Yun held a high position within the Sword Sect's disciples. It could be said that, out of all of the younger disciples, Long Yun was only eclipsed by Liu Tianmu and Liu Tianmu alone. Despite that, he was already showing signs of fear before the fight even started. This caused Lu Yin to become an even more mysterious person in the eyes of the other youths, and at the same time, they also began to revere him even more.

Long Yun clenched both of his fists, and a blue aura slowly covered his body. Purple lines streaked across the blue, revealing it as eight lined battle force. The powerful aura emanating from Long Yun astounded the spectators, and the Sword Sect disciples grew excited as they admired their senior.

Cultivating battle force was not easy, and neither was comprehending it to begin with. Only a handful of youths were capable of cultivating their battle force to eight lines. Even within the Sword Sect, there were no peers who had reached the same level of mastery as Long Yun, not even Liu Tianmu. Long Yun was the sole disciple with such an accomplishment.

With his eight lined battle force, Long Yun had solidified his position as right below Liu Tianmu. Even though Liu Shaoqiu had inherited the Thirteen Swords and was able to surpass realms with ease, he still found it difficult to challenge Long Yun.

Eight lined battle force was the sign of a powerhouse.

On the opposite side, Lu Yin let out a slow breath, and purple lines appeared and shrouded his body. However, they didn't envelop his entire body. Instead, they merely wrapped around a finger. Red lines appeared on the purple, revealing it as nine lined battle force.

Upon seeing Lu Yin's nine lined battle force, many of the Sword Sect disciples went as pale as a sheet as they stared at him in confusion, as though they had just realized that he was a monster.

He was so young, so how had he managed to cultivate nine lined battle force?

The disciples were not the only ones confused, as even Elder Li could not comprehend how Lu Yin could have possibly accomplished such a thing.

There was no way it was that easy to cultivate battle force!

For ordinary cultivators, it was normal to take decades or even centuries to improve their battle force, so the thought of someone improving to this level in just a few years was out of the question. It was common sense that each level of battle force became sequentially and more more difficult to reach, but Lu Yin had managed to improve his battle force from six lines to nine in just a mere eight years. This went completely against the face of common sense.

Upon seeing that Lu Yin's nine lined battle force was only twined about a finger, Long Yun's brows furrowed, and he asked, "Brother Lu, just a finger with battle force won't be enough, will it?"

Lu Yin raised his finger and retorted, "It's plenty."

Long Yun's eyes narrowed. He had a good temper though he was a bit lazy and generally not fond of fights. He had also intended to back down before the fight truly began, but that did not mean that he was without any sense of pride. The idea that Lu Yin intended to fight him with just one finger was utterly humiliating.

Elder Li scowled; wanting to defeat Long Yun with one finger was too much even if Lu Yin was one of the Ten Arbiters unless Lu Yin was going to use one of his fingertip battle techniques with the finger wrapped in battle force. Those techniques were on the same level as the Thirteen Swords, and a power that could match the First Sword would indeed be enough for this match.

Long Yun nodded. "Since Brother Lu is so confident, then I'll move first."

As he finished speaking, a sword materialized in his hand, and he grew resolute. He used a basic sword technique, Sword Slash. It looked like an ordinary slash attack, but it was still formidable and fierce. This attack was different from the Thirteen Sword's First Sword which traveled through the void, as this slash seemed to have exchanged speed for a heavy and domineering aura.

Lu Yin was surprised, as this was very different from the attack that he had witnessed before, though it still was not enough to do anything to him. With that thought, he ran forward with light steps and struck out with his finger.

It was not impossible for Long Yun to change the trajectory of his attack, but he was still angered by Lu Yin's actions, so Long Yun directed his sword straight at Lu Yin's finger. So what if Lu Yin had nine lined battle force? Long Yun would just break the finger! His Sword Slash fearlessly shot forward.