

## Chapter 121: A Tough Battle

### A Tough Battle

It took half a minute of constant explosions for Hart Phoenix and Lu Yin to separate, both left gasping for air. It was the first time that Lu Yin had faced such difficulty against a Sentinel, and Hart felt the same. It was a pity that he could not converse with his opponent here; he really wanted to find out where such a contender came from.

However, no one could be allowed to defeat an Undying Bird. Golden blazes soared once more, forming a much larger bird that soared in the void. Lu Yin was shocked at the realization that his opponent hadn't been going all-out until now; the unbelievable surge of energy and the golden flames were worrying. The bird's screech vaporized the shattered platform, its golden flames filling the air. Hart was now like an emperor of flames as he gestured both hands downwards, sending the flames to engulf Lu Yin.

Lu Yin grew serious and raised his palm, six stars spinning within. However, the six-star Cosmic Palm was clearly a little weaker than these golden flames, and he howled as they covered him. A seventh indistinct star slowly formed in his palm; it wasn't revolving just yet, but even the trace burst forth with significant power. Lu Yin charged down towards Hart and struck out, the seventh star dispersing the fire in all directions. Hart's eyes narrowed as his protective flames faded, and the earth all around them sank down from the impact.

Lu Yin's Cosmic Palm had not managed to strike Hart, but it did disperse all the flames around. He raised his left hand and used the Six Stacks Shockwave Palm right at the opponent's abdomen, drawing a mouthful of blood as Hart growled and kicked at his side. He retreated a few steps and flashed away, reappearing behind Hart and forming the Cosmic Palm once more.

Hart turned around and gritted his teeth. The flaming bird crowed from his body once more, refusing to accept defeat. The attack landed firmly on him and sent him flying, but the scattered flames quickly converged on him once more and started healing it rapidly.

Lu Yin was stunned by the sight, recalling Qingyu who was similarly difficult to kill. This would not do, he couldn't give this opponent a break. He immediately flashed towards Hart once more, using the Cosmic Palm with both hands this time. The golden bird flew out and clashed with the attacks a dozen times, leaving Lu Yin a little overwhelmed, but Hart was the exact same. His innate gift was powerful, but it could not be used endlessly.

Eventually, Hart was the first to give in. He blanked out for a moment, and a just-as-exhausted Lu Yin noticed the gap and used the Six Stacks Shockwave Palm again to achieve victory. However, this one battle gave him an acute sense of how fearsome the geniuses of the Inniverse were. A mere Sentinel could actually push him this far; if not for his improved grasp of star energy and the lessons in stacking from the Rainmaster, this battle would not have gone his way at all. He finally realized that his assumption that he was unmatched in the Sentinel realm was too arrogant.

Lu Yin opened his eyes after the victory and looked outside, noticing Michelle's curiosity and Meng Yue's surprise at his having stayed in so long. However, he wasn't done yet; one could continue so long as they were on a winning streak, and he entered once more.

At the same time, Hart stood up within the gloomy forest in Astral-5 with an ugly expression. He'd been defeated, and that too by someone in the same realm. This was utter humiliation! How was he to answer to his brother? He burned the codename Seventh Brother into his mind. He had to scrub away this shame.

Quite a few people came over as he stepped out of the teleportation stone's domain. "How is it, Hart; you've got to have hit three wins this time."

"There's no need to ask, he definitely did it..."

Hart did not bother with the crowd and just left to train. That Seventh Brother had to be from one of the Astral Combat Academies; all the other powers that held teleportation stones had their own unique factors. He might face this person in the Astral Combat Tournament, and would definitely defeat him then.

When Lu Yin entered the ported battle once more, he arrived at a marsh. There was already someone waiting for him again, but he felt like puking the moment he saw their name. Big Windy Bro. The very first opponent he'd chanced upon in the ported battles, the absolute beast that had killed him instantly, was here again. Big Windy Bro's star energy swept out the moment Lu Yin appeared, obliterating the void. Lu Yin was knocked out in an instant yet again just as expected. It was rather depressing that he couldn't even block one hit.

Back in Astral-10, Lu Yin walked out just as the old man announced his results, "Lu Yin; one victory to seven defeats."

"You actually won?" Meng Yue was shocked.

However, Lu Yin ignored him and turned to Michelle, "You're from the Inniverse, have you heard of a Phoenix Clan?"

"You met a Phoenix?" Michelle was stunned, explaining when he nodded, "They're one of the strongest families in the Inniverse. It makes sense that you were beaten."

She stepped towards the stone before Lu Yin could tell her that he'd won. He wanted to call after her, but eventually dismissed it. Phoenix? They definitely lived up to their billing if a Sentinel could give him such a tough time. He couldn't begin to imagine how powerful the clan's Melders or Limiteers would be.

It was quite alluring to achieve a hundred victories and enter the Nine Trial Zones, but most of the new students knew their limits and were silently training. Only a handful were around the entrance at any time; when a dejected Meng Yue left as well, Lu Yin and Michelle were the only ones remaining. At one point, Lu Yin had won two out of twelve battles, a score that shocked Michelle. Her own win rate was about the same, but she was a Melder while he was only a Sentinel.

Sometimes, luck was a part of one's achievements. Lu Yin met Sentinels consecutively in his thirteenth and fourteenth battles, and they seemed to be new students just like him. He dispatched them easily, but the fifteenth opponent was more troublesome: a sylvan dragon.

One of the three powers blocking the Sentinel paths during the Astral-10 assessment was a sylvan dragon, but Lu Yin had been on a different path and so did not recognize it. He was stunned by the sight of a beast in the ported battle, but there was indeed a codename on top of the creature's head: Dragon Eight.

Dragon Eight huffed and charged at Lu Yin, crushing down with its claws. Its terrifying Melder star energy swept across and wrapped around him, intending to immobilize its target for the easy kill. Lu Yin would indeed have been trapped if it was a Limiteer, but his current star energy control allowed him to shake it off. The creature was stunned by the sight of a Sentinel breaking its chains, but it stretched out and its enormous body split into two. Four sharp claws moved in strange paths to block off all directions, forcing Lu Yin to confront it.

Lu Yin used the Six Stacks Shockwave Palm directly, giving rise to an explosion that split the earth. Both combatants crashed down to the ground from the impact, with Dragon Eight retreating a few steps to nurse its trembling claws. It was quite amazed by this blow, almost shivering at the thought that a mere Sentinel could injure it. Was this an heir of one of the best Innerverse clans?

Lu Yin jumped out of the marsh and stared at Dragon Eight, six stars forming on his palm. Six stars in the realm of infinite change far surpassed Gerbach and even Schutz, making Lu Yin the strongest youth in the Great Yu Empire, but he still had a losing record. In fact, it was extremely rare to score a single victory. He had to work under the assumption that this beast was no ordinary Melder. After all, Hart Phoenix was certainly stronger than Schutz despite only being a Sentinel. That showed how scary the geniuses of the Innerverse were. He had the feeling that the beast before him didn't qualify for that term, but it was still fast enough to be terrifying.

## **Chapter 122: Public Mission**

Dragon Eight's body suddenly shook and split into two. Lu Yin dismissed it as extreme speed and was about to attack, but his eyes quickly narrowed as it split again into five total bodies. How was this possible? This wasn't just a normal speed technique, it had to be an innate gift of speed! He looked for a way out, but the dragons attacked from all directions and sealed off his escape routes.

Forced to face the opponent directly, he gritted his teeth and activated the Cosmic Art, six full stars and the hints of a seventh appearing around him. He could see Dragon Eight's movements clearly once more, noticing the one actual body among the five. His alarm faded away in an instant; the Cosmic Art was the bane of high speed. Dragon Eight's enormous eyes shuddered as it saw the Cosmic Palm; how could this human actually find its body? However, the question didn't last long. The attack landed square on its head, knocking it out in an instant.

A panting Lu Yin grew thrilled when he realized he'd won. Three consecutive victories; he'd completed the hardest Sentinel mission! He was warped back to the teleportation stone, seeing that Michelle had been joined by Coco, Hui Daynight, and Little Pao. However, he savored his victory and entered battle once more; he wanted to try and get four consecutive wins. With his current ability, a bit of good luck was all he needed.

However, his heart dropped when he saw his sixteenth opponent. Or rather, when he saw the one sword that the opponent swung at him. There was nothing after; he had been defeated before he could even glance at their codename.

This was definitely a powerhouse who was at least an Explorer, a fact that left Lu Yin aggravated. Luck was of the utmost importance here; some strong people could have horrible results while a Sentinel like him had consecutive wins. As he walked out of the teleportation stone, he heard the old Trialmaster's voice, "Lu Yin, seven victories to 18 defeats."

Michelle was stunned when she realized what that meant, and Hui Daynight clenched his fists as well. His own record was 3-52; how could this mere ant surpass him?

Coco was the first to speak, "Brother Lu, your results are amazing! Darkvoid and Michelle are the best of us, but they still only win one every four and five times. You win one in three!"

Lu Yin walked over and patted her head, "It's just good luck."

"How many Sentinels did you encounter?" Hui asked coldly.

"Hmm... Three."

"Huh. It really is just good luck."

Lu Yin didn't bother to explain to the sneering youth. The Daynight Clan was definitely powerful, but Hui was mediocre at best. He would have won in a fight even back when they first joined Astral-10, and that victory would now be instant.

"Brother Lu, are you injured? Do you need treatment?" Coco asked hopefully.

An image of the huge syringe immediately appeared in Lu Yin's mind and he shook his head quickly, "No thanks, ported battles aren't real."

Little Pao walked up behind the disappointed Coco, "Congratulations on completing the most difficult Sentinel mission, Junior Lu. Three consecutive victories is an amazing feat!"

Hui's expression turned even darker, but Lu Yin just smiled, "I have good luck; I couldn't lose if I wanted to."

Little Pao smiled, "I wouldn't believe that for a second. Anyone capable of entering ported battles is definitely an elite, a genius in the Outerverse if not the Innerverse. Some of them are even famous already; if they were easy enough to beat, the mission would have been completed long ago. But I have to congratulate you; keep up the good work and try to get to thirty consecutive wins."

"Thirty? Is there any special reward for that, Senior?" Coco asked.

"Yes. Thirty consecutive wins give you the right to challenge the Astral Top 100."

Lu Yin's eyes gleamed. The Astral Top 100 listed the most powerful youths in the entire universe; this was the same ranking that Wendy Yushan had reached the top 20 of. Anyone who could get on this list would be renowned across the universe and had an easy opportunity to join the Ten Arbiters' Council. A

single word from them could determine the future of entire planets; it was much more powerful and prestigious than the title of King Zishan.

Coco stuck her tongue out, "I don't want to go near the Astral Top 100, those people are insane."

Little Pao laughed, "Well, one should always have a goal. For you guys, it should be the New Student Competition. I was sent to tell you that it will be held in a month, and the reward for the champion is quite unusual too."

"What is it?" Coco asked expectantly.

"It's a secret," Little Pao put a finger to his lips, leaving the girl disappointed.

Meanwhile, Michelle glanced at Lu Yin before entering the ported battles herself. Lu Yin himself bid farewell to Little Pao and Coco to head to the treasury where the reward awaited him. Some of the Astral Combat Academy's missions were restricted to specific academies, while others were public to all ten. Those missions were generally quite difficult to complete and would cause a commotion across the entire Astral Combat Academy when they were finished. The most difficult Sentinel mission was to obtain three consecutive victories in teleportation battles, and it was public. This had been Hart Phoenix's goal, but he'd been defeated by Lu Yin in his third match. The mission was also removed once Lu Yin completed it.

Astral-9.

"Someone actually finished the top Sentinel mission? And they're from Astral-10, too; they might be making a comeback."

"Bull. They're in the Frostwave Weave, could there possibly be any geniuses so remote? Someone powerful from the Inniverse must have joined them."

Astral-5.

"Junior Hart's mission was just completed by a... Lu Yin, I think? He must be a real talent to get three wins in a row."

"It's a pity that he's from Astral-10, his potential will definitely be wasted there."

Astral-1.

"The top Sentinel mission? What a joke, this mission was only hanging around because some people didn't want to draw attention. It seems narrow-minded for Astral-10 to look for recognition this way."

"Don't say that. We still have to give them some respect, even if they're driven out." A gorgeous girl nearby turned to look at Lu Yin's name before leaving.

Back in Astral-10, the old bearded man marveled at Lu Yin so hard that he felt disgusted by the stare. "Tutor, can I get the reward now?"

The old man cackled, "Why so formal, young man? Just call me Old Cai from now."

Lu Yin raised a brow, “Old Cai?”

Old Cai nodded approvingly, “Not bad, not bad at all. Astral-10 hasn’t done anything impressive in a while. You’re not bad, young man, haha!”

“It’s just good luck,” Lu Yin replied humbly.

Old Cai waved his hand, “Luck is also a part of ability. Alright, here’s your reward. Keep it up and try to finish more public missions, it’ll help us out a lot.”

Lu Yin grabbed the cosmic ring that was thrown towards him and inspected it, finding 10,000 star crystals within and growing excited immediately. He finally had money again! 10,000 star crystals was a sizable figure.

“Your Aurora is at the space station. That thing will require endless resources, just do your best for now,” Old Cai added, giving Lu Yin permission to leave.

Lu Yin promptly headed to the space station, finding one of the Aurora spaceships and registering himself as its owner. Most of the resources in the Astral Combat Academies were sponsored by major economic forces, and the Aurora Space Company was one such supporter. These spaceships looked quite similar to most others—the personal model Lu Yin had gotten was less than three meters across—but they had a special energy converter on them. These things relied on pure energy to jump through space, and rare materials that passed through the converter were assimilated into the spaceship’s structure itself. This was the core feature that made the company famous, but it was rumored to have originated from ancient technology that other companies could not replicate.

The better the quality of the materials someone used on an Aurora, the faster and sturdier the ship would become. That was why Old Cai had said it would require endless resources; the spaceship would need it all to upgrade. However, once upgraded, the Aurora’s functions would far exceed a normal spaceship. Lu Yin had done his research, and all Auroras were at an elementary stage. The addition of the energy converter actually made them slightly worse than most other spaceships, but even at the radiant grade, they were ten times faster than normal spaceships and could defend from a Cruiser’s attacks. Another upgrade would bring them to the black hole grade, where they were 100x the speed of ordinary ships while also capable of blocking Hunter attacks. Their name came from the idea that they could rip right through black holes; they were certainly essential on long journeys.

It was rumored that there was an eon grade even higher up, but Lu Yin didn’t know the specifics of that. The Aurora Space Company’s marketing slogan was that they were flying warpships. That is to say, they could cover in flight what most other spaceships had to use wormholes to cross.

### **Chapter 123: Melder Breakthrough**

The Aurora spaceship’s hull felt cold and sturdy to the touch; it was definitely made of a tough alloy. These things retailed for at least 50 billion credits; anyone who possessed it was considered rich! Unfortunately, he had nowhere to take it right now and wanted to become a Melder before he did. He headed for the Rain Observatory and settled on a treetop that was quite the distance away from the teleporter, taking out the formcast model that he’d taken from Terence’s corpse in Jinlin. He’d been holding onto it all this while so he could hit the Melder realm; the original plan was to get the formcast model from the corpse on Neptune, but that had turned out to be a still-alive Qingyu who he didn’t

manage to kill. Seated on the limestone platform, he watched the dark green rain fall to the ground and inhaled deeply. Pricking his finger, he then pressed the formcast model into his fingertips and initiated his breakthrough.

Moments later, searing pain shot through Lu Yin's entire body. His eyes were lit ablaze from the familiar sensation, his entire body writhing as his cells were burnt away and recreated. It felt like an invincible enemy was crushing him from the stars, and he felt the universe with each breath he took. His body was slowly starting to get used to the greater world, and it realized how meager the amount of star energy it held was. It longed for more to quench its thirst. His eyes glowed with determination as he felt his body growing stronger; this was the power of the Melder realm. He was about to break through.

His coat suddenly burst open and several runes started sparkling on his back. They formed the shape of a lock that pierced his shoulder blade, seemingly locking down his entire body. This was a seal that had appeared before, and it shattered the formcast model immediately. Lu Yin's eyes shot open in bewilderment; the mental impact had almost forced a blackout, but he was more agitated by the failure.

The Rainmaster walked out from the continuing downpour, frowning as he looked at Lu Yin, "Who would be cruel enough to seal a child from breaking through?"

The old man in tattered clothes appeared out of thin air on the other side, pressing a hand onto Lu Yin's back. Terrifying energy filled all of Astral-10, pervading the skies and shaking the surrounding planets as he tried to suppress the seal. He also stretched a hand into the void as this happened, slowly forming a brand new formcast model and merging it into Lu Yin's body.

Lu Yin was on the verge of fainting from the unexpected failure. He had been on the verge of breaking through and simply did not understand how failure was even possible at that point. Just as he felt that all was lost, however, a powerful force suddenly supported his body and allowed the formcasting to continue. As his cells burned and the blood began to reform, he gritted his teeth. Even though he didn't know where this new force came from, he would rely on it to continue the formcasting.

Behind Lu Yin, the old man had a distant look in his eyes as though the heavens were spinning around him. A small part of the lock shimmered into existence before exploding, causing the heavens to quake. A middle-aged man in the Sand Ocean looked up in alarm, while Old Cai jumped in shock in the treasury. The Trialmaster's eyes shot open in contemplation, while someone stuck his head out of the Stargazing Deck. The Rainmaster himself watched the entire process in shock.

In the process of entering the Melder realm, Lu Yin saw that jade finger once more as the seal was smashed. However, the sight was different this time; there was a boundless stretch behind the finger that glowed with gem-like stars. It was a magnificent sight to behold. The old man watched thoughtfully as Lu Yin's body was reforged.

"This... this is an ancient seal," the Rainmaster stuttered.

"Very ancient, one that can only be broken with force. Ah, such a shame that I only managed to break one," the old man said dejectedly.

The Rainmaster had a puzzled look on his face, "Do you mean there is more than one?"

The old man nodded and looked up, collecting his thoughts, "I think I encountered such seals before, but I have forgotten where. Ancient and terrifying indeed; someone could actually bear to lock a kid with them."

"What are the effects?" the Rainmaster asked curiously.

"His physical body and his innate gift. This kid's talent was squeezed down to an ordinary commoner; I broke the seal on his body. He will finally be able to showcase his physical ability, but I'm afraid that will be the extent of it for now," the old man explained. Looking at Lu Yin, he sighed, "The next seals will be very difficult to break. I hurt this child when I lost control; this new formcast model should make it up to him. It should keep him going unless another of the seals is activated."

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It took more than a day for Lu Yin to complete his breakthrough, and when he opened his eyes, the downpour looked entirely different. His breakthrough to the Melder realm had enhanced his senses greatly; he didn't know himself how much stronger he was now. Balling his fists, he felt like something was wrong. It felt like his body had changed, growing much more durable and robust than he'd expected. His strength also seemed to have grown significantly. Waving it off as the effects of the breakthrough, he got to his feet.

It was at this point that Lu Yin felt the additional formcast model in his body. Stunned, he quickly looked towards the curtain of rain, "Rainmaster, are you there?"

The Rainmaster responded without showing himself, "The formcast in your model will allow you to sculpt your body again. Go to the Sand Ocean and cultivate yourself; the Observatory will not be of much help at the moment."

Lu Yin bowed to show his thanks, thinking back to when Terence's formcast model had shattered. The Rainmaster had helped him salvage the situation. He truly felt fortunate that he'd managed to join Astral-10; this help would have been impossible to acquire otherwise.

To get a feel for how much stronger he was, Lu Yin immediately headed to the Trial Zone entrance to join in on the ported battles. As always, he heard the old Trialmaster announcing someone's results, "Hui Daynight, six victories to 92 defeats."

A dejected Hui Daynight walked away from the teleportation stone, but Lu Yin shot an impressed glance his way. Going from 3-72 to 6-92 was a significant improvement.

Michelle had walked into battle the moment Hui stepped out, and it took some time for her to come back out, "Michelle, 13 victories to 56 defeats."

Lu Yin was taken aback; she had improved as well. It seemed like he wasn't the only one who was getting better; even though they didn't get personal tutelage in Astral-10 from the get-go, both the Rain Observatory and Sand Ocean were amazing places to cultivate. There was also the mysterious Stargazing Deck.



He passed by Michelle and made his way to the teleportation stone, hoping that he didn't get an Explorer at least. The scenery changed to a vast grassland with a gentle wind, an intoxicatingly fresh smell filling the surroundings until his opponent ported in.

The other individual immediately attacked him with a sticky purplish substance that was like a web. Lu Yin was shocked; this was a strange innate gift. It sealed off the surrounding space and fell towards him, but his figure blinked away. He was right in front of the Melder the next moment, his hand shooting out the Six Stacks Shockwave Palm. A loud thud shattered the opponent immediately, and the sticky substance vanished; it was a one-hit kill.

Lu Yin looked at his palms, bewildered. His palms had felt like they would break when he used the Six Stacks Shockwave Palm before, but now it seemed as easy as breathing and caused no strain at all. Why was this? Did the Melder breakthrough really make his body that much stronger? Even the Flash had doubled in speed!

Lu Yin opened his eyes wide underneath the teleportation stone, a bewildered expression on his face. He knew that the biggest change during the Melder advancement was the increase in star energy; Melders absolutely dwarfed Sentinels in terms of their energy pool. Other attributes were improved as well, but he felt like the strengthening of his body was abnormal. Continuing to think about it, he entered another ported battle.

#### **Chapter 124: Powerful Lu Yin**

Lu Yin's next opponent in the ported battles was another Melder, the most common type of contestant one could find. The order of occurrence went Melders, Limiteers, Sentinels, and then a minority of Explorers.

He looked at his current target and lifted his hand, the air rippling as he started stacking attacks. Six Stacks hadn't burdened him at all before, and using even seven didn't add much load. An astonished Lu Yin got to eight when the Melder blinked towards him and kicked out, almost shattering the sky with his powerful battle techniques. Facing such close combat, he went all the way to nine directly. Nine explosions of power left the sky buzzing, shattering the powerful Melder in an instant.

Lu Yin was stunned; the power of Nine Stacks far exceeded that of Six Stacks and even the six-star Cosmic Palm. He hadn't even used the Shockwave Palm, this was pure energy layering! He appeared beneath the teleportation stone once more and fell into deep thought as he stared at his palm. Nine Stacks wasn't his limit, his body could endure much more. Just how strong had he become? He huffed and re-entered the ported battle with an excited gaze.

The next four people Lu Yin met were all melders, and none of them could defeat him. The fifth was a Limiteer powerhouse named Invincible Palm, but even that didn't frighten him any more. Instead, he grew excited at the prospect of finally being able to test his limits.

A loud explosion rang out as the Limiteer rushed over to Lu Yin and pressed his palm down, the surging star energy almost suffocating the fresh Melder. Lu Yin responded to the threat with the Nine Stacks Ninefold Shockwave Palm without hesitation, the nine echoes shattering the earth below. The extreme pressure on his organs left him amazed by the opponent's strength, and the feeling went both ways.

Invincible Palm hadn't expected a Melder to be able to block nine of his blows. He had intended to win quickly and used the top battle technique of Astral-7, the Starburst Palm. This technique compressed all of one's star energy into every strike, rebounding it back into one's body once the attack completed. Each attack dissipated a negligible amount of energy but possessed enormous power; the nine palms were equivalent to nine full attacks.

The Limiteer lifted his hand once more, but this time Lu Yin dodged just as a large hole was blasted into the ground and tried to counter-attack under the cover of the dust. However, intense pressure suddenly almost crippled him as he targeted his opponent's back; this person had an innate gift of gravity! The hundredfold gravity increase stunned Lu Yin, and Invincible Palm stretched his hands out and struck out in rapid succession to crush his internal organs.

Lu Yin opened his eyes under the teleportation stone once more, feeling vexed. He hadn't expected the opponent to have an innate gift of gravity, which was what lost him the battle; had he known, he would have played it safer. However, even if he hadn't used brute force, Lu Yin still felt that he wouldn't be a match for that Limiteer. All of Invincible Palm's attacks were insanely powerful, and his star energy reserves seemed to be endless. He didn't know where this crazy person came from.

In Astral-7, astonishment filled Dai Ao's eyes, "A Melder who could force my innate gift, and he only lost after 23 Starburst Palms when his organs were crushed. He really is a genius, pity that I had something to do. Seventh Brother, huh... Let's meet again soon, I want a good battle with you."

Back at Astral-10, Lu Yin walked out from under the teleportation stone and his results were announced, "Lu Yin, 13 victories to 19 defeats."

Michelle and Hui Daynight who were nearby, as well as Zhao Yilong and Lulu who had just arrived looked at him in shock.

"Six wins in a row, you just won six in a row!" Michelle stated, her dark red eyes opened wide.

Lu Yin nodded calmly, "It's just good luck."

Hui walked forward and stared at Lu Yin, "Were all of your opponents Sentinels?"

Lu Yin frowned, "Attitude! I have no obligation to answer you."

"Tell me!" Hui commanded.

A cold gaze flashed past Lu Yin's eyes and he glared back, "You're really annoying."

The Daynight youth smirked, "You found a way to get weaklings to enter the ported battles, didn't you?"

The old man in the distance blinked, "There is no way to cheat in ported battles, only the strongest will win."

"I don't believe it, he's just a cultivator from the Outerverse, how could he get six consecutive victories when we can't?" Hui bellowed in a rage. This time, even Michelle frowned while Lulu was annoyed.

Lu Yin laughed and turned to the Trialmaster, "Could we have a battle here? It'll be over quickly."

The old man nodded, "Don't destroy the plants."

Lu Yin smiled and turned back, "Don't worry, it'll only take a moment."

Hui's gaze was icy as he stared at Lu Yin, "So what if you're a Melder? I'll show you that you're still nothing."

Lu Yin lifted his hand, "Come then, show me how powerful the Daynight Clan is."

Hui's eyes widened in response to the disdain in Lu Yin's tone. How dare a bumpkin from the Outerverse look down on them? "Daynight Soulfinger!" His body vanished in a moment, replaced by a finger pointed towards Lu Yin from the sky. Lu Yin instantly felt some indescribable rift in his body; if souls truly existed, this was likely the feeling of it getting torn apart. This truly was a battle technique worthy of the Daynight Clan, but he simply aimed up and grabbed the finger out of the sky. A bit of force and the sound of bones shattering rang out, pulling Hui out of the sky with force and sending him to his knees.

The Daynight youth wasn't the only one shocked at this point; Michelle and the others were simply dumbfounded. Although Hui was only a Sentinel, he was definitely stronger than most Melders. The battle techniques of the Daynight Clan were also difficult to defend against, and it was remarkable for Lu Yin to beat it so easily.

"I already told you this would only take an instant." Lu Yin glanced at Hui and smiled; as someone who'd entered the corridor of the Daynight inheritance stone, the unique soul effects of the clan's attacks weren't as significant towards him. This was especially true when his opponent was just a Sentinel.

Hui's eyes narrowed, "Impossible, the soulfinger isn't affecting you at all. Why?"

Lu Yin exerted some more force in his hand and shattered the finger completely, "You have no right to question me."

Hui Daynight gritted his teeth in pain and growled, his star energy erupting as he tried to push Lu Yin away in vain. Lu Yin simply grabbed his finger and flung him away with immense strength before turning to Michelle, "Are you going in next?"

Michelle stared at Lu Yin and thought about it for a moment before leaving. Zhao Yilong hadn't paid much attention to Lu Yin initially, confident that he would win even with a difference in realms, but now he felt that this person was very powerful. Six consecutive victories couldn't be obtained with pure luck, or it wouldn't be a mere three to finish the most difficult Sentinel mission. He ended up leaving as well, a trace of resolution on his face. Hui Daynight didn't come back either.

Lu Yin felt like he had provoked them all. The Sentinels had all been waiting to finish their Melder breakthroughs, but he would likely be the catalyst for them to start. He couldn't wait to test himself against them when they did.

Lulu was the only one left behind, and Lu Yin knew that the girl was itching to fight him the moment he saw her glowing eyes. Indeed, she spoke up impatiently, "You've changed so much so quickly, let's spar."

Lu Yin shrugged, "We're not allowed to battle here."

“No battle, then, we can just compare strength.” She licked her lips, looking at him with a provocative gaze.

Comparing strength? Lu Yin grew interested as well; he did want to find out how strong he actually was. “Fine, how do you want to do it?”

“Simple, tug of war. We’ll see who moves first.” Lulu stretched out her dainty hand and smiled as Lu Yin grabbed the soft palm, “Let’s start.”

## **Chapter 125: The Star Of The Souldream Tribe**

“Go.” Lu Yin and Lulu exerted force simultaneously, and cracks rippled across the earth without either using a trace of star energy.

Lu Yin was surprised by Lulu’s strength. Her hand was soft to the touch, but her grip was firm as steel as it pulled on him with immense strength. However, the girl herself was by far the most amazed of the two. She was a Mavis, someone blessed with natural strength; this was the first person she’d ever met who matched her. She could even feel that he was actually stronger; he wasn’t using his full strength yet. Since when was he so strong? No normal person could reach this level with just training, it felt more like an innate gift from an ancient civilization.

A strong gust of wind separated the two of them, and the old man frowned in the distance, “I said not to destroy the plants!”

Lu Yin and Lulu looked down and saw the cracks on the ground getting deeper, uprooting the cracks. He quickly apologized and backed off, but she simply continued to stare and made him uncomfortable. He eventually asked, “Why are you staring? We haven’t come to a conclusion yet, we can finish at some other place if you want.”

Lulu shook her head and pouted, “You’re crazy. We don’t have to continue, you can go and do what you want.”

What was wrong with her? Lu Yin grew confused as she simply turned and left. However, that meant there was no one else fighting for control of the teleportation stone, so he decided to continue testing the limits of his own strength.

It was only once he’d entered his next battle that the old man allowed his eyes to go a tiny bit wider, “A Mavis blessed with immense strength is inferior to him? I can’t tell what clan he hails from. Strange, really strange... He’s just a normal person, but why can he surpass a Mavis? And his surname...”

Elsewhere, Michelle was walking across a stretch of ruined ground, a common sight outside of the major surviving sections of Astral-10. She looked up with gleaming eyes, contemplating something for a moment before making up her mind, “Sorry Sis, I’ll have to use my innate gift.”

Xia Luo was seated calmly outside the Stargazing Deck, but his meditation was interrupted by a sudden message from Lulu. His expression filled with surprise, “Such great changes, that’s unexpected. I’ll have to work harder, or I won’t be able to catch up anymore.”

Beyond the endless rainfall in the Rain Observatory was a broken wall. It was clear that this had originally been a majestic place that had turned into ruins overnight, and there were still flames burning

at certain spots. Silver was observing the ruins from a mound, "Everything is really gone... They say the headmaster went crazy and destroyed all of Astral-10; this was why they were always at the bottom. Countless battle techniques from ancient times, all destroyed... Such a shame."

No one would believe that there were only around ten people in the enormous Astral-10, but that was the truth. Everyone here was like a drop of water in the sea, so tiny that they would never bump into each other.

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Lu Yin spent half a day at the trial zone entrance before getting a night's rest and heading to the Sand Ocean. The Rainmaster had told him that the Rain Observatory wouldn't be too helpful to him right now, so the Sand Ocean was his best shot at getting stronger. His record when he left was 31 victories to 46 defeats; the best result among the new students by far. Unfortunately, no one was around to hear at the time.

There was a solemn glint in Lu Yin's eyes as he chose the Sand Ocean on the teleporter. He had originally planned to keep going a bit longer, but his final battle had astonished him. His opponent had been a Melder as well, but had managed to defeat him by relying on a power that he'd heard of but never experienced before—battle force. It was supposedly the manifestation of one's will, a power that could attack, defend, and push one past their limits. It could crush the skies and tear the galaxy apart, and came from the heart which was the foundation of the human body.

Some people said that this description was the exact method to train battle force, but Lu Yin couldn't really understand what that meant. He'd heard about it during the brief time he'd spent in the Inniverse between Home rescuing him and sending him to Earth. People had described it as something with great potential and he'd looked forward to learning it, but then he'd ended up on Earth due to various reasons and stayed there ever since. He had recognized battle force the moment he saw it in that last battle, and also knew just as quickly that it was something very suited to him. He wanted to learn more about it immediately, but didn't know whether Astral-10 had any methods to cultivate it and could only try his luck at the Sand Ocean. That place was clearly related to the body, so it could be possible for him to learn there.

This was the second time that Lu Yin had visited the Sand Ocean. He'd only glanced over it before returning to the Rain Observatory before, but now he planned to stay. He stepped out of the teleporter into the world of yellow, the hot sand heating up his feet. He tore apart his outer shirt as he felt the dry heat, bending down and pinching a handful of the desert between his fingers. Every grain was extremely tough; this certainly wasn't normal sand. He even felt a hint of pain when he used a bit too much force.

"It really is a great place to train the body," he explained, walking into the depths of the sands. His distorted silhouette slowly disappeared among the dunes.

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With a little over twenty days left until the New Student Competition, everyone was busy with preparations. An enormous spaceship jumped out of a wormhole to appear at the Frostwave Weave, heading towards its depths. There was a dark blue quaver carved into the hull, the symbol of the Souldream Tribe from the Inniverse.

The Souldream Tribe was a famous tribe of women in the Innerverse, each one with stunning looks and a melodious voice. They were said to add a trace of gentility to the lonely universe, and every person there was a superstar.

“How much longer?” a striking girl with waist-length blue hair asked within the spaceship.

Someone next to her answered immediately, “Another hour at most, Young Mistress.”

The girl flashed a smile that could illuminate the night sky, “I hope they won’t disappoint; I need to awaken my battle force quickly.”

“Young Mistress, your trip to Astral-10 has attracted a lot of attention. The media has been contacting the tribe to find out why you’re going.”

The girl scrunched up her tidy brows, “They’re always so bothersome.”

“You are the most exemplary heir of the Souldream Tribe, the brightest star of the Innerverse. It is inevitable for everyone to pay attention to you.”

The girl suddenly thought of something and smiled mischievously, “Tell them that I’m going to Astral-10 to look for my boyfriend.”

Everyone was stunned when she said that, be it the spaceship’s captain or the navigator. They all looked at her in a daze, and someone yelled, “You can’t do that, Young Mistress, it will bring trouble to Astral-10. All the powerhouses interested in you will tear them apart.”

The girl blinked and thought about it, “Ugh, you’re right. Fine, I won’t cause trouble; my suitors are really irritating, but some of them are truly powerful. Just release a statement that I’m heading there to train at the Sand Ocean, that place was once a famous training ground.”

The people around her breathed a sigh of relief, “Yes, Young Mistress.”

Nobody would dare to underestimate the influence of the people from the Souldream Tribe. They were the real stars of the universe and had countless admirers, ranging from normal people to cultivators to elites from major forces. Moreover, this was the young mistress of the Souldream Tribe; even her worst admirer would still be the strongest in the young generation of a major power. If those people really went to Astral-10 to create trouble, the academy would definitely be crushed if the tutors didn’t interfere. However, no matter where someone was, the power of the media was everywhere. As long as she said something, then it would definitely spread. The girl didn’t know yet the trouble she had brought upon Astral-10 with her joke.

## **Chapter 126: Michelle And Xi Yue**

Within the gloomy forest in Astral-5, Hart Phoenix walked away from the teleportation stone and clenched his fists.

“Congratulations on the three-win streak, Hart!” “Congratulations, Young Master.” “Congratulations.”

“Hmph. I’m too late, the mission was already completed by someone else,” Hart snorted, leaving everyone silent.

“By the way, Young Master, you’d asked me to pay attention to Mistress Xi Yue of the Souldream Tribe. She’s recently announced plans to go to the Sand Ocean in Astral-10,” someone said.

“Astral-10?” Hart stopped on his way out, “Isn’t that where the person who finished the Sentinel mission was from?”

Someone next to him immediately spoke up, “You needn’t be affected, Young Master. That person is just lucky, he likely met new Sentinels who’d just joined the academies. You’ve actually defeated a powerful Melder.”

Hart frowned, “You can’t rely on luck in ported battles. I’m going to Astral-10, make the arrangements.”

The people around him were surprised, “Young Master, Astral-5 doesn’t allow people to leave without a valid reason.”

Hart didn’t care, “Tell them my brother asked me to go. He’s always wanted me to marry Xi Yue and gain the support of the Souldream Tribe, this is a good opportunity.”

“Yes, Young Master.”

Within Astral-8, a pair of eyes opened under hot lava, “Craynor, go fetch Xi Yue from Astral-10, she shouldn’t be there. Tell her that if she wants the Sand Ocean, I’ll give it to her once the Blaze takes over the academy.”

Right outside the lava pit, a Melder with an abundance of star energy surrounding him concurred. He was Craynor, second in the Blaze Rankings and far more powerful than the fifth-ranked Arshim who had previously attacked Astral-10.

A low voice reverberated within Astral-9 in the Endless Weave, “Baunir, go to Astral-10 and see if anyone there can threaten our geniuses.”

A young man opened his eyes, black flames winking out within his pupils, “Yes, Tutor.”

Big Pao and Little Pao were chatting within Astral-10. The former asked, “Brother, be honest, how do you think I treat you?”

Little Pao thought about it for a moment and answered, “Not very well.”

The corners of Big Pao’s mouth twitched, “I’ll treat you better in the future.”

“Cut the nonsense. You want me to lend you the money to buy Xi Yue’s newest single, right?” Little Pao asked suspiciously.

Big Pao laughed awkwardly, “Brother, you know that I don’t really have many pursuits in life, I just like Xi Yue’s songs. Come on, lend me some money.”

Little Pao rejected him promptly, “No, I like Xi Yue’s songs too, I’m going to buy it for myself.”

“Then lend it to me.”

“No way, Xi Yue’s songs are like my wife, I would never lend them to anyone.”

“So stingy, you won’t die if I listen to it.”

“I’ll feel very bad.”

“Lend it to me and I promise not to fight for the role of Area Master in the Purgatory Dao.”

“Nope, this isn’t up for discussion.”

As they continued to bicker, a notification appeared on their gadgets that left them wide-eyed in disbelief, “Xi... Xi Yue is coming to Astral-10? Is this real?”

“Xi Yue is coming here!” Big Pao cheered.

“Xi Yue’s coming, Xi Yue’s coming, I want an autograph, I want a picture with her, I want—”

“You two, go receive our guest!” a bellow interrupted their thoughts.

“Yes, Sandmaster,” both brothers answered quickly. Half an hour later, they were at the space station staring at the landing spacecraft from the Souldream Tribe in delight. Both were loyal fans of Xi Yue, but they had never imagined that they would be able to meet the person herself one day.

A troop of female warriors walked out as the spaceship opened, followed by youths with arrogant expressions. These young men were from Astral-8, sent here by their tutors to ensure that Xi Yue wouldn’t be harassed. For example, they would definitely keep her away from the two perverts in front of them whose eyes were gleaming.

“Who are you? Are there no better students who can welcome Young Master Xi Yue in Astral-10?” a young man said irritably.

“We’re the best students,” Big Pao stepped forward casually, “Where’s Junior Xi Yue? Why hasn’t she come out yet?”

The youth frowned and blocked the path, “Mind your manners. You’re just students of an academy that was thrown out; you have no right to call Young Mistress Xi Yue your junior.”

Big Pao pouted and ignored the youth, but before he could rage, a stunning girl with waist-length blue hair and starlike eyes walked out, “Unless it’s banned, Astral-10 is Astral-10; he has every right to call me his junior. Hello, Senior, I’m Xi Yue.”

Both Paos looked at Xi Yue in a daze, intoxicated by her striking appearance and melodious voice. Fortunately, the older brother coughed and said solemnly, “Hello, Junior. I’m Big Pao, you can call me Brother Pao.”

Little Pao stepped forward as well, “I’m Little Pao, you can call me Brother Little Pao.”

Everyone surrounding them was stunned. Brother Pao? What a weird name, were the two of them trying to tease Xi Yue? The person in question grew angry as well, but she suppressed her anger in the face of their excited gazes. Her reluctant smile almost melted the brothers’ hearts, “I think I should just call you Senior Big Pao and Senior Little Pao.”



“Anything is fine. Could we take a picture together, and maybe a short video? It would be even better if we could share a mea—”

“Don’t bother Young Mistress. She’s here for the Sand Ocean and has no time for anything else,” a woman who looked to be in her forties interrupted, standing in front of Xi Yue and glaring at the brothers. They bowed their heads in disappointment.

Xi Yue looked out of the space station. She had heard rumours that the original students of Astral-10 had all left once it had been driven to the Outerverse. Only two of the original students were left that no other academies wanted; these two were probably the guys. This was Astral-10, an academy that was about to be banned. If not for the fact that one of the forces that was going to replace Astral-10 was the Blaze Realm, she wouldn’t have come here at this time. Once the Blaze Realm took over Astral-10, she would have to face someone troublesome whenever she visited.

“Seniors, how many students are currently in Astral-10?” she asked curiously.

“Fourteen,” Little Pao answered.

A young man behind Xi Yue sneered, “What a shame that Astral-10 has fallen to this state, no wonder there are rumours that it’s going to be banned soon. There’s only people like you left here, it’s an embarrassment for this place to still be called an Astral Combat Academy.”

Little Pao raised his brows, “We focus on quality instead of quantity in Astral-10. We’re not a shelter who just accepts everyone.”

“What did you say?!”

Xi Yue lifted her hand and glared at the youth, saying frostily, “There will be no disrespect here, or you can go back.”

The young man bowed his head, “Yes, Young Mistress.”

Xi Yue turned around and looked at Big Pao and Little Pao, “Can I trouble you to bring me to greet the tutors of Astral-10?”

Big Pao smiled, “There’s no need for that, we don’t have too many rules. The Sandmaster already said you can go train in the Sand Ocean directly.”

Xi Yue’s eyes gleamed and she bowed, “Thank you, Senior, please lead the way.”

The two of them immediately led Xi Yue towards the Sand Ocean, but the people from the Souldream Tribe were stopped as not everyone was able to enter an Astral Combat Academy. Xi Yue didn’t object and went in with the students from Astral-8, using the teleporter to arrive at their destination. They came across a pair of boy and girl in the desert, the former clearly leaving while the latter was going in. These were Michelle and Schutz. Schutz had entered the Sand Ocean after facing multiple defeats in the ported battles, and was heading back to test himself again.

Xi Yue's arrival attracted the pair's attention; they hadn't expected to meet other people here. Her gaze swept past Schutz calmly, but her eyes gleamed when she saw Michelle, "I didn't expect to see the Red Lotus Witch here, nice to meet you."

Michelle looked back, "I didn't expect to meet the famed Young Mistress of the Souldream Tribe either."

"I heard you joined the Ten Arbiters' Council, it must be so nice to have a powerful sister," Xi Yue joked, her tone filled with disdain.

"You got a problem with that?" Michelle asked coldly.

Xi Yue smiled, "Why would you say that, Michelle? So what if I'm unhappy, nobody can defy a decision from the Council."

Michelle didn't say anything in response and just stared back. Meanwhile, the Pao brothers glanced at each other; there was clearly some history between the two.

"Young Mistress, do you need me to teach her a lesson?" one of Xi Yue's followers asked.

Xi Yue snorted, "Teach her a lesson? Look clearly, she's the Red Lotus Witch."

"Red Lotus Witch?" The few of them were confused, but one of them suddenly recalled something and looked at Michelle fearfully and immediately fell silent.

"Excuse me," Schutz walked right into the teleporter, drawing a glance from Xi Yue. However, she didn't pay much attention to him; in her eyes, Michelle was likely the only one worth recognition in Astral-10. However, one of the youths following her blocked Schutz's path on purpose. This was the same person who'd been scolded just now, and that had left him extremely annoyed at Astral-10. He wanted to find some way to humiliate this academy that should have been thrown out long ago, and he was also someone from the Blaze Realm.

The Pao brothers saw the challenge, but they didn't say anything. The path of cultivation was never smooth; if one didn't even dare to battle, there was no point in training. This was Astral-10, no matter what, one definitely couldn't hide from a challenge.

Xi Yue turned around to take a look and ignored them, her gaze still focused on Michelle. This was the woman who'd taken her spot on the Ten Arbiters' Council just because she had a powerful sister.

"Make way," Schutz matched the youth's glare.

The young man walked even closer, "You ants just have good luck to be able to overcome the obstacles and enter Astral-10. I don't know who the person was who stopped you, but remember, I'm from the Blaze Realm."

Schutz's gaze turned cold; the Blaze Realm was one of the three forces who attacked Astral-10's assessment and was also one of the forces who were trying to replace Astral-10 in order to take control of the key to the Nine Trial Zones.

## **Chapter 127: Musical Battle Technique**

“So what?” Schutz asked coldly. The youth immediately crashed forward with his left shoulder, but he simply clenched his fists and stood his ground. A low rumble rang out as the two collided, with Schutz taking two steps back while the young man went one forward. Smiling disdainfully, he walked out.

Schutz stepped out of the teleporter as well, placing his hand on the youth’s shoulder. Star energy suddenly erupted into flames, searing the very air around, but his sword gleamed its bloody red as he prepared to attack. It was Little Pao who had to come over and pushed his palm away, placing another hand on the youth and suppressing his star energy, “Sorry, you can’t fight here. We’ll have to fly you out if you damage anything.”

The young man glared at him and his star energy surged, trying to erupt again. However, he couldn’t overcome Little Pao’s suppression no matter how hard he tried. He was stunned; didn’t people say that the two students left in Astral-10 were useless? This person was a Limiteer!

Suddenly, everyone felt a stir in their heart. They looked over and saw Xi Yue singing, her dark blue hair blowing in the wind as a melody reverberated in the skies. The hot air transformed into gorgeous dancers, her gentle voice cleansing everyone’s soul.

This was a beautiful sight to behold, but Big Pao and Little Pao strangely turned solemn. This was Xi Yue’s battle technique, the battle technique of Astral-8—Psychedelic Song. Astral-8 was the only Astral Combat Academy with significant musical battle techniques, which was why everyone from the Souldream Tribe studied there. This was a natural pairing that could unleash unimaginable power.

“Xi Yue is a powerhouse who’s won thirty consecutive victories in the ported battles, Michelle can’t compete with her. Let’s stop them, Brother,” Little Pao said gravely.

Big Pao shook his head, quite different from his usual joking self, “Let them continue. The Sandmaster will intervene if things get out of hand.”

Xi Yue’s followers looked around smugly. She wasn’t just a singer, but also the Young Mistress of a powerful tribe in the Innderverse. That couldn’t be accomplished without some ability; she was considered one of the strongest Melders in Astral-8.

Schutz was astounded at the sight of the Sand Ocean’s weather changing to follow Xi Yue’s tune. He could feel a huge threat from the voice; that girl was far stronger than him, and so were her followers. The person he’d had an altercation with could already materialize his star energy, something that he was still unable to accomplish. Such was the capability of the Astral Combat Academy’s students; any of them could stun the Outerverse.

Michelle frowned; the music was causing her organs to shake and she felt so dizzy that she couldn’t even stand properly. She wasn’t looking at the Sand Ocean anymore, and various memories started flashing before her eyes. Unable to stand it, she gritted her teeth and her eyes flashed red, forming crimson lotuses at her feet. The sea of red was shocking, adorning the endless Sand Ocean and shattering the Psychedelic Song.

This was Michelle’s innate gift? Everyone was stunned. Even Xi Yue’s eyes gleamed. This innate gift, the same as Mira’s, was the reason that Michelle had been allowed to join the Ten Arbiters’ Council as a Melder. She was going to defeat that gift today. The song suddenly changed as three loud booms rang through the sky. This was the Three-Note Eruption, a technique that she’d learned just for this purpose.

Michelle opened her alluring red eyes. No one could stop her once her lotuses bloomed; not this woman, nor any Melder from the other academies. She was invincible.

“It’s so noisy, who’s disturbing my rest?” a loud roar suddenly rang out, and both the battle technique and the innate gift were shattered by a gust of wind. Xi Yue and Michelle retreated simultaneously with pale faces, bowing in the direction of the Sand Ocean, ““Sorry, Tutor.””

Big Pao walked out in a hurry, “Junior Michelle, Junior Xi Yue, the Sandmaster has a bad temper. You should stop.”

“You truly are Senior Mira’s sister, your innate gift is really powerful,” Xi Yue said with a smile as the two stepped back, but Michelle leveled a cold glance at her and walked towards the eastern section of the Sand Ocean. However, Xi Yue was unfazed and smiled at Big Pao and the others, “I want to train here for a few days, I’ll let you know once I’m done.”

“Isn’t that too dangerous, Young Mistress?” the youth from the Blaze Realm asked.

Xi Yue frowned, “This is the Sand Ocean, and there’s a tutor here. Don’t worry, no one can hurt me. Leave for now.”

“We’ll wait at the entrance,” someone suggested, but she didn’t respond. Smiling at the Pao brothers once more, she headed towards the western section of the Sand Ocean.

Schutz slowly suppressed his awe; this was a battle between the elite students of the Astral Combat Academies, and he was still far from their level. Little Pao patted him on the shoulder, “Let’s go, don’t overthink it. You’re much stronger than you were when you first joined, you’ll be even stronger in the future.”

Schutz nodded and stepped into the teleporter. Big Pao ran over as well, and all three left the Sand Ocean together. In the end, only Xi Yue’s followers were left standing at the entrance.

The Sand Ocean was an enormous place, but Xi Yue chose to run instead of flying toward its depths. She covered quite the distance within the first hour, and she could already feel the coarse toughness of the sand. “I hope this works, battle force will bring me to the peak of Astral-8, and I’ll be able to become an Area Master.

“Okay, this looks like a good spot. The deeper, the better,” she recalled some advice from a student who had transferred out of Astral-10 and smashed her palm into the desert. Unfortunately, the ground here was difficult to pierce through, and she only managed a meter-deep hole with her full strength. She could only stand atop the small hole reluctantly and start digging her way with force.

The friction only increased as she sank in, causing immense pain to her body. This was a rather crude way of training the body, but the degree of agony was also proportional to the benefits she would gain. Already prepared for this, she gritted her teeth and endured.

Enormous pressure covered both Xi Yue’s body and soul once she was completely buried, as if a mountain was crushing down on her mind. However, this still wasn’t enough; there were places with similar pressure in Astral-8, and they hadn’t gotten her all the way there. The pressure needed to learn

battle force was excruciating. There were places that helped in all ten Astral Combat Academies, but they had too many people and weren't as good as the Sand Ocean. To accomplish her goals, she needed to go even deeper.

Five meters, ten meters, fifteen meters... She started to grow dizzy when she was twenty meters beneath the surface, and traces of blood started to appear on her supple skin. Her body and soul were already at their limit, but it still wasn't enough. Xi Yue gritted her teeth and continued her descent, but suddenly felt the pressure under her feet give way to something soft. She looked down and a pair of eyes staring at her chest.

Lu Yin had been sleeping. Ever since he'd entered the Sand Ocean, he'd realized that the surface of the desert was useless to him. The introduction from Big Pao showed him that he had to bury himself for better results, so he'd burrowed into the sand. The pressure had grown better and better as he went in, but he'd actually fallen asleep at this point. His body was tough enough not to sustain injuries at this depth, but there was still a mild pain. As he was sleeping, he'd suddenly felt something stepping on his calf. Opening his eyes, he was dazed by the sight in front of him. It was a girl's breasts, and they were even radiating an intoxicating fragrance. Subconsciously taking a deep breath, Lu Yin looked up and met a stunned pair of eyes.

"PERVERT!" Xi Yue shouted angrily, smashing down with the palm.

"What? Don't slander me!" Lu Yin dodged the attack. She tried to knee him in her fury, but he stopped that by grabbing her thigh, "I was here first!"

Xi Yue felt the heat from the hand on her thigh and screamed, "Let go of me, pervert!"

Lu Yin let go immediately and took a step back, "Stop calling me a pervert, I was here first and you stepped on me!"

Xi Yue was shaking from anger. She was the Young Mistress of the Souldream Tribe and had never been so close to a guy. She also remembered that her chest had been so close to him. And, and... Her fury erupted once more, "I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!" She opened her mouth and a booming melody rang out, the Three-Note Eruption. She hadn't managed to use it against Michelle, but its full power was directed towards Lu Yin now.

Lu Yin's expression changed when he realized how powerful this woman was. He used the Cosmic Art immediately to weaken the attack, but when he looked up, he saw her using the technique repeatedly and grabbed at her in annoyance.

Xi Yue was already incensed and just wanted to kill the man in front of her. "You're looking to die!" she bellowed when she saw the hand coming at her, huffing out a delicate melody from her lips. Lu Yin's palm stopped ten meters away from her and he almost suffocated, falling prey to the most powerful technique in her arsenal. This was the Dark Universe Song, something she had never used on someone before.

In the depths of the desert, the Sandmaster was surprised, "Such a strong battle technique, she truly is an outstanding heir of the Souldream Tribe. Already one of the strongest in her generation, she might just be able to challenge the Top 100 at some point."

## Chapter 128: Washing Board

Lu Yin's palm couldn't move forward anymore once the Darksoul Song started. It felt like the music was exploding in the depths of his mind, trying to blow his head apart. "SHUT UP!" he roared, using Nine Stacks to shatter the music and cover Xi Yue's mouth. Her glare threatened to melt him within its rage, but he sighed and looked at her in surprise. This woman was very powerful, certainly beyond a normal student, "I'm saying this one last time. I was here first, you came afterward and even stepped on me."

Xi Yue grabbed his arm trying to push him away, but he was someone who had beaten even Lulu in a competition. He voiced a threat, "I won't be nice if you're rude again, you understand?"

She glared at him angrily, suddenly grabbing his palm and biting down. "OW! ARE YOU A DOG?" he pulled back, at which point she punched him in frustration. She had never been bullied in her life before, and it was unfair that she couldn't even defeat him.

Lu Yin caught Xi Yue's fist and pulled her closer, his heart stirred by a soft fragrance. He was about to say something, but suddenly realized they had descended further amidst their battle. Before he could react, both of them were falling down.

Unknown to Lu Yin, there were seven levels to the Sand Ocean, the first being thirty meters deep. Between the first two levels was a thousand-meter drop, and as he fell down with Xi Yue in his arms, he was buffeted by endless pressure. The girl promptly fainted, while even he was dazed and had to endure it with great effort as they crashed into the second level.

Up above, the Sandmaster was shocked, "They actually fell to the second level. Haha, those old coots from the Eighth will be outraged if they find out that their flower was caught by one of ours. Haha, interesting. Very interesting!"

It was completely silent in the dull desert. Rubbing his head with his one free arm, Lu Yin felt a terrifying pressure all around him and laughed bitterly. What was even happening? He didn't even know about this woman, and they were suddenly in this unknown place. The introduction from Big Pao mentioned nothing about multiple levels.

His gaze started to flicker from waves of dizziness, the enormous pressure starting to get to him. However, all that was snapped away as he heard a gale-like whistle in the distance. Why would there be a gust underground? He turned to look, and his eyes suddenly shrank as he hugged Xi Yue and turned back around. Moments later, a fierce storm tore the skies apart, ripping his shirt to pieces. The strong winds cut into his body like knives ripping apart his nerves, forming trails of blood on his back. This was clearly a gale of blades!

The gale ended quickly. Lu Yin panted as he took out some medicine from his cosmic ring and applied it to his back. Fortunately, his body was strong and he only had some superficial wounds. The woman in his arms would probably have been ripped apart.

He hadn't even started looking around when he heard another whistle that left him stunned. Again? It was too quick! He promptly placed himself in front of Xi Yue, but this time there was almost no physical pressure at all. Instead, his mind felt like it was being crushed, forcing him to spit out a mouthful of blood and almost fell unconscious. It had felt like he'd spent an eternity locked in a dark room, filling him with a boundless amount of loneliness and oppression.

Sometimes, pressure didn't have to be caused by external factors. The pressure exerted by one's self could be even more terrifying. Lu Yin was currently feeling the pressure that he had exerted on himself, and it was an overwhelming feeling of despair. If not for his strong will, he would have fainted long ago.

The gale left as quickly as it arrived, leaving a pale Lu Yin staring up at the sands above. He had to leave quickly; this place was too strange.

But how was he supposed to leave? He tried flying, but a fierce wind buffeted his body once he reached the sky and forced him to descend. The situation repeated a few more times, leaving him worried that he wouldn't be able to leave this place at all.

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At the same time, Big Pao smacked his forehead elsewhere within Astral-10, "I forgot to tell Junior Xi Yue not to go too deep. It'll be troublesome if she falls into the second layer."

Little Pao waved it off, "Don't worry, she can just call for help from the Sandmaster, it's not a problem."

"That's true. Junior Xi Yue is so smart, she'll definitely know to ask for help. Haha, let's go listen to some songs."

"Let's go."

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When Xi Yue's eyelids slowly twitched open, all she saw was darkness. The sand and dust were still rubbing against her, but she also felt a pair of arms reaching around her behind her back. She turned around and was stunned by the sight of a guy she didn't know.

"AH!" she pushed away reflexively, but her own body fell onto the sand.

Another gale blew over only moments later, and Lu Yin grabbed her urgently, "Careful!"

"Let go of me, you pervert!" Xi Yue glared at him furiously and slipped away, but the gale arrived and her expression changed instantly. Her top was torn apart and traces of blood started to appear on her fair skin before Lu Yin dragged her behind him. She spat blood due to the excruciating pain, but still managed to take out another set of clothes and wear them as she looked on in disbelief. She definitely couldn't survive this gale; if not for this guy in front of her, she would have been heavily wounded.

"The next wave is coming. It targets your soul this time, careful not to die," Lu Yin's voice rang out. Xi Yue was confused, but the next gale swept past them and it felt like something had rammed into her mind; she almost fainted again. Lu Yin wasn't feeling comfortable either, but he clenched his fists with a determined gaze and a strange yet weak current of air appeared on his body. Neither of the two noticed it for now; they were more occupied with Xi Yue spitting out another mouthful of blood.

"It's over," Lu Yin heaved a sigh of relief, finally looking at the pitiful girl who'd had to endure the pressure the moment she woke up.

Xi Yue panted heavily, her body covered with sweat. She backed away from Lu Yin automatically, her gaze sweeping past their surroundings for a moment before landing on him once more, "Who are you?"

“I’m Lu Yin, a student here.’

“From Astral-10?” She was astonished, finally remembering that this person had actually defeated her even after she used the Darksoul Song she’d prepared for that person. Was there really a student like this in Astral-10? He was definitely stronger than Michelle!

Lu Yin looked at Xi Yue, finding her stunning even in the dim light. The disheveled state seemed to do nothing to diminish her beauty. “Who are you?”

“None of your business,” Xi Yue answered coldly.

“Rude.”

“Pervert!”

“Shut up about that. How many times should I tell you? I was there first, you came later!” he said exasperatedly.

Xi Yue had no response to that, so she closed her mouth and looked around before asking, “What is this place?”

“Dunno.”

“You’re a student here and you don’t know?” she glared at him.

Lu Yin rolled his eyes, “I’m a new student, I don’t know much either.”

“You’re a new student?!”

“Don’t I look like one?”

Xi Yue’s eyes gleamed. She’d initially thought this was an old student of Astral-10, left behind like Big Pao and Little Pao. It was difficult to believe that there was such a powerful new student in Astral-10, but she suddenly recalled something she’d heard. Wasn’t Lu Yin the person who completed the Sentinel mission?

“Why are you staring at me?” Lu Yin asked.

“We’re below the desert,” she looked up.

Lu Yin ignored her and checked the time on his gadget. It had already been seven hours since they’d arrived at this place, and there was a pair of gusts every ten minutes. One targeted the body, while the other targeted the soul. There were only a few minutes left until the next wave.

Xi Yue’s eyes were gleaming. She was just about to ask for the Sandmaster’s help when she suddenly recalled that the Sand Ocean was supposed to be one of the best places to learn battle force. The pressure she’d felt above wasn’t enough, only about as good as in other training grounds. However, this place was different. She could feel constant pressure here, and there were those gales as well. It might be the true Sand Ocean, the best place to learn battle force.



The only problem was the pervert next to her. Xi Yue glanced over and matched Lu Yin's gaze, snorting and turning her back to him with a pale face. Lu Yin was left speechless. He was the victim here; although he'd seen a bit that he shouldn't have, this woman was crazy.

"Stay far away from me," Xi Yue said coldly.

Lu Yin raised a brow, "Are you sure?"

She was about to say something when she thought about the gales she'd just experienced. She would certainly have been hurt if not for the pervert's help, but she would rather die than ask for his help. This left her torn; she hadn't encountered anything like this in her life.

Xi Yue looked up and saw the dull sand drifting above, wondering whether she should ask for the Sandmaster's help. However, she suddenly heard a distant whistle at the same time as Lu Yin turned to her, "The next gale is coming, are you going to take it yourself?"

She gritted her teeth and moved closer. Lu Yin laughed and stood in front of her as the gale arrived, allowing it to leave traces of blood on his back. However, some of the wind went past him and left trace wounds on her arms and calves, leaving her trembling. He pursed his lips and pulled her into his arms out of sympathy, but Xi Yue's eyes opened wide and screamed, "Let me go, perv!"

Lu Yin grew annoyed. "Stop calling me that, I have a name! I'm Lu Yin, or you can call me Brother Seven."

A furious Xi Yue spat out yet another mouthful of blood. She directed her palm towards Lu Yin just as the gale paused, but he dodged it and she fell forwards. The whistle rang out again, and the next gust caused her to faint. Lu Yin paled and endured the endless pressure, the translucent current around his body growing slightly more obvious. Once the gale was over, he panted heavily and sat on the ground and looked at the unconscious Xi Yue. This place really wasn't meant for people, she was looking for trouble.

## **Chapter 129: Battle Force**

Five hours later, Xi Yue opened her eyes again and wiped her forehead. She suddenly thought of something and checked her clothes were still on, sighing in relief when she found they were.

"Hey, what are you looking like that for? Do you really think I'm a pervert? Even if I was, who'd be interested in a washing board like you?" Lu Yin ranted.

Washing board? What washing board, they were clearly quite big? Xi Yue glared at Lu Yin angrily. Wait, what was she thinking? This PERVERT!

Even Lu Yin felt like he'd gone a little overboard, but he quickly dismissed that thought. She clearly had a superiority complex for no reason; she wasn't as beautiful as Bai Xue, nor as elegant as Michelle; not as alluring as Mira, or even as innocent as Coco. Where did her confidence come from? At best, her voice was alright. This was the first time he'd encountered any musical battle techniques.

"When will the next gale arrive?" Looking at her gadget, Xi Yue realized that it had likely been spoilt when they fell through the desert. She looked up and glared; she wanted to leave this pervert's side, but

couldn't withstand the gale without him. This was detestable; the Young Mistress of the Souldream Tribe had to rely on someone else?

"One minute," Lu Yin answered casually.

"I'm not joking," she frowned.

"I'm not either," he retorted, watching as she took out Melder-grade ring armor from her cosmic ring. He wondered whether such external objects would be of use here, but before he could think further, the gale was upon them again. Xi Yue's plan to be independent of him backfired immediately, the truth bringing her to despair; the ring armor was blown away, and her clothes were torn apart in moments to reveal her fair skin once more. Things would have gotten worse if he hadn't pulled her into his arms again.

"Don't look down!" she shouted anxiously.

"Then you can endure it on your own."

"No!"

"Then why should I help you?"

"I... I can pay you."

Lu Yin's eyes gleamed the moment he heard the word pay, and he hugged Xi Yue so tight she felt like her neck would break. She promptly changed into new clothes once the storm ended, heaving a sigh of relief when she saw that he truly wasn't looking.

"Are you done?" he asked eventually, and once she confirmed, he smiled, "Get ready, it's coming again."

Determination filled Xi Yue's gaze this time, her pale face staring into the depths of the dark desert as the gale swept past. The terrifying mental pressure almost caused her to collapse, but fortunately, she managed to will herself through it. However, she noticed something on Lu Yin amidst her suffering, and her eyes widened, "Battle force?"

"Battle force?" A confused Lu Yin followed Xi Yue's gaze and looked at himself. The two had already spent twelve hours down here, having gone through 144 gusts in total. Having been awake the whole time, he had endured it all. There were visible traces of battle force on him, threads of energy surrounding his body that he could cover himself with at will.

This was battle force? Battle force was one of the greatest powers in the Innerverse; although he'd hoped to learn something about it in the Sand Ocean, he hadn't expected it to happen so quickly. Xi Yue was stunned as well; fewer than ten people across all of Astral-8 could use battle force, which was deemed one of the highest skills in the universe at large. This pervert had actually acquired it successfully!

BANG! He smashed his palm into the sand with excitement, the air separating around his hand. He suddenly felt like everything was in his control. Before this, a palm strike used 80% of his strength and he could recover 20% of what energy he'd used up. Now, he could go to 120% with the same recovery; this was a direct boost to both attack and defense. He could already feel the destructive power behind this energy that could pierce most things.

“So this is battle force, that’s great,” he marveled excitedly.

Xi Yue was filled with disbelief and shame. This pervert had managed to accomplish something she couldn’t. It was so embarrassing, really embarrassing!

“Do you have it too?” Lu Yin asked with a curious gaze, but she grunted and turned around, refusing to look at that annoying face. This left him confused; what was wrong now? This woman was crazy.

Up on the surface of the desert, the Sandmaster was stunned, “He only took twelve hours to learn battle force. Guanyu was right; this kid’s body is incredible. He should be from a powerful family, is it from the Innerverse? Or...”

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Back at the trial zone entrance, Schutz walked out of the ported battle zone with an ugly expression. Although he’d improved over the course of his training, he was still nothing compared to the powerhouses he faced. He’d even been defeated by a Sentinel! Thinking of this, he recalled Lu Yin who’d entered the Academy at the same time and wondered how he was currently doing.

“Senior Big Pao, who has the best results currently in the ported battles?” he asked.

“Hmm? Lu Yin, I guess,” Big Pao said after a moment of thought.

“Lu Yin? Isn’t he a Sentinel?” Schutz was surprised.

Big Pao laughed, “He’s advanced, but his results were the best even when he was still a Sentinel. He got to three wins in a row back then, and his record is six now. His total result is 31-46.”

31-46? That was getting to an equal win rate! Schutz was astounded. His own record was 4-76, a win rate of only about 5%. This was miles apart from Lu Yin’s; what made him so successful? Or was he really that powerful? Those who hadn’t experienced the ported battles could never imagine how cruel they were. The people inside were all insane geniuses of the Innerverse; he was quite powerful by Outerverse standards, but he was nothing compared to those people. However, Lu Yin had already surpassed him.

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Underneath the Sand Ocean, Xi Yue hid behind Lu Yin indignantly. Still unable to withstand the gusts, this was all she could do.

“Don’t forget the reward you promised,” Lu Yin reminded her.

“Here, take this!” Xi Yue groaned, giving him a Mavis card, “2k star crystals.”

“Thank you, thank you. I didn’t know you were so generous.” Lu Yin was elated. He only had the 10,000 star crystals he’d gotten from the three wins for now, and that was nothing compared to what he needed if he rolled Possession. He had to earn more money, and the woman in front of him was clearly rich.

“Protect m—” she was suddenly interrupted by a new gale, but the now-experienced Lu Yin covered himself with battle force and protected her. When the gust came to an end, she panted heavily and

grew enraged at the sight of him being completely unaffected. "Protect me so I can learn battle force as well; I'll pay you 20k when I'm done."

"20k? Are you from a rich family?" Lu Yin was stunned.

Xi Yue ignored him, would she need money from her family? She was the most famous star in the Innerverses, and any album of hers could command an astronomical price. She had so much money that she didn't even know her bank balance; she was a purple card holder with the Mavis Bank. But she wouldn't tell this bumpkin such things so he wouldn't scam her.

"So do you agree?" she asked coldly.

Lu Yin considered it for a while with a gleaming gaze.

Xi Yue frowned, "30k."

"Deal," Lu Yin agreed immediately. This was 30,000 star crystals; ten times what he'd get by recycling without rest for two days. Although he didn't know how long it would take for her to finish learning, this was much easier than breaking down machinery. He just had to block the winds for her, and that had no effect on him once he had battle force.

Once the deal was completed, Xi Yue didn't even bother talking anymore. She had him turn around and act as a wall while she sat down and endured the constant pressure. With Lu Yin's protection, the bodily gusts were not a threat anymore. She only had to endure the mental pressure.

Twenty more hours passed by, and Lu Yin's battle force strengthened while Xi Yue's hadn't started to form at all. He started asking impatiently, "Why haven't you learned it yet? You're too slow!"

"Do you think it's that easy to learn battle force? Everyone from the Innerverses would be an expert at it!"

"Then why did I learn it so quickly?"

Xi Yue was left speechless at his lack of tact. No matter what, she was still a beauty; he was such a bumpkin to not even recognize her.

"I'll give you ten more hours, I'm going to leave if you still haven't learned it by then," Lu Yin said.

"I'll add 20k more," she snorted.

"Nevermind, you can take it slowly. I'm in no rush."

"Don't look at me. Wall."

Lu Yin pouted and turned his back on Xi Yue. Moments later, he thought of something, "Who are you? Why are you in Astral-10?"

"I'm a student from Astral-8, I came here to train," Xi Yue explained, but still felt like telling someone her name was humiliating.

“Astral-8? From the Inniverse? Isn’t there a place to learn battle force there? Why’d you have to come all the way here?”

“None of your business.”

“Haha, did you get pushed out? Must be, your personality is so bad.”

Xi Yue gritted her teeth and refused to answer, but Lu Yin continued to ask curiously, “Right, how do I improve my battle force?”

“Either endure enormous pressure or fight constantly.”

“Enormous pressure? So it improves with more?”

Xi Yue frowned, “Tell you what. I’ll give you some information about battle force, but you shut up afterward. Deal?”

“Huh... Ugh, whatever, I’ll keep quiet.”

Xi Yue licked her chapped lips and thought of something. She took out a drink from her cosmic ring and took a sip, saying with a thoughtful gaze, “Battle force comes from a person’s heart, and its source is the foundation of the human body. The body has infinite potential; the greater the pressure you endure, the greater the battle force you achieve. But it’s just like a spring; you either bounce back or collapse. The best way to improve is constant battle. Battle force is categorized by the number of lines, and nine lines is the most powerful. You’re at the first level...”

Lu Yin’s eyes gleamed. Nine-lined battle force? Was that the rumored peak of battle force that could crush the skies?

### **Chapter 130: Xi Yue’s Revenge**

“This is all I know, you can ask your teacher if you want to know more,” Xi Yue finished, leaving Lu Yin pondering. A gale appeared at just the right time; the only distractions came in the form of her occasional pained cries.

It was easy for people to fall apart in such dark surroundings, especially in the face of such a strong suppression; even an elite student like Xi Yue found it hard to bear. She was almost broken by the 50-hour mark, her deep blue hair starting to turn into a sickly yellow. Her exquisite skin had now lost its luster just like her sunken eyes, and she was starting to hallucinate on occasion. Lu Yin watched it all with a frown; the woman would surely die if she went on like that, but he couldn’t help her.

She trembled subconsciously as the wind whistled, having grown to be fearful of such sounds. As she folded her arms in response to her body quivering, he let out a sigh and suddenly hugged her, moving his mouth close to her ear, “You’re such a washing board.”

“YOU SCUM!” Xi Yue’s gaze changed drastically in an instant, her face turning bright red as anger filled her heart. That anger didn’t fade at all in the face of the oppressive winds, and the aura of battle force burst forth from her body. Dozens of hours of inhuman suffering had finally taught her battle force, but all her focus was on the asshole in front of her.

Lu Yin couldn’t help a laugh as he got up to stretch, “Congratulations, you succeeded!”

“Succeeded?” she was stunned, looking down at her body as she realized what it was. Battle force? She’d really done it! After all that torment...

Up above, the Sandmaster raised a brow, “Understanding battle force largely depends on one’s determination, some will never grasp it in their lives while others grasp it quickly. This girl isn’t bad; in fact, she’s quite extraordinary.”

“Hey, you can pay me now,” Lu Yin said below.

Xi Yue raised her head, but the only thing that came to mind when she saw Lu Yin’s face was the term washing board. This asshole! Her battle force quickly swirled around her palm and she sent it out, “Go to hell!”

Lu Yin evaded the attack and complained, “Woman, you’re biting the hand that fed you.”

“SCUM!” she yelled, but her body swayed from even this exertion. She had to crouch down in exhaustion; the long torment had drained her completely.

Lu Yin crouched down beside her, “Pay me, I refuse to think you don’t have the money.”

Xi Yue snorted and took out a crystal Mavis card, “60,000 star crystal cubes. You aren’t to tell anyone else about what happened here and what you did to me.”

“What did I do to you?” he asked in puzzlement as he took it.

“You better not call me that in the future!”

“Call you what? A washing board?”

“Shut your mouth!”

“Are there really 60,000 cubes here?”

“Go see for yourself.” She didn’t want to waste time talking nonsense any longer.

“Eh. Alright then. If you’ve scammed me, I’ll tell everyone about what happened here. Rich kids like you care about your reputations.” Seeing Xi Yue ignore him, Lu Yin clenched his fist, “Okay, it’s time to set off. Because of the additional 10,000, I’ll bring you back.”

She simply glared at him with disdain, getting up and shouting feebly, “Sandmaster, I want to leave this place.”

Sandmaster? Lu Yin was taken aback.

“Alright,” a voice suddenly rang out from the void, and soon after, Xi Yue was pulled out by a formless energy and disappeared. Lu Yin’s eyes went wide in speechless shock. He’d forgotten that the Sand Ocean had its tutor as well; if he’d known, he would have left earlier.

“Sandmaster, I want to leave as well!” he yelled, but no one paid him any attention.

He yelled again, and there was still no response. This time he fell silent; this was such favoritism! Unfortunately, the winds buffeted him again before he could think about it, and he had to push his battle force to deal with the gale. He was no longer affected by the boundless pressure; while Xi Yue had

spent the past two days understanding battle force, he had advanced his own control. He quickly shot into the sky, touching the upper layer of sand. Thirty meters passed by very quickly, and he made his way out of the desert with only a light ringing in his head.

It felt like he hadn't seen the sun in forever when he finally got out, and he wasn't able to adapt. Xi Yue wasn't anywhere nearby, so he didn't bother about the nasty woman who might start a messy fight if they met again. After going through such torment for so long, all he wanted to do was rest and roll his die.

"Miss Xi Yue, what happened?" The waiting students from Astral-8 were alarmed at the mere sight of a dejected Xi Yue that walked out of the Sand Ocean towards the teleporter. She looked in dire straits, and her clothes were torn.

"Scram!" Xi Yue had no plans to talk. Gloomily making her way to the teleporter, she looked deep into the desert just before she left, "Just you wait, scumbag. You'll pay for what you've done!"

She left in a hurry, not even bidding goodbye to the Pao brothers as she headed straight to her spaceship. The middle-aged woman looked at her with concern as she took her time to freshen up and change, returning to her usual beautiful self. "You've had a hard time, Young Mistress."

Xi Yue took a deep breath and looked at the darkness outside, "It wasn't that bad."

"Then your battle force..."

Xi Yue raised her arms and a formless current circled around it, neither star energy nor air. It gave off an aura of power that could pierce through anything. Many of her followers were shocked and amazed, while the middle-aged woman was filled with glee, "Wonderful! You managed to comprehend battle force in a matter of days; that is the quickest in Astral-8!"

When she heard that she was the fastest, Xi Yue immediately thought about Lu Yin. That asshole had mastered it in a matter of hours. Besides, even her own success was owed to that bastard commenting on her chest. If she didn't get her revenge, she wouldn't be worthy of her fame.

"Spread the news that Lu Yin of Astral-10 was disrespectful to me," she suddenly said with an arrogant look.

The middle-aged woman and the others were alarmed, "What? Who? The Souldream Tribe won't let him off."

"It has nothing to do with you, just get the word out that he took advantage of me," she said with a crooked smile. She wanted to show the asshole that Xi Yue wasn't someone to be trifled with. Washing board? She was clearly voluptuous.

The middle-aged woman was put in a difficult position, but she could only comply under Xi Yue's icy glare. Very soon, the paparazzi burst to life with news that the star of the Innerverse had been taken advantage of at Astral-10 by someone named Lu Yin. At the same time, the news that she'd gone there to meet a boyfriend had spread out as well, and countless pairs of eyes focused on Astral-10.

Within Astral-8, one youth's eyes were filled with magma as his hatred frozen the sky, "Tell Craynor that Lu Yin doesn't need to continue his cultivation. I want one of his arms."

Within his enormous spaceship shuttling through the starry skies, Hart Phoenix had a gloomy look on his face.

"The news might not be real, Young Master. Miss Xi Yue might have been taken advantage of a little, but it likely isn't as bad as it was made out to be," someone said cautiously.

Hart stared into space, "Doesn't really matter. That woman is the one my brother chose for me; she's my property, and no one can touch her. This Lu Yin took my spot as the greatest Sentinel, and he's now taken advantage of my girl. He has some guts."

"I'll report to Young Master Serati immediately."

"I can handle my own matters," Hart said gruffly.

In another spaceship, Bonnie from Astral-9 was watching the news with alarm, "Xi Yue is an elite of Astral-8; there are very few Melders that can take advantage of her. So not everyone at Astral-10 is worthless, Tutor was right in asking me to take a trip."

Once the news broke out, many spaceships from across the Inniverse shot towards the Frostwave Weave, heading for Astral-10. Xi Yue was well aware of the buzz she could create; every member of the Souldream Tribe was a star in her own right, but she was a cut above the rest and even an elite Melder of Astral-8. She was certain that her proclamation would cause Lu Yin enough trouble in the foreseeable future, and could already see the pain and helplessness on his face. She smirked, "Call me a washing board again."

It wasn't just the Inniverse that followed news about Xi Yue. She had plenty of fans in the Outerverse as well, and two die-hards were named Big Pao and Little Pao. When they saw this news, they could not believe it, they had to verify it before they finally accepted it as truth. Stunned, they looked at each other.

"Little brother, is the Lu Yin they speak of the one from our academy?"

"Who else could it be? We're in trouble."

Big Pao sulked, "My goddess has been violated."

"That isn't the problem. Think of how many people will be on their way here right now. Quick, go look for Lu Yin; I'm sure he doesn't know what kind of mess he's made. But then again, he really is something if he took advantage of her; she isn't weak."

There were no restrictions on Astral-10 outside of the three major cultivation grounds. Lu Yin found a spot near the teleporters to sleep right after he got out of the Sand Ocean, and when he woke up, there were over a hundred messages from the Pao brothers. He realized something was wrong and responded immediately with his location.

Big Pao and Little Pao flew over very quickly, and the latter grabbed him by the collar, "You son of a bitch, tell me which hand you used to take advantage of her!"



“What advantage are you talking about?” Lu Yin was confused. It was only after Little Pao showed him the news that he realized how powerful this woman was, and it left him speechless. Taking advantage of her? Surely, it wasn’t that serious. One might be able to stretch the circumstances to consider it that way, but... This woman was really strange. She was the one who’d told him to keep quiet about the entire thing, but she was the one who spread the news. There was definitely something wrong with her.

However, it was this look of annoyed contemplation that gave the Pao brothers a confirmation. They exchanged glances, each sure that this bastard had taken advantage of their idol.

“Damn it, think of a way out! There are bound to be many people who are already on the way to Astral-10!” Big Pao said helplessly.

Little Pao looked at Lu Yin, “I think it would be best if you hide yourself for a while. Those who are wooing Xi Yue are all young and powerful individuals. You’ve seen her abilities for yourself, you know how strong she is. She’s one of the strongest Melders in Astral-8, but there are some people stronger than her. There are also a number of suitors who are even higher in realm.”