

Chapter 1261: No Restrictions

Lu Yin's finger flick had just been a casual attack, but that only served to make people even more nervous.

The Sixth Mainland cultivators all fell silent and stopped provoking those from the Fifth Mainland. As for the participants from the Inniverse who belonged to powers antagonistic to the Great Eastern Alliance, they also went silent out of shock.

Although the Sixth Mainland cultivators stopped attacking, Lu Yin had no plans of letting them off. His next target was Bai Ling.

It would be interesting if he could eliminate a Realmling with a flick of a finger.

He raised a hand once again.

At this moment, countless people stared at Lu Yin's finger while wondering who his next target would be.

Everyone on the eastern face of Zenith Mountain was terrified, and some of them even stopped moving as they stared at Lu Yin.

Bai Ling felt a chill, and her eyes shot up to look at Lu Yin. When she saw his cold gaze, goosebumps crawled down her back; she knew that she was his next target. Bai Ling's eyes narrowed, and countless strange lines appeared across the entire eastern side of the mountain. All the other battles fell silent as she fully utilized her innate gift.

Lu Yin's brows rose high. This girl really was a Realmling as well as an Enlighter; she was so powerful that her innate gift could affect the entire eastern face of the mountain. If Lu Yin insisted on attacking Bai Ling, then he would end up implicating everyone on his side of the mountain, including the Fifth Mainland cultivators.

Lu Yin hesitated, but then he lowered his hand. He had his own matters to consider, as the existence of the Great Eastern Alliance had already created a rivalry with some of the major Inniverse powers. If Lu Yin dragged all of the competitors into his battle, then he would definitely be seen as the universal enemy of not just the Inniverse, but also the Cosmic Sea and the Neoverse.

Once one attained a certain status, they would be forced to make some difficult decisions.

Bai Ling felt confused as to why Lu Yin had stopped attacking.

At that same moment, a huge shadow covered her. She turned around to see a strange creature attacking her. It was Ze Lin, who was ranked sixty-seventh on the Top 100 Rankings. He was able to fuse with his tamed beast, an Oolong Horse, and was extraordinarily strong.

Ze Lin's physical strength could even compare to Lu Yin's, though that was back when Lu Yin had still been a Limiteer.

Furthermore, Ze Lin had become a Cruiser, so he had also become much stronger. However, he had vastly underestimated his opponent.

Bai Ling's expression chilled. The strange lines that she had formed wrapped around Ze Lin, and then something new happened.

Ze Lin collapsed and died.

Lu Yin shook his head. Ze Lin had not thought his attack through. What a shame; the Beast Tamers Flowzone had just lost one of their geniuses.

In the Inniverse's Beast Tamers Flowzone, the master of the Divine Grade Hall, Mountain God roared angrily. Ze Lin had been an elite whom the Divine Grade Hall had groomed. Within the younger generation, he had been second only to the Little Mountain God, who did not actually belong to the current generation.

Ze Lin's death meant that the Divine Grade Hall had lost a future elite, and the Mountain God was grieving.

However, there were no restrictions during ZENITH, and it was Ze Lin's own fault for dying while trying to sneak attack Bai Ling.

"Stupid! Stupid! That woman dared to go up against Lu Yin. Why did you think that you would be able to deal with her? Stupid!" the Mountain God bellowed.

Ze Lin was not the first competitor to die during ZENITH, but his death carried a larger impact since the cultivators from Beast Tamers Flowzone were all furious. Additionally, many of the Inniverse cultivators were shocked.

There had already been tens of thousands of deaths on the eastern face of Zenith Mountain in the short time that the competition had officially started, and most of the people had died from getting caught up in the powerhouses' battles.

The various deaths caused many competitors to stop and wait for the stronger participants to clear the first checkpoint. Otherwise, many of them would simply die from getting caught up in the elites' battles.

Liu Tianmu and Xin Nü had also both stopped fighting, and despite Little Arrow Saint's persistent harassment, Yuhua Mavis was still the closest to Lu Yin.

Although Zenith Mountain was very tall, it would take an Enlighter less than half a day to reach the first checkpoint if no one disturbed them.

Lu Yin could almost hear Yuhua Mavis's breath by now.

Lu Yin was excited to see what Yuhua Mavis would do upon arriving at the mountain pass. Although she had the appearance of a calm demeanor, she was actually just as impulsive as Lulu, and she similarly hated being challenged. It was possible that Yuhua Mavis would challenge Lu Yin to a fight as soon as she reached the checkpoint.

That seemed to be the most likely scenario.

Yuhua Mavis was focused on reaching the mountain pass, and Little Arrow Saint was infuriated that she was constantly ignoring him. He raised his bow as nine lined battle force covered the weapon. At the same time, a ten meter tall image appeared behind him; his imprint came from an absolute powerhouse.

Little Arrow Saint's actions attracted the attention of countless other competitors, including Lu Yin.

He was no stranger to Little Arrow Saint, as the Realmking had once hunted Lu Yin for a few days, though Lu Yin had never seen Little Arrow Saint use his imprint during that time.

During the Sixth Mainland's invasion, the Fifth Mainland had been protected by the Rune Progenitor, which had forced everyone to suppress their power level to under 200,000, regardless of whether or not they possessed an imprint. This was why Lu Yin had never seen Little Arrow Saint use his imprint during the invasion. However, when Lu Yin had fought against Little Arrow Saint in the Daosource Sect's ruins, Little Arrow Saint had used his imprint, which had been a three inch tall elder at the time, the same as Shi Zhongjian's. However, the Realmking's imprint had since changed.

His current imprint was that of a ten meter tall man wearing animal skins. The man was muscular and carried a bow.

He was the East Realm's new Emyrean Imprinter.

When Little Arrow Saint used his imprint, Yuhua Mavis suddenly hesitated before slowly turning around.

Little Arrow Saint sneered at her. When he loosed his arrow that held the combined might of his nine lined battle force and imprint, its power level far exceeded 300,000. This was the strongest attack that Zenith Mountain's eastern face had seen so far, and it was even more powerful than Liu Tianmu's Fifth Sword.

Yuhua Mavis frowned. Green grass spread across the ground before turning into an enormous fist that punched at Little Arrow Saint.

The Mavis family possessed the greatest wealth and the greatest physical strength.

The fist collided with the arrow, and the sky exploded. A massive shockwave raced down the mountain, and many competitors cursed at the two powerhouses since they could not dodge in time and were thrown back by the shockwave.

A hole had appeared on Zenith Mountain.

The two attacks had both exceeded a power level of 300,000, which was terrifying.

Little Arrow Saint kept a careful eye on Yuhua Mavis.

She then picked up a small rock from the ground and threw it at Little Arrow Saint.

It was just a normal rock, so it should not have bothered Little Arrow Saint at all. However, a chill suddenly ran down his spine. Although it was just a normal rock, it contained an incredible amount of force.

He narrowly dodged the stone, and it smashed against the mountain, which shattered from the impact.

Shattered pieces of rock went flying in all directions, striking down a few competitors in the air. One of the shards even scratched Little Arrow Saint's cheek.

Little Arrow Saint looked up at Yuhua Mavis in shock; this woman was incredibly strong!

He watched in a daze as Yuhua Mavis continued to rush up the mountain. Little Arrow Saint no longer wanted to stop her after being startled by her strength.

Lu Yin smirked. Yuhua Mavis was one of the most physically adept people in the entire universe aside from him. In anticipation, Lu Yin clenched his fists as Yuhua Mavis approached, wondering how many attacks she would be able to endure.

Many people were interested in a battle between two of the strongest participants, but most people were even more concerned about the contestants who were actually related to them.

In Southside Weave, within Astral-9, a large group of students nervously watched a screen.

They were watching a battle between three people, of which two were from Astral-9. They were Liu Yin, the previous top student of Astral-9, and Chao Zhi, who had participated in the Astral Combat Tournament.

At this particular moment, they were working together to fight against Kayze, who had been Lu Yin's doorman for King Zishan's palace for a long time.

Kayze had also signed up for ZENITH since he had previously been ranked in the top eighty of the Top 100 Rankings. After the Outerverse had been cut off from the Innerverse, Kayze had been captured by Lu Yin and tasked with guarding King Zishan's palace. Even after the Innerverse had reconnected with the Outerverse, Kayze still had not returned to the Dire Barbarian Clan, as he had watched Lu Yin achieve the impossible.

Aside from those closest to Lu Yin, Kayze was the person with the best understanding of how much Lu Yin had improved. Over the past few years, he had seen Lu Yin countless times, and Kayze's innate gift was that of hearing, which allowed him to hear the vibrations of a person's body.

Whenever Lu Yin had returned to King Zishan's palace, Kayze had always attentively listened to him, hearing new things every time. Over the years, Kayze had gained a new understanding of physical strength, and he had even achieved a breakthrough in his own battle technique, which had allowed him to become much stronger.

He had also become a Cruiser, and he was now comparable to the top fifty of the Top 100 Rankings, which was why he had dared to join ZENITH.

Once registration for ZENITH had opened, Kayze had told Lu Yin about his plans to register and had only signed up after Lu Yin agreed.

Kayze wanted to create a name for himself during ZENITH. He had no delusions of reaching Lu Yin's level and having everybody be in awe of him, but Kayze at least hoped to be recognized as someone with the power to be in the top half of the Top 100 Rankings.

Liu Yin and Chao Zhi were not weak, and they were both Explorers. If they had been fighting against the old Kayze, then they would have definitely been able to defeat him by working together. However, they were facing the Kayze who had followed Lu Yin for many years, and there was no possible way for them to defeat him.

Liu Yin was the first to fall. His voice could not compare to Bai Ling's innate gift of sound, and he was not able to damage Kayze much before being defeated by Kayze's strength.

Chao Zhi had a good grasp of battle force, and she also possessed a strong battle technique: Wind of Seasons, which was able to cause her opponent's body to decay. However, even though it was a powerful battle technique, it still a strong power to support it.

Compared to Kayze, Chao Zhi was much weaker and she was also summarily defeated.

The people back in Astral-9 felt helpless, but there was no shame in losing to someone in the Top 100 Rankings.

There were countless cultivators throughout the Inverse and Outerverse, but only a hundred of them were on the rankings. On top of that, Kayze clearly belonged in the top half.

Kayze was exhausted after defeating Chao Zhi and Liu Yin, as they were both quite strong. If they had actually been in the same cultivation realm as Kayze, he might not have been able to beat them.

He looked up at Lu Yin.

Kayze had once been an elite in the Dire Barbarian Clan, but his life had completely changed because of Lu Yin. Even after the Outerverse had reconnected to the Inverse and Kayze had been summoned back to the Dire Barbarian Clan, he had never returned. He was smart, and he knew that following Lu Yin would be a much better choice than returning to the Dire Barbarian Clan. After all, they would rather focus all of their resources on Avery instead of him.

Chapter 1262: A Bunch of Familiar Faces

Suddenly, Kayze felt a chill and he instantly moved to the side. A slender needle pierced where he had just stood. He looked into the distance and saw countless competitors collapsing from needles piercing their bodies.

A woman had attacked Kayze. She looked cold and ugly spots covered her face, but she was dressed beautifully.

The woman looked over when Kayze dodged her attack. She raised a hand and threw another needle at him.

Kayze was shocked, as this woman was a Hunter. He dodged the needle once again, but it was hard for him to dodge this attack as she had changed to specifically targeting him.

Kayze watched as a needle approached his forehead, when suddenly a breeze caused the needle to snap in two and fall to the ground.

The woman's eyes narrowed and she looked up. The wind had come from Lu Yin.

Kayze shot a grateful look at Lu Yin and breathed heavily.

Lu Yin had seen the woman trying to kill Kayze, and since Kayze followed Lu Yin, he could not allow anyone to kill Kayze.

Although Lu Yin had a bad impression of the Dire Barbarian Clan, over the last few years of standing guard over King Zishan's palace, Kayze had done his best, and Lu Yin had already recognized the man as a follower.

The woman was cautious of Lu Yin and stopped attacking Kayze. She lowered her head and quickly continued on her way towards the checkpoint.

Kayze did not dare try to stop the woman, as he knew he could not defeat her.

The woman was a stranger to Kayze, and he was certain that she was not someone who was on the Top 100 Rankings. She was a Hunter whose strength was nearly comparable to the Ten Arbiters; could she be from the Cosmic Sea or the Neoverse?

The universe was vast, and the Top 100 Rankings obviously did not include every single powerful youth in the universe. There were many powerhouses who had entered cryostasis or were from mysterious lands, and while they might not be the strongest within their age group, there were still many elites among such unknown cultivators.

That woman was clearly one of those people.

Lu Yin stopped attacking the woman and turned towards another direction instead.

There were millions of competitors on Zenith Mountain's eastern face, and some of them were familiar to Lu Yin. For example, he saw a girl he defeated: Zi Jun. She was someone who had lost to Starsibyl during the Tournament of the Strongest and was from the Cosmic Sea's Longevity Brigade. However, what stunned Lu Yin was that the person who had defeated Zi Jun had been Nong Zaitian.

If Lu Yin had to rank the people he felt the most apologetic towards from the Sixth Mainland, Nong Zaitian would be the first on the list.

Back when Blood Looney had been chasing Lu Yin, he had escaped by stealing Nong Zaitian's hoe by using the Yu secret technique. Lu Yin had also entered a cauldron because of Nong Zaitian and had then discovered how to absorb star energy far more quickly after witnessing a battle between Nightking Zhenwu and Wu Taibai.

If not for Nong Zaitian, Lu Yin would never have been able to reach his current level of strength.

Thus, Nong Zaitian was not only Lu Yin's savior, but also his lucky star. Lu Yin had always ended up experiencing good luck after bumping into Nong Zaitian.

A long time had passed since Lu Yin had last bumped into Nong Zaitian near the cauldron, and Lu Yin had almost forgotten about this person. He had certainly expected to bump into Nong Zaitian in this place!

Every time Lu Yin ran into Nong Zaitian, Nong Zaitian was being bullied by others. Nong Zaitian was certainly not weak, and was almost a Hunter, which was why he had been able to easily defeat Zi Jun even without any items.

Maybe it was telepathy, but regardless, Nong Zaitian suddenly looked up and met Lu Yin's eyes.

Lu Yin paused and smiled.

Nong Zaitian gritted his teeth and mouthed two words. Although he was not able to hear Nong Zaitian's voice, Lu Yin knew exactly what had been said: "My hoe."

Lu Yin felt awkward and looked away. He could not believe that Nong Zaitian still remembered that hoe. How petty.

Nong Zaitian snorted and continued carefully climbing up the mountain. He did not dare offend Lu Yin. In the past, Lu Yin had frequently been chased around just like Nong Zaitian, but at the moment, Lu Yin was standing in a much higher position and could eliminate Nong Zaitian with the casual flick of a finger.

Off in the distance, the stutterer was frantically running around as Tong Zhan chased after him.

Tong Zhan had finally recovered from being crippled by Lu Yin, however Tong Zhan had not been able to improve his strength. His entire reason for participating in ZENITH was to fight against Lu Yin again, even if it killed him. Tong Zhan wanted to die in a battle.

The stutterer was unlucky enough to bump into Tong Zhan when dodging shockwaves from Liu Tianmu and Xin Nü's battle. The stutterer had nearly shoved Tong Zhan off the mountain. Tong Zhan had not actually planned on retaliating, but the stutterer kept shouting "meat!" excitedly after seeing Lu Yin, and Tong Zhan had assumed the two were friends, so he immediately started chasing the stutterer.

Although Tong Zhan had not been able to improve his strength, he was still the Tong family's heir. With his battle techniques, martial print, and imprint, he was more than enough to defeat the stutterer.

Despite all of that, the stutterer was also not weak, and his cultivation was actually higher than Tong Zhan's. The stutterer was a peak Cruiser, and his innate gift was related to speed, so it turned out to be very difficult for Tong Zhan to catch up.

Lu Yin had noticed Tong Zhan. but did not actually care as such a person did not matter to Lu Yin. There were only a few of the Sixth Mainland's elites who Lu Yin cared about.

"Meat! Meat! Meat!" the stutterer kept shouting. He still remembered that his master had said that he would be able to have meat if he followed Lu Yin. Although the stutterer looked frail and weak, he was incredibly stubborn and he firmly believed that Lu Yin was "meat," so he continued shouting at Lu Yin while running forward.

Tong Zhan gritted his teeth while chasing his target.

"Meat? What meat? Fish? How dare he insult me!" A skinny figure slowly climbed while fighting against the waves of force that descended from the mountain. It was Xi Qi, and she still had a fish on her head.

Xi Qi helplessly replied, "Nobody said fish! You heard wrong."

The fish kept flapping its fins. "I have never misheard anything! Someone must have said fish, so find the person now! I want to make that person my ride."

Xi Qi was panting heavily. She was already exhausted from climbing the mountain, and she had no desire to fight with the fish.

Lu Yin had also noticed Xi Qi and her annoying fish.

The fish kept flapping its fins. "That two-legged beast is looking at me! Hurry, make him come down and welcome me."

Xi Qi was helpless. She looked up at Lu Yin, but he was so far away!

Countless battles had broken out across the mountain's eastern face, and Lu Yin was able to see many familiar faces.

Although he had only been traveling around the universe for 13 years, he had still managed to meet many people, as there was an invisible attraction about Lu Yin that drew people to him.

Lu Yin was only able to observe the eastern face of Zenith Mountain, but there were also many familiar faces on the northern face.

The most unlucky person on the northern face of Zenith Mountain was Ku Lei. He had initially planned to be the first to pass the checkpoint and hoped to test out just how powerful the Sixth Mainland's Daosource Three Skies really were.

However, he had run into the back of an enormous beast as he had tried to rush up the mountain. This beast was Star Devourer, who ate entire planets when in his full size. Although Star Devourer was not currently at his full size yet, he was still taking up nearly half of the northern side of Zenith Mountain and had forced many of the competitors back to the starting point.

Some competitors had even been smashed.

Star Devourer had the appearance of some sort of mix between a wolf and a tiger. He had four limbs and six eyes, which made him look both creepy and powerful. The most mysterious thing about the creature was that all six of his eyes were closed, which made people feel even more scared.

Ku Lei bumped into Star Devourer, but then used lightning to attack the astral beast. "Move!"

Star Devourer lifted a paw and swept the lightning away, and the movement even flung Ku Lei all the way back to the starting point.

Ku Lei was stunned; since when had his lightning been so vulnerable?

Everyone on the northern face of Zenith Mountain and also everyone watching from other places was stunned to see how Star Devourer had thrown Ku Lei away with just a swipe of a paw.

The powerhouses from the Astral Beast Domain were not surprised, as this creature was Star Devourer, who ate planets. He was a member of one of the most powerful species in the entire Astral Beast Domain, and if not for the fact that only one was born over the course of many years, the species would definitely have been placed on the Celestial Beast List.

The Astral Beast Domain felt satisfied at this outcome, but all others felt threatened.

Ku Lei was the Ku family's inheritor and was from the Seven Courts, yet had been by a simple swipe.

Wen Sansi was also on the northern side of the mountain, and he grew solemn as he observed Star Devourer. This creature's strength was truly terrifying.

Some distance away, Jin He's eyes narrowed as he looked at Star Devourer's paw. The runes Jin He had observed were not just from the beast's physical strength, but something else had been present as well. The creature was definitely a powerhouse.

At this same time, thunder crashed off in the distance as Ku Lei rushed back. Countless lightning bolts transformed into spears that shot towards Star Devourer. Ku Lei was the Ku family's inheritor, yet he had actually been overpowered by a beast. This was too humiliating for Ku Lei to endure, as every part of ZENITH was a live broadcast, and his Ku family was definitely watching as well. He was determined to kill this beast.

At this time, Lu Yin was standing at the mountain pass that he was protecting while looking at a screen off in the distance. Although he was not able to see the northern side of the mountain from where he stood, he was able to watch the events taking place there on the screen and saw the exchange between Ku Lei and Star Devourer.

Lu Yin had a strong impression of Star Devourer, as he had once possessed Star Devourer's guard after rolling a six: Possession, on his die, and Lu Yin had personally witnessed how Star Devourer ate entire planets. It would be simpler if the beast had nothing more than overwhelming physical strength, but Star Devourer was definitely more complex than that, as he was able to actually digest planets.

Countless people focused on Zenith Mountain's northern face to watch as Star Devourer responded to the lightning bolts.

All six of Star Devourer's eyes remained closed, but right as the lightning drew close, a single eye opened and the beast's tail shook. This simple action sent ripples through the sky that distorted the lightning and pushed it away.

Ku Lei did not even have time to react before Star Devourer swiped his tail and threw Ku Lei completely off the mountain. This time, Ku Lei was not as lucky as before, and he ended up badly injured.

Everyone went silent as they stared at Star Devourer in shock.

Ku Lei had not even possessed the strength to retaliate.

When Ku Lei was flung off the mountain, light formed multiple blades that shot towards Star Devourer; Lightson had attacked the beast as he had felt threatened.

At this same time, Jin He's pupils transformed into runes and he erased a portion of Star Devourer's runes. Wen Sansi also used Literary Prison to trap Star Devourer's tail, and all of them worked together to attack Star Devourer.

Star Devourer roared and his immense strength shattered the Literary Prison. The roar released shockwaves that also destroyed the approaching rays of light.

Lightson was stunned; this was a truly powerful beast.

Jin He frowned. It would be very difficult to fight Star Devourer.

Star Devourer flicked its tail towards Wen Sansi.

A barrier appeared in front of Wen Sansi and nothing at all happened when Star Devourer's tail struck the screen.

Star Devourer's opened eye turned to look at Wen Sansi.

Wen Sansi met the creature's gaze.

Star Devourer's presence had caused a few of the cultivators on the mountain's northern face to cooperate, including even Wen Sansi who was predicted to end up among the top finalists. This was an exhilarating battle, though there were some people who were confused by what was happening.

Chapter 1263: Mixed Battle

The people watching from outside Zenith Mountain were astonished. "Why is that beast so powerful? Not even two Arbiters working together can defeat it."

"And the scariest thing is that, of its six eyes, it's only opened one so far. Could its power possibly increase every time it opens an eye?"

"Of course, everybody knows that! The predicted top ten lists are going to change. That beast is definitely going to enter the top ten."

"It's so scary! There really are many different kinds of beasts in the Astral Beast Domain."

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Mu En appeared from some corner of the sky and solemnly said, "Star Devourers have appeared a few times in the past, but whenever one appears, it always causes terrible damage to us since there are very few people who can stand up to such a beast."

Qinmei Mavis was standing next to him. She was a powerhouse from the Mavis clan, and she replied, "Not only do the Star Devourers have amazing strength, but they are also naturally resistant to star energy attacks, which is similar to how people from the Sixth Mainland naturally suppress those from the Fifth Mainland. The beasts' attacks can destroy star energy, and its immense strength makes it a very difficult opponent."

"In the past, your Mavis clan has competed against Star Devourers in terms of physical strength, but sadly, your clan was always defeated." Mu En sighed.

Qinmei Mavis looked dejected. "We've never been able to defeat those creatures. A Star Devourer has the greatest strength of anyone in the entire universe."

The Xia family patriarch, Xia Yi, appeared. "You're wrong. The strongest was the clone of Progenitor Chen who acquired the giants' bloodline."

Qinmei Mavis paused, but then she nodded. "Progenitor Chen was truly invincible."

“Although they are powerful, it is still possible to defeat the beasts by utilizing other methods,” Mu En said.

Elsewhere, the Sixth Mainland’s powerhouses were also watching from around Zenith Mountain, and among them was Nong Laohan, an elder from the Nong family.

Nong Laohan watched as the Star Devourer fought against Wen Sansi and the others and exclaimed, “The Fifth Mainland also has it hard. We’ve never seen such a beast in our Sixth Mainland.”

Ancestor Autumnfrost appeared nearby. “That beast is not from the Fifth Mainland.”

Nong Laohan looked over at the other elder in shock.

Ancestor Autumnfrost explained, “Have you forgotten about the other four mainlands? Some of the beasts in the Astral Beast Domain, and even some of the clans in the Human Domain, originate from the previous four mainlands.”

“There are a considerable number of such beasts in the Fifth Mainland that came from the previous mainlands. If not for those creatures, it would have been much easier to invade the Fifth Mainland.” Madam Hong appeared with a cold expression on her face as she stared at the mountain’s eastern face. She also glared at Lu Yin. She should have killed him before, as he had now risen to a level where he could injure Hong Ying with just the flick of a finger. Madam Hong wondered how Hong Ying was faring and hoped that the girl was not dead.

As Madam Hong stared at Lu Yin, she suddenly thought of someone and smiled.

Zenith Mountain’s northern face fell into chaos due to Star Devourer. After revealing his massive size, the beast had become everyone’s public enemy. Despite that, he was still able to withstand all the attacks due to his sheer power. Conversely, another beast had revealed its enormous size on the western side of the mountain, but it had met with an unfortunate end. That beast had been an Amethyst Beast named Zi Tongtian, and it had revealed itself even earlier than Star Devourer.

However, the Amethyst Beast had not been as powerful as Star Devourer, and he had been quickly eliminated by Ling Gong and Yōu Qi.

Amethyst Beasts were very powerful, but this one had met even stronger opponents.

Yōu Qi had an impenetrable defense and was so powerful that even Zi Tongtian had been completely helpless against him. Additionally, Ling Gong had used her Skycastle to suppress Zi Tongtian, which had led to the beast’s instant death.

The powerhouses from the Astral Beast Domain who had initially grown excited because of Star Devourer fell silent upon seeing Zi Tongtian’s death.

Humans were not easy to deal with.

Zhuo Daynight and Nightqueen Yanqing were both on Zenith Mountain’s western face, and Nightqueen Yanqing had naturally attacked Zhuo Daynight.

The Daynight clan’s conflict drew many people’s attention, and Lu Yin also turned to watch the battle.

Although Lu Yin was uncertain as to just how powerful Nightqueen Yanqing had become, he was confident that Zhuo Daynight would not suffer defeat.

A hundred meters away from Nightqueen Yanqing and Zhuo Daynight's battle, a fat and a thin figure excitedly discussed something.

"Fat Bro, look, there's a flying stone."

"Thin Bro, that must be some beast from the Fifth Mainland's Astral Beast Domain."

"But isn't it a stone?"

"How can a stone fly? It has to be a beast."

"Fat Bro, I- I- I like it."

"Thin Bro, I- I like it, too."

"Let's go!"

Little Mountain God was feeling very relaxed. He watched the battle between the two girls from the Daynight clan take place on his left before turning to watch the Sixth Mainland's Sword Scholar fight with Shu Jing, an Honor Chosen from the Hall of Honor. Neither of the fights affected Little Mountain God, as he was just a stone that was easily overlooked.

Suddenly, Little Mountain God grew wary and instinctively dodged to the side. A fat figure and a thin silhouette crashed onto the ground right where it had been standing.

Little Mountain God moved along while wondering who those two people were. They were probably just a couple of random cultivators who were not very powerful.

Little Mountain God looked behind himself. Hmm? Isn't that someone from the Great Eastern Alliance?

He felt that it was time for him to teach such a person a lesson since they were alone. How dare the Outerverse unite to move against the Innerverse? What a joke!

Suddenly, Little Mountain God felt some sort of threat again, and he immediately dodged. The ground shook, and Little Mountain God looked back. Hmm? Those people look familiar. Aren't they those two fat and thin cultivators? How are they still conscious? They must be the two attacking me.

The Greenmen Duo looked at Little Mountain God with excited eyes. "That's definitely something good! It has such quick reactions. Fat Bro, I have to catch it and give it to you."

"Thin Bro, I'm going to catch it and give it to you."

"Fat Bro, we're brothers forever."

"Thin Bro, let's work hard."

Little Mountain God was dazed. Just what was going on?

"Catch it!" The Greenmen Duo rushed at Little Mountain God, but he instantly made his escape. He was not scared of the two, though he did feel rather disgusted by them since they looked like two madmen.

Neither Little Mountain God nor the Greenmen Duo had noticed that there was a tiny bug as large as a fingernail sitting atop Little Mountain God's head. The bug looked like a beetle, and it remained perfectly still atop Little Mountain God's head.

As for the northern face of the mountain, the energy waves from the top of Zenith Mountain kept washing over the competitors. Yao Xuan, the Celestial Beast Empire's crown prince, stood in front of the mountain pass as he looked down at the various competitors. A faint glow shrouded him that moved together with the energy waves coming off of Zenith Mountain.

On the eastern, southern, and western faces of Zenith Mountain, although some of the participants were eliminated by the energy waves falling from Zenith Mountain, none of the Explorers were affected by it. Thus, no more than 200,000 to 300,000 people had been eliminated by the energy waves.

In contrast, nearly 500,000 competitors had already been eliminated on the mountain's northern side, and it was entirely because of Yao Xuan. He had mixed his own power into the energy waves, which had eliminated a lot of the participants.

Once they were touched by the energy waves, Explorers and even Cruisers would simply fall off of the mountain.

Most people were not capable of detecting Yao Xuan's power, as only a small number of people were capable of doing so, and an even smaller number of people were able to remain unaffected by the energy.

Liu Ling was from the Sword Sect, and she was breathing heavily while racing to dodge the energy wave approaching her.

Not only did the energy wave have a large impact, but it also contained a hidden spiritual force attack. This was precisely why so many people had fainted.

A single glance showed that many of the participants had fainted, and some were even dead.

Was ZENITH truly such a challenge? Even the energy waves from the mountain were enough to eliminate half of the competitors.

Liu Ling had not realized that the other competitors were not being eliminated by the energy waves, but rather by Yao Xuan.

Some distance away, Lilyrose, Charon, Dai Ao, and the others avoided the energy waves, as they also felt threatened by them.

At the same time, in a certain corner of the mountain, Bai Qian, who was wearing a white chiffon mask, calmly looked at a man standing in front of her. "Why are you blocking my path?"

This man was Calcifer, an assassin who had been in cryostasis for a hundred years. He had previously attempted to assassinate Starsibyl, and he had also participated in the Astral Combat Academy, where he had been defeated by Chao Zhi.

“I saw you before in the Astral Combat Academy. You were with the current generation’s Starsibyl,” Calcifer said.

Bai Qian replied, “So?”

Calcifer’s eyes blazed with killing intent. “Since I can’t kill Starsibyl, you can replace her.”

He quickly shot towards Bai Qian. His battle technique was Ten Step Kill, and his innate gift allowed him to destroy anything. The fact that he had been able to enter the fourth round of the Astral Combat Academy’s tournament in the past was enough to prove his strength, and he was also able to hide his aura as an assassin.

His assassination skills made him way more dangerous during ZENITH.

Calcifer suddenly appeared behind Bai Qian and used his arm to attack her back. His innate gift would split her in half.

Suddenly, white mist appeared in front of him, and the world turned cold. Was the world frozen? No, he was the one who had been frozen.

Calcifer fell to the ground with a bang. He had been frozen within a block of ice, and his expression still showed the satisfaction of completing a successful attack.

Bai Qian stepped over him. She simply didn’t care about his grudge with Starsibyl.

Wherever one looked on the mountain, there were powerhouses fighting against each other. There was Xia Jiuyou, Wu Taibai, Liquor Hero, and Starsibyl on the mountain’s northern face.

One of the competitors on that side of the mountain drew a great deal of attention: Wang Yi. He was the only participant from the Technocracy, and his name alone was enough to attract attention from countless people.

Wang was a primeval surname, which meant that it represented an inheritance and a certain distinction. Wang Yi was very mysterious, and not many people had seen him before the start of ZENITH. Even after the competition started, he still had not attacked anyone even though many people were still focused on him.

The reason why nobody else from the Technocracy had registered for ZENITH was because androids were considered items. Wang Yi, on the other hand, was a normal person and did not seem to have any signs of having been altered.

Ever since Wang Yi had shown up, the Seven Courts’ Hui family had begun investigating him since they hoped to learn more about Hui Kong from him.

A huge thunderbeast swept across the northern side of the mountain; Yao Gu had attacked Wang Yi in order to test this mysterious person’s abilities.

The Technocracy wasn’t a mystery only to the Human Domain, as it was equally mysterious to the Astral Beast Domain.

When Yao Gu attacked, more people paid attention to the two contestants.

Countless screens across the universe focused on Zenith Mountain's northern face, and more were watching these participants than even during the start of the battle with Star Devourer.

Wang Yi had average looks and was dressed normally. Other than that, he was quite pale and looked a bit underweight. Although everyone else was rushing up towards the mountain pass, Wang Yi had been slowly walking along and had fallen behind the majority of the crowd.

Chapter 1264: Mavis And Lu Yin

Yao Gu attacked from above.

A massive gale covered this section of the mountain, and everyone who had been around Wang Yi immediately ran away the moment they saw Yao Gu attacking. Some of the participants even leaped off the mountain and chose elimination over death.

Wang Yi looked up and calmly observed the void thunderbeast. His right foot hesitated midway before he suddenly flashed away. He reappeared a thousand meters to the side, and the massive void thunderbeast crashed against the side of the mountain like a meteor. A huge wound opened, blood started spurting out, forming a red river that flowed down the mountain. The onlookers were all stunned.

Yao Gu was stunned, and he looked down at his abdomen in astonishment. A massive open wound covering his entire body had appeared, but more shockingly, he did not know when or how it had appeared, which was also why he had been unable to prevent it. Yao Gu was a void thunderbeast, which meant that he could escape from most situations even when facing a powerhouse who was much stronger than him.

However, he had been instantly defeated without even a chance to defend himself.

To the southeast of Zenith Mountain, an enormous void thunderbeast tore through the sky to appear atop the Astral Beast Domain's skeleton. He stared at a screen in shock. "That's impossible! How could Yao Gu be injured so badly?"

Multiple other beasts appeared from the distance, all of them staring at the screen in shock.

That was Yao Gu, a genius from the void thunderbeast clan who had been bestowed the surname Yao by the Celestial Beast Empire. He was also a powerhouse on Skymender's List, but he had been instantly defeated, and shockingly, no one had been able to see how it had happened.

This development not only shocked the powerhouses from the Astral Beast Domain, but also everyone else.

Zenith Mountain's entire northern face fell quiet, and even Yao Xuan, who was up high on the mountain pass, stared at Wang Yi with astonishment. This person was very powerful.

Yao Gu slowly turned around to look at Wang Yi in shock. He was a powerhouse on Skymender's List, and he was one of the strongest powerhouses in the entire Astral Beast Domain, so how could he have been defeated so easily?

Wang Yi calmly continued walking up the mountain without revealing any expression on his face, as if the matter with Yao Gu was not worthy of any regard.

At the same time, elsewhere on the northern face of the mountain, Starsibyl closely observed Wang Yi with flashing eyes as her star energy went berserk.

She could not see. She could not see. Why was she not able to see this person's destiny? It was just like Lu Yin!

Starsibyl kept a wary eye on Wang Yi. Wang was a primeval surname, and no one with a primeval surname should be underestimated. Where was this person from? Was he actually from the Technocracy? Was he somehow related to Wang Wen, who stayed in Ironblood Weave?

The Technocracy was too large of an unknown.

In Frostwave Weave, on Earth, a young man fiddled with his hat as he stood near Lu Yin's statue. He looked up at a screen in surprise. "Not bad. That's really not bad."

On the mountain's eastern face, Lu Yin watched a screen as Wang Yi defeated Yao Gu, feeling blown away.

Lu Yin had not been able to see anything on the screen, but he was certain that Wang Yi was extremely fast, to the point where Yao Gu had not even been able to react. Additionally, Wang Yi's one move had gravely injured Yao Gu. The Technocracy's representative would be one of Lu Yin's fiercest opponents in ZENITH.

"Since you have the time to watch others, it's time for me to attack!" Yuhua Mavis had already arrived at the mountain pass.

Lu Yin smirked. "You're really impatient."

Yuhua Mavis sneered. "Let's see how much you've improved and what the source of your arrogance is."

She then leaped into the sky and punched at Lu Yin. A massive shockwave shot forward from her wrist and arm, and a loud bang rang across Zenith Mountain as she punched at Lu Yin.

Yuhua Mavis nearly always formed a grass fist when attacking, and she rarely ever used her actual fists, possibly because she was too strong and that her bare fists might kill her opponent.

However, she was using her fists against Lu Yin. This was a full powered attack from the Mavis family's Treeheart Descendant.

At that moment, numerous screens across the universe switched their feed from Wang Yi over to Lu Yin. Qinmei Mavis also paid close attention and grew very attentive. Originally, the Human Domain's second gatekeeper should have been either Yuhua Mavis or Qiu Shi, as that had been the understanding when ZENITH had first been announced.

However, after Lu Yin had returned from Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum, he had been nominated by Eversky Island's Highsage Grandmaster and supported by Arch-Elder Zen.

Although Yuhua Mavis was not upset about not being a gatekeeper, she was still annoyed that Lu Yin had replaced her. Furthermore, Lu Yin's comment had been the main reason why she had raced to the first checkpoint. She wanted to see how someone who had previously only been able to withstand

seven of her attacks was suddenly able to replace her as a gatekeeper and act in such an arrogant manner.

As he watched Yuhua Mavis' fists approach him, Lu Yin saw the countless rune lines on her fist. This attack far exceeded the power of the seventh punch that had removed him from the golden stage in the Mountain and Seas Zone. Yuhua Mavis was not holding back at this moment, and if Lu Yin could not withstand this attack, then he would end up either dead or crippled.

Yuhua Mavis had fully tapped into the strength of the Mavis family. The Mavis family was a powerful clan that not even the Sixth Mainland would dare to underestimate. They were extremely strong.

When Yuhua Mavis attacked, everybody turned to watch the battle.

Everybody was aware that Lu Yin's ability to retain his position at the mountain pass would depend entirely on whether or not he was able to stop Yuhua Mavis.

Everybody felt anxious, as this battle represented the true level of ZENITH.

Yuhua Mavis' fist drew closer to Lu Yin with a swish. The attack raced towards Lu Yin like an ancient beast.

Lu Yin raised his head and clenched his right hand. He had been waiting for this moment for a long time.

Ever since he had become a Melder and experienced the absurd increase in his physical strength, he had believed that no human at the same cultivation realm as him could be stronger than him. However, Lu Yin had finally understood why the Mavis clan represented the Human Domain's peak physical power during the battle in the Mountain and Seas Zone.

Seven attacks. At that time, Lu Yin had only been able to endure seven attacks, but even the final attack had not been Yuhua Mavis's full strength. She possessed an impossible level of strength and was quite possibly the strongest human of their generation.

When he had been forced off of the golden stage, Lu Yin had been shaken, as he had been defeated in what he believed to be his greatest forte. Although he had been two realms below Yuhua Mavis at the time, it had still been a loss.

After becoming a Hunter, finding Yuhua Mavis and comparing his strength to hers had risen to the top of Lu Yin's list of goals.

And that day had finally arrived.

Strength could overcome everything; this was the Mavis family's motto.

Yuhua Mavis made no attempt to stop Lu Yin from moving away. She had released a simple attack, but if Lu Yin did not dare to stand up to this attack, it was a sign that he had lost to the Mavis family.

Yuhua Mavis approached Lu Yin with killing intent flickering through her eyes.

Lu Yin's right fist suddenly relaxed, and he raised his hand to grab Yuhua Mavis' right fist.

Bang!

The sound of the impact shattered the ground near the mountain pass and released a massive gust of wind.

The ground fractured apart as everybody was fixated on Zenith Mountain's eastern pass. The tremendous shockwaves were visible, and they drew out an arc through the sky. On the screens, it looked as though a hole had opened up in the sky.

The contestants across the entire eastern side of the mountain who had been fighting and squabbling with each other all felt an overbearing pressure wash over them that nearly caused them to faint.

Liu Tianmu, Unseen Light, Bai Ling, Xin Nü, Cursewind, and all of the other elites looked up at the sky. This pressure had come from a massive physical attack, but how could a human be so strong?

Feng Liu was shocked; this strength was nearly comparable to Star Devourer's! That was insane!

Lu Yin did not fight with Yuhua Mavis, and he had merely stopped her attack. Then, he tossed her off to the side, causing her to land behind the pass. "This isn't the time for us to fight."

Yuhua Mavis was stunned. If Lu Yin had fought back against her and stopped her attack that way, she would not be this surprised. However, Lu Yin had stopped her attack without any attempt at retaliation, which meant that he was much stronger than her.

Even after being flung through the pass, Yuhua Mavis still had not recovered enough to react.

After hearing Lu Yin's comment, she stabilized herself and landed on the ground before looking back at Lu Yin with a conflicted expression.

At this moment, Qinmei Mavis, who was standing outside of Zenith Mountain, was just as dumbfounded as Yuhua Mavis. Only someone from the Mavis clan could understand just how strong the Treeheart Descendant was, and theoretically, no human should have been able to withstand Yuhua Mavis's attack. Even beyond that, the only creatures capable of comparing with the Mavis family's physical power were a few unique beasts from the Astral Beast Domain.

Qinmei Mavis had never expected that another human would actually be able to stop Yuhua Mavis's attack, let alone toss her away. It was completely unbelievable.

Lulu was also blown away, and she looked at Lu Yin in a daze. How could he be so strong? It had already been ridiculous when his strength had exceeded her, but now, he was actually even stronger than Sister Yuhua somehow! Was he actually an astral beast in disguise?!

A similar reaction rippled through not only the eastern face of Zenith Mountain, but also the competitors on the other sides. Wen Sansi had a solemn expression. Although he was confident in his barrier, there were no absolutes in the universe. Corpse Beast had destroyed Wen Sansi's barrier before, and if Lu Yin had reached a similar level of strength, then he might also be capable of shattering Wen Sansi's barrier.

No, Lu Yin could not be that strong.

Star Devourer ignored all of the incoming attacks as watched Lu Yin with one open eye. This solitary eye showed a strong interest as the massive beast mused, “Humans, strength. Do you really understand?”

Zhi Yi’s eyes narrowed. She had been able to sense the resulting shockwaves from Lu Yin’s strength, and she had realized how strong he had become. Why was Lu Yin so mysterious? Zhi Yi did not want to receive such a powerful physical attack herself, so it was no wonder why Lu Yin had been chosen to be a gatekeeper.

Nevertheless, physical strength was just one of many aspects of strength, and there were still ways for Zhi Yi to defeat Lu Yin.

Xiao Qing blinked as she stared at a screen. Since when had this guy become so powerful? There was a huge difference from when she had first met him in the ruins of the Fifth Mainland’s Daosource Sect. Did all of the Fifth Mainland’s cultivators improve this quickly?

Sixteen gulped, thankful that he had not offended Lu Yin when they had been together in the Cosmic Sea. This guy was basically an astral beast in human form!

Wu Taibai watched Lu Yin with curiosity. This person was indeed interesting.

Chapter 1265: Lu Yin’s Power

Wang Yi had remained calm, and his expression had remained still during this entire time, not even blinking when Yao Gu had attacked him. However, upon seeing Lu Yin make a move, Wang Yi’s fingers twitched, and his eyes sparkled. This would be a worthwhile fight.

Shang Qing was standing at the central mountain pass above the other four passes, and he was also watching the events play out on a screen. “You are much more useful than Lei Nü or Shu Jing—keep going. The Hall of Honor must be the most powerful, so I hope that you can be second only to me.”

On Zenith Mountain’s eastern face, after flinging Yuhua Mavis through the pass and past the checkpoint, Lu Yin faced Little Arrow Saint. This person was one of the Sixth Mainland’s Realmings, and he had once chased after Lu Yin for several days. If not for receiving help from Xin Nü and some others, Lu Yin would have been in grave danger. After that, when Lu Yin had fought Little Arrow Saint in the Daosource Sect’s ruins, Lu Yin had only managed to escape after being injured. Thus, the two had never had an all-out battle before.

Little Arrow Saint had constantly thought about Lu Yin, as he was unable to get over their battle in the Daosource Sect’s ruins. Lu Yin had improved far too quickly, and when the two had last seen each other, they had possessed similar levels of strength. But now, Lu Yin had become extraordinarily powerful, and Little Arrow Saint felt threatened after seeing Lu Yin’s fight with Yuhua Mavis.

Little Arrow Saint felt increasingly scared the more he thought about this. Since the Fifth Mainland’s Hall of Honor had chosen Lu Yin as a gatekeeper, then they must be fully confident in his strength, which caused Little Arrow Saint to panic slightly.

His eyes flickered. No matter how strong Lu Yin had become or how fast he had improved, Little Arrow Saint was still confident that Lu Yin could not easily defeat him. In fact, Little Arrow Saint was not actually thinking about passing through the checkpoint, as his main goal had always been to defeat Lu Yin.

As Lu Yin glanced at the Realmking, nine lined battle force appeared over Little Arrow Saint's arrow, and an imprint appeared behind him. The Emphyrean Imprinter was ten meters tall and had a barbaric appearance. Little Arrow Saint's face flushed red, and his veins bulged out as a blood-red mist surrounded him. He bellowed, "Power Transfer!" and a terrifying aura emerged before condensing on his arrow.

Power Transfer was a secret technique that the Progenitor of Secret Arts had created. It allowed the user to burn their own essence to communicate with the Progenitor of Secret Arts, and there were rumors that a select few could even ask the Progenitor of Secret Arts to possess them, which would allow them to temporarily become extremely powerful.

Lu Yin had previously seen Young Master Changbai use Power Transfer as well, but Young Master Changbai had been much weaker than Little Arrow Saint. This Power Transfer was chilling, and an indescribable power had spread across the mountain, leaving Lu Yin and all of the competitors on the eastern side feeling a genuine fear and awe.

It was the aura of the Progenitor of Secret Arts. Little Arrow Saint had managed to summon the Progenitor of Secret Arts' aura by using Power Transfer. He was a Realmking, and in the Sixth Mainland, he was second only to the Daosource Three Skies.

Xin Nü, Shi Zhongjian, and the other elites from the Sixth Mainland were all surprised to sense Little Arrow Saint going all out. People would generally only use Power Transfer when they were holding nothing back at all; did Little Arrow Saint no longer care about ZENITH?

Outside of Zenith Mountain, a powerhouse from the Sixth Mainland closely watched Little Arrow Saint's actions. Using Power Transfer to communicate with the Progenitor of Secret Arts required one to pay a steep price, and Little Arrow Saint had to defeat Lu Yin now.

Lu Yin had just dealt with Yuhua Mavis, but he was already fighting with Little Arrow Saint, which drew the attention of countless eyes.

At this moment, Lu Yin was also able to tell that Little Arrow Saint was going all out. The secret technique obviously placed a huge burden on the body, but Lu Yin was also able to sense that Little Arrow Saint had become much stronger since last time. Right now, Lu Yin the Realmking's arrow gave him a threatening feel, and he could also feel the aura of the Progenitor of Secret Arts.

Using Power Transfer had raised Little Arrow Saint's aura to its peak. He had already broken through to the Enlighter realm before ZENITH, and he was currently comparable to the Ten Arbiters. After using Power Transfer, he stood at the peak of his peers.

"Lu Yin, we've fought twice before—once in the Cosmic Sea, and another in the ruins of the Daosource Sect. This will be our third and final match!" Little Arrow Saint roared as nine lined battle force completely surrounded him and dyed the sky red.

Although most people did not understand what was happening at this moment, they could all tell that this was a very powerful attack.

Lu Yin's fingers twitched as he kept an eye trained on Little Arrow Saint.

Little Arrow Saint released his bow string, and the arrow flew towards Lu Yin.

He knew that Lu Yin possessed a secret technique that could divert attacks. After learning that Lu Yin had been selected to be a gatekeeper, Little Arrow Saint had also learned that Lu Yin possessed another secret technique that allowed him to instantaneously dodge any attack. Regardless, both of these secret techniques were useless against this attack, as the Realmling had released a chain of arrows. Even if Lu Yin was able to shift one arrow away and also dodge aside, a second arrow, hidden within the first, would still land. This was Little Arrow Saint's killer move.

If Lu Yin did not dodge the first arrow, then he would then have to endure the full power of both arrows.

Although Little Arrow Saint was very impulsive, he had thought this attack through and was very confident about it.

This attack was the strongest that a Realmling like Little Arrow Saint was capable of unleashing.

Little Arrow Saint had considered every possibility, but there was one detail that he had not expected.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed, and he used a two hundred fifty stacks Vacuum Palm.

When Lu Yin had fought against Little Arrow Saint in the Daosource Sect's ruins, he had only been capable of using a hundred stacks. Since then, Little Arrow Saint had improved and had even become an Enlightener. As for Lu Yin, he had improved far more in terms of his Overlaying Stacks Path. Vacuum Palm was a culmination of one's understanding of the Overlaying Stacks Path, and when that technique was coupled with his physical strength that had been strong enough to fling Yuhua Mavis through the mountain pass, it simply shattered the arrow.

Both the first and hidden second arrow shattered, and the remaining force of the Vacuum Palm struck Little Arrow Saint's chest head on. The Realmling had no time to react, and his body flew back after he loosed his arrow. An excruciating pain spread throughout his body, and an immense pressure that crushed his organs caused him to spit out a mouthful of blood. His body flew towards the sky, but then it was then forced back towards the ground by the energy waves released by Zenith Mountain.

Little Arrow Saint's eyes were about to pop out of his head, and he could not understand what had happened. He felt a numbness, and his body began to show cracks, particularly around his chest. His natural instinct had triggered the Secret Technique of Resurrection.

Ah!

Little Arrow Saint spat out yet another mouthful of blood as he struck the ground. He looked at the sky and vomited blood once more. The sky and his surroundings grew blurry as his body trembled uncontrollably. The Secret Technique of Resurrection triggered once more, but his hair and flesh grew white as he coughed again before finally fainting.

Everybody on the eastern side of Zenith Mountain had fallen silent. They had all felt the fearsome aura that Little Arrow Saint had emitted, and they had all been genuinely afraid, to the point where they had even not dared to look at his arrow.

The power level of that arrow attack had exceeded 400,000, which was significant even to Envoys. This power level had only been achieved after he used Power Transfer to communicate with the Progenitor of Secret Arts.

Despite that, such a terrifying attack had been utterly destroyed by a single palm.

Everyone fell silent as they carefully observed Little Arrow Saint's body, wondering whether or not he was still even alive. They would never forget how pathetic he looked at this moment.

Some people had already guessed that Little Arrow Saint would be defeated, but they had never expected him to lose this badly.

Countless people stared at Lu Yin in awe. This was the strength of a gatekeeper, one of the five strongest powerhouses in the younger generation. He had flung Yuhua Mavis through the checkpoint and then defeated Little Arrow Saint with just one attack. Only people that Lu Yin approved of would be allowed to go through the pass, and no one else would be able to do so.

This was the strength of a gatekeeper.

On the western side of the mountain, the Sixth Mainland's elders were all stunned. Madam Hong was completely astounded to see just how powerful Lu Yin had become.

Ever since ZENITH had begun, Lu Yin had attracted many people's attention. He was the epitome of a gatekeeper, as he was in absolute control over who could go through his checkpoint.

Who could defeat Little Arrow Saint after he used Power Transfer? That palm strike did not seem to have exhausted Lu Yin, which meant that it was possible for him to use the same attack a dozen more times to stop people from proceeding up the mountain.

The people on the eastern face were all frightened, and they all stared at Lu Yin as if he was a monster.

Lu Yin looked down at Little Arrow Saint. He had previously used two hundred fifty stacks of the Overlaying Stacks Path to force Emperor Luo to take a few steps back, and even Leader Hong had not wanted to take such an attack. Madam Lan had been an Enlightener with a power level of over 400,000, but she had been injured by just a single palm. Just from this, no matter how powerful Little Arrow Saint became, he would not be able to withstand Lu Yin's full force Vacuum Palm.

Out of all the participants in ZENITH, there were likely less than fifteen people who were capable of withstanding Lu Yin's attack.

This attack was his killer move.

Lu Yin watched as Little Arrow Saint's hair turned white, and his eyes narrowed. Lu Yin was surprised that the Realmling was not dead. Had he used the Progenitor of Secret Arts' Secret Technique of Resurrection? Lu Yin had been foiled by that secret technique more than once before, as Shi Zhongjian and Little Arrow Saint had both used it against him in the past. Lu Yin had guessed that the secret technique required a price to be paid, and at this moment, he became certain that the price was related to the user's lifespan. Although Little Arrow Saint had not died, he had aged significantly, and he no longer looked young at all. Instead, he resembled Undying Yushan.

Although the secret technique would reduce a person's lifespan, it was truly a miracle that Little Arrow Saint was even still alive.

Lu Yin quietly stood in the mountain pass and looked down at the competitors below him.

Those who caught his eye panicked and did not dare to meet his gaze.

Over the years, Lu Yin had built up quite a reputation for himself as the founder and leader of the Great Eastern Alliance. When that was added to the invincible attack that he had just used, it was enough for all of the elites in ZENITH to look away from his gaze.

If Lu Yin's match with Yuhua Mavis had surprised people, then his victory over Little Arrow Saint through a single attack had astounded them.

The elites on the other sides of the mountain were all shocked as well.

Bu Kong, Wen Sansi, Jin He, Zhi Yi, Qiu Shi, and the other predicted finalists all looked at Lu Yin nervously.

Wen Sansi realized that there was a high chance that his barrier would not be able to survive Lu Yin's attack.

Star Devourer looked excited, as he wanted to fight with Lu Yin.

Wu Taibai smirked; Lu Yin had become truly powerful.

Some people paid attention, though others did not even care. For example, Yao Xuan only graced Lu Yin with a single glance. Although Lu Yin was strong, he had only used a singular attack. No matter how physically strong Lu Yin might be, he still might not be able to withstand Yao Xuan's attack. The Master's mission centered on Lu Yin, and the human's physical strength made things a little interesting. It was a difficult mission, but still not impossible.

Wang Yi still remained calm. The more powerful, the better it would be, as it would make Lu Yin's defeat even more meaningful.

Many of the competitors on the eastern side hesitated, as they did not know how to go about passing through the first checkpoint.

One such participant was Nan Yanfei. He had kept a low profile up to this point, and he had not fought with anyone. He actually could have arrived at the mountain pass even before Little Arrow Saint, but he had held himself back. After seeing Little Arrow Saint's outcome, Nan Yanfei grew anxious and gulped nervously.

Nan Yanfei did not think of himself a coward, but he still froze at this moment. He wanted to let some other people go through the pass in front of him so that he could watch and see what would happen next.

Chapter 1266: Attitude

Many others had the same thought as Nan Yanfei. Nobody wanted to suffer the same fate as Little Arrow Saint, who had been left either dead or crippled.

Xia Luo rushed past the group of competitors and approached Lu Yin.

Lu Yin did not move when he saw Xia Luo.

Xia Luo brushed past Lu Yin. "Later."

Lu Yin smiled. "I hope that you can make it past Shang Qing's checkpoint."

Xia Luo smiled and continued on his way.

Ling Que was right behind Xia Luo. He had kept a low profile up until this point, which was very surprising considering his personality. However, he had no choice in the matter, as all of the participants in ZENITH were powerhouses. Even the Ten Arbiters were among his competitors, so he had no choice but to keep a low profile.

Ling Que approached Lu Yin, and Lu Yin looked at him.

Ling Que suddenly panicked. "Bro- Brother, you're not going to attack me, right? Can I offer you my cheerleaders?"

His cheerleaders? Lu Yin remembered those girls and felt disgusted. He turned to look somewhere else.

Ling Que continued on his way and sighed. "Oh, right. I heard a conversation between my matriarch and Ling Gong. She wondered if Ling Gong would be willing to marry you. Congrats, haha!"

Ling Que then fled.

Lu Yin was stunned. Marry him? Ling Gong?

He still remembered the woman that he had seen in the Daosource Sect's ruins with the adorable face. She was stubborn, proud, and assertive, but she had also helped him multiple times.

Lu Yin smirked and shook his head. Why was he thinking about such things right now?

After seeing Xia Luo and Ling Que make it past Lu Yin, the other competitors felt a bit more hope.

"He can't stop everyone, and at best, he can only stop half of us. Let's just rush him, and maybe we'll make it past," a person spoke softly to the girl next to him.

The girl was frightened. "But he looks so scary! Look at that arrow guy—he was badly hurt and even became older. Is the gatekeeper's attack related to time? I don't want to get old! I'm not going to participate anymore! You go ahead."

The man gulped. "I don't think that's the case. He's probably just badly injured, which is why he looks older."

The girl shook her head with firm determination. "I'm not going! You can go by yourself. Anyway, I just came to try my luck. Do you really want to fight him? You could die."

The man was torn—should he stay or leave? Stay or leave? That was the all-important question.

Regardless of what decision the man made, the girl had already left the mountain, and many of the other girls who had been on the eastern face of Zenith Mountain forfeited the competition as well.

Most women were very concerned about their appearances, and after seeing how much Little Arrow Saint had aged, many of them thought that it was because of Lu Yin's move, and so they did not dare

remain in ZENITH any longer. If they tried to continue through the mountain pass, their fate would be up to Lu Yin, and they did not want to sacrifice their physiques.

A tremendous number of people left Zenith Mountain because of their fear of Lu Yin.

On the other hand, the fact that Xia Luo and Ling Que had both made it through the pass excited other people.

Nan Yanfei gulped and steeled himself. He no longer cared—he would try to make it past the checkpoint, and in the worst case scenario, he would just forfeit the competition. He was a Realmking, and everyone from the Sixth Mainland was watching him. People would see him as a coward if he did not at least try, and he did not want that to happen.

He did not want to humiliate himself.

He gritted his teeth and rushed towards the mountain pass.

On the western side of Zenith Mountain, the Sixth Mainland elders carefully watched a screen. They were worried that Lu Yin would specifically target the youths from the Sixth Mainland, and that would create a great deal of trouble for them. Since Little Arrow Saint had already been defeated by a single palm, none of the Sixth Mainland's youths on the eastern side of the mountain were capable of defeating Lu Yin. Whether or not they would be able to proceed past the checkpoint depended on Nan Yanfei.

A Nong family elder, Nong Laohan, was the most anxious person present. Nan Yanfei was the Blood Homage Realm's Realmking, and the Nong family naturally belonged to the Blood Homage Realm. If Nan Yanfei succeeded, then Nong Zaitian would also be able to proceed through the mountain pass. Then, there was a chance that Nan Yanfei would be able to take care of Nong Zaitian during the latter portion of ZENITH.

In the western region of Chaos Flowzone, many of the Sixth Mainland's cultivators anxiously watched the competition. They had been angry and frightened when they saw what had happened to Little Arrow Saint. So, everyone clenched their fists when they saw Nan Yanfei rushing towards the checkpoint. They all hoped that he would not end up like Little Arrow Saint.

In the eastern pass, Lu Yin's brows rose when he saw Nan Yanfei.

Nan Yanfei grew increasingly nervous when he saw Lu Yin arch a brow. The Realmking instinctively slowed down, but then he remembered that everyone was watching him. He had no choice but to keep moving forward. He met Lu Yin's eyes and tried to look as friendly as possible, even squeezing out a smile to make himself look harmless.

Lu Yin was amused. He had not planned on attacking Nan Yanfei. There were many different things to consider given the fact that the Outerverse would soon belong to the Sixth Mainland.

Nan Yanfei was not Little Arrow Saint. Lu Yin had a grudge with Little Arrow Saint, but he did not particularly care about Nan Yanfei. Shang Qing could just deal with him later!

Lu Yin turned to look elsewhere.

Nan Yanfei was overjoyed; Lu Yin's reaction clearly showed that he would not attack.

Nan Yanfei immediately sped up and rushed past Lu Yin. "Thank you."

Lu Yin's eyes flashed; it was too early for Nan Yanfei to offer thanks. Lu Yin was merely planning for the future.

The Sixth Mainland grew excited when they saw that Nan Yanfei had succeeded. They all felt that it was a miracle that Lu Yin had not attacked.

Many of the people from the Fifth Mainland's Innderverse were confused; why hadn't Lu Yin attacked? However, they also could not blame Lu Yin, as it was entirely his decision whether or not to block someone from proceeding up the mountain. They could not simply rely on Lu Yin to eliminate all of the Sixth Mainland's participants.

People in different positions naturally had different things to consider.

If Lu Yin were just a normal cultivator, then he could happily target everyone from the Sixth Mainland without any further thought. However, he was the Alliance Leader of the Great Eastern Alliance, and he held even greater ambitions for the future. Although the Hall of Honor had allowed the Sixth Mainland to take over the Outerverse, it did not mean that they did not care about the Outerverse at all. They simply had their own considerations while Lu Yin had his own concerns.

Given his difference, Lu Yin's concerns were much different from those of the Hall of Honor. His initial goal had just been the Innderverse, but he had recently felt that he should harbor an even more ambitious goal.

No matter what, he still held a grudge against the Sixth Mainland for their invasion, and he would never forget that.

Nan Yanfei's thanks had been offered way too early.

After seeing Nan Yanfei, Xia Luo, and Ling Que clear the checkpoint, many people grew hopeful. Was Lu Yin perhaps not a ruthless person after all? Was it possible that he had only attacked Little Arrow Saint because they were enemies?

Some of the people who had left the mountain returned after seeing these few successes, as they felt that they still had a chance to continue onto the later stages of ZENITH.

Apart from the challenging terrain of the mountain and the bizarre weather phenomenon, the greatest challenge when climbing the mountain were other participants.

There were millions of people climbing the mountain at this time, and they were forced together in order to funnel through a mountain pass that had a limited size.

Once the competitors began crowding together, there was a higher chance of fights breaking out.

Yuhua Mavis and the others had been the first group to pass through the checkpoint, which was because of their strength. Liu Tianmu, Unseen Light, Bai Ling, Xin Nü, and a few others had also been part of the first group. As long as no competitors at the same level tried to hold them back, they were all capable of quickly reaching the first checkpoint.

After the first group cleared the checkpoints, it was time for the other competitors.

After Lu Yin allowed Nan Yanfei to clear the mountain pass, many people grew more hopeful, and some of the people who had thought about leaving ZENITH gained renewed confidence. They had initially wanted to give it a try, but they felt that they would only have a chance to do so after the first group of contestants made it past the first checkpoint, as these weaker people did not want to be caught up in the battles of these powerhouses.

This was especially true regarding the battle between Liu Tianmu and Xin Nü. The clashing of the two women's swords had forced many people out of the competition. Nobody dared to go near them.

Also, the battle between Bai Ling and Unseen Light had enveloped a huge area, and every attack that they threw out affected tens of thousands of people, forcing many of them to abandon the competition.

Most people were just waiting for the four powerhouses to pass through the first checkpoint.

In his mountain pass, Lu Yin saw a black and a white silhouette rushing towards him.

He smiled. The twins had been hiding the entire time, but they were finally showing themselves.

Black and White were very smart, and they had hidden themselves as soon as Bai Ling had started fighting against Unseen Light. There were too many powerhouses participating in ZENITH, and the twins had not wanted to be targeted down.

After the various fights had slightly calmed down, they both immediately rushed towards Lu Yin and stopped right in front of him.

Lu Yin looked at both of them with a smile on his face. "Why are you two suddenly being so well behaved?"

White panted heavily as she glared at Lu Yin. "That's because of Senior Shenwei! He kept scaring us. So annoying!"

Black looked at Lu Yin and informed him, "If Shang Qing stops us, you have to help."

"How am I supposed to help you?" Lu Yin asked.

White retorted, "Stupid! You can attack the people below you, so why can't you also attack Shang Qing?"

Black laughed. "Don't tell me that you're scared."

Lu Yin straightened up. "You're just teasing me. Why would I be scared? Just go for it, and I'll keep an eye on you two."

Black and White looked at each other sneakily. "Bye!"

"Let's go."

Lu Yin grinned as he watched them move past him. Shang Qing definitely would not target the two since the five passes only needed to eliminate half of the competitors. The two girls were quite powerful

when they worked together, and they could even annoy Ku Lei. If Shang Qing eliminated the two, then it would mean that he was targeting Eversky Island, which would create a great deal of friction.

The twins had no need to worry about Shang Qing at all.

Lu Yin looked around the mountain's eastern face and settled his gaze onto Tong Zhan.

Lu Yin was surprised to see Tong Zhan among the competitors on the eastern side. Lu Yin had crippled Tong Zhan, and he was stunned to see that the youth had actually recovered, though, unfortunately, Tong Zhan had not managed to increase his strength at all.

As Lu Yin looked at Tong Zhan, Tong Zhan paused and met Lu Yin's gaze with a murderous eyes. Tong Zhan was certain that nobody from the Sixth Mainland hated Lu Yin more than he did, and he wanted to fight against Lu Yin just once, even if it meant his own death.

Tong Zhan had already seen Little Arrow Saint's fate and was fully aware that he stood no chance of defeating Lu Yin. However, Tong Zhan was already a cripple who would never improve beyond his current level of strength. The Tong family had already given up on him, and his only wish was to fight to the death with Lu Yin.

Lu Yin simply ignored Tong Zhan and checked the rune lines of the various competitors strewn about the eastern face of the mountain. The person with the most runes was Unseen Light, but the Arbiter made no attempt to move past the checkpoint since he was keeping a close eye on Bai Ling. He had been constantly suppressing Bai Ling, as her innate gift was capable of eliminating everyone else on the eastern side.

Bai Ling did not continue her attacks and instead rushed towards the checkpoint. She kept a careful watch on Lu Yin; would he stop her?

Lu Yin did not stop her and simply allowed her through the pass, which caused many cultivators from the Sixth Mainland to heave sighs of relief.

Chapter 1267: Guess

Unseen Light also rushed through the checkpoint, his eyes closed. As he went past Lu Yin, he said, "Your domain is very strong. I'll be waiting for you."

Lu Yin's expression remained the same. His domain was indeed very strong, and the Trialmaster had also given him the designs for a sourcebox array to help Lu Yin control the mountain pass. However, Lu Yin had no need for a sourcebox array, as his domain and spiritual force were more than enough to protect the checkpoint.

After seeing Bai Ling and Unseen Light clear the pass, Liu Tianmu and Xin Nü also stopped fighting. Liu Tianmu rushed through the checkpoint without a word. Xin Nü was right behind the other woman, but as she brushed past Lu Yin, she said, "Congratulations, you've improved a lot."

Lu Yin nodded. "Thanks."

He was thankful for Xin Nü helping him multiple times in the past.

Xin Nü smiled and continued making her way upwards. There still was another checkpoint up above them, and Shang Qing was guarding it. Shang Qing was recognized as the strongest participant in ZENITH, and he was treated as the pinnacle of all the youths.

A huge shadow covered the area as Cursewind appeared, making his way through the checkpoint.

Feng Liu appeared at the same time as Cursewind, both of them powerhouses on the Astral Beast Domain's Skymender List.

Lu Yin looked up and frowned. "You're way too big. It wouldn't make sense for me to not attack you."

Upon hearing Lu Yin's words, Cursewind's eyes flared. He then shrank into the form of a young man who looked at Lu Yin with wary eyes.

Lu Yin was astonished; Cursewind was actually scared of him.

When ZENITH had first begun, Cursewind had not cared at all about Lu Yin, and he had even wanted to attack the human and throw the gatekeeper off the mountain. However, the blue lion had since lost his courage to attempt such a thing.

Although Cursewind had not been the target of Little Arrow Saint's attack, he had still been threatened by it. Cursewind knew that it would have been very difficult for him to withstand such an attack, as he had participated in the war efforts against the Sixth Mainland when they had invaded the Astral Beast Domain. He was well aware that cultivators from the Sixth Mainland naturally suppressed those from the Fifth Mainland.

Little Arrow Saint had released an extremely powerful attack, and Cursewind had no confidence of withstanding such power. Despite that, Lu Yin had still defeated Little Arrow Saint with a single attack. Thus, Cursewind had promptly decided that he would not fight with Lu Yin at all. He felt that Lu Yin was much stronger than him.

Feng Liu had not expected Cursewind to admit defeat so easily, and he looked at his companion in shock.

Cursewind remained calm, as though everything about the situation was a normal occurrence.

Lu Yin no longer felt like attacking the astral beast, as he was being too respectful.

Cursewind sighed in relief when Lu Yin looked away, and he quickly cleared the checkpoint.

Feng Liu glanced at Lu Yin and tried to rush through the checkpoint when Lu Yin suddenly appeared in front of her.

Feng Liu immediately transformed back into a Celestial Ice Phoenix and froze everything around her. She was ready to attack, as she believed that Lu Yin would attack her.

Cursewind turned back and changed back into an enormous blue lion. If Lu Yin attacked Feng Liu, Cursewind would definitely join forces and help her.

Countless people attentively watched Lu Yin, since he was one of the most active gatekeepers in ZENITH.

An elderly beast atop the skeleton from the Astral Beast Domain roared and kept a careful watch of the events playing out on a screen. "This boy isn't targeting those from the Sixth Mainland, but he is attacking our Astral Beast Domain! Traitor, traitor!"

"Does this child support the Sixth Mainland?"

Back in the mountain pass, Lu Yin felt amused by the chaos that he had stirred up. He looked up at the Celestial Ice Phoenix. "I'm not going to attack you, but it's tiring looking up given how enormous you are."

Feng Liu slowly blinked and changed back into the shape of a human. She warily watched Lu Yin, and at the same time, Cursewind changed back into the form of a person as well, the two flanking Lu Yin.

Lu Yin cocked his head and shouted at Cursewind, "I'm giving you one chance to leave. Otherwise, you won't have a chance to participate any longer."

Cursewind was outraged. He admitted that Lu Yin was powerful and was able to eliminate him, but he could not stand being humiliated in such a manner.

"Cursewind, focus on the bigger picture," Feng Liu urged.

Cursewind gritted his teeth, furious.

Lu Yin locked eyes with Cursewind. "Do you want to fight?"

Cursewind grunted and looked over at Feng Liu. "Take care."

He then continued making his way upwards.

Lu Yin turned and looked back at Feng Liu. "I want to know more about Progenitor Wushang."

Feng Liu was confused. "Progenitor Wushang? That's a Progenitor from the Astral Beast Domain."

"That's right. The Celestial Ice Phoenix clan is connected to Progenitor Wushang," Lu Yin said.

Feng Liu asked, "Connected? I don't know anything about that, so how would you know such a thing?"

Lu Yin carefully observed Feng Liu. "You don't know anything about it?"

Feng Liu shook her head. "Progenitor Wushang was an ancient powerhouse who everybody in the Astral Beast Domain knows about. The other clans have a number of legends regarding him, but not our Celestial Ice Phoenix clan. We are completely unrelated to Progenitor Wushang."

Lu Yin was certain that the girl was not lying since he had been observing her with his domain.

The Ghost Monkey had once told Lu Yin that the entire Celestial Ice Phoenix clan was his harem and that they had been chosen by Progenitor Wushang. The monkey had mentioned this to him during the Tournament of the Strongest, and Lu Yin did not believe that the monkey would lie to him. Since Progenitor Wushang had chosen the clan, then it meant that the Celestial Ice Phoenix clan was definitely connected to Progenitor Wushang since they had listened to his instructions.

Since Feng Liu had said that her clan had no connection to the Progenitor, then it must mean that she was ignorant of the matter.

“Have you heard about the Ghost Monkey?” Lu Yin asked.

Surprise momentarily flashed through Feng Liu’s eyes. “No.”

Lu Yin smiled. No? How was that possible? Lu Yin had once Possessed Star Devourer’s protector and gone through that guard’s memory. Lu Yin was aware that all of the competitors from the Astral Beast Domain had been ordered by the Celestial Beast Empire’s Skymender to seize the Ghost Monkey from Lu Yin and that the command had been personally issued by Skymender himself.

Lu Yin closely observed Feng Liu’s eyes and saw a hint of panic, which confirmed that the memories that he had obtained had been accurate.

Feng Liu was definitely unaware of the Ghost Monkey’s capabilities, and the same had to be true of Cursewind, Star Devourer, and the other competitors from the Astral Beast Domain. There was even a chance that not even Crown Prince Yao Xuan was aware of the matter, but Lu Yin was certain that Skymender knew.

Lu Yin did not expose Feng Liu’s lie, as he had simply wanted to confirm the information that he had received from those memories.

“You can go now,” Lu Yin said.

Feng Liu rushed by and continued climbing up the mountain.

She felt confused; why had Lu Yin talked about the Ghost Monkey? Wasn’t the monkey Lu Yin’s tamed beast? So why would Lu Yin ask her such a question? Was there something wrong with the monkey? Or had Lu Yin discovered something?

Feng Liu remembered what Skymender had said; he had ordered the Astral Beast Domain’s contestants to seize the Ghost Monkey from Lu Yin, and she was wondering what that monkey was capable of. Did Lu Yin know about that order? But that was impossible as Skymender had only given the order to a few astral beasts.

Feng Liu left the pass with complicated emotions.

After Feng Liu and Cursewind left, a cloud of smoke approached Lu Yin. It was Gu Xiao’er, and he was finally showing himself.

“Brother, I’m here.” Gu Xiao’er was ecstatic. He had known that he would definitely be able to clear the first checkpoint after discovering that he had been assigned to Zenith Mountain’s eastern face. The gatekeeper on this side was Gu Xiao’er’s brother who had gone through life and death with him.

Lu Yin looked at Gu Xiao’er. “Can you give me some of that smoke?”

Gu Xiao’er glared at Lu Yin. “This is a treasure from Smoke-Eater Peaks! I managed to get the first part of the Cosmic Sect’s Cosmic Art with this smoke.”

Lu Yin nodded. He had just asked for the fun of it.

"I still don't know who stole that thing from me. I only kept it in my cosmic ring, and it just suddenly disappeared one day, but not even my dad believes me. It's so irritating," Gu Xiao'er muttered as he walked past.

Lu Yin's mouth twitched, and he turned to give Gu Xiao'er a sympathetic glance. The memory chip with the Cosmic Art on it that Lu Yin had pilfered all those years ago had actually belonged to this unfortunate boy.

Suddenly, Gu Xiao'er paused and turned back to look at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin grew nervous.

"Do you think that the Cosmic Sect fooled us? Could those memory chips with the first layer of Cosmic Art disappear automatically after some time?" Gu Xiao'er asked, completely serious.

Lu Yin solemnly answered, "That's possible."

Gu Xiao'er grew furious. "Then it must be them! Those bastards! Bastards!"

Gu Xiao'er ran off while scolding the Cosmic Sect.

Lu Yin was relieved as he thought to himself, Xiao'er, Seventh Bro owes you for this. I'll repay you one day.

Lu Yin looked up at a screen above him. A few people had already cleared his checkpoint, and some others had succeeded at the other three passes as well. On the southern face of the mountain, the competitors had stopped attacking Star Devourer after the beast had proven to possess an impenetrable defense, and he had simply climbed up despite so many people attacking him. Every step that the beast took covered a huge distance, and he was the first to reach the checkpoint.

Star Devourer was not the first to reach the pass because of how much faster he was, but rather because everyone had been stunned by how Lu Yin had defeated Little Arrow Saint, making them wary of the other gatekeepers. No one wanted to become the second Little Arrow Saint.

Star Devourer was unconcerned and continued rushing towards the mountain pass. It looked as though the beast was going to crush Bu Kong, the southern gatekeeper.

Bu Kong calmly watched as Star Devourer rushed closer.

Star Devourer suddenly opened his second and third eyes when he arrived at the checkpoint. He raised a paw and smashed it down towards Bu Kong. Although the beast did not look down on Bu Kong, as a unique creature, Star Devourer possessed an innate sense of pride and disdain toward humans. Thus, he felt that humans were a lower species, treating them like ants.

To Star Devourer, there were no humans that could threaten it.

It was already impressive that the massive beast had opened three eyes to deal with Bu Kong, and it had only done so because Lu Yin's attack had increased Star Devourer's respect for all the gatekeepers. Otherwise, he would have merely opened a single eye against Bu Kong.

Many people switched their attention from Lu Yin to Bu Kong, as the Star Devourer's reputation warranted their attention. This creature devoured planets to increase his strength, and these such terrifying rumors made him one of the most mysterious competitors in ZENITH. Although he had not been predicted to be one of the top ten finalists, that was only because the people at that level had all either demonstrated extraordinary power or came from peerless backgrounds. Still, most people felt that Star Devourer would make it to the top ten.

Bu Kong slowly raised a hand when faced with the legendary Star Devourer. "Time Reversal."

When Star Devourer's claw struck Bu Kong, his massive body suddenly began to shrink, and his aura disappeared. The barbaric pressure that had been suffocating the entire southern side of the mountain disappeared.

Everyone felt as though a storm had changed into a sunny day.

The most obvious change, aside from the beast's smaller body, was that Star Devourer's six eyes had been reduced to merely two, as he had been reverted to a much younger age.

Chapter 1268: Lu Yin's Standards

Time Reversal was a secret technique that had been created by the Progenitor of Secret Arts, and it forcefully sent a person tens, hundreds, or even thousands of years back in time. What's more, the target's strength would revert to their strength at that time, which was the truly horrifying aspect of this secret technique.

During the battle in the Cosmic Sea, nobody dared to be struck by any of Bu Kong's attacks, as they would be immediately defeated if Time Reversal returned them to their youth.

Although Time Reversal was extremely powerful, its greatest disadvantage was that it was difficult to use. As long as someone was cognizant of the ability and had their guard up, it was not easy to apply Time Reversal to them.

Despite that, such a limitation did not apply to Star Devourer, as he had completely underestimated Bu Kong.

The moment Bu Kong used Time Reversal, Star Devourer was instantly sent back to his childhood, and those who witnessed the subsequent physical changes were terrified.

No matter how powerful Star Devourer was, his strength would be useless if he was sent back to his childhood.

Star Devourer was absolutely stunned. He was not a very intelligent creature to begin with, and the sudden change left him terribly confused.

"Stupid," Bu Kong calmly stated. He then flashed to a point above Star Devourer and raised a hand. "Decompose."

Suddenly, a halo of light spread out from the distance to cover the entire mountain. It brushed past Bu Kong before disappearing into the sky.

Bu Kong's eyes went wide, and he looked to the north. That light had been formed from the spiritual force of the Celestial Beast Empire's crown prince, Yao Xuan. The crown prince had attacked Bu Kong.

Not only had Yao Xuan's attack affected Bu Kong, but it also hit Lu Yin and Zhi Yi, as they had also been within range of Yao Xuan's spiritual force attack.

Cultivators from the Sixth Mainland possessed considerably strong spiritual force due to their imprints, but despite that, Bu Kong was still shocked by the power of Yao Xuan's spiritual force, which delayed Bu Kong's attack for a split second. During that moment, Star Devourer managed to recover and slam his paw against the mountain, causing the mountain to fracture. As Bu Kong's palm approached Star Devourer, the giant beast opened his fourth eye, and a visible shockwave of power radiated forth from him.

Bu Kong's palm did not strike Star Devourer. Instead, it only dissipated the shockwaves from the newly opened eye, but at that moment, Star Devourer rushed through the mountain pass.

Bu Kong was outraged that Star Devourer had managed to clear his checkpoint.

According to the rules of ZENITH, the gatekeepers were not supposed to attack any of the competitors after they cleared the checkpoints unless they the gatekeepers were attacked first.

Bu Kong was upset, and he turned to face towards the north. Had that been Yao Xuan, the crown prince from the Celestial Beast Empire? If not for that person, Star Devourer would have already died. Bu Kong grew serious as he thought about the spiritual force attack that he had just been hit by.

He was one of the Daosource Three Skies, and his imprint was from the Progenitor of Secret Arts. Although spiritual force was not Bu Kong's specialty, it was no weakness either. Despite that, he had still been affected by Yao Xuan's attack. That meant nobody in ZENITH was comparable to Yao Xuan when it came to spiritual force.

Zhi Yi held the same opinion. She had also been affected by the attack, which had allowed the first person on her side of the mountain to successfully clear Zhi Yi's checkpoint.

Yao Xuan's spiritual force was amazingly powerful, and nobody could compare to him in this aspect. The Sixth Mainlanders quickly realized that they would need to think of alternative means to defeat the crown prince. Fortunately, their spiritual force was not that weak.

There was nobody behind Zhi Yi, but someone had already cleared her checkpoint: Yōu Qi.

Not many people were able to see him, but everyone who could were elites.

"Consider yourself lucky," Zhi Yi commented.

Yōu Qi did not respond and simply continued on his way up the mountain.

On the eastern side of the mountain, Lu Yin was looking at a screen with curiosity. Yao Xuan was lazily leaning against the mountainside after he used his spiritual force to help Star Devourer clear the checkpoint.

Yao Xuan's spiritual force was very powerful, and Lu Yin wanted to find out if Yao Xuan's spiritual force attack or his own Daynight Praises was stronger. He was looking forward to clashing with him.

To the north, Yao Xuan was still calm. Somebody had cleared his checkpoint, but it had not been Xia Jiuyou, Wu Taibai, or Wang Yi. Rather, it had been a Void Wanderer.

This timid and cunning Void Wanderer was named Xu Ling, and it was one of the elites that the Astral Beast Domain had sent to ZENITH.

Tian Hou followed right behind the Void Wanderer. Although he was not as powerful as Xia Jiuyou, the unique characteristics of a Cosmic Hou made it difficult for anyone to injure Tian Hou, and no one had been able to stop him from steadily climbing up the mountain.

The most shocking contestant on the northern side was Wang Yi, who had injured Yao Gu with a single attack. At the moment, Yao Gu was still recovering at the foot of the mountain.

Everybody wondered whether or not Yao Xuan would move to stop Wang Yi from crossing through the mountain pass since the Technocracy's representative had injured Yao Gu.

There were quite a number of elites on the northern face of the mountain, and among them were even Starsibyl, Arbiter Liquor Hero, the Hall of Honor's second Honor Chosen, Lei Nü, and the Sixth Mainland's White Silkworm and Toolwielder.

Many people felt that it was a pity that Lu Yin had not been assigned to the northern pass since he had been the most proactive gatekeeper so far.

In truth, Lu Yin was quite tired at the moment. This was not him being exhausted from fighting, but rather from keeping watch. There were quite a few familiar faces among the millions of competitors, and Lu Yin occasionally helped some of them out when they were up against stronger opponents, which was quite draining.

Half a day had passed since ZENITH had commenced, and at the moment, the person who was closest to Lu Yin right was the Sixth Mainland's Corpse Looter.

Lu Yin had a strong impression of this person since he was always followed around by a number of corpses.

The most memorable part about this person to Lu Yin was that Corpse Looter was not as creepy as people assumed, and he was actually a chatterbox.

Corpse Looter calmly walked through the checkpoint, his lips moving rapidly the entire time.

Lu Yin did not bother listening to what Corpse Looter said, instead scanning the other people approaching. Mu Rong had made it quite close; he had once been hailed as one of the four peerless Limiteers.

Mu Rong had been known as the strongest person under the Explorer realm until Lu Yin had appeared and destroyed that legacy.

His most powerful move was a song that took people to a grassy plain with cattle, which was actually his innate gift.

At the moment, Mu Rong was still an Explorer, and he had nearly reached the Cruiser realm. He was much stronger from before, and Lu Yin felt that Mu Rong possessed a level of strength comparable to a Hunter, which meant that he was still practically invincible within his realm.

There were not many Explorers who could fight evenly against Mu Rong, and it was possible for him to reclaim the title of the strongest Explorer.

“I want to fight you again, but I won’t have the chance to ever do so again.” Mu Rong continued climbing up the mountain without even looking over at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin looked at Mu Rong’s back—fight? It was true that Mu Rong no longer had the chance to do so, as he was no longer capable of standing up to a single attack from Lu Yin. At this point, even Lu Yin’s domain alone would utterly crush Mu Rong.

Then, Lu Yin remembered that Mu Rong’s idol was Unseen Light and that the younger youth had been a member of Unseen Light’s group within the Ten Arbiters Council. It had to be because of the Arbiter’s domain!

Lu Yin felt that his life would not be lonely as long as he had strong rivals like Unseen Light with his domain, Yao Xuan and his spiritual force, and Yuhua Mavis and Star Devourer for their strength.

Someone rushed over and smiled at Lu Yin.

This person was Qian Zou, who was familiar to Lu Yin. Lu Yin looked at the young man’s legs, as Qian Zou used a rather unique battle technique, Inverse Steps.

Qian Zou panicked when Lu Yin looked over, and he fled the moment he made it through the checkpoint.

With the sole exception of Little Arrow Saint, Lu Yin had not blocked anyone from passing through his checkpoint, and this excited many of the competitors on the eastern side.

Some of these participants were powerhouses who could qualify to be second tier contestants.

However, Lu Yin was not actually as nice as people believed; only half of the competitors could be allowed past each checkpoint.

Only the strongest powerhouses in the younger generation could qualify to participate in the later stages of ZENITH, and the people who could continue on certainly were not mere average cultivators.

A young man excitedly walked up to the checkpoint. He was just a normal Limiteer who did not possess any impressive battle techniques. Rather, he had relied entirely on his unique innate gift to avoid all of the powerhouses on his way up the mountain, finally arriving at the mountain pass. He had actually arrived even before Mu Rong, but he had not dared to attempt to continue.

After seeing that Lu Yin had still not blocked anyone, the Limiteer finally gathered the courage to walk forward.

The young man glanced at Lu Yin once more as he stepped into the pass. He was about to continue walking, looking up at the mountain before him. After passing through this checkpoint, his name would remain on Zenith Mountain. He looked a little higher, at the central checkpoint, which was guarded by the strongest powerhouse of the entire younger generation. This Limiteer had no confidence that his innate gift could help him make it past Shang Qing, but the first Honor Chosen could not eliminate everyone.

The Limiteer grew confident that he would be one of the first to arrive at the second checkpoint. As long as he moved faster than the others, it would demonstrate that he possessed a certain level of ability. Hopefully, Shang Qing would not cause any trouble for him and would instead focus on eliminating the competitors further back.

The young man stepped forward, but his body suddenly flew backwards. His face went pale. Oh no, Lu Yin attacked.

Lu Yin had been observing this young man from the start. This Limiteer had been hiding near the checkpoint for a long time and had clearly wanted to see if Lu Yin would eliminate the other competitors. This young man was too scheming and was not qualified to continue on in ZENITH.

Lu Yin did not use a powerful attack on the youth, and he simply forced him off of the mountain with pure strength. The Limiteer tried to move, but he instantly failed. Lu Yin's strength completely suppressed the youth, and there was too large of a difference.

Why? Why had Lu Yin attacked him? Did he have some grudge against the youth? If that were the case, then Lu Yin would not have been this gentle. Had Lu Yin simply wanted to eliminate the Limiteer?

That young man was the first person that Lu Yin had personally eliminated aside from Little Arrow Saint, but he would not be the last one.

Many of the competitors on the eastern face of the mountain were shocked. Lu Yin had attacked, and he clearly did not intend to allow everyone who made it to the checkpoint to pass through.

A group of people who had arrived close to the checkpoint suddenly froze.

Kayze caught up to the crowd and then rushed on to the checkpoint. He bowed to Lu Yin. "Your Highness."

Lu Yin nodded. "Don't force yourself. Just use this as a way to gain experience."

"Yes." Kayze bowed again and then walked past Lu Yin.

Kayze was followed by Lu Yin's former classmate from Astral-10, Zhao Yilong. He also greeted Lu Yin and walked through the checkpoint. Although Zhao Yilong had been Lu Yin's classmate, he was still only an Explorer at this time. He came from Myriad Swords Peak, which was a place that Lu Yin had once admired, but now, it was just a minor force in his eyes, as they did not even have any Envoys.

Zhao Yilong was followed by An Shaohua, but An Shaohua was not alone. Several people had tagged along with him, and some of them were from the Great Eastern Alliance. Some of these people felt that they would definitely make it through the checkpoint as long as they followed An Shaohua, though they were taking a gamble.

Unfortunately, Lu Yin allowed only An Shaohua and a few others to pass; all of the others were eliminated, even including some people from the Great Eastern Alliance.

Lu Yin was the Alliance Leader of the Great Eastern Alliance, so he would naturally take care of his people from the Great Eastern Alliance. However, he was not their nanny.

Furthermore, if he allowed such people to continue through to the later stages of ZENITH, then their weakness could get them killed. It was better to just painlessly eliminate them here.

Chapter 1269: Clearing The Checkpoint

A great number of participants on the eastern side of Zenith Mountain felt helpless when they saw that even people from the Great Eastern Alliance had been eliminated. They finally realized that Lu Yin was more focused on individual strength rather than status when he chose who to eliminate.

“Let’s rush through the checkpoint all together! If hundreds and thousands of us go, I refuse to believe that he can block all of us. At least some of us will be able to make it through,” someone quietly suggested, and many others quickly agreed.

Similar situations occurred on all three other faces of the mountain.

Only those who were powerful or knew the gatekeepers well had dared to boldly approach the checkpoints alone. The gatekeepers had full autonomy when it came to deciding whether or not a participant was allowed through the checkpoints, though most of the competitors refused to accept that.

However, they also knew that the five gatekeepers needed to eliminate half of the competitors.

The only viable method was to overwhelm the gatekeepers with numbers. If everybody rushed through the checkpoint at the same time, then at least some of them would be successful.

The competitors who had gotten close to the checkpoints stopped and decided to wait for people further back.

Zenith Mountain continued to change, and it was soon shrouded in darkness. When the competitors looked up, a sky full of stars greeted them. Each star shone brightly, and some even occasionally launched attacks at them.

Many competitors immediately began grumbling when they saw these incoming attacks, as they had already nearly given up after experiencing the unending energy waves coming off of the peak of the mountain and the strength of the gatekeepers. Despite the already absurd level of difficulty, the competition would only become more challenging as time went on.

The attacks from the stars grew increasingly powerful, and some competitors were forced to work together to endure.

Lu Yin looked up at the sky and suddenly remembered the entrance examination that he had taken to join Astral-10. At that time, he had been astounded to see countless stars sparkling high in the sky, but that had only been because he had not understood what he had been looking at back then.

At the moment, Lu Yin knew that the stars that he was looking at were not actually real. Rather, each one had been condensed from a powerhouse's star energy.

This was nothing difficult, as star energy could be forcibly condensed, though not in the same manner as Lu Yin's Ninesuns Cauldron Transformation. That technique was much more powerful, though it also required one to gather a massive amount of star energy.

Lu Yin suddenly realized that it had been quite some time since he had last visited the Daosource Sect's ruins. As soon as he had that thought, he decided to return to the Daosource Sect's ruins after ZENITH and absorb more of the cauldron energy.

He had many means of attacking, and he even had more than one secret technique along with several sourcebox arrays. Despite all of that, Lu Yin still wanted to learn the complete Ninesuns Cauldron Transformation, as he felt that it was one of his techniques with the greatest potential. Lu Yin would never forget the scene that he had seen when he had first comprehended the Ninesuns Cauldron Transformation. It had been as if he had traveled back in time to a primeval era.

The Ninesuns Cauldron Transformation would be invincible after Lu Yin completed all nine suns, and he would never give up on such a battle technique.

Two people rushed towards Lu Yin: Lulu and Grandini Mavis.

These two girls had been competing ever since they had been students at the Astral Combat Academy, and they were still competing with each other during ZENITH. They were always fighting, but they had also supported each other when the Sixth Mainland had invaded.

The two girls rushed past Lu Yin without even glancing at him.

Lu Yin laughed. "Be careful. Don't fall."

Another person rushed towards Lu Yin at an extremely high speed. They were actually even faster than Lulu and Grandini, which surprised Lu Yin.

With this speed, this person should have arrived at the checkpoint a long time ago.

It was the stutterer. He nervously looked at Lu Yin. "I- I- I-"

Lu Yin was taken aback; did this person want to fight him?

"I'm going to fall!" the stutterer screamed and collapsed.

Lu Yin stared as the stutterer fell down and stopped moving. Just what did this fellow want from him?

The stutterer rubbed his head and blinked excitedly the moment he saw Lu Yin. "Meat! Meat! Meat!"

"You want to eat meat? Then go home," Lu Yin said coldly.

The stutterer grew anxious. "Long- long- long-"

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed as he realized the man had a stutter.

"Longevity Bri- Brigade. Me." The stutterer pointed at himself.

Lu Yin suddenly remembered that he had seen this before, in the Mountain and Seas Zone's tablet world. Even back then, the young man had been talking about meat.

"You're from the Longevity Brigade?" Lu Yin asked.

The stutterer nodded, and his face flushed red. "Mas- Master said that I'll get to eat meat if I follow you."

Lu Yin was confused. "I don't have meat with me."

The stutterer gulped and did not know what else to say.

"You can pass," Lu Yin said. This guy was from the Longevity Brigade, which was one of the four most powerful crews in the Cosmic Sea.

There were four powerful crews in the Cosmic Sea, which were Leon's Armada, the Longevity Brigade, the Ignition Crew, and the Soldier Crew.

The four crews each controlled a part of the Cosmic Sea, and they were all extremely powerful. Any one of the crews had the strength to go up against the Inverse's eight great flowzones.

Leon's Armada ruled over all of the pirates in the universe as Highsage Leon was the King of Pirates, and he naturally headed the strongest crew.

The Ignition Crew consisted of former powerhouses from Gods' Origin, and Lu Yin had heard that Gods' Origin was actually trying to kill everyone from the Ignition Crew.

Finally, both the Longevity Brigade and the Soldier Crew were very mysterious, and Lu Yin had not heard much about them even from Big Sis.

Lu Yin was quite curious toward the Longevity Brigade, but he clearly would not be able to learn anything about them from the stutterer.

Xi Qi finally arrived at the checkpoint after avoiding all the energy waves cascading down upon Zenith Mountain, the falling attacks from the stars, and the various shockwaves from all of the battles between the elites.

She felt reborn the moment she arrived at the checkpoint.

"I'm so tired." Xi Qi sighed.

"Hey, you're a familiar two-legged beast! Do you want to be my ride? I'll teach you how to become a Progenitor." The fish atop Xi Qi's head grew excited as soon as it saw Lu Yin.

Lu Yin pouted. This darn fish was still present.

"I'm sorry, Brother Lu! I'm sorry!" Xi Qi nervously apologized. She even turned pale since Lu Yin was a gatekeeper.

The stutterer stared at the fish in shock; how could a fish talk? This was insane.

The fish saw the stutterer and complained, "Hey, two-legged beast, why are you looking at me like that? Have you never seen a fish as handsome as me?"

The stutterer gulped and turned towards Lu Yin. "Meat- meat-"

He was still thinking of meat.

The truth of the matter was that the stutterer wanted to ask Lu Yin to help, as his master had said that he would be able to eat meat if he followed Lu Yin.

However, the fish grew outraged as soon as it heard the word "meat."

"Hey, you two-legged beast! How dare you mock me? Girl, attack! Attack!" it yelled while slapping Xi Qi with its fins.

Xi Qi whined, "Stop hitting me! You'll make me dumb."

"You're already dumb! Attack!" the fish screamed anxiously.

Lu Yin rolled his eyes. He then grabbed the stutterer and flung him past the checkpoint. "Take care."

The stutterer yelped as he fell to the ground. He had cleared the checkpoint, but he was unhappy since he felt like he would end up in trouble if he did not get Lu Yin's help. The stutterer suddenly missed the Little Leaf King, as that person had helped the stutterer avoid a number of disasters.

"Two-legged beast, who allowed you to let him go? If you bring him back here, I'll teach you about sourceboxes and even turn you into a Progenitor!" The fish was outraged and flapped his fins even more violently, causing Xi Qi to grimace.

Lu Yin pitied her at this moment.

"Alright, keep going. Shang Qing's still up there, but since you're from the Lockbreaker Society, he probably won't stop you," Lu Yin made a point to speak to Xi Qi.

Xi Qi was grateful. "Thank you, Brother Lu. Thanks."

"Two-legged beast, don't you want to become a Progenitor? I can teach you! You already have some potential, and with my teaching, you'll definitely become a Progenitor, even if you're a bit stupid." The fish's words grew quieter and quieter as Xi Qi quickly ran away before the fish completely offended Lu Yin.

"Girl, why are you running so fast? I wasn't done talking!" The fish flapped its fins.

Xi Qi's head was aching. "Stop hitting me. It hurts!"

"What hurts? I'm training you to be more resilient. Turn back—I still want to talk with that two-legged beast a bit more."

"Brother Lu has already let us go, so what do you want to talk about?"

"Let go? You must be joking. If I so desired it, you would be the champion."

"Yes, champion. I'm the champion," Xi Qi muttered under her breath as she climbed the mountain. This was exhausting.

Above her, the fish muttered, "The God of Death's power. It's really strange that there's someone in this era with the God of Death's power. That's really strange. Wait, who's the God of Death? Why did I mention the God of Death? Where did that come from? The God of Death? That sounds familiar. Death... Wait, what Death? What was I just talking about?"

Xi Qi felt helpless. The fish would randomly spout such nonsense from time to time, and she was never able to understand what it actually meant. The worst part was that it never remembered what it had said before. She often wondered how long she would have to live like this for.

Lu Yin did not hear the last bit that the fish had said, and he instead focused on the competitors gathering below him. They had finally stopped fighting each other and were preparing to work together to push through the checkpoint.

More than ten thousand youths had gathered before him, and there were still more people joining every minute.

Lu Yin had eliminated less than thirty thousand people so far, and about ten thousand more had voluntarily forfeited. Thus, the leftovers had begun to gather.

It would probably take them more than half a day to finish organizing themselves.

There were still a few familiar faces to be seen among the remaining participants, such as Yue Xianzi and Xi Yue. It was not that they did not want to approach the checkpoint, but rather that they were being blocked from doing so by the gathering crowd of cultivators.

The two were not weak, just a bit unlucky. However, compared to them, Coco, Zora, and a few others had it even worse; they had been eliminated by the earlier battles' shockwaves.

Lu Yin quietly leaned against the side of the mountain as one man finally reached the checkpoint.

It was Nong Zaitian. He looked somewhat pathetic, but Lu Yin treated this person like a lucky star.

A sense of guilt welled up within Lu Yin when he saw Nong Zaitian, so he moved towards him.

Nong Zaitian felt dazed when he saw Lu Yin reaching for him, and he screamed, "What are you doing? Give me back my hoe!"

Before he could even finish speaking, he was thrown upwards by Lu Yin. "I'll help you pass, so we don't owe each other anything more."

Nong Zaitian howled.

Nong Laohan sighed in relief as he looked at the screen. He had been extremely anxious since he had expected Lu Yin to attack Nong Zaitian.

The screens only transmitted images and not sound. So, Nong Laohan had seen Lu Yin and Nong Zaitian exchanging words, but he did not know what they had said.

Since they had spoken to each other, was it possible that they were acquaintances?

Chapter 1270: Boring

Nong Laohan felt curious about the possible relationship between Nong Zaitian and Lu Yin.

Madam Hong coldly commented, "Elder Nong, your family has really hidden yourselves well."

Nong Laohan's brows rose. "What do you mean?"

Madam Hong sneered, "Even Lu Yin's friends had to qualify to pass his checkpoint on their own, but your descendant was personally sent through by the gatekeeper. Should I ask you to explain their relationship?"

The Sixth Mainland powerhouses all looked over at Nong Laohan, but they did not say anything.

Nong Laohan was considered to be one of the strongest experts present, as he was a Cosmic Imprinter. The only reason why Madam Hong had dared mock him was because she had almost reached the level of a Cosmic Imprinter herself.

"Madam Hong, look closer. Zaitian was thrown through the pass, not sent through. I think that Lu Yin used a considerable amount of force," Nong Laohan answered.

The coldness did not leave Madam Hong's voice. "Senior, are you suggesting that your descendant has no relationship with Lu Yin at all?"

Nong Laohan did not answer, as even a fool could tell the two youths knew each other.

Madam Hong merely wanted to taunt the Nong family elder as a means of venting her frustrations over Hong Ying's injury. She did not actually want to offend Nong Laohan.

The monsters' invasion of the Sixth Mainland had caused them devastating losses. Although the three Progenitors had managed to reduce the casualties to a minimum, a number of top powerhouses had still been killed, such as Ancestor Di, who had been a Cosmic Imprinter. Overall, the monsters had killed four Cosmic Imprinters.

As the number of Cosmic Imprinters dropped, the importance of the still-living ones reached even greater heights. Although Madam Hong was not intimidated by Nong Laohan, she did not actually dare to truly offend him.

The competitors on the eastern side of Zenith Mountain were preparing to rush into the checkpoint en masse, and the competitors on the other three sides were preparing to do the same.

On the mountain's eastern face, Bu Kong did not stop the elites from the Fifth Mainland from clearing the checkpoint. Wen Sansi, Jin He, Wu Dan, Mira, Kuang Wang, Liu Xiaoyun, Li Zimo, and even Ku Lei had all passed through successfully.

Bu Kong did not make any attempt at all to stop them, and he watched them go by with a smile.

Many of the people from the Fifth Mainland were confused by his actions, but those who understood Bu Kong knew that he was not being congenial.

It was meaningless for him to eliminate such people at this point in the competition, as Bu Kong wanted to personally defeat them when everyone's eyes were fixated on him. He had worked hard to create an

unforgettable scene when he had simultaneously defeated many powerhouses atop the Champions' Stage, and he wanted to recreate that situation at ZENITH.

This same sentiment was shared by Zhi Yi, and likely Yao Xuan as well.

The more confident the contestants were, the more willing the gatekeepers were to let the elites pass through the checkpoints.

Still, that was just one of multiple reasons.

Another reason was because the gatekeepers had no idea what special abilities these powerhouses might have kept hidden, and if the gatekeepers insisted on blocking the passes from everyone, the other contestants would feel threatened. Most of the competitors had to possess some kind of hidden abilities.

Instead of stubbornly fighting everyone, it would be better to let the elites clear the first checkpoints and let them face Shang Qing.

After the five gatekeepers had been selected, and after they had learned that Shang Qing had been chosen to be the gatekeeper of the central pass, both Bu Kong and Zhi Yi had been furious.

They had always looked down upon the Fifth Mainland, so they saw it as an insult that someone from the Fifth Mainland had been selected to be the top choice for the champion.

They had initially wanted to simply discredit Shang Qing, but since the Tri-Yang Technique was known to be invincible, and since the Hall of Honor had recognized the First Honor Chosen as the strongest, the two had become curious as to whose strength was greater. They wanted to see if Shang Qing would stop the powerhouses that had been allowed to pass, and if he did so, then it would be possible for them to sense a bit of his strength.

None of the gatekeepers were fools, and even Lu Yin had thought of this idea. He was confident in his own strength, and he knew that, if he used his full power, none of the competitors on his side of the mountain would be able to pass through his checkpoint. However, he was not going to do that, as doing so would only help Shang Qing, and only an idiot would help their future competitors.

Liu Tianmu and the others were by no means weak.

The main purpose of the five gatekeepers was to eliminate about half of the weaker competition, not to fight against the stronger participants. Of course, the gatekeepers also had to not be defeated, as that would be extremely embarrassing.

The strength of the five gatekeepers was essentially the same as the pride of ZENITH.

In just a day, the more powerful competitors had all proceeded past the first checkpoints. The remaining people were basically just filler for the gatekeepers.

The gatekeepers would need to eliminate half of the remaining crowd.

On the eastern side, Lu Yin looked up and saw that Yuhua Mavis was currently the closest person to Shang Qing. Not only had she been the first to pass the eastern checkpoint, but she was also the first to reach Shang Qing's checkpoint.

Countless people focused on Yuhua Mavis's progress.

In the central pass, Shang Qing opened his eyes and saw Yuhua Mavis rushing towards him.

Qinmei Mavis grew anxious as she watched from outside Zenith Mountain.

The Mavis family was very powerful and were unafraid of anybody. Even the Hall of Honor was respectful towards the family.

Furthermore, the Mavis family's Treeheart Descendant had never been scared of the Hall of Honor's Honor Chosen. However, at this moment, all of that was different as Shang Qing had mastered the Tri-Yang Technique.

With the Tri-Yang Technique, everything against it was useless.

Nobody was capable of defeating a Progenitor with the same realm of cultivation. And since the Tri-Yang Technique essentially forced its opponents to fight against three Progenitor powerhouses at the same realm as the user of the technique, it made all the users of this technique invincible. Thus, both theoretically and practically speaking, nobody could defeat this technique.

Yuhua Mavis stared at Shang Qing. She then leaped forward and ran past Shang Qing in one motion, who did not move.

Qinmei Mavis and many others felt relieved, as this proved that Shang Qing was not going to stop everyone who approached his pass.

Yuhua Mavis suddenly stopped, after passing by Shang Qing, she turned around and said, "Everyone wants to know who your third strand of qi will summon. There haven't been many Progenitors throughout all of history, and there have been even fewer who were comparable to Progenitor Chen. Or, could it be that all three of your qi strands are of Progenitor Chen?"

Shang Qing calmly closed his eyes. "If you want to know, then you should force me to use my third strand of qi. But—"

Shang Qing paused, and the tone of his voice suddenly changed. It was still calm, but his voice rang out across the entirety of Zenith Mountain. "Nobody in ZENITH is able to force me use my third strand of qi, and nobody can force me to use my full strength."

Yuhua Mavis' eyes flashed; Shang Qing was too arrogant.

Everyone on Zenith Mountain was surprised by these words, and some of them looked as though they were already defeated while others seemed unfazed. Shang Qing's statement had included absolutely everyone on the mountain, and his statement was insanely arrogant.

"All of you can try to force out my full strength, as I'm actually feeling quite bored," Shang Qing continued to say in a calm voice. The screens throughout the universe only provided a video feed of the events on Zenith Mountain, and there was no audio. However, Shang Qing's voice had been incredibly loud, and even people outside of Zenith Mountain had been able to clearly hear him.

An uproar broke out across the Zenith Mountain. The people outside Zenith Mountain, and everyone in the universe who had heard Shang Qing's words were all stunned.

ZENITH was the first competition of its kind, and countless young powerhouses were participating. Despite that, Shang Qing had claimed to be bored, which blatantly disregarded everybody in the competition.

Many people throughout the universe, in places such as the Great Eastern Alliance, the Inniverse's major powers, and the Sixth Mainland, scolded Shang Qing for his arrogance. The people in these places were supporting those known as the strongest of their generation, but all of them had been completely disregarded by Shang Qing.

In contrast, many of the people who supported the Hall of Honor and Shang Qing cheered excitedly.

The more arrogant Shang Qing behaved, the more confident they all became

Liu Tianmu and the others paused at where they were on Zenith Mountain and looked up at Shang Qing. When he had used the Tri-Yang Technique in the Mountain and Seas Zone, they had all felt helpless, but he had not been this arrogant back then.

Those who actually understood Shang Qing knew that he was a truly arrogant person and that he had only said what he actually thought. He really was bored.

He was lonely, as it was always lonely at the top.

Bu Kong took a deep breath, and his expression grew sullen. Even as one of the Daosource Three Skies, he had never been as arrogant as this man.

Zhi Yi was also upset. She wished that Shang Qing had taken part in the battle of the Cosmic Sea, as that would have reduced his arrogance.

Yao Xuan looked at Shang Qing. Humans were always arrogant, but the Tri-Yang Technique was a truly powerful technique.

Lu Yin cracked his neck. Shang Qing had challenged everyone all at once, and he probably really did feel extremely bored.

Was Shang Qing truly unfazed by what people had demonstrated so far? Lu Yin thought about the invincible Progenitor Chen and the fact that Shang Qing was able to summon two of Progenitor Chen's clones to fight for him, which was truly disgusting.

As he looked at Shang Qing, Lu Yin felt that he could vaguely see three silhouettes standing behind the young man. Three Progenitors were standing high up on the mountain and waiting for people to challenge Shang Qing. This era was too boring, and nobody qualified to have this era named after themselves. Shang Qing could only create his own era after dealing with this obstacle.

A long time ago, Progenitor Chen had represented an era, and both the Rune Progenitor and Progenitor Wushang had similarly represented an era themselves. Progenitors were invincible among their generation, and each one represented an entire era. It has been a long time since such a person had appeared.

Lu Yin took a deep breath; he wanted this to be the Lu era.

A terrible roar was heard from the base of the mountain. When Lu Yin turned around, he saw that the crowd was finally rushing towards his checkpoint.

Away from the eastern side of the mountain, the competitors on the other sides were also rushing their checkpoints at the same moment.

Everyone had seemingly been triggered by Shang Qing's words, becoming determined to clear the first checkpoints.

Determination was one thing, but reality was something else entirely.

Lu Yin responded by unleashing his domain and covering the entire mountain pass. The first few hundred competitors to reach the checkpoint directly flew off of the mountain. Only a few people managed to hold their ground, but they were still forced to squat low.

Lu Yin continued leaning against the mountainside, and he looked at the various people with curiosity.

A few people had gone pale and were panting heavily as they met Lu Yin's eyes.

At this moment, the contestants all rushed forward, one after another. Lu Yin's eyes narrowed, and he flexed his domain. To the contestants, it felt as though the sky had fallen down and the earth had shattered. As a result, most of the people flew off of the mountain or tumbled down to its base.

Additionally, of the few people who had withstood Lu Yin's domain, some were unable to endure the second attack, also flying off of the mountain. There was only one person who was able to continue forcing their way forward: Yue Xianzi.

She was surrounded by whirlpools, which came from the battle technique that she had comprehended in the Three Realms Six Daos: Water God's Armor.

Yue Xianzi had become an Explorer and was actually nearly a Cruiser. With the Water God's Armor, she was indeed qualified to pass through the checkpoint even with the suppression from Lu Yin's domain. There were not many competitors left with her level of strength, and she should have cleared the checkpoint much earlier based on her power level.