

Chapter 1291: A Recognized Monster

Lu Yin stared at Yuhua Mavis and saw the terrifying number of rune lines that had appeared around her. At this moment, Yuhua Mavis was far stronger than a second ago. So, was he not supposed to treat her as a human anymore? How interesting! As such thoughts flashed through his mind, he charged forward. "Third punch."

Yuhua Mavis looked up. She was expressionless as she lifted her right fist and threw out a punch of her own.

It was nothing fancy, and it just looked like a simple punch, but to Lu Yin's eyes, this punch contained a terrifying power. He took a deep breath, unleashed the strength of his entire body, and attacked.

Boom!

The sound of the impact created a visible shockwave that left destruction behind it in all directions. Many of the remaining contestants on the first layer went pale as they stared at the approaching devastation in horror. The sound alone nearly stopped some people's hearts.

On the second and third layers, and even at the foot of the mountain, some people lost consciousness from the mere sound of the two's clash.

Although the shockwave did not tear the void open, the force traveled through the void and into outer space beyond Zenith Mountain, causing many planets to tremble.

This was pure, simple, unadulterated, physical power, the same way Star Devourer's physical power had affected the universe beyond Zenith Mountain.

The difference was that just a single breath from Star Devourer had been enough to affect the outside world while Lu Yin and Yuhua Mavis were competing to see who was stronger. When it came to brute strength, neither could compare to Star Devourer.

After this punch, neither of the two retreated from the other even though the air around them had been blasted away, kicking up the dust and instantly reducing the stones beneath them to powder. Although no expression could be seen on Yuhua Mavis's face, she was completely shocked inside.

She really had not expected Lu Yin to be able to match her strength. Even when she used Infinite Power, which was basically a cheat code given by her birthright as the Treeheart Descendant, he had still managed to keep up with her. Just how did he train?!

Also, she acknowledged that her cultivation was higher than Lu Yin's. If he was also an Enlightener, then Yuhua Mavis definitely would have lost this contest of strength.

There were no words, but two bodies pulled back at the same time before rushing towards each other once again. This was the fourth punch.

For this punch, Lu Yin no longer relied purely on his physical strength. He had not expected Yuhua Mavis to have such a powerful battle technique hidden up her sleeves, and she was not even fully human at

this point. It would be impossible for Lu Yin to win with nothing but physical strength, though Yuhua Mavis had already been forced to use more than her physical power.

Their contest of pure strength had ended at the third punch. So, for the fourth punch, purple-red lines appeared over Lu Yin's body as his nine lined battle force appeared.

Across from him, the outline of the green leaf on Yuhua Mavis' forehead shone as branches and leaves once again twined across the surface of her body.

Lu Yin's brows rose. The Yuhua Mavis in front of him was not just Yuhua Mavis, as he could vaguely see a towering tree with hanging branches, as though it was trying to protect her. At this moment, Lu Yin's opponent was not Yuhua Mavis, but the tree.

He wasn't supposed to see her as human?

Lu Yin's clenched fist began to vibrate. This was not obvious, and most people were not able to see anything, but Yuhua Mavis could tell that he was using Overlaying Stacks. Lu Yin was attacking with both Overlaying Stacks and battle force.

Still, it did not matter. For this punch, Yuhua Mavis was truly using the Infinite Power battle technique.

Boom!

The sound of this collision was louder than all the previous ones, but the people on the first layer of the mountain had prepared themselves this time. Many of them protected their ears as they watched the battle in astonishment.

Many of the people watching ZENITH through the livestream were startled, as this punch's shockwave had formed what looked like a tidal wave. Neither of the youths took a step back, and it appeared as though they were equal once again. However, there were a few people who were able to see that this punch had only just begun.

Yuhua Mavis had blocked the physical power and battle force within Lu Yin's punch, and Lu Yin had similarly blocked the strength of Infinite Power within Yuhua Mavis's punch.

But the next moment, Lu Yin's stacks strength exploded, and one eruption after another exploded forth into an attack that pressed Yuhua Mavis hard. The image of the green leaves on her forehead gleamed even brighter, and she began to look more and more like a tree in Lu Yin's eyes. That tree slowly manifested, though it looked like an image behind her.

Wait, that's what it was—an imprint! Lu Yin stared at the sacred tree behind Yuhua Mavis in shock. That was an imprint, right? This one was different from what the Sixth Mainland cultivators used, as they received imprints from a powerhouse while Yuhua Mavis had received an imprint from a tree.

Could trees give imprints too?

Lu Yin was not certain that it was entirely correct to call this an imprint. It was possible that this image was not an imprint, but it did look very similar. This was the true face of the Mavis family's Infinite Power.

The overlaying stacks of his attack erupted one stack at a time. As each stack erupted, a loud noise shook the sky, and the two combatants sank a bit more into the ground. The sky had already been torn apart by their fourth punch, but the stacks from Lu Yin's attack extended the extent of the damage.

A thunderous roar blasted everyone's ears, and the sky darkened.

On the first layer, many people want to escape. What the hell was happening? Were these two really human? This strength was not something that any of them could even come close to matching, and they were trembling from just the aftershocks.

At the foot of Zenith Mountain, countless people looked up and watched as the void was pushed away, causing ripples to propagate out that soon became waves. They roiled forth in layers, continuously tearing the void apart.

Countless people were within the range of the two's battle, and they could not even breathe.

One after another, elder powerhouses showed themselves and stared down at Zenith Mountain.

No matter if they were from the Fifth Mainland or the Sixth Mainland, every single one of these elders had a solemn expression. Although their cultivation far exceeded the two fighting youths, it was absolutely impossible for them to compare to these two's physical might.

Click!

The void tore apart before being restored, only to tear apart once again in an infinite cycle.

The fourth punch lasted for a full ten seconds. While their contest continued, the two sank into the ground. Lu Yin had used a full 250 stacks, and Yuhua managed to endure 200 of them. After that, she had taken a step back before more of the power of Lu Yin's stacks erupted. She had been forced to retreat one step after another until she backed up dozens of steps, forced back by the power of Lu Yin's punch. Finally, she was completely blown away, flying through the air as the final bit of power from Lu Yin's punch threw her off into the distance .

One punch had lasted for ten seconds, and when it was finally over, Yuhua Mavis had been knocked a hundred meters back. Her face was pale, and she was panting heavily.

Lu Yin slowly flew into the air and returned to the battlefield. His right fist was red. He had not expected Yuhua Mavis to endure nearly all 250 stacks. That had been a full 250 stacks, and not even the Ten Arbiters' Divine Fist, who was known for his expertise in the Overlaying Stacks Path, was capable of unleashing such an attack. Even if a person had no other power, just being capable of unleashing 250 stacks would be enough for them to become one of the Ten Arbiters.

Out of everyone in ZENITH, there were definitely fewer than ten people who could receive the punch that Lu Yin had just thrown.

If Lu Yin had been up against Lan Si, then the Arbiter would not have been able to even save his own life from this attack.

Drip.

Drip.

Blood dripped down from Yuhua Mavis's fist. She had been injured, and her right hand had been completely shattered. Bones could be seen piercing through her skin, and it had to be excruciatingly painful. Still, compared to the physical pain, it would hurt Yuhua Mavis even more to lose to Lu Yin in a contest of strength.

She had even revealed her true strength, but she had still lost.

This kid was an absolute monster.

The members of the Mavis family had been referred to as monsters for a long time, and the Treeheart Descendants had been referred to as monsters even by the inheritors of the Neoverse's other top powers. But never had a Treeheart Descendant referred to one of their peers as a monster, and not even Shang Qing qualified. After all, Shang Qing's invincibility stemmed from Progenitor Chen, which meant that Progenitor Chen was the invincible power, not Shang Qing.

Lu Yin was the first person that Yuhua Mavis had ever recognized as a monster, and this punch had fully convinced her of his strength.

Zenith Mountain had fallen silent, as everyone could see that Yuhua Mavis had lost.

Outside Zenith Mountain, Qin Mavis looked absolutely terrible. The legend of the Mavis family's Treeheart Descendants' invincibility had been shattered. Qin Mavis wanted to ask someone what kind of freak Lu Yin was—was it even possible for a human to achieve such a ridiculous level of strength?

Mu En was shocked. "This outcome is very unexpected."

Star Devourer woke up. The attack from Progenitor Chen's knife had not killed the beast, only badly injured him.

He had seen the last punch, and it had sparked a strong desire to fight within him. He wanted to face someone and compete with them in strength, but unfortunately, Star Devourer had already lost.

These two humans were definitely inferior to him when it came to brute force, and Star Devourer was confident that he would be able to overpower them with pure strength, but the way that they utilized their strength was amazing. One had been as motionless as a mountain while the other had stacked his strength.

"Four punches. Lu Yin, we've compared our strength, and you've won," Yuhua Mavis said. Her face was still completely indifferent, and her eyes were cold as she stared at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin unclenched his right hand and wiggled his fingers. This woman was so cruel! His hand was about to shatter! "Are four punches enough?"

Yuhua Mavis indifferently replied, "Before ZENITH started, you said that you wanted to see how many of your punches I could take, and the answer is four. Defeat is defeat, but I've only lost to you in strength, and my Mavis family possesses more than raw power."

Lu Yin's expression froze. "Then let's keep going. I'm very curious about the legendary innate gift that Mavises have at controlling others—the Rhythm of Life."

The emblem of green leaves on Yuhua Mavis's forehead gradually disappeared, and they transformed into rays of green light that wrapped around her right hand. At a speed visible to the naked eye, her shattered hand was fully restored.

Lu Yin's eyes flickered with fear. Was this healing? The Mavis family really did have access to everything.

He suddenly remembered something that he had seen at the warfront long ago when the Sixth Mainland had invaded the Outerverse. Yuehua Mavis had only been an Enlighter with a power level of 290,000, but she had swallowed a fruit and held back Yan Sheng, who had been one of the Sixth Mainland's imprinters. That accomplishment had left a deep impression on Lu Yin as well as a strong sense of caution towards the power and foundation of the Mavis family.

Before, he had thought that the Mavis family's so-called Infinite Power would have the same effect as when Yuehua Mavis had swallowed that fruit, but the two turned out to be completely different.

Just how many techniques did the Mavis family have?

Green grass appeared on the ground that grew out to form massive fists that fiercely attacked Lu Yin one after another. At the same time, more of the green grass wrapped around his bare feet.

As Yuhua Mavis had said, she would use other means to fight now.

She had lost in their contest of strength, but she did not want to lose this match.

Lu Yin's figure flickered as he constantly avoided the green fists. He glanced over at Yuhua Mavis, wanting to see what other options she had. However, even though he was keeping an eye on her, he remained guarded against her innate gift, purposefully not looking into her eyes.

Someone had once said that one could not look into the eyes of someone from the Mavis family when fighting against them, as that would be an opportunity for their innate gift of control.

Lu Yin was right to be wary, as Yuhua Mavis's eyes had already flashed with a pale green color. However, after Lu Yin had mentioned the Rhythm of Life, Yuhua Mavis had never expected to be able to control Lu Yin in a typical fashion.

However, Lu Yin had underestimated his opponent too much. She was the Mavis family's Treehear Descendant, not a regular member of the Mavis family.

Green fists slammed down one after another, each radiating a green light. Lu Yin easily dodged these attacks even as he moved his fingers. He intended to end this match with the full power of his Vacuum Palm, but it was difficult to block all of Yuhua Mavis's attacks.

However, Lu Yin had not realized that everything in his sight had already turned green. From the very beginning, the battlefield had been green, and that color had come from Yuhua Mavis.

Chapter 1292: Making A Reputation

When the pair of green eyes appeared, Lu Yin became sluggish for a moment. This was the Mavis family's innate gift of control.

Not everyone could be controlled by a member of the Mavis family, and this was also true of Yuhua Mavis. She had managed to briefly seize control of the Ten Arbiters' Unseen Light and almost caused him to injure the White Knight, but she had not been able to exert enough control to accomplish that goal. At the present moment, the sky and ground had both turned green from her power, and her eyes had filled Lu Yin's vision for a moment, and at that moment, Lu Yin's eyes glazed over.

Yuhua Mavis raised both of her hands, and the grass grew frantically as it formed dozens of huge green fists that smashed at Lu Yin. This was Yuhua Mavis's only chance.

Dozens of fists fell down.

Ku Wei shouted, "Seventh Bro, be careful!"

Xin Nü's eyes grew sharp.

Wang Yi looked on solemnly.

Shang Qing watched carefully.

Countless people watched the broadcast on their screens with wide eyes, especially the people from the Great Eastern Alliance, or even more so, the people of Earth. They were all holding their breaths at this moment and nervously watching the battle unfold.

The instant the green fists struck, Lu Yin's eyes returned to normal, and he tightly clenched his right fist before throwing a punch at the sky. His nine lined battle force shot into the sky, and numerous stacks shattered the green fists. Lu Yin then tore through the void as he charged at Yuhua Mavis.

Yuhua Mavis' pupils instantly constricted, but she had no time to respond. All she could do was try to counter with her own fists, but her green sleeves were shredded apart while she was blasted away, vomiting blood as she fell down the mountain.

The situation had changed too quickly, and most people had not had any time to even react. By the time they had processed the events, everything was already over.

Yuhua Mavis fell to the foot of Zenith Mountain, but without any serious injuries.

Lu Yin had won.

Zenith Mountain fell silent for a moment before many people began to cheer. They were all from the Great Eastern Alliance, and they were cheering for their leader.

"Seventh Bro, you're so awesome!" Ku Wei shouted. He was extremely excited at this moment. "You bastards dared to compete with my Seventh Bro? Do you dare? Even the Mavis family has been defeated, and yet you bastards still aren't groveling and submitting to him."

Not far away, Ling Gong stared at Lu Yin with a complicated expression. Yuhua Mavis had revealed an overwhelming physical strength, and she definitely qualified to be one of the ten finalists. There had been a few people who had dared to claim that Yuhua Mavis would end up taking the title of Pinnacle Youth, but she had actually just lost. And not just that—she had lost to a person who had been too intimidated to even try to run away from Ling Gong the first time they had met.

How strong had Lu Yin become? What he had just revealed in that fight definitely was not his full power.

Shang Qing smiled. After all, no matter how physically strong Lu Yin was, he would never present a threat to Shang Qing. Rather, this fight meant that there was now a chance that two of the Hall of Honor's Honor Chosen would enter the top ten, which would be very glorious for the Fifth Mainland.

Wang Yi looked at Lu Yin, and for the first time, he showed a bit of interest.

Yao Xuan frowned. The task that the astral beast participants had been assigned seemed to be far more difficult than anticipated.

Bu Kong was stunned. He had been stuck in his first impression of Lu Yin from the battle in the Cosmic Sea. Back then, Lu Yin had been nothing more than a trickster, but now, he had become powerful! It was no wonder why he had been qualified to be a gatekeeper.

Zhi Yi's fingers twitched uncontrollably. The situation was becoming very tricky. Lu Yin had previously shown that he could ignore Vitality Qi. When that was combined with the monster-like strength that he had just demonstrated, Zhi Yi would have a very difficult time defeating Lu Yin.

On the second layer, Gu Xiao'er grew proud. "That's our friend! You get it, old man?"

At the foot of Zenith Mountain, Coco cheered loudly, "Big Brother Lu won! He won!"

There was a complicated expression on Lulu Mavis's face; even Sister Yuhua had lost?

Long ago, a few people had left Earth at the same time. Back then, Lu Yin had been the weakest among them, but he had already become the strongest, and by a huge margin at that. When they had left Earth back then, Sister Yuhua had stood at a height that Lu Yin could not have even imagined, but she had just lost to him.

Who could have imagined that such a day would arrive.

Yuhua Mavis's loss not only shocked the universe, but it also caused many of the gambling houses throughout the universe to go bankrupt, especially the ones that had opened up short-term bets.

Before the match between Yuhua Mavis and Lu Yin, many bookmakers had happily placed odds for short-term bets on who would win or lose, how long Lu Yin would be able to last, and other statistics. However, very few people had believed that Lu Yin was capable of winning.

The main reason was because the Mavis family had been a great power in the universe for far too long. Even if Lu Yin had been a gatekeeper and had tossed Yuhua Mavis through the checkpoint, it had not been nearly enough to overcome eons of intimidation.

Given the battle's final results, many bookmakers would go bankrupt, and many people had also just made a fortune.

Above the first layer, Lu Yinju looked down at Yuhua Mavis, who had just fallen to the bottom of the mountain. He lifted his head and let out a long breath. He had won.

Basking in victory, he thought back to his time in the Mountain and Seas Zone. At that time, Lu Yin had been defeated by seven punches from Yuhua Mavis, and Lu Yin had realized that Yuhua Mavis had not

used her full strength against him—most likely because of his relationship with Lulu. Instead, she had somewhat guided Lu Yin with those punches.

The frustration, helplessness, and unwillingness that he had experienced at that time had all been let go.

Lu Yin was predicted to end up in thirteenth place in ZENITH according to the most accepted leaderboard despite him being a gatekeeper. He had given others the impression that this had not bothered him, but how could that be true? Now, he had personally destroyed that forecast of finalists as he had defeated Yuhua Mavis, who had been expected to come in sixth place.

He had defeated Yuhua Mavis, one of the most powerful experts within the current younger generation. He had established a fearsome reputation for himself.

Lu Yin disappeared, and he next appeared above the first layer of Zenith Mountain, at the bottom of one of the ten staircases. From this position, he was able to see the remaining contestants on the first layer as well as the other victors of the current round: Liquor Hero, Wang Yi, and Shang Qing.

Xia Jiuyou stared at Lu Yin, his fear had been proven accurate. Lu Yin was indeed one of the most powerful participants in ZENITH.

Xia Jiuyou was very familiar with Yuhua Mavis, and when it came to combat strength, he firmly believed that she was more powerful than even the Sixth Mainland's Daosource Three Skies. Lu Yin had defeated Yuhua Mavis, which meant that he was a threat inferior only to Shang Qing.

At the foot of Zenith Mountain, Yuhua Mavis coughed up blood once again. She looked up, bitter at her unexpected defeat.

Historically, the Mavis family's Treeheart Descendants had almost never failed, and only during the times of the Rune Progenitor and Progenitor Chen had the Treeheart Descendants been overshadowed.

However, the current era had Lu Yin.

Yuhua Mavis suddenly disappeared, only to reappear on the first layer of the mountain, back in her original position.

All around her were people with strange expressions. Yuhua Mavis had revealed a level of power that they could not even understand, but she had still lost. This had terrified many of the remaining contestants.

Xiao Tao was one such frightened person. She had only made it to the first layer through sheer luck, and after the last battle, she felt that it would be better to be smart and simply give up the moment she ran into a true expert. Besides, there was no shame in such actions. After all, she was just an Explorer, so if she ran into one of the Daosource Three Skies, she could give up since they were both from the Sixth Mainland.

As this thought passed through her mind, Xiao Tao glanced over at Yuhua Mavis. This woman was amazingly strong, and yet she had just been forced to the point of vomiting blood. Xiao Tao could not even endure the sound from the impact of those fists as they had truly been terrible. Fortunately, Xiao Tao had not been forced to go up against Yuhua Mavis.

The more Xiao Tao thought about things, the luckier she felt. She patted her chest, feeling relieved. And then she suddenly appeared on the battlefield.

Had she been stupidly looking around when it was her turn?

When Lu Yin saw Xiao Tao appear in the arena, he was further convinced that while this current round appeared to be random matches, they were actually being deliberately organized to eliminate those who had reached this stage through luck. Cool Sis was one of those lucky few.

Just as Lu Yin thought of Cool Sis, she also appeared on the battlefield.

Lu Yin was left speechless.

The battlefield held Cool Sis, Xiao Tao, and Yōu Ye'er.

There were three women in this match.

Upon seeing Yōu Ye'er, Xiao Tao's face went completely white; how could she be up against this woman?

During the last round of ZENITH, Yōu Ye'er had killed Bai Ling with a blood-colored lotus, and Xiao Tao would never forget that scene. She was from the Grand Martial Realm, and Bai Ling had been that realm's Realmling. Xiao Tao's own Realmling had been killed, and the sky had fallen for Xiao Tao.

Yōu Ye'er was the person who Xiao Tao feared the most in all of ZENITH. She had not expected to run into her, and she was too afraid to do anything: her opponent was Yōu Ye'er.

Yōu Ye'er had not reverted back to her former appearance of a child. Instead, she maintained her mature look that had a noble and indifferent mien akin to a blooming black rose.

"I- I give up," Xiao Tao said in a trembling voice, afraid to even look at Yōu Ye'er.

No one was surprised at this, as they were all able to see Xiao Tao's cultivation.

Everyone looked at Cool Sis; would she also admit defeat?

Cool Sis had no intention of just giving up, and she kept a cautious eye on Yōu Ye'er.

Cool Sis was actually much more well known than Yōu Ye'er. When Yōu Ye'er had been a youth, she had not even been able to enter the Top 100 Rankings.

Who could have imagined that Yōu Ye'er had been hiding herself this entire time and that she was actually as strong as the Ten Arbiters. Her abilities had been revealed when she had killed Realmling Bai Ling.

This woman had hidden herself very well.

At the bottom of one of the staircases, Lu Yin frowned. Cool Sis was not Yōu Ye'er's match as Yōu Ye'er was no longer restricted by the need to hide the Yōu Secret Art. She had revealed her considerable power, particularly that blood-colored lotus that not even Lu Yin had been able to see through.

"You can admit defeat," Yōu Ye'er stated coldly.

Cool Sis's expression grew even colder. Her innate gift was icy crystallization. "Let's fight."

After she spoke, ice crystals covered the nearby contestants, and Yōu Ye'er's Encompassing Lockdown Array also appeared.

Lu Yin watched the two women start fighting in the arena. Both the icy crystallization innate gift and the Encompassing Lockdown Array were quite impressive. He did not know when Cool Sis had become a Hunter, but Yōu Ye'er's strength was much more terrifying.

It did not take long for Cool Sis to be trapped within the Encompassing Lockdown Array.

Even Bai Ling had been trapped by this array, so Cool Sis had not stood a chance.

Anyone with a discerning eye could see that Cool Sis was about to lose. Although she was not weak and was even qualified to challenge the Ten Arbiters after becoming a Hunter, she had not yet reached the level where she could match up to Yōu Ye'er.

Lu Yin watched Cool Sis from the bottom of a staircase. Others were ignorant, but Lu Yin knew that Cool Sis had a special battle technique that was extremely powerful. It had even made Lu Yin's heart race when he had first seen it due to him being threatened by it. This technique could raise Cool Sis's power to another level.

There was nothing that Cool Sis could do after she was trapped within the Encompassing Lockdown Array. Yōu Ye'er was just about to win when Cool Sis's eyes suddenly changed. Her pupils went white, and an indescribable sensation spread out from her as a strange image that looked like a vast field of ice appeared behind her.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed; this was it.

"Iceform Sutra." Cool Sis looked up. The terrible cold from the ice field froze the Encompassing Lockdown Array. From where she was standing, Yōu Ye'er was stunned to see that Cool Sis had managed to break through her array. Yōu Ye'er suddenly realized that Cool Sis was not weak, and Yōu Ye'er had no intention of wasting any more time. A blood-colored light shone as a blood-colored lotus appeared beneath Yōu Ye'er's feet. "Heart-killer Lotus, come to the world."

Everyone's expressions changed. They all remembered Yōu Ye'er's last fight with Bai Ling. Yōu Ye'er had clearly been at a disadvantage, but the moment the Killing Heart Lotus had appeared, Bai Ling had died to a single attack, instantly reversing the tides of battle and securing a victory. Everyone felt envious about this blood-colored lotus .

Shang Qing, Wang Yi, Bu Kong, Zhi Yi, and others were all staring at the blood-colored lotus at this moment.

God Taiyi's pupils transformed. He saw such a terrifying number of rune lines, to the point where not even he dared try to go up against this lotus. What sort of phantasmal battle technique was this?

At the bottom of a staircase, Lu Yin's expression changed the moment he saw the lotus appear. Cool Sis could not stop this.

Chapter 1293: Down The Liquor

The Heart-Killing Lotus beneath Yōu Ye'er's feet turned ethereal and suddenly shot straight for Cool Sis. As it passed, the frozen air and the Encompassing Lockdown Array both shattered.

Cool Sis watched as the Killing Heart Lotus made its appearance. She was helpless, and the image of the vast ice field that had appeared behind her collapsed.

Suddenly, a loud shout shook Zenith Mountain. "Yōu Ye'er!"

The voice startled many people, and they all looked up at the area with the ten staircases at the person who had just shouted: Lu Yin.

Yōu Ye'er was startled, and she instinctively stopped the Killing Heart Lotus before turning to look at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's face was stern as he stared at Yōu Ye'er with cold eyes. His eyes communicated a strong warning. He was telling Yōu Ye'er to not kill Cool Sis. Cool Sis was the captain of the Great Yu Empire's Fifth Squadron, which meant that she was Lu Yin's underling.

Cool Sis was drenched with sweat. The moment the Killing Heart Lotus had moved towards her, she felt as if she had seen hell. She had never been that close to death before.

Yōu Ye'er and Lu Yin stared at each other with complicated eyes. She didn't know what to think, but many thoughts ran through her mind at that moment. Finally, her Heart-killing Lotus disappeared. "You can give up."

Lu Yin let out a sigh of relief. Yōu Ye'er had given him face.

Across from Yōu Ye'er, Cool Sis felt helpless, and she said, "I give up."

Yōu Ye'er looked up at Lu Yin again, and Lu Yin's eyes had softened a great deal. "Thank you."

Yōu Ye'er did not speak as she disappeared. When she reappeared, she was at the bottom of a staircase that was not far from Lu Yin.

On the first layer, Ku Wei kept slapping his chest. His face was still rather pale. "That scared the shit out of Brother Wei!"

Ku Wei had not been the only one startled by Lu Yin's sudden shout, and even the fish had been scared.

"That's too much! Too much, too much I say! Lord Fish is furious! You nearly scared Lord Fish back to the river! You're dead, two-legged beast! I'll teach you a lesson sooner or later!"

As he shouted, the fish kept slapping his fins about, constantly smacking Xi Qi. "Stop slapping me! it hurts."

Nearby, Lightson was also very upset, and he glared at Lu Yin with narrow eyes. He had also been badly startled. His heart was still racing, as that shout had been so sudden that he had not expected it at all.

If not for the fact that Lightson could do nothing to Lu Yin, he would definitely start cursing the bastard.

Ling Gong's expression was also very bad. She had been startled so badly that her helmet had almost fallen off. She would get revenge against Lu Yin sooner or later and scare him to death in return.

On the battlefield, Bu Kong suddenly appeared.

Many of the remaining contestants' faces grew ugly, and they became nervous. This was Bu Kong, the person ranked second on the public predictions list. He was widely acknowledged as one of the most powerful people in ZENITH.

Wu Dan appeared in the arena.

Lu Yin was somewhat shaken when he saw Wu Dan appear. This genius from the Lockbreaker World had mastered a sourcebox array at a very young age. Although Qiu Shi and Bu Kong had also both mastered their own sourcebox arrays as well, Lu Yin had always felt that neither of them were really serious about lockbreaking.

Of course, this was just Lu Yin's feeling. The news that some youths had comprehended sourcebox arrays had shocked the universe when it was released. Still, Wu Dan had absolutely nothing aside from lockbreaking.

Lu Yin still remembered what Wu Dan had said in the Lockbreaker world; he had sworn to show the entire universe the truth about how Lockbreakers fought.

This was also a three-person battle, and the third participant was a Cruiser from the Sixth Mainland.

The Sixth Mainland cultivator knew that he was in the same arena as one of the Daosource Three Skies, and he immediately attacked Wu Dan without any thoughts of ZENITH at all.

Wu Dan's gaze grew sharp, and he lifted a hand before slapping out at the Sixth Mainland Cruiser.

Although the person from the Sixth Mainland was only a Cruiser, the combination of his imprint and Power Transfer Secret Technique meant that his strength could compare to Cool Sis's before she used her Iceform Sutra. In other words, he was strong enough to be in the top three of the Top 100 Rankings.

However, that Cruiser was instantly defeated by a single palm from Wu Dan. The unsuspecting Cruiser did not see anything approach him and simply collapsed to the ground. The only surprising thing was that there was no star energy left within his body.

This scene shocked many people. Wu Dan was not even a Hunter yet, so his combat strength should not be much better than a Sixth Mainland Cruiser with an imprint and Power Transfer. But while the attack that he had just used looked like a soft and weak palm, the results had been shocking.

On the battlefield, Bu Kong looked up at Wu Dan in surprise. "Interesting. That was a star energy attack."

Not many people were able to understand Bu Kong's comment, but they could tell that Wu Dan had done something through his mastery of star energy control.

Wu Dan's star energy control was also in the Worldliness realm, just like Bu Kong, Lu Yin, Xin Nü, and Qiu Shi. Still, even if they were all in the same realm of control, the way that they used that control varied from person to person.

Obviously, Wu Dan had better control of star energy than the others. At the very least, this was what Lu Yin believed; he had understood what had happened when Bu Kong had waved a hand and dispersed the star energy from Lei Nü's body.

Lu Yin knew the secret behind this, but the others did not.

When people saw that Wu Dan's palm had managed to disperse a Cruiser's star energy, they felt as if they had seen a repeat of that previous event.

The only one who was not very concerned was Liquor Hero; her control of star energy far surpassed everyone else's in ZENITH.

"You're one of the Sixth Mainland's Daosource Three Skies, and you're also an Advanced Lockbreaker," Wu Dan said solemnly.

Bu Kong stared at Wu Dan. "You are too, and you've also mastered a sourcebox array."

Wu Dan answered with some fear in his voice, "I can disperse that person's star energy, but I can't deal with someone like Lei Nü. I still can't compare to you in terms of my star energy control."

Bu Kong's brows rose up. He was aware of what he had done to Lei Nü, and it had not been through his control of star energy. "In that case, will you give up?"

Wu Dan answered in a serious tone, "I won't admit defeat. I want to see the distance between me and you and compare our star energy control. I know that I'm not as good as you, but this is how I fight."

Bu Kong frowned; compare their control of star energy? How could he possibly compare to this guy?

At the bottom of a staircase, Lu Yin smiled. He had learned from Xia Luo that Bu Kong had relied on his mastery of a sourcebox array to disperse his opponents' star energy, and that array was the only reason why Bu Kong had been able to do that to Lei Nü. Bu Kong's control of star energy was not as impressive as it appeared to be, but that false veneer had stunned Wu Dan.

When it came to their control over star energy, it was possible that Bu Kong could not compare to Wu Dan.

"I don't have time to compete with you, so either admit defeat or I'll attack and force you to give up." Bu Kong's voice was cold and threatening.

Wu Dan's expression turned ugly. "You're a Lockbreaker, and this is how Lockbreakers compete. Since you're not willing to accept the challenge, then do you not care about your identity as a Lockbreaker?"

"Bullshit!" Bu Kong disappeared for a moment, and when he reappeared, he was right in front of Wu Dan. Without any hesitation, he attacked Wu Dan's chest with the full strength of an Enlighter.

Star energy gathered in front of Wu Dan, though some of the star energy refused to move. Still, it was not enough to make up for the difference in strength, and Wu Dan spat out a mouthful of blood as he flew through the air, shouting. As his voice fell, the ground beneath Bu Kong erupted with an incomparable explosion of star energy.

Everyone was wondering when Wu Dan had set this up.

Lu Yin was surprised at this sight, as this had clearly been caused by a sourcebox array, but like everyone, he had no idea when Wu Dan had set it up. Lu Yin had never noticed a thing.

All sourcebox arrays contained extraordinary power, and this was naturally true of Wu Dan's Earth Starburst as well.

This array was not as simple as it appeared to be, and only someone facing the array like Bu Kong would understand the power of this particular sourcebox array.

Star energy had exploded. The universe was full of ambient star energy, and this Earth Starburst practically caused all of the star energy in an area to explode. Once the array was triggered, a series of explosions would detonate in one ring after another, and the total power unleashed would far exceed the initial explosion.

The power of this Earth Starburst easily surpassed a power level of 300,000.

Zenith Mountain itself shook.

In terms of ZENITH's participants, the only people who could unleash an attack with a power level of over 300,000 while still a Hunter were Lu Yin and Wu Dan.

Lu Yin relied on his physical strength to unleash such a powerful attack while Wu Dan relied on a sourcebox array that he had surreptitiously set up without anyone noticing.

On the battlefield, Bu Kong felt rather embarrassed, and his face fell. He had actually been outsmarted. This Wu Dan must have set up the sourcebox array while they were talking, as he had had no other time to set up a sourcebox array. What a bastard.

This was the first time that Bu Kong had been embarrassed during ZENITH.

However, Wu Dan had already collapsed. He could not stand up to another one of Bu Kong's attacks, and a single strike from Bu Kong had been enough to defeat Wu Dan.

Still, even though being defeated by a single attack made Wu Dan look rather weak, he had succeeded in humiliating Bu Kong.

This was how Lockbreakers fought. A single slip-up could lead to a complete loss. Using a single sourcebox array at the right time could reverse the entire situation, and it all depended on what array was used and if anyone could discover it.

Wu Dan had shown everyone how Lockbreakers fought. Although the fight had been short with only one exchange, it had been enough. He had done as he had said and shown the universe the power of Lockbreakers.

In the current universe, what Hunter possessed the strength to humiliate Bu Kong? That was precisely what Wu Dan had accomplished. Although he was rather arrogant, his strength could not be underestimated.

Lu Yin looked at Wu Dan and remembered when they had first met in the Lockbreaker World. That battle had opened Lu Yin's eyes; he certainly did not possess the ability to set up a sourcebox array without anyone noticing. It had to be acknowledged that there were several other Advanced Lockbreakers in ZENITH, but when it came to sheer lockbreaking ability, it was likely that no one measured up to Wu Dan!

This thought led Lu Yin to glance over at Liquor Hero, but unfortunately, even though she was an unparalleled genius at controlling star energy, managing to reach the Creation realm of star energy control, she was not a Lockbreaker. Actually, this was quite puzzling.

Bu Kong appeared beneath another staircase with an ugly expression on his face. He was one of the Daosource Three Skies, and he was confident that he would compete for the title of Pinnacle Youth, but he had just been humiliated by a Hunter. The worst part was that Bu Kong himself was an Advanced Lockbreaker who had also mastered a sourcebox array. Despite that, he had not noticed anything when Wu Dan had set up an array. This was extremely embarrassing.

"What are you looking at?" Bu Kong shouted fiercely as he stared at Skinny Bro some ways away.

The thin man was rather intimidated as he asked. "Do you want clothes?"

"Leave me alone!" Bu Kong shouted.

At that moment, a barrel of wine smashed over from the opposite direction, and Bu Kong reflexively grabbed it before turning to look at Liquor Hero. She waved at him. "Take a drink and refresh your body."

Bu Kong snorted coldly and threw the wine barrel away.

Liquor Hero's face fell, and she stared blankly at Bu Kong. "Little brother, do you really dare to keep this sister's wine barrel from me? This sister will remember you."

Bu Kong snorted again. Although Liquor Hero's star energy control had reached the Creation realm, Bu Kong did not care about her. Even though star energy was the foundation of cultivation, it was not the only thing that one needed. Bu Kong already had the means to deal with this woman. He moved on to Lu Yin. "I forgot to ask, but why is Zhi Yi so concerned about you?"

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed as he retorted, "I'll tell you when you grab that barrel of wine and take a drink."

"Hahaha! Little Brother, this sister likes you! Do you want a drink?" Liquor Hero laughed. At this moment, she greatly admired Lu Yin.

Bu Kong was infuriated and humiliated, so he simply stopped talking and looked at the battlefield.

Chapter 1294: Creation

At this moment, another batch of people had already appeared in the arena. One was a Cruiser from the Neoverse, another was the Void Wanderer from the Astral Beast Domain, and the last was Burial Garden's Yōu Qi.

Before, during the competition for the Astral Tower in the Mountain and Seas Zone, Yōu Qi had been one of the five predetermined to become one of the Cosmic Five. Unfortunately, he had been defeated

by Lu Yin and the Ghost Monkey. Yōu Qi was extremely strong, and there were certain, practically unbeatable, aspects to him that made him a very difficult opponent.

What had impressed Lu Yin the most about Yōu Qi was his ability to turn immaterial, much like the illusory Progenitor Chen that Shang Qing was able to summon. Also, Yōu Qi had an illusory black flame as well as his innate gift. His innate gift allowed him to emulate even the Thirteen Swords, which was an amazing ability. It would only become more terrifying in the future, and it was possible that, eventually, Yōu Qi's innate gift would allow him to emulate a massive attack that could instantly reverse the tides of battle.

The Cruiser from the Neoverse saw that his opponent was Yōu Qi, and his face instantly blanched.

Yōu Qi whistled, the sound desolate and sad. It melded into his illusory black flames, but most people could not even see him, which made the scene even more terrifying.

Despite not having his warhorse at the moment, Yōu Qi made for a fearful sight.

His spear, war flag, illusory black flames, and eerie whistle all merged together to create a frightening ambience. To most people, this looked like a living horror movie.

"I give up." The Neoverse Cruiser instantly surrendered. He knew of Burial Garden's reputation.

On the other side, while the Void Wanderer, Xu Ling, felt cautious, it was not afraid. It had survived through several difficult opponents, and it was impossible for anyone to even touch it. With this thought, Xu Ling's figure flickered and vanished into the void.

This was not an unfamiliar scene to anyone present, as the entire universe had seen this ability before.

Many people instantly groaned.

Xu Ling's fights were some of the longest in all of the one-on-one matches in ZENITH. Some people did not want to watch this battle, as it might not end for three days.

However, what happened exceeded everyone's expectations, and even Yao Xuan was stunned.

Yōu Qi stretched out a hand and instantly grabbed a hold of Xu Ling.

Xu Ling was at a loss. What happened? Where am I?

The Void Wanderer was not the only one taken aback. Everyone was similarly stunned, especially those who had lost to the creature like Yun Feifei, Mira, and others.

Many people had lost to Xu Ling throughout the course of ZENITH. It had made it to this stage by surviving through both the hundred and fifty person battle royales. Thus, in total, it had faced more than a hundred people by now.

None of these people had been able to stop Xu Ling from escaping into the void, and they had been completely helpless against the Void Wanderer.

Who would have known that Xu Ling would be directly picked up by Yōu Qi.

Yōu Qi's illusory black flames spread out to cover Xu Ling's body, and the creature was frightened out of its mind. "I give up! I give up!"

This beast was absolutely terrified of death, more so than normal.

Yōu Qi threw Xu Ling away. The creature's body quickly faded from vision as Yōu Qi appeared at the bottom of a flight of stairs.

Xu Ling collapsed to the ground, panting heavily. It looked up at Yōu Qi as though it were looking at a ghost. Just what had happened? How could Xu Ling's perfect ability be completely useless against this guy?

At the bottom of a different staircase, Lu Yin grew thoughtful, and everyone else who was familiar with Yōu Qi seemed to have thought of something.

Yōu Qi himself was able to turn immaterial, so was this ability similar to Xu Ling's? Yōu Qi had been able to grab the Void Wanderer, which seemed to indicate that their methods for avoiding physical attacks were the same.

This was not as simple as moving into the void, and Lu Yin was sure that there was more to it than the Yōu clan being an inheritor of Progenitor Chen's techniques.

Xu Ling was not a powerful fighter, and it had gotten this far in ZENITH by levying the advantages of its species' innate ability. If it had gone against someone else rather than Yōu Qi, then it might have been possible for the creature to make it even further up the mountain and into the final rounds.

Its fighting method was very strange.

Fifty people had made it to the first layer, and there were to be ten three-person battles, and ten two-person battles.

The next match would be the last of the three-way battles.

Fan Shun appeared first on the battlefield. He was from the Sixth Mainland and was the Realmking of the Progenitor of Secret Arts' Territory's Brahman Realm. Next, Bai Qian appeared. She was wearing a veil and wielding a longsword as she moved with grace and a fluid demeanor, though there was also an impression that strangers could not approach her.

Bai Qian was quite eye-catching, as some women were naturally more appealing.

Although her face was covered by a veil, half of her face was still exposed, which was enough for people to dream about.

Many people watching the livestream became excited, and they all stared at Bai Qian with fervent eyes.

On the first layer, in a certain corner, Starsibyl's eyes flashed as she looked at Bai Qian. There was a long history between the two of them. Then, Starsibyl looked over at Lu Yin, who was at the bottom of a staircase. It was impossible to know what was going through Starsibyl's mind.

Right after that, the third person of the tenth battle appeared: Jin He.

Lu Yin's face fell when he saw Jin He. This person was Lu Yin's enemy. If not for the people from Gods' Origin interfering with their chase after Jin He in the Mountain and Seas Zone, then Jin He might not have left that place alive. Of course, it was also possible that he had hidden some of his strength.

After fighting against Lu Yin, Jin He had not shown himself again in the Mountain and Seas Zone, not even when the fight had broken out atop the golden stage.

Lu Yin had been keeping a close eye on Jin He, but unfortunately, he had not climbed up the eastern face of the mountain. If he had, he would have suffered a similar fate as Little Arrow Saint.

Nearby, God Taiyi's face also fell. To Gods' Origin, Jin He, along with all the other members of one of the Cosmic Sea's major crews, were all traitors who had to be captured.

God Qingguang, God Xiaobai, and the others all gritted their teeth as well. "This traitor dares to show himself so openly."

"It'll be good if he died."

On the first layer, the corners of Jin He's mouth pulled up into a smile. His long hair fell to his shoulders, and his narrow eyes contained a playful glint as he looked at his two opponents.

Bai Qian was nothing to be concerned about, as she was just a Cruiser. Jin He had already broken through to the Enlighter realm, and even if he had not, a Cruiser did not qualify to challenge him. No, Jin He was paying the most attention to Fan Shun.

The Sixth Mainland's Realmings possessed the same level of strength as the Inniverse's Ten Arbiters. Although there had been numerous victories and losses on both sides, the War King had once killed a Realming in the Daosource Sect's ruins.

And during ZENITH, Lu Yin had killed another.

After thinking of this, the smile on Jin He's face grew larger. His look towards Fan Shun changed as though he was staring at prey.

There was a bang, and a white sword light flashed through the air as an extreme cold froze the void. Bai Qian shot forward and slashed at Fan Shun with her sword.

She and Jin He were both from the Fifth Mainland, so Fan Shun was their natural enemy.

Fan Shun quickly fell back. With his cultivation, he had no need to worry about Bai Qian, and he actually did not even need to pay much attention to any attack that she threw at him. However, Fan Shun was wary of Jin He. Those long, narrow eyes sent chills into the Realming's heart, and he instinctively used his innate gift.

A towering tree appeared and blocked Bai Qian's sword while simultaneously blocking Jin He's eyes.

At the bottom of a flight of stairs, Lu Yin felt odd; why was it a tree again? Yuhua Mavis had turned into a tree, and Lu Yin's forcefield took the form of a tree as well.

Bai Qian slashed at the tree with her sword, causing half of the tree to freeze over. The branches suddenly came alive and wrapped around her. In response, she flipped her sword around, but she was unable to cut any of the branches. Thus, she decisively retreated and surrendered.

She was nothing but a Cruiser, so how was she supposed to compete against an Enlighter realm Realmling from the Sixth Mainland?

Fan Shun had never treated her as an opponent, and his true opponent in this battle was Jin He.

The tree grew even taller as a part of it began to wrap around Jin He while the other part began to produce treants that charged forward, stomping across the battlefield.

Every single one of the treants had the combat power of an Enlighter. Fan Shun's innate gift seemed to produce them endlessly, as more than ten appeared every single second.

Countless people watching the broadcast felt their scalps go numb. There were not many Enlighters even across the entire universe.

Jin He was also taken aback, and he looked at Fan Shun with renewed interest. Branches twined above his head, all of them from the large tree.

Jin He's pupils transformed into runes, and his gaze swept across the large tree as well as the attacking treants. Then, he leaped forward and sped past more than a dozen of the treants, causing all of them to instantly collapse.

Fan Shun's pupils shrank; what had just happened?

He had not participated in the Sixth Mainland's invasion of the Fifth Mainland, and thus, he knew almost nothing about Gods' Origin, let alone the miraculous power of Truesight.

At this moment, he only knew that his innate gift had been weakened, and it had drastically weakened all at once.

On the first layer, God Taiyi frowned. Jin He's cultivation of Truesight was in no way inferior to his own, which showed how amazing Jin He's talent for Truesight was.

Jin He shot towards Fan Shun and raised his hand. A blue bead appeared out of nowhere, and Jin He hurled it straight at Fan Shun.

Fan Shun was taken aback. An item? This definitely looked like a power vessel, and Fan Shun shot back with his own attack. A cloud of blue light annihilated the void where he had just been standing, but he could not figure out what it was.

Fan Shun shouted, "You're cheating!"

Jin He sneered and replied, "I don't know what you're talking about."

Fan Shun looked over at the rest of the contestants, but to his surprise, nobody seemed shocked by what had just happened. His heart sank. Just what had this person done? Creation?

At this moment, Zhi Yi called out, "Just go with it. He didn't cheat."

Fan Shun stopped thinking about the possibility that Jin He had cheated. Before him, Jin He smiled as he created all kinds of strange weapons that rushed forward to attack Fan Shun. In response, Fan Shun kept jumping around to avoid being beaten. These weapons seemed to be power vessels, which terrified him.

He slightly regretted not joining in on the invasion of the Fifth Mainland's Human Domain, as if he had, then he would not be so clueless about this opponent.

Still, none of that mattered. Even if his opponent could create weapons or even power vessels out of nothing, he could not win against Fan Shun. After his thoughts reached this point, the Realm's eyes grew sharp, and he placed his hands on the ground. "Forest World."

As he spoke, massive treants rose up from the ground, and beneath Jin He's feet, even more treants appeared. He jumped up, but his calf was caught by the branches, and he was unable to break himself free. The branches were tough beyond imagination.

The treants appeared from all directions, and their branches covered the sky as the entire battlefield was instantly turned into a forest. At the same time, the intertwined branches covering the sky formed a huge hand that grabbed Jin He, pressing down upon him like the sky itself.

Jin He was surrounded by branches in all directions, and they had even formed a hand above his head that blocked out the sun and the sky. Everyone watching this through the livestream felt a sense of desperation.

This was the strength of the Brahman Realm's Realm.

Jin He's eyes shot wide open, and his narrow eyes suddenly radiated a bone-chilling coldness. Ripples visible to the naked eye undulated as they spread out. A portion of every branch touched by the ripples' rune lines were erased, and eventually the branches were shattered by Jin He's star energy.

He jumped up high even as the massive hand above his head pressed down.

With a bang, Jin He was slammed into the ground. This time, the endless number of branches formed a cage that stabbed deep into the ground in an attempt to trap him.

Lu Yin shook his head. This was useless. Jin He and God Taiyi were both extremely skilled in using Truesight, and they were both able to form an all-directional defensive layer around their entire body. The moment any attack met that barrier, it would be greatly weakened.

Fan Shun's branches had the tenacity and power to entangle an Enlightener with a power level of 300,000, but when they touched Jin He, their power level fell to no more than 200,000.

A power level of just 200,000 was nothing more than an annoyance to Jin He. It was almost as if he was not being attacked.

Chapter 1295: Knowing Or Not

Fan Shun did not know what Truesight was, but he could feel its effects through the branches of the treants. He suddenly realized that Jin He was still able to resist and that his branches were continuously and endlessly shattering.

The treants continuously shattered, but more of them simply rose up from the ground.

The Sixth Mainlanders were all familiar with Bu Kong's ability, Decompose, but Jin He seemed to be doing the complete opposite. They all believed that Fan Shun still held the upper hand, and only those people who were familiar with Gods' Origin and Truesight understood the difference in what Jin He was doing. Jin He was not losing. The longer the battle took, the worse Fan Shun's loss would be.

One hour, two hours, three hours.

Sweat poured down from Fan Shun's forehead. He still kept producing more treants in an attempt to trap Jin He, but all of his efforts were useless.

Jin He sat quietly beneath the ground, and all of the branches shattered the moment they tried to pass through the ripples.

Finally, after half a day, Fan Shun stopped his attacks and gasped for air. Although he had been using his innate gift, he needed to support it with star energy, and he had wasted quite a bit of star energy in his attempts.

The countless people watching the broadcast were all staring at the ground, from which Jin He suddenly flew up and into the air.

Countless people from the Fifth Mainland cheered.

In contrast, in the Upper Realm, the people from the Sixth Mainland were dead silent as they stared at Jin He like a monster. He had been attacked by the Brahman Realm's Realmling for so long. But despite that, he appeared to be perfectly fine!

Jin He raised his head to look at Fan Shun. "It's over."

After that, a sword slowly appeared in Jin He's hand, and the people of the Sixth Mainland grew sluggish as they witnessed creation.

There was a bang as sword qi swept out, only to be blocked by a massive tree. Jin He swept past the big tree and stabbed out at Fan Shun.

A huge treant appeared behind Fan Shun and wrapped itself around the Realmling. Then, it clapped its hands together in an attempt to kill Jin He. However, Jin He used Truesight to weaken the treant before stabbing his sword at Fan Shun's heart. The blade easily pierced the Realmling's body, and blood fell from the sword.

Jin He had not used any impressive swordsmanship—just Truesight, a sword, and an excellent judgment of the situation.

"I know that you're from the Progenitor of Secret Arts' Territory and that you have the Secret Technique of Resurrection. However, how many swords can you survive?" Jin He smiled as his sword slowly disappeared, only for another one to appear in his hand. He stabbed out once again.

Fan Shun's injured heart had visibly recovered, but he was quickly stabbed through by another sword. Although it was possible to evade this attack, Fan Shun did not do so. Instead, he raised a hand and grabbed Jin He's arm. The treant behind the Realmling then clapped its hands together once again.

More arms appeared on the treant. There were ten, then a hundred, then a thousand. All of the arms swung at Jin He.

Jin He shattered the wooden arms, but he could not destroy Fan Shun's arm. Fan Shun's hand then transformed into wood as his power level rose higher and higher. Thorns emerged from the void and tried to stab Jin He.

Jin He quickly fell back, but he was still a step too slow. His abdomen was pierced through by several of the sharp thorns, and a trickle of blood dripped out. Jin He was ruthless even to himself; he created a power vessel from nothing and attacked Fan Shun from close range. Blood stained the battlefield red.

This brutal fight left many people at a loss for words.

The giant tree disappeared from the battlefield as Fan Shun clutched at his heart while breathing heavily. He used the Secret Technique of Resurrection once again in order to assuage his injuries.

Meanwhile, Jin He stood back up and glanced down at his abdomen. He frowned, as he had actually been badly injured. He had underestimated the Brahman Realm's Realmling.

It was not without reason that people had said that the Sixth Mainland's Realmlings stood on par with the Ten Arbiters.

Fan Shun stared at Jin He as he slapped the ground with a hand once more, causing giant treants to reappear. Fan Shun wanted to end things here.

Jin He's eyes went wide, and he charged at Fan Shun while coldly asking, "Your heart, is it feeling alright?"

Fan Shun was caught off guard, unable to understand Jin He's question, but suddenly, his expression changed drastically, and he looked down towards his heart. His heartbeat was actually slowing down.

"What did you do?" Fan Shun shouted sharply.

The corners of Jin He's mouth curled up. "So, do you want to die?"

Fan Shun's face went pale. "What the hell did you do?"

Fan Shun was not alone in his confusion, as most of the people watching did not know what Jin He had done either. Even Liu Tianmu, who was also one of the Ten Arbiters, did not understand what had happened, and the same went for Unseen Light and Ling Gong.

Jin He was very mysterious. He had managed to become an Arbiter through his ability to use Truesight, but that was all anyone really knew about him.

Lu Yin stared at Fan Shun's heart and saw that the number of runes there were continuously decreasing. If all of the runes in his heart completely disappeared, then Fan Shun's heart would be rendered useless, resulting in his death.

What had Jin He done? Had it been related to those two swords?

As the end of ZENITH drew closer, the participants would start to reveal their hidden strength, as no one wanted to lose. This was true for Yōu Ye'er, Liquor Hero, Bu Kong, and even Jin He, who was still

fighting. No one would be able to keep their strength hidden, but even if they revealed themselves, would the others understand what was happening? That was another question entirely.

Jin He smiled and made a gesture. "Don't talk too much, and be careful about your heart, as it could burst at any moment."

Fan Shun gritted his teeth and endured the physical pain and mental anguish of dying at any moment as he stared at Jin He.

Jin He raised his hand, and another sword appeared in his hand that he swept out with. The sword qi cut through the void to arrive in front of Fan Shun.

Everyone felt their hearts lurch as they stared at Fan Shun.

This was especially true of Bu Kong, Zhi Yi, and the others from the Sixth Mainland. Fan Shun was one of their Realmings, and it would be humiliating for a Realming to lose to an Arbiter like Jin He.

As the sword qi drew closer, all Fan Shun's bangs were chopped off. He quickly jumped up, and the sword qi swept past him to tear apart the ground.

Jin He was surprised. "You still have enough strength to escape? You must really want to die."

After that, Jin He rushed forward with a raised hand, ready to attack again. This next sword was much faster than the previous ones. Jin He had estimated that Fan Shun would not be able to deal with this attack, and any attempt at evading would make his heart give out.

However, Jin He was surprised once more, as Fan Shun managed to successfully evade once again. At the same time, more giant treants appeared one after another, surrounding the two combatants as their branches covered the sky and formed massive green hands that fell down.

Jin He was surprised, and he stared at Fan Shun's heart; how could this be? Suddenly, Jin He's pupils shrank. As he stared at Fan Shun's heart, Jin He saw quite a number of rune lines. These rune lines were not what composed the heart itself. Rather, a tremendous number of rune lines had recently appeared. Just what had Fan Shun done to his own heart?

The branches of the trees covering the sky wrapped around Jin He. Fan Shun's face was pale, and the strength of his heart kept falling. Fortunately, his innate gift was that of wood, and he had used his innate gift to support his heart, though it did cause him an excruciating amount of pain. He was not sure if this would be enough to defeat Jin He, so Fan Shun quickly used the Secret Technique of Resurrection. At the same time, an image appeared behind the Realming.

Fan Shun was the Brahman Realm's Realming, so his imprint should either be the same as Shi Zhongjian's, the three-inch old man, or Little Arrow Saint's, the wild archer. However, when Fan Shun's imprint appeared, it caught many of the Fifth Mainland's cultivators off guard.

This imprint was that of an old man who looked immortal. He had a kind appearance and soft eyes, which made him look like a banished immortal.

No matter if they were youths or elders from the Fifth Mainland, everyone was shaken at this moment, and many people cursed, as this was another Empyrean Imprinter.

No one here was foolish enough to believe that Fan Shun, the Brahman Realm's Realmling, would accept an imprint from anyone inferior to an Emyrean Imprinter.

Why did the Sixth Mainland have so many top powerhouses?

There are already three in the Progenitor of Secret Arts' Territory!

That was an imprint from an Emyrean Imprinter! That was not some random cabbage that you could pick up!

In a certain area of the first layer, Zhi Yi solemnly stared at the imprint behind Fan Shun. The Sixth Mainland's Daosource Sect had three Progenitors, four Emyreans, and ten Cosmic Imprinters. This imprint was of one of the four Emyrean Imprinters: Herb Immortal.

One could not become one of the four Emyreans just by surpassing the Cosmic Imprinters, and Herb Immortal was precisely one of those four Emyreans.

When Herb Immortal's image appeared, Fan Shun's complexion improved greatly, but then he suddenly spat out a mouthful of blood as a strange air spread across the battlefield. He had just used Power Transfer. Fan Shun clearly wanted to end Jin He with one attack.

Jin He kept dodging the giant treant's attacks. When he saw that Fan Shun's strength had increased yet again, it gave Jin He quite the headache. As expected of a Realmling who was supposed to stand on par with the Ten Arbiters—this would not be an easy victory.

The ground broke apart, and a towering tree rose out of the ground to form an even more massive tree that covered the entire first layer. It was much taller than any of the ten staircases, and it was almost level with the statue at the peak of the mountain. Then, Fan Shun looked down at Jin He and pressed down with a hand.

On all three layers, as well as at the foot of the mountain, many of the contestants were stunned and felt as though they were about to be crushed to death.

Even Lu Yin and the others were shrouded by this giant. This particular tree had appeared due to Fan Shun pushing his innate gift to the limit, and at this moment, his power level surpassed Jin He. Or at the very least, Fan Shun had more rune lines for those who could see them.

Other than the increase in strength, Lu Yin had a feeling that the giant treant was more than just a powerful combat weapon.

Down on the battlefield, Jin He's eyes kept flickering. He was covered by the giant treant's shadow, and he looked like an ant facing the sky.

Fan Shun stared at Jin He. This had to be the finishing blow.

Jin He's pupils flickered wildly, and his runes themselves began to change.

God Taiyi stared at Jin He from a distance. The two of them should have reached around the same level of mastery of Truesight. What's more, if Jin He had any chance of seizing a victory in these straits, then Truesight was the only thing that he could use to flip the situation around.

Lu Yin was also staring intently at Jin He. He was very concerned about whether this enemy of his would be defeated by the giant treant or pull out a win. Lu Yin actually preferred for Jin He to win, as Lu Yin wanted to have the chance of facing Jin He in the next round.

The giant treant slapped down with a hand. Jin He's pupils that had been flickering frantically suddenly stopped. Two lines of bloody tears flowed from the corners of his eyes. He no longer dodged or fought back; he just stood there.

The giant treant's hand flew down.

Many people jumped out of their seats.

Even Lu Yin's eyes went wide, because Jin He really was not trying to evade the attack despite how powerful this attack clearly was.

At this moment, no matter who they were, everyone was confused; why was Jin He not escaping?

Fan Shun was also at a loss; why was his opponent not hiding? Did he perhaps want to die?

Only God Taiyi had an ugly expression on his face.

There were different realms of mastery of Truesight. The first was Awakening, which allowed a person to see runes. The next realm was Clarity, which allowed a person to erase a portion of an opponent's runes to weaken them. The next level was Knowing,¹ which controlled whether or not a person, thing, or place could influence the universe.

The simplest explanation for this ability would be that it ensured that one thing or place in the universe would not be affected by another. If the latter had the ability to affect the former, then the latter's ability would be weakened and possibly even completely erased.

This was fundamentally different from erasing an object's runes to weaken it overall. Instead of weakening the object by manipulating the individual runes, this new method was based entirely off of one's mastery of Truesight.

The palm of the giant treant appeared to be extremely powerful, but when it reached Jin He, it simply breezed right through him without having any effect on him at all.

Chapter 1296: Incredible Methods

Jin He simply stood there, but the palm of the giant treant was not even able to disturb the dust on the ground.

This sight confused everyone watching.

Fan Shun's expression changed, and he lost his voice. "Impossible."

Bu Kong, Zhi Yi, and the others were similarly stunned.

Wang Yi frowned, and a hint of amazement could be seen in the depths of his eyes. This technique had been created by the amazing and brilliant Rune Progenitor, and even in Wang Yi's eyes, this was a truly magical technique.

God Taiyi's face was gloomy. As expected, Jin He had used the land that he stood upon as a reference to deny the giant the ability to affect the land. The strength of the giant was thus reduced to a Limiteer, and with that strength it had no ability to affect the area it stood on. The strength of a Limiteer practically meant nothing at all to Jin He as well.

God Taiyi himself had also reached the Knowing realm of Truesight, and he was also able to use certain things as references. But he wasn't able to match Jin He's ability to reduce the Treant to a wooden stick.

However, it seemed that Jin He's mastery of Truesight had exceeded God Taiyi's own.

At the bottom of another staircase, Lu Yin's face was solemn. Jin He had clearly used the Rune Progenitor's Truesight, but what sort of method was this particular technique? It was so, so amazing as well as so, so terrifying.

No one understood what they had just seen.

Bloody tears were still leaking out of the corners of Jin He's eyes, as activating this ability had also hurt him badly, but that did not matter. A longsword slowly appeared in his hand, and then his figure flashed as the sword stabbed at Fan Shun.

Fan Shun struggled to avoid the sword, and he spat out a mouthful of blood as he fell to the ground. He had lost.

Jin He stood more than ten meters away from Fan Shun, where he wiped away the bloody tears from his face. He then smiled. "This was a very difficult fight to win."

No one dared to underestimate Jin He anymore. Even if Bu Kong were in front of Jin He, at this moment, he would have fear in his eyes as he looked at Jin He. This person's methods were very strange and unpredictable. People feared the unknown. Even if the others were confident that they could defeat Jin He, and even if they were much, much stronger than him, they still would not dare to underestimate him.

Just that last magical technique alone was enough to give Jin He a chance to turn any defeat into victory.

Jin He appeared at where the ten staircases all started, at the bottom of the last staircase. At this moment, the three-person battles had ended. The winners had moved up Zenith Mountain while the losers had stayed behind.

There were already people at each of the ten staircases, which meant that the second half of this round would have the winners appear at the bottom of the staircases as well, whereupon the pairings for the next round would be determined.

Out of everyone currently at the bottom of the stairs, everyone wanted to be matched with the thin man the most. This man had been amazingly lucky so far, but it would only get him this far, and he would not be able to proceed any further.

Seeing ten winners already standing at the stairs put a great deal of pressure on the contestants still waiting for their matches as nine of the ten winners were incredibly powerful.

Even the seemingly weak Yōu Ye'er possessed an unfathomable attack with her blood-colored lotus.

Still, regardless of how unprepared the people were, ZENITH continued on with the next match.

Lightson appeared on the battlefield along with Unseen Light.

From his vantage point beneath the stairs, Lu Yin was left speechless. Lightson and Unseen Light were opponents? What a terrible joke!

Lightson was not familiar with Unseen Light, as Lightson had always been in the Light World.

"Hey, Light Ball! That guy in front of you really looks down at you!" Ku Wei shouted, hoping to incite a bit more chaos.

Lightson was puzzled and confused. What was he trying to say?

"That guy up there with you is called Unseen Light" Xie Xiaoxian shouted.

Lightson stared blankly at Unseen Light; was that really his name? But having said that, this person's eyes were truly provocative, and Lightson did find it revolting.

Lightson's battle technique, Light Burst, was an attack that deprived his opponents of their sight, but this Unseen Light was not even looking at him. Thus, he was basically fighting with only one arm.

Lightson's expression turned ugly, especially when he realized his opponent was an Enlighter. Lightson had actually heard of the Innerverse's Ten Arbiters before, and he vaguely remembered that one had the name "Unseen Light." Had he really ended up meeting that person?

The light around him gathered into a long spear that shot forward to stab at Unseen Light.

Lightson was quite strong, and he had been confident enough to challenge Lu Yin before ZENITH started. Although Lu Yin had won, Lightson was certainly strong enough to challenge the Ten Arbiters.

Unfortunately, a challenge was just that, and there was an insurmountable gap between Lightson and Unseen Light. Even if he went up against another Arbiter, such as Lan Si, Lightson still would have had no chance of winning.

Unseen Light had already anticipated Lightson's attack.

Lightson felt aggravated beyond belief throughout the entire battle. His attacks seemed to be transparent to Unseen Light, and although Lightson wanted to deprive his opponent of his sight, there was nothing there to take! The entire match was as revolting to Lightson as swallowing a fly.

As for Unseen Light, he was perfectly calm throughout the entire fight, and soon, he appeared at the bottom of a staircase. He had been paired up against Jin He.

Many people were stunned to see that Unseen Light had been paired up against Jin He under the same staircase.

Their match had been determined.

There were two people but only one staircase. Whoever came out on top and made it up the stairs would be one of ZENITH's ten finalists.

At the bottom of the staircase, Jin He saw Unseen Light, and he was also startled to the point of helplessness. "Seven of the Ten Arbiters made it to the top twenty, and we're finally going to start infighting."

His words suddenly reminded all those listening that, yes, all the eligible members of the Innderverse's Ten Arbiters were participating in ZENITH. Serati Phoenix and War King were both too old, and Lan Si had lost to Yuhua Mavis, but all of the other Arbiters had made it to this stage.

Also, the Arbiters' sole loss had not been to some random nobody. Although it was a pity that Lan Si had lost, his opponent had been Yuhua Mavis. There was almost no one who would dare to claim to be confident of victory against her. Thus, it could only be said that Lan Si had been unlucky.

The Innderverse was already exploding in celebration. Every time one of the Ten Arbiters continued moving up Zenith Mountain, everyone in the Innderverse grew excited because the Ten Arbiters represented the Innderverse and the Outerverse.

It was a pity that the round to determine the top ten finalists of ZENITH required infighting between some of the Arbiters.

For the next battle, Wen Sansi appeared on the field, and his opponent was some Explorer.

The moment the Explorer saw Wen Sansi, he simply collapsed. An Enlighter! His opponent was an Enlighter! At their age, anyone who had managed to become an Enlighter was an absolute monster.

The cultivator simply conceded.

Everyone looked up at the staircases, wanting to see who Wen Sansi would be matched up against.

Mira, Michelle, and everyone from the Wen family prayed that Wen Sansi would appear beneath the same staircase as the thin man. Even if Wen Sansi was not paired with the thin man, it would still be fine if he was matched against Yōu Ye'er. Both of them seemed to be somewhat easier to deal with.

However, things did not work out as they hoped, as Wen Sansi appeared next to Wang Yi. Wen Sansi's opponent barring his way to the top ten of ZENITH was Wang Yi.

Many people went pale upon seeing that the Arbiter would fight against Wang Yi.

Up to this point in the competition, Wen Sansi had not faced any exceptionally strong opponents, but Wang Yi had toppled one master after another. What's more, all of his opponents had lost in mere seconds. The indescribable shock of seeing Wang Yi defeat Yao Gu was still fresh in people's memories.

ZENITH's most iconic fights had already gone viral on the network, and they were the scenes of Wang Yi killing Yao Gu practically instantaneously, Lu Yin fighting against Yuhua Mavis, and Shang Qing's battle with Star Devourer.

When people saw that Wen Sansi would be up against Wang Yi, despite their confidence in the Arbiter's barrier, they were still nervous.

Wen Sansi relaxed. Not a single one of the people fighting to enter the finals would be an easy opponent, and he had already prepared himself for all eventualities, which included facing Wang Yi or Shang Qing.

Wang Yi remained the same as ever. Even if his opponent was a top powerhouse, Wang Yi's expression had never changed. Not even when the person was someone expected to enter the top ten.

The two-person battles seemed less exciting than the three-person matches, and the next battle also ended quickly with Zhi Yi coming out victorious. Her opponent had been just a Cruiser from the Sixth Mainland, who had given up immediately. Many people cursed because they wanted to see a bloody fight, not the oppressive reputation of the Daosource Three Skies that crushed all the other Sixth Mainland cultivators' competitiveness.

When the next match started, people just stared at the screens; where were the contestants?

At this moment, only one contestant had appeared on the battlefield. His name was Ze Cu, and he stood there quietly since there was no one in front of him.

Everyone was stunned. Was there a problem with this match?

Up where the stairs started, Lu Yin stared at the arena and saw two clusters of rune lines; one belonged to Ze Cu while the other belonged to an invisible bug that was standing across the battlefield from Ze Cu.

That bug was the carrion bug, Bai Mai.

According to legend, carrion bugs were extremely rare and were born from the bodies of ancient Progenitors. They were essentially parasites, and although their background sounded absolutely disgusting, there were very few species that could parasitize Progenitors.

There was a bit of common knowledge in the Astral Beast Domain that said that the carrion bugs were not parasites, but rather descendants of parasites.

They were born from the dead Progenitors, and in the eyes of many astral beasts in the Astral Beast Domain, carrion bugs were the same as a Progenitor's offspring.

It was precisely because of this belief that, despite the very few numbers of carrion bugs, their species was still ranked second on the Celestial Beast List, second only to the Celestial Demons.

Ever since ZENITH had started, this particular carrion bug had remained quite lowkey, though it had managed to attract quite a bit of attention at times, such as when it had defeated Hua Xiao or Lilyrose. Lu Yin had also paid some attention to the bug, but he was not able to see how it attacked, as it was simply too fast.

In the Cosmic Sea, at Gaia's Swamp, a pig quickly walked through the prison while making a loud rumbling noise. It accidentally bumped into something and wailed, "What kind of blind idiot dares to hit Lord Piggy? Do you want me to replace your chains?"

This was Lord Piggy, one of the deputy wardens of Gaia's Swamp.

Lord Piggy had a red head, and he suddenly grinned and looked up, only to see a massive toe in front of him. He had bumped into the toe.

Upon seeing the toe, Lord Piggy's expression instantly changed, and his tone turned flattering and shameless. "So it was one of Lord Warden's precious toes! Little Pig was disrespectful and actually touched Lord Prison Lord's precious toe! Damn it, Piglet! Damn!"

"Shut up! It's time for our elite to fight!" the warden's loud voice roared and shook all of Gaia's Swamp.

Lord Piggy instantly shut up.

At the same time, the three thousand chains of Gaia's Swamp shook, and all of the imprisoned criminals looked up at the screen.

"Show this warden how Gaia's Swamp's elites win, hahahaha!" the warden's loud voice echoed.

Lord Piggy pulled his head back. "Master Warden, please keep your voice down. Some of the prisoners can't endure it."

"That's none of my business."

"Master Cha's father is not in good health."

"Cough, what? Damn it, you cheer for me then."

Within Gaia's Swamp, the only fun that the three thousand prisoners were allowed to have was to watch whatever the warden watched on his gadget, whether it was news, a TV series, or at the moment, ZENITH.

One set of eyes after another focused on the screen to watch the youths compete. Some were filled with cruelty or jokes, and others held a teasing light.

Among them, there was a man with long hair wrapped up in a shawl. The man's body was dirty, but he focused on the screen between filthy locks of hair. His eyes were bright. "So that little guy's there? He's grown a lot to reach this point."

The man was Shui Chuanxiao .

In the blink of an eye, he had already been imprisoned in Gaia's Swamp for ten years.

His sentence was for 10,000 years, so he would certainly die in this prison.

On Zenith Mountain, Ze Cu stared at the little bug before him with cautious eyes.

Chapter 1297: Baring Fangs

Ze Cu had been born in Gaia's Swamp, and he had seen all kinds of evil people before, as well as all kinds of torture methods. Among them was one that included bugs.

Ze Cu had his own means of dealing with bugs.

After a moment's thought, he took off the dark chain around his waist and smashed it onto the ground to create a soft sound. He then wrapped the chain around his hand and began walking towards Bai Mai.

Bai Mai was a bug that was only the size of a fingernail, and when Ze Cu approached it, the carrion bug seemed to be disturbed and released a slight trembling sound.

On one part of the first layer, Yao Xuan looked completely unconcerned, with seemingly no worries about Bai Mai at all.

If not for the fact that there were simply too few carrion bugs, then the Celestial Demons might not have been able to claim the top position on the Celestial Beast List, which would overturn the structure of the entire Astral Beast Domain.

When Ze Cu approached within ten meters away from Bai Mai, the chain around his hand suddenly started to disturb the void, completely locking it down. At the same time, Ze Cu opened his mouth and let out a roar with the sound wave taking on the shape of a strange, fierce beast that filled the sky and moved to attack Bai Mai. This was Ze Cu's innate gift; he was able to transform sound, and this ability had frightened many of the criminals locked up in Gaia's Swamp.

At this moment, in Gaia's Swamp, a large number of criminals gritted their teeth. Their cultivation far surpassed this youth from Gaia's Swamp, but they were all bound in metal chains and imprisoned within Gaia's Swamp. Thus, they did not dare to resist and had to suffer various punishments every day.

When they saw the roar transform into a vicious beast on Zenith Mountain, all the criminals had mixed feelings.

There were some prisoners who simply did not care. They were able to completely ignore certain punishments, and the vicious creature formed from sound was just an innate gift of a tiny Hunter.

However, no matter who, all people liked to see those they were familiar with appear in important places such as Zenith Mountain. Thus, the mood within the prison was full of ups and downs. The prisoners here all truly wished for Ze Cu's victory, as that would delight the warden, and perhaps that would allow them to avoid punishment for a bit of time.

The beast created from the roar looked like a descending ghost. This was Ze Cu's method of dealing with bugs. He knew that while bugs were small, some bugs were incredibly powerful. Bai Mai was right in front of Ze Cu, but he did not even consider that the carrion bug was actually obediently waiting for Ze Cu to attack.

However what happened was completely beyond Ze Cu's expectations, and many onlookers were similarly stunned as well. Bai Mai did not move at all and simply allowed the metal chain to fall upon it as the beast formed from sound also struck it. The bug did not move at all.

Ze Cu's heart fell, and the dark chains formed a net that attempted to trap Bai Mai. This was a battle technique from Gaia's Swamp. No matter how big or small they were, any and all creatures would be captured within this net. It was required for every single one of Gaia's Swamp's prison guards to master this battle technique, and when they all worked together, the technique became even more powerful.

The chain successfully captured Bai Mai, but then the bug opened its mouth and started to bite down. There was a click as the chain broke apart. Then, the crack spread throughout the entire chain, causing it to shatter.

Ze Cu's pupils instantly constricted to pinpoints; how was this possible? This chain was from Gaia's Swamp! Although it was not some rare treasure, it was still incredibly durable, and yet it had been bitten through in a single chomp.

Yao Xuan's eyes showed his ridicule. These bugs were even able to eat the body of a Progenitor; what was a mere chain compared to that?

Bai Mai twitched and then slowly flew towards Ze Cu.

Ze Cun opened his mouth and roared. Once again, the sound grew corporeal and turned into a vicious beast. It looked truly terrifying, and it frightened many people watching the broadcast.

This was one of the prison guards from Gaia's Swamp.

However, the beast of sound was useless against Bai Mai, and Bai Mai faced no difficulty at all as it passed through the beast and bit at Ze Cu.

Ze Cu's scalp went numb, and the apparently small bug suddenly grew massively in his sight. Those sharp teeth would devour his entire body and grind him to tiny pieces. No matter how he resisted, it would all be useless.

"I give up." Ze Cu was one of Gaia's Swamp's prison guards. He had a firm will and had seen numerous terrible people. Thus, he was able to step back and admit defeat.

Bai Mai landed on Ze Cu's shoulder and released a small sound.

Ze Cu did not dare to move. When the tiny bug touched him, Ze Cu felt as though death itself was touching him, and his entire body was frozen still.

Fortunately, Bai Mai vanished shortly after, and Ze Cu returned to where he had been standing before the battle.

Countless people reflexively looked up at where the staircases started, but Bai Mai was too small to be seen right away.

Soon, a wine barrel appeared on the screens across the universe. Liquor Hero appeared with a belch, and Bai Mai was seen nearby.

Bai Mai would face Liquor Hero in the round to decide the top ten.

Lu Yin stared at Bai Mai. The bug seemed like a fairly troublesome opponent.

Liquor Hero burped and looked at Bai Mai in a daze. She grinned. "Snack."¹

Many people were speechless.

Bai Mai trembled slightly, not speaking even once. It was unclear if it knew how to speak or was too disgusted to speak.

Soon, two new figures appeared on the battlefield.

Everyone's expression changed a bit when they saw who had appeared for the next match, as this would be an exciting one. It was Qiu Shi versus Shi Zhongjian.

One was the top disciple of the Fifth Mainland's Neoverse's Cosmic Sect while the other was the Realmking of the Sixth Mainland's Rock Realm.

Qiu Shi also had another title: one of the Cosmic Five.

Although the contest for the Cosmic Five had always been nothing but a show set up countless years ago to attack the Neohuman Alliance, the title of the Cosmic Five had become deeply entrenched in the hearts of many people.

Even before this match, Qiu Shi had been favored by many to end up as one of the final five of ZENITH. At one point, she had dealt with both Starsibyl and Wen Sansi without any help.

Qiu Shi, the All Rounder Fairy, was a true powerhouse of the Fifth Mainland's younger generation.

On the other hand, Shi Zhongjian was a Realmking from the Sixth Mainland, and he was second only to Daosource Three Skies, which made him someone who inspired countless people.

Lu Yin's eyes lit up. Shi Zhongjian was not unfamiliar to Lu Yin, but he was actually quite unfamiliar with Qiu Shi. Rather, it could be said that he was both familiar and unfamiliar with her. The All Rounder Fairy was simply too mysterious; no matter if it was the contest for the Cosmic Five in the Mountain and Seas Zone or the battle in the Cosmic Sea when the Sixth Mainland had invaded the Fifth Mainland, Lu Yin felt as if Qiu Shi had never put forth her full efforts. She was supposed to excel in four different areas, but no one seemed to know what all four of her strengths were.

There was no speaking, and the battle immediately began.

Shi Zhongjian's sword qi swept towards Qiu Shi, and an endless amount of sword qi fell down like raindrops from up above. He was giving his all from the very beginning of the match due to how strong of an opponent Qiu Shi was.

Shi Zhongjian and Qiu Shi were not strangers, as they had fought in the Cosmic Sea before.

Hundreds of stars revolved around Qiu Shi's body, and Shi Zhongjian's attack swept through the stars and at Qiu Shi. Right at that moment, the stars exploded, and Qiu Shi raised a hand: Cosmic Palm.

Stars appeared around her hand before exploding. Shi Zhongjian's eyes narrowed, and he shot back in retreat. However, the stars had already surrounded him, and each one erupted with a violent explosion that warped the void before tearing it completely apart. The void was continuously shredded to pieces, and black spatial cracks spread across the battlefield before spreading even further and eventually covering all of Zenith Mountain.

Shi Zhongjian wielded an enormous stone sword, and he easily endured the force of the exploding stars. But even though he was able to block the damage, the sheer force of the explosions forced him back, step by step.

Qiu Shi lightly stepped about and passed by many stars. She then raised a hand, causing the stars to congregate towards her hand before forming a sword: Celestial Sword.

Shi Zhongjian's eyes went wide open when he saw Qiu Shi counter his Heaven Splitter technique.

There was a bang as four incomparably huge spatial cracks appeared along Zenith Mountain, severing the entire sky. The clash between the Celestial Sword and Heaven Splitter was a clash between the two strongest sword attacks seen during ZENITH so far, and the power far surpassed what Jin He had accomplished with his sword.

If Jin He had possessed such powerful sword techniques, then he likely would have defeated Fan Shun much faster.

However, everyone had different talents. Although Jin He was not a skilled swordsman, he had Truesight. And while Qiu Shi and Shi Zhongjian had far superior sword skills, they did not have the magical power of Truesight.

Upon seeing Qiu Shi counterattack with a sword skill, Liu Tianmu's eye twitched from where she was watching. This was a fight that she wanted to be a part of.

Four impossibly huge spatial cracks kept spreading out, and Shi Zhongjian was forced down to the ground. His impact sent stones flying, many of which were shattered and reduced to dust.

An imprint appeared behind Shi Zhongjian, and it was that of a three-inch-tall old man. The next moment, powerful qi created a whirlwind that rose up from the ground, and it forced Qiu Shi back. Once again, her sword slashed out, and once again, the Cosmic Sect's Celestial Sword clashed against Heaven Splitter. However, this time, the impact far surpassed the previous one, as Shi Zhongjian's imprint had greatly increased his attack's power.

The Celestial Sword was truly a technique worthy of the Cosmic Sect, as it proved to be a powerful deterrent against Shi Zhongjian. Whenever cultivators at the same realm from the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands fought, the Fifth Mainlanders would always suffer from an innate sense of suppression. But in this battle, the Fifth Mainland's Qiu Shi was able to overpower the Sixth Mainland's Shi Zhongjian, and her Celestial Sword was completely crushing his Heaven Splitter, which was wonderful to see.

Unfortunately, the people from the Sixth Mainland possessed too many ways to fight.

Heaven Splitter was the technique that had allowed Shi Zhongjian to firmly secure and retain his position as a Realmking. With his imprint active, Qiu Shi was no longer able to overpower Shi Zhongjian's attacks, as her Celestial Sword was not powerful enough to do that. However, her Celestial Sword was also a part of the Cosmic Art, which was one of the best cultivation techniques in the universe.

As Qiu Shi watched Shi Zhongjian's Heaven Splitter descend, her body dashed about like a fish in the water. She swept past the sword qi, and she was soon less than a meter away from Shi Zhongjian. The Realmking's pupils shrank, as this was not good. This woman was a Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker, and she had excellent control over star energy. She was already able to see through his swordsmanship.

His sword skills relied on pure power to overwhelm the Celestial Sword, but Qiu Shi had instead seen through Shi Zhongjian's Heaven Splitter.

Shi Zhongjian tried to retreat, but his efforts were in vain. Thus, he was forced to slash his sword at Qiu Shi. Her eyes flashed upon seeing this. She turned around, put her back to the Realmking, and threw out a palm attack, but she attacked an empty region.

Countless people watching the battle were confused and could not understand her actions.

From his place at the bottom of a flight of stairs, Lu Yin's gaze grew sharp. This was the Cosmic Sect's secret technique: Star Transference.

Shi Zhongjian was momentarily at a loss. When they had last fought in the Cosmic Sea, Qiu Shi had never used a secret technique, so the youths from the Sixth Mainland had no idea that she possessed one despite deliberately investigating their peers from the Fifth Mainland before ZENITH started. Unfortunately, they had not been able to find out much.

The Neoverse was a very mysterious place to the Innerverse, Outerverse, and the Cosmic Sea. So, there was no need to even mention them knowing about something like the Cosmic Sect's secret technique.

Shi Zhongjian suddenly appeared in Qiu Shi's position, and his sword attack failed. Qiu Shi's palm should have struck an empty place, but with this sudden change, her palm was directly pressed against Shi Zhongjian's back. He trembled and spat out a mouthful of blood. His expression changed drastically, and his right foot stepped forward in an effort to stabilize himself after suffering an injury.

He whirled around and slashed at Qiu Shi with his stone sword, but a pure white hand moved to stop the hilt of the sword while it moved through the air. The palm flipped over, and Qiu Shi used her hand as a blade that attacked Shi Zhongjian. The attack rose up from below him, and there was a bang. Shi Zhongjian trembled as he flew through the air.

Shi Zhongjian leaped up to grab his stone sword, but Qiu Shi simply casually waved a hand, causing Shi Zhongjian's star energy to grow unstable. He had been affected by Qiu Shi's star energy control that was at the Worldliness realm. The Realmking failed to grab his sword, and suddenly, sword qi shot out as blood was spilled.

Shi Zhongjian's belly had been cut open, and his whole body was thrown thousands of meters into the distance, where he heavily struck the ground. He looked completely miserable.

Chapter 1298: Lu Yin And Liu Tianmu

The people watching the fight all fell silent, as most of the audience were unable to understand what had just happened.

In the distance, Bu Kong, Zhi Yi, and the others all watched Qiu Shi with solemn expressions. This woman was truly not simple, and in an instant, Shi Zhongjian had been severely injured to the point where he could not even hold his weapon any longer.

A swordsman who had lost his weapon had already been completely defeated.

Beneath one staircase, Lu Yin carefully observed Qiu Shi. Her performance in this fight had startled him. The All Rounder Fairy had finally shown some of her fangs, and the first person to suffer from it was Shi Zhongjian.

Shi Zhongjian certainly was not weak, as his Heaven Splitter technique and imprint had allowed him to overpower the Cosmic Sect's Celestial Sword. Despite that, he had still suffered a miserable defeat.

Qiu Shi was one of the Cosmic Five. If Lu Yin had not been born, then either Qiu Shi or Yuhua Mavis would have been the Human Domain's second gatekeeper. Qiu Shi was certainly strong enough to become one of ZENITH's top ten, even if the public lists had ranked her ninth.

There was a soft bang as Shi Zhongjian smashed into the ground.

Qiu Shi calmly looked at Shi Zhongjian. Her expression did not change in the slightest, and it seemed as though the battle had not even affected her at all.

Some ways away, Shi Zhongjian stood up; his belly was still bleeding nonstop. He immediately used the Secret Technique of Resurrection, which brought his injury under control. He then lifted his head to look at Qiu Shi. His eyes betrayed his reluctance, but he did not attack again. There was no need, as the difference in their strength had been made all too clear.

He had not expected this woman to have hidden her power so deeply.

When ZENITH first began, Qiu Shi had not revealed such strength.

After crushing Shi Zhongjian with overwhelming strength, Qiu Shi soon appeared at the bottom of another staircase.

All of the other finalists had been watching Qiu Shi with fear-filled eyes, but the moment her opponent was revealed, those eyes were filled with sympathy or schadenfreude as she had been paired up with Shang Qing.

No one had expected Qiu Shi to be matched up against Shang Qing.

Lu Yin was similarly stunned; was this okay?

Even an idiot could tell that these two were more than qualified to end up within ZENITH's top ten, and this was a competition being hosted by the Human Domain's Hall of Honor. So, why had Qiu Shi encountered Shang Qing before the final rounds? Were they deliberately trying to keep her out of the top ten? Had the Cosmic Sect offended the Hall of Honor somehow?

Anyone with a brain could see that there was a problem. There were only two possibilities for why Qiu Shi had ended up being paired with Shang Qing. The first was that her Cosmic Sect had offended the Hall of Honor and been abandoned. The second was that ZENITH was truly a fair competition to determine the top ten. It was also possible that there was still a chance for those who lost their battles.

Lu Yin knew that the Sixth Mainland had three Progenitors that had pressured the Hall of Honor into giving the Sixth Mainland the entire Outerverse. Additionally, there were clearly major benefits that would be given to the top ten and the powers behind them, and there would naturally be people from each mainland who would be sacrificed. However, Qiu Shi should not be one of those sacrificial pawns. The Cosmic Sect was an absolute behemoth.

Instead, Lu Yin believed that it was not that simple to decide the top ten as what people expected.

Lu Yin grew more serious the more he stared at Qiu Shi. He saw that her expression remained calm, and it was even possible that she had known that this would happen long before.

Inexplicably, Lu Yin became terribly upset; ZENITH was not actually a fair competition. Everyone who had reached a high stage in the contest through luck had been eliminated during the current round, and it was clear that someone was controlling the situation from behind the curtain. The fact that they had paired Qiu Shi up with Shang Qing looked more like the actions of a thief with a guilty conscience and something done to make the universe see ZENITH as a fair competition.

What had been true of the competition for the Astral Tower in the Mountain and Seas Zone was actually also true of ZENITH. Everything had been set up beforehand, and Lu Yin had actually been deliberately paired with Yuhua Mavis. Perhaps the people behind the scenes had expected Lu Yin to lose.

Lu Yin suddenly froze. This time, he would not repeat what he had done during the final stage of the competition in the Mountain and Seas Zone. He lifted his head to look up at the statue. Most likely, the Hall of Honor and the Sixth Mainland's three Progenitors saw the statue as already having the face of Shang Qing or one of the Daosource Three Skies, as those options would be the best for the two powers.

Lu Yin's face grew cold. How interesting would it be to force out a result that these powers were not expecting? He could only imagine the expressions on those powerhouses if such a thing occurred.

Not only had Qiu Shi and Shi Zhongjian participated in a contest between the top youths of the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands, but they had also participated in a contest of swordsmanship.

When it came to swordsmanship, whether it was the Fifth Mainland or the Sixth Mainland, there was one power that could not be ignored: the Sword Sect.

Liu Tianmu's figure appeared in the arena.

Upon seeing Liu Tianmu appear, even Shang Qing's face became more somber.

In the Mountain and Seas Zone, Liu Tianmu had been the only person who had managed to injure Shang Qing. There was no way to counter her Thirteenth Sword, and the Sword Sect's Thirteen Swords had a well-deserved reputation for being an utterly peerless sword technique.

Liu Tianmu's opponent was a Cruiser from the Sixth Mainland.

Many people felt regretful upon seeing Liu Tianmu's opponent; the battle was already known, and there was no need to fight.

Shang Qing looked aside, as this match was just a waste of time.

Anyone who knew Liu Tianmu knew that this battle was a waste of time, but the Sixth Mainland cultivator grew excited. He had purposefully broken through to the Cruiser realm because of ZENITH, and although he could not compare to the heirs of an imprinter's family, he was still quite powerful. Between his strength and some good luck, he had made it this far into ZENITH.

However, he had just been paired with someone actually famous. The Cruiser did not expect to win. After all, Liu Tianmu was expected to enter the top ten. However, he did intend to hold out for as long

as possible in order to become famous himself, and he felt that it would be best to present an attitude of welcoming death while fighting for his Sixth Mainland. Perhaps he would be seen positively and be accepted as a Progenitor's disciple.

The more the Cruiser thought about this, the more excited he became as he looked at Liu Tianmu. He then lifted a hand. There was a smile on his face, though he did his best to appear humble and amiable. If Liu Tianmu fell in love with him at first sight, then things would be even better!

"Next-" He just barely started to speak when there was a flash of sword qi, and he collapsed in the middle of speaking. Liu Tianmu had never even looked at the Cruiser.

Many of the people from the Sixth Mainland who were watching ZENITH had ugly expressions. This was just too embarrassing. Why did he have to utter so much rubbish? If he had acted immediately, then he could have at least unleashed some attacks. This is just too shameful.

Liu Tianmu disappeared from the battlefield and reappeared at the bottom of a staircase.

Countless people were stunned for a moment, but then they burst into cheers. Whether they were from the Sixth Mainland, the Fifth Mainland, the Astral Beast Domain, or the Technocracy, everyone began cheering. This was because Liu Tianmu's opponent was Lu Yin.

Ever since ZENITH had started, Lu Yin had been one of the most active and visible contestants. He had defeated many powerful opponents, and his fights were usually the most fun to watch.

He was soon going to be Liu Tianmu's opponent, which was even more exciting.

In the Inverse's Sword Sect, many of the disciples grew excited. "Elder Sister, beat him!"

"Beat him! That bastard dares to go against our Inverse! Use the Thirteen Swords to cut him down!"

"Senior Sister is invincible!"

"Senior Sister, I love you!"

...

In the Outerverse, countless people from the Great Eastern Alliance were also excited. "Alliance Leader is invincible! Overcome the Thirteen Swords!"

"Destroy the legend of the Thirteen Swords! Alliance Leader is the strongest!"

"Alliance Leader, I love you!"

...

Lu Yin and Liu Tianmu. They were both members of the Ten Arbiters, as well as some of the most famous youths in the entire Fifth Mainland, and they were about to go head-to-head.

At the top of Zenith Mountain, beneath a staircase, Lu Yin gave Liu Tianmu a strange look. "I didn't expect to face you in the next round."

Liu Tianmu appeared calm as she looked back at Lu Yin. "I've been looking forward to this for a long time."

Lu Yin nodded. "I've admired Thirteen Swords for a long time as well."

Below, Liu Shaoqiu's eyes betrayed his complicated emotions. Lu Yin had originally been Liu Shaoqiu's rival. He still remembered the Astral Combat Tournament from when they had both been in the Astral Combat Academy. There, he had spread the fame of the Thirteen Swords, only to ultimately be defeated by Lu Yin. Now, Lu Yin was about to fight against Liu Shaoqiu's senior sister. Could Lu Yin stand up to the invincible Thirteen Swords? There was no way to counter or defend against the Thirteenth Sword. Their battle would be wonderful.

At this point, there were only four matches left in the round.

Other than a trembling Cruiser, the other contestants were all Hunters or Enlighters, and one of them was even one of the Daosource Three Skies.

Many people looked at the first layer and felt sympathy for the lone Cruiser.

However, that person was also quite impressive since he had managed to stay in ZENITH for so long.

Countless people stared at the battlefield through the livestream, and soon, another figure appeared.

It was Yao Xuan, the crown prince of the Celestial Beast Empire. He belonged to one of the most powerful legendary species in the Astral Beast Domain, and he had also been one of ZENITH's gatekeepers.

Everyone grew excited when they saw that Yao Xuan would be in the next match. Every human, from both the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands, were very curious about the Celestial Demons, as there were many legends surrounding this race.

They were born at the Hunter realm, and they ate spiritual force. It was also rumored that the spiritual force that a Celestial Demon devoured could never be recovered. The race was extremely powerful and very mysterious.

The Hall of Honor was the supreme ruler of the Fifth Mainland's Human Domain, and the Celestial Demons were the masters of the Fifth Mainland's Astral Beast Domain. Basically, Yao Xuan held the same status in the Astral Beast Domain as Shang Qing in the Human Domain.

Yao Xuan was handsome, and there was always a smile on his face. He looked no different from a human, and he had attracted quite a few female fans who had been cheering for him during the tournament even though these new fans were human.

If it was a matter of looks, then Yao Xuan was undoubtedly the most beautiful man in all of ZENITH.

His opponent was Xin Nü.

Upon seeing that Xin Nü would be facing off against Yao Xuan, Lu Yin's expression grew much more somber. She most likely would not get away with just light wounds in this battle.

Xin Nü still appeared completely indifferent to everything. Besides Lu Yin, she held the same indifferent attitude towards everyone.

Yao Xuan's eyes lit up when he looked at Xin Nü. Then, he turned to look at Lu Yin with a smile.

Lu Yin's expression sharpened. When he had been acting as a gatekeeper, he had taken action against Shang Qing once to allow Xin Nü through the final checkpoint. Although the others did not know, Yao Xuan was fully aware that Lu Yin was the one who had taken action at that moment, and it was also why he had looked over at Lu Yin after seeing Xin Nü in the arena.

Celestial Demons fed on spiritual force, and not even the Daynight clan could compare to the beasts in terms of control over spiritual force. Xin Nü was in danger.

Xin Nü was also aware that she was in danger. She had faced many opponents before and was very conscientious. Although the Rock Realm's Realmling was actually Shi Zhongjian, she was no weaker than him and had fought countless battles before.

Facing Yao Xuan, Xin Nu felt a creepy sensation that left her certain that she was not this person's match.

"That person was able to save you once, so let's see if he can save you a second time," Yao Xuan said. He elegantly gestured with a sign of invitation as he said, "You can make the first move."

Xin Nü did not reply politely, and she lifted a foot to cross the void. She immediately appeared in front of Yao Xuan and struck out with an attack.

Yao Xuan stood still, and Xin Nü's palm pierced his body. Her face showed surprise, but there was still a smile on Yao Xuan's face.

Beneath one of the staircases, Shang Qing's face grew solemn. "The body of the Celestial Demons is composed of spiritual force, and they can choose to manifest this body into a physical being according to their will."

Lu Yin was caught off guard; there were actually such creatures?

In ZENITH, both Yōu Qi and Xu Ling had possessed bodies that could simply ignore an enemy's attacks, but those two did so by traveling through the void and still had an actual, physical body. That was why Yōu Qi could grab Xu Ling and instantly defeat the beast.

However, there was no other participant like Yao Xuan, as there was no other participant that lacked a physical form.

Chapter 1299: Celestial Demon's Howl

"If there's no real body, then what are we looking at?" Zhi Yi could not help but ask. She knew almost nothing about the Astral Beast Domain. The Sixth Mainland was also home to many powerful astral beasts, but none of them could compare to the Celestial Demons in terms of power. The truth was that none of them came even close to that species, and all of the beasts had already been subdued.

Shang Qing casually replied, "Materialized spiritual force."

Zhi Yi was stunned; could spirit force actually be materialized? This level of spiritual force was completely incomprehensible for her current level. It was said that powerful imprinters were capable of

doing such things, and this knowledge caused Zhi Yi to stare at Yao Xuan in shock. The innate abilities of this creature were too enviable. It would be amazing to have such an ability.

Given Yao Xuan's amount of spiritual force and the fact that his body was made of materialized spiritual force, all of Xin Nü's attacks were completely useless against him. That was, unless she used spiritual force to attack him directly.

However, her spiritual force was not strong enough for that.

It could be said that with Yao Xuan as her opponent, Xin Nü had no chance of victory. Even if she was an Advanced Lockbreaker, not even her Worldliness realm of star energy control could help her, as Yao Xuan did not even use star energy.

Xin Nü's continuous attacks were useless, so finally, she used a secret technique: Reversal Cycle.

Yao Xuan instantly dodged aside, and Xin Nü's eyes narrowed. This could work. A secret technique was something created by a Progenitor, and if even that was useless, then it could only be said that the Celestial Demons were too powerful.

After thinking this far, Xin Nü decided to change tactics and wait for an opportunity to launch a sneak attack with her secret technique.

Suddenly, Yao Xuan flew into the air, and his entire body took the shape of a huge phantom celestial monster composed of spiritual force, and manifested into a physical form which covered the entire battlefield, and a sharp, howling noise shot towards Xin Nü.

The sound was not loud, but it was very sharp. However, most people were not focused on the sound, but rather on its effects. The piercing howl swept through all of Zenith Mountain, causing many people to twitch before instantly fainted. It was as though they had seen a massive celestial monster crush them to death; their world had gone black, and everything in their vision had gone dark. This celestial monster was the overlord.

No matter if it was the people at the bottom of Zenith Mountain, on the three layers, or up at the bottom of the stairs, even Shang Qing was affected by the sound and spiritual force. Jin He's body shook, and even Liu Tianmu trembled.

All of Zenith Mountain seemed to be in the hand of a massive demon, and everything on the mountain was ravaged.

The monster and its darkness became the master of the moment.

The starry sky was twisted around by the howl, and many spacecraft instantly exploded.

Up to this moment, Yao Xuan had not done anything very impressive during ZENITH, but with this one move, everyone was horrified, and they all recognized the terror of the Celestial Demons.

In the arena, Xin Nü's face went pale. She crouched down to the ground, almost fainting. She was the closest person to Yao Xuan, and the howl had nearly overwhelmed her nerves. She was suffering from shock and was trembling, but this was not fear. It was simply her body's instinctive reaction.

The howl only lasted for a moment, and the very next instant, Yao Xuan appeared up in the sky with his normal appearance. There was a smile on his face, and he looked quite graceful with the visage that had enchanted countless women.

He then landed on the ground and looked at Xin Nü, who was half squatting on the ground. She was clearly struggling to not completely collapse. He then turned to look up at Lu Yin, and after a glance, Yao Xuan raised his hand and directed it at Xin Nü as a cold flicker flashed across his eyes.

Up by the staircases, Lu Yin's eyes snapped wide open, and his body turned slightly. "Night Advent."

Down on the battlefield, Yao Xuan's eyes lit up as everything around him went black. Lu Yin's Night Advent fell and disappeared in an instant.

Lu Yin's expression changed; his spiritual force had been devoured by Yao Xuan, and the spiritual force that a Celestial Demon ate could never be recovered unless he recultivated it again. In other words, Lu Yin would not be able to recover the spiritual force that he had just expended. If his previous spiritual force had been at ten, then he was now down to seven. His only option was to recultivate that lost spiritual force, as natural recovery was impossible.

He had suffered a terrible loss.

This instantaneous confrontation between the two was noticed by many people. Although ZENITH had separated everyone, there were still ways for the participants to influence other matches.

This was ZENITH, and it was impossible to know if one would live or die. The entire goal was to determine the top ten, and if someone was influenced by outside forces during their battle, then it was counted as a loss with the loser simply not being qualified to enter the top ten.

Lu Yin was able to attack Yao Xuan, but Yao Xuan had also just attacked every single person in ZENITH.

In the arena, Yao Xuan lowered his hands after forcing Lu Yin to eat a loss. Yao Xuan had already tested Lu Yin's spiritual force, and although it was strong enough that Lu Yin even possessed techniques that allowed him to affect Shang Qing, it was nothing much to Yao Xuan. He had presented a threat, and it had allowed him to devour a portion of Lu Yin's spiritual force, which was delicious!

"I give up," Xin Nü directly said. She had also noticed the back and forth between Lu Yin and Yao Xuan, and she stared at Yao Xuan with cold eyes.

Yao Xuan looked at her and spoke with a smile, "What's your relationship with him?"

Xin Nü did not answer. Lu Yin had suffered a loss for her sake, and she would find a way to get revenge for this on her own.

The combatants disappeared, and Xin Nü returned to where she had been on the first layer. Yao Xuan also disappeared, and everyone looked up at the stairs to see who he would be paired with.

Once Yao Xuan appeared, many people heaved sighs of relief, though there were also some people with ugly expressions. Most of those people were from the Inverse's Yōu family and the Seven Courts' Yōu clan.

Yao Xuan's opponent was naturally Yōu Ye'er.

Yōu Ye'er had not expected Yao Xuan to be matched with her. Against this Celestial Demon, she had no idea how to fight, even with her Killing Heart Lotus.

Yao Xuan looked at Yōu Ye'er and smiled.

Yōu Ye'er's eyes narrowed, and she looked up at the statue. She would not easily give up, as she had to enter the top ten. Otherwise, she would have revealed everything without gaining any benefits.

For the next match, Ling Gong and God Taiyi appeared on the battlefield at the same time.

Upon seeing the next two contestants, everyone was shocked yet again; this was going to be another good show.

This battle would be between one of the Neoverse's top youths and the Inneverse's Ten Arbiters. This sort of match was the most appealing to watch.

The Inneverse had always been unhappy about being suppressed by the Neoverse, but the Neoverse could not be compared to the Inneverse.

However, in a previous battle, Yuhua Mavis had lost to Lu Yin, and Lightson had lost to Unseen Light. Both Lu Yin and Unseen Light were Arbiters. Thus, many people from the Neoverse held their breath; if one more of the Ten Arbiters managed to win over their peer from the Neoverse, then how would the Neoverse be able to retain their superiority over the Inneverse in the future?

God Taiyi was the top inheritor of Gods' Origin. He referred to himself as a god, and this arrogance would not allow him to suffer any defeat.

"Go on, Gods' Origins! Beat the Ten Arbiters!" many people in the Neoverse shouted at their screens.

"Although they're lunatics, they still belong to our Neoverse. He should be able to deal with some barbarian from the Inneverse in seconds."

"How does your head work? Don't you feel like that Arbiter from the Inneverse is more like a god? Look, that one is dressed in white."

"Gigilo."

"Crazy guy, kill that gigolo."

...

On the second layer, Ling Que shouted up the mountain, "Kill that madman! If you lose, you can't go home! Not if you can't even beat a madman!"

His voice was so loud that Ling Gong seemed to hear him all the way up on the battlefield as she turned around to glare at her brother.

Ling Que's neck immediately shrank back.

God Taiyi used almost exactly the same fighting method as Jin He, and various weapons immediately appeared that attacked Ling Gong. She responded by taking out a long spear to open up a path forward,

trying to close the distance between her and God Taiyi. However, he had simply created too many weapons, and each one contained an impressive strength. Ling Gong could not get close, and her spear could not exert its full power either.

Before long, a bell tolled as the Skycastle descended.

When the people watching the broadcast saw Ling Gong's innate gift, many of them collapsed; this place was truly fit for a god to live!

In the Neoverse, many people from Gods' Origin were dumbfounded. They had always referred to themselves as gods, but at this moment, that Skycastle looked more godly—it was a floating palace!

"She's rather professional," a Gods' Origin cultivator muttered to himself.

The Skycastle was not just visually impressive, as it also possessed an amazing power; it was able to suppress everything. All of the various weapons that God Taiyi had created were easily suppressed by Ling Gong's Skycastle. Ling Gong stood valiantly above her Skycastle, her spear aimed below her. She then thrust the spear forward, attacking God Taiyi.

His eyes narrowed. He had seen this innate gift more than once before. In the battle in the Mountain and Seas Zone, this Skycastle had been cut in half by Xia Jiuyou. It was not that there was no way to deal with this Skycastle, but rather that God Taiyi was not strong enough to do so directly. He targeted the Skycastle's runes and began to weaken it.

The Skycastle's runes were reduced, but not Ling Gong's. Her spear fell down, piercing through the void and tearing space itself apart as it traveled towards God Taiyi.

Ripples appeared in front of God Taiyi's body, looking exactly like the technique that Jin He had used earlier. This technique relied on Truesight, but it was something that Lu Yin was incapable of using.

The spear struck the ripples, and its number of rune lines dropped sharply. God Taiyi grabbed the tip of the spear with one hand, but he did not break the spear. Instead, he pulled Ling Gong closer, along with her spear.

This ability had allowed Jin He to isolate his opponent's attack, but God Taiyi wanted to use this moment to decide the battle. If Ling Gong was pulled into the ripples, then her strength would drop precipitously.

There was bang as the Skycastle's bell rang, and numerous phantoms appeared within the structure. They looked like celestial generals and soldiers that were preparing to kill God Taiyi.

God Taiyi's pupils shrank; was this allowed? What the hell was happening?

Helpless, he released Ling Gong and quickly pulled back to avoid being touched by her Skycastle, but Ling Gong did not give up. She simply rushed into the ripples.

God Taiyi was surprised, but then he became overjoyed. As long as the White Knight touched the ripples, God Taiyi's victory was assured.

When he saw Ling Gong actually touch the ripples and her number of rune lines drop significantly, God Taiyi grabbed her spear, allowing the tip of Ling Gong's spear to stab into his palm. Suddenly and inexplicably, strange circles appeared all around them. This was something that God Taiyi created. All of

the circles were interconnected, and Ling Gong was instantly trapped within them, and even the trajectory of her spear was altered.

God Taiyi sneered. "It's over."

As he spoke, the rings glowed and released one thunderous bombardment after another.

The tremendous noise spread past Zenith Mountain and spread out into space.

In the end, the sky was torn apart, and a black hole was formed. The power level of this attack easily exceeded 350,000.

After Ling Gong's strength was weakened by God Taiyi, it was impossible for her to stop this attack. God Taiyi would win.

However, a sudden and severe pain in his abdomen left him in disbelief. He whirled around, only to see another Ling Gong standing behind him.

The Lingling clan was one of the strongest families in the Inniverse. In addition to them each having an innate gift that allowed them to absorb the innate gifts of others and then combine those innate gifts into one, they also possessed a miraculous battle technique: the Soulsplitting Technique.

One became two, and two became three. With the Soulsplitting Technique, one could multiply their power level by three by splitting into three identical people who could fight.

Ling Gong had never used this technique in the Mountain and Seas Zone, so God Taiyi had no idea that this terrifying technique even existed.

Chapter 1300: Unable to Divine

At the bottom of a flight of stairs, Lu Yin sighed. Both God Taiyi and Ling Gong were his friends, but unfortunately, one of them had to be eliminated here.

If he was being realistic, Lu Yin was more confident in God Taiyi's chances of victory. The power that Jin He had revealed earlier had even made Lu Yin feel slightly apprehensive. He was still unable to understand how Jin He had countered Fan Shun's strongest attack, but it was possible that God Taiyi could do the same. Sadly, God Taiyi had underestimated Ling Gong. The Ten Arbiters' White Knight was not someone who would be taken down so easily.

God Taiyi clenched the spear, and fresh blood flowed down the length of the weapon. A saber appeared in his hand, and he made a clean slash. At the same time, two bloody tears streamed down from the corner of his eyes, leaving scarlet lines behind.

Ling Gong glared at him coldly. She had seen this person talking with Lu Yin outside of Zenith Mountain, and she had originally intended to not kill him because of his relationship with Lu Yin. However, at this moment, she was not able to stick to that plan. As her thoughts reached this point, her spear spun around before pulling back and stabbing in a different direction. The weapon moved flawlessly, and the spear was aimed at God Taiyi's chest. If it successfully landed, then even if he did not die from the wound, he would still suffer severe injuries.

Ling Gong held back in her attack, still giving God Taiyi a way out: if he retracted his saber, then he would have time to avoid her spear.

However, God Taiyi did not do that. Instead, he showed a creepy smile.

Ling Gong's heart sank as she suddenly remembered the fight between Jin He and Fan Shun; things actually were not looking good for her.

The spear struck God Taiyi, but it instantly shattered whereas God Taiyi's saber struck true and slashed across both of Ling Gong's shoulders, leaving behind a large wound that gushed out blood.

This sudden turn of events left everyone confused.

At the bottom of the stairs, Jin He's eyes lit up; that was the Knowing stage. As expected, that rascal had reached that stage as well.

Lu Yin shot a look towards them. Just as he had thought, God Taiyi had used the exact same technique as when Jin He had countered Fan Shun's strongest attack. Ling Gong's spear had completely shattered, and this could have only been done by the power of an advanced stage of Truesight.

Truesight was a miraculous technique. Lu Yin made a mental note to pay Gods' Origin a visit in the future so that he could cultivate Truesight further as well.

God Taiyi lost his footing and fell a couple of steps back. Blood gushed from the wound on his abdomen without letting up, and he locked his eyes onto Ling Gong, who was standing before him. She had suffered more serious injuries than him. Although he knew that she was Lu Yin's friend, God Taiyi had no other option at this time; he could not give up on ZENITH. Still, he had held back during his last attack. Otherwise, his blade would have slit Ling Gong's throat, killing her without a doubt.

God Taiyi almost never laid his hands on women, but sadly, this was ZENITH.

Countless people across the Innerverses tensed up, but on the other hand, the people of the Neoverse broke out in cheers, especially in Gods' Origin. "You all saw that, right? That's the power of a god! All of your attacks are futile."

"This is the power of the Knowing realm! There's no way God Taiyi would ever be weaker than that traitor."

"I'm looking forward to watching God Taiyi eradicate that traitor."

...

In the Innerverses, the Lingling clan had gone silent. The members of the clan watching the battle were not worried in the least. With the Lingling clan's Soulsplitting Technique, a person was able to split themselves into three.

On the first layer of Zenith Mountain, Ling Gong's severely damaged body disappeared.

God Taiyi's expression instantly changed. This did not bode well for him. The members of the Lingling clan were able to use the Soulsplitting Technique to split themselves into three copies, and that meant

trouble for him. God Taiyi whirled around to look at the Skycastle; it had not vanished. At the same time, Ling Gong slowly emerged and hefted her spear.

God Taiyi was frustrated. He had already been badly injured, and he stood no chance of victory in a situation where Ling Gong was completely unharmed. Although the Knowing Realm of Truesight was formidable, the price to use it even once was far too much. His eyesight was already beginning to blur, and Jin He should be suffering from the same symptoms at this time. Ling Gong would surely prepare some defensive measures before facing God Taiyi once again.

Bells rang and echoed throughout the massive Skycastle. Ling Gong held her spear in one hand as she faced God Taiyi head on.

With no other choice, God Taiyi said, "I admit defeat."

The words tore at his heart. His journey in ZENITH had come to an end.

Appalled by the outcome, the viewers from the Neoverse all screamed their lungs out.

This was especially true in Gods' Origin. The people there had been so excited just a moment ago, and the sudden change in the battle situation was so drastic that everyone was left speechless.

In contrast, the Innerverse became wildly excited; their Ten Arbiters had already secured six of the top twenty places in ZENITH. That meant that more than half of the Arbiters had placed highly. What did that mean? It meant that, even if the famously invincible Ten Arbiters had stepped onto the greatest stage in the entire universe, they were still invincible!

Everyone watched the screens and focused on the bottom of the stairs, eager to discover just who would be Ling Gong's opponent to enter the top ten.

Ling Gong vanished and quickly reappeared. What greeted her was a pair of piercingly cold eyes that belonged to none other than Xia Jiuyou.

Her opponent to enter the top ten was Xia Jiuyou.

Throughout the Innerverse, many peoples' hearts fell. Who could have guessed that Ling Gong would face Xia Jiuyou?

These people were unaware of the Nine Clones Secret Technique, but they did know that Xia Jiuyou had been predicted to end up in fifth place whereas Ling Gong was not even expected to enter the top ten. To most people, this showed that Ling Gong was absolutely no match for Xia Jiuyou.

Lu Yin's heart also fell when he saw that Ling Gong's opponent was Xia Jiuyou. Even though Lu Yin had managed to suppress Xia Jiuyou before the start of ZENITH, that did not actually mean anything. No one knew just how powerful the Nine Clones Secret Technique actually was, and Lu Yin refused to believe that the technique merely allowed a person to quickly raise their cultivation just by assimilating the clones. If that were all that it did, Progenitor Chen would not have been invincible during his time.

Xia Jiuyou was one of ZENITH's most enigmatic participants, and Lu Yin had always felt this way about the other youth.

Still, things were not too bad. If Lu Yin wanted to better understand the Nine Clones Technique, then there was another person whom he could observe: Starsibyl.

At that same moment, Starsibyl happened to appear on the battlefield. Her opponent was Wu Taibai.

In the current universe, only two people had managed to comprehend the Nine Clones Technique: Xia Jiuyou and Starsibyl.

Xia Jiuyou was a descendant of Progenitor Chen, so everyone was able to accept him comprehending Progenitor Chen's secret technique. However, no one could understand just how Starsibyl had managed to learn the technique as well.

However, that did not matter at this moment. Her opponent was Wu Taibai, one of the Sixth Mainland's Daosource Three Skies. If she wanted to secure a victory, then she would definitely have to bring her true strength to bear.

Starsibyl was widely renowned not only in the Innerverse, but also in the Neoverse and the Sixth Mainland. Everyone was curious as to what Starsibyl would reveal at this time.

On the battlefield, Wu Taibai behaved in a refined and well-mannered manner, similar to when he had first met Lu Yin. He looked like a graceful noble heir.

Across from him, Starsibyl stared at Wu Taibai, her eyes flashing.

The corners of Wu Taibai's lips curled into a small smile. "Did you manage to divine something?"

Starsibyl's brows furrowed, and she looked at Wu Taibai with a growing confusion that quickly became pure bewilderment. What was going on? Why wasn't she able to divine anything about this person at all?

That could not be right; how could that be? She was sure that she had been able to do so before.

Of the Daosource Three Skies, Bu Kong and Zhi Yi were the most famous, but as another member of the Daosource Three Skies, Wu Taibai had not exactly been overlooked by everyone else either.

Starsibyl had conducted a divination a long time ago, even before ZENITH, and she had been able to divine matters concerning Wu Taibai at that time. From what she could sense, he was very strong, but he still lagged the slightest bit behind Bu Kong. Thus, she had not paid much attention to Wu Taibai.

However, now that she was facing him directly, she was not able to divine anything, nothing at all. It was as if she was facing Lu Yin or Wang Yi.

What in the world was going on?

Wu Taibai casually unfolded a fan. "You're attempting to gain a clear divination, right? From what I've heard, the Fifth Mainland's Starsibyl Sect possesses a divination ability that is capable of predicting an enemy's key decisions. That, with their battle technique, Calculations of the Abacus, allows one to completely predict their enemy's next move. I'm really looking forward to seeing it, and I'm excited to witness your divinations."

Many people were focused on their screens at this moment, and many of them were watching for Starsibyl. They were all looking forward to her performance. The art of divination was something that common people did not believe in, but the fact that the Starsibyl Sect had retained a prominent influence on the universe for an incredibly long time showed that the sect was not made up of charlatans.

One of Starsibyl's most famous divinations was when she had determined that the Sea King had stolen all of the pyrolyte, which Wen Sansi had requested her to look into.

Starsibyl's battles had been constantly studied, but people could not unravel precisely how she conducted her divinations.

Unseen Light was also able to predict his opponents' moves, but that was something that he accomplished by observing his opponents' habits, breathing pattern, battle techniques, and other details. Everything was calculated on the battlefield itself, not through any sort of divination. It would be impossible for Unseen Light to predict which step someone would take next if it was not in the midst of a battle.

On the other hand, this was something that Starsibyl could do.

She was even able to predict where her opponents would attack before the battle had even started. That was true divination.

Being able to predict an enemy's critical decisions was a fighting method that countless individuals dreamed of being able to use. For many people, watching Starsibyl's fights was a form of enjoyment.

However, at this moment, Starsibyl was not in the mood to be treated as a spectacle by others. Her face was slowly turning pale. Although Wu Taibai seemed to behave very courteously as he stood across from her, she found him more terrifying than anybody else at this moment.

He was not someone to be challenged.

Nearly ten minutes went by in this manner. Wu Taibai was not in the slightest bit of a rush, and he simply continued to fan himself.

Starsibyl let out a deep breath and stared at Wu Taibai in confusion.

Wu Taibai was surprised. "Are you done? Then I'll attack now. Your divination should be able to let you know where I'll be attacking from."

"There's no need. I admit defeat," Starsibyl said resolutely.

Wu Taibai was taken aback. "You admit defeat?"

He was not alone, as everyone else was shocked as well. It was completely illogical for a powerhouse who had trained in the Nine Clones Secret Technique and who possessed the power of divination to admit defeat before a battle even began.

At the base of a staircase, Lu Yin frowned, rather disappointed.

He had some guesses of his own concerning Wu Taibai's strength, so he had already suspected that Starsibyl would not be able to handle Wu Taibai. However, Lu Yin had never expected her to be so firm and not even put up a fight. Lu Yin was now unable to see the true power of the Nine Clones Technique. What a pity.

Still, Starsibyl's actions could be considered an alternative method of divination, since she had at least calculated the outcome.

Being able to predict outcomes was not always guaranteed to be a good thing. If Starsibyl did not possess the power of divination, then she might have tried to fight it out against Wu Taibai.

Off in the distance, Xia Jiuyou's eyes narrowed as he warily stared at Wu Taibai.

Xia Jiuyou was very familiar with Starsibyl, and for her to simply admit defeat before the fight even started meant that this member of the Daosource Three Skies had to be far more formidable than what Xia Jiuyou had initially believed. Perhaps Wu Taibai was just as strong as Bu Kong and Zhi Yi.

Wu Taibai's silhouette vanished, and when he reappeared, he was at the bottom of a flight of stairs. Not too far away from him stood Yōu Qi.

Upon seeing that Wu Taibai would be fighting against Yōu Qi next, an uproar broke out within the crowd.

However, this reaction was still not as impressive as compared to when Qiu Shi had been matched against Shang Qing.

Yōu Qi himself showed no reaction.

Instead, Wu Taibai was the one who was very interested in Yōu Qi. As soon as he appeared, he scanned Yōu Qi from head to toe. "So, this is the inheritor of Progenitor Chen's power."

There were only two people left on the first layer who had not fought yet. One was a Cruiser while the other was Xiao Qing. The last battle of this round would be fought between them.

There was only one person at the bottom of the stairs who had not been matched against an opponent so far: Bu Kong.

The crowd stared up at Xiao Qing in pity, as she was sure to win the battle in this round. However, after this victory, she would have to face Bu Kong to fight for a position in the top ten. She was truly unlucky.

Bu Kong was one of the Daosource Three Skies, and Xiao Qing was someone who was also from the Sixth Mainland. Just like when Skinny Bro had been matched up against Zhi Yi, these fights were basically a free ticket for the Daosource Three Skies to continue on to the next round. This caused a great deal of dissatisfaction from the Fifth Mainland, and many people all over the network cursed aloud.

Xiao Qing looked calm. As the Sage Martial Realm's true Realming, it would be a piece of cake to defeat a Cruiser.

At the bottom of the stairs, Xiao Qing suddenly appeared and flashed a smile at Bu Kong.

Bu Kong's brows furrowed, as he was unfamiliar with Xiao Qing. Still, he did not pay much attention to her smile. In the Sixth Mainland, other than Wu Taibai and Zhi Yi, everyone else in his generation was too insignificant to warrant any of his attention. The gap between the Daosource Three Skies and the Realmings one rank below them was actually quite massive.

As of this moment, the competition on the first layer had concluded, and the top twenty of ZENITH had been decided.

Below the massive statue at the peak of the ZENITH Mountain, the ten flights of stairs became the focus of the entire universe. By successfully climbing up the stairs and reaching the peak of Zenith Mountain, one would become a part of ZENITH's prestigious top ten, and they would have the opportunity to change their fate.