

### Chapter 131: Conditions of Battle

“Above Melder? Limiteers? They’re not Explorers, right?” Lu Yin was stunned.

Little Pao shook his head as he responded, “There probably won’t be any Explorers among them, as most people graduate once they become Explorers and thus can’t battle anyone they want to. However, I’m sure there will be a fair amount of Limiteers, and you can’t underestimate those Limiteers. They are powerhouses who have participated in countless ported battles and have also trained in the Three Realms Six Daos. For them, battling above their realm is normal! You’re still a Melder, so it’ll be very difficult for you to battle against these people. You should just try to avoid them.”

Lu Yin pondered Little Pao’s words for a moment. His training had just started to yield some results. With his newly acquired battle force, he should be able to do even better in ported battles, and his current goal was to achieve a hundred victories. Then, the next step for him would be the Three Realms Six Daos, so he didn’t want to leave just yet. Moreover, Xi Yue had told him that battling could further hone one’s battle force. Since she had attracted so many powerhouses here, then he should naturally just battle!

“Senior, I don’t want to leave yet, and I’ll continue to train at Sand Ocean. If anyone comes here looking for trouble, then tell them to come to me directly. I won’t hide from them,” Lu Yin said firmly.

Big Pao’s eyes gleamed and he patted Lu Yin’s shoulder. “That’s good. I also don’t think that you should flee from them. Astral-10 isn’t cowardly—how can we fight against other people in the Nine Trial Zones if we can’t even get past this small hurdle? Fine, go and train.”

Little Pao nodded as well. This was the first time that he had ever treated this junior of his seriously. Maybe this incident wouldn’t be a bad thing, and he might even be able to use it to gain an advantage.

At this moment, Big Pao received a notification on his gadget and his expression suddenly changed. “This fast?”

Lu Yin and Little Pao both looked at him questioningly.

He said solemnly, “Someone’s here, a powerhouse from Astral-8. Craynor.”

“Who’s that?” Lu Yin asked.

Big Pao seriously replied, “He’s a Melder powerhouse from Astral-8 who’s comparable to Xi Yue. He’s also ranked second in the Blaze Rankings, just below Jared who’s first.”

“The Blaze Realm,” Lu Yin repeated grimly as his face sank. This wasn’t the first time that he had encountered them. The person who had blocked his path during Astral-10’s assessment was from the Blaze Realm as well, but he had been defeated by Lulu. This time, he planned on trying to fight this guy himself.

“Go to the Sand Ocean. If he’s here to look for trouble, then we’ll direct him to you,” Little Pao said.

Lu Yin nodded and stepped into the transportation equipment, which was directly connected to the Sand Ocean.

Back at the entrance of Astral-10's space station, the door of a spaceship opened and a line of people from the Blaze Realm walked out. Craynor looked at his surroundings after leaving the spaceship. In his mind, this place would belong to the Blaze Realm soon.

Little Pao arrived at the space station and greeted Craynor.

Craynor glanced at Little Pao disparagingly. "You're a student from Astral-10? Where's Lu Yin? Tell him to come out."

Little Pao frowned, paused for a moment, and then used star energy to write on a nearby wall, 'Lu Yin is at the Sand Ocean.' He then glanced at Craynor contemptuously before leaving, having never said a word.

Craynor was furious. How dare this person dismiss him like that? "The Sand Ocean, huh. Great. I hope that the mentors of Astral-10 won't interfere in a battle between students."

Little Pao left slowly.

Craynor snorted and briskly walked towards the teleporter. The people from the Blaze Realm were about to follow him in when they were suddenly stopped by Craynor. Only other students could enter Astral-10, and non-students were not allowed to enter.

The ten Combat Academies were all branches of Astral Combat Academy, and were called as such when they were taken as a whole. However, due to the sheer vastness of the universe, a single branch would be unable to accommodate everyone. Thus, it had been split into ten academies instead. So although Craynor was a student of Astral-8, he was also technically a student of Astral-10 as well.

Even if he looked down on Astral-10, it was still Astral-10, and the non-students from the Blaze Realm were not allowed to enter. If they dared to do so, he would be defying the entire Astral Combat Academy, which would bring a scary set of consequences down upon his head.

Craynor's gaze was serious when he stepped into the transportation equipment. That person had told him to bring one of Lu Yin's hands back as proof that Lu Yin wouldn't be able to continue training here. Hence, he had decided to break Lu Yin's limbs, but he had to ensure that the mentors of Astral-10 wouldn't interfere.

At this moment, in the desert, Lu Yin had been thinking about this same exact situation. With Xi Yue's status, she would definitely be able to call upon many powerful opponents. If he just straightforwardly battled them, it would be a waste of his time. He suddenly recalled what had happened during Earth's trial and smiled—that was a better idea.

Craynor looked at the boundless desert in front of him; this was Astral-10's Sand Ocean that was renowned throughout the universe. It was rumoured to be the best place to develop and hone one's battle force, but the Sand Ocean had undergone a huge change when Astral-10's headmaster went crazy, and it was no longer the place that it used to be.

"I'm Craynor, a student of Astral-8, and I would like to meet the Sandmaster," Craynor shouted out.

Lu Yin lifted his head and looked into the distance. They had finally arrived.

"What do you want? Speak," the Sandmaster's voice reverberated.

Craynor obediently answered, "I would like to battle with Lu Yin from Astral-10. I hope that you will approve."

"I won't interfere."

Craynor smiled as he added on, "I hope that the Sandmaster won't interfere before a party admits defeat."

"I already said that I won't interfere. Stop speaking nonsense. If not, you can leave." The Sandmaster's temper was much worse than the Rainmaster's. Despite that, Craynor wasn't angry after being scolded. Rather, he was delighted as those were the exact words that he needed to hear, and he had already recorded it down. Now, as long as he could heavily injure Lu Yin before he admitted defeat, then no one would be able to blame him.

Lu Yin stood up and looked at the man who was slowly walking over. This was the person who was ranked second on the Blaze Realm Rankings, Craynor.

Craynor's eyes gleamed when he saw Lu Yin and icily greeted, "Junior Lu Yin, we finally meet."

Lu Yin casually replied, "You're trying to stir up trouble?"

Craynor smirked. "Of course not. I just wanted to do battle with you. As an elite student of Astral-10, you aren't scared right?"

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. "You don't have to provoke me. I'll battle with you, but I have some conditions."

Craynor was bewildered. "Conditions?"

Lu Yin smiled confidently as he replied, "I'm in the middle of training, but you're interrupting me to have some battle. You're wasting my time, so I must get something out of it in return."

Craynor laughed and condescendingly asked, "Sure, what do you want?"

Lu Yin raised up two fingers. "Twenty thousand star crystals and I'll battle with you."

Craynor's expression changed. "Twenty thousand?! You're crazy! Do you know how much twenty thousand is?"

"You don't have that amount?" Lu Yin sneered contemptuously.

Craynor coldly answered, "Of course I do, but you're not worth that price."

"I can give you another choice as well. If you lose, give me your cosmic ring; if you win, I won't take a single cent. How about that?" Lu Yin suggested temptingly.

Craynor beamed. "Fine, we'll do that."

Lu Yin's sharp eyes gleamed. "Great, you're truly a powerhouse from the Blaze Realm. You can attack at any time."

Craynor smirked again as he arrogantly said, "Be careful Junior. I might not be able to control my strength." Then, he rushed towards Lu Yin, the star energy surrounding his body bursting into flames that distorted the air with its high temperature as he aimed a palm at Lu Yin.

It was as if a glaring sun had appeared above the desert, causing a blistering heat to sweep towards Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's gaze turned serious; Craynor was truly an elite student from Astral-8. His control over star energy was comparable to the genius, Da Lei, and might even be slightly stronger. His attack that combusted star energy into flames was far stronger than Archino's, who Lu Yin had met during Astral-10's assessment. Archino had relied on the actual sun in the sky to fuel his attack, while Craynor could power his attack with just his own star energy. He truly deserved the title of being second in the rankings.

Lu Yin still remembered his battle with Gerbach, where Gerbach had relied on Lightning Fruits to use Lightning Arrow. There was an insurmountable difference between the two of them.

The person in front of him was as powerful as Xi Yue's musical battle technique, but it was a shame that he had met Lu Yin. Lu Yin disappeared using Flash and tore the star energy surrounding Craynor apart before appearing right in front of him. He then lifted his palm and used his Nine Stacks Shockwave Palm.

Craynor narrowed his eyes. He felt threatened by this attack and instinctively dodged. There was a loud bang at the spot where he had originally been standing, and the aftershock of the attack radiated in all directions, blowing Craynor's star energy apart. He whirled around as he finally realized that this person definitely wasn't a common Melder. He had assumed that Xi Yue was just joking when she had said that someone had teased her, as he didn't think that there was anyone from Astral-10 who was strong enough to defeat Xi Yue. But clearly, he had been wrong. From what he could tell, this person far exceeded his expectations.

Lu Yin didn't stop his offense and continued to hurl more attacks at Craynor. Craynor roared and equipped his ring armour even as his star energy continued to combust into flames that surged everywhere. He seemed like he was about to erupt.

Lu Yin ignored him and smashed another Nine Stacks Shockwave Palm onto Craynor's body, causing him to spit out a mouthful of blood as his ring armour completely shattered. After this shocking blow, his body even began sinking into the desert.

Lu Yin's Nine Stacks Shockwave Palm was powerful enough to battle against Invincible Palm, a Limiteer, let alone Craynor. Although Craynor was powerful in his own right, he was definitely easier to defeat than Xi Yue, as Xi Yue's musical battle technique had posed a greater threat to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin grabbed Craynor, who was heavily injured, and removed his cosmic ring. He then unceremoniously tossed him on the ground.

"Stop, stop!" Craynor yelled hoarsely as he continued to glare at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin bent down and shot him a cold look. "Are you trying to break your promise?"

Craynor gritted his teeth as he replied, "There are battle techniques from the Blaze Realm inside. You'll definitely become an enemy of the entire Blaze Realm."

Lu Yin scornfully replied, "I never planned on taking the battle techniques from the Blaze Realm, but since you have told me about them, I would seem cowardly if I didn't take them."

Craynor's gaze changed. "What are you going to do?"

Lu Yin poured everything out of Craynor's cosmic ring. Most of it was star crystals, for a total of ten thousand. There were also some Mavis Bank cards, medicines, ring armor, and even hot weapons. There were also some items that he couldn't recognise. The unidentified objects all emitted heat and were probably related to his battle techniques.

Lu Yin didn't bother asking Craynor what the items were. He first took the star crystals, the Mavis Bank cards, and a vial of blood meant for gene recognition. Finally, he also grabbed a red card that had the symbol of the Blaze Realm—this was probably a battle technique from the Blaze Realm.

Craynor's face was pale as he stared at Lu Yin in disbelief.

Once Lu Yin learned the battle technique, the Blaze Realm would go after Lu Yin, and Craynor would be implicated as well.

"I'm not interested in the battle techniques from the Blaze Realm, but I should be able to get a good amount of money if I sell it, right?" Lu Yin said with an evil smile.

Craynor asked in a low voice, "What do you want?"

Lu Yin looked at him with a frosty gaze. "I want to know about the elites in Astral-8 as well as the person you serve."

Craynor was relieved, as this request wasn't too much. "Fine, I'll tell you." He then paused and saw Lu Yin staring at him, so he arranged his thoughts and quickly continued, saying, "There's a Realm Master and three Area Masters in Astral-8. I serve one of the Area Masters, the first on the Blaze Rankings. Jared."

### **Chapter 132: Extreme Flash**

"Wait, what's a Realm Master and Area Master? What do you mean?" Lu Yin frowned.

Craynor was baffled by his response. "You don't know what Realm Master and Area Master mean?"

Lu Yin snorted. "Cut the nonsense and just tell me."

Craynor coughed and awkwardly wiped the blood away from the corner of his mouth before resuming his slight pant. "The Astral Combat Academies hold the key to the Three Realms Six Daos, where there are various magical realms. Powerful students can take control of these training grounds and obtain huge benefits from them. Those who control an entire realm are called Realm Masters, and those who control a known training ground are called Area Masters. Have you not been to the Three Realms Six Daos before?"

Lu Yin contemplated Craynor's words for a while as he thought to himself. So that's how the Three Realms Six Daos are. Then, he asked, "Are the Area Masters very powerful?"

Craynor sneered at his ignorance. “Powerful? That word is not enough to describe them. There are only a few training grounds in a realm and only the powerhouses who control these training grounds are qualified to be called Area Masters. Every realm can easily support more than a thousand elite students, and not all of them are Melders as some might be Limiteers. So, for someone who is able to attain the position of Area Master and lord over all these competitors, do you think that they are powerful?”

“You’re second on the Blaze Realm Rankings but first is actually able to become an Area Master. Is he that much stronger than you?” Lu Yin asked curiously.

Craynor was speechless—this was something that he had always been frustrated about. Jared was much stronger than him. Not only was he a Limiteer, but he had also managed to become an Area Master. Craynor didn’t even know what Jared’s limits were.

“What about the Realm Master? Who’s that?” Lu Yin asked, wondering how scary a person who controlled an entire realm would be. He didn’t even have the right to enter a training realm yet.

Fear flashed across Craynor’s face when Lu Yin mentioned the Realm Master. “The Realm Master is called Feng Shang. He is the most powerful person in the Eighth Academy and is also a member of the Astral Student Council. He founded Wind Door on his own and specializes in the Dao of Illusion.”

“The Astral Student Council?” Lu Yin asked.

Craynor had a longing look in his eyes as he explained, “The Astral Combat Academy is split into ten academies, but there is a single student council that manages the entire academy. Only Realm Masters can join the council, and the Astral Student Council is one of the subsidiaries of the Council of the Ten Arbiters. They have the right to ask the Ten Arbiters to make a ruling for them.”

“Can they meet the Ten Arbiters?” Lu Yin’s eyes gleamed.

Craynor nodded. “Theoretically yes.”

“How can I join?” Lu Yin immediately asked.

Craynor explained, “I already told you—only Realm Masters can join. There should be a member from every academy, but the council has only had nine people for hundreds of years. Astral-10 has not had a representative on the council for a long time now.”

Lu Yin fell silent.

“Although the Council of the Ten Arbiters ultimately made the decision to send Astral-10 to the Outerverse, there are rumors that this issue was initially submitted by the Student Council, which eventually led to Astral-10 being driven out. Actually, you should thank the Student Council. If not for them, you wouldn’t have even had a chance to join Astral-10,” Craynor said with a sneer.

Lu Yin hit Craynor’s head, “Just answer my questions. Drop the sarcasm.”

Craynor was incensed, but since he had lost to Lu Yin, he could only bear it with gritted teeth.

“Tell me about Jared. How powerful is he?” Lu Yin queried, as he had a feeling that he would definitely encounter this person some time in the future.

Craynor shook his head. "I don't know. Jared is the strongest heir in the entire Blaze Realm. The Blaze Realm has invested all their resources into him. I know that he has definitely learnt the ancient battle technique of the Blaze Realm—Fiery Sword, but I'm not sure what he's gained from attending the Eighth Academy. Furthermore, he's an Area Master and nobody knows just how his attainments in the Dao of Illusion go, since nobody has ever forced him to use his full power before.

Lu Yin had a grim expression on his face. This person was way more troublesome than he had initially expected. Fiery Sword sounded like an impressive battle technique, and it was probably one of the main reasons why the Blaze Realm had survived in the Inniverse for so many years. In addition, there was still his Dao of Illusion, and he also had no idea what Jared might have obtained from his training grounds.

"And Feng Shang, from the Eighth Academy, is the Realm Master of the Dao of Illusion, right? So does that mean that everyone who specializes in the Dao of Illusion is from the Eighth Academy?"

Craynor shook his head. "Apart from the Three Realms, there are also people from various academies in the Six Daos. However, the Eighth Academy has focused their efforts on the Dao of Illusion, and there is an understanding between the six academies that each will focus on one Dao. If any academy tried to take over another one's Dao, it would definitely cause an outrage."

Lu Yin felt annoyed by this new information. The Three Realms had already been split among the first three academies while the remaining Six Daos had been split across the other six academies, leaving Astral-10 with nothing. No wonder there was a rule in Astral-10 that said that one could only enter the training realms after obtaining a hundred victories in the ported battles. This was because the training realms had already been divvied up by the remaining nine academies. Thus, a student from Astral-10 would definitely be looked down on or even driven out once they entered. Therefore, that rule had been made to prevent students without sufficient ability from entering; otherwise, they would definitely embarrass Astral-10.

"I've already told you so much. You'll return my item to me, right?" Craynor asked, slightly pleadingly.

Lu Yin casually tossed the red card to Craynor. He truly didn't care about the Blaze Realm's battle technique, as he hadn't even finished learning his own battle techniques. Thus, unless a truly elite battle technique appeared before him, he wouldn't pay attention to any new ones. However, if it were Fiery Sword, then he definitely wouldn't return it to Craynor that easily.

"How much money is in these bank cards?" Lu Yin asked.

Craynor gritted his teeth as he painfully replied, "Seventy thousand star crystals."

Lu Yin's eyes gleamed and he couldn't stop himself from bursting out in another round of laughter. He was rich again! Combined with what Xi Yue had given him, he had amassed almost 150,000 star crystals. What a large sum!

Robbery was still the fastest way to earn money, especially from the elite students of the Inniverse. They were all extremely wealthy, unlike those students from The Great Yu Empire who only had a few crystals combined. The difference was just too vast. "Not bad. Feel free to challenge me at any time," Lu Yin said encouragingly.

Lu Yin then took out a sign and wrote down his rules, which were the same ones that he had told Craynor. Challengers could either pay twenty thousand or bet their cosmic ring. He knew that there would definitely be throngs of students looking to cause trouble for him, and he was too lazy to explain the rules to everyone. Thus, he had written it all down on a sign.

Craynor was so incensed when he saw Lu Yin's actions he coughed out some blood, angrily glared at Lu Yin, and then immediately left.

"Feel free to come again," Lu Yin said as he beamed at Craynor.

Craynor coughed again and left promptly. The entire day had been a nightmare for him. He didn't expect that Astral-10 would actually raise such a terrifying Melder. Besides that person, there weren't many other Melders who could defeat Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's smile faded and his face turned serious once Craynor left.

He had initially thought that, once he became a Melder, his overwhelming physical strength and battle force would make him invincible within his tier. However, after listening to Craynor's descriptions, he was still lacking when compared to the other academies' elites, and he might not even be able to defeat an Area Master, let alone a Realm Master. Moreover, the first three academies who controlled the Three Realms would definitely have even stronger powerhouses.

He was still too slow. He had to get stronger even more quickly, Lu Yin decided.

A huge silhouette suddenly appeared behind him. It was a half naked man with huge muscles that bulged like little hills on a scar-covered landscape. After appearing, he just stood there and watched Lu Yin silently.

Lu Yin turned around and was shocked when he saw the silhouette. He then seemed to remember something and bowed slightly. "Good day, Sandmaster."

The huge silhouette was the Sandmaster. "Young fellow, you have successfully learnt battle force and hence have managed to obtain the approval of the Sand Ocean. You can choose one battle technique and I will develop it for you."

Lu Yin had forgotten about this reward; since he had obtained the approval of the Rain Observatory, it was normal that he could do the same in the Sand Ocean as well. One needed battle force to obtain the Sand Ocean's approval, which made it a far more difficult requirement than the Rain Observatory's. "Thank you, Mentor."

"Alright, so what battle technique have you chosen?" The Sandmaster looked at Lu Yin with a stern expression.

Lu Yin paused for quite some time before lifting his head and earnestly replying, "Flash."

The Sandmaster's eyes narrowed. "Show me."

Lu Yin exerted some force through his calves, and his body disappeared. That was Flash.



At this moment, his Flash was slightly different from what Peach had originally taught him, as he had incorporated some concepts from White Flash into it as well, which helped to further increase his speed. This technique was currently strong enough to overcome common Melders and maybe even some Limiteers. Nevertheless, Lu Yin would never forget that time he had been trapped by someone else's star energy during a ported battle. He didn't want that to ever happen again, so he had to improve his Flash battle technique.

The Sandmaster was surprised, as he could see the influences of the Daynight Clan's battle techniques in Lu Yin's Flash. This young fellow was truly an enigma. On top of his terrifying physical strength, sealed body, and the art that Guanyu had mentioned, he now even had battle techniques from the Daynight Clan. It was good that he was talented, but his training was too messy.

"Young fellow, do you know what happens once your body breaks through a certain limit?" the Sandmaster asked casually. He placed his hand on Lu Yin's shoulder as he continued, saying, "Let me see your limit." Then, he exerted a startling force through his hand, causing Lu Yin to feel a sharp pain on his shoulder. The scene in front of him started changing, and the desert disappeared as if it had instantly moved away—no, it wasn't the desert moving—it was him. His eyes couldn't even keep up with how fast the surroundings were changing as the speed was simply too fast. A remnant line of the desert's silhouette slowly disappeared behind him as a crack in space appeared beside him.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. A crack in space? This wasn't something that a Melder could accomplish. How quickly were they moving to cause even space to crack apart?

The Sandmaster was stunned as well. He didn't expect that this young fellow's body still hadn't reached its limits yet. This was great! He liked Lu Yin's perseverance, so he continued to increase his speed.

A sharp pain started spreading across the surface of Lu Yin's body as his skin started to crack. The crack in space flowed past him like a stream and he vaguely saw an image of Michelle for a moment before she disappeared in the next instant.

Suddenly, everything in front of him came to a stop. Lu Yin vomited and immediately fainted afterward—the speed had finally become too fast for his body to bear.

The Sandmaster was astonished. Lu Yin's body had become this terrifying once the seal was removed. Not many Melders could even touch his level, which meant this person clearly came from an extremely powerful clan. But from where? He couldn't tell as Lu Yin didn't have any distinguishing characteristics; usually, the few clans who specialized in powerful physical bodies all had very obvious characteristics.

After vomiting for a while, Lu Yin finally felt better and laughed bitterly. "Sandmaster, that was too fast."

The Sandmaster calmly replied, "That was the limit that your brain could undergo, and you can re-experience it by yourself. By the way, you still haven't reached your body's limits yet."

Lu Yin was shocked. "I can achieve that speed on my own?"

The Sandmaster gazed into the depths of the desert as he replied, "Movement battle techniques require one's body to be strong. Your body is very powerful, and you should be able to achieve that speed if you use it properly. Think about it on your own." And with that, he disappeared.

Lu Yin thought about the Sandmaster's words and then decided to sit down, slowly digesting the feeling of moving at extreme speed and the reaction of his body.

The Sandmaster had just left when he looked into the distance. He paused for a moment, and then stepped through the skies.

### **Chapter 133: Request**

At the same time that the Sandmaster departed, the Rainmaster opened his eyes within the Rain Observatory. Then, he stepped into space with a light sigh.

Meanwhile, Silver was flipping through the list of missions in the Treasury, bored. Suddenly, Old Cai waved a hand and vanished, leaving Silver looking around in confusion. Where did that old man go?

At the entrance to the Trial Area, Coco had just mustered up the determination to challenge the ported battle again, but just when she was about to step into the teleportation stone's range, she was stopped by a resistive force. And in the distance, the Trialmaster disappeared from his seat.

Far above the vast sky of Astral-10, there was a hollow space, strewn with black fossils. The insane director of the academy stood with his hands clasped behind his back as he stared into the vastness of outer space with a confused expression.

The director tore his gaze away and looked around at those before him. He bowed at the waist with a somber expression. "Thank you for all your hard work over these years."

All five people simultaneously took a step back. The Rainmaster quietly said, "Please don't do that, sir. There's no need for it."

The director sighed with a gloomy look. "My Astral Battle Academy once experienced great glory, but that all fell to ruins when I was brought to the brink of insanity. I apologize to my predecessors as well as to all of you who have watched over me for the last thousand years."

The Sandmaster had a serious look as he said, "This is our prison. Us old farts aren't merely your wardens. This is our duty. If there's something you want to say, then speak now while you are still sane."

The mad director's eyes clouded over before he suddenly brightened up, "I would request that you all take on the roles of mentors under this director. Please help the academy return to glory."

Old Cai rolled his eyes. "Don't joke around about this. We're not even real mentors, and we certainly don't have the time to help you."

The Trialmaster's eyes widened slightly. "I can't help."

The Sandmaster snorted, but didn't answer.

The Starmaster's face remained unchanged.

The Rainmaster shook his head.

The mad director bowed once more. "A thousand years ago, every book in this academy was burnt to ashes because of me, causing most of the academy to fall to ruin. The mentors either left or perished,

and most of the students fled. This was all my fault and I wish to make up for it. Please, for the sake of the Endless Weave, help me and help the Endless Weave.”

All five people twitched in shock. The words “Endless Weave” were not ones to be uttered lightly. Even they respected those words.

The mad director bowed once again, his voice grave. “The five of you have already stayed here for a thousand years. What you’ve seen, heard, and experienced is no less than what I have. You should all be aware that, back in the Endless Weave, our predecessors from ancient times were all valiant and passionate. Please recall their valor and, even if just once more, don’t allow the Endless Weave to be hidden. It was once the proud flagship and the most important heritage of the past, and it should be given to these children.”

The Trialmaster sighed and looked up. With his eyes wide open, he said, “If it’s for the Endless Weave, then I’ll be a mentor once.”

The Rainmaster nodded as well. “Okay.”

The Sandmaster stared at the director and, a long while later, said a single word. “Okay.”

Old Cai rolled his eyes again. “You should realize that we’re taking a complete loss here. Fine, fine, I’ll just have some fun while I’m at it. But be aware—I’ll only do it this once.”

The Starmaster nodded as well. “If it’s for the Endless Weave, then I’ll do it.”

The mad director was extremely grateful. “Thank you so much. The new students’ tournament will be held in about half a month’s time. After that, five students will be selected to be nurtured in preparation for the upcoming Astral Combat Tournament. Let me thank you all for your assistance.”

The five mentors departed soon after and the mad director sighed as he shifted his gaze back down towards Astral-10, observing each student. His eyes belied his agony, because sanity was far more painful than insanity. He was the one who had destroyed Astral-10, causing its status to fall to the point where his students were being threatened by other students of the young generation. But it wouldn’t be like this forever. One day, he would recover, and that moment was when the Endless Weave would shine forth once more.

As time passed, the mad director’s eyes became murky and his hair once again fell into disarray. His insanity had returned, and he rambled to the skies, “You were the ones who started the war, so you must be the ones to bear the consequences! Hahaha! You were the ones who started the war...”

Back in the Sand Ocean, the Sandmaster watched the mad director dash around the sky before shaking his head. “He touched something that he shouldn’t have. What a pity.” After clearing his mind of the director’s issues, he swept his eyes over the desert and saw Lu Yin, who was in the middle of comprehending extreme speed. The mentor’s eyes lit up. “This guy is pretty good! Although he isn’t the most talented among everyone that I’ve seen, he’s still much better than most. He just might be able to compete with the monsters in the top one hundred list. It looks like there’s some hope left for the Endless Weave.”

One day later, Lu Yin opened his eyes. After a quick stretch, he tried using Air Flash, but he just collapsed onto the sand. Though he had used too much force, he was slightly quicker than before. “As long as my

body can handle it, I can go even faster,” Lu Yin mumbled to himself. After several more attempts, he thought of his die; it was about time he rolled it again. After realizing this, he left the Sand Ocean.

While walking through the teleportation facility, Lu Yin suddenly remembered that he hadn't even explored the other areas of Astral-10 yet. He had only visited the Rain Observatory, Sand Ocean, Treasury, Arena Entrance, Stargazing Deck, and space station; however, Astral-10 had far more than just these few areas.

He now felt the desire to explore the remote area outside of the Treasury. If he was going to roll the die, then that kind of isolated area was the most appropriate. Other similarly desolate areas were too distant. For instance, the area surrounding the Rain Observatory would take at least a day to reach and he didn't have that much time to waste. His best option was somewhere near the Treasury.

Before long, Lu Yin left the Treasury and entered the desolate plains surrounding it. He could see the ruins of quite a few buildings that went on for quite some distance. Deep fissures ran through the ground, from where hot air seeped through. While he had no clue what the area used to be, it seemed that it had once been a flourishing region with many buildings.

Lu Yin chose a random dilapidated building and released his star energy to confirm that he was alone. He then reached out, causing the die to appear.

It had been quite some time since Lu Yin had last rolled the die. During his last usage, he had rolled six pips, Possession, which had allowed him to experience Da Lei's life. He hoped that he could be as lucky this time.

After spinning the die, Lu Yin watched it slowly stop spinning—one, Pilfer.

This came as no surprise as this was the most common roll. If he was lucky, then what he gained from Pilfer could change his fate. If he was unlucky, like this time... Lu Yin hesitated before picking up a potion wrapped in ancient packaging. This was the other sort of thing that Pilfer could get him.

While studying the bottle, Lu Yin let out a sigh. Just because the packaging was ancient, it didn't mean the item itself was. There were all kinds of civilizations in the universe and some of them were at a very low technology level. Since the packaging was in an ancient style, it probably came from a civilization in the universe that had met other civilizations, but refused to modernize.

Lu Yin opened the bottle and sniffed at it. A very ordinary potion.

After storing it, he crushed a cube of star crystals. Again.

For his second roll, the die ended on five pips—Gift Copy. Lu Yin stood up, but then sat down just as quickly. It would be impossible to find a cultivator with an innate gift within ten seconds from where he was. How could he find anyone at all in ten seconds?! Another wasted roll. Again.

For the third roll, the die slowed and stopped at four pips—Time Stop.

Reality seemed to fade and Lu Yin found himself in the familiar ash-colored space. The timer started counting down three days of time.

This wasn't a bad roll, as it gave him more time to think. Lu Yin decided to spend his time studying the star chart. It would be ideal if he could manifest the seventh star or maybe even the eighth. This would allow him to absorb star energy eight times faster, which would allow him to reach peak Melder's strength as soon as possible.

There was a vast difference between someone who stood at the peak of the Melder realm and someone who had just entered the realm. The most obvious difference was the amount of star energy, which was like comparing an ocean to a lake.

Craynor held the position of number two on the Blaze Realm Rankings and stood near the top in Astral-8. He was a peak Melder, and Lu Yin had felt the pressure of Craynor's star energy during their battle. Fortunately, Lu Yin had been able to compensate for the difference with his strong body. If the two's physical strength had been similar in power, then the pressure of their star energy would have been the key that determined victory. Lu Yin didn't want to lose out in this area.

With this thought, Lu Yin immediately retrieved six hundred cubes of star crystals and tossed them out. The timer leapt up, but instead of the expected thirty-three days, Lu Yin saw that the timer had only increased to only sixteen days, nearly half of what he had expected. Lu Yin realized that the more he increased the time by, the more star crystals he needed for each day. The rate was not fixed to eighteen cubes of crystal per extra day.

He let out a sigh; he should have expected that this ability wouldn't be that convenient. If Time Stop really did have a fixed rate of eighteen cubes of star crystals per day, then Lu Yin would be able to stay inside the space for nearly three years with his current stores!

Whatever, there's nothing that can be done about it. He then took out an additional fifty cubes of star crystals and raised the gravity to fifty times the standard level before taking out a star chart.

Nineteen days was a long time, so Lu Yin was in no hurry. He studied the star chart diligently, practiced his battle technique on occasion, and rested when he needed to. After ten days of training, his Cosmic Palm's seventh star manifested.

The power of the battle technique with seven stars far surpassed the power with six. If, as a Sentinel, Lu Yin had reached the level of seven stars, then he would have been able to fight Schutz. If he had also had Air Flash and the other battle techniques that he had recently learned, then he might actually have been able to win. Now, as a Melder, Cosmic Palm alone was enough for Lu Yin to defeat students like Craynor and he wouldn't even need to use techniques like his Nine Stacks Shockwave Palm.

Currently, Lu Yin's strongest attack was still his Nine Stacks Shockwave Palm. The Nine Stacks boosted the power of his Shockwave Palm to even greater heights than his Cosmic Art with seven stars; it was no longer sufficient to be his trump card and he needed to increase its strength.

Over the next nine days, Lu Yin immersed himself in the star chart. When the countdown got closer to zero, he actually tossed out another hundred or so cubes of star crystals and added an additional eight days to the timer.

Even after seventeen days had passed, not even a ghost of the eighth star was seen. Lu Yin frowned and looked around. He'd had enough of this place. In fact, anyone would find it hard to sit in one place for almost a whole month.

Lu Yin rested for a few hours and then waited for the timer to run out, not increasing the timer anymore. He needed to get out.

The scenery around him warped and shifted. While a month had passed within the Time Stop Space, it had been just a second in the outside world.

Lu Yin waved his hand and brought out seven stars to circle his palm. If he hadn't learned the Nine Stacks Shockwave Palm, then this Cosmic palm would undoubtedly be his primary attack.

He dispersed the stars and brought out his die again, ready to continue rolling. He had previously used it three times, so he had one chance left.

As the die stopped spinning, it stopped on one pip again.

Lu Yin was speechless. Despite his mounting eagerness to roll three pips, he just hadn't been lucky enough. It was fate and completely out of his control.

This time, the die retrieved something a bit different with Pilfer. It was a tough stretch of hide from some unknown creature. And on it, there were strange characters etched into the surface that linked together into a long passage. As soon as Lu Yin saw the characters, he felt like his brain had been rattled, and blood leaked out of his seven orifices. He quickly stored the item while his pupils vacillated between dilating and contracting.

### **Chapter 134: Crushed**

Just who had written those characters, and how had they managed to hurt him so badly? The only explanation was that this was the work of some terrifying powerhouse, and there had to be more to the characters than met the eye.

Lu Yin wiped the blood staining his face away. At some point, his forehead had become covered in sweat. He looked at his cosmic ring fearfully and decided that he would not touch the carved hide until he was at least as powerful as a Limiteer, or at least until he was in some desperate need.

His gadget beeped, informing him that he had received a new notification. Lu Yin looked down and was surprised to see that he recognized the name of his new challenger. Hart Phoenix? What a familiar name. Lu Yin's eyes sparkled in anticipation as he recalled this person. Wasn't he the Sentinel from the ported battle? He remembered that this person had an innate gift and was quite strong. How did he know to contact him? Had he discovered that Lu Yin was 'Seventh Brother?'

Lu Yin wasted no time and quickly rushed back to the Sand Ocean.

At this time, back at Astral-10's space station, Big Pao and Little Pao were staring at the man before them in utter shock. This person was actually from the Phoenix Family of the Innerverse. They had heard of Hart Phoenix before, and he was definitely one of the elite students of Astral-5. When he had just been a Sentinel, he had already been able to defeat Melders, though if that was the extent of his abilities, the two would not have had such a reaction. What shocked and scared the two Astral-10 seniors the most was Hart's older brother, Serati Phoenix; that guy was an absolute monster.

"Sand Ocean, the place that was once known as Astral-10's battle force sacred land, is no longer what it once was. Is that where Lu Yin is?" Hart asked coldly.

Big Pao coughed once to dispel his shock before replying, "Yes."

Hart's eyes twinkled as he stepped into the teleportation device.

The desert was hot and dry. For many, this wasn't a pleasant sensation, but for Hart, it suited him perfectly since all his techniques contained heat and flames.

Lu Yin had arrived a bit before Hart, and he had already erected a signboard that displayed the rules for the duel in a very conspicuous location near the teleportation device. Lu Yin was excited for the upcoming duel since their last fight had been closely matched. How far had Lu Yin come since then, and was it possible for him to win with an instant K.O.?

Hart stepped out of the teleportation device and immediately noticed the signboard. With a condescending expression, he looked over towards Lu Yin in the distance and threw a bank card onto the sand. His entire demeanor oozed arrogance. "Money? I have no lack of it, but let's see if you have the ability to take it."

Lu Yin raised an eyebrow. This guy is way more arrogant than Craynor. He even used his real name in the ported battles. Lu Yin liked messing around with incredibly proud people, but unfortunately, Hart wasn't as impulsive as Craynor was. If he was, then all the money in his cosmic ring would have soon belonged to Lu Yin, which would have been perfect. "You're here for Xi Yue?"

Hart gazed at Lu Yin coldly. "You have no right to say her name. She's my fiancée, and if you touch her, then it means that you've touched the Phoenix clan. Are you prepared to face the wrath of my clan?"

Lu Yin froze. That- that was so cool!

"How old are you?" Lu Yin couldn't help himself from asking.

Hart's eyes glinted icily as he charged at Lu Yin. "Cut the crap." Golden flames erupted from his body and rose into the sky, forming a flaming bird that crowed so loudly the entire desert trembled.

Deep within the desert, the Sandmaster was astonished. "There's someone from the Immortal Bird family here? Things are starting to get lively."

Lu Yin saw a golden bird of flames cover the sky. Back in the ported battle, he had confronted the attack with his Cosmic palm, but this time, he merely raised a hand. "Nine Stacks Ninefold Shockwave Palm."

Crash!

Golden flames swirled and exploded in all directions, blurring the sky and scorching the desert surface black. Lu Yin had torn the golden firebird apart in a single attack and followed his move up by landing directly above Hart, no more than a millimeter away from his head. Vicious shockwaves pushed the sand beneath Hart's feet away, digging out a conical pit that he fell into. Hart himself didn't move, but his eyes betrayed his endless shock.

"Mr. Hart!"

"Mr. Hart!"

...

The students who had accompanied Hart to Astral-10 yelled his name in shock while standing at the teleportation device. They all heaved huge sighs of relief when they saw that Hart hadn't been injured. However, they looked at Lu Yin with shock in their eyes. They couldn't believe that there was a person this strong in Astral-10. In the entirety of Astral-5, there were less than ten Melders who were strong enough to crush Hart like that—in fact, Hart's abilities allowed him to proudly stand besides the top ten Melders in their academy.

Lu Yin's lips curled up as he retracted his arm and looked over towards the teleportation device. "Give me the card."

A Melder student inside the device hurried over, picked up the card, and then respectfully handed it over to Lu Yin. Regardless of if it was the Tenth or Astral-5, strength was paramount.

Hart's eyes followed Lu Yin shakily. Only at this time did his face begin to pale. He had been defeated before he could even react. He then carefully asked, "Have we fought before?"

Lu Yin stored the card away. "Perhaps. I don't remember anymore."

Hart clenched his fists in shame. He had been completely dominated; this was too disgraceful. He thought to himself, No one from the Phoenix clan should ever be crushed this thoroughly before saying, "I'll be back." After that, Hart headed deep into the desert. He wanted to break through and become a Melder. That was the only way for him to have a chance of defeating Lu Yin.

Several of the students rushed over to protect Hart.

Lu Yin burst into laughter. This guy really doesn't hold back at all.

Elsewhere in Astral-10, at this same time, another spacecraft landed at the academy's space station. This spacecraft had the Ninth Academy's symbol etched on its hull.

Little Pao was astonished. Even someone from the Ninth Academy had come?

The door opened, and Bonny walked out. He was dressed completely in black and there was a black phoenix embroidered onto the back of his coat.

Little Pao grew slightly puzzled at this seeing this member of the Dark Phoenix clan. This would complicate the situation. Someone from the Phoenix clan was already here, and a person from the Dark Phoenix clan had just arrived. Disciples of the rival clans immortal bird and the fallen immortal bird were about to meet; things were about to get interesting.

Bonny looked at the wall with shining eyes before directly heading to the teleportation device and traveling to the Sand Ocean without saying a word. Little Pao hurriedly followed behind.

Lu Yin was still in the desert, examining his cosmic ring. He currently had the equivalent of 150,000 cubes of star crystals in just Mavis Bank cards, which was a considerable sum. With the additional 20,000 cubes that he physically had in his ring, he felt pretty wealthy.

But then, deep in the desert, great golden flames filled the sky and cast a brilliant shadow over the desert.



Lu Yin was rather excited. Hart had been one of the few Sentinels who could threaten Lu Yin. Now that he had advanced and become a Melder, Lu Yin expected his power spike to be huge. Could Hart match up to Craynor? While Craynor was very talented, that was it. It was honestly somewhat surprising that Craynor ranked second on the Blaze Realm Rankings.

As the golden flames streaked through the desert, the star energy in the Sand Ocean trembled. A cry from an immortal bird caused Lu Yin's heart to skip a beat. He could feel an invisible pressure pressing down on him.

Suddenly, a figure flew into the sky to look into the distance. "It's Phoenix! There's someone from that shameless clan!" Black flames roared into the sky as if responding to the golden flames before the figure disappeared.

Lu Yin was surprised. What's going on?

Little Pao was standing by the teleportation device's entrance, and his eyes shimmered when he saw this. Things were really about to get going now.

Deep within the desert, the Sandmaster was caught off guard. "The Dark Phoenix clan? What a coincidence."

Elsewhere in the desert, where Hart was trying to break through, Hart widened his eyes and looked into the distance with a furious expression. "It's someone from that clan of traitors! Quick, get him!"

"Yes, sir!" a few students from Astral-5 responded before rushing out.

It didn't take long for battle fluctuations to spread out across the desert. Black flames raged and radiated an intense heat. Yet, oddly enough, when one tried to sense the black flames, they would feel an incredibly cold and corrosive energy that could eat through star energy. Although the students from Astral-5 were powerful, Bonny could hold his own against them by himself. He was a genius of the Dark Phoenix clan and naturally comparable to the geniuses from the Phoenix clan.

Lu Yin looked up from the sand. Numerous battle techniques of all sorts were clashing in the sky every second, leaving him in awe. Bonny's black immortal bird was quite amazing to Lu Yin. What an amazing innate gift!

Off in the distance, the golden flames had reached a peak, and their heat had grown to a terrifying level. Hart had only just broken through, but he could already stand up to the black flames unaided. This boosted the morale of Astral-5 students, and they continued fighting.

"Tsk, there's so many years of grudges hidden deep within their bones. They're fighting to the death even before they've actually met each other. How lively," Little Pao said in surprise.

Lu Yin was confused and asked, "Who is that?"

"He's from the Dark Phoenix clan, the fallen immortal bird. The kid who you fought earlier is called Hart Phoenix and is from the Inverse's Phoenix clan, which is also known as the golden immortal bird. These two families used to be one, but they split at some point in time and have been opposing each other ever since. Once any of them meet, there's sure to be a bloodbath," Little Pao explained.

Lu Yin nodded. "No wonder they're so similar."

"Unfortunately, the Dark Phoenix clan hasn't been able to win against the Phoenix clan. Otherwise, they wouldn't have been chased out into the Endless Weave. Bonny is a student from the Ninth Academy, and he should have originally come here to check out his rival academy. But out of sheer luck, this happened. Haha," Little Pao said, obviously enjoying the situation.

Lu Yin burst into laughter as well. The Ninth and Tenth Academies that stood next to each other were naturally enemies. Hart Phoenix had terrible timing, although that was good news for Astral-10 because his men would be preoccupied with fighting against Bonny instead of Lu Yin.

Before too long, all of the students from Astral-5 were defeated.

"Get your ass out here, Phoenix!" Bonny yelled provokingly.

The golden flames in the distance condensed and contracted before morphing into a terrifying immortal bird that soared through the sky, its flames warping the very air. Hart had become a Melder and was right away able to display an impressive strength that far exceeded Schutz's and possibly even Craynor's. This was quite shocking to Lu Yin. How could an innate gift be this powerful?

Hart stood tall within the golden immortal bird's flames as it flapped its wings. He cast a look of disdain towards Bonny. "Where did you gain the confidence to bare your teeth at your master?"

Rage burned in Bonny's eyes and he nearly lost his composure. "You Phoenixes are the slimiest and most despicable family. You should all just go and die!" Then, the black immortal bird looked up, released a cry, and charged straight at Hart.

Hart snickered as he replied, "You possess nothing more than a fallen bloodline. A slave will always be a slave." The golden immortal bird rushed forward as well.

These two enormous immortal birds, one black and one gold, clashed high above the desert in an ear-splitting crash. The air was burnt away and the heat distortions nearly caused the sky to collapse. Yellow wind swirled in from the surrounding desert, covering the earth and sky as it melted into the gold and black flames.

Astral-5 students quickly hid after recovering from their initial shock.

Lu Yin also moved slightly behind Little Pao, leaving the senior student stunned. "Junior, you're not cute at all." As Little Pao spoke, he lifted a hand and formed an invisible shield from his star energy that protected the two of them.

This was a fight between two immortal birds and even the errant shockwaves could reduce an ordinary Melder to ashes, but Little Pao was able to protect them with a casual lifting of his hand. Lu Yin was a bit surprised to see this. After all, Big Pao and Little Pao were the only students left after Astral-10 had been chased out of the Innerverse. There were rumors that these two students hadn't left because they were so weak that no academy wanted them, but Lu Yin didn't believe this nonsense. Rather, he suspected that these two were hiding a great deal of surprises.

### **Chapter 135: Lu Yin's Reputation**

Little Pao and Lu Yin avidly watched the battle play out in front of them until Lu Yin suddenly received a warning from the Sandmaster. He reluctantly took a step out before vanishing.

The two immortal birds were still brawling in the sky when Lu Yin appeared directly before Hart. Without a word, he unleashed a Nine Stacks Shockwave Palm, pushing him to the ground. Lu Yin then whirled around and attacked Bonny with another palm strike. Bonny tried to counter-attack with his black flames, but everything was scattered by Lu Yin's attack.

When Lu Yin used his Shockwave Palm at the Nine Stacks level, it gave the attack unimaginable power. No one at Hart, Bonny, and Craynor's level could defend against it, and the two rivals were simultaneously sent crashing to the ground.

Lu Yin had stopped the astonishing battle between the two rival immortal birds that easily.

The students from the Fifth Academy were dumbfounded by the sight. They knew full well how powerful Hart had become after breaking through to the Melder Realm. He could easily be ranked within the top ten Melders of their academy, but he had still been defeated in a single move. They had drastically underestimated Lu Yin.

Beneath the surface of the desert, Hart lay there in shock as blood dripped down from the corner of his mouth. He raised his head up in anger as he thought, I lost again?! I lost even after I became a Melder? Why is he so strong? Is he actually a match for those crazy geniuses?

Not far from Hart, Bonny spat out a mouthful of blood before looking around blankly. He was in a similar state of shock—to think that there was actually a Melder in Astral-10 who could defeat him! Even though Bonny wasn't the strongest Melder in the Ninth Academy, he was still within the top five. Despite that strength, he had still been beaten by this person. No wonder the mentors had asked him to investigate Astral-10; this place had truly concealed itself well.

Lu Yin looked down from the sky. "Astral-10 isn't a place for you to settle your personal grudges. Tell me if you want to duel me, and if not, then please leave."

Hart wiped away the streak of blood on his face and stood up. "Let's go."

Bonny also stood up, and he glared at Hart, clearly unwilling to go. He then turned to look at Lu Yin one final time before departing as well. From that one exchange with Lu Yin, both of them had realized that they weren't his opponents. There was no longer any point in fighting him now. More opportunities would come up in the future.

Lu Yin reluctantly watched them leave, feeling like he had wasted an opportunity. His attacks just now had been too strong. If he had held back slightly, then he might have been able to earn a hefty sum from the two of them.

Little Pao paid close attention to the two students and only left after he saw them leave Astral-10 on their spacecraft.

Once Hart entered his spacecraft, he immediately turned his gadget on. The face of a handsome man appeared on the display. When the students of the Fifth Academy saw him, they bowed low without even daring to lift their heads.

“What’s wrong?”

Hart gritted his teeth. “I want to enter the clan’s secret realm.”

“I asked you, what’s the matter?”

“I lost. I lost to Lu Yin from Astral-10.’

“How many moves?”

“One,” Hart answered with a grimace.

The man fell silent. “You won’t be his opponent unless you complete your metamorphosis.”

As soon as he heard the word “metamorphosis,” Hart’s expression changed and a trace of fear flickered through his eyes. “I... Can I undergo metamorphosis?”

The man’s gaze was cold. “You’ll have to undergo metamorphosis if you want to win. However, metamorphosing is extremely risky.”

Hart clenched his fists tightly. He thought about not only Lu Yin, but also the powerful Melders from his own academy. Lu Yin could be considered the catalyst for his desire to change, as Hart didn’t want to be weaker than the student of an exiled academy. Hart carried the heavy glory of the Phoenix clan upon his back and he refused to be a weakling who couldn’t even defeat a traitor.

“I’ll metamorphose.”

The man in the display smiled. “I will send out the appropriate orders. Once you have metamorphosed successfully, you will be able to directly join the Council of the Ten Arbiters. If you fail and die, I will avenge you. Lu Yin, right? I’ve memorized his name.”

“Thank you, brother,” Hart answered.

The display disappeared, and the Fifth Academy students raised their heads and sighed in relief. The pressure that the man exuded was intense, as he was one of Ten Arbiters: the Immortal Phoenix, Serati Phoenix.

Astral-10 returned to its previously peaceful state for the next two days as no new challengers appeared. And the ones en route wouldn’t arrive for some time.

Lu Yin inquired after the other students and was told that each one had found a suitable place for their own, individual training. “There are other training grounds in Astral-10?” Lu Yin was surprised.

Little Pao replied, “Of course. Astral-10 has a heritage that spans countless years. Although it was destroyed in an accident, some of the training grounds still exist. It’s just that they aren’t as complete as the Rain Observatory or the Sand Ocean. Nevertheless, there are still definitely places that are most suitable for each student. For example, Zhao Yilong is training at a cliff while Zora is spending all her time in a cemetery with skeletons.”

“What about me? Are there any training grounds that are suitable for me?” Lu Yin asked curiously.

Little Pao rolled his eyes. “Go look for one yourself. How should I know? I’m still a student too, ok? The mentors who actually knew the training grounds aren’t around anymore, so maybe you should ask the Headmaster?”

Lu Yin recalled the crazy old man. Forget it. He didn’t want to die just yet.

Lu Yin suddenly remembered what Lulu had told him while they were on the spacecraft. She had said that she wanted to obtain something from Astral-10 and that she wanted to battle with someone. Lu Yin wondered if she had been successful.

Little Pao continued talking. “You can stay here. It’s been peaceful for a few days, but it won’t last. The powerhouses from the Innerverse should be arriving soon.”

Lu Yin shrugged as he thought to himself, It’s about time.

The battles in Astral-10’s Sand Ocean had been leaked to the public, and almost everyone had heard that Craynor, Hart Phoenix, and Bonny Phoenix had been defeated by Lu Yin. Each of the three was quite famous within their own academies, but they had still lost to Lu Yin, stunning everyone.

The news about Xi Yue had already caused Lu Yin’s name to be well-known, and with these battle results, he garnered even more interest from the other powerhouses. Even those who had no interest in Xi Yue started to pay attention to Lu Yin, wanting to challenge him as well.

In the Sixth Academy, someone said, “That’s weird. How can an Astral-10 student defeat a powerhouse from the Phoenix Clan? That’s an abandoned branch of the academy.”

“The universe is extremely large, it’s not surprising that a genius like him would pop up. I heard that the Blaze Realm is enraged because Craynor is second on the Blaze Realm Rankings, but his cosmic ring was actually stolen by Lu Yin. What a humiliating defeat.”

“Serves them right. The Blaze Realm already failed when they tried to stop Astral-10’s assessment, and now, the person who they sent to cause trouble was defeated. They should be furious, haha.”

“Shh, are you looking for trouble?! You also train in the Dao of Illusion. You better not meet Jared there. Otherwise, you’ll be out of luck.”

“Why are you so scared? At most, I’ll stop pursuing the Dao of Illusion. It’s not like I can die in there.”

“But being killed there will still severely wound your spirit. Jared is an Area Master. If he really wants to create trouble for you, there’s no way for you to escape.”

“.....”

“Shut up! Do you see who just came in?” The students who were gossiping looked over and became stunned. There was an alluring woman whose white hair reached her ankles. She was wearing a breezy summer dress and a black ring fringed with brilliant silver. It was Mira.

“It’s Senior Mira! Senior Mira is back,” the students shouted fervently as everyone looked at her with an excited gaze.

The entire Sixth Academy erupted with noise.

Mira was a huge celebrity in the Sixth Academy even after she had become an Explorer and graduated. However, she was still an alumni of the Sixth Academy as well as a representative of the Ten Arbiter, and her status was second only to them.

Mira smiled, and her red pupils swept past the crowd, causing many to breathe heavily. She was just too entrancing.

Lu Yin right? I have underestimated you. You've already gathered such a huge reputation even before you entered the training realms. Michelle is also in Astral-10. How interesting, Mira thought to herself. Though she seemed to walk slowly, she instantly vanished from sight after a single step, only leaving a fragrant breeze behind.

Another day passed, making it four days since Hart had left. During this time, new people came, seeking to cause trouble. A motley crew of people had all traveled to Astral-10 for Xi Yue. Some of them weren't even students of Astral Combat Academy. However, Lu Yin didn't turn any of them down and managed to earn an enormous sum from his conditions and unbeatable strength.

The true powerhouses wouldn't rush to the Outerverse just because of Xi Yue. The only people who had rushed over were second rate experts who couldn't even compare to Hart. To Lu Yin, they had just come to deliver money to him. He had earned nearly three-hundred thousand star crystals over ten days. At this point, even he thought that maybe he might be acting too shamefully.

After two weeks, people finally stopped challenging Lu Yin as his reputation had become very widespread at this point. The academies had all made note of him and his name was no longer unfamiliar to most people. However he was more infamous than famous as his reputation included teasing Xi Yue, robbing students, and being very greedy. Due to this foul reputation, all sorts of insults had been thrown at Lu Yin.

Xi Yue was outraged when she heard about what had happened after returning to the Souldream Tribe. Isn't there anyone who can punish that pervert?

In Astral-8, blistering lava surged in slow, molten waves. Craynor stood there silently in discomfort, as he had for the last ten days.

Above the lava, burning red air blew into the distance like a sweltering sea breeze.

"You failed?" a low voice rang out.

Craynor bowed his head. "Yes. I'm sorry, but I failed."

"Useless."

Craynor didn't dare to reply.

"Send some people into the Six Daos, and have them report to me once they see anyone from Astral-10. I want everyone from Astral-10 to be stopped."

Craynor was elated. "Very well."

Back in Astral-10, Lu Yin was unaware of a shocking event that had rocked the Great Yu Empire to its core; the Second Prince, Duke Yushan, had betrayed the Empire along with the Seventh, Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Squadrons. They had invaded five points in the Frostwave Weave, stunning the weave residents and all those nearby.

Undying Yushan was so infuriated when he heard the news that he fell unconscious, causing the Great Yu Empire to destabilize even further.

Within the palace, Dorren Yushan had a grim face. “Announce that Duke Yushan, Seventh Squadron’s Captain Batson, Eighth Squadron’s Captain Shalosh, Tenth Squadron’s Captain Felut, and Twelfth Squadron’s Captain Dove are traitors and wanted criminals in the territory of the Empire. The war has begun.”

But Duke Yushan’s declaration had come too late. By the time the Great Yu Empire reacted to the betrayal, all of the people loyal to Duke Yushan—including Vice Treasurer Sicar and some other ministers—had already left. Even the Sword Mercenary group and some of the elites of Yu Academy had joined the betrayers, causing the royal guards to descend into a second round of chaos.

While all of this was happening, some minor incidents flew underneath everyone’s notice. Zhang Dingtian, Seruzen, Bai Xue, and Xu San, who were all elites of Yu Academy, had all gone missing. If the times were more peaceful, then the repercussions would have been enormous.

After a few more days passed, it was the day of Astral-10’s New Student Competition. Lu Yin left the Sand Ocean and stood at the realm entrance, the venue for the competition.

### **Chapter 136: The New Student Competition**

By the time Lu Yin arrived, several people had already arrived.

“Brother Lu,” Coco shouted excitedly. She was clearly happy to see Lu Yin again.

Lu Yin tousled her hair affectionately. “You must’ve improved a lot since the last time I saw you—you’re already a Melder! Do you want to spar with me?”

Coco stuck her tongue out before playfully replying, “Of course I don’t want to fight with you. Everyone’s heard about how you defeated the students from the various academies. You’re famous now.”

“Really?” Lu Yin blinked, slightly astonished. He hadn’t paid much attention to what other people thought of him since he already knew his reputation wasn’t good. To him, there was no reason to put himself in a bad mood.

Meanwhile, Zora was spinning her silver needles between her fingers nearby. Just the sight of the massive needles scared Lu Yin, and he suddenly remembered Coco’s innate gift. Could this be a specialty of Windrift Hall’s?

On the other side, Meng Yue stood to the side, all by himself. He had also become a Melder, and his palm now carried with it a yellow hue. It seemed that his strength had risen considerably. When Meng Yue noticed Lu Yin’s gaze, his provokingly clenched his fists.

A bit further away, Xia Luo was casually sitting beside the Trialmaster, as if the two of them were old friends.

Darkvoid sat alone in a corner, and his dark hair that seemed to absorb nearly all the light that ventured near it caught Lu Yin's attention. Darkvoid was the most mysterious person amongst all the students, and he definitely had a powerful innate gift.

At that moment, Schutz exited the teleportation stone area as the Trialmaster announced, "Schutz: fifty two wins and two hundred and thirty seven losses."

Lu Yin was shocked. Schutz's win/loss ratio was nearly 1 to 4. Not bad. Schutz's win rate was comparable to Michelle's from a month ago.

Meanwhile, Schutz's eyes gleamed when he noticed Lu Yin, and he nodded to Lu Yin once before walking to the side, standing by himself. They were both from the Great Yu Empire, but they weren't very familiar with each other. Lu Yin originally thought that Schutz would be discouraged after seeing the strength of the Inverse powerhouses, but that didn't seem to be the case, leaving Lu Yin surprised.

Coco leaned in towards Lu Yin and whispered, "That guy is completely crazy. He comes here every day to battle. Even the Trialmaster said that he is better suited to train through battles."

Lu Yin nodded in understanding.

A while later, Silver appeared with a beaming smile and a foxy expression. Coco instinctively took a few steps back when she saw Silver—this guy frightened her. Lu Yin, on the other hand, acknowledged Silver with a simple nod.

Silver smiled. "Congratulations! You've become very famous recently."

"That's not a good thing," Lu Yin calmly replied.

Silver added, "Not necessarily. You can probably attract the attention of certain people if you become famous enough."

Lu Yin narrowed his eyes. Certain people? What people? The Neohuman Alliance? He couldn't figure out Silver's identity, but he was clearly related to the Neohuman Alliance even though he was clearly not a zombie. All Lu Yin was sure of was that he was a mysterious person. Also, Xia Luo seemed to completely despise Silver for some reason.

When Hui Daynight arrived, he glared at Lu Yin coldly before walking to his own corner.

Zhao Yilong soon appeared alongside the flash of a sword. He made a point to glare at Lu Yin before also quietly moving to the side to wait.

Lu Yin had a feeling that he might have become too famous, which was not a good thing as everyone seemed to treat him as a rival.

Everyone who had arrived at Astral-10 as a Sentinel had become a Melder, greatly increasing their strength. Lu Yin was very interested in seeing just how much they had improved.



Moments later, Michelle walked out of the teleportation device before taking a position near the rest of the students. She looked at Lu Yin with an expression as if she wanted to say something, but in the end, she remained silent.

When Lu Yin saw Michelle, he suddenly remembered that he had seen her when the Sandmaster had taken him along to experience Extreme Flash. Michelle must have seen his silhouette at that time.

Big Pao and Little Pao also showed up, with the same cheerful mood as always day. "Who's still missing?" Big Pao asked.

Lu Yin replied, "Lulu."

Big Pao looked at his gadget before saying, "No matter. We'll wait."

In the other academies, every New Student Competition would have a large audience watching, and there was no way that the event would be delayed for any latecomers. However, since they were all in Astral-10, things were a bit more casual.

Lulu finally appeared an hour later, and her entire forehead was covered in sweat as she panted heavily.

Now that everyone was present, Big Pao led them to a grassy area quite far away from the teleportation stone. He smiled before saying, "Alright, now that everyone's here, I hereby announce that the New Student Competition has officially started! Come on up. Everyone has to draw lots; number one will battle with number two, number three with number four, and so on and so forth. Those who win will continue to fight until the strongest student is determined."

"Not only does the New Student Competition determine the rankings of the new students, but it is also a chance for you to show off your abilities to the mentors. If you are lucky enough, you might even catch a mentor's interest and become their student. So, I suggest that you all take this very seriously. If you are chosen by a mentor, it can change your destiny!" Little Pao declared temptingly.

Everyone grew excited; even the weakest mentor in Astral-10 was a Hunter. Being personally guided by a Hunter powerhouse would definitely vastly improve their strength, which was precisely why all of these students had joined Astral-10 in the first place. With this incentive in place, they would all definitely give their all in this competition.

Lu Yin drew the number nine. He looked around, and his gaze settled onto Zora, who was holding the number ten; she would be his opponent. She saw the number nine in Lu Yin's hands at the same time, and her face immediately sank.

She was an elite from Windrift Hall, had connections to the outside world, and was clearly familiar with Lu Yin's reputation. This was why her expression had turned downcast. Lu Yin had even defeated the number two on the Blaze Realm Rankings. He was clearly a genius who could be considered powerful even among the other academies, not to mention Astral-10. This was going to be a difficult battle.

"Senior, is there only one chance in the competition? Are you eliminated once you lose?" Silver asked smilingly.

Little Pao answered, "Of course not. Those who are defeated will have one chance to challenge the winners."

“Alright, number one against number two. Let’s begin,” Big Pao announced as he looked through the crowd.

Xia Luo walked out from the students with the number one lot. His opponent was Meng Yue.

Lu Yin’s eyes shone when he saw Xia Luo step out. Between all Astral-10 students, Lu Yin was the most curious about Darkvoid’s innate gift, most cautious of Silver, and the most confused about Xia Luo. To Lu Yin, this person was an endless void. Regardless of whether it was on Earth or here in the academy, Xia Luo had never revealed his true powers. Thus, Lu Yin was curious to see if anything would be forced out this time. However, when he saw that Xia Luo’s opponent was Meng Yue, he assumed that Xia Luo wouldn’t be forced to reveal any of his hidden cards.

Xia Luo calmly looked at Meng Yue with a gentle gaze.

But Meng Yue was looking at Lu Yin with a frosty glare; he didn’t care about Xia Luo and only wanted to fight Lu Yin and Lulu. Those two were the only opponents that he wanted to face.

“It’s not a good habit to be distracted during a battle,” Xia Luo said with a light smile.

Meng Yue swiveled over to look at Xia Luo. He wanted to get this battle over as quickly as he could, so he lifted a hand and said, “I won’t hold back. Be careful.” He then rushed at Xia Luo, and with every step he took, the grass beneath his feet wilted. He aimed his palm at Xia Luo while using the Vastdearth Sect’s battle technique—Desolate Palm.

Meng Yue had found a ruin within Astral-10, though it would be more accurate to call it a desolate area in the shape of a palm print. He had felt a terrifying desolate energy there that seemed to be able to swallow souls. This had astonished Meng Yue, as he had not felt such terrifying desolation energy even in the Vastdearth Sect, where he had first learned the Desolate Palm. He had meditated at the site of the palm print for a month before breaking through to become a Melder. The location had helped him strengthen his Desolate Palm, which now had a faint trace of that ancient palm print’s aura.

Meng Yue’s palm intrigued the Sandmaster who was watching from the sky. “It can absorb souls and cause everything to wither away. It’s an excellent battle technique.”

Xia Luo felt the energy in his body disappear and saw the sky turn dull as the Desolate Palm drew close to him. The attack consumed everything in its path, stunning everyone present. No one had expected Meng Yue to have such a large increase in power. Even Lu Yin was surprised.

However, his growth wasn’t enough. This palm just wasn’t enough to defeat Xia Luo.

Bang.

The sound reverberated in all directions, tearing the air itself apart from just how vast the star energy contained within it was. Meng Yue’s Desolate Palm clashed with Xia Luo’s palm, but Meng Yue was the one who was blasted backwards dozens of steps. His palm shook and a thin bloodtrail could be seen on the grass; he had lost.

Everyone looked at Xia Luo, surprised that he had countered Meng Yue’s Desolate Palm that easily.

Although there was still a smile on Xia Luo's face, the smile had turned cold. "Senior, I've won, right?" Xia Luo said as he looked at Big Pao.

Big Pao's eyes gleamed as he nodded. "Xia Luo has won the first round."

Meng Yue's palm was still trembling as he tried to dispel the remnants of Xia Luo's attack. He stared at Xia Luo with a shocked expression. He hadn't expected that there would be such a terrifying person among the new students.

Lu Yin had known that Xia Luo would win, but he didn't expect him to do so that quickly. Xia Luo's palm hadn't been a battle technique, but it had easily defeated the Desolate Palm. How did he do that?

Most of the onlookers didn't understand what had happened either, but Michelle was staring at Xia Luo in disbelief. She had never expected someone like this to be among the new students.

In the distance, the Trialmaster opened his eyes, his gaze filled with surprise. "That was a powerful attack, but he used an astounding method to dissolve the opponent's star energy. This person has the potential to become a lockbreaker."

"The second round begins now," Big Pao announced.

Schutz walked out; he had drawn number three while Lulu was number four.

Schutz was stunned when he saw Lulu walk out. He wasn't particularly good at fighting girls.

"Hey, what's with that face?" Lulu was annoyed and clenched her fists.

Schutz coldly answered, "I don't like to fight with girls."

Lulu's gaze turned cold and she smiled deviously. "Really? Then don't fight back and just let me attack you." She suddenly charged at Schutz, the strength of her stride cracking the ground with every step.

Lu Yin and Meng Yue were both well aware of how strong Lulu was, so they winced when they saw Lulu clench her fists.

Schutz's battle experience was extensive, and he immediately felt an incredible sense of danger overtake him as soon as Lulu raised her fists. He instinctively dodged, and Lulu's attack left a massive pit in the ground, stunning everyone.

Schutz was astounded. The ground in this place was very sturdy and should be able to easily withstand a battle between Melders. However, Lulu had carved out a huge pit with a single punch. If Schutz had been struck by that fist, then he would have definitely been badly injured.

"Don't hide if you're a man," Lulu taunted before punching at Schutz again.

Schutz's eyes widened and he pulled out a blood red blade, blocking Lulu's fist with the back of his blade. It wasn't a fair matchup, fist against blade, but the results surprised everyone when Schutz was launched away along with his blade.

"Tsk, she's a Mavis, but that guy still dared to go easy on her," Big Pao exclaimed.

Before Schutz could even land on the ground, Lulu appeared behind him with her extreme speed movement technique and then fired off another punch. She was like a monster in human form at this moment, and her attack shattered Schutz's blade and caused him to spit out a mouthful of blood as he was smashed into the ground.

Hui Daynight's eyes flickered when he saw Lulu's extreme speed. Why did that technique look so familiar? Why did it resemble a movement technique of the Daynight Clan?

Crash!

Another deafening bang rang out as Lulu's fist shattered the ground, but Schutz had long since disappeared from there.

Lulu turned around, only to see a blood red blade slash past her face as she barely managed to dodge. She landed on the ground and knocked her fists together pugilistically as she looked at Schutz. "You're going to fight back now?"

### **Chapter 137: Seeing Through Weaknesses**

Schutz gripped his blade tightly as he stared at Lulu in disbelief. This woman was both crazy and had incredible strength. If he hadn't dodged in time, then the battle would have ended just now.

"I apologize for being rude. You are a worthy opponent," Schutz replied solemnly.

Lulu smiled, snorted, and then said, "Come on, let's keep going. I know that you're the most powerful person in the Great Yu Empire's younger generation, but you're still not my opponent."

"I know, but I'll lose with dignity," Schutz said in a heavy voice. The most powerful person in the Great Yu Empire's younger generation had completely set his pride aside at Astral-10. He had to face the harsh truth that he was currently one of the youngest students in the academy.

Lulu took off with another bang, her strength and speed reaching a level that Schutz couldn't even retaliate against. However, due to his rich battle experience, he managed to always dodge her attacks at critical moments. But despite his battle prowess, his injuries continued to accumulate.

Schutz's inability to fight back against Lulu showed Lu Yin just how weak the Outerverse was. He had interacted with the cream of the crop of the Great Yu Empire's fighters and was well aware of their strength. For example, Gerbach used external items so that he could use Lightning Arrow while most of the Innaverse and the Astral Combat Academy elites used star energy to power their battle techniques. This was a key difference. The powerhouses of the Outerverse were just too average compared to the Innaverse geniuses. It was no surprise that Wendy Yushan would look down upon the members of her generation.

Lulu leapt into the sky and launched yet another punch at Schutz. Her fighting style was extremely direct; she just brute forced her opponent into submission. Schutz gritted his teeth, and his shirt was already stained with blood. He raised his blade and a dim, blood red glow illuminated a section of the battle grounds. This was Schutz's battle technique, but Lulu had shattered it along with his blade the last time he had tried to use it. Lulu's punch landed squarely on Schutz and the ground below him splintered into a huge pit. Schutz fell to the ground, heavily injured.

Big Pao shook his head and sighed. "Lulu Mavis has won the second round."

Lu Yin went over to Schutz and helped him up. Schutz had a hand clutched to his chest, and he squeezed out, "Thank you."

"You did very well. She's a Mavis and would be considered an elite even in the Inniverse," Lu Yin consoled.

Schutz's had a determined gaze as he replied, "It doesn't matter which clan she's from. She's still human, and there's no excuse for being defeated by a human."

Lu Yin nodded. He respected Schutz's attitude, and he actually reminded him of Zhang Dingtian. Both men were resilient and fearless. This type of personality might face a difficult path in their life, but they would definitely grow to achieve great things. Lu Yin respected people like these two.

"The third round begins."

Silver walked out with a smile; he was number five.

Hui Daynight stood up from where he had been sitting; he was number six. Since this battle had Hui Daynight, who was from the powerful Daynight clan, everyone paid attention when he stepped forward.

Lu Yin's face grew sober, but not because of Hui Daynight. While the others might not be familiar with Silver, Lu Yin was well aware that he was somehow related to the Neohuman Alliance—the greatest enemy of the human realm. Regardless of whether it was the Daynight Clan, the Mavis Clan, or the Blaze Realm, all of them were united against the Neohuman Alliance.

Hui Daynight was from the Daynight Clan, but Silver had a potentially even more powerful background.

Xia Luos face changed and his eyes grew cold when he saw Silver.

After Silver had entered Astral-10, he had only ever participated in a single ported battle, which he had lost. He hadn't really done much and seemed to be very average. It was easy for people to forget about Silver, like how Hui Daynight only desired to fight against Lu Yin. The smiling guy that Hui Daynight was paired up against right now only made him feel a sense of disdain.

"Moonrise Finger," Hui Daynight roared as he took a step forward, instantly appearing in front of Silver. His finger pierced through the air, flickering with a grey light as it headed straight toward Silver's heart.

Silver's smile never faded, but his eyes turned frosty as the attack neared. His beautiful butterfly sword emitted a small ringing sound that covered the area in front of him. Hui Daynight's brows rose in surprise, and he felt a chill in his fingers. He reflexively dodged, causing the butterfly sword to slide past him.

"What a shame, you managed to avoid it," Silver said with a beaming expression, still casually looking at Hui Daynight.

Hui Daynight's expression grew serious. He had felt threatened by the butterfly sword that had just slid past him just now. If he hadn't dodged in time, then he would have lost a finger. This silver haired man was very strong.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed dramatically. He had encountered this blade a few times before, but he had yet to defeat it. Even after his drastic increase in strength, that sword still gave him the chills. He could see that Silver had improved as much as Lu Yin himself.

In the sky, the Rainmaster looked at Silver. "This person can see through his enemy's weaknesses."

Silver burst out with another attack, his butterfly sword spinning rapidly as it swept toward Hui Daynight. The Daynight clan member grew sober as he carefully tracked the sword's movements and did his best to dodge. The scary thing was that, despite his efforts, the sword managed to connect with him every time. It almost seemed that he was deliberately moving towards the blade, leaving Hui Daynight furious.

Everyone watched in surprise as the same thing happened several times in a row before Hui Daynight angrily roared, "Daynight Soul Finger." His finger bore through the air as his body disappeared from sight. Silver didn't move and felt a spot of pain on his body. The Daynight clan's battle techniques are so annoying, but this is nothing more than an attack.

The butterfly sword quickly swept out in a white flash, and then a splash of blood suddenly stained the grass red. Hui Daynight's body reappeared, but there was a huge gash on his chest, leaving everyone stunned.

"I'm sorry. You looked so dashing just now that I couldn't hold myself back from cutting you," Silver said, still smiling.

Hui Daynight's eyes narrowed as he looked at Silver in a daze. Although Hui Daynight could still use his Daynight Soul Finger, this person had not allowed him to land a single attack yet—how was this possible? He had never expected that such a monster would be hiding within the new students.

Coco drew back into the crowd, scared. She had always felt that Silver's smile was terrifying. Meanwhile, the rest of the students looked at Silver warily. That last flash had astounded them. They now all saw him as a very dangerous person and as someone to keep a distance from if they battled him.

Michelle had a startled look on her face. She felt that her initial assumption that Astral-10 wouldn't have any amazing talents after being driven into the Outerverse was absurd. These past few battles had amazed her; Xia Luo, Lulu, and Silver were all extremely powerful. Although Hui Daynight had lost to Silver, he was still a member of the Daynight Clan. Additionally, there was still Darkvoid, who intrigued her the most initially, as well as Lu Yin who had been steadily growing in strength. Many of Astral-10's new students had truly surprised Michelle as she was only getting to know her fellow students now.

Michelle wasn't alone in her thoughts. The others had also only come to realize the extent of their fellow students' abilities over the course of these few battles. They really hadn't interacted with their juniors that much.

"Silver wins the third round," Big Pao announced.

But Hui Daynight was stubborn. "It's not over yet."

Big Pao disdainfully replied, "If his blade had gone any deeper, you'd be dead right now. It's over. You lost."

Hui Daynight ground his teeth unwillingly. He wanted to refute Big Pao, but he couldn't think of anything to say. He still couldn't understand how Silver's attack had overcome his battle technique—that was a battle technique of the Daynight Clan! How could it be defeated so easily? The only possibilities were that the opponent's technique was much stronger than the technique Hui Daynight had used or that the opponent himself was far more powerful than Hui Daynight. Regardless of which option was true, his chances of victory were negligible at best.

Silver returned to the group, still grinning. He turned around to smile at Lu Yin once before glancing at Xia Luo.

“The fourth round begins.”

After everyone saw the results of the first three rounds, the atmosphere had become very heavy. Everyone had realized that their fellow students were all very powerful and that they couldn't be held to the typical Outerverse standards.

Zhao Yilong slowly walked out; he was number seven.

Coco hesitantly stepped out from the other side. She was number eight.

“Good luck Coco!” Zora shouted, but she only startled the small girl. Coco was already extremely nervous, but this caused her to become even more nervous.

Lulu patted Coco's head. “Don't be scared. Go.”

Coco blinked once, causing Lu Yin to laugh. This girl was just too jumpy.

Zhao Yilong's face fell when he saw his opponent. He had been hoping for an exciting battle, but he was utterly disappointed to see that his opponent was Coco, the little girl who seemed powerless.

“All the best, sister,” Lulu encouraged. Coco took a deep breath and then reluctantly walked out to face Zhao Yilong.

The ancient sword in Zhao Yilong's hand shimmered with a cold light, and his gaze was even colder. Coco instinctively retreated two steps and pouted when she saw his serious appearance. However, her gaze also firmed with determination. She had entered Astral-10 through her own merits, so why should she be afraid? A large syringe suddenly appeared in her hands, startling nearly everyone. Was that really a syringe?!

Zhao Yilong was also taken aback.

Aside from Lu Yin and a few others among the students, no one else had seen Coco's innate gift yet, which made the gigantic syringe's sudden appearance truly shocking.

“I'm ready,” Coco piped up.

Zhao Yilong gripped the hilt of his sword tightly. He wasn't really sure how to attack a young girl. Actually, come to think of it, she was the youngest among everyone present.

They both froze for a moment.

“You should just admit defeat,” Zhao Yilong said quietly.

Coco stubbornly shook her head. “No.”

Zhao Yilong frowned. “I won’t hold back.”

Coco bit her lip anxiously and replied, “Come on then.”

Zhao Yilong narrowed his eyes and then waved his hand casually, releasing a slash that whistled through the air at Coco. But the girl disappeared in an instant, surprising everyone.

Zora smiled. The Windrift Hall had a rule that required its members to form teams of two. She and Coco were in a team, and she was the protector while Coco was the healer. Despite their roles, however, Coco could hold her own in battle and had an amazing ability to tank damage. Her durability could be seen from the fact that she had successfully taken the three attacks during Astral-10’s entrance assessment. And on top of all this, Coco had also learnt an extreme speed technique from Windrift Hall.

Coco’s extreme speed surprised Lulu; it was almost as fast as her White Flash.

Lu Yin was amazed as well. The speed was simply amazing.

Zhao Yilong’s attack completely missed. He arched a brow and shook his wrist. Multiple slashes appeared, sealing off an area that was a hundred meters in radius. This was a wide spread attack that hit everything, but his attacks still couldn’t land on Coco. The girl seemed to melt into the air, avoiding every attack.

Zhao Yilong’s face grew somber. “I’ll ask you one last time. Do you admit defeat?”

Coco stubbornly shook her head.

“I hail from Ten Thousand Swords Peak. We can shatter the sky, so it’s useless even if you hide in the sky. Don’t hold it against me if you die,” Zhao Yilong solemnly said. He then placed his hand on the hilt of his sword and exerted a miniscule amount of force. The sword multiplied into ten identical images before combining into a single sword that stabbed towards Coco.

“Ten Swords in One,” Zora muttered in shock.

### **Chapter 138: A Powerful Innate Gift**

Coco’s eyes flashed brightly and she hurriedly dodged the attack, leaving Zhao Yilong’s sword slashing through the empty air. His attack did manage to slice off a piece of clothing, but Coco herself was untouched.

“How many times are you going to dodge?” Zhao Yilong growled. Dazzling attacks rained down one after the other. Every single one of his attacks was actually the Ten Swords in One technique; this battle technique that had stunned so many people was casually and smoothly executed by Zhao Yilong with exceptional skill. Coco could only dodge so many of the attacks, and it was growing increasingly difficult for her to evade them.

Lu Yin had a grave expression on his face as he spectated this battle. Back when the Rain Observatory had been giving out gifts, Zhao Yilong had snatched most of them away. During that time, Lu Yin had



witnessed Zhao Yilong's sword skills, and he knew that the Ten Swords in One technique was definitely not his limit. Zhao Yilong had already reached that stage as a Sentinel, so now that he was a Melder, he was bound to be stronger.

Coco was panting heavily. She was constantly dodging and evading, and whenever there was an attack that she couldn't dodge, she would use her syringe to defend herself. During Astral-10's entrance examination, Coco had used her syringe to defend against the three aerial attacks without it suffering a single scratch. It was clearly extremely sturdy and was proving to be quite effective against Zhao Yilong's attacks.

Before long, Zhao Yilong upped his power by changing from the Ten Swords in One technique to the Twenty Swords in One technique, and eventually, even the Fifty Swords in One technique. Finally, one hundred swords united in one, shaking the entire space and causing Coco to lose her footing. The sharp sword edge slashed through the syringe and violently shoved Coco back. Her face paled and her syringe fell to the ground by her side.

"That's enough! Coco, admit defeat!" Zora yelled as she sprinted in front of Zhao Yilong to protect Coco.

Zhao Yilong sheathed his long sword, his eyes calm.

No one was surprised by the outcome, but they were surprised that she had forced Zhao Yilong to use his Hundred Swords in One technique. He lived up to the reputation of Ten Thousand Swords Peak, and the power of the Hundred Swords in One technique was enough to leave everyone in awe.

Whenever Lu Yin saw Zhao Yilong, he was reminded of his fiancée, who was also a disciple of Ten Thousand Swords Peak. If Zhao Yilong was able to use Hundred Swords in One, then she could probably merge a thousand swords together!

"Victor of the fourth match, Zhao Yilong," Big Pao announced emotionlessly.

Coco hugged her syringe and left the battlegrounds with her head hung low, as if she couldn't accept the results. Lulu hugged the small girl and tried to cheer her up. "Little brat, you moved pretty quickly in there! Later, when you're free, why don't we see if you or your big sister is faster."

Coco mumbled, "I won't compete with you. What if you decide to beat me up after you lose?"

Lulu was unhappy with her response. "What the- Your sister isn't like that."

"The fifth match. Begin."

Lu Yin walked out and looked straight at Zora, who was standing in the middle of the battlefield with gleaming eyes. She was initially despondent when she first discovered that she would be facing Lu Yin in the first round, but after watching the first four matches, she wasn't as upset anymore. Not a single one of the fighters so far would have been easier to deal with than Lu Yin. For example, she would never have been able to withstand Zhao Yilong's Hundred Swords as One technique. Every single one of the students here was a freak. Even though everyone assumed that Astral-10 wouldn't be able to recruit many strong students after being exiled to the Outerverse, reality seemed to be the exact opposite.

It was rumored that the difficulty of Astral-10's entrance exam wasn't the same as the other academies. If that was true, then anyone who could pass the exam would be strong and at least comparable to any genius from the Inverseverse.

At this time, Coco coincidentally saw Schutz and politely approached him. "That, that injury of yours seems pretty serious. Would you like me to treat you?" As she talked, she brought out her syringe.

Schutz wisely declined.

Windrift Hall was known for its healing techniques, but no organization would be able to last for long without also having the means to defend itself. Coco's display of extreme speed had piqued Lu Yin's curiosity over what level Zora's strength had reached.

"I know that I can't beat you," Zora suddenly said while staring at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was astonished. "What?"

"I will use my strongest battle technique to attack you, and ask for your mercy," Zora said seriously.

"Brother Lu, please show mercy!" Coco shouted.

Lu Yin laughed wryly before responding, "Alright, I'll do my best."

Zora took a deep breath and then took out a giant silver needle. The needle flashed with a cold sheen that caused Lu Yin's scalp to feel numb. That'll definitely hurt like hell if that even pricks me.

In the next instant, Zora rushed towards Lu Yin, the silver needle stabbing directly at his forehead. He easily evaded the attack, but Zora followed up with a finger attack at his stomach. Before the finger even connected, a gale washed over Lu Yin, numbing his body. He reflexively retreated, but Zora grunted quietly and pointed at him, causing her silver needle to shatter and spew shrapnel toward Lu Yin.

Coco's eyes flashed when she saw this battle technique from Windrift Hall—Pulse Severing Finger. The attack targeted the opponent's vital points and focused on sealing the opponent's star energy and paralyzing their body. It was one of the highest ranked battle techniques of Windrift Hall.

Lu Yin could clearly feel that each finger strike from Zora was a purposeful attack. Since he didn't want to lose like an idiot, he raised his hand and caused the air to vibrate. With a boom, the ground was sundered, the void trembled, and Zora was forced back more than ten steps. She exhaled bitterly; she had lost.

Lu Yin pulled his hand back. He hadn't used Spacerender Palm in quite some time, but he had controlled his six-stacks Spacerender Palm quite well. Zora had been successfully repelled without any injuries.

"I admit defeat," Zora readily acknowledged.

Everyone looked at Lu Yin with a strange impression. While he hadn't shown any particularly strong skills, it was precisely this aspect of him that was the most terrifying. Like Xia Luo, who hadn't used a single battle technique, Lu Yin's strength was unfathomable.

"The fifth match's victor is Lu Yin," Big Pao announced.

Lu Yin acknowledged Zora with a nod and then walked to join the rest of the students. He held a hand against his stomach; there was still a bit of pain and numbness left after Zora's attack. The Windrift Hall was not a simple power and there was a reason why they prospered in the Inniverse. Even though there had been a large gap between Zora's strength and his own, she had still been able to affect Lu Yin.

"The sixth match, begin."

Everyone grew somber. There were twelve new students, so the remaining two who had not yet battled were about to go: Michelle and Darkvoid.

Of Astral-10's new students, these two were in a entire league of their own. One had joined the Ten Arbiters Council as a Melder while the other possessed a strange innate gift. They were both unfathomable individuals, and this battle was bound to be the most interesting of the first round.

"Everyone, move back," Little Pao warned.

The students retreated further back, leaving Michelle and Darkvoid standing in front, both of whom's faces showed nothing.

Neither spoke or exchanged any pleasantries. They immediately started battling. Michelle pulled out a red shortbow from her cosmic ring and condensed her star energy into arrows. As the arrows flew toward Darkvoid, they distorted the space around them, compressed the air into liquid, and blasted the clouds away. Against this attack, Darkvoid didn't even move as a strange explosion burst out in front of him, completely blocking Michelle's star energy arrows.

The onlookers were stunned and pressured by the shockwaves. The duo's strength was already astonishing in the first exchange.

Each one of Michelle's arrows could rival Zhao Yilong's Hundred Swords as One and had the power to shake the void and sunder the earth. And yet, these overpowering attacks had been easily blocked by Darkvoid, giving the audience quite a thrill.

Zhao Yilong's face turned ugly. He had thought that it was rare for a Melder to be able to unite a hundred swords as one, but even though the sixth battle had barely started, he knew that he would have already lost to Michelle's relentless attacks.

The tremendous impacts from the unending bombardment released huge shockwaves that caused the ground to collapse wherever it spread. The affected area spread so far that Coco was pressured to the point of barely being able to breathe.

Lu Yin was stunned. He knew that Michelle was powerful since she had been able to join the Ten Arbiters Council, but Darkvoid's strength was the true surprise. After all, he was someone who originated from the Outerverse, but he had still managed to reach such a level at his age.

The ground trembled as Michelle's attacks grew in ferocity. Each attack was coated in a terrifying sharpness, and even the surrounding space was sealed off from the distortion forces. Darkvoid's expression remained as calm as ever even though the ground that he stood on was the only bit that had

not been blasted away. There was a circle a hundred meters in radius, centered around Darkvoid where the ground was hollowed out and ruined.

Michelle's explosive barrage continued for two full minutes. At the end, she was slightly out of breath as she stared at Darkvoid in disbelief. He hadn't taken a single step from his original stance.

Xia Luo also stared at Darkvoid in amazement. If what he had seen was true, then this person's innate gift was terrifying.

Silver's originally beaming face had grown a bit stiff.

Lu Yin's eyes were sparkling.

"Are you going to keep defending just like this?" Michelle asked coldly.

Darkvoid looked at her with the same indifference as before. He slowly raised his hand, revealing a black fingernail.

A chill ran down Michelle's spine when she saw Darkvoid raise his hand. She instinctively dodged to the side as a black smear of color flashed through where she had been standing just now. A terrifying explosion erupted at the spear's impact point, shattering the void. Before their very eyes, the scene cracked as if it were a reflection in a giant lake. The violent shockwave pushed Michelle back a dozen meters.

Everyone's eyes widened even further. This was an attack that had damaged space itself. Impossible! It was practically impossible for a Melder to shatter space, especially within Astral-10, but it had still happened. Darkvoid had shattered the void.

Everyone was stunned and gaped at Darkvoid.

Lu Yin's eyes twitched. That attack was a little too horrifying!

Little Pao gravely said, "This is why I had everyone pull back. Darkvoid's innate gift causes explosions in the void. You would be easily injured if you were even the slightest bit careless."

It took a while for his words to register within everyone's minds. Void explosions?! Just the name of the gift sounded troublesome. Typically, the void was extremely difficult to shatter and even an unstable space could only be shattered by someone at the Limiteer realm. It took a freakishly strong Melder to crack the void, but Darkvoid's innate gift actually allowed him to cause an explosion to ring out in the void. To put it simply, when he awakened his innate gift, he had stepped ahead of countless others.

Michelle looked at Darkvoid with some fear in her face. She knew he was terrifying, but not to this extent. Why had he not gone to the Innerverses? He should have been discovered when he had asked to join the Ten Arbiters Council long ago.

Darkvoid remained silent and only continued to wave his finger. Michelle's face fell and she dodged again. The place where she had been standing once again became distorted before exploding, sending shockwaves rippling in every direction. The ground crumbled like paper, and the destruction spread almost a kilometer out, and maybe even further.

The students pulled back again. No one wanted to feel the aftershocks of an attack that could sunder the void itself.

Dark smoke swirled about, and Michelle emerged from the ruined area with a back slick with sweat. She closely watched Darkvoid since she had to dodge whenever his fingers so much as twitched. Darkvoid was still standing in his original location while Michelle was now forced to scurry around like a mouse. She had never been toyed with by an opponent before.

In the sky above the battle, the Rainmaster exclaimed, "Such a powerful innate gift! It's a pity that this child's personality is too dark and that his experiences have caused him to close his heart to everyone else. Such a pity."

The Sandmaster quietly replied, "This innate gift would be absolutely terrifying even in the first three academies. Very few can match him while in the same realm, but it's not like he can't be defeated. He only knows how to unleash his innate gift on an instinctual level, but he doesn't know how to truly use it. It's still immature."

"Give him to me," the Rainmaster said, and no one raised any objections.

Boom!

Again, the void exploded, and Michelle's face paled. She gasped for breath as her clothes were ripped apart, revealing some of her snow white skin and catching the eyes of the audience.

### **Chapter 139: A Seed And Invisible Attack**

Everyone was visibly disappointed by the pairing for this battle. Michelle was truly strong, but she had encountered this monster. It was rare for Michelle to battle for this long, as she often defeated her opponent in a single move.

"I'm sure that you won't be able to take it for much longer. Let's get things started!" Big Pao mumbled to himself. He hadn't forgotten the time Xi Yue had pressured Michelle into using her innate gift, which was quite powerful as well.

Michelle's expression turned cold as she dodged yet another explosion. The red glint in her pupils deepened. She never thought that she would be forced to use her innate gift in the very first battle, but with this monster before her, she had no choice.

In the next moment, red lotuses blossomed beneath her feet. They were enchanting, beautiful, and enticing, and when Michelle stood above them, she was like an incredibly gorgeous enchantress.

Darkvoid's finger twitched and he darted past her. Michelle's eyes gleamed red as she took a step and disappeared. A void eruption exploded where she vanished from while she reappeared a kilometer away. Her speed was simply unbelievable. Michelle then raised her hands, causing specks of red light to shoot out before consolidating into a bow and arrow. She quickly fired one at Darkvoid.

The bright red bow and the arrow hurtling through the area caught everyone's attention. A strange flicker disrupted the air as something black appeared, blocking the lotus arrow's path. There was no loud explosion, but the clashing techniques caused tiny spatial cracks to spread everywhere. It was a shocking sight to see, and even if this battle was taking place in another academy, these spatial cracks

would still be there. Being able to shatter space while in the Melder realm was something limited to only the most powerful freaks.

Between the fractured space, the black light and lotus arrow wore each other out as they were of similar strength.

For the first time since this battle started, Darkvoid was shocked. He flicked his finger and sent another black light flying toward Michelle. She used the red lotus to dodge before firing another arrow, forcing Darkvoid to block it with another void explosion. The space around him continued exploding in a chain reaction, just like it had in the beginning. But compared to when he had done so at the beginning of the battle, the current explosions' power was incomparably greater. Their battle kept escalating in scale and the attacks only intensified. The onlookers could feel their fear settling in as they continued to watch. Very few had the courage to even go near attacks of this level. Even the average Limiteer from the Astral Combat Academy would find it difficult to retreat from this situation unaided.

All of a sudden, a lotus arrow turned to ash and faded away, causing everyone to perk up—was the winner about to be determined?

The spatial eruption continued expanding, and it engulfed Michelle in the blink of an eye. Everyone paled, fearing for her life, but before anyone could react, another Michelle appeared behind Darkvoid. Her feet was planted on her red lotuses, and after appearing, she loosed the knocked arrow aimed at Darkvoid.

Darkvoid was focused entirely on Michelle who had been in front of him, and he didn't expect that another Michelle would appear behind him. This wasn't extreme speed, but a clone technique. The Michelle that had been devoured by the spatial explosion dissipated into a flurry of red lotus petals before scattering. And behind Darkvoid, the red lotus arrow had already hit him.

Michelle's innate gift left everyone shocked, and they were all excited at the results of the battle. Michelle was clearly extremely powerful, and now that Darkvoid had been hit at point blank range, the battle should be concluded.

With a dull thud, Darkvoid's body flew dozens of meters away before he landed on the ground. The fiery attack left his body smoking, the trails rising all the way into the clouds.

Everyone watched on in silence.

Big Pao and Little Pao eyed the situation in disbelief, shocked that the battle could end in a single move.

Michelle frowned. The battle had not been easy, and technically speaking, that attack should have been enough to decide the victor. However, for some reason, her instincts were screaming that Darkvoid wasn't finished.

Everyone remained focused on the battlegrounds, and before long, a soft thud came out from amidst the smoke and dust. They watched as Darkvoid used a hand to help himself up before slowly standing. Everyone felt a chill crawl down their spines. How could he be fine after that attack? This doesn't make any sense! He's a monster!

Michelle's right fist tightened and her pupils dilated as she stared at Darkvoid. He slowly walked out, seemingly unphased by the attack he had suffered. He seemed to be uninjured, but the clothes on his

back had been ripped to strings. And through the hole, everyone could see a tattoo of three green leaves.

“Shamrock Enterprises?” Zora cried out.

Everyone stared at Darkvoid’s back, which was tattooed with the symbol of the Shamrock Enterprises.

Michelle was astonished. So this person was from Shamrock Enterprises!

“They say that Shamrock Enterprises specializes in finding talents of the universe, nurturing them, and then summoning them back once they reach a certain amount of power. However, I never thought that it was true! So Darkvoid is a talent that Shamrock Enterprises has been nurturing. They call these people ‘seeds,’” Zora explained. Windrift Hall as an organization was on a similar scale as Shamrock Enterprises, so its members were quite familiar with the company. And it was precisely this knowledge that formed the base of their fear. Every seed of Shamrock Enterprises was an absolute genius that would mature into a beyond terrifying expert.

Michelle must have heard similar rumors because she also paled once she saw the tattoo. The person before her was a seed of Shamrock Enterprises, and her sister Mira had told her how powerful that company was. It was far more difficult to become a seed than it was to enter an Astral Combat Academy, and yet, she had encountered one such seed here.

Darkvoid faced Michelle and raised a hand, but Michelle shook her head and bitterly said, “This battle is done. I admit defeat.”

Everyone was shocked.

Lu Yin sighed when he realized that Michelle had used up all of her star energy. While her innate gift was very powerful, it also consumed a large amount of star energy. On the contrary, the amount of star energy that Darkvoid’s innate gift used was rather small. What a horrifying innate gift!

“The sixth match’s victor is Darkvoid!” Big Pao announced.

And with that, all six initial rounds were done. The victors were Xia Luo, Lulu Mavis, Silver, Zhao Yilong, Lu Yin, and Darkvoid. These results upset many people’s expectations, as no one had expected Hui Daynight or Michelle to lose their battles. Xia Luo and Silver had also turned out to be surprisingly powerful. The two had been very low key after entering the academy, barely participating in the ported battles, and yet, they had easily won their rounds.

And then, there was Darkvoid. He was so powerful that it was terrifying. Whenever anyone looked at Darkvoid, they couldn’t help themselves from glancing at Lu Yin. No one was surprised when they discovered that Darkvoid’s opponent for the second round of battles was to be him. Poor Lu Yin.

“It’s fine even if you lose, Mr. Lu! You’ll be able to win in the future!” Coco grabbed Lu Yin by the arm as she preemptively comforted him.

Lu Yin was struck speechless by her response. “I’m not guaranteed to lose!”

Coco pursed her lips. “Even Ms. Michelle’s terrifying attacks didn’t do anything to him. I don’t think anybody here can beat him.”

Lu Yin burst into a fit of laughter. He wasn't sure how many people had noticed it, but Michelle's attack had actually been blocked by Darkvoid. There had been a thin layer of defense on his back and the arrow hadn't touched him at all. Or to be precise, the arrow hadn't been able to penetrate through that layer of protection.

Additionally, Michelle had overestimated herself. The reason why her attacks were able to shatter space was mostly because the space had already been weakened by Darkvoid's innate gift. She wasn't able to cause such cracks unassisted; otherwise, she would not have spent that much time to see through the rain and find the Rainmaster's gift. However, Lu Yin didn't see any need to explain all of this to the small girl beside him.

"Cough cough. To avoid wasting too much time, the competition will continue. Round seven, Xia Luo versus Lulu Mavis. Begin," Big Pao announced.

Xia Luo walked out and gently gazed at Lulu.

Lulu knocked her fists together, letting out a dull thudding noise each time. She was such a cute girl, but her actions were extremely brutish. Every time Lu Yin saw Lulu eagerly anticipating a fight, he would be reminded of that turtle back on Earth. The girl really did not fear anything.

"Be careful. This isn't a friendly duel, so I won't hold back," Lulu said provokingly.

Xia Luo laughed in response. "You don't even hold back in our friendly duels. But you've since become a Melder and gotten much stronger, so I will need to be careful."

With a flip of her hair, Lulu charged towards Xia Luo, the ground splitting underneath her forceful movement in an impressive explosion. Xia Luo's eyes sparkled and he took two steps backwards to perfectly dodge the attack. Lulu hit nothing but air, but the air formed into a conical shockwave that shot off into the distance. The air was distorted, and the shockwave ruffled Xia Luo's hair as he was forced to take several more steps back.

Lulu snorted and used White Flash to disappear. When she reappeared, she viciously kicked out at Xia Luo, who lifted a leg to block the kick. There was a tremendous crash, and the ground beneath them collapsed, causing both of them to fall to the bottom of the pit. Massive cracks began radiating out from the hole and toward Lu Yin and the other onlookers.

Everyone was surprised by the amount of force the two could use even without any battle techniques. How was this possible?

Michelle was shocked as well. She could feel a sense of pressure just from the aftershocks of this battle, which showed just how powerful these two were.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The earth trembled and the cracks spread even further. Lu Yin and the rest had no choice but to take to the air as the ground beneath them ruptured. The level of destruction in this match was surprisingly not any less than Michelle and Darkvoid's. The major difference was that those two had fought each other



from a distance while Xia Luo and Lulu were fighting in close combat, which made their feat only more impressive.

Boom!

After landing a punch, Lulu felt surprised. From the very first encounter in this battle, she could tell that Xia Luo had a technique that forced his opponents to use up their star energy. She could also tell that he was much stronger than their last duel. Because of this, she didn't bother using any of her star energy and relied solely on her physical body to attack. But even though she was using pure physical power, Xia Luo was able to take her attacks. Lulu was from the Mavis family and was still annoyed that she had lost to Lu Yin in terms of strength. If even Xia Luo was stronger than her, then her humiliation would double. The Mavis family's name couldn't be disgraced like this.

She shouted, and the image of a towering tree appeared behind her, causing her strength to increase greatly. With this timely powerup, Xia Luo was sent flying by her next attack. With a White Flash, she appeared behind him and directly punched him again. Xia Luo was bashed into the ground so forcefully that the earth was pulverized for a kilometer in all directions. With Xia Luo at the center, the destruction rippled out like waves. It was an incredible sight. The damage done to the ground with this single punch was far greater than the previous battles combined. It was impossible for anyone to remain standing in the mess, as there was now a huge pit in the center of the arena while smoke and dust rose into the sky.

Coco covered her mouth in shock. "She's terrifying."

Lu Yin raised his eyebrows in surprise as well. Lulu had become much stronger. The Mavis Family truly did consist of human dinosaurs!

Hovering up in the sky, Lulu looked at everyone with a grim face and said in frustration, "I lost."

Everyone was surprised. She had lost? How?

At that moment, Xia Luo dusted off his clothes with a wry smile and looked at her, "Can't you be a bit more gentle? I was nearly smashed to bits."

Lulu rolled her eyes at him. "What's with this bullshit even after you won?"

Amidst the masses, Big Pao announced, "The seventh match's winner is Xia Luo."

Many people were confused by the outcome, and even Michelle didn't understand.

Lu Yin eyed Lulu's neck and saw that there was a thin red mark along it. No blood could be seen, but if the attack had gone any deeper, then she would have lost her neck. This was definitely from Xia Luo's attack, but when had he done it? Lu Yin hadn't seen it at all.

## **Chapter 140: Decisive Battle**

That last duel caused Silver to open his eyes wide as a hint of shock flashed through them.

Darkvoid kept his eyes glued on Xia Luo while his fists unconsciously tightened.

Not too far away, right next to the teleportation stone, the Trialmaster gazed into the distance at the young man who had a gentle smile on his face. The mentor looked shocked as he muttered to himself,

“There are so many monsters here. The Starsibyl Sect was right when they said that there’s going to be a huge upheaval in this generation.”

Within the treasury, Old Cai was also talking to himself. “A lot of powerful organizations had their geniuses with powerful innate gifts undergo cryogenic hibernation while waiting for signs of the sect’s divination. These geniuses were recently unsealed and reawakened. With their unparalleled talent and young bodies, it’s certain that a huge change is on the horizon. Did this child awaken after being sealed in ice as well?”

“Round eight, Zhao Yilong versus Silver. Begin,” Big Pao announced. The battlefield had been moved to a new location about a few dozen kilometers away since the original site had been destroyed.

Zhao Yilong walked out with his sword in hand, his eyes fixed on the ever-smiling Silver.

Everyone was silent. They all had a feeling that Silver would perform very well after he had defeated Hui Daynight in such a mysterious manner. Silver gave off a similar impression as Xia Luo—they were both incomprehensible.

“Sorry, but I admit defeat,” Silver said.

Everyone was surprised. He was admitting defeat?!

Big Pao was similarly confused. “Are you sure?”

Silver nodded with a wide grin as he said, “I’m no match for a genius of Ten Thousand Swords Peak. He managed to use Hundred Swords as One. Truly terrifying.”

Zhao Yilong was furious. “You’re belittling me!”

Silver’s smile never slipped, and he jovially responded, “Of course not! I genuinely worship Wendy Yushan from Ten Thousand Swords Peak.” After responding to Zhao Yilong, Silver turned his smiling face to look at Lu Yin, but that only gave Lu Yin the urge to punch the man in the face.

Zhao Yilong stood in front of Silver, his anger peaking. “You can’t do that. Fight me.”

Silver glanced at Big Pao.

Big Pao was at loss. He had never encountered a situation like this, but there was nothing he could do after someone admitted defeat. “The winner of round eight is Zhao Yilong.”

“I won’t accept this! He’s obviously acting condescendingly to me!” Zhao Yilong shouted as he unsheathed his sword and pointed it right at Silver. “Don’t be a coward. This is a competition between the new students! It’s not a joke.”

Silver snickered slyly. “Instead of arguing with me, you should save your strength to deal with your next rounds. The last round might even be a threeway battle.”

Zhao Yilong gritted his teeth and continued staring at Silver.

Little Pao patted him on the shoulder. “Forget about it. You won.”

Zhao Yilong managed to wrestle his anger under control. He really didn't want to win like this. It held no value to him.

"Go back. A win is a win," Big Pao said.

Zhao Yilong gripped his sword tightly while staring at Silver begrudgingly. This bastard!

Silver was still smiling as brightly and repulsively as ever.

Lu Yin forced himself to look away from Silver; that disturbing smile involuntarily made him want to punch Silver in the face.

Lu Yin walked out as he heard Big Pao's voice announce, "Round nine. Lu Yin versus Darkvoid. Begin."

Everyone grew sober. This was a greatly anticipated battle, and even more people were waiting to watch this battle than the one between Darkvoid and Michelle. Lu Yin had built up quite a bit of fame recently, especially after he had defeated a Phoenix clan member and even the Blaze Realm Rankings' number two. Lu Yin's name had spread through all of the Astral Battle Academy schools, and he was widely considered to be one of the top Melders. Just about the only thing that anyone knew about Astral-10 was Lu Yin. The students all knew that he was powerful, but they were all curious about just how powerful he was, and they were looking forward to discovering the answer.

Darkvoid calmly walked out. Not much time had passed since his battle with Michelle, but he seemed to have already recovered from it. The only sign that he had even battled was the small tear on the back of his top.

Anyone would feel pressured by the prospect of facing off against Darkvoid, and Lu Yin was no different. Whether it was Darkvoid's innate gift or his mysterious demeanor, his attacks were able to shatter the void as only a true powerhouse could. To win, Lu Yin needed to have an innate gift that was just as powerful as Michelle's or an attack that could overcome Darkvoid's defenses.

Lu Yin had already made up his mind.

Darkvoid attacked immediately. Just like when he had faced Michelle, he simply raised a hand and slightly flicked a finger. A black light shone as the space around Lu Yin exploded.

The onlookers held their breaths when they saw this. Darkvoid's attack was clearly stronger than when he had attacked Michelle. With his first move, he had already sealed the area.

Darkvoid's silence did not translate to ignorance. He was well aware of Lu Yin's reputation and of his strength even though they had never fought before. Hence, Darkvoid didn't hold back at all.

Lu Yin's expression remained calm as he bent his knees and disappeared right before the space around him exploded. With a speed that distorted the space, he crossed through the eruptions and charged toward Darkvoid. There wasn't much distance between the two, and when Lu Yin appeared in front of Darkvoid, his afterimage had only just been devoured by the void explosion.

The scene that was playing out was very familiar and caused everyone's eyes to widen like saucers, especially Michelle. She was well aware of how powerful Darkvoid's defences were, and Lu Yin was currently in the same exact situation that she had been in.

Lu Yin lifted a hand and slammed his palm down while his eyes remained fixed on Darkvoid. He saw that Darkvoid's eyes held nothing but disdain and apathy for his attack, showing his absolute confidence in his defense that even Michelle had been helpless against.

The corner of Lu Yin's lips curled up slightly as he attacked with his Nine Stacks Ninefold Shockwave Palm. There were also transparent streams of air surrounding his palm... Battle Qi.

Among the onlookers, Big Pao, Little Pao, Xia Luo, and Silver were all astonished when they noticed the subtle aura surrounding Lu Yin's palm.

Boom!

Shockwaves rent the earth and shook the sky, creating minuscule rips in space. Darkvoid's face changed from disdain to shock, which was quickly followed by astonishment. His face then turned red and he spat out a mouthful of blood as his body was sent flying by Lu Yin's overwhelming strength. He shot through the still shaking air and was smashed deep into the ground.

Everyone fell silent as they stared at Lu Yin in awe. He had managed to defeat Darkvoid in a single strike. Before the match, this was an unimaginable outcome. That was someone who had blocked Michelles' red lotus arrows without taking a step back, but against Lu Yin, he had been blown away with one attack.

Coco's mouth gaped open, her eyes transfixed on the scene before her.

Michelle's pupils shrank and she clenched her fists.

Xia Luo was astonished, but then his lips then curved upwards. How very, very interesting.

Silver's grin did the impossible and grew even wider.

Big Pao and Little Pao exchanged glances and saw the shock in each other's eyes. They had assumed that Darkvoid would be the one to move on to the final round, but to their surprise, he had been defeated here. They could tell just how powerful that attack was due to how Lu Yin's Battle Qi had wrapped around the attack and shaken the void. Darkvoid was definitely gravely injured, which meant that he had lost the round.

Lu Yin looked down at his palm. As expected, just his Nine Stacks Ninefold Shockwave Palm wouldn't be enough to penetrate through Darkvoid's defenses that could withstand spatial attacks. Only by using his Battle Qi could the force of the nine stacks reach Darkvoid and take him by surprise.

However, Darkvoid was destined to lose even if he hadn't been careless. Lu Yin had used a Ninefold Shockwave Palm, but with the current durability of his body, even Lu Yin himself didn't know what level of Shockwave Palm his body could handle. And since Lu Yin was also able to use Battle Qi, Darkvoid was no match for him.

Far in the distance, Darkvoid's fingers twitched as he slowly got back up.

Everyone looked over. Could he be possibly unharmed, just like how he had been after being struck by Michelle's arrows?

However, it soon became clear that they were overthinking things. Darkvoid had to sit on the ground for quite a while before finally being able to stand. The front of his clothes were tattered, and there was a clear palmprint that left everyone with chills running down their spines. The corner of his lip glistened with blood. Darkvoid raised his head, glanced over at Lu Yin, and then quietly walked to the other side.

Everyone sighed in relief. Thankfully, Darkvoid wasn't so monstrous that he couldn't be defeated.

Wait a second!

All of a sudden, everybody realized something as they all looked over toward Lu Yin. If a monster like Darkvoid had been defeated in one blow, then just how powerful was this guy?!

Michelle stared at Lu Yin, shocked that there was someone this powerful in Astral-10, and what's more, he was just a new student! Even in the top three academies, he'd definitely rank highly with his strength.

At this moment, Zhao Yilong was feeling the most pressure. In this contest, there was still Xia Luo, who was unfathomable, and Lu Yin, whose strength seemingly had no bounds. In contrast to those two, Zhao Yilong was the weakest.

"The winner of round nine is Lu Yin," Big Pao announced before quickly continuing, "To not waste time, the last round will be a battle between the final three. Begin."

Lu Yin remained standing where he was and glanced at Xia Luo, who walked out with a smile on his face. "I never thought that we'd be fighting in the finals, Lu Yin."

"I'm not surprised. I never could tell just how powerful you were," Lu Yin said with a grin.

Xia Luo laughed. "It wasn't difficult to gauge your strength, but you improve so quickly that I can't even tell how strong you've become. Could you perhaps hold back a bit for me?"

Lu Yin's eyebrow arched up as he responded, "No one knows who will be the winner just yet. I'm quite curious about how you were able to dissipate the Desolate Palm and also how you defeated Lulu so quickly."

The two of them spoke while completely ignoring Zhao Yilong, who had also walked out onto the battlefield, leaving him in an awkward spot. He gripped his ancient sword and lifted it before charging straight at the other two. His sword released a quiet sound as if it was eager for a fight.

Unfortunately, Zhao Yilong's actions didn't matter to the other two. While his Hundred Swords as One wasn't a bad technique, it was nothing more than that. He had been lucky with his first match, and even luckier in his second, allowing him to advance to the final round. He would have been defeated if he had been matched up with either Hui Daynight or Michelle. To be perfectly blunt, Zhao Yilong wasn't qualified to participate in the final round.

The spectators were puzzled as Lu Yin and Xia Luo started their match. While it seemed as if the two had simply used two ordinary palms to clash, the shockwaves that emanated from the collision chilled the students' hearts. These terrifying shockwaves smashed the earth and left everyone quivering.

"Retreat!" Big Pao shouted, causing everyone to run backwards.

Lu Yin and Xia Luo's palms were pressed together as if they were mirror images of each other, and even their looks of shock were the same. Lu Yin had used his Nine Stacks Ninefold Shockwave Palm, which meant that there should be nine stacks of power. However, only three stacks had made it through to Xia Luo. Six stacks had somehow been dissolved, greatly decreasing the attack's power. A better way of putting it would be saying that a majority of Lu Yin's attack had been redirected elsewhere.

Xia Luo's eyes shone as he smiled. To think that there were Nine Stacks! No wonder Darkvoid couldn't even take one attack. If Nine Stacks of power were combined with battle qi, then it would have been a miracle if Darkvoid took that attack without suffering significant damage. Even after using all his methods, Xia Luo had only been able to dissolve six stacks.

The two separated with a bang. Lu Yin attacked again with a Cosmic Palm as seven stars started to rotate in his palm. He had already activated and surrounded his body with his Cosmic Art long before the battle; he clearly remembered how Lulu had been defeated without any warning whatsoever.

Xia Luo closely watched Lu Yin's attack draw closer with an even more serious face than when he had faced the Nine Stacks Ninefold Shockwave Palm. Some battle techniques could be easily dissolved with star energy, but others were more difficult to do so. The attack approaching him was something that he had no choice but to face head on. But then, all of a sudden, something flashed by, charging towards Lu Yin. It was Zhao Yilong. This was a three-way fight, and he did not want to be ignored.

"Scram!" Lu Yin yelled as he continued attacking Xia Luo with his Cosmic Palm in his left hand while simultaneously summoning a Nine Stacks Ninefold Shockwave Palm in his right to attack Zhao Yilong.

Meanwhile, Xia Luo did the exact same as Lu Yin. He attacked with both hands; one aimed at Lu Yin and the other at Zhao Yilong.

Zhao Yilong's strongest slash was reduced to dust and the power of the other two's attacks sent him flying a kilometer away and left him coughing out blood. He collapsed immediately, unable to get up.

Rumble

An instant later, Lu Yin and Xia Luo's attacks collided. A seven star Cosmic Palm was just as powerful as a Nine Stacks Ninefold Shockwave Palm, and Lu Yin had assumed that his Cosmic Palm could not be dissolved as easily. Meanwhile, Xia Luo displayed his terrifying strength for the first time. Even though he wasn't using a battle technique, he was able to deal with the Cosmic Palm. He forcefully diverted it elsewhere and not a single one of the seven stars' explosions managed to reach Xia Luo. Instead, they exploded on the nearby ground. Xia Luo's eyes flashed and he flicked a finger with impeccable timing, firing an invisible undulation straight at Lu Yin's neck.