

Chapter 1311: Arrival Of A Progenitor

Wang Yi's right hand trembled, and his face betrayed his surprise; was this the strength that Progenitor Chen had possessed at this cultivation realm? There was a trace of blood on Wang Yi's arm, and he had obviously been injured.

However, Wang Yi was also the only person who had managed to take an attack from the summoned Progenitor Chen without taking even a single step back.

The knife disappeared before reappearing before Lu Yin next. At this time, everyone saw what was happening; Shang Qing was attacking everyone. He wanted to completely clear the mountaintop of all people. Those who did not qualify would not be allowed to stay on top of the mountain. This realization exploded and shocked the entire universe.

An astral chessboard appeared beneath Lu Yin's feet, and he instantly disappeared. However, the knife actually shot through the void to continue attacking, as though it were forcing Lu Yin to face the challenge.

Lu Yin raised a hand and pointed out with a finger: Seventh Bro Finger.

Nine lined battle force shrouded the finger, his domain compressed his spiritual force and physical strength into the finger, and the Overlaying Stacks Path amplified the power. Simultaneously, Lu Yin's pupils transformed into runes as he erased a portion of the runes in the approaching attack. This was his Seventh Bro Finger. It was Lu Yin's strongest attack, and it was his only attack that surpassed his Vacuum Palm in power.

Wang Yi's eyebrows rose when he saw the Seventh Bro Finger; had Lu Yin actually been keeping something hidden during their fight?

There was a bang as Lu Yin's finger struck the knife. Behind the knife, the image of an illusory Progenitor Chen appeared. If Wang Yi had been the first to block this knife, then Lu Yin was the first to reveal the true nature of this attack.

These knife attacks had not been randomly thrown out by the summoned Progenitor Chen, as they were actually the Xia family's Triple Blade Will. The will had not been released; rather, it had been condensed onto the knife itself, which meant that each attack carried the power of the third Triple Blade Will. This was basically the maximum power that the summoned Progenitor Chen could release in any given attack.

This attack was somewhat similar to Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm, as it used the concept of layered power. As long as the body could withstand the force of the attack, it could be used at will.

Progenitor Chen had gone beyond the Xia family's Triple Blade Will, as he was able to condense the technique onto a blade and continuously attack without limits.

The knife disappeared, only to next appear in front of Qiu Shi. She needed to endure the attack. Otherwise the knife would not give up chasing after her.

Qiu Shi could also sense this, and she silently cursed Shang Qing for being a madman. She gathered stars into her hands and used the Celestial Sword together with the Teleportation Formation.

There was a deafening bang, and a shockwave spread out to all sides, tearing the void apart. The knife attack had cut through the Celestial Sword, but Qiu Shi was able to dodge the attack by using the Teleportation Formation, which also caught the knife.

Off in the distance, Bu Kong's expression changed. This was not good—it was about to be his turn! The imprint of the Progenitor of Secret Arts appeared behind Bu Kong.

The knife slashed down, and a bleeding wound appeared on Bu Kong's palm, but the knife did not force Bu Kong down the mountain.

Bu Kong and Zhi Yi were both members of the Daosource Three Skies, and they were both pinnacle experts. If not for the fact that Wang Yi's earlier attack had bisected Zhi Yi and inflicted terrible wounds upon her, she would not have lost to the summoned Progenitor's attack.

This knife had been Shang Qing's test for everyone. If they were able to endure, then they qualified to remain at the top of the mountain. If they failed, they would be cast down.

Shang Qing had lost his patience with the chaotic battle, as he felt that such a brawl was lowering the dignity that ZENITH deserved. Everyone present at this moment was a true expert.

The light of the knife slashed down once again, appearing in front of Yuhua Mavis this time. She raised her right arm, which was wrapped about with green leaves, and the emblem of leaves also appeared on her forehead as she threw a punch out.

There was a bang, and the light from the knife fell back. Yuhua Mavis had also blocked the attack, but her fist had been cut by the blade, leaving a clear injury behind.

The next target was Wu Taibai. When the light of the blade appeared, Wu Taibai raised a hand and grabbed it.

Upon seeing this, everyone else's expressions changed dramatically. Even Wang Yi had been injured by this attack, so how could Wu Taibai have the courage to grab it? He was either ignorant or confident.

Wu Taibai was also one of the Daosource Three Skies, and no one believed him to be foolish. Thus, the only remaining option was that he was supremely confident.

A clicking sound filled the air as Wu Taibai grabbed the knife light. The energy shrouding his body spiked, but he did not even retreat by half a step. He looked over at Shang Qing. "Give me this knife, and I'll pay you back."

After that, he raised his left hand. "Mountains and Rivers Imprint."

This secret technique ignored space and distance to appear right above Shang Qing's head. His expression remained indifferent, but a trace of excitement had appeared in the depths of his eyes.

The Mountains and Rivers Imprint was a secret technique from the Progenitor of Combat. It was naturally not an easy attack to deal with. A strand of qi was immediately shattered by the Mountains and Rivers Imprint, but the secret technique also disappeared.

The knife light disappeared from Wu Taibai's hand. At this moment, the only ones atop the mountain who had not been attacked by Shang Qing's summoned Progenitor Chen were Yao Xuan, Star Devourer, Lan Si, Bai Mai, and Starsibyl.

Lan Si was the most straightforward, and he directly jumped down.

Starsibyl also jumped down from the peak. She knew that she could not deal with that knife, and she had no interest in dying.

Although Star Devourer struggled to use his brain, he could remember that he had already been defeated by the summoned Progenitor Chen. Thus, there was no need to think any further as the beast fled down to the first layer with his tail between his legs.

The light from the knife slashed at Bai Mai, and the corpse bug was sent flying. No one knew whether it had been injured, but regardless, it was gone.

Finally, only Yao Xuan remained. The crown prince's body was still very weak and translucent. Although he was composed of pure materialized spiritual force, when the knife light appeared before him, Yao Xuan fled, and the attack passed by him. Yao Xuan had no desire to take on such a risk, as this was an attack from Progenitor Chen, a powerhouse on the same level as Progenitor Wushang. Suffering an attack from someone at that level was terrifying to even think about.

Yao Xuan had already had a difficult fight with Lu Yin, and he also suffered a terrible attack from Wang Yi. Thus, he desperately needed some time to recover.

The attack did not hurt Yao Xuan, though he also left the mountaintop and descended the stairs.

At this moment, only eight people remained at the peak of Zenith Mountain: Shang Qing, Wang Yi, Qiu Shi, Liquor Hero, Lu Yin, Wu Taibai, Yuhua Mavis, and Bu Kong.

The summoned Progenitor Chen stood in the center, holding a long sword that had been formed by star energy. The summon looked around itself.

Meanwhile, Shang Qing was half-floating in the air. A strand of qi swirled around him, and another summoned Progenitor Chen was standing beside him.

Shang Qing alone had managed to clear up the top of Zenith Mountain, knocking down every unqualified person.

"This is a bit better, but there are still quite a few people," Shang Qing casually commented. He was ready to fight. "I hope that you can force out my third stream of qi."

Bu Kong's palm had already recovered, as he had used the Secret Technique of Resurrection. "You really deserve to be beaten! Aren't you worried that we'll just team up and beat you up?"

Shang Qing's mouth curled into a smile. "Why else would I attack all of you?"

Bu Kong's face showed his astonishment; this was too crazy!

As a future leader of the Sixth Mainland, Bu Kong already believed himself to be incredibly arrogant. At the beginning of ZENITH, he had also used his power to eliminate many of the Fifth Mainland's powerhouses. However, he had not expected this freak to be even more arrogant than him.

Countless people throughout the universe were in an uproar, as everyone could sense Shang Qing's eagerness to fight with his full power. He was truly antagonizing everyone present. Was he really not afraid of collapsing under the pressure? After all, everyone left on the plaza had survived a knife attack from Progenitor Chen!

Wu Taibai smiled. It was impossible to reach the pinnacle by relying on battle techniques. Every battle technique had been created by a person, and the foundation of everything was people.

Did Shang Qing actually believe that he could become a Progenitor by relying on this Tri-Yang Ancestral Qi Technique? This was simply him using Progenitor Chen's strength, not Shang Qing's personal power.

Suddenly, Wu Taibai remembered something, and he looked over at Shang Qing. No, if Wu Taibai could figure this out, then how could the others not do the same? Shang Qing was the Hall of Honor's first Honor Chosen, and he had been given limitless resources as well as a comparable education. Was it actually possible for him to be so naive?

What was Shang Qing actually trying to do?

Lu Yin was surprised to discover that Shang Qing was incredibly arrogant, though not to the point where he ignored all of his peers. Was there anyone present who did not have the strength to go up against Shang Qing? Back in the Mountain and Seas Zone, Liu Tianmu's Thirteenth Sword had injured Shang Qing, and everyone else present still had their own trump cards. If everyone teamed up, then even if Progenitor Chen himself returned, he might not be able to win. What was Shang Qing trying to do here?

In the Neoverse's Honor Zone, Arch-Elder Zen sighed. "Do you really want to break through the barrier of Tri-Yang Technique? You can never become a Progenitor by relying on a peerless technique. So, you intend to use everyone else to drive you to the brink of death so that you can break through and rise back up. You also want to enjoy this fight, and even if you don't stand a chance, this is your obsession. The Tri-Yang Technique created you, but it has also destroyed you."

Shang Qing had always been lonely. The Neoverse was where the Fifth Mainland's best geniuses congregated, but because he cultivated the Tri-Yang Technique, Shang Qing had never been able to find a rival. Even in the Mountain and Seas Zone, he had never revealed the full power of his technique. Corpse Beast had been slightly entertaining, but not for long.

At this moment, the true strength of Progenitor Chen had appeared in the form of the summoned image that used the ancestral qi. If Shang Qing had used this much power in the Mountain and Seas Zone, then no one would have dared to make a move. However, this was Progenitor Chen's power, not Shang Qing's.

As he had said, it was too boring. He had not expected ZENITH to draw out so many powerhouses. The Daosource Three Skies had not disappointed Shang Qing, and he was able to freely summon Progenitor

Chen. With the way that things were progressing, if everyone ganged up on him, then he really would be forced to use his third strand of ancestral qi. These fights would be too boring otherwise.

At this moment, out of the eight remaining people, the sticks of incense behind Shang Qing, Wang Yi, Qiu Shi, Liquor Hero, and Lu Yin had already burned out. Wu Taibai had briefly left the peak of the mountain partway through the massive battle, and during that time, his incense had recovered slightly. Thus, he had the same amount of time left as Yuhua Mavis. Bu Kong had the most time remaining.

Only five of them were truly in ZENITH's top ten.

However, that did not really matter at the moment. Shang Qing wanted to fight against everyone at once. Wang Yi stared at Lu Yin while Wu Taibai stared at Xia Jiuyou, who had fallen to the bottom of the stairs. This was a free-for-all, and no one could be certain what would happen in the end.

Just as Shang Qing was about to continue the fight, an overbearing pressure spread across the universe and pressed down upon Zenith Mountain.

For a moment, the entire Fifth Mainland seemed to tremble. Outside of Zenith Mountain, Mu En and the others all looked up at once.

In the Neoverse, Arch-Elder Zen and others leaped to their feet; the Sixth Mainland's Progenitor of Combat had moved. Just what was he doing?

Not only did the Fifth Mainland's powerhouses find this matter strange, but the Sixth Mainland cultivators also felt the same, as they could not understand why the Progenitor of Combat had suddenly arrived.

Wu Taibai looked up. Master?

The power of a Progenitor was truly unfathomable, and it was completely awe inspiring.

Lu Yin did not dare to recite the Stonewall Scriptures at this moment. As soon as he was enveloped by the Progenitor of Combat's power, Lu Yin's body seemed to freeze, and he was completely unable to move.

At this moment, Shang Qing, who had been about to take action, was similarly unable to move. Everyone just stood where they were, waiting for the Progenitor of Combat's power to recede.

Chapter 1312: The Fourth Aspect (of Qiu Shi)

Before long, the infinite pressure disappeared. The Progenitor of Combat left.

Everyone was confused, but then a voice rang out. It was the same voice that had been heard at the start of ZENITH. "Xia Jiuyou and Yao Xuan are added to ZENITH's top ten. The final ten have been decided. Strive for the peak."

Everyone was caught off guard. A brawl had clearly been about to explode just a moment ago, so why had the rules suddenly changed?

This was clearly connected to the Progenitor of Combat. But just what was the Progenitor of Combat's intention? For him, ZENITH was nothing more than a child's game, and it was actually a bit demeaning for him to interfere in such a competition.

In the Starfall Sea, near the blackhole acting as a barrier, the Progenitor of Secret Arts asked, "You don't want to allow that little guy who's cultivated the Tri-Yang Technique to win?"

The Progenitor of Combat's voice responded, "If one cultivates the Tri-Yang Technique and rises up from a moment of life or death, then they will eventually become a Progenitor, and no one can stop them at that point."

"Those monsters are still out there, and it would be better to have one more Progenitor," the Progenitor of Secret Arts retorted.

Progenitor of Combat snorted coldly. "Others can become Progenitors, but that child cannot. That Tri-Yang Technique is enough for him to become the second Progenitor Chen. Don't forget, Progenitor Chen killed many Progenitors in the past. If this child succeeds, then where will that leave us? The grudge between the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands will never be resolved."

The Progenitor of Bloodlines replied, "Even if he does succeed, that's simply a matter for now. He is still far from becoming a Progenitor."

"If there is even the slightest possibility of it happening, I have to stop any chances of the Fifth Mainland giving rise to another Progenitor Chen." The Progenitor of Combat was stubborn in his hatred of the Fifth Mainland. When the Sixth Mainland had invaded, he had been the only one of the three Progenitors to make a move. He could not wait to destroy the Fifth Mainland, and if not for that person, then he would have already let the monsters past the barrier.

Even Wu Taibai had been able to sense Shang Qing's intentions, so how could a Progenitor not see the same?

Although the Progenitor of Combat knew that there was practically no chance of anyone becoming a Progenitor, as he had said, if Shang Qing did reach that realm, then even all three of the Sixth Mainland's Progenitors together would not be able to stand up to Shang Qing. They were still suppressed by Progenitor Chen even now. How cruel.

That youth was willing to face death in order to be reborn, and the Progenitors had seen through his ambition. Because of that, the Progenitor of Combat had felt the need to suppress Shang Qing's spirit. The Fifth Mainland could be allowed to birth new Progenitors, but not Shang Qing or anyone else who cultivated the Nine Clones Secret Technique.

The Progenitor of Secret Arts sighed; the Progenitor of Combat's obsession was too strong.

The Progenitor of Bloodlines looked over at Zenith Mountain. "After he reaches that place, the child can still face death in order to be reborn."

The Progenitor of Combat coldly replied, "That's simply walking to his death. It will be impossible for him to survive."

The Progenitor of Combat had intervened, and no one could change the new rules of ZENITH. After all, he was an invincible Progenitor, and even Arch-Elder Zen and the other top powerhouses could do nothing but listen to him.

Shang Qing clenched his fists, unwilling to accept this change. He had been waiting for this moment for a long time, and it had been forever since he had met someone who could press him to the limit.

He did not know if he would be able to break through that barrier after being pushed to his limits, but even if it cost him his life, he wanted to give it a try. But now, he would not even get a chance.

He raised his head. With the new rules, he was paired up with Liquor Hero.

Across from Shang Qing, Liquor Hero took a sip of her wine and belched. When she saw that her opponent was Shang Qing, she abandoned all thoughts of victory. That Tri-Yang Technique was too monstrous.

Lu Yin looked at Bu Kong, and at the same time, Bu Kong noticed that they two of them had been paired up.

As for the others, Xia Jiuyou was matched with Qiu Shi, Yao Xuan with Wu Taibai, and Wang Yi with Yuhua Mavis.

ZENITH had returned to a one-on-one format once again, but this sudden change was just too sudden and confusing for many people.

It was a pity that the audience would never realize that the top ten were actually competing for an opportunity. But within that opportunity, they would encounter even more dangerous situations than the chaotic battle that had just broken out. The Hall of Honor intended to give the youths a taste of the despair that was to come, but those efforts had been destroyed by the Progenitor of Combat.

The people throughout the universe who were watching the broadcast grew excited when they heard the change. Although the massive battle royale had been exciting, it was impossible to see everything that was happening at once. But with these one-on-one fights, they would be able to see everything, and these fights would also be fair.

One-on-one matches were indeed fair, but that sort of fairness was not what the Hall of Honor wanted these youths to experience.

Xia Jiuyou climbed up the mountaintop. He and Yao Xuan had both been thrown down to the bottom of the stairs. Despite that, they both possessed a strength that was clearly greater than any of the other contestants in ZENITH, which was why they had been added back to the top ten. Xia Jiuyou's opponent was Qiu Shi.

Qiu Shi would normally be a very difficult opponent, but her fight against Zhi Yi had been a costly one, and she had also been injured by both Wang Yi and Shang Qing. Her current state could not compare to her normal power, and she was still bleeding even now.

Although Xia Jiuyou had been knocked off the mountaintop by the figure of Progenitor Chen that Shang Qing had summoned, Xia Jiuyou did not seem to have suffered much, though his face was still a little pale.

From a distance, Lu Yin gave Xia Jiuyou a strange look; this guy's rune lines had not decreased at all, which was strange. Too strange.

Even stranger, when Lu Yin looked at Qiu Shi, her rune lines were increasing. However, she was clearly injured, so why the hell was she still growing stronger? Her current rune lines were even greater in number than when she had fought against Zhi Yi.

Lu Yin felt rather confused.

God Taiyi, Jin He, and everyone else who practiced Truesight was feeling the same confusion. They repeatedly looked back and forth between Xia Jiuyou and Qiu Shi.

932 stars revolved around Qiu Shi before she lashed out with a Cosmic Palm. At the same moment, Xia Jiuyou raised a hand: Yōu Reinforced Palm.

The stars exploded, and the air froze from the cold. The Cosmic Palm clashed against the Yōu Reinforced Palm. There was a bang, and the two youths retreated at the same time. However, another Yōu Reinforced Palm appeared behind Qiu Shi while she moved back. Xia Jiuyou had used his innate gift of echo with amazing skill, causing a second Yōu Reinforced Palm to appear at the same time that he had attacked with the first. Qiu Shi was facing two Yōu Reinforced Palms at once.

This was the same method that Xia Jiuyou had used to defeat Lei Nü in the Mountain and Seas Zone, but unfortunately for him, his tricks had already been revealed to everyone long ago.

Stars appeared around Qiu Shi's body once again, and she whirled around as she slashed out with a Celestial Sword. Her sword cut through the Yōu Reinforced Palm, but a distance away, Xia Jiuyou switched to the Xia family's Triple Blade Will. The first and second blades were launched at almost the same time, and Qiu Shi easily evaded them both. Just as the third blade was about to appear, Qiu Shi's eyes narrowed, and the stars shifted.

Xia Jiuyou was prepared for this, and he quickly used the Xia Secret Art: Nullify. This oppressive secret technique instantly destroyed Qiu Shi's Star Transference. Then, the third blade flew out.

The Xia family's Triple Blade Will was truly terrifying. In the past, this technique had split apart Ling Gong's Skycastle, and it posed a threat to nearly all of Xia Jiuyou's peers. Even the strand of ancestral qi that had transformed into Progenitor Chen had used this technique to clear off the top of Zenith Mountain. This technique had been the foundation of Shang Qing's test; whoever had managed to endure the attack was allowed to stay.

Against Xia Jiuyou's third blade, Qiu Shi once again used her Celestial Sword, sweeping out with her blade.

Stars exploded, and Qiu Shi spat out a mouthful of blood. She had been hit by the third blade and injured as a result.

Many people felt confused when they saw this. Qiu Shi had comprehended the Teleportation Formation sourcebox array, which meant that she should have been able to evade the attack. So, why had she been hit?

Xia Jiuyou also felt that this was strange. He had actually wanted to launch a Yōu Reinforced Palm at Qiu Shi after she dodged the third blade of his Triple Blade Will. He had not expected her to be struck by his attack, let alone suffer a direct hit. Even if she had not been injured before, this attack would have certainly injured her, so why had she allowed the attack to connect?

Lu Yin stared at Qiu Shi and watched as her rune lines continued to increase. Suddenly, a thought flashed through his mind like lightning: innate gift. Qiu Shi must have finally used her innate gift.

Qiu Shi was known as the All Rounder Fairy, and of her four strengths, Lu Yin was only aware of her cultivation and battle techniques from the Cosmic Sect. The Celestial Sword was one part of that, and it was very impressive. She had also comprehended a sourcebox array, which was another aspect of strength. Thus, the fourth aspect was very likely to be an innate gift, and Lu Yin expected it to be a very strange innate gift.

As he watched Qiu Shi continuously cough up blood, Lu Yin wondered just what kind of innate gift she had. The worse her injuries were, the more her rune lines increased, indicating her strength was skyrocketing.

Xia Jiuyou was not able to see these runes, but he was able to sense some sort of change overcoming Qiu Shi. Her injuries seemed to be getting worse, but the sense of danger was only intensifying.

With this thought, he immediately attacked again with the Xia family's Triple Blade Will.

Across from him, Qiu Shi violently spat out more blood. In Lu Yin's eyes, her runes had soared, finally surpassing those of Wang Yi, Wu Taibai, and the other elites.

Suddenly, she disappeared—Teleportation Formation. Xia Jiuyou's pupils shrank. He did not know why, but at this moment, he felt as though the grim reaper was staring directly at him.

Qiu Shi appeared in front of Xia Jiuyou. She made no effort to dodge the Triple Blade Will, simply raising a hand and attacking with her Celestial Sword.

The Triple Blade Will should have sliced through her Celestial Sword, but a terrifying aura appeared when the two met, and her sword actually slashed through the Triple Blade Will instead. Qiu Shi's strike was swift, and it instantly stabbed into Xia Jiuyou's neck. Blood spilled out and dripped down the edge of the sword as it fell down onto the mountaintop.

Everyone fell silent; Qiu Shi had just killed Xia Jiuyou with a single sword attack.

Countless people watching the livestream were stunned.

Outside Zenith Mountain, Xia Meng emerged with a pale face. She angrily shouted, "Do you want to die?"

She raced towards Zenith Mountain, but she was blocked by someone: the Chief Justice of the Hall of Honor's Interstellar Supreme Court.

The Chief Justice was someone who had always been shrouded in mystery, and no one had ever seen him clearly.

At this moment, even Xia Meng, an expert with a power level of more than 900,000, was not able to clearly see her opponent. She angrily roared, "Get out of the way!"

The Chief Justice's figure was unclear and hidden in darkness. Xia Meng's vision changed wildly, and her expression softened as a bell softly rang out. She came to an odd stop, but she no longer appeared crazed with anger.

"This is ZENITH. Don't overstep yourself," called out the voice of the Chief Justice. His voice had a power that could capture people's hearts.

Xia Meng's body trembled as she shook off the influence of the bell. Her expression turned sad, and she looked at the peak of Zenith Mountain with great resentment. She glared straight at Qiu Shi, fists clenched. "Cosmic Sect!"

In the Neoverse, the Xia family patriarch, Xia Yi, had gone pale. How could Xia Jiuyou have been stabbed by a sword that easily? He cultivated the Nine Clones Secret Technique! That was Progenitor Chen's invincible technique!

No one was able to believe that Xia Jiuyou, who had been ranked fifth in the top ten leaderboard, had just been stabbed to death by a sword.

On Zenith Mountain's second layer, Xia Luo had a gloomy expression on his face. Dead? No, no. The Nine Clones Technique was being underestimated too much. It was not that easy to kill someone who had cultivated that technique. Otherwise, the technique would have never been hailed as an invincible technique.

Aside from Xia Luo, Wu Taibai's eyes also held a hidden understanding. Dead? Of course not.

Qiu Shi let go, and her Celestial Sword transformed back into stars that revolved around her once again.

She coughed and spat out another mouthful of blood. She was known as the All Rounder Fairy, and her fourth aspect of power was her innate gift: Blood Wave. The more she bled, the more her strength would increase, reaching terrifying levels at the end. She was already quite powerful, so she had intended to use her innate gift against Shang Qing or someone else at that level, but Xia Jiuyou had forced her into a corner.

Although Blood Wave was able to raise Qiu Shi's power level, there was a steep cost. She had also been seriously injured.

Xia Jiuyou fell to the ground.

Chapter 1313: Peerless Battle Technique

Qiu Shi let out a long breath. She had killed the Xia family's scion. This would create a powerful enmity between her Cosmic Sect and the Xia family, but there was no other way. The Cosmic Sect had long since coveted the Xia family's inheritance.

Lu Yin stared at Xia Jiuyou from the distance, watching as his runes disappeared. Was Xia Jiuyou really dead? The Nine Clones Secret Technique had been Progenitor Chen's invincible battle technique, so was it really possible that it did nothing else aside from raising the user's cultivation realm?

Suddenly, Xia Jiuyou, who had been lying dead on the ground, opened his eyes. His rune lines instantly recovered as he stood up and slapped at Qiu Shi with a palm.

Qiu Shi was completely unable to react, and the palm attack squarely hit her in the back, sending her flying. After that, another Yōu Reinforced Palm fell down from above, but at the last moment, Qiu Shi used Star Transference. However, this time, it did not succeed. Xia Jiuyou had used the Xia Secret Art: Nullify once again. Qiu Shi twisted her body, and her shoulder was struck by the Yōu Reinforced Palm. It smashed her to the ground and froze her.

This sudden reverse shocked everyone once again.

Xia Jiuyou's throat had been pierced through by a sword, and the Celestial Sword's sword qi must have ravaged his body. So, how could he still be alive? He even looked as if he had never been injured—even the paleness present on his face earlier had disappeared. What the hell had happened?

Lu Yin frowned—this had to be related to the Nine Clones Secret Technique. This was too freakish.

Shang Qing's expression grew serious; was this the true power of the Nine Clones Secret Technique?

Xia Jiuyou wiggled his fingers and glanced around. The true power of his Nine Clones Secret Technique had finally been exposed. There were nine clones, and each clone that he merged with provided him with an extra life. When he died, one of those lives would be consumed, but he would not truly die.

Successfully cultivating the Nine Clones Secret Technique allowed one's cultivation realm to rise much faster, and it also allowed one to master a wide variety of battle techniques, as the techniques and skills of every clone could be used by him after merging. Still, the greatest benefit was having nine lives.

The Nine Clones Secret Technique did not improve one's talent or make them invincible. But then, how could having nine lives be enough to guarantee victory?

The reason why Progenitor Chen's Nine Clones Secret Technique had been heralded as invincible was because all of Progenitor Chen's clones had been unbelievably powerful. Xia Jiuyou's clones could not compare at all, as his strongest clones were Xia Tian and Xia Jiuyou himself.

Still, the technique was already terrifying to other people.

A while ago, Mu En and the others had mentioned that the Nine Clones Secret Technique became more terrifying as one progressed further. This was because each clone encountered their own opportunities and practiced their own techniques. After merging together, their overall quality would rise sharply—this was the true power of the technique.

There was a bang as the ice shattered. Qiu Shi emerged in a panic, gasping for air as she stared at Xia Jiuyou while blood dripped down the corner of her mouth.

Xia Jiuyou's mouth curled into a smile. He had revealed his Nine Clones Secret Technique's ability, and just like Shang Qing, Xia Jiuyou had become everyone's enemy. It was a pity that he had not merged with Xia Luo as well, as he would have improved even further. What a pity.

"Can't accept it?" Xia Jiuyou said.

Qiu Shi felt helpless. She had been thoroughly defeated, but she could not accept it as she was still in a state of shock at witnessing the horror of the Nine Clones Secret Technique. This technique was truly worthy of being one of Progenitor Chen's invincible skills. It was quite possible that no one aside from Shang Qing was capable of defeating Xia Jiuyou.

As he looked at Xia Jiuyou, Lu Yin remembered Nightking Zhenwu. Lu Yin had already fought against an opponent with multiple lives.

Outside Zenith Mountain, Xia Meng was stunned to discover that not even she had been privy to the true secrets of the Nine Clones Secret Technique.

The Chief Justice, however, was not surprised. The Hall of Honor was the master of the entire Fifth Mainland, and all of them knew cryptic secrets far beyond the Xia family's ken, even if the Nine Clones Secret Technique was passed down in the Xia family.

Qiu Shi had been defeated, but she was still one of the top ten.

The next match was Yao Xuan versus Wu Taibai.

Yao Xuan had expended too much energy during the battle royale, and he had also been severely injured by both Wang Yi and Shang Qing, causing his entire body to turn somewhat transparent. In contrast, Wu Taibai had managed to physically overpower even Yuhua Mavis, which meant that Yao Xuan's only chance of victory was his spiritual force. He could only hope that Wu Taibai did not also have the means to overcome his spiritual force.

Yao Xuan faced Wu Taibai and raised a hand. The void visibly twisted as a sphere of spiritual force appeared right in front of Wu Taibai's eyes. "Force Explosion."

Bang!

Earlier, during the chaotic free-for-all, Yao Xuan had unleashed a powerful spiritual energy explosion that had affected everyone. It had even caused many people further down the mountain to faint and collapse—very few people could endure this attack.

Wu Taibai did not react, and he allowed the Force Explosion to explode right in front of him without making any moves.

However, the other nearby cultivators were affected, and even Shang Qing was shocked. Yao Xuan had the greatest spiritual force out of everyone in ZENITH, and no one could compare to him in this aspect.

Because of his severe injuries and desire to not drag this fight out, Yao Xuan had not held back in the slightest. This was the most powerful attack that he was capable of unleashing at the moment. Even Lu Yin had to rely on his Inception Array to stabilize his spiritual force while the others, like Yuhua Mavis, Liquor Hero, Xia Jiuyou, and the rest, went pale—they had only been affected by the aftershocks.

As for Wu Taibai, who had taken the attack head on and up close, nothing happened to him at all. The complete lack of reaction left Yao Xuan dumbfounded.

How could this be?

Lu Yin was similarly shocked; how could this be? How had Wu Taibai ignored Yao Xuan's attack?! This should not be possible. Lu Yin had already known that Wu Taibai was powerful, but Yao Xuan was a powerhouse who had reached the finals of ZENITH, so the gap between them should not be this large!

Elsewhere, Wang Yi was staring intently at Wu Taibai. He had never heard of people from that place who could ignore spiritual force attacks. This spiritual force attack had not been weak, so could Wu Taibai have possibly already reached that level?

Wu Taibai lifted a hand. "Unfortunately, you're facing me."

After he spoke, a strange energy rolled out from his body. All five fingers moved, and the Mountains and Rivers Imprint was unleashed.

There was a bang as his attack smashed Yao Xuan down to the foot of the mountain. The same sensation struck Yao Xuan once again; it was just like when Wang Yi had stabbed him through and inflicted his worst injury yet. But Wu Taibai's secret technique struck Yao Xuan even harder. He spat out blood, and his body transformed into countless tiny bats that flew out.

One by one, the bats flew back to the top of the mountain. Wu Taibai looked at the swarm of bats, specifically staring at one of them. He curled his fingers and then flicked them out.

A small but powerful wind blasted out. Its rune lines were enough to even make Lu Yin feel fear, and the attack shot through the void, leaving behind a black channel in its wake as it shuttled towards the bat.

All of the other bats disappeared, and the one that Wu Taibai had targeted had fearful eyes as it suddenly transformed into a human figure that looked exactly like Yao Xuan. However, this Yao Xuan was no longer made of materialized spiritual force. This was his true body.

Yao Xuan attacked with a technique that Lu Yin was very familiar with—Skybeast Claw.

The sound of an ancient beast's roar echoed through time and space, and a massive, illusory claw descended. It swept aside the strange energy emanating from Wu Taibai's body as the claw fell.

Wu Taibai smiled casually. "That's right, spiritual force is useless against me."

With that, he raised a leg and kicked out at the descending image of the claw.

Lu Yin was stunned as he watched the fight nearby; wasn't that the Skybeast Claw? How had Yao Xuan learned this technique? Not to mention, this attack was far more powerful than what Lu Yin was capable of using.

Everyone in the universe believed that the Celestial Demons' bodies were formed from spiritual force, but in reality, they also had physical bodies. Their usual state was merely a form of external protection that essentially rendered them immune to physical attacks, but once their body of spiritual force armor had been broken, they had to fight with their physical bodies.

Yao Xuan had been severely injured by the clone of Progenitor Chen that Shang Qing had summoned along with Wang Yi's attack.

Wu Taibai had simply ignored Yao Xuan's spiritual force. Thus, the crown prince could only fight with his body.

Wu Taibai was the first opponent who had managed to force Yao Xuan to bring out his physical body.

Up till now, the fighting had been extremely fierce, but Yao Xuan had never once been forced to reveal his physical form to fight.

Lu Yin had not expected that the opponent he had been fighting against all this time had only been using half of his strength. Yao Xuan deserved his title as crown prince of the Celestial Beast Empire.

Yao Xuan and Wu Taibai rushed towards each other at the same time, and the resulting impact created a shockwave that tore the ground apart. Yao Xuan's true body was that of a bat, but his physical strength was not lacking in the least, and he stopped several of Wu Taibai's attacks. However, the member of the Daosource Three Skies possessed a physical strength that had even suppressed Yuhua Mavis, and Yao Xuan vomited blood after being struck by Wu Taibai's strange energy. In the end, the crown prince could not endure the punishment, and he retreated.

Yao Xuan gasped for air, but then he suddenly turned his head to stare at Star Devourer, who had fallen down to the first layer below the stairs. The massive astral beast seemed to be unconscious, but Star Devourer's back suddenly went cold. Something was staring at him, but there was clearly nothing. What was going on?

"Secret Technique: Assimilation," Yao Xuan growled, and Wu Taibai suddenly appeared before him.

"It's over," Wu Taibai said as he raised his hand. The mountains and rivers fell, but Yao Xuan suddenly let out a tremendous roar as he raised his right fist to throw a punch.

At this moment, the void shook, and twilight drummed the morning bell¹ as Zenith Mountain trembled. Lu Yin's pupils shrank; how was this possible? Yao Xuan's punch contained an unfathomable power unlike anything before. Wu Taibai's Mountains and Rivers Imprint was shattered by Yao Xuan's one punch, and Wu Taibai's entire body was thrown back a thousand meters. If not for his secret technique taking the brunt of the blow, this punch would have left Wu Taibai in terrible shape.

Wu Taibai was shocked. Where had this strength come from?

Yao Xuan stepped forward with his right foot before rushing forward to punch Wu Taibai again. Wu Taibai frowned, and he also took a step forward. This time, he spun to dissipate the force of Yao Xuan's punch while also lifting his right arm to strike at Yao Xuan with an elbow. The punch barely missed Wu Taibai's head by a centimeter, as Wu Taibai had shifted Yao Xuan's extended arm with his elbow and thrown the punch off course. Wu Taibai followed up with a kick, and a martial print could be seen on the bottom of the foot that he used to attack. The kick sent the Celestial Demon flying.

Yao Xuan was not kicked far away, and he spun his body around to charge at Wu Taibai once again.

No one had thought that Yao Xuan could erupt with such a formidable physical strength. He was clearly no weaker than Lu Yin, Yuhua Mavis, Wang Yi, or any of the others. If anything, he had somewhat surpassed them—otherwise, it would have been impossible for him to shatter Wu Taibai's secret technique with a single punch. This level of physical power had only been shown by Star Devourer throughout all of ZENITH.

Star Devourers were the most physically gifted of all unique lifeforms.

No one could understand just what Yao Xuan had just done.

In the Neoverse, Arch-Elder Zen looked serious. As the master of the Hall of Honor, he had experienced things beyond the imagination of ordinary people. At this moment, his gadget beeped with an alert, and the Highsage Grandmaster appeared on the display with a solemn expression on his face.

Arch-Elder Zen calmly looked at his gadget.

Highsage Grandmaster solemnly asked, "Did you see it?"

Arch-Elder Zen sighed. "Progenitor Wushang's legendary secret technique. If one can successfully cultivate it, then they can transform into any astral beast with full control over its innate abilities."

"Yao Xuan assimilated the physical power of that Star Devourer in order to overpower Wu Taibai. I did not expect Progenitor Wushang's secret technique to reappear here. I thought that his entire inheritance had already disappeared," Highsage Grandmaster commented.

Arch-Elder Zen stared in the direction of the Astral Beast Domain. Disappeared? He had never thought that that rumor was true. After all, there was a certain individual in the Astral Beast Domain, and nothing could be hidden from him.

At the top of Zenith Mountain, Wu Taibai launched a fierce assault on Yao Xuan with his martial print and strange energy. There were many people who could no longer even understand the battle.

Chapter 1314: Completely Suppressed

Yao Xuan felt incredibly grateful towards Skymender. The crown prince had not originally known this secret technique, but after ZENITH's announcement, Skymender had helped Yao Xuan comprehend this secret technique. Mastering this secret technique had made Yao Xuan even more arrogant because of its power.

However, Skymender's words still resounded in Yao Xuan's mind: "During ZENITH, you are guaranteed to encounter an opponent who you will be unable to defeat no matter how hard you fight. Don't push yourself too hard. Rather, focus on bringing back Lu Yin's tamed beast if at all possible. This is the most important thing. Also, yes, you will enter the top ten."

Yao Xuan did not dare to forget the mission that Skymender had given him. Unless he was able to fight against Lu Yin, Yao Xuan had no desire to go all out against any other opponent. However, Wu Taibai was too tough of an opponent, and without winning, Yao Xuan would not be able to encounter Lu Yin again.

It was a pity that ZENITH's rules had changed. Otherwise, Yao Xuan definitely would have stayed focused on Lu Yin throughout the battle royale. Instead, the crown prince had to first overcome Wu Taibai before he could face Lu Yin.

Yao Xuan had assimilated Star Devourer's physical strength through a secret technique, which meant that his physical strength had risen to a level comparable to Yuhua Mavis's. If Yao Xuan was fighting against anyone else, then he could rely on the combination of his physical strength and spiritual force to

deliver an impossible to dodge attack, but Wu Taibai was somehow able to simply ignore spiritual force. What's more, his physical strength was not much different than Yuhua Mavis's either.

Star Devourer was physically powerful, but he struggled to fully utilize his amazing strength. Yao Xuan, on the other hand, was able to use this strength, so he could compare to Yuhua Mavis. However, Wu Taibai had been able to suppress even Yuhua Mavis.

Yao Xuan had not forgotten about this detail. When the strange energy reappeared on Wu Taibai's body, Yao Xuan's expression changed greatly, as he had remembered how Wu Taibai had used this bizarre power to smash Yuhua Mavis into the ground during the massive brawl. Yao Xuan could not be reckless here. His eyes danced about and then landed on Xu Ling, who was down on the first layer. "Secret Technique: Assimilation."

With a howl, Yao Xuan stepped into the void and traveled through it in the exact same manner as Xu Ling.

Countless people watching the broadcast were dumbfounded. They did not know that Yao Xuan had just used a secret technique. Rather, all they could tell was that, in this fight, Yao Xuan had revealed an incredible physical strength as well as a bizarre ability, and this sudden change terrified people.

The others on top of the mountain all frowned. This Yao Xuan was a very difficult opponent. He deserved to be one of the top ten finalists in ZENITH, and he truly stood out.

The surface of Wu Taibai's body looked like it was boiling now. He stared at Yao Xuan's illusory figure and then laughed. "That's useless!"

He then raised his hand, "Mountains and Rivers Imprint."

He then used the Progenitor of Combat's secret technique, as well as the strange energy covering his body. Earlier, the strange energy, the Divine Martial Armor, had overpowered Yao Xuan's spiritual force and forced him to reveal his physical body. And now, that same technique had once again blasted Yao Xuan back into the physical realm.

Yao Xuan was hit by the Mountains and Rivers Imprint. The impact caused him to cough up blood as his body flew out of the void and he fell down a staircase.

Yao Xuan had thought that by assimilating Xu Ling's innate ability, he would be able to simply ignore Wu Taibai's attack, but Mountains and Rivers Imprint had still struck him true without any issue. Whether it was the secret technique or the strange energy, Yao Xuan had been seriously injured.

Almost no one understood the current battle, not even Lu Yin.

Even now, Lu Yin did not understand how Xu Ling traveled through the void, and when Lu Yin had fought against Yōu Qi, he had only managed to attack him by relying on the Ghost Monkey's shadow. Without that, Lu Yin would have never been able to land a single attack on Yōu Qi.

Xu Ling's innate ability seemed to be almost exactly the same as Yōu Qi's. Their ability to phase into the void had nothing to do with strength, as it was actually another form of existence. No matter how strong Lu Yin became, without the proper means, he would never be able to strike an opponent in that state. However, Wu Taibai was able to easily attack them.

Even when Wu Taibai's attack had wounded Yao Xuan in his pure spiritual force form, Lu Yin knew that it had to have something to do with the strange energy surrounding Wu Taibai's body. Just what kind of battle technique was he using?

Wang Yi looked at Wu Taibai with cold eyes, but he did not seem the slightest bit surprised.

Yao Xuan was actually frighteningly powerful. He had unmatched spiritual force, Star Devourer's physical strength, and Xu Ling's ability to travel through the void. Any one of these abilities would be a huge obstacle on their own, and they allowed Yao Xuan to fight against any one of the top ten. Unfortunately, he had been matched up against Wu Taibai, and Yao Xuan felt as though he was being overpowered through brute force.

At the bottom of the stairs, Yao Xuan clutched at his chest. The skin there was burning. He had been too careless. Mountains and Rivers Imprint was actually still able to attack him, though not even Yao Xuan really understood what was happening.

The fights between the top ten did not disappoint the audience. Regardless of if it was the match between Qiu Shi and Xia Jiuyou or the one between Yao Xuan and Wu Taibai. All four fighters had revealed a terrifying strength that far surpassed that of anyone else in ZENITH.

The third match started right away.

It was Lu Yin's turn, and as he walked out, so too did Bu Kong.

Countless people throughout the universe became excited. One of the next contestants was Lu Yin. He was the leader of the Great Eastern Alliance, the Hall of Honor's fourth Honor Chosen, and one of the five gatekeepers during the first portion of ZENITH. His first battle had garnered everyone's attention.

On the other side, Bu Kong was one of the Daosource Three Skies, which meant that he was being groomed to become one of the Sixth Mainland's future leaders. He had always looked down upon the Fifth Mainland, but since ZENITH had started, one powerhouse after another had appeared. Their unique strengths had forcefully suppressed Bu Kong's arrogance, especially Shang Qing. His strands of ancestral qi were actually able to transform into copies of Progenitor Chen, and the knife-wielding copy had made Bu Kong feel true terror. He was actually willing to work with others to take Shang Qing down.

Shang Qing had already been acknowledged as the most powerful person in ZENITH.

In addition to Shang Qing, Qiu Shi, Yuhua Mavis, Liquor Hero, and Xia Jiuyou were all exceptionally powerful, and they had hidden themselves deeply. There was also Lu Yin, who had fought many eye catching battles. Everyone had revealed their hidden power, and Bu Kong was well aware of their strengths. However, knowledge was one thing—being able to handle such opponents was something else entirely.

Earlier, Bu Kong had been caught up in the battle between Lu Yin, Yao Xuan, and Star Devourer, and he had clearly sensed Lu Yin's terrifying strength. This would not be an easy fight.

ZENITH had tempered the arrogance of the Daosource Three Skies.

In the Upper Realm, countless Sixth Mainland cultivators were just as nervous as Bu Kong. If it were before the start of ZENITH, none of them would have been nervous, but ZENITH had revealed too many monsters. Lu Yin was a freak even among monsters, and everyone had to acknowledge his strength.

The two youths stepped onto the plaza without saying a word. Bu Kong instantly summoned his imprint of the Progenitor of Secret Arts, and a terrifying aura arrogantly swept through the sky and spread beyond Zenith Mountain.

In response, Lu Yin raised a hand and threw out a Vacuum Palm.

This attack was already within Bu Kong's expectations. Vacuum Palm had become Lu Yin's signature attack. It looked like a simple attack, but it was very difficult to track. This was why Bu Kong had instantly brought out his imprint of the Progenitor of Secret Arts.

The Vacuum Palm shot out, and Bu Kong raised his own hand: "Decompose."

The Vacuum Palm tore through the void, but it quickly disintegrated in front of Bu Kong. The first stack of the Overlaying Stacks Path erupted, only to disappear. It vanished faster than ever.

Lu Yin then raised his head: Daynight Praises.

The cultivators from the Sixth Mainland tended to have very strong spiritual forces because of their imprints, but despite that, Bu Kong was still dragged into an illusion. This was something that not even Yao Xuan had been able to avoid.

Bu Kong looked out to see endless cultivators kneeling down before him throughout space. He held his head high, and his heart began surging. He was master of all those before him, and directly in front, he saw both Zhi Yi and Wu Taibai kneeling. Yes, this was the feeling. This was what one of the Daosource Three Skies deserved. Who else besides Bu Kong could become a god? He was the sky above all else in the Sixth Mainland and the future master of the Daosource Sect. He was a future Progenitor.

Suddenly, an incomparably massive figure appeared in space. Their figure practically filled Bu Kong's entire vision, and this person looked down at him from high above. It was Lu Yin.

Upon seeing Lu Yin, Bu Kong's pupils shrank, and he suddenly came to his senses. No, this was an illusion.

In the illusion, the towering Lu Yin lowered his head to look at Bu Kong before raising a hand and slashing out with his hand as a blade. Skybreaker tore the sky open.

Behind Bu Kong, the Progenitor of Secret Arts' imprint could be seen. "A little trick like this isn't enough to deal with me!"

There was a bang, and Bu Kong was blasted through outer space. He shattered an entire planet after being blasted through its core. Lu Yin's hand rose up once more. Skybreaker fell down again.

As the hand descended and the attack shot towards Bu Kong's body, his face grew pale, and he spat out a mouthful of blood. He gritted his teeth and roared, "Power Transfer!"

As his voice fell, a grand and awe-inspiring aura entered the universe. It originated from the Progenitor of Secret Arts, and when it appeared, the illusion was broken.

At the peak of Zenith Mountain, Bu Kong spat out a mouthful of blood as he almost collapsed. The Progenitor of Secret Arts' imprint was still behind him, and he burned his blood to activate Power Transfer again. He gritted his teeth and glared at Lu Yin, growling, "You must want to die."

After speaking, Bu Kong waved out his hand and pressed down.

Lu Yin raised his hand as well, still using Vacuum Palm. Everyone was familiar with this technique, but not everyone could deal with it. Even if they were able to block it, they still had to pay a steep price.

Bu Kong was struck head on by Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm, and a palm print pressed deep into his body. He coughed up blood once more, but by taking a Vacuum Palm, Bu Kong's star energy had surrounded Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's expression instantly changed. He could feel that something malicious had infiltrated the star energy within his body. This was a sourcebox array. Bu Kong had used this method to slip his star energy into Lei Nü's body and then use a sourcebox array to forcefully disperse her star energy. At this moment, Bu Kong wanted to use the same method to deal with Lu Yin.

Lu Yin stepped forward, and an astral chessboard appeared beneath his feet. He, Bu Kong, the air, and even all star energy became chess pieces. Everything that could be seen or felt had become a chess piece, which naturally included Bu Kong's sourcebox array.

When Lu Yin moved, this time, it was not his body that shifted, but rather the star energy that had invaded his body. He removed the sourcebox array from his body.

Bu Kong waved a hand, and the sourcebox array unleashed its power, but it was only able to dispel the star energy around Lu Yin's body. Bu Kong could not believe this. What had just happened?

Lu Yin raised a hand yet again, still the Vacuum Palm.

There was a bang as Bu Kong shot back a thousand meters and crumpled to his knees.

Everyone stared on blankly. The ever-arrogant Bu Kong, one of the Daosource Three Skies, was being completely destroyed by Lu Yin without any ability to resist.

In the Upper Realm, the Sixth Mainland cultivators were barely able to breathe. They felt the agony of some sort of suppressed pain.

Beyond the barrier formed by the black hole that had cut through the Starfall Sea, the Progenitor of Secret Arts shook his head. Bu Kong's advantages were very clear; he had mastered a variety of secret techniques and was a Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker. However, he also lacked any sort of competitiveness. He had not trained his physical strength, and neither had he tried to improve his spiritual force. His speed was not very impressive either, and he did not even have a strong defense. Bu Kong had always looked invincible, but that was simply because no one had ever been able to reveal his weaknesses. In this battle, all of those weaknesses were being pulled out into the open.

In truth, Bu Kong should have realized this when Xiao Qing had knocked him down the mountain, but there was no way for him to fix these shortcomings in this brief amount of time.

Bu Kong had been deceived by his title as one of the Daosource Three Skies. He had pursued things that he felt would give him god-like abilities, such as Reversal Cycle, Power Transfer, and comprehending a sourcebox array. These abilities were what most people could never overcome, but unfortunately for Bu Kong, the moment someone was able to overcome his skills, he would instantly be at a disadvantage.

He was the youngest, though also the most talented, of the Daosource Three Skies. However, he was also the one of the Daosource Three Skies who had the most visible weaknesses.

Chapter 1315: Top Five

Lu Yin looked at Bu Kong kneeling on the ground before him and grew quite emotional. Lu Yin remembered the battle in the Cosmic Sea when he had first seen Bu Kong. The man had personally defeated many powerhouses all alone, and his arrogance had astonished all who saw him. At the present moment, that same person was feeling humiliated for being beaten like a dog.

The Sixth Mainlander was speechless, and he could only stare off into space in disappointment with himself.

Zhi Yi had already been eliminated from ZENITH without even qualifying for the top ten. Was it Bu Kong's turn to fail? At least he had entered the top ten.

Bu Kong dropped his head. He saw the palm print on his body from Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm, but the mark quickly disappeared. The Secret Technique of Resurrection allowed him to physically recover in an instant.

Bu Kong breathed heavily as he stared at the ground, dazed. Sweat dripped down from his forehead.

Why was this happening? Despite everything at Bu Kong's disposal, he could not handle Lu Yin. Reversal Cycle was not able to touch Lu Yin, the sourcebox array had failed, imprints did not suppress him, while Bu Kong's innate gift of decomposition was not able to even touch Lu Yin.

Why? When Bu Kong had first seen Lu Yin, he had been a piece of trash who had not even been able to step onto the Champions' Stage to fight, yet Bu Kong was not even able to fight back anymore.

Why? Why?

Bu Kong's eyes grew bloodshot, and blue veins erupted across his body. A bit of blood leaked out from this skin, dyeing his whole body red.

Across from him, Lu Yin arched a brow and reflexively threw out a Vacuum Palm.

The blood covering Bu Kong's body suddenly disappeared. He was using the secret technique Power Transfer once again, but while the last time he had used it it had merely shattered the illusion of Daynight Praises, this time the power of the Progenitor of Secret Arts was clearly displayed, and it enveloped all of Zenith Mountain in its splendor. This was not much different from when the Progenitor of Combat had visited. Bu Kong was desperate. Even if this would leave him unable to continue any further in the competition, he was determined to defeat Lu Yin.

The Vacuum Palm struck Bu Kong's chest and knocked him back a few steps. Just like before, the attack left a deep palm imprint, but the injury was instantly healed with the Secret Technique of Resurrection. Bu Kong lightly tapped out and suddenly appeared right next to Lu Yin and attacked with Reversal Cycle.

Lu Yin was caught off guard; how had Bu Kong's speed increased so much? Also, at this moment, his runes far outnumbered anything he had shown before. The close proximity and speed made Lu Yin feel a sense of danger.

Stars appeared and revolved around Lu Yin. Bu Kong was very fast, but he could not compare with Wang Yi. Cosmic Art made Bu Kong's attack fully visible to Lu Yin, and he dogged to the side while counter-attacking with a Vacuum Palm. At that moment, the Vacuum Palm froze in the air, and so did Lu Yin's entire body. It was a sourcebox array.

Qiu Shi and the others had also been frozen during the battle atop the Champions' Stage in the Cosmic Sea.

Lu Yin's strength meant that it was not easy for Bu Kong to lock him down, but at the moment, Bu Kong had burned his blood to use a secret technique that summoned a trace of the Progenitor of Secret Arts' power, and Bu Kong's strength had risen so much that Lu Yin was stunned at the change.

Bu Kong attacked with another Reversal Cycle. As soon as this attack connected, Lu Yin would be reverted to childhood, and then it would be absolutely impossible for him to avoid Bu Kong's follow-up attack.

Countless people grew nervous, and Ming Yan's complexion changed drastically in an Azure Mansion where she was watching.

All across Zenith Mountain, Wendy Yushan, Zhuo Daynight, and others also had their expressions change greatly.

In the Upper realm, the people from the Sixth Mainland cheered as they watched nervously. This moment would determine the outcome of this fight.

Bu Kong was using a sourcebox array to seize control of Lu Yin's body, star energy, and even his domain, but it did not seize control of his spiritual force.

Daynight Praises.

This was not a new attack, but it was certainly useful.

Bu Kong was forcibly dragged back into an illusion.

Night's End, Daybreak had been a peerless technique during its era and had allowed the Dayking to dominate his peers. So what if a person knew it was an illusion? They would still be dragged into it.

Daynight Praises was a union of Night's End, Daybreak, and the First Nightking's Skybreaker. This was the true top technique of the Daynight clan. Not even members of the Daynight clan had managed to comprehend this technique, so naturally the rest of the universe were completely ignorant of how this technique worked, with the exception of Yao Xuan.

Yao Xuan was the only one who could confront Daynight Praises head-on, as he possessed terrifying spiritual force. However, Lu Yin was facing Bu Kong. The Daosource Three Skies had already broken through this technique once before by using Power Transfer, but he had not expected that he would be dragged back into such an illusion given his current, boosted strength.

He once again saw outer space, as well as countless people kneeling before him. Bu Kong's expression suddenly changed, and he looked up. The massive figure of Lu Yin appeared, and he raised a massive hand and struck out with a palm.

Bu Kong was enraged and his star energy surged. "Break for me!"

Bu Kong's boosted strength was enough for him to instantly shatter the illusion of Daynight Praises. Lu Yin had never expected to actually injure Bu Kong with the technique, but had merely wanted to steal a moment's time.

By the time Bu Kong shattered the illusion, Lu Yin had also removed the sourcebox array. Not only that, Lu Yin's hand was up and a finger was pointed straight ahead: Seventh Bro Finger.

There was blood at the corner of Bu Kong's mouth, and he raised his hand one more time to unleash a palm attack. He was still attacking with Reversal Cycle. Even if Bu Kong was suffering from serious injuries, he would still beat Lu Yin back to his childhood. As long as Lu Yin was reverted back to his childhood, no matter how badly injured Bu Kong ended up, he would be able to win.

Everyone watched as the Reversal Cycle approached the finger attack.

Bu Kong stared fiercely and forced out more power.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed and he finished his attack.

Bu Kong's body suddenly shifted half a meter to the side, and his attack missed. He had been hit by Lu Yin's Teleportation Formation.

Bu Kong had managed to arrange a sourcebox array during the fight, but Lu Yin was capable of the same thing, and he had set up a Teleportation Formation.

At this critical moment, Bu Kong had been moved half a meter, and his Reversal Cycle was wasted. On the other hand, Lu Yin had already been prepared for this moment, and his finger shifted directions and pierced Bu Kong's shoulder, spilling blood Bu Kong's face went gray and his pupils went unfocused as he stared at Lu Yin in utter disbelief.

From the beginning to the end, he had had no hope of winning and had been suppressed throughout the entire battle.

Why? He was a Daosource Three Skies, so why had he lost? This should not have happened.

Lu Yin withdrew his hand and shook it a few times. He could not stop himself from falling to the ground, his whole body trembling from the exertion of his best technique.

Lu Yin looked at Bu Kong in a condescending manner. The moment Lu Yin had become a Hunter, he had already joined the most powerful of his peers in the entire universe. Yao Xuan had matchless spiritual force and could not be touched. Star Devourer had invincible physical strength. Wang Yi had incomparable speed and could not be touched. Shang Qing had the Tri-Yang technique that allowed him to summon Progenitor Chen's clones, and he was also untouchable.

Lu Yin had defeated Yuhua Mavis and Liu Tianmu, but that had only been when he had used his normal strength.

Lu Yin looked up, and his gaze swept by Shang Qing, Wang Yi, and Wu Taibai. These people had all hidden their strength very well, and they possessed unfathomable power, but so what?

Lu Yin was the same.

Bu Kong had lost, and lost miserably.

Three matches had finished among the top ten. Qiu Shi had killed Xia Jiuyou, which had exposed the secret of Xia Jiuyou's Nine Clones Technique. Yao Xuan and Wu Taibai's had revealed Wu Taibai's strange energy that was invulnerable. He was even able to attack those who traveled through the void, which made many people wary.

However, in Bu Kong and Lu Yin's fight, nothing new had been revealed, as both of them used everything they had used in earlier battles.

However, Qiu Shi and other experts from the Cosmic Sect had noticed that Lu Yin had used their Teleportation Formation, though Lu Yin had not intended to hide it.

ZENITH was being broadcast live, so naturally it was being watched by countless people everywhere, and everything was being re-watched and studied. Lu Yin's use of the sourcebox array would absolutely be discovered.

Lu Yin also did not have the courage to even consider how he would explain such usage to the Cosmic Sect. At this moment, the most important thing was to fight for the championship.

Bu Kong's defeat caused the Sixth Mainlanders to lose their voices. As of this moment, out of all of the Daosource Three Skies, only Wu Taibai could still compete for the title of Pinnacle Youth.

Who would have thought that the most low-key of the three, Wu Taibai, would be the most powerful of the Daosource Three Skies?

For the fourth match, Wang Yi faced off against Yuhua Mavis.

There is no suspense at all regarding this particular match. Though Yuhua Mavis was very strong, both Lu Yin and Wang Yi held the advantage when it came to physical strength, and besides that, it was impossible to win this match with strength alone.

The only chance Yuhua Mavis had of stealing victory was with her innate gift of controlling others.

Unfortunately for her, Wang Yi never even gave her a chance. He used his speed that made it so that no one could clearly see him, and he easily knocked Yuhua Mavis off of the mountaintop.

There was no suspense in the last match of this round, either. It was a fight between Liquor Hero and Shang Qing, but Liquor Hero did not want to even fight, so she just gave up.

At this moment, ZENITH's top five had been determined: Xia Jiuyou, Wu Taibai, Lu Yin, Wang Yi, and Shang Qing.

According to the rules of this tournament portion of ZENITH, Wang Yi would be the only one without an opponent for the next round.

Lu Yin's opponent was Xia Jiuyou, and Shang Qing would face Wu Taibai.

The champion of all of ZENITH would be one of these five people.

They were only given one day of rest, and the next day, the five youths stood quietly atop the mountain.

Lu Yin looked over at Xia Jiuyou, and at that moment, Xia Jiuyou just happened to glance over at Lu Yin.

"How many lives do you have?" Lu Yin casually asked.

Xia Jiuyou's eyes flickered. Hidden deep within them, there was a powerful fear.

When Lu Yin had reached the peak of Zenith Mountain, he had fought battles far more challenging than what Xia Jiuyou had encountered, and yet Lu Yin appeared to be completely free of all injuries. During the chaotic battle royale, Xia Jiuyou had even attacked Lu Yin once, and that attempt had been a failure. Xia Jiuyou had to admit that when it came to power, Lu Yin outclassed him. The only advantage Xia Jiuyou held was his multiple lives in a life-and-death struggle.

On the other hand, Wu Taibai was feeling rather helpless, and when he looked at Shang Qing, he became very uncomfortable.

When Wu Taibai saw Wang Yi, he smiled. "Don't look at me like that. Even though you've got a bye this round, you'll definitely be in the next match, and you'll still end up facing him."

"That doesn't matter," Wang Yi replied indifferently.

Wu Taibai laughed. "I know that what you really want is to fight Progenitor Chen. After all, that's Progenitor Chen, and you're from-"

Before Wu Taibai could finish, Wang Yi interrupted, "I want to fight Xia Jiuyou even more."

Wu Taibai's eyes narrowed. "That idea is too dangerous, and it's best to drop it. There are consequences to that that you can't handle."

Wang Yi looked over at Xia Jiuyou. "Humans' greatest secret is hidden in their blood. There are still people in this universe who have managed to inherit the Nine Clones Technique, which is something you didn't expect."

"What I didn't expect was that he isn't the only one to have cultivated the Nine Clones Technique."

Wu Taibai subconsciously glanced down at the first layer and looked at Starsibyl, though he did not say anything.

Wang Yi no longer spoke either.

Instead, he looked at Lu Yin. That person was the most important goal of this trip. Lu. Even in that place, this surname had disappeared. This youth had such an amazing talent; could he be a member of that family? If that was true, it would be too terrifying, and it would create ripples of shockwaves that would lead to unimaginable disasters that would sweep aside everything that humans knew.

From ancient times to the present, there had never been a competition on the scale of ZENITH, and never a day had passed by this slowly. The entire universe was waiting in anticipation.

Many businesses had even suspended their operations. The Outerverse's seventy-two weaves had stopped in their tracks, as had the Innerverse, the Cosmic Sea, and the Neoverse. Trade had been suspended in almost all regions as people waited to see the results of ZENITH.

Chapter 1316: Xia Jiuyou VS Lu Yin

The Innerverse has Ten Arbiters, the Neoverse had the Cosmic Five, the Sixth Mainland has Daosource Three Skies, and the Astral Beast Domain had Skymender's List. One by one, talented geniuses had been born, and all of them in the current era were competing, so naturally, everyone wanted to know who was the strongest.

The moment that a face appeared upon the towering statue, the name of the Pinnacle Youth would be known.

The day had been very long, but it had passed exceptionally quickly for Lu Yin.

He had a short rest, and the day finished. ZENITH then continued.

Lu Yin stepped onto the plaza, and across from him, Xia Jiuyou appeared.

Seeing Lu Yin, Xia Jiuyou took a deep breath. At this point in the competition, everyone knew everyone else's abilities, and nothing had been kept hidden. The biggest question everyone still had was what form Shang Qing's third strand of ancestral qi would take when he summoned a Progenitor.

As far as Xia Jiuyou was concerned, Lu Yin was nearly as mysterious as Shang Qing.

Xia Jiuyou knew Lu Yin. When the Innerverse and Outerverse had been separated from each other, Lu Yin had managed to unite the Outerverse. He was ruthless in his methods, and also extremely thorough. At times, some of his actions would look to be impulsive, but there was always a purpose behind them.

Xia Jiuyou actually believed that Lu Yin had kept some things hidden, even at this stage in ZENITH. If Xia Jiuyou wanted to have any hope of victory, he could not allow Lu Yin the time needed to use any such hidden measures.

"If I die, Xia Luo will as well," Xia Jiuyou suddenly stated, startling Lu Yin with his words. Seizing this opportunity, Xia Jiuyou lifted his hands and attacked. Yōu Reinforced Palm, but not just one. This was more like a series of slaps.

Xia Jiuyou was using his innate gift of echo, as he hoped to not allow Lu Yin any time to react at all.

The overwhelming Yōu Reinforced Palms shot through the void, raining down on Lu Yin from all directions.

Lu Yin did not use a secret technique to evade. Xia Jiuyou had mastered the Xia family's secret technique, and Nullify could destroy any other secret technique. Seeing the incoming Yōu Reinforced Palms, Lu Yin released his domain, and his forcefield condensed to form a massive tree.

The Yōu Reinforced Palms slammed into the forcefield in the shape of a tree, and each palm dissolved the moment it drew close to Lu Yin's body.

Lu Yin had not used his forcefield since his time as one of ZENITH's five gatekeepers. His use of it at this moment surprised everyone watching.

Lu Yin's forcefield was not much worse than Unseen Light's.

Unseen Light had reached the top of Zenith Mountain only by using his forcefield, and it had allowed him to even compete for the position of one of the top ten. Lu Yin's forcefield was powerful enough to block the full power of the Yōu Reinforced Palms.

In the distance, Wu Taibai, Yao Xuan, and the others watching were surprised; Lu Yin had really not played this hand yet?

Unseen Light looked up, as he had felt something.

Even when facing Yuhua Mavis, Liu Tianmu, Yao Xuan, or even Bu Kong, Lu Yin had never needed to use his forcefield. It was not an overwhelmingly powerful ability at this stage, but it was still good enough to block the Yōu Reinforced Palms, and it worked surprisingly well.

Xia Jiuyou's face turned ugly. The purpose of his Yōu Reinforced Palms had not been to defeat Lu Yin, but to leave a mark on him, just like when he had fought Lei Nu's back in the Mountain and Seas Zone. After she had been struck, Xia Jiuyou had been able to attack freely.

He had not expected Lu Yin to perfectly defend against the palms with a forcefield.

Lu Yin's domain was very strong, but it was not enough to pose a threat to Xia Jiuyou, but it had been enough to stop his attacks, so he reluctantly formed a knife from star energy. The Xia family's Triple Blade Will.

Suddenly, a Vacuum Palm flew out, reinforced by nine lined battle force. Xia Jiuyou was horrified, and his knife flew forward, only to shatter. The Vacuum Palm slammed into his body, forcing him back as he spat out blood. Stars suddenly appeared and began to move; the Cosmic Art

Xia Jiuyou went pale, and he screamed at the sky. The sound waves amplified each other due to his innate talent of echo. At this moment, the stars exploded.

Zenith Mountain shook, and smoke and dust obscured everything.

Xia Jiuyou had just broken free of the Cosmic Art, only to have to deal with another Vacuum Palm. Lu Yin was not giving his opponent any breaks. This attack was so powerful that it penetrated Xia Jiuyou's abdomen and forced him to the edge of death.

Xia Jiuyou coughed up blood and looked up as Lu Yin walked out in front of him. "I said, how many lives do you have?"

Outside Zenith Mountain, Xia Meng was getting anxious, but she was completely helpless. There was too much of a gap between Xia Jiuyou and Lu Yin. Xia Jiuyou's attacks were too weak, and his defenses were not enough.

Xia Jiuyou had also realized this, but Lu Yin's palm fell once again, and Xia Jiuyou's forehead cracked. He fell to the ground, dead.

Lu Yinju stared down at Xia Jiuyou.

Elsewhere on Zenith Mountain, Xia Luo grew nervous; Xia Jiuyou could not die.

Everyone stared at Xia Jiuyou as he laid on the ground. He was clearly dead, yet his eyes soon opened and he quickly said, "I give up."

Lu Yin was calm, as there had been no surprises to this match at all.

Off in the distance, Wu Taibai frowned as he stared at Xia Jiuyou. Wu Taibai could not understand just what Xia Jiuyou was thinking.

Xia Jiuyou had no choice. He was unwilling to give up, but he could not win. Even if he wanted to risk his life, he still needed the power to force a life and death battle.

Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm alone was enough to send him to the finals of ZENITH. There were very few people who could block this attack, and people like Little Arrow Saint had been defeated by a single attack, and even Wang Yi had been injured by it. It was pretty good that Xia Jiuyou had managed to endure multiple attacks.

The next round would have Shang Qing facing Wu Taibai.

All of the people from the Sixth Mainland grew nervous as they stared at their screens. No matter how much confidence they placed in their Daosource Three Skies, there was still a great deal of pressure since Wu Taibai was going up against Shang Qing.

Both before and during ZENITH, no matter who had appeared or what sort of power they had revealed, Shang Qing had always been the only person recognized as being unmatched. He had also been the one to end the battle royale that had determined the top ten.

He had summoned Progenitor Chen from a strand of ancestral qi, and that summon had attacked everyone. Shang Qing had even pushed for everyone to team up against him, and no matter if it was his strength or arrogance, he made people extremely nervous.

Wu Taibai and Shang Qing faced each other, and three strands of qi swirled around Shang Qing. He floated in the air, looking like a deity. His entire demeanor made his opponents appear inferior.

Although Shang Qing was just one person, he was able to summon three Progenitors to fight his battles, and this was why he was regarded as being invincible.

Who was arrogant enough to claim that they could compare to Progenitors with the same level of cultivation, let alone three? On top of that, Shang Qing summoned Progenitor Chen, who had always been regarded as invincible.

Wu Taibai's only chance at victory was to defeat Shang Qing himself, which is what he intended to do.

As the illusory form of Progenitor Chen was summoned, Wu Taibai raised his hand. "Mountains and Rivers Imprint."

The qi moved in front of Shang Qing, protecting him. The mountains and rivers struck a strand of qi and shattered it. People had seen this before. At that time, Shang Qing had transformed the qin into the illusory form of Progenitor Chen, who had then proceeded to smash the mountains and rivers.

The secret technique of the Mountains and Rivers Imprint was able to ignore space. It had been created by Progenitor of Combat, and it was powerful enough to shatter the Tri-Yang Technique's qi strands. However, those strands of qi were able to buy Shang Qing one second, and that one second was enough.

At this time, the summoned Progenitor Chen attacked Wu Taibai with a blade, and the Xia family's Triple Blade Will condensed onto the knife. One step allowed Progenitor Chen to traverse the space. This was the same attack that had eliminated Unseen Light and the others to decide ZENITH's top ten. No one dared to be careless when facing Progenitor Chen.

However, the same scene repeated. Last time, Wu Taibai had just taken on the attack, and this time was no different.

A strange energy boiled off of Wu Taibai's body, and he raised a hand. There was a bang, and Progenitor Chen was firmly caught by Wu Taibai. He did not take even a single step back, unlike before. Progenitor Chen wielded a sharp knife, and the color suddenly changed and grew dark.

From where he was watching in the distance, Xia Jiuyou's pupils shrank. Was this the Yōu Reinforced Palm? No, Progenitor Chen was integrating Yōu Reinforced Palm into the Triple Blade Will. The techniques could actually be used like this?

Wu Taibai had also not expected to see such a scene. His hand quickly froze, and his expression changed a bit. He moved his hand to shake off the knife, and he then struck Progenitor Chen with a palm.

Wu Taibai was able to hit Progenitor Chen, but the summoned Progenitor could also cut Wu Taibai.

This was an exchange of injuries, and though it looked like Wu Taibai had attacked his opponent, he had actually lost out in this exchange.

He reluctantly retreated. Progenitor Chen moved about in the air with light steps. He was not moving quickly, yet every step he took pressed Wu Taibai in a direction he would rather avoid.

The Progenitor of Combat's imprint appeared, and a horrifying aura swept out as Wu Taibai again attacked Progenitor Chen with the Mountains and Rivers Imprint.

The summoned Progenitor's blade shone bright as he smashed the seals of mountains and rivers. The air in the area became icy cold.

In the Starfall Sea, very close to the barrier formed by the stretched out blackhole, the Sixth Mainland's three Progenitors were all solemn as they stared at Zenith Mountain.

That was Progenitor Chen. It was Progenitor Chen when he had recently become an Enlighter, and yet he was able to force Wu Taibai to retreat one step after another, and not even the seal of mountains and rivers had done anything.

Progenitor Chen had always possessed invincible strength, and who can stand against him?

Who would dare claim they were able to defeat Progenitor Chen at the same cultivation realm? The three Progenitors certainly lacked that courage. After all, Progenitor Chen had slaughtered more than one Progenitor, and had even succeeded with only a single clone.

Lu Yin watched Wu Taibai as he was forced back, step by step, by the summoned Progenitor Chen. Wu Taibai looked more serious than Lu Yin had ever seen him.

This was the power of Progenitor Chen. Wu Taibai was powerful enough to suppress even Yuhua Mavis after utilizing his strange energy. His Mountains and Rivers Imprint secret technique ignored any sort of distance and possessed unparalleled attack power.

Wait, Lu Yin's expression suddenly changed and he spun around to look at Shang Qing. Nine clones in one?

The two strands of ancestral qi swirling around had previously transformed into two of Progenitor Chen's clones, so could those clones possibly merge?

Lu Yin's face changed even further as he stared at Shang Qing. If Lu Yin was right, this technique was far too terrifying. No wonder Shang Qing had always believed himself to be invincible. His opponents were not fighting him, but Progenitor Chen when he had been an Enlightener. Even if the summoned Progenitor Chen was missing cultivation, he was still Progenitor Chen.

The ground split open as Progenitor Chen attacked with his knife, severing the sky itself, as well as space beyond Zenith Mountain.

Everyone was focused on the broadcast of this fight. Wu Taibai was being suppressed too much.

Wu Taibai's face remained calm. Although Progenitor Chen had been invincible during his own era and no one had been able to challenge him, Wu Taibai was indeed strong enough to challenge Progenitor Chen with the same cultivation. It would be incredibly difficult to win, but this match was not about defeating Progenitor Chen, but rather the man who stood some distance away, looking like a deity.

Shang Qing watched Wu Taibai with indifferent eyes. Wu Taibai's strength was well within Shang Qing's expectations, and he was even able to fight against Progenitor Chen. Wu Taibai could be recognized as peerless within his generation, but unfortunately, once Shang Qing appeared, all others needed to step down.

Shang Qing was feeling incredibly bored. If not for the change in the rules, everyone would have teamed up to fight him, and they might have even been able to force him to send out his third stream of qi and force him through his bottleneck in cultivation and breakthrough with the Tri-Yang Technique.

In the end, the Tri-Yang Ancestral Qi Technique was nothing more than a battle technique. Shang Qing wanted to become a Progenitor, and he had to rely on himself in order to achieve that. He did not want to simply be the Hall of Honor's invincible minion.

The blade attacked once again, and the summoned Progenitor Chen forced Wu Taibai to the edge of the mountaintop.

Wu Taibai took a deep breath and glanced to the side where Wang Yi was watching.

Wu Taibai felt helpless. He had not expected to be pushed so far. The light of the knife was in front of him. This summoned Progenitor Chen was not sapient, but continuously attacked. The void around the two fighters had been frozen by Progenitor Chen's integration of the Yōu Reinforced Palm into his attacks.

Wu Taibai lifted his right hand to shield his face.

People watching were completely confused; what was Wu Taibai doing? Did he not have the courage to watch the incoming attack?

Wang Yi's eyebrows rose. It's coming.

Chapter 1317: Joining Forces

Wu Taibai had used the strange energy that boiled forth from his body to defeat Yuhua Mavis. That energy was something that no one understood, and at this moment, it had instantly converged over his hand, and then it was released. This was completely different from anything Wu Taibai had done before.

In the distance, Lu Yin's complexion changed. The number of runes he saw from Wu Taibai had skyrocketed, and the combination of this strange energy and the Progenitor of Combat's imprint had caused Wu Taibai's runes to instantly surpass even those of the summoned Progenitor Chen.

When the flash of the knife fell, Wu Taibai waved his hand. The knife's light was torn apart, and Wu Taibai then leaped forward and pressed his hand against Progenitor Chen's shoulder, instantly forcing the summon to the ground. Wu Taibai then vanished, and when he reappeared, he was already right in front of Shang Qing and very close.

Shang Qing was shocked.

Wu Taibai attacked with a hand, and neither of the strands of qi swirling around Shang Qing were able to stop this attack. They were both shattered, and the hand moved closer to Shang Qing, and he could sense its approach.

The power of this palm attack gave Shang Qing a sense of danger he had not felt since Liu Tianmu had attacked with the Thirteenth Sword.

Wu Taibai's palm descended rapidly, so fast that no one was able to even react. However, just as the attack was about to connect, it started moving away, further and further.

Wu Taibai felt his back go cold.

This was the Hall of Honor's secret technique: Banishment.

Even though Wu Taibai had pushed past the summoned Progenitor Chen, as well as two strands of qi that had been protecting Shang Qing, he had still ultimately been thrown back by the secret technique Banishment.

This secret technique was not able to force Wu Taibai back very far, and he instantly attacked again while still in the air. This time he attacked with the seal of mountains and rivers. However, the secret technique was still not able to even touch Shang Qing. This time, the summoned Progenitor Chen

slashed his knife at Wu Taibai, though the knife was not able to injure Wu Taibai since it was stopped by the strange energy that surrounded his body.

Wu Taibai landed on the ground, and Progenitor Chen slashed out again with his knife. Wu Taibai raised his leg to block the blade, but his body was forced back yet again. He looked over at the increasingly distant Shang Qing with some degree of helplessness. "I admit defeat."

Although many people had already expected such a result, it still left them stunned.

Shang Qing had won once more. He had held first place in all of the leaderboards, and had always been regarded as being the most powerful contestant in ZENITH. At this time, he was just one step away from realizing that position.

Wu Taibai was far from weak, and he had even overpowered the summoned Progenitor Chen for a bit, which was something that no one else had managed to accomplish. Despite that, he had not been able to even threaten Shang Qing and had finally given up.

Shang Qing frowned. Finally, he had felt a bit of pressure from Wu Taibai, and that sense of danger had not appeared for a very long time. Shang Qing enjoyed that feeling, and he desperately needed to feel such a sense of crisis.

At this thought, he turned to look at Wang Yi and Lu Yin. "You two, let's go all at once."

Lu Yin's brows rose. There were only three people left in ZENITH: him, Wang Yi, and Shang Qing. Lu Yin had thought that one more person would have a bye for the next round.

"Don't hesitate, Deaf-mute Bro! No one can match him in a one-on-one," Wu Taibai called out, sounding rather helpless.

Wang Yi stepped forward and looked at the distant Shang Qing. Even at this point in time, Wang Yi still found it unbelievable that anyone in this universe had managed to cultivate such power. Shang Qing was capable of fighting against four opponents on his own. Still, it could not really be considered true strength, as he was merely relying on the invincible power of Progenitor Chen.

Wang Yi looked over at Lu Yin, who was not far away. Wang Yi actually wanted to fight him, but a three-way battle was not a bad idea.

Lu Yin also walked out from the side of the plaza. The true opponent to overcome was Shang Qing, as it seemed highly unlikely for Lu Yin to be able to compete for the title of Pinnacle Youth with the strength he had revealed so far.

However, would the rules allow an open battle? Shang Qing had already wanted to face everyone at once, but he had been blocked.

However, no one said anything against the proposal even after waiting for a while.

Both the Hall of Honor and the three Progenitors believed this to be the final match!

Wu Taibai had not been able to defeat Shang Qing, but many people felt that not even the two youths working together would be enough to defeat Shang Qing.

As Lu Yin had already guessed, the Hall of Honor was already prepared to celebrate. Their first Honor Chosen was about to become the Pinnacle Youth of the entire universe, and this was more than enough to excite everyone in the Hall of Honor.

"Seventh Bro, come on! Get him!" Ku Wei shouted.

"Beat him, Lu Yin! Beat him!" White shouted while jumping up and down.

Ling Gong, Lan Si, and more. Everyone was focused on this battle, as it really was the end of ZENITH.

Shang Qing's mouth curled up into a smile. "I hope you can make me face a challenge."

After that, he waved a hand and a second strand of qi transformed into another illusory Progenitor Chen.

A knife flashed as one of the summoned Progenitor Chen's moved to attack Wang Yi with a blade.

Wang Yi instantly disappeared. He was clearly the fastest person in all of ZENITH. Even Lu Yin had barely been able to see even a blur after using Cosmic Art and Truesight. Progenitor Chen was also unable to track Wang Yi, so the knife targeted Lu Yin.

Lu Yin did not dare relax when facing Progenitor Chen's blade. The summoned Progenitor was not using the basic Triple Blade Will, but had already integrated the power of the Yōu Reinforced Palm as well. This had created an aura from the knife that froze the entire area.

Lu Yin's pupils transformed into runes, and he erased a portion of the runes from the encroaching attack. Simultaneously, his hand rose to release a Vacuum Palm. The edge of the blade was diverted a bit, and Lu Yin shifted to the side and looked over at Shang Qing.

Wang Yi not only passed by the Progenitor Chen with the knife, but also the second one that had been summoned as well, and he had already appeared right in front of Shang Qing. "Four Arts: Bear Stalwart."

A massive explosion erupted, and it radiated a terrifying destructive power. This attack was not much more dangerous than when Wu Taibai had attacked Shang Qing.

Shang Qing saw the fall of the Hall of Honor and an unfathomable attack approaching. Arch-Elder Zen was dead, along with everyone Shang Qing was familiar with, as well as many strangers. His body was racked with pain, and someone suddenly appeared in front of Shang Qing; it was Lu Yin, and he attacked with a single palm. Not good! It's an illusion.

Cough

Shang Qing spat out a mouthful of blood. He had been dragged into Daynight Praises and been attacked by Lu Yin's spiritual force while his body had been attacked by Wang Yi. Although a Banishment had thrown Wang Yi back, his attack had still managed to land on Shang Qing.

Shang Qing took a few steps back, and blood could be seen at the corner of his mouth. He looked over at Lu Yin, who happened to be staring back. "That spiritual force illusion that hit me in the checkpoint was from you?"

Lu Yin did not have the freedom to respond. The summoned Progenitor Chens were both attacking, and each wave of a knife seemed to block Lu Yin's movements. He had already been using the Cosmic Art to track the knife, as otherwise he would have already been cut.

Shang Qing had been injured for the first time since the start of ZENITH.

Many of the people watching the livestream grew excited. This was an amazing fight.

Shang Qing had three strands of qi, and they protected him and were enough to deal with all challengers without him needing to do a thing. However, he had finally been injured, which meant that he was not truly invincible.

The illusory Progenitor Chen charged towards Wang Yi, slipping into the void. This was an invisible attack, but it still gave people the chills.

Wang Yi attacked with another Four Arts: Bear Stalwart, but instantly pierced through the illusory Progenitor Chen. His attack could not land. Wang Yi's eyes flickered, and he suddenly disappeared. He did not bother trying to deal with the illusory Progenitor Chen, but attacked Shang Qing. Suddenly, Wang Yi froze and blood appeared at the corners of his lips. He had just been struck by the secret technique Discipline by Shang Qing. The more injured the user, the more damaging this secret technique.

The illusory Progenitor Chen emerged from behind Wang Yi with a raised hand. He pointed forward, and a black light appeared at his fingertips that distorted the void and even began to suck up the light.

Wang Yi spread apart the fingers of his left hand as he turned to face the illusory Progenitor Chen. "Four Arts: Pearl."

The illusory Progenitor Chen swept his finger to the side, and blood fell. Wang Yi had overwhelming physical strength, and even Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm was only able to leave marks without causing any actual damage. Yet the illusory Progenitor Chen had broken through Wang Yi's defenses with just a single finger. Suddenly, Wang Yi disappeared, and a cut appeared on the illusory Progenitor Chen's stomach. The summoned Progenitor dissolved into the qi that had formed him, only to reform a moment later without any wounds whatsoever. Everyone who saw this felt their scalps go numb.

Shang Qing was watching from the distance, and he was shocked to see that Progenitor Chen's ability to turn immaterial had been overcome. There was no other way for Wang Yi to have left a wound on the summoned Progenitor.

Wang Yi was the first person to injure the summoned Progenitor Chen, and at this moment, everyone had seen that the Progenitor Chen summoned by the Tri-Yang Technique had been injured. However, it had not been blood that had leaked from the wound, but ancestral qi. This qi did not dissipate or disappear, and was still part of the whole. This meant that the Tri-Yan Technique could not be broken, as the summoned Progenitors could simply reform after being destroyed.

Lu Yin had also seen this exchange, and his face fell. Progenitor Chen was formed from ancestral qi, and though he had no form of sapience, the fact that he could not be injured or killed fully compensated for the lack of wisdom.

The only way to defeat Shang Qing was to defeat Shang Qing himself and force him into a situation where he was unable to use the Tri-Yang Technique.

In the Mountain and Seas Zone, Beast had been the one to expose the truth of the Tri-Yang Technique, and during the final battle of ZENITH, Wang Yi had revealed another terrifying characteristic of the invincible technique.

Even Wang Yi felt his heart sink as he understood the true horror of this skill.

Four Arts: Pearl was able to seal anything an opponent might possess. Wang Yi had used this to seal Lu Yin's physical strength, which had left Lu Yin unable to use his Vacuum Palm, as his strength had fallen tremendously for a period of time. Just a moment ago, Wang Yi sealed this ability to seal the illusory Progenitor Chen's ability to become immaterial in order to injure the summoned Progenitor. However, it was all useless. Even if Wang Yi was able to injure one of the summons, they could simply be instantly re-summoned.

Shang Qing quietly stood alone with a single strand of qi swirling about him. He looked like some sort of ethereal god as he watched Lu Yin and Wang Yi. These two were definitely the most outstanding youths in ZENITH, but unfortunately, they were not able to match up to Shang Qing.

The more information that was revealed about the Tri-Yang Technique, the more helpless people facing it felt.

At this moment, even the people in the Great Eastern Alliance did not believe that Lu Yin could win.

Lu Yin again evaded the knife and raised a hand. It was another Vacuum Palm sent to Shang Qing.

The strand of qi circling Shang Qing tried to stop the incoming attack, but was shattered by the Vacuum Palm. However, Lu Yin's attack was still stalled for a moment, and Shang Qing was able to dodge.

At this moment, an astral chessboard appeared beneath Lu Yin's feet, and he moved himself.

The knife-wielding Progenitor Chen that Lu Yin was facing was Progenitor Chen from the time he had been an Enlightener, so he could not possibly have created the Xia Secret Art. That also meant that Progenitor Chen could not Nullify Lu Yin's secret technique.

Lu Yin appeared behind Shang Qing and pointed a finger forward. It was the Seventh Bro Finger.

The two strands of qi had already been shattered, and only one remained to protect Shang Qing. Everyone hoped that Lu Yin would be able to force Shang Qing to use his third strand of qi so that they could see who would be summoned.

In the distance, Wang Yi watched as Lu Yin attacked with a finger, and frowned. This attack looked familiar.

Wu Taibai also saw the attack, and he stared at Lu Yin's Seventh Bro Finger.

The finger shattered the void as it approached Shang Qing's back. Shang Qing lifted a hand and attacked behind himself. Secret technique: Banishment.

Lu Yin flew back and flipped over, completely out of control of himself. He had been sent straight towards the knife-wielding Progenitor Chen was, and the knife moved for Lu Yin's back.

Chapter 1318: Unknown Innate Gift

Lu Yin's mouth suddenly curled into a smile. Shang Qing's body abruptly moved to appear right behind Lu Yin. This was completely outside of Shang Qing's control. When Lu Yin had nearly connected with his Seventh Bro Finger, he had also arranged a Teleportation Formation in anticipation of this moment.

Shang Qing was now behind Lu Yin, directly standing in the path of the knife from the summoned Progenitor Chen that had been aimed at Lu Yin. At the same time, Lu Yin's Seventh Bro Finger switched directions and once again flew at Shang Qing.

There were attacks both in front and behind Shang Qing.

Lu Yin had mastered a wide variety of battle techniques, secret techniques, and sourcebox arrays. There were infinite options available to him during his fights.

Shang Qing was caught off guard, as he had not noticed anything when Lu Yin had set up the sourcebox array. By the time he had reacted, it was already too late. Against these simultaneous attacks, Shang Qing reacted in a manner that no one expected—he turned to face Lu Yin's attack.

Lu Yin had also not expected such a reaction. Rather, Lu Yin had assumed that Shang Qing would use his third strand of ancestral qi to block Lu Yin's Seventh Bro Finger. After all, the summoned Progenitor Chen could simply be reverted back to a strand of qi, so Shang Qing did not really face any threat from that direction.

Did he want to use the secret technique Discipline? This was the only possibility that Lu Yin could think of.

However, Lu Yin was not afraid of that possibility, and his Seventh Bro Finger boldly continued forward to strike Shang Qing's body.

An invisible shockwave shot out in all directions, and Shang Qing froze for a moment. Behind him, the knife-wielding Progenitor Chen reverted back to a strand of ancestral qi before instantly reforming. The knife fell down from above Shang Qing's head and targeted Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was completely stunned; had his Seventh Bro Finger done nothing to Shang Qing at all? How was this possible?

There was a bang as Lu Yin's fatesand moved in front of him to block the knife. The tremendous force behind the knife jostled Lu Yin's body and forced his fatesand back into his body, but the summoned Progenitor Chen relentlessly continued attacking with the knife.

Lu Yin was still absorbed in the mysterious outcome of his attack. Shang Qing had clearly been struck by his Seventh Bro Finger, and yet he had emerged completely unharmed. How? Even if it had been Star Devourer, Yuhua Mavis, Wang Yi, or Wu Taibai, each and every one of them physically powerful, they would have been able to come out without any injuries at all. This attack combined overlaying stacks, battle force, and spiritual force into a single, compressed attack. This was Lu Yin's most powerful attack.

This finger was even powerful enough to shatter the summoned Progenitor Chen's knife attack, so why could it not cause even the slightest bit of damage to Shang Qing? Did Shang Qing himself possess more strength than everyone else?

Lu Yin was not alone, as everyone was stunned, and even Wu Taibai's face fell. He could not understand this either.

Wang Yi once again evaded the illusory Progenitor Chen's finger attack. He was also staring at Shang Qing. Wang Yi's eyes flickered, but he still could not understand what had happened.

Originally, everyone had assumed that Shang Qing would rely on the power of Progenitor Chen, regardless of how powerful Shang Qing himself was. They had just discovered that this assumption was wrong.

None of the eliminated contestants were confident in being able to escape from Lu Yin's finger attack, but Shang Qing had actually endured one without taking any damage. This destroyed their preconceptions.

Had Shang Qing really reached an untouchable level? Wang Yi and Wu Taibai were both stunned. Could anyone under this starry sky truly reach that level? No. If Shang Qing had actually reached that level, then he would not have been injured before.

An astral chessboard appeared beneath Lu Yin's feet, and he shifted himself a thousand meters away before staring at Shang Qing.

Shang Qing remained standing in the air, and he turned to look at Lu Yin. "You're very good."

Lu Yin's gaze grew sharp. The Seventh Bro Finger was Lu Yin's strongest attack, as it was the combination of everything that he possessed. Despite that, it was useless against Shang Qing. How?

Lu Yin perfectly remembered what he had felt when he had hit Shang Qing. There had not been any strong resistance, and Lu Yin had also been sure that Shang Qing's rune lines had not been enough to block his Seventh Bro Finger. So why had he emerged completely unscathed?

Lu Yin was certain that his combination attack had managed to force out some sort of ability that Shang Qing had managed to hide deeply, but Lu Yin simply did not understand what it was.

On Zenith Mountain, all of the eliminated contestants were rendered speechless.

Ku Wei also had no words, as this was simply too freakish. Seventh Bro's attack had been useless, so how could the fight continue? It was no wonder why Wu Taibai had directly given up.

The power that Shang Qing had revealed up til now was enough to leave people absolutely horrified. He had the Tri-Yang Ancestral Qi Technique, the two secret techniques that he had mastered, and the ability to defend against Lu Yin's Seventh Bro Finger. This clearly made him the most difficult opponent in all of ZENITH by a large margin.

The Cosmic Art was considered to be the nemesis of speed, but the secret technique Banishment was speed's true nemesis. No matter how fast Wang Yi moved, he would always be knocked back.

“It looks like you’ve reached your limits, so let’s end this.” Shang Qing’s words were overflowing with an indescribable sense of disappointment. Both of the summoned Progenitor Chens retreated to stand in front of Shang Qing. Then, as everyone watched in awe and stupefaction, the two merged.

Off in the distance, Xia Jiuyou’s body trembled. This was the Nine Clones Secret Technique.

Down below, Xia Luo’s eye twitched as he watched the two clones of Progenitor Chen fuse together. After endless years, their generation was the one to actually witness the fusion of Progenitor Chen’s clones.

Everyone felt chills run down their backs. Each of the clones on their own had been strong enough to fight evenly against Lu Yin and Wang Yi, and after the two merged, the people watching the battle could no longer see any path to victory.

Even Wang Yi’s heart fell. He could not even guess at how strong Progenitor Chen would become after merging.

Lu Yin had a strange expression on his face as he watched the clones merge. Lu Yin had used a secret technique against one of the summoned clones because he had believed that Progenitor Chen had not yet created the Xia Secret Technique when he had just been an Enlighter. That was why Lu Yin had been comfortable carrying out such an attack. However, there was also no way that Progenitor Chen could have created the Nine Clones Secret Technique when he had been a mere Enlighter. This also meant that the Nine Clones Secret Technique had not actually been created by Progenitor Chen!

Upon thinking of this, Lu Yin realized that he was right. When Lu Yin had been in Progenitor Chen’s Mausoleum and had seen the Progenitor’s memories, Progenitor Chen had already had nine clones at the Enlighter realm. This meant that the ancient Progenitor had learned the technique, not created it.

Xia Jiuyou’s Nine Clones Secret Technique was understood to have been inherited from Progenitor Chen through the Xia family or possibly coincidentally awakened through Xia Jiuyou’s blood. This was just like how Zhuo Daynight had comprehended Night’s End, Daybreak, and it was clearly possible.

However, even if that possibility was true for Xia Jiuyou, then what about Starsibyl? Where had she learned the Nine Clones Secret Technique?

All these thoughts went through Lu Yin’s mind in an instant, and as the implications ran wild, the clones finished merging.

An overwhelming illusory flame spread across the ground as it covered the sky and blocked out the sun.

Lu Yin and Wang Yi both immediately shot into the sky filled with illusory flames in all directions as the fused summoned Progenitor Chen stepped into sight. It was holding a blade formed from star energy, and it stared at the two youths. There was clearly no intelligence within those eyes, but that gaze still chilled their hearts.

Wang Yi clenched a fist and disappeared.

At the same time, Lu Yin heard Wang Yi say, “Take care of Shang Qing.”

Wang Yi held no hope of defeating Progenitor Chen after the two clones merged. That was Progenitor Chen, and he had always been invincible within his own realm. There was no possibility of him losing.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed, and he stared at Shang Qing: Daynight Praises.

The speed of both Daynight Praises and Wang Yi's movement formed the most effective means of attacking Shang Qing, and this was the only way to injure him.

However, the two had still underestimated the fused Progenitor Chen's power. Lu Yin's spiritual force tried to envelop Shang Qing and drag him into an illusion, but Lu Yin's spiritual force attack was actually cut short by Progenitor Chen, and Wang Yi was similarly stopped. The fused Progenitor Chen attacked with a blade that emerged from the void, and the blade flashed as it appeared right in front of Wang Yi with a horizontal slash.

Wang Yi's pupils shrank, and he immediately released an attack: Four Arts: Bear Stalwart.

There was a deafening bang as a shockwave spread out. The pressure shattered the ground and struck everyone around the arena as well as those at the bottom of the flights of stairs, those on the first layer, the second layer, the third layer, and even the foot of Zenith Mountain.

At this moment, the entire mountain shook, and huge cracks spread down from the peak.

In outer space, outside Zenith Mountain, countless spatial cracks also appeared as a result of this collision.

For the first time, one of Wang Yi's Four Arts had been suppressed. The fused Progenitor Chen's blade sliced Wang Yi's hand open, and he started to bleed. This blade also contained an unstoppable cold, and it quickly invaded through the wound in Wang Yi's palm and froze his blood.

Wang Yi's face went pale, and he quickly stepped back. The knife did not pull back, and it continued to slash forward. Suddenly, the blade shifted, and it aimed at the sky. The entire sky was torn open, and the spatial tear extended off into the distance. It was impossible to tell how far it had gone.

Lu Yin had made his move, the Yu Secret Art diverting the blade. Numerous Vacuum Palms shot out, each of them branded with nine lined battle force and the greatest power that Lu Yin was capable of unleashing.

The fused Progenitor Chen raised a hand, and a long knife spun in its hand. The battle force was sucked into the spinning blade as the flurry of Vacuum Palms approached it, striking down the knife blade. The fused Progenitor Chen was forced back a few steps, and one Vacuum Palm after another rained down upon it. The Vacuum Palms managed to push Progenitor Chen back, but that was all that happened.

On the other side, Wang Yi disappeared as he moved to directly attack Shang Qing.

The blade in the fused Progenitor Chen's palm suddenly stopped spinning, and the long blade slammed into the ground. The very next moment, wisps of knife qi rained down, targeting both Wang Yi and Lu Yin. The audience felt their scalps go numb, as these attacks were clearly able to seriously wound the two youths.

Lu Yin hurriedly evaded the attack, but it enveloped the entire mountaintop. Some distance away, Wang Yi had managed to move within a single meter of Shang Qing, but he was also forced to start dodging the rain of knife qi.

The moment Wang Yi turned to retreat, he spread his fingers and attacked the fused Progenitor Chen. Four Arts: Pearl.

The summoned Progenitor raised its knife and slashed down in response. This time, there was no flash from the blade, as Wang Yi had caused the summoned Progenitor Chen to lose control of its knife.

Shang Qing was surprised that Wang Yi was still able to seal the fused Progenitor Chen. Wang Yi used battle techniques that had never been seen before, though they seemed to have been inherited from ancient times.

The fact that the summoned Progenitor Chen had lost its knife meant that a great deal of the threat facing Wang Yi and Lu Yin had disappeared.

One of the two raced for Shang Qing as fast as possible while the other suddenly appeared behind Shang Qing with a sourcebox array. Both of them attacked at the same time.

Despite the approaching flanking attacks, Shang Qing still did not move. Illusory flames rose up from below, separating him from his two opponents as the summoned Progenitor Chen suddenly appeared and attacked with a hand. Although it had lost its knife, it had not yet used the power of the illusory Progenitor Chen after merging.

Earlier, Wang Yi had sealed off the illusory Progenitor Chen's ability to turn immaterial, but he had also just sealed the summon's blade. Thus, the immaterial ability appeared once again.

Lu Yin struck the flame with a palm, and a palm print distorted the flame. He then changed his hand position to a pointing finger, attacking with his Seventh Bro Finger once again. Lu Yin did not believe that Shang Qing could ignore this attack for a second time.

On the opposite side, Wang Yi clashed against the summoned Progenitor Chen with a Four Arts: Bear Stalwart, but the massive power of his attack was absorbed. Wang Yi was knocked back, leaving him completely shocked.

This was a fight against Progenitor Chen, and he certainly deserved his reputation as being invincible within his own cultivation realm. Progenitor Chen had long since been famous even beyond this world, and it was known that he had been the absolute strongest.

This was the power of a Progenitor.

Any Progenitor would be seen as invincible among their peers, and Progenitor Chen had been seen as invincible even among Progenitors.

Before ZENITH had even started, even the Sixth Mainland's three Progenitors had been forced to admit that Shang Qing was the only youth capable of receiving the title of Pinnacle Youth, and it was entirely because he was able to summon Progenitor Chen.

At this moment, Shang Qing was about to earn the title of Pinnacle Youth.

Lu Yin pierced through the illusory flames with a finger, and for the second time, his attack hit Shang Qing.

Lu Yin experienced the same sensation as before, and Shang Qing even had the same expression.

The illusory summoned Progenitor Chen phased through Shang Qing, his hand stretched out to grab Lu Yin. A dark light flashed at the fused Progenitor Chen's hand, and the sight of it made Lu Yin go cold. His pupils flickered as he erased some runes from Progenitor Chen, and at the same time, an astral chessboard appeared beneath Lu Yin's feet as he shifted himself.

Chapter 1319: The Third Stream Of Ancestral Qi

At the same time that Lu Yin moved himself, he also moved Shang Qing over in front of Wang Yi by using a Teleportation Formation.

Although the two youths had never worked together or even met before, at this moment, their cooperation was flawless. Wang Yi swept by, and attacked with Four Arts: Celestial Blade.

After that, a shocking thing recurred: Shang Qing was again completely uninjured.

Wang Yi could not believe what he saw. Suddenly, Shang Qing was blasted back. An invisible palm attack had struck: Vacuum Palm.

Shang Qing was launched 100 meters back, flipping over and finally landing in a half-crouch on the ground. Blood could be seen at the corners of his lips, and a deep palm print could be seen on his torso.

Just what was going on?

Everyone watching was confused. Lu Yin's strongest attack and Wang Yi's Celestial Blade had both been useless, so why had a Vacuum Palm managed to hurt Shang Qing?

Lu Yin let out a breath and gave a smile. "So I was right; you've been using an innate gift. Even though I don't know exactly what it is, it is impossible for you to deal with attacks from both of us at the same time. Your innate gift can make you immune to one of our attacks at a time, but not both of us, right?"

Wang Yi also stared at Shang Qing.

The summoned Progenitor Chen stood quietly in front of Shang Qing as he stared at Lu Yin. "As expected of one of my Hall of Honor's Honor Chosen. Yes, you're very close."

Lu Yin's gaze grew sharp; this person was very difficult.

Lu Yin was not alone, as everyone was having the same thought.

Since ZENITH had first begun, Shang Qing had revealed one ability after another. Each successive revelation had boggled people's minds. Shang Qing's innate gift had only been uncovered from teamwork between Lu Yin and Wang Yi. Also, the most important detail was that Shang Qing had still not summoned a Progenitor from the third strand of ancestral qi that swirled around him. This was truly terrifying.

Wang Yi clenched a fist. To think that this starry sky had actually given birth to such a monster.

Shang Qing stared at Lu Yin, and then looked over at Wang Yi. "You can hurt me by teaming up, and this is also the last fight. Since that's the case, I'll let you see the full and complete power of the Tri-Yang Ancestral Qi Technique."

Everyone staring at the broadcast felt speechless; Shang Qing had still been holding back?

Below, Ku Wei was speechless. "Seventh Bro, just forget it."

Outside Zenith Mountain, Mu En was feeling quite satisfied. This was the strength of the invincible powerhouse that the Hall of Honor had been carefully raising. With the power Tri-Yang Technique, Shang Qing would always be invincible among his peers no matter what level he climbed to.

No, not only that, Progenitor Chen had been an invincible Progenitor whose power had been unmatched in both the ancient and modern times. Still, they had no idea just how strong Progenitor Chen had been when he had been a Semi-Progenitor. It was possible that at that time, he had already been comparable to an ordinary Progenitor. It was true that while even the idea of someone being a Realmbreaker at such a level was inconceivable, it was not entirely impossible when one considered Progenitor Chen.

If this turned out to be true, then the moment that Shang Qing became a Semi-Progenitor, he would have the power of a full Progenitor and would be the Fifth Mainland's first powerhouse to reach that level of strength since the fall of their Daosource Sect. If Shang Qing became Progenitor, his strength might actually surpass that of Progenitor Chen in the past.

Everyone stared at Shang Qing, even ancient powerhouses felt a touch of pity for Lu Yin and his peers at this moment. Many of them were talented and powerful enough to dominate an entire era, but the current era would never belong to any of them. This was to be Shang Qing's era. It would belong to the Tri-Yang Technique, which essentially meant that this era belonged to Progenitor Chen.

The youths were to be pitied for when they had been born.

Atop Zenith Mountain, the last strand of ancestral qi moved away from Shang Qing's body, and it began to take on the form of a person. Everyone in the universe was staring carefully as the figure began to form. There were no gods, but watching this scene made people feel as though this person held heaven and earth in the palm of their hands.

The man who appeared was handsome, and had a bit of a scholar's demeanor. He stood there with his hands behind his back, and it felt as though he had suffered from the vicissitudes of life.

The moment this man appeared, on another part of Zenith Mountain, Hui Santong's pupils shrank sharply. At the exact same time, in the territory of the Seven Courts, within Nature's Manifestation, Hui Zhi, the Hui family's patriarch, lost his voice. "Patriarch?"

In the Technocracy, in the middle of a magnificent city plaza, Hui Kong shot to his feet in excitement. "Ancestor?"

Shang Qing's third strand of ancestral qi had taken on the form of Progenitor Hui, the one who had created a scheme that had transcended history and time in order to protect humanity.

Progenitor Hui, the person who had founded the Technocracy, one of the three powers of the current Fifth Mainland. No one knew why Progenitor Hui had formed the Technocracy, not even his descendants, the Hui family, who still lived in the Neoverse.

The greatest impression that most people had of Progenitor Hui was the Technocracy, and the other was of the Root of Intelligence. However, that was in the past. At the moment, the greatest impression that the top powers of both the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands had of Progenitor Hui was how he had plotted against the Sixth Mainland in a scheme that spanned eons.

If one asked who the Sixth Mainland hated the most at present, it was none other than Progenitor Hui. If not for Progenitor Hui, the Fifth Continent would have been invaded by monsters and destroyed instead of the Sixth Mainland.

Progenitor Hui had managed to peer down the long river of time and forcefully divert a disaster for the Fifth Mainland over to the Sixth, and had even made all of the arrangements in a time that had long been forgotten.

Throughout human history, Progenitor Chen was known as being invincible and possessing strength unparalleled throughout time. The Rune Progenitor had created a unique civilization that history had not dared to record or remember. However, Progenitor Hui had looked far into the future and laid plans to unfold long after he was gone.

It was hard to determine who was the stronger or weaker among these three Progenitors, but it was undeniable that the Progenitor who everyone admired and respected the most was Progenitor Hui, as he had saved all of humanity within the Fifth Mainland.

No one had expected Shang Qing's third strand of ancestral qi to take the form of Progenitor Hui. After all, despite the fact that Progenitor Hui had laid plans that spanned eons, no one had any information concerning his combat strength.

Wang Yi stared at the summoned Progenitor Hui with eyes full of fear. A powerful person was not one to be feared, but rather the person who was both powerful and intelligent. Even though this Progenitor Hui had been formed by a strand of ancestral qi and had no intelligence, Wang Yi was not sure why, but this third summon terrified him. He felt as though this person could see straight through him.

Lu Yin had the same feeling. If the summoned clones of Progenitor Chen had been a powerful body, then the arrival of Progenitor Hui felt like a soul had been added to that body. Also, Lu Yin had access to some information that others did not know: Progenitor Hui had been a Lockbreaker.

What Lu Yin had seen on the Royal Frost Continent had explained a lot, and Lu Yin knew that Progenitor Hui had been a powerful Lockbreaker, but that did not say anything at all about how powerful Progenitor Hui had been when he had been an Enlightener.

Progenitor Hui's appearance left the mountaintop silent for a while, and not even Wang Yi had the courage to seize the initiative, and instead took a defensive stance.

Lu Yin's fingers twitched before and smacked a hand forward.

There was a bang, and half of Progenitor Hui's body was destroyed and reverted back into a strand of qi.

Lu Yin was stunned, Huh? Did that actually work?

Wang Yi was also stunned; had that attack actually hit?

Everyone else felt similarly stunned at what they had just seen, as this looked far too easy!

The qi swirled around for a moment before merging back to reform the rest of Progenitor Hui's body. The summoned Progenitor Hui looked up, and then moved his hands and feet as he took a step. After that, the peak of Zenith Mountain started surging. There was a sense that the area was being disturbed by something, and the void in the entire area warped.

Lu Yin was shocked. As he watched, the star energy of the entire peak, no—the entire mountain—started moving. It was not only the void and the ambient star energy, but also star crystals and the star energy within people's bodies that started moving.

Lu Yin had reached the Worldliness realm of star energy control, but even he was not able to control the star energy within someone's body.

Wang Yi felt the same surprise, and his face had gone pale. This was Progenitor Hui.

At the bottom of a staircase, Liquor Hero set down her wine and looked up. She was not particularly concerned about ZENITH, but at this moment, she had become serious as she stared at Progenitor Hui. Liquor Hero had reached the Creation realm of star energy control, and yet even her star energy was being influenced at this moment.

Since even Liquor Hero was being affected, clearly when Progenitor Hui had been an Enlighter, his control of star energy had surpassed even Liquor Hero. That was truly terrifying.

Many people suddenly thought of something; thus far, Lu Yin and Wang Yi had only been facing two of Progenitor Chen's clones, and though they were terrifyingly powerful, they did not represent the full strength of Progenitor Chen. On the other hand, Progenitor Hui had been just as renowned as Progenitor Chen, though apparently a bit weaker. However, was it truly possible that Progenitor Hui could not even compare to two of Progenitor Chen's clones? For Progenitor Hui to have been on the same level as Progenitor Chen, Progenitor Hui had to be able to at least stand up to the united nine clones of Progenitor Chen.

This meant that the summoned Progenitor Hui facing Lu Yin and Wang Yi represented the full power of a Progenitor when he had been an Enlighter.

This thought sent a chill through both youths' hearts.

Progenitor Hui made a move. Unlike Progenitor Chen, Progenitor Hui approached only Lu Yin, and then circled around.

An astral chessboard had already appeared beneath Lu Yin's feet, but he held back from using the secret technique, as Progenitor Hui had still not attacked, leaving Lu Yin a bit confused.

Wang Yi's figure flashed, and he again charged at Shang Qing at top speed, only to be blocked by Progenitor Chen.

Lu Yin attacked Progenitor Hui, and bombarded him with Vacuum Palms. Lu Yin wanted to force the summon back to being a stream of ancestral qi, as Progenitor Hui left Lu Yin feeling a bit panicked.

However, Lu Yin's attacks did not land as easily as they had before, and Progenitor Hui disappeared.

Lu Yin felt a chill on the back of his head and he whipped his head around. Lu Yin saw Progenitor Hui behind him; staring at him. Those empty eyes left Lu Yin feeling horrified. When had Progenitor Hui shown up there? The astral chessboard was still under Lu Yin, and he moved.

There was a bang. Lu Yin was not able to move away. The void twisted around him and isolated him from the rest of the universe. He had been trapped.

Lu Yin was incredulous. He had just tried to use a secret technique to dodge, but had failed. That was a secret technique, so why had it not worked?

Progenitor Hui disappeared once again, and he moved about the top of the mountain without attacking Lu Yin or Wang Yi. It looked like he was just wandering about.

Lu Yin raised a hand and attacked the twisted void with a palm. His hand sank deep into the void, but he could not break the barrier.

Lu Yin suddenly thought of something, and his pupils transformed into runes as he looked around. He suddenly saw a sourcebox array, and he was trapped within it. This was what had managed to stop his secret technique.

In the Neoverse, in the Lockbreaker World, Xiu Ming's expression was solemn. "One of the thirty-six arrays from True Insight: As If Closed."

For a long time, no one knew who had created True Insight, with the sole exception of a few people like Xiu Ming. They knew that True Insight had come from Progenitor Hui's time, as he had been the one to create True Insight.

Originally, True Insight had had seventy-two pages, though only thirty-six pages remained. The other half of the book had been lost in the passage of time.

There were only thirty-six pages remaining, and a good portion of them had been stolen during the original war between the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands. The Sixth Mainland also had copies of True Insight, but even the copies used the same contents as the original copy.

It could be said that Progenitor Hui was the ancestor of all modern Lockbreakers, as they had all benefited from his accomplishments. All of the most powerful Lockbreakers in recent times had also been inspired to one degree or another by True Insight.

However, Lu Yin did not believe for even a moment that Progenitor Hui had managed to create an original sourcebox array when he had been just an Enlightener. When Xiu Ming had seen Progenitor Hui use a sourcebox array from the pages of True Insight, he believed the same as Lu Yin, and assumed that Progenitor Hui had not been the creator of this particular array. Even Progenitors received legacies from their ancestors.

Chapter 1320: A Battle of Despair

As If Closed was clearly a legacy from an earlier time than even Progenitor Hui.

Progenitor Hui was doing much more than just arranging a sourcebox array.

When the summoned Progenitor Hui appeared before Wang Yi, Lu Yin saw that the Progenitor was also moving with the assistance of another sourcebox array. This sourcebox array felt familiar to Lu Yin, and it gave Progenitor Hui the impression of being a constant wanderer.

Lu Yin stood atop Zenith Mountain, and his expression suddenly changed. This was not good! , This was the same space transfer array that Shaman God had used before.

As long as a person had the correct coordinates, they would be able to travel a vast distance through space. Progenitor Hui had just been wandering about the mountaintop, but he had also been setting the coordinates.

Some distance away, Wang Yi had no intention of fighting against the merged Progenitor Chen, and instead focused on attacking Shang Qing. However, as soon as Wang Yi drew close, the summoned Progenitor Hui blocked him.

Wang Yi was horrified; how could this be possible? Could Progenitor Hui actually be faster than even Wang Yi?

Wang Yi reflexively attacked with a Four Arts: Bear Stalwart.

Progenitor Hui disappeared, and then instantly reappeared behind Wang Yi, but Wang Yi did not notice anything. He picked up his feet to flee, but the star energy within his body turned chaotic, which left him unstable and unable to use any of his battle techniques. At this same time, Progenitor Chen shot straight through Progenitor Hui and attacked Wang Yi's back.

A dark light penetrated and invaded Wang Yi's body. It was accompanied by a freezing energy that came from the Yōu Reinforced Palm.

Wang Yi could not stop himself from spitting out a mouthful of blood. This blood was actually black, and it formed a frozen ball that fell through the air.

Wang Yi fled, but Progenitor Hui stuck to Wang Yi like a shadow and constantly disturbed Wang Yi's star energy.

Wang Yi was frustrated and felt completely powerless. He was facing someone who obviously was the same age and had received the same sort of opportunities, and so Wang Yi had expected to feel so helpless under this particular universe.

Wu Taibai was watching from the distance, and he shook his head. "It's all useless. Even if that person was facing Progenitor Hui, they might not win. It's likely that the odds of their defeat are as high as 90%, even with a Progenitor Hui who has no intelligence."

Shang Qing coldly watched everything. Was this the end? This was rather disappointing!

Wang Yi retreated to the edge of the mountain. There was blood at the corner of his mouth, he reluctantly said, "I give up."

Although this was expected, Shang Qing still could not stop himself from feeling disappointed. He had known from the beginning that this would be the result. No one could defeat him. In this era, there was no one who could match up to him.

Everyone watching the livestream was able to hear the helplessness in Wang Yi's words, but what else could he have done? Not to mention the fact that both Progenitor Chen and Progenitor Hui were on that battlefield, Shang Qing himself was even able to simply ignore attacks due to his unknown innate gift.

At this moment, Lu Yin was still sealed.

Everyone switched their focus to Lu Yin, who Progenitor Hui had trapped. At this moment, Lu Yin was the last person still competing.

The twisted void around Lu Yin gradually calmed down. Progenitor Hui had released the array.

Shang Qing stared at Lu Yin. "You've done well, and you even met my expectations. No, you've truly exceeded expectations. From now on, you are the second Honor Chosen of the Hall of Honor, and you are second only to me."

Outside Zenith Mountain, Mu En nodded. Shang Qing was worthy of being raised up by the Hall of Honor, and he had extensive knowledge. At this moment, elevating Lu Yin to the position of second Honor Chosen would help the Hall of Honor and Shang Qing to win over people's hearts. After all, Lu Yin was the master of the entire Outerverse.

In an invisible region of space, the Chief Justice was hidden within the dark, but he was silently staring at the top of Zenith Mountain and Lu Yin. There was a strange look in the Chief Justice's eyes.

Everyone watching the broadcast began to look away. ZENITH was over.

In the Outerverse, although the people of the Great Eastern Alliance had been supporting Lu Yin, no one believed that Lu Yin had the power to challenge Shang Qing. That young man was too much of a freak.

Madam Nalan was drinking a red wine and helplessly shook her head, "You've reached your limit, but unfortunately, you encountered a truly incomprehensible person."

Near the barrier in the Starfall Sea that formed a barrier, the Progenitor of Bloodlines and the Progenitor of Secret Arts looked away. ZENITH was over. Their Sixth Mainland had had Bu Kong and Wu Taibai enter the top ten, which were acceptable results.

The Progenitor of Combat continued to stare at Zenith Mountain. He was staring at Shang Qing, as this youth was guaranteed to eventually become the most powerful expert in the Fifth Mainland.

When he thought back to the invincible strength of Progenitor Chen, fear and a killing intent grew even stronger in the Progenitor of Combat's eyes.

Everyone thought that ZENITH was over, except for one person: Lu Yin. He believed he could continue. At least, he wanted to say that he had done his very best.

"Second Honor Chosen? Number two doesn't sound too good to me, so I want to try; can I become the first Honor Chosen?" Lu Yin stared back at Shang Qing, and the fighting spirit in Lu Yin's eyes never diminished in the slightest.

Lu Yin's words echoed through the universe via the live broadcast, and everyone blankly stared at him.

"This guy's an idiot! He couldn't win by teaming up, but he still wants to try on his own?"

"He was just trapped and couldn't even move, but now he wants to fight?"

"I'm betting he just wants to show off."

...

All across Zenith Mountain, Lan Si, Yuhua Mavis, Wu Taibai, Ling Gong, and more. Everyone who heard Lu Yin's words was stunned; did he still want to fight?

Wang Yi stared blankly at Lu Yin, frowning. Shang Qing had made even Wang Yi feel powerless, yet this person still wanted to fight?

Outside Zenith Mountain, Mu En frowned. Lu Yin was a bit ignorant, but it was impossible for him to defeat Shang Qing. If Lu Yin persisted, he would only humiliate himself, unfortunately.

In the invisible region of space, the Chief Justice's cold and stern eyes suddenly revealed a smile. Anyone who knew him would find this to be unbelievable, as the Chief Justice had never laughed.

In the Neoverse, Arch-Elder Zen laughed; Let's fight! Fight if you want! Not matter which of you wins or loses, you both represent my Hall of Honor and the Fifth Mainland!

On Eversky Island, Highsage Grandmaster praised Lu Yin, "Good child. Even if you are beaten to death, you can't simply admit defeat. Not bad."

In the Cosmic Sect, Sect Master Yuan Qiong stared at a screen. He was very impressed with Lu Yin, and he wanted this child to become part of his Cosmic Sect. Yuan Qiong had watched how Lu Yin had made his way through ZENITH. He had defeated Yuhua Mavis, and then both Liu Tianmu and Xia Jiuyou. Each and every one had been a true powerhouse within their generation, and yet Lu Yin had been the one to continue past all others. Yuan Qiong had come to appreciate Lu Yin more and more throughout this competition, but unfortunately, Lu Yin was not from the Cosmic Sect.

However, where did the child learn their Teleportation Formation?

"You want to fight me?" Shang Qing's eyes were deep and he shook his head. "It's useless."

Lu Yin let out a long breath. "I want to try."

As he spoke, an astral chessboard appeared beneath his feet, and it spread out across the entire mountaintop. Lu Yin waved a hand and moved.

He moved Progenitor Chen, Progenitor Hui, and even Shang Qing. Lu Yin raised his hand once more: Vacuum Palm.

Lu Yin had shifted Shang Qing over in front of where the Vacuum Palm would appear, but Progenitor Hui appeared in front of Shang Qing with a raised hand of his own.

Lu Yin's pupils shrank. Progenitor Hui had reached the Creation realm of star energy control, while Lu Yin had merely reached the Worldliness realm. Progenitor Hui transformed the Vacuum Palm into star energy, in much the same way that Liquor Hero had absorbed God Qingguang's weapons into a barrel of wine. For those who had reached the Creation realm, Worldliness was nothing much.

The Creation realm of star control could almost be considered similar to a secret technique or a sourcebox array, as one could transform something rotten into something miraculous, and could encompass all things, both large and small.

Lu Yin's body disappeared in a flash, and the light of Progenitor Chen's blade fell where Lu Yin had just stood. Wang Yi's defeat had unsealed Progenitor Chen's abilities that had been sealed. This blade sliced through the void, and the tear traveled all of the way to the first layer.

Many of the eliminated contestants were stunned, and God Taiyi did not hesitate to use Truesight to weaken the power of the attack as it approached the first layer and cut the area of the mountain in two.

All of the other contestants went speechless as they saw Progenitor Chen's strength.

Lu Yin suddenly appeared behind Shang Qing, but simultaneously, Progenitor Hui also appeared. He had continued to wander about the mountaintop and had calculated countless coordinates, which allowed him to instantly appear anywhere.

Lu Yin raised a hand, and Vacuum Palm rained out continuously as Lu Yin casually waved his hand about.

Progenitor Hui raised his hand to absorb the power of Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm, only to discover that the Vacuum Palm had already disappeared. Lu Yin had secretly diverted his Vacuum Palm with the Yu Secret Art, and it struck Shang Qing head on.

Shang Qing was caught off guard by this attack. It had been too sudden, and Shang Qing had never expected Lu Yin to be able to even touch him, so the Vacuum Palm slammed into a completely unprepared Shang Qing, and it left him bleeding.

Progenitor Chen moved between Shang Qing and Progenitor Hui, and slashed out with a blade. Lu Yin quickly evaded the attack, the void twisted all around him, and the sourcebox array As If Closed trapped Lu Yin in place.

The blade light swept through the air, straight for Lu Yin's abdomen. It struck, and blood flowed from the large wound, dripping onto the mountain after staining Lu Yin's clothes.

Shang Qing coughed and looked at Lu Yin.

Progenitor Chen lifted his blade once more, and then brought it down in a chop.

Lu Yin could not break the sourcebox array, so he could only go up against the attack. He diverted all of his fatesand, and it appeared in front of him and blocked the blade, only to be instantly shattered and sent back into Lu Yin's body.

The blade light continued to fall, and Lu Yin gritted his teeth: Channeling Diagram.

There was a bang as the Channeling Diagram diverted the sharp edge of the blade into countless channels that spread out in all directions. Suddenly, a dark light appeared right before Lu Yin's eyes, and it almost enveloped him. It was accompanied by an icy cold that felt just like what Lu Yin had felt from that knight who had ridden a warhorse through space and terrified Lu Yin.

Countless people grew tense as they watched, and Lu Yin's shoulder was torn open by Progenitor Chen's blade. The wound traveled down to his chest, and blood splashed for several meters from the diagonal cut.

Puff

Lu Yin spat out a mouthful of blood that turned to ice as it fell. Lu Yin had been severely wounded by the blade, and had simultaneously been struck by the dark light. He was not able to endure, and he crumpled to the ground.

In an Azure Mansion, Ming Yan's face went pale, and her hair instantly turned white. She stared at Shang Qing with murder in her eyes.

On Zenith Mountain, Zhuo Daynight, Wendy Yushan, and others closed their eyes in unison. Lu Yin had lost.

Yuhua Mavis, Wu Taibai, and a few others shook their heads. No one was capable of defeating a Progenitor within the same realm, and even if someone dreamed of one day becoming a Progenitor themselves, there was no path to victory when facing both Progenitor Chen and Progenitor Hui.

Shang Qing was only one person, but he wielded the power of two Progenitors, and this was a truly unfathomable power.

Mira was feeling complicated emotions. She had been the one to lead Lu Yin out into the universe, and she had watched him as he climbed, step by step, to reach his current strength. However, he had just been defeated by Shang Qing.

Wang Yi frowned as he looked at Lu Yin where he lay on the ground. It was impossible to know if Lu Yin was dead or alive, but it seemed that he was not from that family, as if he were, it was impossible for Lu Yin not to use that innate gift. With those innate gifts, Lu Yin might be able to win.

Wang Yi shook his head. He had thought that Lu Yin had confidence to be able to challenge Shang Qing, but it turned out to be nothing more than empty bravado.

Zhi Yi, Bu Kong, and others stared at Lu Yin. Their eyes showed how jealous they were of Shang Qing and how thrilled they were at Lu Yin's defeat. If he died, that would be fine, as his death would mean one less threatening opponent from the Fifth Mainland.

Even if they were the Daosource Three Skies, they still had to admit that Lu Yin had surpassed them in terms of absolute strength.

Countless people stared at Lu Yin, each of them filled with all kinds of complicated emotions.