

Chapter 1321: God of Death Transformation

Outside Zenith Mountain, in the invisible void, the Chief Justice's eyes narrowed; was this the end?

At the top of Zenith Mountain, Shang Qing held his head high. He had been injured, but he still felt very disappointed. No one was capable of forcing him into a life-and-death crisis, and no one could help him break through the barrier of the Tri-Yang Technique.

Progenitor Chen and Progenitor Hui both transformed back into strands of qi that swirled around Shang Qing's body, making him look like a deity as he stood in the sky. This was the same appearance that he had had at the beginning of ZENITH, but now, he was the first and only Pinnacle Youth.

He looked up at the statue. The originally featureless face would soon take on his appearance. To him, invincibility was simply a process. Shang Qing's goal was to become a Progenitor, not just be peerless within his realm. Unfortunately, no one could defeat him.

Outside Zenith Mountain, Mu En was feeling very satisfied. This was Shang Qing, and ZENITH was over. They had succeeded. Of the top ten, six were from the Human Domain, one was a Celestial Demon from the Astral Beast Domain, one was Wang Yi from the Technocracy, and two were youths from the Sixth Mainland. These results were perfectly acceptable to the Hall of Honor.

The most satisfying detail was Shang Qing's fights. No matter who he had gone up against, he had basically crushed all of his opponents. That was it. Although the purpose of ZENITH was to select the top ten, there was also the intention of raising the Human Domain's morale and allowing the universe to see the strength and invincibility of the Hall of Honor.

This result had been expected.

At the top of Zenith Mountain, the twisted void disappeared from around Lu Yin as the sourcebox array was lifted, unsealing Lu Yin.

Shang Qing looked away from the statue and back at Lu Yin. In the last attack, Shang Qing had held back, as otherwise, he would have killed Lu Yin.

Eh? Shang Qing snapped back to look at Lu Yin once again. This time, a black and white mist had appeared from somewhere and was wrapping itself around Lu Yin's body, though Shang Qing had no idea when it had appeared.

Shang Qing was not the only one, as everyone was seeing the same thing, and they were all staring at the top of the mountain in confusion.

What the hell was this? A black and white cocoon?

Everyone throughout the universe was staring at their screens and focusing on the black and white cocoon that had appeared. What in the world was that?

Outside Zenith Mountain, Mu En's eyes narrowed. That, that was death energy!

In the Neoverse, Highsage Grandmaster became solemn. Black and white?

In the Honor Zone, Arch-Elder Zen was completely focused on the black and white cocoon. Even with his level of self-restraint, he was rather stunned at the moment.

God Taiyi, Jin He, God Qingguang, and the others who could use Truesight were all staring at the black and white cocoon in utter disbelief. In their vision, Lu Yin's number of rune lines were spiking without showing any signs of stopping or slowing down.

Jin He had a grudge against Lu Yin, and upon seeing this situation, he could not hold himself back anymore. He created numerous weapons and launched every single one of them at the dual-colored cocoon. Jin He believed that Lu Yin was currently undergoing some sort of transformation and that it had to be interrupted.

The various weapons bombarded the black and white cocoon without any hesitation, but they were simply absorbed into the black before eventually shattering.

Jin He was horrified at what he saw. "Hurry up! He's metamorphosing!"

At the top of Zenith Mountain, Shang Qing stared at the black and white cocoon. His eyes showed a rare light of excitement and fighting intent as his mouth pulled up into a smile. Two strands of ancestral qi left his body and transformed into summons of Progenitor Chen that then merged together. "So this is what gave you the courage to challenge me. Is this power? Then give it a shot. I hope that you can push me past my limits!"

His voice cut off, and the black and white cocoon in the distance broke open. A figure slowly stood up from it.

High in the sky, the black color rose up, looking like a crashing wave that spread out through space before moving off into the distance.

Throughout the region, everyone and everything that was touched by this black energy felt a chill run through their hearts, even the Envoys whose power levels approached a million. They felt as if a terrifying power was present within this energy. It was not that Lu Yin was a threat himself, but rather this energy that was terrifying.

However, at this moment, no one cared about the black energy, as everyone was staring at their screens in disbelief.

Even the Sixth Mainland's three Progenitors were staring at Zenith Mountain in disbelief.

At the top of the mountain, Lu Yin quietly rose to his feet. At this moment, his appearance had changed drastically, and he even looked like a completely different person.

Long hair hung down to his waist. His upper body was naked, though black energy continued to swirl around him like a spinning nebula, encircling his body like a chain. Incomprehensible dark red veins ran across his entire body as white energy formed a shield on his left arm while his right hand held a massive scythe. The black energy gathered behind him like a cloud, and a faint pair of eyes were ever so visible in the cloud, its expression screaming of death and ruthlessness.

The broken black and white cocoon gradually transformed into more black energy, which slowly moved to wrap around Lu Yin and form a black cloak.

Lu Yin looked up. His eyes were completely black, and he looked like god of death as he stared at Shang Qing.

At this moment, everyone in the entire universe lost their voices as they blankly stared on.

Further down the mountain, Black was stunned. Her eyes were wide. "Okay, okay... So, so handsome."

White shouted, "So handsome! Handsome Bro!"

Ling Gong was shocked. Even she had to admit that, at this moment, Lu Yin truly looked very handsome.

Ku Wei was horrified as he stared at Lu Yin with fear and excitement. "Se- Seventh Bro, you're all grown up!"

Wen Sansi, Unseen Light, and more stared at Lu Yin for a moment in shock; what was this? Was this his innate gift?

Lu Yin had never revealed his innate gift before, so naturally, this was most people's guess.

Mira's scalp went numb. She had once seen Lu Yin's innate gift before, and it was supposed to be something related to healing, so what was this? Did he have dual innate gifts?

Wang Yi was shocked as well. What? Why do I feel like I've heard of this before but can't seem to remember?

Wu Taibai stared hard at Lu Yin. He also felt that he had heard about something similar about Lu Yin's current state, but he was also unable to remember.

Jin He blankly stared at Lu Yin. At this moment, the number of rune lines that Jin He could see on Lu Yin left the Arbiter terrified. It was not an overwhelming sense of terror, but rather a deep, cold fear related to how much this number of runes could affect the universe. Jin He had chills all over.

He was one of the Ten Arbiters, and he had cultivated Truesight, the inheritance of the Rune Civilization, to the Knowing realm. How could Jin He be afraid of anyone? That should be impossible.

Suddenly, Lu Yin's eyes, those pure black eyes, stared at Jin He, and Lu Yin slowly raised the scythe in his right hand.

Jin He's pupils instantly constricted. This was bad! Jin He's pupils transformed into runes as he immediately used the full power of Truesight's Knowing realm.

The Knowing realm of Truesight allowed the user to use something as a point of reference. Then, any attack could be rendered ineffective against the point of reference. Jin He's current point of reference was himself. ZENITH was a competition. Thus, although Lu Yin had suddenly moved before anybody could react, Jin He just needed to endure one attack. Then, the Hall of Honor would definitely intervene.

Lu Yin lowered his arm and scythe. Jin He and Lu Yin stared at each other. As Jin He looked at those pure black eyes, he was struck by a boundless fear. As the scythe fell down, blood leaked out from Jin He's seven orifices. A diagonal wound had somehow appeared across his body, from which blood sprayed out and flowed across the ground.

Jin He's head slowly dropped down, and he saw the massive, bleeding wound across his chest; how had this happened?

One of the Ten Arbiters, Jin He, had been instantly beheaded by Lu Yin with his strange scythe.

The countless people watching were stunned as their scalps went numb. The person closest to Jin He had been God Taiyi, as he had been fighting against Jin He earlier. At this moment, God Taiyi's entire body trembled as he looked at Lu Yin with fear and disbelief.

Jin He's mastery of Truesight had been even greater than God Taiyi's, and yet Jin He had been instantly beheaded and killed. This meant that even the powerful defensive techniques of Truesight had been useless against Lu Yin. Just what had Lu Yin done?

At the top of the mountain, Lu Yin's eyes narrowed; just like that, Jin He was dead?

Lu Yin tightly clenched the handle of his scythe. This power was truly terrifying, to the point where he did not even want to use it.

This was not Lu Yin's first time using this power. In the Royal Frost Continent, he had tried to use this energy in his Timestop Space, but it had been completely beyond his control. This power was uncontrollable and tyrannical, but fortunately, he had retained enough rationality to force himself out of that particular state at that time.

His second attempt had been after Mister Mu had appeared and ordered Lu Yin to take first place in ZENITH. This was the power that Mister Mu had seen, and so, Lu Yin had been left with no choice but to try to use this power. Without it, he had no confidence in being able to defeat his competition.

His second attempt had not been a singular attempt, but rather multiple attempts in his Timestop Space. Eventually, he had finally managed to suppress his raging emotions slightly, which allowed his rationality to take control.

In the past, he had tried to use this power within the isolation and protection of his Timestop Space, but at this moment, Lu Yin was completely exposed to the entire universe. However, he was very satisfied with his state of mind, as his rationality was able to suppress the urges of massacre and tyranny. He named this the God of Death Transformation

"Is this your ultimate strength? I hope that you can surprise me," Shang Qing said.

Lu Yin lifted his head and looked over at Shang Qing. "This is the last battle, so let's finish this."

Lu Yin spoke in a tone that was colder than anything he had ever used before. It was as though he was completely devoid of all emotions. His voice carried the chill of winter, and it was enough to send a shudder through all who heard it.

Shang Qing's eyes betrayed his excitement. "Okay."

He then waved a hand, prompting the fused Progenitor Chen to lift its blade and attack Lu Yin. This attack far surpassed what had been directed at anyone else. If it had been used just a few moments before, then even if Lu Yin retaliated with his Seventh Bro Finger, he still would have been beaten back.

However, at the present moment, Lu Yin had a strange look as he stared at the summoned Progenitor Chen's approaching blade—this attack did not seem that strong.

As this thought finished, Lu Yin raised his left arm, along with the white energy that had become a shield, to block the blade.

The summoned Progenitor Chen slashed down with his blade, and a tremendous bang rang across the entire mountainside. The entire mountaintop sank down, and the remnant blade qi spread throughout the rest of Zenith Mountain. After that, a dim light shot high into the sky, and the faint flames from the blade were immediately vanquished.

Everyone stared at the top of the mountain. What was happening up there?

At the mountain peak, Lu Yin was still standing firm, as the summoned Progenitor Chen's blade had been ineffective against him.

Across from Lu Yin, Shang Qing's pupils shrank, and for the first time, he turned a bit pale. He instinctively used his third strand of ancestral qi and brought out Progenitor Hui.

Lu Yin raised his right arm and slashed across with his scythe, looking like a god of death. The summoned Progenitor Chen instantly retreated as it counterattacked with its blade. There was another tremendous bang, and the summoned Progenitor Chen was blasted almost a kilometer away. The shockwave from the attack shredded the void in its passage.

Lu Yin raised his scythe and slashed at Shang Qing.

Shang Qing felt the same sensation as Jin He—it was a chill that he would never be able to forget for the rest of his life.

He possessed a power similar to users of Truesight who had reached the Knowing realm, or individuals who could traverse the void to turn immaterial and ignore attacks from even the most powerful experts.

However, after seeing Jin He's fate, Shang Qing did not dare to take this attack head on with just his innate gift. The summoned Progenitor Hui appeared and then disappeared, taking Shang Qing with him.

The void shattered as the area was swallowed in darkness. The black energy spread out, looking like a spider web that was corroding the void itself.

Everyone was completely dumbfounded; did Lu Yin actually have the upper hand now?

The summoned Progenitor Chen rushed over from a distance and once again attacked with its blade. The invincible blade qi was useless against Lu Yin, and he simply lifted his scythe and slashed out to meet the incoming blade.

Chapter 1322: All Together

There was a loud bang, and a spatial tear spread out from the point of impact. The shockwave spread out in all directions, causing cracks in the void that radiated far beyond Zenith Mountain and affected all of the nearby planets.

The fused Progenitor Chen was cut and forced back by Lu Yin's scythe; half of its body had been wounded.

At this moment, the summoned Progenitor Hui appeared behind Lu Yin, and the sourcebox array As If Closed sealed him in.

Lu Yin's eyes were still dark and cold as he observed the twisted void that enveloped him. This array had previously trapped him and prevented him from escaping. As a result, he had been terribly injured by the fused Progenitor Chen.

However, would this sourcebox array still be able to do that?

The black cloud of energy behind Lu Yin churned about like a nebula, and it resisted the array before finally shattering it.

The summoned Progenitor Hui spun one of its hands around and pulled at the black energy, trying to take control of it with its Creation realm of star energy control. Lu Yin whirled around and attacked with his scythe, but the summoned Progenitor Hui simply disappeared. The attack slashed through the void, continuing on past Zenith Mountain.

Everyone down below the mountain looked up and stared blankly at the shattered void high above them. The power of this attack left their scalps numb.

Progenitor Hui and Progenitor Chen had indeed been truly powerful, but Lu Yin was not facing Progenitors that had been suppressed to the Enlighter realm, but rather Enlighters who had eventually become Progenitors.

It was not impossible to win against these two powerhouses who were still his peers.

In his current state, Lu Yin was suppressing the Progenitors.

Shang Qing had not expected that both the fused Progenitor Chen and the summoned Progenitor Hui would suffer a loss. After all, they had both suppressed Lu Yin individually and as a team just a few moments ago. Shang Qing fell back, shuddering with excitement.

Lu Yin's pitch black eyes swept the area. Then, he raised the scythe high and slashed it down.

The summoned Progenitor Hui reappeared right next to Shang Qing and brought the youth away, once again traveling through the shattered void.

No one had expected the invincible Shang Qing to suddenly be overpowered by Lu Yin, or more importantly, for both Progenitor Chen and Progenitor Hui to be suppressed. It was indescribably incredible for someone to suppress both Progenitor Chen and Progenitor Hui!

If one looked through both the past and present, who was confident in defeating both of these two powerhouses?

In the Neoverse, Arch-Elder Zen stood up as he stared at his screen, his face incredibly solemn. Back when he had been fighting for that opportunity, he remembered that he had heard of a black and white energy in that place. Along with it had been mention of a scythe and black eyes that seemed dead yet still held a spark of life. This was the power of one of the most ancient Progenitors: the God of Death.

Highsage Grandmaster also remembered those same details, and his expression kept changing. This power should have disappeared long ago, so how had someone in this age actually inherited the power of the God of Death?

In Aeternus Nation, Silver stared at his screen with a powerful excitement in his eyes. This was the power that his Specter clan had been searching for for countless years! Anyone who could receive this power would become the king of the Specter clan. Captain, please take care of me in the future!

At the top of Zenith Mountain, the fused Progenitor Chen was forced back yet again. A portion of his body was sliced off, and it transformed back into a strand of ancestral qi that merged back into the summon's body. On the other side, the summoned Progenitor Hui tried his best to disturb Lu Yin's star energy, but Lu Yin was not using any star energy at this moment, rendering the summon's efforts futile.

Shang Qing finally made a move at this point. This was his first time taking action; up to now, he had relied solely on the summons of Progenitor Chen and Progenitor Hui to do all of the fighting for him, and the two had been able to suppress all of his opponents until they had no room to maneuver.

Someone finally noticed something truly terrifying; Lu Yin had not moved a single step ever since he had transformed. He had not needed to dodge or evade, as none of the attacks had been powerful enough to threaten him.

The summoned Progenitor Hui reappeared behind Lu Yin while at the same time, Shang Qing made his move. "Secret Technique: Banishment."

Lu Yin's massive scythe slammed onto the ground, and the black energy behind him surged up from below, becoming a torrent that blocked Shang Qing's secret technique. Upon seeing this, Shang Qing was shocked to the core; how was Lu Yin able to block a secret technique?

Shang Qing did not know that Lu Yin was using the power of the God of Death. That person had been an ancient Progenitor, and Lu Yin was currently using the battle techniques of one of humanity's most ancient powerhouses.

Lu Yin reached out with his left hand, moving out to grab Shang Qing. Shang Qing hurriedly evaded, but a chill ran across his spine as he looked into Lu Yin's pure black eyes. A moment of panic filled him as Lu Yin's right hand dropped down, slashing the scythe down upon Shang Qing's body.

The slash tore open an arc in the void, and the summoned Progenitor Hui appeared to take Shang Qing away, but there was no place they could go that was out of Lu Yin's scythe's attack range.

The summoned Progenitor Hui was instantly cut open by the attack, and it reverted to a strand of qi. At the same time, Shang Qing had suffered a nasty cut across his abdomen that blood poured out of.

Shang Qing's face went pale. Secret Technique: Discipline.

The same wound appeared on Lu Yin's waist. This was the power of Discipline. If Shang Qing was injured, then Lu Yin would suffer the same injury.

However, no blood spilled out from Lu Yin's wound, only more black energy. It swirled around Lu Yin's body before the wound healed itself—even the cloak around Lu Yin's waist recovered to its previous state.

Despite the lack of blood, Lu Yin still felt the pain, and the pain seemed to aggravate his violent urges. His pure black eyes sparkled as the enormous scythe in his hand slammed the ground while he addressed all of Zenith Mountain. He raised a hand and crooked a finger. "All of you, come."

Throughout ZENITH, Lu Yin had not been very arrogant, but he was barely able to control himself in this current state. After being injured, his violent urges had taken over, and it had reached a point where he either needed to end his current state, or sate his urges. However, if Lu Yin did not use this black and white power, he would not be able to win.

Shang Qing alone was not enough to satisfy Lu Yin's current urges, so he needed to provoke everyone.

Wang Yi attacked without any hesitation. His body disappeared in a flash. "Four Arts: Celestial Blade."

Lu Yin flicked his left arm, causing the white shield to turn and block the Celestial Blade. The impact of the scythe forced Wang Yi back a hundred meters.

This horrified Wang Yi; had his speed been suppressed?

On the other side, Wu Taibai covered his face with a hand as the strange energy boiling over from his body gathered above the palm of his hand and then shot out towards Lu Yin.

At the same time, Xia Jiuyou's Triple Blade Will and Qiu Shi's Celestial Sword both attacked at the same time.

Everyone at the top of Zenith Mountain were among the most powerful members of their generation, and they were all very decisive. Since Lu Yin was antagonizing them, they did not hesitate.

It was clear that every attack was extremely powerful, and both the Triple Blade Will and the Celestial Sword were amazing attacks from ZENITH's top ten finalists. But despite their obvious power, nothing was able to break through the black energy protecting Lu Yin's body.

Wu Taibai landed back on the ground and threw a punch. This was the punch that had once suppressed Yuhua Mavis.

Lu Yin raised his hand and grabbed at Wu Taibai. The invisible energy covering Wu Taibai's body was immediately entangled by the black energy before being broken through, one layer at a time.

No one was more surprised by this than Wu Taibai, though Wang Yi was almost as stunned.

There was a bang as Wu Taibai was thrown away.

The summoned Progenitor Chen stabbed at Lu Yin's head, but Lu Yin simply raised his left arm again. There was another bang, and the resulting impact released a shockwave that left both Xia Jiuyou and Qiu Shi trembling at the bottom of the stairs.

There was a howl as Yao Xuan attacked. As his terrifying spiritual force crashed down, it felt as if the sky itself was collapsing.

However, and the eyes formed from the black energy flashed and the spiritual force attack disappeared as soon as it approached Lu Yin. Both star energy and spiritual force were useless against the energy that Lu Yin was currently using.

Yao Xuan gritted his teeth. Whether or not he would be able to complete Skymender's mission all depended on this battle. At this point in ZENITH, it was clear that no one individual could compare to Lu Yin, so Yao Xuan looked down below the ten staircases. "Attack."

With a roar, Star Devourer returned to his normal massive size, and he raised a paw up high before smashing it down.

When it came to pure strength, there was no one in ZENITH who could compare to Star Devourer. Even in Lu Yin's current condition, Star Devourer was still confident that he would win in a battle of pure strength.

Lu Yin was still standing in the same place as Star Devourer's massive shadow covered Lu Yin, the enormous astral beast towering high above. In response, Lu Yin grabbed the black energy surrounding him, causing it to become something like a chain in his left hand, which he then flung out and wrapped around Star Devourer. Lu Yin was using the black energy to bind the astral beast.

Suddenly, the void around Lu Yin was cut off, and he was surrounded by darkness. This was another secret technique: Black Coffin. Unseen Light had attacked.

The next moment, the coffin sprouted spikes.

Everyone stared to see what had happened to Lu Yin.

However, after the black coffin disappeared, it revealed Lu Yin, completely unscathed.

Unseen Light felt bitter; could even secret techniques not do anything to Lu Yin anymore?

Bai Mai turned towards Lu Yin with an open mouth, and the corpse bug bit at the black energy.

As a species that could even parasitize Progenitors, Bai Mai was able to bite through anything, and its only weakness was being trapped, which was why Liquor Hero's wine had been the bug's nemesis.

However, when Bai Mai bit the black energy, its mouth froze. While it was stunned, Lu Yin grabbed the bug with a hand before exerting pure strength and crushing Bai Mai.

Yao Xuan's pupils constricted sharply; how was this possible?

Xu Ling had wanted to sneak attack Lu Yin, but the moment the Void Wanderer saw what happened to Bai Mai, he panicked and turned to flee.

Bu Kong attacked with a Reversal Cycle, and his palm shot towards Lu Yin.

However, before Bu Kong's palm could touch Lu Yin, the black chain shot out of the void, wrapped around him, and tossed him aside just like Star Devourer.

An image of green leaves appeared on Yuhua Mavis's forehead, and at the same time, God Taiyi stared at Lu Yin from a distance and erased a portion of Lu Yin's runes.

Yuhua Mavis released her punch.

Lu Yin's left hand shot out, and Yuhua Mavis was forced back down to the first layer of Zenith Mountain.

Wu Taibai and Wang Yi both looked at each other. "I didn't expect that we would need to team up while in this starry sky."

Wang Yi felt helpless as well. "It's just that neither of us can win on our own. This guy is just too much of a monster, and he can even compare to those people."

Wu Taibai laughed. "I have to admire him for forcing out such a compliment from a descendant of the distinguished Wang family."

Wang Yi did not bother with any further nonsense, and he charged at Lu Yin. "Four Arts: Bear Stalwart."

On the other side, Wu Taibai also rushed out with the Progenitor of Combat's imprint behind him. The overpowering aura swept out, and a martial print even appeared on the back of Wu Taibai's hand as he punched out.

These two fists represented two unparalleled powers as they smashed into the ground and shuttled through the void.

Lu Yin's right hand slashed across horizontally, and he sighed as dazzling rays of light shone out. The edge of his scythe destroyed the void, and the attack shot out into the space beyond Zenith Mountain.

Fortunately, the Chief Justice arrived in time. Otherwise, this attack would have simply annihilated everyone in that one direction.

Wang Yi and Wu Taibai had both been forced back by a single attack, and they were even injured in the exchange. Blood fell, and all of their fingers on their attacking hands were mangled. They looked quite miserable.

A breeze blew by, and Lu Yin's eyes flickered—the Thirteenth Sword.

Liu Tianmu had made her move. Once again, she was using the Thirteenth Sword: Emotion. The attack bypassed the black energy and directly attacked Lu Yin himself.

But just like before, the Thirteenth Sword was useless against Lu Yin.

Liu Tianmu went pale; was it still useless?

Starsibyl was shocked. There was no need for her to even attempt a divination, as Lu Yin still had not moved a single step!

Even when everyone worked together, they could not get Lu Yin to move a single step. What kind of power was he using? How was it so overwhelming?

Ku Wei and the others had gotten so excited that they were about to faint.

Black and White kept jumping up and down while shouting about how handsome Lu Yin had become.

Above Xi Qi's head, the fish was actually silent as it stared at Lu Yin with a strange expression. This, what was this? It felt so familiar. What the hell was going on?

No one could articulate the shock and chill that they felt from seeing Lu Yin's power.

The strength that he had revealed at this moment was truly incomprehensible, and everyone was even more shocked than when Progenitor Chen and Progenitor Hui had appeared and revealed their power.

Chapter 1323: Absolutely Invincible

In the Neoverse, Arch-Elder Zen sighed emotionally. The power of the ancient Progenitors was beyond imagination. They were the source of all power, but how had this child inherited such a power? He had a primeval surname, so could he have come from that place?

Suddenly, the old man's expression changed—this was not good! If Lu Yin had revealed such a level of strength, then there was no way that the Sixth Mainland's three Progenitors would allow him to live, especially that Progenitor of Combat. This thought caused Arch-Elder Zen to immediately move out, as he had to ensure Lu Yin's safety.

Arch-Elder Zen's thoughts were accurate. At this moment, the Progenitor of Combat's eyes were filled with a murderous light. The God of Death! That's the power of the God of Death!

This power should not exist, as it should have been erased from history long ago. And yet, the Fifth Mainland actually had someone who had inherited this lost power. This could not be allowed. Never! Once this child became a Progenitor, who could possibly be his opponent? Not the Sixth Mainland's three Progenitors, and not even the invincible Progenitor Chen or the Rune Progenitor who had created the Rune Civilizations would be Lu Yin's opponent.

Since Lu Yin had received the power of the God of Death, it meant that there was a very high probability that he would become a Progenitor in the future. No, he could never be allowed to do so.

The more he thought, the stronger the Progenitor of Combat's killing intent became.

Both the Progenitor of Bloodlines and the Progenitor of Secret Arts knew what was about to happen, but neither of them did anything to stop it.

The hatred between the Sixth and Fifth Mainlands ran too deep and had existed for far too long. They could allow the Fifth Mainland to have one or two Progenitors to help them fight against those monsters. However, the three powerhouses would never allow a Progenitor to rise in the Fifth Mainland who had the potential to overwhelm them.

If the person who had received the power of the God of Death became a Progenitor, then the consequences would be catastrophic, and the threat facing the Sixth Mainland would no longer be just those monsters.

The Progenitor of Combat wanted to make a move, and he could not stop himself from doing so. His power moved to spread across the Fifth Mainland once more. However, as soon as he began to move, he was stopped by a figure.

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At the top of Zenith Mountain, Lu Yin had become everyone's target, but no one could force him to move even a single step.

He simply stood there and allowed all attacks to approach him. There was the Thirteenth Sword that had shocked the entire universe, all kinds of secret techniques, battle techniques, speed, and more. It seemed that everything was useless against him.

After Lu Yin swept out with another terrible scythe attack, Wu Taibai, Wang Yi, and all of the others were knocked down from the top of the mountain.

At this moment, Lu Yin had finally managed to satisfy his violent impulses, and a hole had appeared in the cloak that hung around his waist. His strength was running out.

Lu Yin knew this, and he turned to stare at Shang Qing with his scythe raised high.

Shang Qing clenched his fists. He was not obsessed with the title of Pinnacle Youth, and he merely hoped that Lu Yin would be able to help him break past his own limits. However, Shang Qing did not harbor much hope anymore, as he was still unable to break through that barrier. Even if Lu Yin forced things to a life-and-death crisis, it would not be enough to force Shang Qing past that barrier.

Helpless, Shang Qing opened his mouth and said, "I give up."

After his words rang out, Zenith Mountain fell silent, and everyone blankly stared at Lu Yin. Before this final match, who would have guessed that Lu Yin would be the final contender? He was the champion and was incontestably the most powerful youth in all of ZENITH.

At this moment, the entire universe was focused on Lu Yin.

Lu Yin raised his head and let out a long breath. The black energy gradually converged, and the scythe in his right hand slowly dissipated. The white energy on his left arm also disappeared, and the cloud of black energy that had gathered behind him and formed the eyes and chains disappeared as well. Even the cloak around Lu Yin's waist dissipated.

His hair that had grown out to reach his waist also slowly receded to its original length, and his dark eyes regained their pupils.

Countless people watched as Lu Yin returned to his original appearance. The bleeding wounds lacerating his body were so severe that he trembled and almost collapsed.

Using the death energy had made Lu Yin invincible, but it had not reversed time, and his previous injuries had not disappeared. This included the gash on Lu Yin's waist that he had received from Shang Qing's Discipline.

Lu Yin forced his head up and looked at Shang Qing. Lu Yin had to admit that he could not have defeated Shang Qing without using his black and white energy. Without that power, no one would have been Shang Qing's opponent.

Back in the Mountain and Seas Zone, when the Tri-Yang Technique had been revealed, its power had shocked everyone. At the conclusion of ZENITH, people were exponentially more shocked, but that emotion had been shifted over to Lu Yin.

No matter how difficult an opponent like Shang Qing might have been, the power that Lu Yin had revealed had been too stunning.

Lu Yin had not relied on the power of old Progenitors such as Progenitor Chen or Progenitor Hui. Instead, one person had defeated both Progenitor Chen and Progenitor Hui—no, one person had completely overpowered them both.

The Progenitor realm was the final realm of cultivation. Everyone looked up to the power of the Progenitor realm and believed in the invincibility of the Progenitors from the bottom of their hearts. And yet, Lu Yin had just shattered that belief. He was just too powerful.

Invincibility was a trait that could only be recognized after one became a Progenitor, but Lu Yin had already received such an acknowledgement.

Hundreds of rivers all returned to the sea, and throughout the boundless universe, just how many arrogant elites and talented youths were there? Despite that, everyone's glory and power had been completely eclipsed by Lu Yin's.

He had fought with his own strength, himself alone against all of the top experts in ZENITH, and created his legend within the tournament. He had revealed enough strength to be recorded down in the annals of history and become a legend for both the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands.

At this moment, everyone had a feeling that the current era would take the name of Lu, even if Lu Yin had not yet become a Progenitor. He already gave everyone the feeling that he was invincible.

The huge statue trembled as it was carved away by an invisible power. Soon, it took on Lu Yin's appearance, and Zenith Mountain's energy surged. All the energy that had fallen down the mountain at the beginning of the competition roared as it rushed upwards from the base of the mountain, finally exploding in the sky where it shone.

Everyone stared up at the statue.

Something moved within Lu Yin's heart, and he jumped up atop the statue. No one stopped him, as no one qualified to do so.

From here, he looked down upon everyone, all the top experts of his generation that hailed from all parts of the universe. He had surpassed all of them.

An unsuppressable surge of arrogance filled Lu Yin's chest. Without understanding why, Lu Yin stretched out a hand and took the exact same pose as the mountain, as though he was pressing down upon all of Zenith Mountain with a single hand, holding everyone down.

Down below, the expressions of Shang Qing, Wang Yi, Wu Taibai, Bu Kong, Wen Sansi, and all of the others changed slightly. This was utter suppression. Lu Yin was declaring that he would suppress their era.

Lu Yin's mouth curled up into a smile, and his battle force instinctively appeared with purple battle force and red lines shrouded his body. He was currently suppressing everything before him and moving to dominate his entire generation. Then, a thin thread of gold suddenly appeared within the red lines.

This golden color had appeared once before when Lu Yin had stepped atop the Night Watch Pagoda and witnessed the same view that the First Nightking had seen.

However, Lu Yin's achievements had far surpassed those of the First Nightking. Not only did he stand above his peers of the Inverse and Outerverse, but he had also surpassed his peers from the Cosmic Sea, the Neoverse, the Astral Beast Domain, and even the Sixth Mainland. He had even surpassed historical powerhouses when they had been his age, as he had defeated summons of both Progenitor Chen and Progenitor Hui.

At this moment, that thread of gold could no longer be suppressed, and it quickly spread out to replace the red lines in his battle force.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed, and he immediately hid his battle force. The people watching merely saw a flash of gold, and they did not understand what had just happened.

However, Wu Taibai's pupils shrank; had he really just seen that? Impossible!

Wang Yi also stared hard at Lu Yin. He had seen that brief flicker of golden light as well, and he reflexively glanced over at Wu Taibai, who happened to look at him at the same time. The two seemed to share a common suspicion.

As Lu Yin stood on the head of the statue, he channeled his battle force over his palm to take a look at it. It was no longer nine lined battle force, as there were now golden lines in his battle force. His battle force had undergone some sort of transformation.

When Lu Yin had first started cultivating battle force, the Sandmaster had explained that battle force depended on both ambition and stubbornness. Cultivating battle force required one to overcome their limits, reach for the sky, and then tear through it.

The more domineering a person was, the greater their comprehension of battle force would be.

Lu Yin had just surpassed all living creatures, and it had allowed him to unconsciously break through his nine lined battle force to reach a level that he could not even understand. Lu Yin had never seen or heard of anyone in the Fifth Mainland with golden battle force.

Battle force had nothing to do with one's cultivation. Even a top powerhouse like Yuan Shi who had a power level of more than a million did not necessarily have the arrogance to look down upon all living beings, and it was also possible that such a powerhouse was either unable or unwilling to cultivate battle force.

Everyone had their own path of cultivation that fit them best, and it was even possible for a regular person to unconsciously cultivate battle force.

Lu Yin tended to use the most suitable power at the most suitable time.

People were still watching the screens throughout the universe. The Outerverse had exploded in celebration, and the entire Great Eastern Alliance was cheering. On Earth, in Zhenyuxing, everyone shouted excitedly as they celebrated Lu Yin's victory.

ZENITH had not been an easy tournament. All of the top finalists had revealed powers that ordinary people could not even understand, but in the end, Lu Yin had still defeated them all.

"Seventh Bro, you're all grown up!" Ku Wei shouted excitedly. He remembered the bet that they had made on Lu Yin. Back then, Lu Yin had been given ten to one odds of entering the top three, and they had placed multiple 100 million star essence bets on him. Just how much had they just won? Even though Ku Wei came from a wealthy clan, he still felt a bit dazed by such a sum.

Coco, Black, White, Xi Qi, and many others were absolutely thrilled.

The fish kept smacking his fins against Xi Qi's head. "Look! Lord Fish just gave him some minor pointers, and he immediately became invincible! Hurry up and call down that two-legged beast down! Lord Fish will give him another opportunity to become my ride. Hurry up! "

Xi Qi held her head, as the slapping was hurting her more and more.

Kayze, An Shaohua, and several others stared up with reverence in their eyes. No one knew how far Lu Yin would go in the future, but they were determined to follow him to the end.

Even Yue Xianzi, Sister Leng, and many others looked at Lu Yin with respect in their eyes. From this moment forward, Lu Yin would be a symbol of the Fifth Mainland. No one would have the courage to do anything to him, and the Hall of Honor would do its best to protect both him and his Great Eastern Alliance.

Gu Xiao'er waved his hand in the air. "That's my brother! Big Brother, come here! Over here!"

Ling Que wiped his forehead. "Forget it. I'll accept it even if you become my brother-in-law, you can definitely get that woman to submit."

Outside Zenith Mountain, Wu Da was going crazy as he released his articles and stories. He had been following Lu Yin's actions in ZENITH from beginning to end. Every attack and move that Lu Yin had made had been recorded and analyzed in detail, so Wu Da was definitely going to become famous from this.

On a certain planet, Xuan Jiu stared at his screen. "Well, it seems that I'll have to be the Great Yu Empire's imperial advisor then, haha."

In the Innerverses, Liu Qianjue and the other masters of the eight great flowzones were still in a stunned daze. Lu Yin had won and become the champion. Who would dare make a move against his Great Eastern Alliance now?

Before ZENITH, who could have imagined that Lu Yin would be the ultimate victor? This felt like something from a fantasy story.

The Innerverses powers had plotted extensively before ZENITH, all of them trying to find a way to deal with Lu Yin without aggravating the powers supporting him. However, they had never even considered that they would have to deal with a Lu Yin who had won ZENITH, though this was also partly because there was no way to deal with such a Lu Yin.

The Hall of Honor would do absolutely everything in its power to protect Lu Yin, and the Great Eastern Alliance would naturally be protected by extension. Anybody who moved against Lu Yin or the Great Eastern Alliance would instantly become an enemy of the Hall of Honor, as Lu Yin was now the most important person in the entire universe for them.

Also, they could not forget that Lu Yin would be given an unimaginable opportunity as a prize for winning ZENITH, and it was supposed to be enough to potentially help him become a Progenitor. No one would dare to move against Lu Yin unless they were guaranteed to completely destroy him, as they could no longer afford to offend him.

Chapter 1324: Top Prize

Liu Qianjue's mouth had gone dry. He had lived for many years, but this was the first time he had ever met a young man that was this difficult to deal with.

Beside the Sword Sect's leader, Elder Lianxin sighed. "What a pity. It would have been great if he had joined our Sword Sect back then."

Upon hearing these words, Liu Qianjue's eyes lit up as a certain thought entered his mind.

...

Lu Yin had taken first place in ZENITH, which greatly impacted the entire universe. He was not some random independent cultivator, but rather someone with many other powers behind him. It could be said that, by him taking first place, each and every organization related to him would experience fundamental changes.

Lu Yin had previously just been a mere youth, but no one would dare to treat him as such any longer.

It had to be remembered that Lu Yin was still just a Hunter. When he became an Enlighter, his strength would undergo yet another transformation, and he might even be able to challenge Envoys at that time. The more that various people thought about Lu Yin's future, the more terrified they felt.

No matter what the outside universe's reaction to Lu Yin's victory was, at this moment, everyone else had been removed from Zenith Mountain. Lu Yin was the only person permitted to remain behind.

The Chief Justice then appeared and announced to the entire universe that ZENITH's top ten had been determined to be Lu Yin, Shang Qing, Qiu Shi, Xia Jiuyou, Bu Kong, Yao Xuan, Wu Taibai, Yuhua Mavis, Wang Yi, and Liquor Hero.

Every one of them then received a notice from the Chief Justice, telling them to visit the Neoverse's Honor Zone within a certain amount of time. When the time came, the Hall of Honor would take them to the place where they would receive their opportunity.

Lu Yin's heart moved; was their unimaginable opportunity in the Neoverse? After thinking about it, it seemed right. After all, that was where the remnants of the Fifth Mainland lay.

"Child, feel Zenith Mountain!" The Chief Justice's voice entered Lu Yin's ears. Lu Yin felt confused. Feel the mountain? What was that supposed to mean?

Without any further explanation, his perspective suddenly shifted, and the scenery changed completely. He saw stars orbiting before him, and there was also a spacecraft off in the distance that was no larger than an ant. He even saw the Chief Justice, though he could not see the man's face. Whose perspective was this? The statue's?

Lu Yin lowered his head to look at the statue beneath his feet in surprise. He had been correct—his current perspective was that of the statue's, but how was this possible? It was just a statue, so how was this possible?

At the same time, in the Neoverse's Honor Zone, several people were visiting Arch-Elder Zen. These powerhouses had worked together in front of the Stellar Tempest to stop the Neohuman Alliance's Blackless God, and at this moment, all of these elders had gathered in front of Arch-Elder Zen.

"Arch-Elder Zen, do you really intend to give Zenith Mountain to that child? It should be given to Shang Qing," an old man protested.

Arch-Elder Zen remained calm. "The reward designated for the ultimate victor of ZENITH is Zenith Mountain. Do you wish to discredit my Hall of Honor?"

"You can change the prize. Zenith Mountain is incredibly important. I have raised Shang Qing within the Hall of Honor, so I am willing to see him receive the mountain. But this Lu Yin—"

The elder hesitated a moment, but someone else picked up where he left off. "This child has an unknown, dark power. He even somehow escaped from the Neohuman Alliance after being captured by them, which is completely unbelievable.

"This child is apparently using death energy, and as long as he has death energy, he can be easily controlled by the Specter clan. Arch-Elder Zen, please reconsider," the elder pressed.

Arch-Elder Zen let out a long breath as he stared at the gathered elders. "Do you think that, given the state he entered during the finale, the Specter clan can actually control him?"

The gathered elders looked at each other before looking back at Arch-Elder Zen in confusion.

Arch-Elder Zen smiled. "I'm not sure, but have you all heard of the legends of the God of Death before?"

...

In the Innerverse's Chaos Flowzone, Lu Yin was feeling confused; how was it possible for his perspective to overlap with that of the statue at the top of Zenith Mountain? It was a statue that was made of stone. It was not a person, and he also had not Possessed it through his die.

Lu Yin's perspective shifted once again, seeing through the statue's eyes. He unconsciously swayed, and Zenith Mountain shook with his movement. He was able to control Zenith Mountain.

A tiny dot then appeared in front of him. It was the Chief Justice, who was still shrouded in darkness.

Seeing that the Chief Justice had appeared, Lu Yin quickly switched back to his own body's perspective and slowly greeted the older man. "Junior Lu Yin greets the Chief Justice."

"The top ten have been confirmed, but there is a special prize reserved for the champion of ZENITH—the Hall of Honor is awarding you with this Zenith Mountain," the Chief Justice explained.

When Lu Yin had first switched to the statue's perspective, he had already guessed that this would happen. "Might I trouble Senior and ask what is so special about Zenith Mountain?"

The Chief Justice flatly answered, "Zenith Mountain is one of the most precious treasures that my Hall of Honor has. It is incredibly durable, can turn large or small, and can also be activated with the user's star energy to protect them from external damage. The more star energy used, the better and stronger the protection will be. In theory, it can protect a person from an attack with a power level of one million."

Lu Yin was stunned. "One- one million?"

He immediately became short of breath. This mountain was actually a priceless treasure that could block attacks with a power level of one million. This was unbelievable. It was no wonder why Zenith Mountain would be considered as one of the Hall of Honor's most precious treasures reserved as a prize for the champion of ZENITH.

Lu Yin looked down with excitement before squatting down and lovingly stroking the statue. This thing was truly a treasure.

He had automatically ignored the Chief Justice's comment about how the degree of protection that the mountain provided was directly proportional to the amount of star energy used.

Zenith Mountain had been the battleground for ZENITH, but no matter how powerful or what methods the youths used to attack the mountain, they had only managed to damage its surface. The deepest damage was when Lu Yin had unleashed an attack with death energy in his transformed state. And yet, when the size of the entire mountain was taken into account, even this was barely a scratch on the surface of Zenith Mountain.

Since the mountain could change size and turn large or small, it meant that, not only would Lu Yin be able to use it for his own protection, but he could also smash people with the mountain.

"Shrink Zenith Mountain and take it with you," the Chief Justice said as he watched Lu Yin stroke the statue.

Lu Yin saluted the Chief Justice once again. He could tell that this mysterious Chief Justice always seemed to take good care of him. Despite having only met the powerhouse twice, Lu Yin had a strong impression of the man's kindness.

Then, Lu Yin switched his perspective back to the statue and began to gradually figure out how to control Zenith Mountain.

After all, this mountain was one of the Hall of Honor's most treasured possessions, and the elders had not actually wanted to give it to Lu Yin as they did not want the mountain to fall into an outsider's hands.

It was not easy to gain control of the mountain.

After several days, Lu Yin was still only able to shrink Zenith Mountain down to the size of a planet, though that was still too large for him to move. According to what Lu Yin had learned from the Chief Justice, he needed to shrink the mountain down until it was small enough to be stored in a cosmic ring, which was not something that Lu Yin could accomplish in just a few days.

However, because of the Chief Justice's words, Lu Yin did not dare to leave before he could shrink the mountain down to the necessary size.

Helpless, Lu Yin could only continue with his attempts.

Outside Zenith Mountain, the other contestants all left one after another. Many people wanted to say goodbye to Lu Yin, but they were all unable to reach him.

Xia Luo left soon after ZENITH ended, as he was afraid of being targeted by the Xia family.

Many people had participated in ZENITH, and each one had their own grudges and problems. Naturally, Xia Luo needed to leave as early as possible in order to take advantage of the chaos.

The Mavis family also left shortly. Yuhua Mavis had entered the top ten, but she had ultimately lost to both Wu Taibai and Lu Yin in battles of strength, and she was not happy with these results.

Black and White were also taken away, while Qian Zou hitched a ride with Eversky Island.

Gu Xiao'er also left, but before leaving, he let everyone know that he was friends with Lu Yin.

Everyone eventually left, and after half a month, the once bustling region of space now only had a Zenith Mountain that was the size of a spacecraft. The reporters who had covered the event were now banned and blocked from recording anything, so people were only able to witness the change to Zenith Mountain with their own eyes.

It was magical to watch as the massive Zenith Mountain that had once been so large that multiple stars and planets had revolved around it become so tiny. Even an idiot could tell that this mountain was valuable, and it was clearly a priceless treasure.

At this time, all of the irrelevant people had been driven away by people from Chaosgod Mountain and the Great Eastern Alliance.

After a few more days, Lu Yin finally managed to shrink Zenith Mountain to the point where he could fit it in his cosmic ring. He then looked around but had no idea when the Chief Justice had left.

Lu Yin felt that it was a pity, as he really wanted to get closer to the Chief Justice.

Outer space was quite dark, and all he could see were people from his Great Eastern Alliance, and further away, some people from Chaosgod Mountain.

"Congratulations to Alliance Leader Lu! Invincible throughout the universe!" Thousands of people from the Great Eastern Alliance congratulated Lu Yin in unison, and the sound spread everywhere.

"Congratulations to Alliance Leader Lu for becoming the Pinnacle Youth! Invincible throughout the universe!"

"Congratulations to Alliance Leader Lu for becoming the Pinnacle Youth! Invincible throughout the universe!"

...

Lu Yin waved a hand to stop them as he looked around. "Let's head back to the Great Eastern Alliance."

"Yes, Alliance Leader."

Before Lu Yin left, Cang Zhou, the master of Chaosgod Mountain, went to speak with Lu Yin. This time, he was very emotional. "This old man only managed to reach the Cruiser realm when I was your age. I am truly incomparable to you"

Lu Yin and Cang Zhou faced each other, and Lu Yin responded to the words with a smile. "Senior is the real winner for being able to reach your current level."

Cang Zhou smiled and replied, "There's a deeper intention behind your words."

Lu Yin shrugged in response. "There are many people who seem to believe that I, Lu Yin, have already made such great accomplishments that I will only become a myth the moment I die."

Cang Zhou looked at Lu Yin. "Die? It's not good to say such things. Even if this old man harbors any ill intention towards you, it won't be easy to execute them now when you've grown this much."

"Senior is too kind with your words. This junior knows my strength, and I haven't reached the level where I can challenge an Envoy yet, let alone a top powerhouse like yourself," Lu Yin said.

Cang Zhou frowned. "It's not good to beat around the bush, and since I'm an old man, I'll just be direct."

As he spoke, Cang Zhou stared into Lu Yin's eyes. "How far do you intend to spread your Great Eastern Alliance?"

Lu Yin's gaze grew sharper as he stared at Cang Zhou in silence.

Cang Zhou's brows rose up. "Can you not answer, or is it that you don't even know yourself? Let's change the question then—what do you want from this universe?"

Lu Yin smiled. "Senior is looking up towards this junior too much. With my current strength, how could I even qualify to speak about matters on the scale of the entire universe?"

Cang Zhou shook his head and sighed. "It's true that others are indeed unqualified. Not even Shang Qing, the Hall of Honor's first Honor Chosen, would qualify. However, you are different. You have the strength, ambition, opportunity, and talent, and you're now also invincible within your generation. Winning ZENITH has also won you the full support of the Hall of Honor, and this chance that you have won may give you a chance to become a Progenitor in the future.

"A possible future Progenitor is someone who will draw everyone's attention, even if you are only a Hunter at the moment. Your current strength is no longer all that you are."

After hearing Cang Zhou's words, Lu Yin knew that if he did not respond correctly at this time, he might end up being forsaken by everyone in the future. After all, a potential Progenitor was not the same as a true Progenitor. No one wanted their own interests to be threatened, even if it was by some powerful Progenitor.

Even ants knew how to resist, but Lu Yin was still far from reaching the level where he could view these people as ants.

All people worried for their own futures, and Cang Zhou was simply testing the waters. If Lu Yin had the ambition to unite both the Outerverse and the Innerverse, then he would definitely have to eventually

face the Innerverse's hostility. No matter how much support the Hall of Honor gave Lu Yin, the Innerverse powers could only be forced so far.

Chapter 1325: Attempt

The Hall of Honor was the master of the Fifth Mainland, but not its ruler.

Even they could not rule the Fifth Mainland all on their own.

At this moment, Cang Zhou represented not only his Chaosgod Mountain, but also the Sword Sect, the Lingling clan, and the other major forces of the Innerverse.

After thinking about his response for some time, Lu Yin smiled and said, "Senior, this junior can only say that, to my friends, I will be righteous, but for my enemies, I will leave nothing."

Cang Zhou's gaze grew heavier. "Speak clearly, as this old man is rather uncultured."

"This junior will not take the initiative to provoke anyone. Is this good enough?" Lu Yin said.

Cang Zhou frowned. "Yes."

Clearly, he was not convinced.

Lu Yin smiled and continued to explain. "The Outerverse only managed to unite in order to resist the Sixth Mainland's invasion. This junior hoped to protect the Outerverse, and Senior should be aware that I did not alter the Outerverse much. Rather, I simply dealt with those who tried to block my path.

"As for the Innerverse, the Blaze Realm had been an enemy since long ago, and the so-called 'Purge' was something plotted by the Blaze Realm. In that case, wouldn't it have been too cowardly for me to not deal with such an obvious threat?"

"You truly have no intentions for the Innerverse?" Cang Zhou asked.

Lu Yin answered honestly, "Yes, I do."

Cang Zhou's brows rose high.

Lu Yin sighed and explained again. "The Outerverse has been given over to the Sixth Mainland, so this junior hopes to find somewhere in the Innerverse for the people of the Outerverse to live."

Cang Zhou was not surprised by Lu Yin's response. "The Hall of Honor must already be considering this matter, so there's no reason for you to be too concerned."

Lu Yin nodded. "True, but ever since this junior first started on the path of cultivation, many people have tried to stop me or make things difficult for me, especially the Daynight clan. This junior has had to protect myself many times, so please don't misunderstand me, Senior."

Cang Zhou felt that Lu Yin's explanation was a bit weak, but he also could not deny Lu Yin's words. He was unable to force Lu Yin to admit that he wanted to unite the Innerverse, so what else could the old man say?

Lu Yin's words had also somewhat reassured Cang Zhou. It was true that the Blaze Realm and the Daynight clan had both been bitter enemies of Lu Yin, and it did make sense to deal with such threats.

Inexplicably, Cang Zhou suddenly laughed. He had realized that he was actually nervous. The child in front of him was just a Hunter, and even if there was a chance of him becoming a Progenitor in the future, that day was too far off. The Inniverse was massive, so how could Lu Yin hope to unify such a large area? Even the Hall of Honor had never succeeded, and the Cosmic Sea and the Neoverse would naturally never allow such a thing to happen.

The more Cang Zhou thought about his fears, the more absurd they appeared to be. Thus, he laughed at himself. His thoughts had been disturbed by Lu Yin winning first place in ZENITH, and even more so by the reactions of Liu Qianjue and the other leaders of the Inniverse. They had all looked down on Lu Yin too much, but it was true that he was still a child.

Lu Yin looked up, his eyes bright and his smile honest. Cang Zhou suddenly said, "I did ask one question that you didn't answer: what do you want from this universe?"

Lu Yin thought for a moment, smiled brightly, and then replied, "This junior likes money. The more, the better."

Cang Zhou was stunned. He had considered many possible different answers, but this one had never even entered his mind. However, he did remember reading a report on Lu Yin that claimed that Lu Yin loved money and had an insatiable greed. Could it be true? Was this the way to woo him?

Lu Yin raised his head as he thought some more. "I remember that Starsibyl once asked this junior the question, 'What is the path to strength?'"

Cang Zhou's eyes lit up. He had also been asked this question in the past, as there had been many generations of Starsibyls. Upon hearing Lu Yin's statement, Cang Zhou grew very curious. "What was your answer?"

Lu Yin smiled and replied, "One can become strong by earning more money. That was my answer at the time."

Cang Zhou pursed his lips, clearly caught off guard.

When Starsibyl had asked Lu Yin her question, other than the two of them, only Hai Dashao and the Sea King had heard Lu Yin's answer.

At that time, Hai Dashao had been embarrassed by Lu Yin's response, so he had not said anything about it to anyone. As for the Sea King, he had naturally kept the matter to himself. Thus, Lu Yin's words had never leaked out.

Cang Zhou felt that something was strange, and there was a different look in his eyes as he observed Lu Yin.

In the past, this child had confronted and threatened a group of the leaders of the Inniverse's top powers to the point where they had been forced to temporarily suspend the Purge. At that time, Cang Zhou had greatly admired Lu Yin. That conversation had also been the greatest source of Lu Yin's unease after ZENITH, as it had actually prompted this entire conversation. However, how was Cang Zhou supposed to rectify the discrepancy between the domineering Lu Yin that he had met before and this money grubber before him?

How could the dignified master of Chaosgod Mountain be associated with mere money?

Although the Purge had been intended to break up the Great Eastern Alliance so that the Innerverse could resume profiting off of the Outerverse, and Chaosgod Mountain would naturally receive a portion of those profits, Cang Zhou had never lacked for resources. After all, he had never been personally involved with the finances, but at this moment, he was actually having a conversation with a junior about money. After all, Lu Yin was a child whom Cang Zhou had been about to offer a gift to.

Cang Zhou was left completely speechless.

"Cough, this old man has something that I need to do, so I'll head out first," Cang Zhou said awkwardly. It was clear that he did not know how to react to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin bade his farewells. "Take care, Senior."

Cang Zhou left, and Lu Yin stared at the old man's back. The smile on Lu Yin's face gradually disappeared. Although he had secured first place at ZENITH, making the top powers of the Innerverse too scared to act out against the Great Eastern Alliance, it was impossible for Lu Yin to push any further. After all, anything more would intrude on the Innerverse's territory.

If Lu Yin's Great Eastern Alliance pushed any further, he would be targeted by the entire Innerverse, as well as the Cosmic Sea, the Neoverse, and even the Sixth Mainland.

Most of the people from the Great Eastern Alliance had already left now, and only Wendy Yushan and a few other people stayed behind to follow Lu Yin back to the Blaze Realm.

This was Wendy Yushan's first time actually visiting the Blaze Realm.

When Lu Yin boarded the spacecraft, Ku Wei hurriedly offered his congratulations. "Seventh Bro, you're just too powerful! You're invincible! Seventh Bro is invincible. Invincible!"

Lu Yin casually pulled away, as he did not have the energy to deal with Ku Wei at the moment.

As Lu Yin continued forward, Dwayne Daynight slowly greeted him. "Congratulations, Alliance Leader."

Lu Yin nodded and then looked at Wendy Yushan and Zhuo Daynight, but neither of the two women had much to say.

Lu Yin felt that the atmosphere had turned slightly awkward.

"Seventh Bro, just now, there was some guy called Wu Da who wanted to interview you, but I just kicked him out. Who the hell does he think he is? A mere Explorer wants to interview Seventh Bro? How ridiculous!" As Lu Yin's loyal follower and official sycophant, Ku Wei immediately felt the need to show his usefulness.

"Also, there was someone else called Zi Jing who called, but I drove her away as well," Ku Wei continued to brag.

Lu Yin was stunned for a moment, and then he focused cold and angry eyes onto Ku Wei.

Ku Wei instantly panicked. "What? What's wrong?"

"Zi Jing is the boss of CyNet," Lu Yin casually explained.

Ku Wei's mouth dropped open. "That's ridiculous!"

"Where is she?" Lu Yin already had a headache, but he really wanted to work with CyNet.

Ku Wei's mouth twitched. "We should just go. Before kicking her out, I told her that if Seventh Bro was free in the future, you'd go see her at her place."

Lu Yin felt helpless. "Don't casually offend so many people in the future, or else I'll keep you chained up on Zenyu Star."

Ku Wei immediately promised to behave in the future.

Everyone then left, as Lu Yin wanted to visit Xia Luo and some others.

"Where's the betting money? How did things go? Did you already get the payout?" Lu Yin still remembered the 100 million star essence that he had bet on him entering the top three of ZENITH. This was a very important subject to him.

As soon as he heard Lu Yin's question, Ku Wei's face turned ugly. "About that, the bookkeeper can't be reached."

Lu Yin's eyebrows shot up. "What did you just say? Why not? They're a huge bookkeeper with countless clients. Everyone had to have been watching them, so how did they manage to get away?"

Ku Wei explained, "Everyone left behind was left to die. They've already been questioned, but they don't know anything, and there's no money left despite how big the bookkeeper was."

As he spoke, Ku Wei felt increasingly uneasy.

They had just lost 100 million star essence. No, it was actually a billion. That was a massive amount even for a superpower like the Seven Courts.

Lu Yin's face turned cold and terrifying.

Ku Wei became even more frightened. "Seven- Seventh Bro, are you alright?"

Lu Yin's eyes were filled with a cold murderous light. They expected him to just walk away from a loss of a billion star essence? How could he accept that? Fortunately, Lu Yin had others supporting him, and although he was not sure how much he would be able to recover, he would definitely track down this bookkeeper. No matter who it was, they would not be able to flee from him.

Lu Yin was fully confident that, even if the power behind the bookkeeper was one of the Hall of Honor's overseers like Bu Laoweng, Lu Yin would be able to force them to cough up his money. He might even make them double what they owed him.

The vessel was headed for the Blaze Realm. ZENITH had finished, and Lu Yin had become a legend.

He had defeated all of the other finalists on his own after enduring countless attacks, numerous secret techniques and combat skills. In the end, he had won. There was not even a question as to whether or

not Lu Yin deserved his victory, and ZENITH would become an event that would be remembered and relived for countless years.

In a spacecraft filled with all kinds of equipment, everybody aboard the vessel was busy, and there were numerous screens playing videos on a loop. Each and every video was of Lu Yin's last battle.

"Hurry up! We need to get the jump on everyone else and edit all of Lu Yin's fights so we can share them on the network first!"

"Hurry up! Everyone else is rushing as well, so we need to hurry."

Suddenly, the original video of Lu Yin's final battle disappeared from the screen, and all that was left behind was a code of numbers that everyone was familiar with. This meant that this content had been banned from being posted on the network.

"What's going on? Where's the video? Come on, where's the connection? What's going on?"

"Brother, it's not good. The video's been banned by CyNet."

"What's that supposed to mean?"

"It means that all of the videos of Lu Yin's fights have been banned."

"It's not just Lu Yin. The content around all of ZENITH's top ten's battles has all been banned."

"Hurry up and make copies of the videos."

"It's useless. With CyNet's abilities, no matter where we post the videos, the moment we connect to the network, all the content will be scrubbed away. There's no point."

"Why?"

"What happened?"

...

This same scene reoccurred all across the universe. No matter where they were, as long as they connected to the network, the videos of ZENITH's top ten would be removed.

These top ten youths represented the future of the entire universe, and it was expected that each one of them would become top powerhouses. Since that was the case, how could videos of their fights be allowed to casually circulate through the network?

This had actually been agreed upon even before the start of ZENITH.

No one wanted to be incessantly researched and studied. Everyone in ZENITH had their own enemies, and who was to say that those enemies would not be able to find weaknesses by studying the videos from ZENITH?

Even Lu Yin was unwilling to be subjected to such intense study, even if his strength was something that was incomprehensible to others.

Lu Yin's vessel steadily continued on through outer space.

Wendy Yushan checked on Lu Yin's wound. "It's fine."

Lu Yin replied, "I used some medicine to treat the injury after ZENITH ended, and quite a bit of time has already passed."

"Well, the energy left in that wound must be very painful," Wendy Yushan said.

Lu Yin shrugged. He had been cut by the summoned Progenitor Chen's knife, and the wound had been filled with its energy in the same manner as how Shang Rong had left his own energy in Ling Gong's wound years ago.

The best way to deal with such residual energy was through lockbreaking, which was how Lu Yin had helped Ling Gong when she had been injured. However, in Lu Yin's case, Wendy was helping him heal the wound. Her innate gift was healing, and the results were readily apparent.

Chapter 1326: Rewind

"By the way, I'm curious. How did you break through Zhi Yi's Vitality Qi?" Lu Yin asked.

Wendy Yushan stayed silent for a while, but just when she was about to answer, Lu Yin interrupted her. "Looks like I guessed right. You have a power that you've kept hidden, but that shouldn't have been enough for you to challenge Zhi Yi, so don't bother telling me."

Wendy Yushan looked at Lu Yin and said, "Rewind."

Lu Yin was confused. "What about rewinding?"

Wendy Yushan sat down across from Lu Yin, her long hair hanging down in cascades. She was a natural and graceful beauty, and at this moment, she was not holding her sword. "My innate gift is called Rewind."

"It isn't healing?" Lu Yin wondered.

Wendy Yushan explained, "Rewinding, as in going back in time."

Lu Yin's face changed, as this reply stunned him. "Going back in time? You can rewind time?"

Wendy Yushan remained calm. "In front of other people, I've always called my innate gift one of healing, but in truth, I'm not actually healing people. Rather, I'm simply rewinding time at the location of a wound to before the injury was received."

Lu Yin could not believe what he was hearing. Time was a great mystery of the universe. Even with Lu Yin's current status, he still had never heard of anyone being able to control time. When Mister Mu or Blackless God had appeared before Lu Yin, it felt like they had frozen time itself, but Lu Yin was not certain if that was what actually happened. They could have frozen time, or they could have frozen everything around themselves.

And yet, right in front of Lu Yin, there was Wendy Yushan. This was someone whom he was very familiar with, and yet she was claiming to be able to control time!? What a joke.

"Really?" Lu Yin asked again.

Wendy Yushan was a very cold person, and she was like this to everyone. However, she did add something to her explanation for Lu Yin. "As long as I'm not dealing with an item, I can use this innate gift somewhat freely, so it works best for healing and less so fighting. I also can't use it to look back into people's past. Maybe I'll be able to do so in the future, but I can't for the time being."

Lu Yin suddenly understood. It was no wonder why she had been able to ignore Zhi Yi's Vitality Qi—all Wendy had needed to do was reverse time slightly for everything in front of her sword. Then, there would be no need for her to break through the Vitality Qi, as she had not actually touched the barrier at all, though to everyone watching, it would look as if Wendy had shattered Zhi Yi's Star Dipper.

Her innate gift was related to time.

Lu Yin just stared at Wendy Yushan in complete shock. What she had just told him was even more shocking than when he had learned about her family's secret technique. If word of her innate gift leaked out, the attention she would receive from the universe to her might just be as much as Lu Yin had..

"Besides me, who else knows about your innate gift?" Lu Yin asked.

Wendy Yushan glanced back at him. "No one."

"Where's your father?" Lu Yin could not resist asking.

Wendy Yushan stared at Lu Yin. "Do you really think that he's still alive?"

Lu Yin did not answer, and Wendy also remained silent.

Lu Yin suddenly smelled a refreshing fragrance. When he looked at Wendy Yushan's slender figure, her long black hair, and her beautiful face, he was suddenly struck by an inexplicable impulse. At this moment, he did not know why he felt a special attraction towards Wendy...

Suddenly, a voice broke the silence, "Seventh Bro, we've entered Ascension Flowzone, and the Xun family has sent you an invitation to meet with them and talk."

Ku Wei interrupted the atmosphere, and that strange impulse instantly vanished.

He glanced over at Wendy Yushan, and she was still staring at him, making Lu Yin feel somewhat guilty. "Well, I'll head out now."

Wendy Yushan nodded. "Be careful—the Xun family might not have good intentions."

"Don't worry, I already know," Lu Yin said. He then left the vessel.

In front of his spacecraft, Lu Yin saw a massive ship that was many times larger than his own. This large ship was not made of metal, but rather wood. In fact, it looked like a toy that had been blown up to absurd proportions and then sent out into outer space. This was the Xun family's spacecraft.

The Xun family's Gear Construction Technique was well-known throughout the universe. Their combat style was also the foundation for their lifestyle, and even their spacecraft and architecture were based off of this Gear Construction Technique.

The Xun family wielded a great deal of influence in the universe, and many different organizations had used the family's Gear Construction Technique to complete certain tasks. Specifically, when it came to exploring ancient tombs or other similar tasks, the Xun family could be quite useful.

Needless to say, the Xun family had always held some degree of enmity with Lu Yin, especially when he had been stuck in the Outerverse. At that time, the Xun family had forced Lu Yin to reveal some things to Elder Lohar.

In the middle of outer space, a group gathered to meet Lu Yin. Their leader was an ordinary looking, middle-aged man with an elegant temperament. He approached Lu Yin with a smile and said, "Alliance Leader Lu, I am Xun Baitao, patriarch of the Xun family. I hereby invite Alliance Leader Lu into my home for a talk".

Lu Yin stared at Xun Baitao. He was Xun Jiong's father, and the two looked very similar.

Lu Yin then looked past Xun Baitao and saw Xun Jiong behind his father. Xun Jiong was pale, and he seemed to have been seriously injured.

He had also participated in ZENITH, and he had been eliminated by Liu Tianmu's Fifth Sword, which had taken Xun Jiong's left arm, but fortunately left him with his life.

"Patriarch Xun, it would seem that there is nothing for your Xun family to say to me," Lu Yin bluntly replied.

Lu Yin's words infuriated an old man standing behind Xun Baitao. "Alliance Leader Lu, this is Ascension Flowzone. My Xun family is the ruler of this flowzone, and we have invited Alliance Leader Lu to a meeting. You are being too arrogant by not offering us any respect."

Xun Baitao immediately reprimanded the old man. "Xun Ye, silence."

Lu Yin's eyes snapped over to the old man, and his expression grew sharp. "I'm speaking with your patriarch, and yet you dare to interrupt?"

After Lu Yin spoke, the elder was suddenly overcome by a space of darkness, and his mind was dazed. He was unable to stop himself from coughing up blood and collapsing.

Xun Baitao quickly moved in front of Xun Ye. "Alliance Leader Lu, if you have something to say, then please be merciful and tell us."

Lu Yin had used Night Advent just now, and even though the elder was an Enlighter, he could not resist Lu Yin attack. After all, the old man's power level was only a bit more than 200,000, and his strength could not compare to any of the youths who had entered ZENITH's top ten.

Xun Jiong stared at Lu Yin in horror, and fear reached the very bottom depths of his heart.

Lu Yin did not continue attacking, and he retracted his spiritual force. His intentions had just been to teach the old man a lesson, not seriously attack him. After all, if Lu Yin had wanted to, then he could have simply used Daynight Praises to kill the old man.

The old man was panting heavily, and he looked like a fish that had been taken out of water.

As an elder of the Xun family, he had always focused his efforts on cultivating the family's Gear Construction Technique, and he had never paid much attention to the outside world. Even during ZENITH, although he had watched it in amazement, he had lacked any sort of real understanding of the top ten's power.

Due to the elder's excellent relationship with Xun Jiong, he had heard about the previous grievances between Lu Yin and Xun Jiong, as well as between Lu Yin and the entire Xun family. Thus, the old man had wanted to teach Lu Yin a lesson, but instead, the elder had been the one to be taught one.

Xun Ye, a strong Enlightener with a power level that exceeded 200,000, had almost instantly died to a child before he could even move. He expected that he would never forget the terror of this moment for the rest of his life.

Was this the strength of the younger generation? Xun Ye felt that he was getting quite old, as even a child was able to terrify him now.

Xun Jiong responded in a straightforward manner, and he remained silent as he lowered his head, not daring to even look at Lu Yin.

Xun Baitao quickly apologized to Lu Yin. "Thank you, Alliance Leader Lu, for showing kindness. Elder Xun Ye has been studying the Gear Construction Technique in isolation for a long time, and so he is quite uninformed of the outside world. Please don't be angry, Alliance Leader Lu."

Lu Yin's expression softened a bit. As far as he was concerned, Xun Ye was just a random nobody. Yes, he might be an Enlightener, but to Lu Yin, even Enlighteners were nobodies who did not matter.

"Patriarch Xun, what is it that you want by coming here? It's clearly not to just catch up. As I said, there is nothing that needs to be discussed with your Xun family," Lu Yin spoke indifferently. Given his current status, there was no need for him to show the Xun family any respect.

Xun Baitao smiled apologetically. "In the past, there was a bit of a misunderstanding between my son, Xun Jiong, and Alliance Leader Lu. My Xun family has arranged a banquet, and I would like to invite Alliance Leader Lu to attend so that I can congratulate you and personally apologize."

As his father spoke, Xun Jiong walked forward and knelt without any hint of hesitation. "Alliance Leader Lu, this one was a small man with no eyes, and I beg for Alliance Leader Lu's forgiveness."

Lu Yin arched a brow as he looked back up at Xun Baitao. In Xun Baitao's eyes, all Lu Yin could see was kindness and a trace of hope.

Given Lu Yin's current status and glorious future, it was perfectly normal for any organization to try to curry favor with him at this time. Even Chaosgod Mountain's Cang Zhou had tried to get closer to Lu Yin and had spoken to him as an equal. However, the Xun family was different, as they were traitors to the entire Fifth Mainland.

"I also ask that Alliance Leader Lu allow us to honor you, as my Xun family is very grateful." Xun Baitao slowly bowed to Lu Yin.

As the Xun family's patriarch, Xun Baitao himself was a powerhouse with a power level of more than 400,000. That was not a level that just anyone could reach.

Lu Yin nodded. "Very well. Patriarch Xun, please lead the way."

Xun Baitao was overjoyed. "Alliance Leader Lu, please follow me."

"Very well."

The Xun family had already set up a banquet, and it would either be on their main planet or in the wooden vessel in front of Lu Yin. Xun Baitao explained that the ship was the Xun family's pride and that only their most distinguished guests were allowed to enter it.

Lu Yin's expression remained calm. While a slight smile could be seen on his face, Xun Baitao was far more enthusiastic. The Xun family waited on Lu Yin hand and foot, and it did not take long for them to arrive at the banquet hall.

Aboard Lu Yin's own ship, Ku Wei muttered to himself about how Seventh Bro had not taken him along to the banquet. Along with that line of thought, Ku Wei went pale that he would not be able to perform for Lu Yin.

Wendy Yushan frowned as she looked at the Xun family's vessel off in the distance. She was fully aware of the enmity between Lu Yin and the Xun family, though she did not know what Lu Yin was thinking about at this moment.

The Xun family's Gear Construction Technique was famous throughout the universe, and Lu Yin was very curious about it.

When Xun Baitao heard this, he immediately called for some of the family's youths to compete and put on a performance that would fulfill all of Lu Yin's desires. At the same time, the patriarch arranged for two beautiful women to sit next to Lu Yin. If he wished to eat, then all he had to do was open his mouth—nothing else was necessary.

Lu Yin was really not used to such extravagant treatment.

"Patriarch Xun, given the Xun family's children's excellent control over the Gear Construction Technique, it should not be difficult for them to improve their star energy control. I'm curious, who has developed the most profound star energy control in the history of your Xun family? What realm did they achieve?"

Xun Baitao replied, "Alliance Leader Lu is exaggerating. My Xun family has indeed combined star energy into different forms and has also come up with various methods to use it. However, these methods rely on ingenuity, and they are actually a non-standard form of star energy control. The person who achieved the greatest level of star energy control was an elder from 7,000 years ago, and he managed to reach the Worldliness realm of control, which is basically the limit."

"Oh? Is it that difficult to reach the Creation realm of star energy control?" Lu Yin was genuinely curious, as he did not have much experience in improving his star energy control. After all, improving his control to that level required a certain amount of luck as well as comprehension.

During ZENITH, Liquor Hero's fights had opened Lu Yin's eyes. The way in which she had absorbed everything into her world of star energy had looked like a god's ability, and watching her had aroused a

sense of envy in Lu Yin. It would be wonderful if he could also improve his star energy control to the Creation realm.

Xun Baitao sighed. "Creation, that is a truly legendary realm. Reaching that level has nothing to do with strength, as comprehension, talent, and luck are each indispensable without measure. My Xun family has never received such a blessing. Even if you search through the entire universe, there should not be more than five people who have reached that realm of star energy control, and in the younger generation, only Liquor Hero has accomplished such a miracle. If a member of my Xun family managed to reach that level, then we would be able to soar to greater heights in power as a family and not be limited to just Ascension Flowzone."

Chapter 1327: Means

Upon hearing Xun Baitao's words, Lu Yin's eyes flashed. "The Xun family doesn't want to be restricted to Ascension Flowzone?"

Xun Baitao was caught off guard, and he let out a dry laugh. "Haha, everyone wants to step further, as that's simply human nature."

"Yes, it is indeed human nature," Lu Yin agreed with a smile.

At the side, one of the women arranged by Xun Baitao leaned closer and pressed her body up against Lu Yin, practically setting herself in his arms.

Lu Yin could no longer accept the situation, and he had the two women move back. They were both disappointed, and as they left, they both looked at Lu Yin with smoldering eyes.

The banquet enjoyed quite a harmonious atmosphere. Lu Yin was quite curious about the Xun family's Gear Construction Technique, the Xun family itself, and even Ascension Flowzone. So, Xun Baitao answered his every question.

After a while, Xun Jiong approached Lu Yin and respectfully greeted him. "This little brother was reckless, and I offended Alliance Leader Lu. I beg for Alliance Leader Lu's forgiveness, and this little brother will punish himself with three cups of wine."¹

Lu Yin suddenly stopped the youth and said with a smile, "Brother Xun doesn't need to do this. I, Lu Yin, am not one to hold a grudge, and our disagreement was written off long ago."

Xun Jiong felt grateful. He had lost his left arm to Liu Tianmu's Fifth Sword, and he would not be able to exert his full strength for some time in this weakened state.

Lu Yin then said, "Brother Xun must have done this to make me, Lu Yin, look stingy. Since Brother Xun wants to drink, then I'll accompany you." After speaking, Lu Yin poured a glass of wine.

Xun Jiong quickly said, "Thank you, Alliance Leader Lu."

After that, he drank the wine in his own glass.

Lu Yin also downed his entire glass.

When he saw Lu Yin finish his drink, the smile on Xun Baitao's face grew even brighter. "Alliance Leader Lu is magnanimous, and I, Xun Baitao, will also offer a toast to Alliance Leader Lu."

Lu Yin could not refuse the toast.

After several more cups, Lu Yin shook his head and suddenly had to grab the table with his hands to support himself, and he vigorously shook his head.

Seeing Lu Yin's condition, Xun Baitao and Xun Jiong exchanged an odd look.

Resentment flashed through Xun Jiong's eyes, and he nodded before slowly leaving the room.

"Alliance Leader Lu, is something the matter?" Xun Baitao asked, concern filling his voice.

Lu Yin felt curious. "Patriarch Xun, what kind of wine is this? It actually got me drunk?"

Xun Baitao smiled and replied, "It's a wonderful wine that my Xun family specially prepared for Alliance Leader Lu. Do you like it?"

Lu Yin looked at Xun Baitao with confusion in his eyes. "What do you mean?"

Xun Baitao laughed, and everyone else at the banquet, including Elder Xun Ye and all of the other Xun family members, laughed as well.

"Alliance Leader Lu, there's a question that I've always wanted to ask you—do you happen to remember Xun Qianye?" Xun Baitao asked.

Lu Yin vigorously shook his head again. "The Xun family member that I killed?"

Xun Baitao's eyes narrowed. "Yes. Do you happen to know why he attacked you? What did you learn from him?"

Lu Yin and Xun Baitao stared at each other. "How should I know?"

"For example, a piece of paper that you found in the gun? Perhaps a list..." Xun Baitao spoke slowly, his voice completely cold. After he finished speaking, he released his full aura of a power level that exceeded 400,000. It spread out from the flying spacecraft and enveloped a great deal of the surrounding space.

In the distance, Dwayne Daynight and the others' expressions changed. "There are Enlighters locking down space in this region."

Wendy Yushan clenched her fists as she stared at the Xun family's vessel.

The others looked somewhat panicked, as this terrifying strength had locked down space and the void, leaving them powerless. This was not someone whom they could go against.

Members of the Xun family appeared all around Lu Yin's ship, surrounding everyone still on board.

Inside the Xun family's vessel, Lu Yin lowered his head. "List? What list?"

Xun Baitao moved closer to Lu Yin and raised a hand that reached for Lu Yin. "So you still want to pretend."

Just as he arrived in front of Lu Yin, Xun Baitao's vision changed, and he was standing in a place that he had longed and ached for ever since seeing: Honor Mountain.

It was the heart of the Hall of Honor, and it was also where all of the Hall of Honor's top powerhouses could be found within the Honor Zone.

When Xun Baitao had first visited the Honor Zone, he had been an ant that anyone could crush with a step, even if he had already been the Xun family's patriarch. However, at this moment, he had become a member of Honor Mountain. No—he was the master, and there were nine people lined up before him, all of them kneeling. They were the nine overseers, and they all looked up at him. In the distance, Xu Baitao could see the top powers of the universe all crawling beneath his feet. He was the master of Honor Mountain, the master of the entire universe.

Xun Baitao grew short of breath before bursting out into laughter. He, Xun Baitao, had succeeded! Finally succeeded! After receiving the support of the Technocracy, he had then climbed up the branch offered by the Sixth Mainland to become the highest power in the entire Fifth Mainland. His Xun family had dominated the entire Neoverse. As for the Hall of Honor, the Cosmic Sect, and the Innaverse's Sword Sect and Daynight clan, they all were at his mercy.

His crazed laughter echoed throughout the entire Honor Zone.

Suddenly, the top of his head cracked open. A hand had come down and slapped him into the ground. His body smashed through an entire world and then crashed into the surface of the Honor Zone.

Xun Baitao spat out a mouthful of blood. His eyes practically bulged out of his head as he stared at the incomparably massive hand crushing down upon him from above.

He mounted his strongest resistance, and the nearby star energy gathered into a strange weapon that tried to counter the massive hand. This was Xun Baitao's strongest attack, and as far as he was concerned, even an Envoy would have to take note of this attack. However, his resistance was useless, and the hand smashed him deep underground once again. One slap after another fell down.

Puff.

Within the Xun family's ship, Xun Baitao's hand was only a few centimeters away from Lu Yin, but he could no longer move.

The Xun family members watching were all horrified; what was happening?

Lu Yin's eyes were cold. He rose to his feet, and his hand moved slightly. Nearby, Xun Ye was about to shoot to his feet, but he was blasted into the hull of the ship and out into outer space. His body had been crushed, as it was impossible for him to survive Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm.

A large hole had opened in the side of the spacecraft, and the vacuum of outer space sucked out all of the tables, chairs, and benches that had been used for the banquet.

All of the Xun family members stared at Lu Yin in horror. Their faces became pale, and their expressions grew hopeless.

In front of Lu Yin, Xun Baitao coughed up another mouthful of blood, and his vision became more and more blurred. He was currently enduring the full force of Daynight Praises, and after being struck by Skybreaker dozens of times, the damage was appearing on his physical body.

Although Xun Baitao had a power level that surpassed 400,000, his spiritual force was actually weaker than that of Qiu Shi and the others who had been in ZENITH's final rounds. A single Daynight Praise was enough to destroy him.

This was the strength of a genius. This was the difference between someone raised with resources and an ordinary person.

Even if Xu Baitao's power level exceeded 400,000, his flaws were still too obvious.

Qiu Shi, Xia Jiuyou, and the other finalists in ZENITH were actually much weaker than Xun Baitao, but those elites had no obvious flaws. For example, there was Qiu Shi. While her physical strength was drastically inferior to Star Devourer and Yuhua Mavis's, Qiu Shi was not completely unable to resist the other two.

Also, while Liquor Hero's spiritual force could not compare to Yao Xuan, Lu Yin, and the others, she would not be this easily stunned or even seriously injured by their spiritual force attacks.

But Xun Baitao was different. While he did have the power of his superior cultivation realm, his weaknesses were all too apparent. If he had participated in ZENITH, he would have struggled to enter the top ten. Yao Xuan's spiritual force, Yuhua Mavis's physical prowess, or Xia Jiuyou's Triple Blade Will would all have been enough to land a fatal blow on this patriarch.

The universe's top ten youths each possessed a combat power that would even surprise Envoys.

Lu Yin looked down at Xun Baitao as the patriarch gritted his teeth and lifted his head to stare back at Lu Yin. "You aren't poisoned?"

Lu Yin's mouth stretched into a smile. "What gave you the confidence to be so certain that I was poisoned?"

Xun Baitao's face went pale, and he slowly stood up. "How is that possible? Wait, were you ready for us? Who betrayed us?"

Lu Yin felt amused. "It seems that your confidence lay in your own ability to poison me. Tell me, do you remember my fight against Nightking Zhenwu? He also poisoned me, and he did so in a manner that was impossible to avoid. Since I suffered a loss at that time, how could I allow myself to suffer such a thing ever again?"

Xun Baitao became desperate; he had poisoned the two women that he had sent to Lu Yin, and as long as they touched Lu Yin, he was sure to be poisoned. Also, as an extra precaution, Lu Yin's seat had also been poisoned. It should have been impossible for Lu Yin to avoid the poison, and yet he had pulled it off. "How did you know that we would use poison?"

"Without poison, how else would you be able to handle me?" Lu Yin retorted.

Xun Baitao suddenly attacked. Star energy gathered at his hand in a strange arrangement, and he attacked Lu Yin with a palm. Lu Yin's eyes narrowed, and his pupils transformed into runes, weakening the approaching attack. At the same time, Lu Yin raised a hand: Vacuum Palm.

Boom!

There was a tremendous explosion, and the entire ship was torn apart. All of the nearby members of the Xun family were caught up in the shockwave, turning to dust. Xun Baitao demonstrated the strength of an expert with a power level of more than 400,000, but he could only resist the Vacuum Palm. Truesight weakened Xun Baitao's attacks to a power level of less than 400,000 while each of Lu Yin's Vacuum Palms contained a power level of more than 300,000.

The two palms collided, and Xun Baitao tried to use the power of Lu Yin's attack to escape. As for the rest of the members of the Xun family, he did not even think about them—not even his own son, Xun Jiong. Lu Yin sneered; Xun Baitao was truly a ruthless person. After a moment's thought, an astral chessboard appeared beneath Lu Yin's feet. Space became the board while Lu Yin, the ship itself, and Xun Baitao all became chess pieces. Lu Yin then moved the chess piece that was Xun Baitao.

The patriarch's vision changed yet again as he appeared right in front of Lu Yin. The worst thing was that Xun Baitao's back was facing Lu Yin.

The patriarch could not react to the speed of Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm, and his back erupted with pain. His bones instantly shattered, and his body bent into an unnatural U shape.

From the rest of the surrounding area, beams of light blasted at Lu Yin as the Xun family's battleships attacked him.

Lu Yin let out a cold snort as he unleashed his domain. It spread throughout the entire region, dispersing all of the incoming attacks. Lu Yin's massive domain was powerful enough to defeat normal Enlighteners, so there was no need to mention these battleships.

Wendy Yushan, Ku Wei, and the others all appeared in space and began attacking the surrounding vessels one by one. They were in Ascension Flowzone, which was the Xun family's territory, but the family did not have that many powerhouses, and none of them could stand up to Ku Wei and the others.

Lu Yin did not even bother dealing with such trash. Instead, he flashed over in front of Xun Baitao.

Another Vacuum Palm smashed Xun Baitao deep into a nearby barren planet. His body pierced through the gray rocks of the lifeless planet before descending the magma beneath the surface.

Xun Baitao collapsed, unable to move.

Lu Yin approached. "When the banquet started and you didn't mention Xun Qianye or that list, I already knew that there was a problem. You risked it all to kill me just because of a list that I might only know about. This is an impossible task with the powers that are behind me. You should be very clear about your Xun family's strength. Even if this plan had succeeded, your family would no longer have any place within the Fifth Mainland, and you would be hunted down throughout the entire universe for all eternity until you were completely exterminated. So, why even bother?"

Xun Baitao kept coughing up blood as he stared at Lu Yin with unwillingness filling his eyes.

Chapter 1328: Income

"Were you willing to assassinate me even with the risk of being completely annihilated? Who gave you the reassurance to do such a thing? They must have been able to promise your Xun family guaranteed safety and the chance to reach heights that you've never touched before, so who was it?" Lu Yin took another drink as he stared at Xun Baitao.

"If you don't tell me, I'll immediately erase your entire Xun family."

Xun Baitao smiled miserably. "If I tell you, will you not attack my Xun family? Lu Yin, I know you very well. Ever since the Inverse and Outverse reconnected, the entire family knows about the matter with Xun Qianye, and I knew that you would target us one day. This matter was delayed because you needed to make preparations but I knew that, as soon as you made your preparations, we would not be able to escape.

"And now that we've failed to kill you, you will definitely destroy my Xun family. There's no other outcome."

Lu Yin lightly commented, "As long as you tell me who ordered my death, I can leave a remnant of your Xun family behind so that your name will at least continue on."

Xun Baitao laughed loudly. "Do I need that from you? The moment I decided to try dealing with you, I made all of those preparations. I haven't lived until now just through sheer luck."

Lu Yin frowned. "So you don't want to live?"

Xun Baitao shook his head, helpless. "Everyone wants to live, but that's not in my future."

"You sought refuge from the Technocracy to raise your family to new heights?" Lu Yin asked.

Xun Baitao closed his eyes. "So was what I saw when I attacked you your creation? Lu Yin, you're quite clever, and I never even saw how you managed to avoid the poison. However, the brighter you shine, the more people will start targeting you. Sooner or later, you will follow down the same path as my Xun family."

After he spoke, Xun Baitao's stomach began to swell.

Lu Yin's expression changed. This was not good—the Enlighter was blowing himself up!

There was a massive explosion, and the entire planet shattered.

Off in the distance, Wendy Yushan and others looked over with worry-filled eyes.

Lu Yin stood in space, an ugly expression on his face. He had actually intended to take Xun Baitao's cosmic ring, and he had not expected the man to directly blow himself up. Even the patriarch's flesh and blood were gone.

Who had ordered the Xun family to take out Lu Yin?

It was common knowledge that the Xun family had a grudge against Lu Yin and that he was eager to take action against them as well. So who was confident enough to go against the Great Eastern Alliance, Leon's Armada, and even the Hall of Honor, who all stood behind Lu Yin?

Wait, the Hall of Honor?

Lu Yin's mind flashed, and he suddenly remembered something as he looked to the west.

Xun Baitao had died, and all of the nearby ships belonging to the Xun family had been destroyed, but Xun Jiong had been captured by Lu Yin's people.

Back inside his vessel, Lu Yin calmly sat down with Ku Wei behind him. In front of them, Xun Jiong was kneeling on the floor with a pale face and his head hung in terror. He was even shaking.

Wasn't Lu Yin poisoned? How can he be okay? Xun Jiong had believed that the matter had already been settled, but reality had turned out completely different from expected.

"Pick up your head," Lu Yin slowly said.

Xun Jiong trembled.

"Look up! Didn't you hear what the Alliance Leader said?" Ku Wei shouted.

Lu Yin was startled.

Xun Jiong's shaking became worse, though he was still intimidated into raising up his head, and he hesitatingly met Lu Yin's calm, cold eyes.

"Who ordered your Xun family to attack me? Or, let me rephrase the question, which VIPs has your Xun family recently hosted?" Lu Yin asked.

Xun Jiong was terrified. "No, no, no, I don't know! I don't know anything! My father asked me to invite you to an apology banquet! That's all that I knew about any of this."

Lu Yin laughed. "You didn't know that I would be poisoned?"

Xun Jiong opened his mouth, intending to lie, but upon seeing Lu Yin's cold eyes and smiling face, Xun Jiong laughed in complete despair. "Father... Father told me about that, but I don't know who ordered it. I thought that this was all because of that list, and I really don't know about anything beyond that."

Lu Yin stared at Xun Jiong and saw nothing in Xun Jiong's eyes aside from fear and despair.

Lu Yin let out a long breath. "Hand over all of the Xun family's resources and possessions."

"So can I- I- I live?" Xun Jiong asked in a trembling voice.

Ku Wei shouted, "You still want to negotiate terms?"

Xun Jiong shuddered, terrified, but he gritted his teeth and looked at Lu Yin with a determined expression. "I'll give you everything that the Xun family has, but you have to promise not to kill me."

"How bold!" Ku Wei shouted once again. He had fully adopted his self-appointed role as the fox with the tiger's power.¹

Lu Yin raised a hand to put a stop to Ku Wei ranting. "Yes, I won't kill you."

Xun Jiong gasped. "I'm not talking about just you, but also everyone following you or related to you."

Lu Yin's face fell.

Xun Jiong hurriedly continued, saying, "I'm the only one who can access all of my family's resources. We have more than 200 million star essence, as well as various power vessels and natural treasures. I only have one condition: no one from your side is allowed to take action against me, and that includes hiring hitmen."

Lu Yin was surprised; the Xun family had more wealth than the Blaze Realm?

However, after thinking about it for a moment, that made sense. The Blaze Realm had been one of the three major powers of Blazing Mist Flowzone, and they had many disciples and costly expenses. On the other hand, the Xun family needed to spend less, and they also sold many items that they made with their Gear Construction Technique. Their income would not be any worse than the Blaze Realm's. Thus, with these lower expenses, the Xun family's wealth would naturally surpass that of the Blaze Realm.

200 million star essence! This was a huge fortune.

At this time, news came in that Xun Jiong's brother, another direct descendant of the Xun family, had died. This was not related to Lu Yin's actions, but rather an unexplainable death.

Something stirred in Lu Yin's heart, and he turned to look at Xun Jiong. "Were you the one to kill your brother?"

Xun Jiong released a heavy breath as he nodded. "I saw Elder Xun Ye die, and so I took care of it then."

"So you personally killed your brother just to make sure that you would be the only one who could access the Xun family's resources? Then, you would become the most important bargaining chip during negotiations," Lu Yin dryly commented.

Ku Wei was surprised; this guy was smart and incredibly ruthless. Why was it hard to see that?

Xun Jiong did not deny anything, as Lu Yin had spoken the truth.

Lu Yin commented, "I didn't see it earlier, but you're actually pretty smart, and you are certainly vicious enough. Alright, I'll agree to your conditions, but I have a condition of my own."

Xun Jiong looked forward to hearing Lu Yin's condition, as he was not afraid of anything that Lu Yin could propose. As long as the conditions were given, it would be an assurance that Xun Jiong could survive.

"You can't stay in the Fifth Mainland. I'll give you a chance to survive and achieve something commendable: go to the Upper Realm and survive. If you can find someone from the Xun family, I can even let you back into the Fifth Mainland and will even support you. Then, you can rebuild the Xun family," Lu Yin said.

Xun Jiong felt confused. "What Xun family?"

Lu Yin laughed. "Your father, Xun Baitao, sent out members of your Xun family before trying to deal with me, just to ensure that your family's lineage would not die out. You didn't know about this?"

Xun Jiong's expression changed drastically, and a deep-seated hatred appeared in his eyes. He had truly not known about this, but this meant that his father had been willing to allow him, Xun Jiong, to die

while ensuring that the others survived. As of this moment, the hatred Xun Jiong had for Xun Baitao, was more than his hatred for Lu Yin. This was just how some people were—selfish without limit, always thinking for themselves. His hatred grew from Xun Baitao to all the members of the Xun family who were being protected

Xun Jiong knew that his father must have sent out an illegitimate child, but he also realized that this meant that an illegitimate child was more valuable than Xun Jiong's own life. Hatred clouded the youth's eyes.

Lu Yin felt very satisfied with what he saw in Xun Jiong's eyes, and he waved a hand. "Go and gather those resources. Then, you can head out. Remember, if you are able to accomplish something worthwhile, I'll support you in rebuilding your Xun family, and you will even be allowed to follow under my command."

Xun Jiong quickly replied, "Thank you, Alliance Leader Lu. I understand. I will definitely find the members of my Xun family who were sent out. Alliance Leader Lu can rest assured."

After Xun Jiong finished speaking, he was led away by Cool Sis.

Lu Yin stared at Xun Jiong's back as he left, but he did not harbor much hope. Still, it was better than nothing, and Xun Jiong was like a mad dog. Thus, it was not actually a bad thing to send out such a creature out to attack others.

The Xun family had colluded with the Technocracy, and they had even been supported by the Sixth Mainland. Thus, the Sixth Mainland seemed to be the most likely culprit for sending down the orders for Lu Yin's assassination. Only the Sixth Mainland was unafraid of the Hall of Honor.

During ZENITH, the Progenitor of Combat had personally intervened in the competition to stop Shang Qing from fighting against everyone else all at once. That had allowed Lu Yin to see the Progenitor of Combat's fear and hatred towards the Fifth Mainland.

Lu Yin would not be at all surprised if the Sixth Mainland was confirmed to have ordered the Xun family to assassinate him.

Lu Yin was just hoping that the Progenitor of Combat had not given the order himself. If that was the case, then the next one to be sent after Lu Yin would not be a power on the level of the Xun family, but rather an Envoy realm powerhouse at the very least.

The cruelty of the universe could be seen every second. As Lu Yin's vessel continued on its way to Blazing Mist Flowzone, it was backlit by the Xun family's homeplanet. Cracks appeared across the planet as it was destroyed, along with the entire family.

Xun Jiong then took the Xun family's entire wealth and delivered it to Lu Yin. As he had said before, the amount of star essence in the family's possession had been 200 million. As for the rest of the family's valuables, they had been stored in a cosmic ring, and they would be sold along with the treasures that Lu Yin had gained from the Blaze Realm.

The whole universe was aware of Lu Yin's love of money, but no one had ever seen how he spent his wealth. All that was known was that Lu Yin acted as though he never had enough funds.

After suddenly coming across such a large influx of money, Lu Yin was in a wonderful mood, and Ku Wei was feeling greatly relieved.

Ku Wei was not sure why Lu Yin was not in any sort of hurry, but it made Ku Wei feel quite nervous. After seeing Lu Yin come across such a large amount of money, Ku Wei felt that he could finally let out a sigh of relief.

"Seventh Bro, why did you let that kid go? That wasn't good. You need to keep him in order to get your revenge," Ku Wei mentioned.

Lu Yin stared out into space. "Someone from the Xun family escaped, and he can find them for us. He doesn't care about blood or family, and he even killed his little brother. He only cares about himself, and he hopes to become the next patriarch of the Xun family, especially if he can rebuild his family, as that would be enough for him to leave his name in history. That's a temptation that he can't resist."

"Seventh Bro is so wise! This means that he can find the mastermind behind the Xun family's assassination attempt. Seventh Bro is so smart—you take one step to move three steps forward!" Ku Wei immediately began to wildly flatter Lu Yin.

The destruction of the Xun family was not some minor bit of news for the Inniverse. When major powers discovered that Lu Yin was the one behind it, they all fell silent.

Even the powerful families that had been close to the Xun family would not dare to touch Lu Yin's head at this point in time.

However, Lu Yin did not want to give off the impression that he had become tyrannical, unreasonable, and cruel. Thus, he had Xun Jiong cooperate and provide a recording of the evidence before the youth left, and Lu Yin used that recording as an explanation.

Anyone who climbed too high could easily suffer from being targeted by everyone. Lu Yin preferred to silently gather a fortune, but unfortunately, this was never possible for him. Still, he would rather not become everyone's universal enemy.

Even in the Inniverse, the Xun family was not considered weak, and their destruction could easily cause people to panic. Providing the public with a reason why he had moved against the family was enough to appease many people, and it also help prevent various parties from looking to make trouble for the Great Eastern Alliance

Lu Yin's gadget beeped a notification; Huan Sha was calling him to share some recent good news with him.

Lu Yin had taken first place in ZENITH, and he had proved his invincibility within the younger generation. He was truly peerless. The seventy-two territories of the Outerverse had been congratulating each other, and they had sent Lu Yin congratulatory gifts with the total value coming out to be more than 30 million star essence.

[1] This is an idiom that comes from a story OMA shared:

A tiger caught a fox while it was searching food in the forest. When the tiger was just about to eat it, the fox suddenly spoke, "Mr. Tiger, no hurries. Please listen to me. I was sent by Heaven to rule the animals. By eating me, you will violate the command of Heaven." The tiger was half in belief and half in doubt. The fox then continued, "If you don't believe me, just follow me to see whether the animals are afraid of me." The tiger thought it was better to give it a try, so it followed the fox through the forest.

Two spotted deer immediately ran away on seeing them; Rabbits and sheep also disappeared at once when they saw the fox and the tiger; Even the wild boar and bear hid. The tiger didn't realize that it was him that the beasts were really afraid of and let go of the fox.

This idiom is a story about "The Fox Assuming the Majesty of the Tiger." It is used to refer to those who bully or frighten others by relying on other people's power.

Chapter 1329: A Sudden Attack

Lu Yin was feeling quite satisfied right now. After all, the Outerverse normally used star crystals, and thirty million star essence was the equivalent of a truly astronomical number of star crystals. This was a massive gift from the major powers of the Outerverse.

Right after the call with Huan Sha, Lu Yin received a call from Wei Rong that had more good news for Lu Yin. The Innaverse's flowzones had also sent their congratulations to Lu Yin for winning ZENITH—their gifts totaled more than fifty million in star essence.

Lu Yin ended up short of breath when he heard this news. He had suddenly received nearly a hundred million star essence, which was an unimaginable amount. Even if one of the eight great flowzones received this amount, it would still be considered an astronomical sum.

This was also just what the smaller flowzones had sent him, as the eight great flowzones had been even more generous, sending Lu Yin another 200 million star essence themselves.

Lu Yin was not happy about this. He could see what was happening. The Innaverse was trying to buy him off. No matter how much a single person could spend, there would always be a limit, and although Lu Yin was known for his covetous nature, he had never been known to spend almost anything. These people were being quite clever.

Since Lu Yin liked money, they intended to feed him with wealth until he was fully sated. Besides, Lu Yin never spent his money, so sending him such gifts was clearly better than sending him power vessels or battle techniques that could directly increase his strength. What would he do with so much money? Decorate his house with it?

To these people, the most important detail was that Lu Yin never spent his money. Thus, if anything happened to him in the future, the money would still be there, which meant that these people were essentially treating Lu Yin as an alternative bank.

Sending Lu Yin gifts was like opening a savings account.

Wang Wen smiled brightly, but he behaved very humbly. "As far as those people are concerned, this money isn't enough for them to get excited about, but if it's able to satisfy you for a bit, then in their minds, it's money well spent."

Lu Yin knew that Wang Wen was laughing at him, but how could anyone know how Lu Yin used money?

No matter what people thought of him, it was better if Lu Yin was treated as a piggy bank. The more money he had, the faster his strength would rise.

If any of these people discovered that Lu Yin's power was directly related to money, he believed that every single one of them would regret their gift even on their deathbeds.

"Get rid of that smile. I've got my own uses for this money," Lu Yin said in a breathless voice.

Wang Wen smiled and replied, "It doesn't matter. It's never bad to have more money."

Lu Yin instantly grew vigilant. "What do you want? I won't even give you a penny of my money."

Wang Wen was momentarily stunned, and he looked at Lu Yin oddly. "You don't really have some weird fetish like everyone is saying, do you?"

Lu Yin did not bother explaining himself. "Before ZENITH, you said that arrangements were being made. How are things going?"

At this sudden change of topic, Wang Wen felt rather helpless. "All of my arrangements were based on you placing in the top three, but then you went and won the whole damn thing. The spotlight's completely on you right now, so the plans have to be adjusted."

Lu Yin's brows rose up. "Before ZENITH, I remember that you were very confident in me and that everything was being set up on the basis of me taking first."

"That was just us talking. You have to realize that your goal of becoming the champion was just too unreal. So..." Wang Wen was feeling rather embarrassed and a little humiliated. This was the first time that he had been so off in a prediction. Although it was a good thing that Lu Yin had won, Wang Wen's expectations had been crushed.

Who would have thought that Lu Yin would actually place first in ZENITH?

"Right now, you're too conspicuous. The entire universe is staring at you, so I plan to have the Great Eastern Alliance withdraw from Blazing Mist Flowzone as a demonstration of our good will. Then, we will slowly infiltrate the Inniverse from another direction without waging war. We'll use a different means rather than having the entire universe focus on us," Wang Wen explained.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed. "What does that mean?"

"I've already sent out Qiong Xi'er."

"Economical means?"

"Do you remember Brightstar Corp.? I remember you once speaking to a woman from there, and she explained to you how the large corporations in the Inniverse are run and how they are completely different from Outerverse companies. No matter how rich these Outerverse companies might be, they are still only considered plebeian. They are wealth-gathering tools for the Inniverse forces, and they have no independent rights. In the Inniverse, corporations attract the least attention, which means that they are the most easily infiltrated."

Lu Yin remembered that Leng Yan had mentioned that Brightstar Corp. was indeed one of the Inniverse's top companies, and it was a subsidiary of some massive consortium at that. A company's status in the Inniverse could not compare to the status that the four conglomerates enjoyed in the Outerverse, and it was all because these Inniverse companies were not allowed to have any powerhouses of their own.

The money that these companies earned had to be handed over to the forces behind them, which meant that the Inniverse corporations were miserable existences firmly under the control of others.

Lu Yin had only mentioned this matter to Wang Wen once, and he had not expected Wang Wen to make a note of it and eventually use it as a starting point for their invasion of the Inniverse.

At the mention of Qiong Xi'er, Lu Yin remembered how, when the Tyrannical Weave had finally connected to the rest of the Outerverse during the period of time when the Outerverse and Inniverse had been isolated, Qiong Xi'er had demonstrated her expertise for gathering wealth. Lu Yin suddenly gained confidence in this plan.

Qiong Xi'er, Wang Wen, and Wei Rong were more than qualified to do business with the Inniverse, and if the Great Eastern Alliance pulled out of Blazing Mist Flowzone, then many of the major Inniverse powers would relax. Even the sylvan dragon clan and Ross Empire would lose their motivation for continuing their enmity with the Great Eastern Alliance.

"If the Great Eastern Alliance pulls out of Blazing Mist Flowzone, then where will we go? Retreat back to the Outerverse?" Lu Yin asked.

Wang Wen shook his head. "I finally got into the Inniverse, so how can I just leave? There's a small flowzone between Venom Flowzone and Blazing Mist Flowzone known as the Fennel Flowzone. This place is referred to as the gateway to Venom Flowzone, and basically all the cultivators who want to enter Venom Flowzone to find poisonous insects or anything else need to pass through the Fennel Flowzone. So even though it's small, it's quite busy.

"That place can become the territory of our Great Eastern Alliance. After all, it's relatively small and unattractive, and you can also return to Blazing Mist Flowzone at any time from there. It's in a position that flanks Blazing Mist Flowzone with the Outerverse. Also, it's easily defendable with Venom Flowzone at its rear. If anything happens, it would be very difficult for anyone to defeat Fennel Flowzone, as everything that happens there is at the whim of Venom Flowzone."

"Will Venom Flowzone give us Fennel Flowzone that easily?" Lu Yin asked.

Wang Wen smiled and explained, "Regardless of where the Flowzone is located, our Great Eastern Alliance is nowhere close to being able to threaten that place, and it's even more impossible for us to stop their people from leaving. As far as they're concerned, we're the best gatekeepers that they could hope for."

Lu Yin immediately understood that this scheme was trying to take advantage of Venom Flowzone's power in order to intimidate the Sword Sect and the other top Inniverse powers.

However, while the rest of the universe would see things this way, it was not necessarily true. The real purpose behind this plan was to gradually allow the Great Eastern Alliance's influence to infiltrate the Inniverse and create opportunities for Qiong Xi'er.

The entire plan was just a distraction.

"In terms of the economical plan, where are you planning to start? That massive consortium?" Lu Yin asked. At this moment, his screen warped and disappeared—the signal had been cut off. Lu Yin was surprised, as this gadget had been specially given to him by CyNet, and it was supposed to have an impeccable reception. It was not anywhere close to being in the same category as a regular gadget, so how could it lose signal?

Suddenly, the entire ship trembled. Lu Yin frowned and looked out into space. His pupils instantly shrank to pinpricks, and his face went pale.

Outside, outer space had completely shattered, and it looked as though they had entered an entirely different pocket of space. As Lu Yin looked out into the fractured sky, he saw a familiar sight that made his scalp go numb: a doll. This was one of Shaman God's dolls.

Upon seeing Shaman God's doll, Lu Yin felt as though he had fallen into the abyss. As if he had taken a step over the edge of a cliff.

He immediately put on his universal armor and yelled out, "RUN!"

After shouting, he emerged from the ship with the walnut-shaped power vessel that he had received from Yuan Shi. He also took out the sourcebox array, Desolate Array, that Highsage Grandmaster had given him. Lu Yin stared fearfully at Shaman God's doll.

Back inside the spacecraft, the others had no idea what had happened, except for Ku Wei. When he looked out and saw Shaman God's doll, he was also overcome with despair.

Shaman God's doll floated in space, a strange smile on its face. All of the surrounding space had been locked down along with Lu Yin's ship, and the ship was unable to move.

Lu Yin gritted his teeth. This was the end. He had no chance. This person was one of the Neohuman Alliance's Seven Skygods. Each of them was an ultimate powerhouse who stood at the pinnacle of the universe. How could Lu Yin attack such a person? As for Mister Mu, how could he appear? Lu Yin no longer had a jade talisman, and without one, he had no way to call for Mister Mu.

At this moment, numerous thoughts raced through Lu Yin's mind as he stared at Shaman God's doll. Lu Yin's back was soaked with sweat.

Lu Yin had many options and backups for a myriad of situations, but he would always be a struggling ant if he went against this person. What could this old monster's power level be? A million? That had to be the minimum. At the very least, Lu Yin was confident that Yuan Shi could not challenge this monster.

Who could save him? Who?

The visible universe grew much brighter, and the shattered space around them seemed to open up like dark clouds parting as a beam of light shone down on Shaman God's doll. He looked like the harbinger of death.

A strange laughter echoed out that made every living thing tremble. There were all kinds of creatures hiding in outer space. No matter if they were a person, astral beast, insect, or some massive space creature, they all cowered in fear and despair as they were overcome with terror.

"Gaga, little guy, it's time to go home. We're heading back to Aeternus. That's where you belong, so let's go, gaga," Shaman God had a strange smile as he looked down at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin gritted his teeth. "Old monster, if you take me, the Hall of Honor will definitely do their best to save me and your Aeternus will be destroyed."

"Gaga, if the Hall of Honor was able to destroy Aeternus, then they would have done so long ago. Kid, are you trying to threaten me?" Shaman God's voice turned ice cold.

Lu Yin stared at Shaman God's doll while continuously calling out to Mister Mu in his heart.

"What are you trying to do by kidnapping me? I'm just a Hunter, and not worthy enough for one of the mighty Seven Skygods to act personally and capture me." Lu Yin asked. He was just stalling for time.

Shaman God's doll stared at Lu Yin with cold eyes, and Lu Yin shivered as he looked back at them. "Let's go home. You're invaluable for our research. After all, you've inherited that power."

Lu Yin desperately wanted to use the walnut-shaped power vessel, but he quickly discovered that he could not move a muscle. He was utterly helpless when faced with one of the Seven Skygods.

He felt even more powerless than a normal person would when facing a cultivator.

Inside the spaceship, no one could move, and they could only helplessly watch on as Lu Yin was taken away.

Suddenly, there was a loud shout, and the shattered region of space trembled. A startled look appeared on Shaman God's doll, and it immediately raised a hand to grab Lu Yin, but an old man suddenly appeared before Lu Yin. The old man looked up.

"Still playing your tricks," he said as he raised a hand. "Thousand Rivers Return to Sea."

This was the secret technique of Eversky Island, Thousand Rivers Return to Sea. It was able to transform an enemy's attack back into star energy and erase the power of the attack.

Eversky Island's Highsage Grandmaster was the person in front of Lu Yin.

Shaman God's doll looked furious. "The little kiddo from back then now has the courage to step up?"

"Old ghost, you should just die!" Highsage Grandmaster shouted back.

An overpowering force was unleashed, and Lu Yin was slammed back into his spaceship. His internal organs were jostled, and he almost spat out a mouthful of blood. When he looked back up, he could only see that the entire universe seemed to be shaking. The galaxy and even the flowzone that they

were in were under the effects of their clash, and Lu Yin could not tell how far the influence of these two had spread.

Chapter 1330: Meeting

At this moment, Lu Yin and everyone else were all insignificant ants.

Lu Yin had placed first in ZENITH, but he was still nothing more than an insect before this overwhelming power.

Wendy Yushan and others tightly grabbed onto the spaceship to keep it from collapsing.

After a while, the universe grew calm once again.

Everyone looked out of the vessel in shock, and Ku Wei gulped nervously. Highsage Grandmaster has to win. He has to! Otherwise, everything's over.

Space outside the ship had fallen completely silent, but all of the nearby stars had shattered into blackholes. It was an incredible scene to witness.

Lu Yin was panting heavily. His pupils transformed into runes as he scanned the area.

"So you're not afraid of going blind." A voice spoke up from behind everyone, startling Ku Wei so badly that he almost had a heart attack.

Lu Yin whirled around, only to see that it was Highsage Grandmaster. Lu Yin let out a sigh of relief and then quickly asked, "Senior Highsage Grandmaster, where is Shaman God?"

Highsage Grandmaster straightened out his clothes. "He left. That old monster is quite a difficult opponent."

Lu Yin let out a sigh of relief.

Everyone else did the same.

"Senior Grandmaster is incredibly powerful! Invincible in the universe!" Ku Wei reflexively started flattering the old man. It had become an instinct for him by this point.

Lu Yin bowed to the old man. "Thank you, Senior Grandmaster, for your help."

Lu Yin had been truly desperate when Shaman God's doll appeared.

Highsage Grandmaster just waved a hand. "You're welcome. I've dealt with this kind of thing before."

Lu Yin grew curious. "You've already seen this before?"

Highsage Grandmaster did not say much in response, and instead warned Lu Yin. "You're not the only one to be targeted. All of the other kids who entered the top ten are also being attacked by the Neohuman Alliance. It's impossible for them to leave you alone since you've won this opportunity, so this old man will be staying nearby to protect you for a while."

Hearing Highsage Grandmaster's words filled Lu Yin with relief. With this ancient powerhouse present, Lu Yin had no reason to be afraid of Shaman God.

So, was everyone else being attacked too? It appeared that the opportunity that they had won was truly precious, as it was even enough to make the Neohuman Alliance afraid.

For the Neohuman Alliance to be so scared as to send out the Seven Skygods and for the Hall of Honor to use people like Higsage Grandmaster as bodyguards, it seemed that the rumors had been accurate this time. The opportunity awarded to ZENITH's top ten was indeed related to the Progenitor realm.

Nobody from the Fifth Mainland had become a Progenitor ever since the ancient war with the Sixth Mainland. The Hall of Honor was desperate to gain a Progenitor, as such a powerhouse was their only hope of surviving.

Just as Higsage Grandmaster had said, when Shaman God had attacked Lu Yin, the other top ten members were also being attacked.

In the sky above the Cosmic Sea, a corpse king stood with a foot in two different regions of the sea, but the water of the Cosmic Sea did not even reach the creature's knees. Every time it moved, the entire Cosmic Sea churned.

The Cosmic Sea was home to numerous bizarre weather patterns, and there were also four great pirate crews. However, none of that could pose any threat to this corpse king as it was one of the Seven Skygods.

Across from Corpse God stood Qinmei Mavis with Yuhua Mavis behind her. Qinmei Mavis's face was pale. She had not expected to encounter one of the Seven Skygods on their way back to the Neoverse. This corpse king was not something that she could challenge. She could not even look up at the creature.

Corpse God raised a hand and reached out for Yuhua Mavis, his scarlet eyes like two dark red suns as his hand overshadowed the sky of the Cosmic Sea.

"Corpse God, stop!" There was a stern shout as the entire region turned green. A massive pair of eyes looked back at Corpse God's scarlet eyes, causing the dark red and green colors to compete for dominance.

Qinmei Mavis and others were delighted and surprised. "Elder Lingzhi."

"Little girl, in that year, I didn't kill. Now, you're strong. Come stop me, try," Corpse God haltingly said. He spoke in the same broken and confusing manner as all corpse kings.

Lingzhi Mavis was the oldest of the Mavis family's elite powerhouses, and she was even one of the Fifth Mainland's seven Semi-Progenitors. However, she still looked like a young woman.

"Old freak, why don't you all just die?" Lingzhi Mavis fiercely shouted back. Everyone in the Mavis family was the same; no matter how gentle they might outwardly appear to be, every last one of them was hot-blooded.

Boom!

The Cosmic Sea roared, and shockwaves overturned the sea.

In the distance, the battleships belonging to Leon's Armada swayed and almost capsized due to the surging waves.

Even Highsage Leon himself was helpless at this time. They had just returned from the Innerverse, and they had not even settled in yet when this fight had suddenly broken out. There was no place for Highsage Leon in this fight, and he did not dare to get himself involved.

When a true top powerhouse appeared, even the four pirate crews were useless.

In the Neoverse, the group from the Cosmic Sect was also attacked, and another one of the Seven Skygods targeted them: Undying God. Fortunately, the Cosmic Sect also had one of the Fifth Mainland's seven Semi-Progenitors among their elders, and that elder managed to save Qiu Shi.

The Hall of Honor had actually expected the Seven Skygods to focus their attacks on the Fifth Mainland's youths who had entered ZENITH's top ten, but they had guessed incorrectly.

The Hall of Honor soon received a message that shocked them all: one of the Sixth Mainland's Daosource Three Skies, Bu Kong, had died.

This news shocked both the Sixth and Fifth Mainlands.

Bu Kong had been one of the Sixth Mainland's Daosource Three Skies, and thus, he had naturally been well protected as the disciple of one of the Sixth Mainland's Three Progenitors, the Progenitor of Secret Arts. Despite that, the Neohuman Alliance had still managed to kill Bu Kong.

The Hall of Honor could only imagine the Progenitor of Secret Arts' rage at this moment.

No one had expected the Neohuman Alliance's Seven Skygods to attack anyone from the Sixth Mainland. After all, the Neohuman Alliance had even cooperated with the Sixth Mainland in the past.

The Progenitor of Secret Arts had clearly not considered such a possibility occurring, and so, Bu Kong had tragically died.

When Lu Yin heard this news, he fell silent.

No matter if Bu Kong had been a friend or foe, it was a fact that Bu Kong had been one of the most talented humans in the entire universe. He had mastered numerous secret techniques and even comprehended a sourcebox array. It would be difficult to imagine what heights he would have reached in the future, but he had died here.

However, although Lu Yin felt a bit sad at hearing Bu Kong's passing, he did not feel much regret.

Despite his own nonchalance, Lu Yin could imagine the anger of the Progenitor of Secret Arts.

"Not only was Bu Kong killed, but Wu Taibai was also attacked and seriously injured. It's unknown if Wang Yi is dead or alive," Highsage Grandmaster continued in a rather despondent tone.

Lu Yin frowned. "So the Neohuman Alliance deliberately sent the Seven Skygods to attack us first in order to lower the Sixth Mainland's vigilance. Their real target was always the Sixth Mainland."

Highsage Grandmaster shook his head. "Their true target is all of humanity, not a particular mainland. After all these years, we have grasped a good understanding of the Neohuman Alliance. We already

knew that they would target you and Qiu Shi, but neither of those attacks were likely to succeed, as a few of us old ones would definitely be protecting you. Given the situation, they were only able to focus on the Sixth Mainland."

"So they'll just pick us off one by one, huh?" Lu Yin asked.

Highsage Grandmaster nodded, but he stared off into space with a complicated expression. "Only by joining forces can you have any real hope, and that hope lessens with every death. Fortunately, there are many talented youths in your generation, and even if Bu Kong has been lost, the Sixth Mainland can replace him with Zhi Yi."

"What about Wang Yi?" Lu Yin asked.

Highsage Grandmaster shook his head. "I don't know if he's dead or not. If he can't make it to the Neoverse by the appointed time, then he can only be replaced."

After Lu Yin heard this explanation, he suddenly looked over at Highsage Grandmaster. This was not good. If both he and Highsage Grandmaster could think of such possibilities, then how could it have not occurred to the Neohuman Alliance?

The current younger generation was shining too brightly, and it had caused the Hall of Honor to ignore the possibility that other people would also be attacked. It had to be admitted that, while Yōu Qi, Liu Tianmu, Unseen Light, and Starsibyl had not qualified to enter ZENITH's top ten, they had not lost by much. All of them were fully qualified to replace Wang Yi or any of the others in this opportunity to compete to change their destiny.

The Neohuman Alliance might have already made a move.

However, the situation regarding the others had little to do with Lu Yin, and he did not have the luxury to worry about others.

Before long, another call came through, and Lu Yin immediately accepted. An absolutely stunning woman appeared on his screen. She was Fei Liu, the captain of one of the seven crews under Leon's Armada. Lu Yin had met this captain once before, and he had been told to call her Sister Fei.

"Little Lu, I still can't find out who was behind that bookkeeper," Sister Fei said.

Lu Yin's heart fell. "How much of the payout was left behind?"

"I got there in time to find almost 360 million star essence still there," Sister Fei said.

After ZENITH started, Lu Yin had called Leon's Armada and asked Highsage Leon to send someone to find the largest bookkeeper for him to place his bets. He had specifically gone through Leon's Armada, as he had been afraid that the bookkeeper would take off without paying if Lu Yin won his bet.

His worries had proven true, and Leon's Armada had moved quickly. They had located the bookkeeper during ZENITH, and Sister Fei had personally kept an eye on them.

However, they had still been one step behind. The bookkeeper had already transferred the majority of the funds, and if Sister Fei had not acted as quickly as she had, then not even 300 million star essence would have been left over.

"Sister Fei, can you really not find out who's behind that bookkeeper?" Lu Yin was not willing to accept this loss. He had bet 100 million star essence on himself at ten to one odds, which meant that he should have won a billion star essence. However, all he had ended up with was 300 million left. On top of that, he could not even claim the entire 300 million, as Leon's Armada had been the one to locate the money, which meant that they were entitled to at least half and likely more.

There were still many accounts to settle. Besides that, Leon's Armada was a band of pirates, and High Sage Leon himself was the Pirate King.

Sister Fei rolled her eyes. "I want to find them even more than you. Do you think that you're the only one who placed bets with them? A lot of people have lost their money."

Lu Yin frowned. The reason why this bookkeeper had been regarded as the largest and most trustworthy was that the gambling funds had been directly deposited into the Mavis Bank, and a full one billion star essence had been borrowed from the Mavis Bank.

This billion star essence had been what the bookkeeper had used as a guarantee to reassure people into placing bets. As long as anyone had proof of their bet and winnings, they would be able to collect their winnings straight from the Mavis Bank itself. It was very simple.

Since the betting had been done in such an open manner, there was essentially no risk of reneging. However, nobody had expected Lu Yin to bet so much and even win. He had actually won a billion star essence! Thus, the loan was only enough to pay just him back, and there were many others who also needed to be paid. The bookkeeper had taken a terrible loss, and they had naturally not been willing to accept it.

Without Lu Yin's wager, the billion star essence would have been more than plenty to pay off all of the other winners. Even after paying off the interest on the Mavis Bank loan, the bookkeeper would have been sitting on a few hundred million or more in profit without any issue.

But Lu Yin had won.

The people behind the bookkeeper had simply fled. As for the billion star essence held by the Mavis Bank, no one was able to touch it without proof of their wagers from the bookkeeper. The bookkeeper had to pay the bank yearly interest on the loan, but the wagers that they had collected were enough to pay the interest fees for countless years.

The unlucky ones were those who had placed bets and won, as all of their money was gone without their initial bet being paid back. More importantly, no one knew who was behind the bookkeeper.

Lu Yin called Lulu Mavis, hoping to use his relationship with her to get access to some of the Mavis Bank's internal records, but he was quickly told that that was impossible. The Mavis Bank had to maintain their clients' confidentiality no matter what. Besides, the Mavis Bank had not suffered a loss in this situation, as they would still collect annual interest on that billion star essence loan, which was a substantial amount of money.

Having to eat the loss of hundreds of millions of star essence, Lu Yin felt frustrated to the point where he wanted to vomit blood.

All the money that Lu Yin had earned over these many years could not amount to what he had lost in this incident. No—he had to find out who had stolen from him. No matter what it took, he would get his billion star essence back, even if he had to take it from the Mavis Bank itself. Lu Yin would not accept anything less.