

Chapter 1331: Treasure Of The Ages

"You should know that it's impossible to gain access to the Mavis Bank's records. Even if it weren't you, their own clan members have no such rights either. If anything was leaked, there would be catastrophic consequences for them to bear. No one can afford to risk such a thing, as they would have to bear the full force of the Mavis family's wrath," Sister Fei warned Lu Yin. After all, he was asking about information that would affect the credibility of the Mavis Bank, and that was something worth far more than just a billion star essence.

Lu Yin nodded helplessly. "I know. Thank you, Sister Fei."

Sister Fei nodded. "You've gambled 100 million star essence, and you'll get it back with even a small profit. You aren't suffering any loss, so don't worry about it."

Lu Yin pursed his lips. He was actually being encouraged to let something go by a pirate. "I understand, Sister Fei."

After hanging up, Ku Wei spoke up from behind Lu Yin, still unwilling to accept things. "Seventh Bro, are you just going to let those bastards run away with your money? They should know that anyone who dares to steal from you will die!"

"Who do you think would qualify to borrow a billion star essence from the Mavis Bank in a single loan?" Lu Yin asked.

Ku Wei shook his head. "There are too many people. Just to start off, there are the leaders of the Inverse's eight great flowzones, people in the Cosmic Sea, the Neoverse, and even the Hall of Honor. Even you, Seventh Bro. Given your current status, you could definitely get such a loan. It's actually pretty easy to take a loan of a billion star essence from the Mavis Bank."

Lu Yin's heart skipped a beat. He had forgotten about this option. It was true, he could indeed take out a loan himself. Perhaps he should try it sometime when he found himself short on funds.

Of the 360 million star essence recovered from the bookkeeper, Sister Fei took 160 million back to the Cosmic Sea for Leon's Armada while the other 200 million was given over to Lu Yin and directly sent back to the Blaze Realm.

As of this moment, Lu Yin's total assets amounted to 700 million star essence, 100 million of which was from his initial bet.

700 million star essence was more than what Lu Yin had ever possessed before. It was so, so much money, and he was extremely wealthy! No, he had to keep a low profile and not act ostentatiously.

When he thought about how he had almost lost 900 million star essence, his heart twitched.

It was a relatively short trip from the Blaze Realm to Ascension Flowzone, though it was necessary to pass through Venom Flowzone. Lu Yin specifically ordered the ship to pass through Fennel Flowzone so that he could take a look before arriving in Blazing Mist Flowzone.

At this moment, Blazing Mist Flowzone was completely different from before. Without the arrogant Blaze Realm disciples present, the sylvan dragon clan and the Ross Empire had subconsciously joined forces and erected a line of defense along the Blaze Realm's southern side to stop the Great Eastern Alliance from attacking them.

Leon's Armada had already returned to the Cosmic Sea, and Lu Yin was unable to do anything to the two powers of Blazing Mist Flowzone, as he was still unable to stand up to their two Envoys.

However, the other two parties also did not dare to do anything to Lu Yin either.

Lu Yin had become the champion of ZENITH, and after that, the Hall of Honor had immediately warned everyone against targeting him, which was one of the reasons why Highsage Leon had been reassured enough to return to the Cosmic Sea.

Highsage Grandmaster had also disappeared. Lu Yin had wanted to host the old man, but Highsage Grandmaster had not remained in contact, and Lu Yin had no idea where the old man had gone. However, Lu Yin was confident that, if he met another mishap, Highsage Grandmaster would definitely reappear.

Shortly after returning to the Blaze Realm, Lu Yin was talking with Wei Rong about withdrawing from Blazing Mist Flowzone when he received a call from someone familiar. He was genuinely surprised by who was reaching out to him: Starsibyl.

Lu Yin had not expected her to suddenly contact him.

Starsibyl's performance during ZENITH had been quite good, and honestly, Lu Yin had been surprised. In his mind, Starsibyl had become a potential threat.

"Brother Lu, do you have a moment? Why don't you visit the Starsibyl Sect?" The moment Starsibyl saw Lu Yin's face, she instantly offered him an invitation.

Lu Yin was caught off guard. "The Starsibyl Sect?"

Starsibyl smiled. "The Starsibyl Sect officially invites Brother Lu for a visit."

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A few days later, Lu Yin stood in outer space with his hands clasped behind his back as he pondered things.

After receiving an invitation from the Starsibyl Sect, he had naturally gone for a visit.

Everyone in the universe who knew of the Starsibyl Sect would be cautious of them. After all, even normal people would not underestimate a fortune-teller, as this was something that involved the realm of the future, and Lu Yin was no different.

He had not originally believed in their divination abilities, but then Starsibyl had somehow correctly deduced that the Sea King had stolen a huge batch of the pyrolyte. No one had had any clues, and only the Starsibyl Sect had been able to uncover the truth.

Starsibyl's divination abilities were also astounding in battle. Lu Yin could not understand her battle technique known as Calculations of the Abacus, and he was quite curious about it. He actually had a powerful urge to debunk their so-called "divination."

That was something that ordinary people believed in! However, if it was impossible to understand their methods and one ended up actually believing in divination, then one would absolutely become more cautious towards a power like the Starsibyl Sect. In fact, one would even develop a sense of awe towards them.

The Starsibyl Sect was located in the Innerverses' Little Millenium Flowzone, and Little Millenium Flowzone lay between Venom Flowzone, First Flowzone, and Daynight Flowzone. This was an intersection between three of the Innerverses' major powers.

Little Millenium Flowzone was a bit different from all the other small flowzones, as it was unknown whether the place had been deliberately arranged by someone or had simply naturally formed. The entire flowzone had 108 tributary astral rivers that wrapped around the flowzone in layers, making it look like it was covered by a vortex. If one drew a map, it would actually look like a bullseye.

At the center of the 108 tributary astral rivers was the Starsibyl Sect. The stars within Little Millenium Flowzone were surrounded by the tributaries, and they lay in a pattern that seemed natural, but also unnatural.

The moment Lu Yin entered Little Millenium Flowzone, it was clear that these astral river tributaries were perfectly normal, but for some reason, Lu Yin felt that they had been arranged in some strange meaning.

Lu Yin let out a breath. He had already entered Little Millenium Flowzone, and he was very close to the Starsibyl Sect now.

During his trip, Lu Yin had also received a call from the Yōu family, which was a group that he had never met before. They were a part of the Seven Courts' Yōu clan.

All of Lu Yin's recent calls had come from unexpected people, and the Yōu family had contacted him because they wished to join the Great Eastern Alliance.

Lu Yin had never even considered such a thing. The Yōu family was a well-known group within the Innerverses, and they were backed by the powerful Sword Sect. In fact, their family members had even married into the Sword Sect several times, but now, the family actually wanted to join the Great Eastern Alliance.

"The Sword Sect has already come to suspect that my Yōu family never truly parted ways with the Seven Courts' Yōu Clan, and so, their attitude towards us has completely changed. I ask Alliance Leader Lu to allow our Yōu family to join your Great Eastern Alliance.

"My Yōu family has truly broken away from the Court of Seven Names, and we only wish to live peaceful lives, but the Sword Sect won't allow us such peace. Revealing the Yōu Secret Art has triggered their jealousy and envy, and they clearly want to obtain our secret technique from us.

"Alliance Leader Lu, I swear that my Yōu family has no intention of returning to the Yōu clan, nor will I ever betray the Great Eastern Alliance. Even though the Sword Sect's attitude has changed greatly, my

Yōu family does not truly wish to part ways with them, but we hope that someone can offer us protection and peace.

"I chose the Great Eastern Alliance because, rather than being a single powerful group or family, it is an alliance with varied interests. This does not present any threat to my isolated family. Alliance Leader Lu's future is limitless, and you can even rely on the Hall of Honor, as well as Leon's Armada, Elder Yuan Shi, and many others. My Yōu family no longer trusts anyone, but we do hope that you can protect the few of us."

...

These had been Madam Yōu's words. She was the leader of the Yōu family, and she had been the one to speak to Lu Yin.

During ZENITH, Yōu Ye'er had exposed her family's secret technique as well as her battle technique, Heart-Killer Lotus. This had basically been a public announcement that the Yōu family was actually the main branch of the Yōu clan.

Madam Yōu had spoken in a righteous manner, and she had claimed that the Yōu family would never return to the Yōu clan. If Lu Yin had not witnessed certain events for himself through his die's six pips: Possession, he might have truly believed the woman. After all, it was common sense that the Yōu family should not have broken away from the Yōu clan, and even if they had broken away, the Yōu family should be the ones in power within the Seven Courts, as they were the ones in possession of the clan's secret technique. Reality did not line up with common sense.

Lu Yin did not know the real reason behind why the Yōu family had broken away from the rest of the family, but there was definitely no schism within the clan, which triggered Lu Yin's vigilance.

What did the Yōu family want from this proposal? Although the Seven Courts was indeed one of the Three Dark Hands, they were completely different from the Neohuman Alliance and were not a public enemy of the entire Human Domain. There should be no problem for the Yōu family to protect itself, and this presented a hidden problem.

Yes, it was indeed an issue. Lu Yin's expression grew stony. The Yōu family was concealing something, and they were doing so from both him and the Sword Sect.

That was the worst scenario. It was impossible to know what the Yōu family was hiding where not even the Seven Courts was able to protect them. Lu Yin was not arrogant enough to believe that the Great Eastern Alliance was on the same level as the Seven Courts. The Yōu clan alone was a terrifying power that was in no way at all weaker than the Nightking clan.

Madam Yōu was still waiting for a response from Lu Yin. After thinking things over again and again, he had no plans to call the woman back.

Their hidden family had made it clear that they expected him to protect them.

Elsewhere, in First Flowzone, countless people with stern faces knelt on the ground beneath a gray sky. All of them looked extremely solemn.

A large flag with the Yōu character written on it fluttered above them.

This was the Yōu family. The leader of the family, Madam Yōu, appeared calm, but the anxiety in her eyes could not be fully hidden. Behind her, Yōu Ye'er stood with her head hung low and her face completely pale.

"Did you really learn that battle technique from the secret technique?" Madam Yōu asked in a low voice.

Yōu Ye'er did not dare to hide anything. "Yes. Your daughter accidentally discovered it while using the secret technique, and your daughter began to practice it ever since. Truly, your daughter never tested the technique before, and ZENITH was the first time she ever used it."

Madam Yōu's chest heaved up and down. There was excitement in her eyes but also fear. Yōu Ye'er did not know why her Yōu family had separated from the Yōu clan. The Yōu Secret Art was not only a secret technique, but also a treasure—a treasure that had been hidden for years.

No one knew the truth of the Yōu Secret Art, but those who cultivated the Yōu Secret Art could unintentionally acquire ancient battle techniques, cultivation arts, or even secret techniques. These things had all been created by ancestral Progenitor realm powerhouses who had long since disappeared into the river of time.

It was very likely that these various battle techniques had been hidden within the Yōu Secret Art by their ancestor, and this secret was precisely why the Yōu family had broken away from the rest of their clan. This secret had leaked out, and it was impossible to say who knew of this matter, but one thing was clear; the Yōu family had long been targeted by people trying to get to the secret of their Yōu Secret Art.

A sense of impending crisis had been written into the very blood of every child belonging to the Yōu family. This sensation of being constantly watched had existed for eons, and it could be traced all the way back to the ancient war between the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands.

It was for this reason that, after considering the matter many times, the Yōu family had decided to break away from the Yōu clan and hide the Yōu Secret Art.

The Yōu family was naturally not without their own means of protection, and in addition to the hidden protection of the Yōu clan that was constantly nearby, the Yōu family had also found a guardian in the Sword Sect, which served as the family's protector. The Sword Sect was in no way weaker than any of the families of the Seven Courts, and it was definitely qualified to protect the Yōu family.

Chapter 1332: Starsibyl Planet

Everything had been going fine, but then Yōu Ye'er had revealed the Yōu Secret Art during ZENITH, which had completely disrupted the Yōu family's plans. Even the Sword Sect had begun to suspect that the Yōu family was hiding some ulterior motive. After all, even an idiot could tell that someone who had mastered the Yōu Secret Art was from the main family of the Yōu clan. Why would the clan's main family break away? Even if that was true, how could the Yōu clan have ever allowed the Yōu Secret Art to be taken away without making any attempts to recover it?

None of this made any sense, and so, it was impossible for the Yōu family to retain the Sword Sect's protection. Madam Yōu, or rather, the entire Yōu family, had chosen to instead rely on the Great Eastern Alliance, which meant Lu Yin.

"Why do we want to join the Great Eastern Alliance?" Yōu Ye'er could not help herself from asking.

Madam Yōu felt helpless. "Exposing the Yōu Secret Art is no different from announcing that we are the main branch of the Yōu clan; who in the Inniverse would still dare to accept us? The Sword Sect or the Wen family might have the courage to do so, but they also have other goals. The Great Eastern Alliance is an amalgamation of many different interests, and Lu Yin is the champion of ZENITH, which has garnered him a great deal of support from the Hall of Honor. He must also be supported by many hidden powerhouses who are still unknown—otherwise, it would be impossible for Lu Yin to have reached his current level as he would have died long ago.

"Relying on him is our best choice at the moment."

Yōu Ye'er stared at Madam Yōu. "We can just return to the Yōu clan."

Madam Yōu gave a bitter smile. "Don't you get the feeling that you are being watched there?"

Yōu Ye'er shuddered, and her face went pale as she nodded.

"The Yōu family has been under surveillance for many years. The sense of crisis that one feels due to this has become a torture afflicting every child of the Yōu family. We separated from the Yōu clan in order to protect both the Yōu Secret Art as well as the other members of the Yōu clan," Madam Yōu explained.

Yōu Ye'er understood that, if the Yōu clan had been able to protect themselves, they would never have split apart. The Seven Courts appeared to be united, but each family had their own goals and motivations. The Yōu clan could not rely on any of the other families from the Seven Courts, but could they actually rely on Lu Yin?

Madam Yōu was not actually looking at Lu Yin, but rather at the hidden powerhouse that everyone believed was supporting Lu Yin from the shadows. Only the existence of such an expert could explain how Lu Yin had managed to cultivate such an invincible power.

Of course, Madam Yōu had certain expectations of Lu Yin as well, but that was for later. In the future, Lu Yin might actually manage to become a Progenitor.

However, there was one other important detail to consider; Lu Yin was not an altruistic person, and he might covet the Yōu Secret Art himself in the future. However, for the moment, the Yōu family had no choice but to rely on Lu Yin in order to get out of their current predicament with the Sword Sect. The Sword Sect's attitude towards the Yōu family had changed too much, and Madam Yōu was certain that it was just a matter of time before the Sword Sect took action.

After Lu Yin crossed the astral rivers tributaries, the Starsibyl Sect entered his sight. It was located on a planet that was not particularly bright or even very beautiful, but this planet had given birth to a unique sect. That planet was simply known as Starsibyl Planet, and the Starsibyl Sect was located on the planet itself.

The Starsibyl Sect had very few members. In fact, the sect consisted of a mysterious powerhouse, six Starsibyl girls, and 108 attendants who served the Starsibyl Sect. This was the entire sect: a powerhouse, the Starsibyl girls, and the mysterious servants.

It was impossible to imagine that the Starsibyl Sect, which was famous throughout the entire universe, had such little strength, but this was the truth.

However, the Starsibyl Sect had managed to stand tall in the universe for countless years with such power, and even the behemoths in the Neoverse did not dare to underestimate this sect.

Also, there was Xuan Jiu. While he had been cast out by the Starsibyl Sect, he could still be considered to be affiliated with them.

Finally, Lu Yin crossed the last of the astral river tributaries, and the Starsibyl Sect was right in front of him. A person in space stood in front of his ship, staring at it. This person was beautiful and picturesque, and not even the darkness of outer space could cast a shadow on her. She was Starsibyl.

Lu Yin's expression deepened. He had arrived at the Starsibyl Sect.

Just as Lu Yin arrived at the Starsibyl Sect, out in the Outerverse, on the Prairie Flame Continent where East San Dios was located, a man with an ordinary appearance who would likely be forgotten as soon as one saw him reached out to Nightking Yuanjing.

"You can't find any clues? We did not expect you to find him in San Dios, but does he not even have any friends or relatives? We must find him—he has one of our Daynight clan's inheritance stones, as well as the secret regarding how he was even able to get close enough to steal the inheritance stone." Nightking Yuanjing said sharply.

The ordinary-looking man respectfully answered, "Yes, Elder. This disciple will continue to search."

This man was from the Daynight clan, and he had been sent out to find Liu Shaoge. Because Liu Shaoge had managed to steal the Daynight clan's inheritance stone and also managed to climb high up on the clan's stone plaque in their ancestral grounds, he had stoked the hatred of the entire Daynight clan.

Lu Yin had overturned the Daynight Flowzone and had taken the top position on their stone plaque. Although they hated it, they were convinced of Lu Yin's qualifications. After all, Lu Yin was the master of the Outerverse, and he was peerless within his generation. On the other hand, who was Liu Shaoge? As far as the Daynight clan was concerned, Liu Shaoge was nothing but an ant, and this ant had dared to step on their head, so it had to be destroyed.

Unfortunately, they could not find Liu Shaoge anywhere.

The investigator thought for a while before looking to the north. Liu Shaoge was too cautious of a person. Despite spending so many years in the Outerverse, he did not have a single friend, and he had never gotten close to any women. What's more, he left no clues behind anywhere. However, that planet known as Earth might have some clues.

In the Innerverse, in the Daynight clan's ancestral grounds, one of the guardian elders stood up beneath the stone plaque. Zuocheng Daynight was also looking to the north as he stepped out.

In another part of the Innerverse, in Little Millennium Flowzone, Lu Yin was greeted by Starsibyl as they moved to Starsibyl Planet. Up close, the planet was extremely beautiful, and it was almost entirely devoid of modern amenities. No matter if Lu Yin considered the planet's gravity, environment, soil, or sky, it all gave him the feeling that he was back on Earth.

All in all, it was a perfectly ordinary planet in the universe.

"Brother Lu has come to visit our Starsibyl Sect, which is truly a blessing for us," Starsibyl said with a smile. Very few people had the opportunity to see Starsibyl, but she was known to be one of the most beautiful women in the universe. Although half of her face was covered when she smiled, the upper half of her face was still stunning.

Lu Yin could not stop himself from taking a second glance. "You're very kind. It's a blessing for me, Lu Yin, to be invited to be a guest of your Starsibyl Sect. There are few people in the universe who are qualified to be invited by the Starsibyl Sect, and even if they make it to Little Millennium Flowzone, they still might not be allowed to visit."

Lu Yin was being honest. When he had first entered Little Millennium Flowzone, he had seen numerous ships cruising around outside the various astral river tributaries. From a simple glance, it was easy to see that they all wanted to enter, but none had received permission.

Starsibyl replied, "There is no other way. Although I want my Starsibyl Sect to improve the universe and for us to make new friends, we are only so few, and divination is not easy. Everyone wishes to know about the past, the future, and their own fate, but the truth is that knowing is not always beneficial."

"How so?" Lu Yin asked.

Starsibyl thought for a moment before answering. "The future is very difficult to change, and destiny only extends for a few days. If I had told Brother Lu that you were guaranteed to win ZENITH, would you have trained even harder to the point of risking death in order to raise your strength? Or would you have accepted such a prediction as fact and peacefully waited for the moment of victory to prove my prediction true? Which would you choose?"

Lu Yin thought for a moment, but then he laughed. "If it were me, I'd go with the first option."

Starsibyl nodded. "Brother Lu doesn't trust the divination abilities of my Starsibyl Sect, and you have never done so from the very beginning. However, the people outside are all eager to hear from us, and some of them have been waiting out there for ten years, a hundred years, or even a thousand years just for us to tell them the future. Tell me, Brother Lu, which option would they choose?"

Lu Yin said, "They would not seize the initiative on their own or fight for anything. Rather, they would just wait to see the prediction come true."

"However, doing so conflicts with destiny. Even if you are destined to win first place, you still have to get there by risking your life in order to improve your strength. Doing so or not doing so changes destiny, and whether it's for better or worse is impossible to know," Starsibyl said.

Lu Yin laughed. "You are Starsibyl, and yet you don't want everyone in the universe to trust you or just accept your predictions? What you just said could shatter your entire image."

Starsibyl smiled and said, "On the contrary, after hearing my words, doesn't Brother Lu believe in divination even more?"

Lu Yin was startled at this observation, but he merely smiled and no longer pursued this particular topic.

Starsibyl Planet was not only home to the people of the Starsibyl Sect, but also to ordinary mortal countries, though they were all still in the technological period of cold weapons.

Lu Yin and Starsibyl looked down from the sky and watched a mortal war. Seeing this made for a very addictive feeling. To these people, Lu Yin was no different from a god. A massive country had fielded millions of troops on the battlefield, but Lu Yin was capable of changing the entire situation in but an instant.

Starsibyl said nothing, but Lu Yin soon stopped watching, and she followed suit.

After a moment, Lu Yin said, "Let's go."

Starsibyl led the way, and before long, the two arrived at a huge waterfall. The waterfall formed a boundary, and after passing through, they entered another world.

The Starsibyl Sect was not large, and its buildings were all very simple. They even looked like they had been casually built, as there were simple thatched cottages among the buildings. However, there was another detail that stood out to Lu Yin: there were exactly 108 houses.

There were 108 astral river tributaries surrounding Little Millenium Flowzone, and the Starsibyl Sect had 108 mysterious servants. On Starsibyl Planet, could there be 108 countries as well? Was there a reason behind this number?

"Brother Lu, please. Master has been waiting a long time," Starsibyl said.

Lu Yin's face grew solemn. "Please, lead the way."

After passing by the houses, Starsibyl continued to lead the way until they arrived outside the innermost building, which was one of the thatched cottages. "Master, I have brought our guest."

Lu Yin calmly stepped into the thatched cottage.

This is not his first time visiting such a primitive thatched hut. The ancient Yu elder had also lived in a similar hut. All of the remnants of the Yu family had gone into hiding, living in a place that was quite similar to the Starsibyl Sect. Also, Lu Yin had seen many thatched homes in Subzero City on the Royal Frost Continent.

This style of house represented the passing of the years.

Lu Yin entered, but he saw no one. Instead, there was a strange, illusory figure that slowly formed before him.

Lu Yin stared at the image in surprise. Was this a screen? No, that was wrong.

The image quickly formed into the shape of a middle-aged man with a gentle appearance and a jade-like complexion. His clothes were all white with starry patterns on the cloth. He was smiling, and his eyes were bright and full of wisdom. His entire demeanor gave off the impression of an even temperament and a person with elegant manners.

This feeling was similar to the Progenitor Hui that had been summoned by Shang Qing's ancestral qi, but this man was also different from Progenitor Hui.

Progenitor Hui had possessed a temperament that had been refined through warfare while this middle-aged man seemed to have been refined through academics.

"Alliance Leader Lu, it's been a long time," the middle-aged man greeted Lu Yin. The man's voice sounded very comfortable.

Lu Yin looked back at the middle-aged man. "The Starsibyl Sect invited me as their guest, but the host is not appearing before me."

Chapter 1333: One Attacks, Another Defends

The middle-aged man answered with a smile. "Alliance Leader Lu, please forgive me. This is just how I am whenever I meet anyone, even if it's an elder."

Lu Yin's brows rose high. "How should I address Senior?"

The middle-aged man raised a hand as he continued to smile. He then wrote a single character in the air: Zhu.

Lu Yin felt bewildered. "Zhu? Senior Zhu?"

The middle-aged man nodded. "Yes."

Lu Yin felt that this was strange, as zhu was also the word for pig.

"The words are not the same, as they are different homonyms. One is an object while the other is a creature," the middle-aged man explained with a smile.

Lu Yin felt horrified. He had only had the thought, not saying a single thing. "Can you see what's in my mind?"

The man just laughed. "That's just a normal reaction, as everyone has the same thought. It's nothing complicated."

Lu Yin looked at the man strangely. "I'm not sure as to the reason why Senior invited this junior to visit. Is there some bit of advice that you would give me?"

The man grew serious as he looked at Lu Yin. "You took first place in ZENITH and are the top of the entire younger generation. Everyone would want to meet such a person."

"Is it really so simple?" Lu Yin wondered.

The man replied, "I lead the Starsibyl Sect, and I wish to establish a good relationship with Alliance Leader Lu, and possibly even give you some advice. In the future, I may receive your help in turn."

"What kind of advice?" Lu Yin had grown curious.

The middle-aged man's eyes flickered, and Lu Yin could tell that the man was performing a divination, so he calmly waited.

Starsibyl's divinations could not calculate Lu Yin. Xuan Jiu had once done a divination for Lu Yin, but it had caused the old man to shed tears and blood, and the old man had even sworn that he would never do another divination for Lu Yin. Thus, Lu Yin was interested in seeing the abilities of the master of the Starsibyl Sect.

"I can see traces of Heaven's Enigma on you, Alliance Leader Lu. It appears that my incompetent junior brother has made trouble for you," the man commented.

Lu Yin was surprised. "You can see that? Wait, you said Heaven's Enigma. Are you saying that Xuan Jiu really cultivated Heaven's Enigma?"

The man nodded. "Naturally."

Lu Yin blinked, unexpectedly happy. So it turned out that Xuan Jiu really did practice Heaven's Enigma, just as he claimed. Everyone had believed that the old man was just bragging, and not even Lu Yin had expected this to be true.

At this realization, Lu Yin suddenly felt that having Xuan Jiu as the Great Yu Empire's imperial advisor would not be a bad idea.

"Is there anything in particular that Alliance Leader Lu wishes to know? The only thing that my Starsibyl Sect can offer is divination," the middle-aged man suggested.

Without any hesitation, Lu Yin answered, "Family. Can you tell me where my family is?"

The man's eyes narrowed as he stared at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin grew nervous. After seeing what had happened to Xuan Jiu when he performed a divination for him, Lu Yin felt uncomfortable. A touch of sadness filled Lu Yin's eyes, as the thing that scared him most was the possible answers to this question.

After a while, the man's body suddenly bent over and twisted. His originally elegant appearance changed to something rather anxious, and his face revealed a bit of disbelief.

Lu Yin's heart sank, and he clenched his hands into fists.

The middle-aged man shifted his eyes back to Lu Yin and lowered his head. His eyes were still flickering.

"How's it going? Have you been able to see anything yet?" Lu Yin quickly asked.

The man looked up and stared into Lu Yin's gaze with a strange expression. This was different from the sadness and sympathy that Xuan Jiu had shown for Lu Yin. The sect master looked at Lu Yin with—how to describe it? Lu Yin could not actually interpret what his expression meant.

"I can't give you any answers related to your past, Alliance Leader Lu," the man said.

Lu Yin frowned. "Why? Can't you see it?"

The middle-aged man looked away, thinking about something.

Lu Yin continued to stare.

After a while, the man responded, "This is not as simple as performing a divination, as your past has been buried."

The man then raised his hand and drew an image in the air—it was a finger.

Upon seeing the finger, Lu Yin's pupils instantly constricted; this was the finger from his dreams!

Immediately afterwards, the middle-aged man drew another image. This time, he drew the Champions' Stage.

"One attacks, and another defenses. As long as Alliance Leader Lu can uncover these two truths, you will be able to uncover your own past, though it will be very difficult. Someone managed to cover up your past, and even I can't see through it. This may involve an innate gift related to time, as that is the only thing that can cover the flow of time."

At this moment, the sect leader looked at Lu Yin with a very serious expression. "There is only one piece of advice that I can give to Alliance Leader Lu: this upcoming competition for opportunities of destiny must succeed, and you cannot fail."

Lu Yin watched as the drawings in the air disappeared. He then turned to look at the middle-aged man once again. "What about divination regarding others?"

"No." The man just shook his head.

Lu Yin did not believe that it was not possible, but he could not force someone to speak. This man had drawn an image of the finger that had appeared in Lu Yin's dreams, and this had given Lu Yin a new understanding of divination.

The Champions' Stage was Lu Yin's second innate gift, and it had to be related to his bloodline. It made sense that, if he managed to uncover the truth regarding the Champions' Stage, he would also be able to uncover his past. Lu Yin had already come to this conclusion long ago.

The finger in his dreams also seemed to have something to do with the Daynight clan, and Lu Yin wondered if he should revisit the Daynight clan.

"Thank you for performing a divination, Senior. Lu Yin is very grateful," Lu Yin said.

The man looked at Lu Yin. "Remember my advice—this opportunity must be obtained, and it is also the key to unlocking the mystery of your past."

"What is the opportunity?" Lu Yin asked. Even though he had placed first in ZENITH, no one had been willing to explain what exactly Lu Yin and the others had been competing for.

The man shook his head. "It can't be spoken of in advance, and since it can't be mentioned, then just wait."

Lu Yin asked one more question, "That finger, what did Senior see?"

The man shook his head. "It's already gone."

Lu Yin felt helpless. "If that's the case, then this junior will take my leave. In the future, if there is anything that you need, this junior will not refuse you."

The man nodded and watched as Lu Yin left.

After Lu Yin left the hut, the man frowned. "So that place is actually involved with him. No wonder the girl's divinations can't see anything about him. This child has a difficult path to walk, harder than anyone else. He needs to climb up from the very bottom despite his supreme status, but that path is even more difficult than Progenitor Chen's. Ah..."

Even after walking away, Lu Yin was still absorbed in the conversation that he had just had.

"Brother Lu, how are you doing?" Starsibyl asked.

Lu Yin looked at her and replied, "That's quite the magic trick."

Starsibyl did not know if Lu Yin was speaking honestly or not, so she simply changed the subject.

"Brother Lu, it's rare for us to have visitors, so how about trying some of our Starsibyl Sect's special dishes?"

Lu Yin smiled and said, "I'd be happy to."

He had not come to this place just because he had been invited. Rather, he actually had an important task to perform, which was to ask the Starsibyl Sect to find out what the power behind the bookkeeper. Lu Yin was still incredibly upset over this matter. What did 900 million star essence mean? That was more than the combined wealth of the Blaze Realm and the Xun family!

For Lu Yin, this was enough money to allow him to improve a mountain of power vessels and items, and he would not have to worry about gathering any more funds for a long time. Thus, how could he give up on getting his money back?

At Starsibyl's invitation, Lu Yin enjoyed the sect's food and spent the day seeing the sect. The following day, he asked Starsibyl to use her divination to find out which hidden power had scammed him.

Starsibyl grew rather embarrassed.

Lu Yin said, "I know that it's not a simple matter to ask a Starsibyl for a divination, so please tell me what conditions need to be met."

Starsibyl answered, "It's not that we don't want to do this, but rather that revealing certain things can easily offend certain people."

Lu Yin replied, "Naturally it all depends on whether or not it's worth it, and I won't press you. You can do your divination, and if it turns out to be someone who you really don't want to offend, then it's fine for you to just not tell me. I'll keep investigating on my own in that case."

Starsibyl sighed. "Alliance Leader Lu, please wait a moment." After speaking, she went away.

Lu Yin remained standing in place and waited for more than half an hour for Starsibyl to return.

Lu Yin was anxious to hear the results.

Starsibyl was serious when she returned. "The name of the person who borrowed the billion star essence from the Mavis Bank is Nan Yuan."

"Nan Yuan?" Lu Yin thought that something was odd, as this was a very familiar name.

Starsibyl casually explained, "One of the Hall of Honor's nine overseers, Nan Yuan."

Lu Yin then remembered. Yes, Nan Yuan was one of the Hall of Honor's nine overseers. It was no wonder why the Mavis Bank had approved a billion star essence loan, as Nan Yuan was actually backed by the Seven Courts. More specifically, the Xia family.

The Hall of Honor's nine overseers represented various interests, and two of them were even from the Inniverse: one from the Sword Sect and the other from the Daynight clan. Two others were from the Cosmic Sea, of which one of them was Xin Jiao. As for the other five, they were all from the Neoverse, and one of those five was Nan Yuan.

Lu Yin had not expected to be involved with another one of the Hall of Honor's overseers, but it seemed that he was fated to have a relationship with them.

"Brother Lu, Overseer Nan Yuan is different from Bu Laoweng. Bu Laoweng represented many powers, but there was no true power protecting him. Overseer Nan Yuan is supported by the Seven Courts, and if you try to proceed, then things will likely be much more difficult than before," Starsibyl explained, hoping that Lu Yin would give up.

Lu Yin was also aware that Nan Yuan served the Seven Courts' interests.

The Seven Courts did not have a large number of powerhouses, and Xie Xiaoxian, Ku Lei, Hui Santong, and most of their other youths had performed quite poorly in ZENITH, but that did not mean that they could be casually provoked. Every single one of the families had their own secret technique, which was something that not even the Daynight clan or the Sword Sect possessed. The Seven Courts' foundation was unimaginable to Lu Yin.

With the strength supporting Lu Yin, he had been able to suppress Daynight Flowzone, but if he tried to go up against the Seven Courts, he would not even know how he died.

Lu Yin was self-aware and was not arrogant enough to ignore the Seven Courts.

However, the crux of the issue was 900 million star essence, and he was not willing to simply give up on that.

Starsibyl did not bother Lu Yin anymore. He spent a long time thinking, but he still could not come up with any way to take his 900 million star essence back from Overseer Nan Yuan. This was a very difficult issue, and even if the truth was revealed, Overseer Nan Yuan was certain to have a way out prepared.

Since he could not think of what to do for the time being, Lu Yin could only say goodbye to Starsibyl.

She then told him, "If Brother Lu is not in a hurry, there is one more reason why I invited Brother Lu here."

Lu Yin wondered out loud, "What would that be?"

Starsibyl and Lu Yin looked at each other. "Brother Lu, do you know of the Hidden Earth Society?"

Lu Yin's expression instantly changed, and he stared at Starsibyl in shock over what she had just said. Of course he had heard of the Hidden Earth Society, as they were the mysterious organization hidden within Jupiter that had never had any contact with the outside world. Once someone left that place, they would never be able to return to that place inside Jupiter. They were a mysterious organization that had carried out its mission after Earth's civilization was destroyed each cycle.

Lu Yin had first heard of this name and about the organization from Huo Qingshan, and the man had known of the organization because he had actually come from the Hidden Earth Society himself. That had been Lu Yin's introduction to the organization and also how he had learned a bit about Earth's mysterious history.

Chapter 1334: Aid Requested From The Hidden Earth Society

Lu Yin had already wanted to return to Jupiter to investigate the place. After all, there was a mysterious organization hidden in his own backyard, and he had to gain some understanding of it. This was an organization that was related to primeval surnames, and he might be able to find out information about his past.

However, Lu Yin had never imagined that he would hear of Hidden Earth Society far away from home in Little Millennium Flowzone, let alone from Starsibyl.

"What are you talking about?" Lu Yin asked as he stared closely at Starsibyl, trying to see something in her eyes.

Starsibyl invited Lu Yin to accompany her. "Brother Lu, let me show you someone."

Lu Yin's eyes flashed. Thoughts raced through his mind as he followed Starsibyl.

Before long, he saw a house, and there was a man inside sipping a cup of tea, and it was obvious that the man was in a rush, and there was also an unexplainable bit of panic deep in the man's eyes.

Starsibyl led Lu Yin into the house.

When the man saw the two youths, and especially Lu Yin, his eyes lit up. "Are you Lu Yin?"

Lu Yin stared back at the man. "Who are you?"

The man swallowed, and his voice was hoarse when he replied, "My name is Chiting, Zhang Chiting, and I'm a member of the Hidden Earth Society."

Lu Yin raised his eyebrows. He briefly glanced at Starsibyl, but then continued to focus on the man.

"Why should I trust you?"

"Huo Qingshan, extinction cycle," Zhang Chiting said.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed, but he said nothing.

Even though he was seeing Lu Yin right in front of him, Zhang Chiting still did not believe it. He opened his mouth to say something, but Lu Yin raised a hand to interrupt. He looked at Starsibyl. "Is the Starsibyl Sect somehow related to the Hidden Earth Society?"

Starsibyl said, "That's not really important, as I just happened to stumble across it. You two should take your time talking."

With that, she left the house.

Lu Yin looked back at Zhang Chiting. "How much does the Starsibyl Sect know about the Hidden Earth Society?"

Zhang Chiting shook his head. "Not much. Earth has been wiped out numerous times over the years, but each time a few elites would be taken away to Jupiter or some distant part of the universe. I've been trying to find a way to get in touch with the Starsibyl Sect, as I wanted to have them divinate the true reason to why Earth periodically gets wiped out, but I don't dare share all of the information."

"So you're part of the reason I'm here?" Lu Yin asked.

Zhang Chiting nodded. "The Starsibyl Sect is really powerful, and they figured out that I have a connection to you, so I arranged a meeting for us."

Lu Yin did not understand the Starsibyl Sect's plan. In the end, the Hidden Earth Society was only something that concerned Earth, so why would the Starsibyl Sect even care? They might not, and it was possible that they were actually concerned with the Primeval Surnames Alliance.

"Does the Starsibyl Sect know about Jupiter?" Lu Yin asked.

Zhang Chiting shook his head. "I never said anything. Jupiter is the greatest secret of our Hidden Earth Society, so unless it's someone from Earth or with a primeval surname, we won't say anything at all about it."

At this time, Lu Yin finally believed that Zhang Chiting really was from the Hidden Earth Society, though there was no guarantee the man was still a member. After all, the society had existed for countless years, so who knew if there were any traitors.

However, even if there were traitors, what could they betray? What was there that could be coveted? What could other powers use to lure out members of the Hidden Earth Society into betraying their organization?

The seemingly mysterious Hidden Earth Society was nothing but an empty shell.

Despite the passing of so many years, Jupiter had not been explored. This alone was enough to prove that the outside universe was not concerned with the Hidden Earth Society, and maybe Starsibyl only let Zhang Chiting speak with Lu Yin in order to help foster a good relationship. Maybe things were not as complicated as Lu Yin was assuming, and there was nothing of value to the Hidden Earth Society for major powers.

It was likely that only Lu Yin and the people from the Hidden Earth Society actually paid any attention to the organizations.

"Why did you ask to see me? I'm not a member of the Hidden Earth Society," Lu Yin asked.

Zhang Chiting replied, "I know, but I didn't have a choice. There's no one other than you who can help Earth." He hesitated a moment before continuing in a more somber tone, "It won't be long before Earth is wiped out again."

Lu Yin's eyes went wide. Huo Qingshan had explained that Earth was periodically wiped out, and then civilization would start from the beginning.

"Why do you say that? It hasn't been that long since the last time Earth's civilization was wiped," Lu Yin wondered.

Zhang Chiting showed a bitter smile. "The amount of time for Earth to be wiped out varies each time, as it's not the amount of time that matters, but how far Earth develops. Your appearance has brought about a civilization of cultivation on Earth, and many geniuses have appeared, which means that Earth is about to be exterminated again."

Huo Qingshan had also told Lu Yin this. He had remembered, but Huo Qingshan had also mentioned that Earth was not the only place that would be affected. "Besides Earth, Huo Qingshan told me that other places with primeval surnames will also be wiped out."

Zhang Chiting shook his head and shared something that truly surprised Lu Yin, "What happens to those other primeval surnames is different from what happens to Earth, because those places are dealt with by the Hidden Earth Society."

Zhang Chiting's words stunned Lu Yin. "You're the ones who eliminate them?"

Zhang Chiting nodded and explained in a lower tone, "Because of what happens to Earth every so often, the Hidden Earth Society takes talented youths away from Earth to cultivate. You should already be aware of how many geniuses appear on Earth; every time that there are resources and opportunities, the chances of a powerhouse rising from Earth is much greater than other places."

Lu Yin was already aware of this. Zhang Dingtian possessed a comparable level of strength to Liu Shaoqiu. The first true Earthling to leave Earth, Bai Qian, had already become a Cruiser and had participated in ZENITH. As for Bai Xua and Xu San, they were both quite talented as well. Lu Yin had no idea where Seruzen had gone, but he should also be quite strong, unless he had already died. Lu Yin honestly felt that given Seruzen's determination, he would likely not perform any worse than Zhang Dingtian.

As for the second group of cultivators to leave Earth, Fu Xiaoshu and the others who had already left Earth had been improving very rapidly, and they were already at the same level as the Yu Academy's Hall Masters, and some of them had already traveled beyond Frostwave Weave in order to train. Lu Yin had also recently received a report that another group of cultivators had joined the Yu Academy from Earth, and the number matched the first group.

Any cultivator with an innate gift was automatically qualified to join the Universe Youth Council. Innate gifts were regarded as incredibly important throughout the universe, and having one immediately put a cultivator ahead of their peers.

All of Frostwave did not have as many cultivators with innate gifts as Earth did on its own.

Earth was a very strange place.

"Every member of the Hidden Earth Society who leaves Earth to cultivate easily becomes a Hunter, and even if resources are scarce, all they need is time. I, Zhang Chiting, have cultivated for 327 years and have become a Hunter, and I also have an innate gift. Many other experts in the Hidden Earth Society have also become Hunters, and we even have some who are Enlighters," Zhang Chiting said.

Lu Yin raised a hand to stop the man from continuing. If it was back when Lu Yin had first left Earth, he would have been eager to get in touch with this hidden organization in order to take advantage of their power, but Lu Yin no longer needed to do so. If he did, there was no way that the Hidden Earth Society would have reached out to Lu Yin for help. "There's no need to explain too much to me."

Zhang Chiting felt Lu Yin's distance, and helplessly said, "Earth's civilization is periodically eradicated, which is far too strange. Although we hope for a powerhouse to step up to save Earth, we are also well aware that the universe is a cruel place where even Earth's tragedy of a cyclical annihilation is not worth pitying. Even if we receive help, Earth might just end up as a greater power's slave, and the Hidden Earth Society doesn't dare take such a risk."

"So you slaughtered other primeval surnames in order to hide what happens to Earth?" Lu Yin spoke his guess.

Zhang Chiting replied, "There's no way. Earth's situation cannot be exposed, and the only way to muddy the water is to drag in other primeval surnames to form the impression that there is a group who hate and target people with primeval surnames."

Lu Yin was amazed. This was completely ruthless, but no wonder the Hidden Earth Society had not been exposed despite so many years. They had the strength and skill, and were also ruthless and incredibly cautious.

"Everything had been going very smoothly. We were intending to slowly accumulate resources and raise up talented cultivators so that we would one day give rise to a powerhouse who surpasses the Envoy realm with a power level of more than a million. Since Earthlings have exceptional talent and comprehension, this was not a mere dream. However, we never expected you to appear and completely disrupt our rhythm." Zhang Chiting smiled bitterly.

"Your appearance has accelerated when Earth's cultivation civilization appeared, which in turn speeds up its destruction."

Lu Yin suddenly remembered something. "You really didn't reveal the matter of Earth?"

Zhang Chiting looked confused. "Why are you asking that?"

Lu Yin looked at the other man. "If details regarding Earth weren't exposed, then why were people from top powers like the Mavis family, the Seven Courts' Xia family, the Neohuman Alliance, and Specter Clan, and Starsibyl on Earth?"

Zhang Chiting frowned. "That's actually something that we've been trying to investigate. To outsiders, Earth looks like nothing more than a very ordinary planet, and it is incredible that it managed to rouse the attention of the Great Yu Empire, not to mention someone from the Mavis family. We still haven't found out why anyone from the Seven Courts showed up, and though Earth first drew attention because of someone from the Daynight clan, that should not have been enough to attract the attention of anyone from the Mavis family."

Lu Yin stared at Zhang Chiting, but was unable to see if the man was lying.

"What in the world is on Jupiter?" Lu Yin asked.

Zhang Chiting shook his head. "I don't know. Anyone who goes in, never comes out. All of us who are active in the universe never went there."

This was the same as what Huo Qingshan had told Lu Yin. It seemed that if Lu Yin wanted to learn more about Jupiter, he would have to investigate himself.

Zhang Dingtian and Bai Xue had both been sucked into Jupiter.

"What are you hoping to get from me?" Lu Yin asked.

Zhang Chiting answered, "Earth's entered its countdown towards extermination. According to our speculation, the current civilization will be completely wiped out in about a hundred years. We want to use you to ask Yuan Shi to step forward and find out the truth regarding Earth's periodic exterminations."

Lu Yin knew that Yuan Shi was well known. He was an expert who had a power level of over a million, and he had disciples spread all across the universe. The Hidden Earth Society had no fear that such a powerhouse would want to do anything to them at all.

Zhang Chiting looked at Lu Yin with an anxious and eager expression. He knew that Lu Yin was not originally from Earth, but Lu Yin had still spent a couple of years on the planet, and had also been the reason that Earth had entered an age of cultivation sooner than expected. Lu Yin had shown great kindness to the planet. The Hidden Earth Society had no fear of revealing things to Lu Yin. For starters, Starsibyl had done a divination, and second, with Lu Yin present, there was no need to worry about anyone enslaving Earth.

However, Zhang Chiting also felt somewhat bitter. His organization had worked for countless years, and yet their accomplishments could not compare with what Lu Yin had done in just over a decade of cultivating. It was really true that a single genius could completely change the game.

Lu Yin said, "I can ask Yuan Shi to visit Earth and check things, and if he is unable to do so, I can ask other experts of similar strength. However, I will only do so after I investigate myself."

"Investigate what?" Zhang Chiting asked, taken aback.

Lu Yin's gaze grew sharp, and he replied with one word: Jupiter.

Chapter 1335: Back To The Academy

Lu Yin had wanted to investigate Jupiter for a long time, but during his last and only attempt, he had been unable to enter. He had not had any time since then, but he believed that he currently possessed the strength to do so.

As for the Hidden Earth Society, no matter how powerful their powerhouses might be, they could not be stronger than an Envoy. In other words, Lu Yin's full battle strength was enough to surpass the entire Hidden Earth Society.

...

Lu Yin left the Starsibyl Sect and boarded his vessel to head back to Blazing Mist Flowzone. He had already decided to return to Earth as soon as possible.

However, before that, there was someone else who he needed to contact. After thinking of this, Lu Yin accessed his gadget and connected to the network to call Xia Luo.

Soon, Xia Luo's appeared on Lu Yin's screen. "Xia Jiuyou is desperate to merge with you. So, can you have Xia Jiuyou merge with you instead?"

Lu Yin asked this question the moment he saw Xia Luo.

Lu Yin was truly unwilling to be suppressed by the Xia family and allow them to take away his 900 million star essence. That was 900 million! 900 million was more than enough to raise his strength to an entirely different level.

Xia Luo had not expected to hear such a question as soon as Lu Yin saw him. "Of course. As long as his consciousness is a bit muddled when we merge, my consciousness will certainly become dominant. Why do you ask? Do you want to help me?"

Lu Yin smiled and said, "Since you'll eventually merge with Xia Jiuyou sooner or later, I don't want to lose a friend. Besides, the Xia family owes me a debt: 900 million star essence."

Xia Luo was stunned. "900 million? That much?"

"During ZENITH, one of the Hall of Honor's nine overseers, Nan Yuan, the one under the Xia family's protection, borrowed a billion star essence from the Mavis Bank as a foundation to set up the largest bookkeeping organization in ZENITH. Now, that billion star essence can't be touched without a proof of wager from him, and I've suffered a loss that cuts deep."

Xia Luo smiled gently. "Gambling's risky, and it's very important to quit."

Lu Yin pursed his lips. "That's for the future, but for now, I want to get back the 900 million that I lost."

"You want me to merge with Xia Jiuyou, take his place as the Xia family's inheritor, and then order Nanyuan to give you the money that's being held in the Mavis Bank?" Xia Luo figured everything out almost instantly.

Lu Yin said, "It's a win-win situation! I'll help you absorb Xia Jiuyou, so why don't you help me get back the money that was taken from me?"

Xia Luo laughed. "I like your idea, and I'm willing to try. Money can't compare to a life, not to mention that that's not even my money. However, unfortunately, this will be extremely difficult to pull off. After ZENITH, all of the top ten finalists were attacked, and you should have been as well. It's even said that the Sixth Mainland's Bu Kong was killed. Xia Jiuyou has many guardians around him, and it's impossible for them to let him do anything alone that has even the slightest bit of risk. In this situation, how do you want me to merge with him? Do you want me to ask for a one-on-one match with him?"

Lu Yin grew serious as he looked at Xia Luo. "That's your business. Given what I know about you, you can definitely find a way to pull this off. If you can't, then don't bother. I'm not the one who'll be merging with him."

Xia Luo laughed. "You're still the same, not having changed at all! You're afraid of neither the sky nor the earth, but you're shrewd no matter where you go. Even when you blocked the Daynight clan from the Three Realms Six Daos in the Astral Academy, you were still able to stay safe. Given your current strength, I believe that you can take care of yourself now."

Lu Yin said, "I really can protect myself. Even if this goes sideways and Xia Jiuyou is the one that absorbs you, I'll be fine. Regardless, that's on me. You really don't have any options right now."

Xia Luo shrugged. "Fine. You've already thought this through, but, unfortunately, the most crucial step is what you're leaving to me. The Xia family has a powerhouse dedicated to protecting Xia Jiuyou. Her name is Xia Meng, and in the Xia family, her status is even higher than the patriarch's. Her power level has almost reached a million, and she won't be easy to deal with."

Lu Yin did not respond. If even Xia Luo was unable to come up with a plan, then there was nothing that Lu Yin could do. He might have to put off getting back his 900 million star essence for a while longer.

"Brother Lu, it's time for you to go back to the Astral Combat Academy. It's been so long, and you still haven't graduated yet." Xia Luo smiled and looked very happy.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed, and then he also smiled. "Yeah, it's time to go home to Astral-10."

"Given Brother Lu's ability, there are definitely some people who are concerned about your whereabouts," Xia Luo commented.

Lu Yin's mouth curled up into a smile. "Like the Yōu family, right? Will they tell the Xia family my location?"

"Absolutely. The Seven Courts work together to protect Progenitor Chen's Mausoleum, but there's both hatred and competition between the families. Still, they unite on the most important matters, and right now, the most important matter for the Seven Courts is Xia Jiuyou," Xia Luo replied.

"Alright then, let's have some fun," Lu Yin said slowly.

Xia Luo's eyes flashed. He did not understand what Lu Yin meant, but that did not matter. Xia Luo had already dealt with the most difficult issue, and Lu Yin would handle the rest.

After hanging up, Lu Yin reprogrammed his ship and started moving towards Erudite Flowzone, which was where Astral-10 was currently located.

Beep beep beep!

His gadget rang out an alert soon after.

Lu Yin immediately checked, and his eyes lit up; he was being called by the Yōu family. He had considered calling them himself, not expecting them to be this anxious.

Madam Yōu appeared on the screen, and although her face looked calm, it was possible to detect a hint of feminine weakness and helplessness. "Alliance Leader Lu, have you considered my proposal? Might my Yōu family be allowed to join your Great Eastern Alliance?"

Lu Yin sighed. "Madam Yōu, it's not that I don't want to accept, but rather, if we accept your Yōu family, we will offend the Sword Sect. You're familiar with the relationship between my Great Eastern Alliance and the Inniverse's eight great flowzones. Doing this might make it impossible for us to move even an inch into the Inniverse."

Madam Yōu hurriedly replied, "No matter if you accept my Yōu family or not, the Sword Sect will not just watch on as the Great Eastern Alliance moves into the Inniverse. They have already considered various plans, some of which even include my Yōu family. Among the options that they have considered is assassinating you, Alliance Leader Lu. This is just one of the Sword Sect's current plans, and it's simply impossible for your Great Eastern Alliance to get along with the Sword Sect. You're simply incompatible."

Lu Yin still felt troubled.

Madam Yōu pursed her lips. "Alliance Leader Lu, my Yōu family is willing to offer tribute every year, and I just ask for Alliance Leader to protect the weak women of my Yōu family and take my family in. The one would be completely grateful."

After speaking, she bowed at the waist to Lu Yin.

The dignified leader of the Yōu family was bowing to him, and Lu Yin was able to see the woman's anxiety and hurry. This became more obvious the more Lu Yin put off her request to join the Great Eastern Alliance, and it made him confident that the woman intended to use him as a shield. "Madam Yōu, there are some things that we can't discuss through a call. How about this—why don't you and I meet in person to discuss this matter. Would that work?"

Madam Yōu's eyes lit up. "Alliance Leader Lu is asking to meet in order to discuss this matter in detail? Well, I'm not certain as to where we should meet then?"

Lu Yin replied, "We absolutely need to select a location that is completely safe, and you've just mentioned that the Sword Sect has even made plans to assassinate me, so clearly, First Flowzone is not a possibility. In that case, how about meeting in the Outerverse, in Southside Weave?"

"Southside Weave?" Madam Yōu was taken aback; Lu Yin wanted to meet that far away?

"Yuan Shi stays in Southside Weave," Lu Yin said.

Madam Yōu immediately understood. Yuan Shi had long protected Lu Yin, which everyone knew. Meeting near that ancient powerhouse meant that Lu Yin would have no fear of being attacked. However, this was clearly a precaution not only aimed at avoiding an attack from the Sword Sect, but also on guard against the Yōu family, not to mention the Neohuman Alliance.

However, none of Lu Yin's cautiousness dissuaded Madam Yōu. She was determined to join the Great Eastern Alliance, and it made no difference where they met. "Very well, I'll set out immediately. Alliance Leader Lu, I'll see you in Southside Weave."

"I'll see you there," Lu Yin affirmed.

Lu Yin ended the call and turned to look towards the Outerverse and Southside Weave. Madam Yōu, I hope you have a smooth journey.

...

In Little Millennium Flowzone's Starsibyl Sect, Starsibyl stood in front of some beads. "Will he be able to find anything out?"

"I hope so. The extinction cycle is very intriguing."

"I can't perform any divinations on him."

"Of course you can't. No, it's more that you can't see through time, and although his background is very complicated, it's also very powerful."

"Powerful?"

"Don't worry about him for the time being. He will have a tremendous impact on this universe in the future, but we will have to examine that after he undergoes this upcoming opportunity. At this time, even if I try to deduce the future, everything is blurry."

Starsibyl's eyes flickered. Not even she knew what exactly she was thinking.

...

In the Neoverse, on the sword-shaped mainland that belonged to the Xia family, Xia Jiuyou gritted his teeth as sweat dripped down his forehead. It had already soaked the ground beneath him, and his veins were bulging out all across his body. There was a low roar as the star energy from his body erupted before violently scattering, leaving him panting heavily.

Xia Meng emerged from the void and looked down at Xia Jiuyou. "How is it? Can you recover?"

Xia Jiuyou was breathing heavily, and he hung his head. "I can't recover. I'll have to re-cultivate a clone."

Xia Meng said, "It's too late to do that."

"I know, but if I go there, I'll have the time." Xia Jiuyou answered in a deep voice.

Xia Meng was caught off guard. "You want to leave the clone there?"

Xia Jiuyou did not reply, but his eyes flickered. The largest disadvantage of the Nine Clones Secret Technique was that every single clone had their own independent personality. If the user did not have excellent control over the technique, it was easy to suffer mishaps like Xia Luo. However, this disadvantage was also the technique's greatest strength. Could a clone stay there? It might be possible. If Xia Jiuyou was able to stay in that place by himself, then he would have never revealed it to anyone.

"Where is Xia Luo?" Xia Jiuyou asked, clenching his fists, "As long as I can absorb him, rather than my strength decreasing, I'll actually be stronger than I was during ZENITH. His control of star energy is too impressive, and it could drastically improve my combat power."

Xia Meng said, "I just received word that he has returned to Astral-10."

Xia Jiuyou was not surprised. Xia Luo had previously hid in Astral-10 as well. "I'm going to go to Astral-10 to merge with him."

"No. It's too dangerous to go out at this time. The Neohuman Alliance will definitely attack," Xia Meng said.

Xia Jiuyou looked up at Xia Meng. "If I don't integrate with him, then what meaning will this opportunity hold for me? I will have no hope of getting anything."

Xia Meng frowned.

Xia Jiu continued in a solemn tone, saying, "I am the hope of the Xia family, but I don't stand a chance with my current strength. Gaining nothing from this opportunity will mean that the Xia family and the Seven Courts will both gain nothing as well."

"Astral-10 is not the right place. I won't be allowed in that place," Xia Meng explained.

Xia Jiuyou retorted, "You won't be allowed in, but I will. I can go as an exchange student from the Hall of Honor, and I won't even need to reveal my true identity."

Xia Meng hesitated.

"Don't worry. No one expects me to go anywhere right now, and besides, I'll have you protecting me. Even without you, Elder Meng, I still have a defensive treasure, which is strong enough to even protect me from an Envoy's attack. There won't be any problem, so just let Nan Yuan know to contact me immediately about visiting Astral-10," Xia Jiuyou said.

Xia Meng was still hesitating.

Xia Jiuyou shouted, "Elder Meng, I can't just let this opportunity go! The Xia family needs to give birth to a powerful Progenitor! Someone who can compare to Progenitor Chen!"

Xia Meng's body twitched at the thought of Progenitor Chen. He had been a domineering, invincible, and unparalleled powerhouse. "You can go, but you must ensure one person's location first."

"Who?"

"Lu Yin."

Chapter 1336: Boundless

"Why Lu Yin?"

Xia Meng solemnly explained, saying, "Lu Yin is the only one who can both suppress you and also enter and leave Astral-10 at will. If he teams up with Xia Luo, then what will you do?"

Xia Jiuyou fell silent. No matter how unwilling he might be to admit it, if he came across Lu Yin, then Xia Jiuyou would be absolutely powerless to resist.

It did not take long for Xia Meng's eyes to light up. "Lu Yin has gone to Southside Weave!"

"How do you know that?" Xia Jiuyou wondered.

Xia Meng said, "The Yōu clan coincidentally received this information."

The Yōu clan? Xia Jiuyou instantly thought of the woman with the Heart-killer Lotus technique that he had seen during ZENITH. "What's the deal with the Yōu clan? Is there some connection between the Yōu family and the Yōu clan?"

"I don't know the specifics. After all, the Yōu clan has always been mysterious. Regardless, Lu Yin's whereabouts have already been confirmed. Are you really heading to Astral-10?" Xia Meng asked.

Xia Jiuyou firmly replied, "I must go."

"I will report this matter to Elder Ji then," Xia Meng said.

Xia Jiuyou nodded. Elder Ji was the most powerful member of the Xia family, and he was also one of the Human Domain's seven Semi-Progenitors. Xia Ji was the true head of the Xia clan.

"How strange. Elder Ji is not responding. He was still secretly protecting a youth earlier," Xia Meng muttered to herself.

Xia Jiuyou said, "Perhaps Elder Ji has just returned to seclusion since he was in seclusion for many years before this. Let's just go. We can't let Xia Luo run away. He knows that I won't let him go either."

Xia Meng nodded. "Alright."

After Xia Meng left with Xia Jiuyou, an old man appeared where they had been standing. This man had deep eyes that seemed to have seen through the vicissitudes of life. He stood ramrod straight, his aura like a sharp blade that had been sealed for a long time. He was a Semi-Progenitor.

...

Astral-10 had experienced glory and catastrophe in the past, and at the moment, it was climbing high once more.

Their resurgence had started when they had performed the best during the Astral Combat Tournament. Then, Lu Yin, one of their students, had won the Tournament of the Strongest, which had allowed Astral-10 to return to the Innerverse. All of Lu Yin's subsequent accomplishments made Astral-10 shine even brighter.

Astral-10 no longer had a small number of students, but rather thousands of them, just like all the other branches of the Astral Combat Academy.

The most obvious difference was the number of teleportation stones guarded by the mentors. When Lu Yin had first joined the academy, Astral-10 had only had one teleportation stone. After that, Lu Yin had managed to win three more, making for four stones in total. Subsequently, Xia Luo, Lulu Mavis, and the others had all won teleportation stones on their own, ultimately gathering more than ten for Astral-10.

There were constantly students entering the teleportation battles.

On one particular day, the Trialmaster was loudly reporting the students' records as they exited their battles when his expression suddenly changed as he looked up.

The Rainmaster, the Sandmaster, the Starmaster, and Old Cai all looked up. Lu Yin was back.

Over the years, some of Astral-10's alumni had returned from time to time, but Lu Yin had been the only one who could draw all of the mentors' attention. Without Lu Yin, the current Astral-10 would not exist.

The ten branches of the Astral Combat Academy were ranked in order of merit, and technically, Astral-10 should have been known as Astral-1.

Lu Yin's spacecraft docked outside of Astral-10. As he stood in outer space and looked down, he was reminded that Astral-10, along with all the other branches of the Astral Combat Academy, was actually a battleship. It was unknown when they had been created, but the vessels were large enough to even carry stars. They were massive battleships.

When the Sixth Mainland had invaded the Outerverse, Astral-9 had been attacked by a World Imprinter, and the results had shocked Lu Yin. As Lu Yin looked at Astral-10, he was similarly stunned. Astral-10 was unbelievable; this battleship was far larger than Astral-9.

Before, Lu Yin had been unable to clearly see the size of the entire academy, and so he had not been able to understand it. At this moment, he could see it clearly, and he stared at the entirety of Astral-10. In fact, he was even able to make out the word "Boundless," which had almost been scrubbed away by the passage of time.

This battleship was called Boundless.

Lu Yin did not approach Astral-10 with his true appearance, as doing so would definitely reach Xia Jiuyou's ears, ensuring that he would never dare to approach the academy.

There were several students on duty in Astral-10's space station, so Lu Yin calmly walked over and showed them his credentials as an Astral-10 student.

"Huh? What's this?" The inspector was actually a cute girl, and she stared at Lu Yin's gadget in surprise.

Behind her, a young man approached them. "Xiao Xuan, what's the matter?"

The girl, Xiao Xuan, pointed at the gadget before looking back up at Lu Yin in shock. "Senior, his student ID is very strange."

The man was also surprised when he saw the ID number. When he looked back up at Lu Yin, his eyes were filled with excitement. "You- you were one of the Legend Ones?"

Lu Yin blinked, utterly confused. "What legend?"

Xiao Xuan was surprised. "Legend One? Senior, are you saying that this student ID is from the Legend One era?"

The man nodded, and the rest of the students on duty gathered around. "Yes, it's a student ID from the legendary first class."

"That's Arbiter Lu's year!"

"What Arbiter Lu? It should be Champion Lu."

"I think Arbiter Lu sounds better."

After hearing the two students' discussion, Lu Yin quickly understood that his class had become known as Legend One. His class was the one that had pulled Astral-10 out of its declining trend and set it onto a path towards prosperity. For many people, even more importantly, Lu Yin had been in the class.

"Senior, you and Arbiter Lu were in the same class. Have you met him before? Have you spoken to him?"

"Senior, isn't Arbiter Lu very good?"

"Senior, when will Champion Lu come back? Can you call him?"

...

Seeing all of the expectant eyes of the students in front of him, Lu Yin found the entire situation very refreshing.

Throughout the years, Lu Yin had accomplished too many things, and he had been both praised and envied by countless people. The people who flattered him were as numerous as the stars, but they could not compare to the adoring eyes of his juniors standing before him. Even with all the experiences that Lu Yin had gone through, he still felt a bit proud at this moment. Quite proud, actually.

Coming to Astral-10 made Lu Yin realize just how much he had grown compared to ten years ago. He was currently being described as a legend!

The only fly in the ointment was that he had not brought Ku Wei along, which was a pity.

Lu Yin coughed, and his eyes narrowed. Night Advent.

All the students suddenly felt as though their brains had been shaken, and they froze in place.

Lu Yin had not used much strength, only knocking the students unconscious so that he would not attract too much attention.

"I'm sorry," Lu Yin said quietly. He then passed by the many students to enter Astral-10, finding himself in a place that was both familiar and unfamiliar. This was the starting point of his cultivation path.

After Lu Yin left the space station, the students stirred and felt like they had woken up from a dream.

"Huh, wasn't there someone here?"

"Who?"

"That senior from Legend One just now."

"Yeah, I remember. What happened to him?"

Just like when he had first arrived at Astral-10, Lu Yin first went to the Rain Observatory.

The Rain Observatory had not changed at all. The bluestone platforms were still being washed by the rain all year long. As the rain fell from the sky, it created rivers on the ground and painted both the ground and the sky a beautiful dark blue. The only sound that one could hear was the soft pitter-patter of raindrops as they fell onto the slabs of bluestone.

Lu Yin looked around at the rainforest. Massive trees spread out beneath his feet while rain continued to sprinkle down from above. He stretched out a hand and caught one of the raindrops with his palm, its coolness soothing.

There were students in groups of twos and threes off in the distance. They were either comprehending something, or trying to write their names with star energy before sending it out into the rain.

Lu Yin had done the exact same things when he had first arrived.

Standing atop the Rain Observatory allowed one to start cleansing their star energy and start grasping the essence of controlling and moving it. Hopefully, one would enter the realm of changes and then slowly approach the level of comprehending a domain, though there were simply far too few people who could comprehend a domain.

Lu Yin still remembered that this place had something called the Rain List. His name was actually on the Rain List, though the person ranked first was someone named Shao Chen.

The Rainmaster appeared out of the rain in front of Lu Yin, the older man's eyes still filled with the vicissitudes of time.

In the past, Lu Yin had not been able to see through the mentors' strength. And to his surprise, he still could not see through the Rainmaster's strength. He had thought that he would be able to see through Astral-10's mentors by now, but it was still beyond him.

"Student Lu Yin greets the Rainmaster." Lu Yin bowed slowly and took on a respectful tone.

The Rainmaster observed Lu Yin and became quite emotional. "The little guy from back then has already become so powerful. In a blink of an eye, more than ten years have already passed."

Lu Yin replied, "It's this student's fault that I have never had a chance to come back to see mentor."

The Rainmaster looked at Lu Yin with a serious expression, and then he revealed a rare smile. "The Worldliness realm of star control. Not bad, and truly very good. For you to come back at this time, do you intend to graduate?"

Lu Yin answered, "I'll graduate if you allow me the chance."

The Rainmaster just smiled without saying anything. Then, he slowly disappeared.

Lu Yin took a deep breath and looked out into the distance. He saw that there were a set of ruins beyond the Rain Observatory. This place was actually above the deck of a massive battleship, and the Rain Observatory was simply the landscape outside of a cabin.

After leaving the Rain Observatory, Lu Yin visited the Sand Ocean next. He saw many students buried in the sand, trying to comprehend battle force.

Lu Yin remembered when the Sandmaster dragged him along to comprehend Flash Step. The stronger one's physical body, the faster one was able to move. This concept had been instilled into Lu Yin by the Sandmaster, and the mentor had also helped Lu Yin understand how to cultivate battle force.

A figure whistled through the air before crash landing in front of Lu Yin. Out of reflex, Lu Yin raised a hand to catch the person. It was a man who looked a bit childish with a stubborn expression on his face. He glanced at Lu Yin, said thank you, and then raced away.

The Sandmaster appeared next to Lu Yin. "Ever since you left, no talented students have emerged from Astral-10."

Lu Yin greeted the man. "Student Lu Yin greets the Sandmaster."

The Sandmaster waved a hand. "Don't speak like that."

After speaking, he looked at Lu Yin with a strange expression. The longer the man looked, the more amazed he became. "Kid, it's amazing that you were able to cultivate battle force up to nine lines."

Lu Yin humbly replied, "I was given a good foundation."

His battle force was actually no longer just nine lined battle force, as it had reached some higher level that Lu Yin did not understand. As for the Sandmaster and the Rainmaster, it was impossible for them to fully see through Lu Yin's current strength, and all that they could go off of was the strength that Lu Yin had revealed during ZENITH.

"Haha! Well said! Remember to say that publicly in the future. This Sand Ocean is too calm." The Sandmaster laughed.

Lu Yin was surprised. When he had been in Astral-10, the Sandmaster had not wanted people to train their battle force, but now he was saying the opposite. It seemed that the man could also be a good teacher.

"Sandmaster, this student has had a question in his heart for a long time, and I wonder if I can ask you," Lu Yin said.

The Sandmaster replied, "Ask."

Lu Yin spoke of his curiosity, "What is beyond nine lined battle force?"

The Sandmaster's eyes narrowed as he looked at Lu Yin. A smile slowly spread across his face. "Kid, you've got a lot of ambition. Aren't you satisfied with the level that you've reached?"

Lu Yin felt embarrassed as he said, "It's still a bit weak."

The Sandmaster nodded. "If not for that incomprehensible power that you possess, there's no way you could have beat the Hall of Honor's Shang Qing. At best, you would have been at the same level of strength as Progenitor Chen or Progenitor Hui, but there's no way you could have beaten both of them by yourself."

Lu Yin remained silent. It was true. Without the death energy, he would not have been able to defeat Shang Qing. Even if he had joined up with Wang Yi and Wu Taibai, they still might have lost, as Shang Qing was not weak even without his summons.

Chapter 1337: Trading Pointers

The Sandmaster turned to look off into the distance. "Above nine lined battle force is another realm, but I don't know much about that level. How can I describe it...? That sort of power is restricted."

Lu Yin was puzzled. "Restricted?"

The Sandmaster sighed. "Yes. Although it's truly difficult to cultivate battle force to nine lines, and there aren't many people in the universe who have managed to do so, you're not even the only youth who's managed to succeed. Unfortunately, the path beyond that level is broken."

"What do you mean 'broken?' Battle force is internal cultivation, so how could the path possibly be broken?" Lu Yin kept pressing.

The Sandmaster shook his head. "I don't know. Can you tell me why my Fifth Mainland hasn't raised a Progenitor since the ancient war?"

"Our sky was covered. The Sixth Mainland covered the sky of the Fifth Mainland," Lu Yin answered out of reflex.

The Sandmaster sneered. "What is the 'sky?' Where is that so-called 'sky?' How was it covered? What does it mean to cover it up? Do you know?"

Lu Yin shook his head. He had actually not thought about this matter at all, but after hearing the Sandmaster's questions, Lu Yin had some of his own. What was the sky? According to ancient beliefs, the sky was above the earth, and the infinite space that they looked up and seen had been the sky. However, they were currently talking about the universe itself. In that context, what was the sky? Was it just the infinite universe? Still, the Sixth Mainland had covered the Fifth Mainland, but why had they done so? Had that really changed something that disallowed the Fifth Mainland from giving birth to any Progenitors?

Battle force suffered from the same problem. The path of cultivating battle force had been broken, but who had done such a thing? Why did this broken path stop people from being able to improve their battle force? There were no answers, or at least, the Sandmaster had no answers.

However, Lu Yin's path was not broken. He looked down at his palm and was almost unable to resist showing the Sandmaster his golden battle force.

"Alright, don't worry about such matters. Why have you come back? To graduate?" the Sandmaster asked.

Lu Yin replied, "I came by to have a look. I was passing by."

The Sandmaster smiled, as he did not believe Lu Yin at all. The mentor raised a foot and disappeared, moving even faster than Wang Yi.

Lu Yin's pupils shrank. Astral-10's mentors really were not simple at all.

But after thinking about it, Astral-9 had been able to defend themselves from a World Imprinter when the Sixth Mainland had invaded, and Astral-10 had actually managed to kill some of the Sixth Mainland's powerhouses.

Lu Yin left the Sand Ocean and went to visit the Stargazing Deck next. He greeted the Starmaster from a distance and then moved on to the teleportation stones were kept to meet with the Trialmaster.

"Student Lu Yin greets the Trialmaster," Lu Yin respectfully greeted the man.

The Trialmaster looked at Lu Yin. "What? What did you say?"

Lu Yin pursed his lips. When he had first arrived at the Astral Combat Academy, all of the students had believed that the Trialmaster was borderline deaf, but in truth, the Trialmaster merely pretended to be hard of hearing as he found it quite funny. "This student greets mentor."

The Trialmaster coughed. "Hello."

Lu Yin thanked the older man. "Thank you for the Channeling Diagram sourcebox array that you sent me. It was very helpful to this student."

"What?" The Trialmaster looked puzzled, and he tipped his head to the side to lean his ear closer.

Lu Yin was left speechless, but then he shouted, "Thank you for giving me the Channeling Diagram, Trialmaster."

The Trialmaster put his hand to his ear. "What did you say? You can't use it? I won't teach it to you."

Lu Yin finally understood that the old man did not want to talk to Lu Yin. Still, as a junior, Lu Yin had no choice but to be polite. "Thank you, Trialmaster. This student will take his leave then."

The Trialmaster lowered his hand and waved Lu Yin off. He could not have been any more clear.

Lu Yin rolled his eyes. This was nowhere close to the attitude that the Trialmaster had shown when he had called Lu Yin in the Blaze Realm. At that time, the old man had been kind. Whatever. Lu Yin turned around and left.

As the Trialmaster looked at Lu Yin's back, his turbid eyes brightened a great deal and filled with admiration.

Any teacher who had a student like Lu Yin would feel both proud and depressed.

The main reason why the Trialmaster had given Lu Yin the Channeling Diagram was because Lu Yin had been one of Astral-10's students. The other reason was because of Xiu Ming's connection. The old man had not wanted to abandon such a talented Lockbreaker.

Still, the Trialmaster had not expected the Channeling Diagram to do Lu Yin any good for the time being. He certainly had not expected to see the child use the Channeling Diagram to divert a physical attack launched by the Astral Beast Domain's Star Devourer and then a full powered attack from the Technocracy's Wang Yi.

The Trialmaster had felt somewhat helpless after seeing Lu Yin's mastery of the Channeling Diagram. There was no need for the Trialmaster to try to teach Lu Yin anything at all. The kid was just too talented.

The Trialmaster did not even want to talk to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin glanced over at the teleportation stones and blinked. If not for the absurd difference in strength, he really would have wanted to go over and have some fun.

After leaving the area with the teleportation stones, Lu Yin went to Astral-10's treasury and saw Old Cai.

What impressed Lu Yin the most about Old Cai were the old man's Money Bombs, which had helped Lu Yin a great deal.

The old man was very enthusiastic upon seeing Lu Yin. As soon as Lu Yin arrived, Old Cai shooed the other students away in order to personally greet Lu Yin. "Why, isn't it Alliance Leader Lu of the Great Eastern Alliance? What wind brought you here? Come, come, come in! Would you like some tea?"

Seeing an expression on Old Cai's face as though he had just seen a fat sheep approach, Lu Yin instantly grew wary. He waved a hand and caused tens of thousands of star essence to appear. He smiled at the old treasurer. "Old Cai, this is a donation from this student to Astral-10."

Old Cai's eyes lit up, and he tucked away the star essence at a speed that Lu Yin had never seen before. Then, Old Cai coughed and put on an act of scolding Lu Yin. "Child, it would have sufficed for you to just visit your alma mater. There's really no need for presents. Won't this just put a distance between us?"

Lu Yin smiled and said, "This is how students should act."

Tens of thousands of star essence was quite a large sum, but not in Lu Yin's eyes. He was at Astral-10 in order to get 900 million star essence, and the academy's mentors had to be coaxed into helping. Old Cai was clearly the easiest to coerce.

"Tell me, what matter has brought you back at this time? You aren't stupid enough to graduate, right?" Old Cai spoke without holding anything back.

Lu Yin had nothing to hide from Old Cai. The old man was shrewd, and Lu Yin would not be able to get away with a lie even if he wanted to. "Of course I don't want to graduate. Astral-10 is Lu Yin's home."

Old Cai rolled his eyes. "Do you think that I don't know what's in your head, kid? If you never graduate, then Astral-10 will always be behind you."

Lu Yin snickered.

Old Cai laughed. "Don't go thinking that you're all that clever—you'll have to support the Astral Combat Academy in the future, and you won't be able to shirk away from this."

Lu Yin smiled and said, "That's my duty."

He had not actually taken Old Cai's words to heart. After all, the old man had not mentioned Astral-10, but rather the entire Astral Combat Academy.

"Tell me, what matter forced you to come back this time, and with such a large gift as well?" Old Cai asked.

Lu Yin's expression grew serious. "This student has encountered some trouble, and I may need the school's help to take care of things."

Old Cai's eyes instantly went wide. "The Neohuman Alliance?"

Lu Yin shook his head. "Not this time."

Old Cai let out a sigh of relief. "I'll be honest. Since you've managed to survive this long, kid, you must have some protection from the Hall of Honor. Who is it? One of the seven?"

Lu Yin nodded.

Old Cai felt confused. "Since you have one of the seven Semi-Progenitors protecting you, then why have you run here for help?"

At this moment, Xia Luo suddenly arrived from a ways away. "It's a matter of this student's business."

No matter if it was Lu Yin or Xia Luo, it was impossible for them to simply use the Astral Combat Academy. It was their alma mater, not a tool. Certain things needed to be clarified in advance. Otherwise, there would be issues if something happened to the Astral Combat Academy.

Lu Yin glanced over as soon as Xia Luo arrived.

Old Cai's eyes flashed, and he blurted out, "Xia Jiuyou?"

The two nodded.

The old man took a deep breath and stared at the two former students. "Boys, you want to use my Astral Combat Academy to hold back the Xia family's experts in order to let him absorb Xia Jiuyou, right?"

Lu Yin nodded.

The old man showed his teeth. "Kid, do you realize that, in order to protect the top ten from the Neohuman Alliance, the Human Domain's most powerful experts have been sent out? Xia Jiuyou is no exception. In addition to the powerhouses from the Xia family, the Hall of Honor also sent their most powerful experts to guard him from the shadows. Such a person is at least able to stall a Semi-Progenitor."

Lu Yin really had not known about this.

Xia Luo smiled and said, "We students already assumed that the top ten would not be allowed to have any accidents since the opportunity that they're receiving is related to the Progenitor realm."

"And yet you still dare to scheme against Xia Jiuyou?" Old Cai shouted.

Xia Luo shrugged. "Neither the Xia family's experts nor the hidden guardians from the Hall of Honor are allowed to enter the Astral Combat Academy. Besides, if you don't help with this, this student will be absorbed sooner or later."

Xia Luo's words were spoken in a casual and laid back tone, but they spoke of sadness and a bleak future.

Old Cai's eyes flickered, and he observed Xia Luo with serious eyes.

Of Lu Yin's class, everyone had eventually left Astral-10 with the exception of Xia Luo. Currently, he was an alternative mentor.

Lu Yin was the pride of all of Astral-10's mentors, and the pride of the entire Astral Combat Academy, but Xia Luo received the most concern and affection from the mentors out of all the students.

Old Cai was very unwilling to allow Xia Luo to simply disappear.

Xia Luo said, "Old Cai, we students simply wish to make the attempt. If the academy is not able to stop them, then we won't make any trouble for the academy."

"What are you talking about? It doesn't matter if you're one of his clones or not—you're a student of my Astral-10. There's no reason for a teacher to just watch his students die." Old Cai was not happy with the situation.

Lu Yin let out a sigh of relief. "Thank you, Old Cai."

Old Cai frowned. "The Xia family is no ordinary power. They've probably sent that old lady, Xia Meng, to protect Xia Jiuyou. If it's her, we have no way to handle her. It looks like we'll need to ask the mad headmaster, and I don't know..."

Old Cai started muttering to himself, so Lu Yin and Xia Luo bade their goodbyes and left the treasury.

"I hope that your personality can become the dominant one. If not, this all will have been for nothing," Lu Yin mentioned to Xia Luo.

Xia Luo smiled and said, "Fate is something that is predestined, and there's nothing that I can do. Still, even if my consciousness is absorbed, I will still have an effect on Xia Jiuyou, which means that he won't be as hostile towards you in the future."

Lu Yin answered sullenly, "I'm more concerned about my 900 million star essence."

Xia Luo laughed. "It's not easy to love money as much as you."

...

Half a month soon passed. During these two weeks, the Neohuman Alliance did not launch many attacks or assassination attempts. The Hall of Honor had already shown their response, and the Sixth Mainland had suffered heavy losses. However, the Sixth Mainland was extremely arrogant, and there were rumors that the Progenitor of Secret Arts had moved out to search for the Neohuman Alliance and that he had already destroyed tens of thousands of their strongholds. Still, this did not cause much overall damage to the Neohuman Alliance.

Aeternus, the Neohuman Alliance's headquarters, was located in the Fifth Mainland's Neoverse, and not even the Progenitor of Secret Arts possessed enough power to shake the Neoverse by himself.

On one particular day, a young man named Xia He arrived at Astral-10 from space. He was registered to study at Astral-10 as part of an exchange program.

Xia He's qualifications had been directly confirmed by the Hall of Honor, and he had even been approved of by Nanyuan, one of the nine overseers. Even if the Astral Combat Academy held a special status, it could not ignore the Hall of Honor.

Chapter 1338: Ambush

Xia Meng stood in outer space as he looked down at Astral-10. The massive, once battleship that had a glorious history had been reduced to being nothing more than an academy.

Xia Jiuyou entered Astral-10 while Xia Meng stood guard outside.

Inside Astral-10, someone had already started watching Xia Jiuyou.

Xia Jiuyou entered Astral-10, but he did not meet with any of the mentors. Instead, he immediately grabbed a student and sent them to find Xia Luo.

"Teacher Xia Luo? He's not easy to find. He's from the legendary class, and he's not actually one of Astral-10's mentors. Thus, he only gives guidance when he feels like it and he can't be found in any specific area," the student explained.

Xia Jiuyou smiled and said, "Then do you know where he can usually be found? My name is Xia He, and I'm Xia Luo's brother."

The student thought for a moment. "Maybe in the ruins. Over the past two weeks, Teacher Xia Luo has been frequently going to the ruins, though I don't know what he's been going there for."

Xia He thanked the student and turned towards the ruins. Ruins? This is even better than expected. Now, there won't be anyone to bother us.

Xia Jiuyou moved out.

Astral-10 had once been destroyed by the crazy headmaster. The ruins were just one part of the battleship's deck. Every broken plank was no different from a mountain, each one forever burning and emitting a scorched smell.

Xia Jiuyou approached the ruins step by step, occasionally passing by a few students. He simply avoided the students and continued on his way.

A day passed, and the flames grew larger and larger until there was a sea of fire in all directions. This place was far too deep in the ruins for Astral-10's students, as the heat of the flames was unendurably dangerous for them.

Xia Jiuyou raised a hand, and his star energy transformed into a stream of air that spread out in all directions. Suddenly, his eyes lit up, and he looked to his left—he had felt a fluctuation of star energy in that direction.

Before long, someone passed by outside of the flames. Xia Jiuyou looked at that person, and his eyes lit up. It was Xia Luo.

When Xia Luo saw Xia Jiuyou within the flames, his expression changed drastically. "Why are you here at Astral-10?"

Xia Jiuyou's mouth stretched up into a smile, but his eyes were aggressive. "It was very hard to find you, but let's see who can help you this time."

Xia Luo turned and fled without saying another word.

Xia Jiuyou raised a hand and attacked with a Yōu Reinforced Palm. The attack burst through the sea of fire and froze a large area. Then, Xia Jiuyou's innate gift of echo caused a second Yōu Reinforced Palm to appear that blocked Xia Luo's path, but Xia Luo quickly evaded that attack.

"Xia Luo, you can't escape, as you're destined to merge with me! After all, you were originally split off from me!" Xia Jiuyou shouted as the star energy over his hand formed a knife. Then, he lifted a hand to unleash the Xia family's Triple Blade Will.

During ZENITH, the manner in which the summoned Progenitor Chen had used the Triple Blade Will had inspired Xia Jiuyou into improving his use of the technique himself. He had actually managed to condense the aura of the technique, and while this did not increase the power of his attacks, the Triple Blade Will was no longer a technique that had a limited number of uses.

The closer he came to Xia Luo, the stronger Xia Jiuyou's blade became.

Xia Luo felt death quickly approaching him. Xia Jiuyou's Yōu Reinforced Palm reappeared in front of Xia Luo, and he raised a hand to dissolve the attack's star energy, but a knife suddenly appeared behind him and sliced at him. Xia Luo collapsed to the ground.

The terrifying shockwave tore through the sea of fire and shredded the ground.

A group of more than a dozen students cautiously approached the edge of the sea of fire. They had used various items to protect themselves from the flames in order to explore the ruins.

Any student that joined Astral-10 wanted to explore the ruins and find ancient treasures. This group had made it the furthest in, and among them was the girl, Xiao Xuan.

"Will we burn to death? Teacher said that this place is very dangerous." Xiao Xuan was afraid, and her face was very pale despite being baked by the roasting heat of the flames. She looked incredibly white.

A boy next to her whispered, "What are you afraid of? Teacher Xia Luo should be close by, and these flames are spreading so slowly that they can't even hurt us."

"That's right, Xiao Xuan, don't be afraid. I heard that this place used to house all of Astral-10's ancient battle techniques. If we find any copies, we can take them."

Xiao Xuan muttered to herself, "I don't know if the Legendary Ones ever came here to look for things."

"They must have. That year, there was Arbiter Lu, Lulu Mavis, and Teacher Xia Luo," the male student commented.

Suddenly, the flames were blown apart, and a terrifying power tore through the void and erupted behind several of the students. They turned out to be incredibly lucky because the force of this shockwave had been enough to wipe all of them all out.

After they stared at the cracks in the ground for a moment and the spatial tears that had yet to recover, the students turned to look at where the attack had come from in a sluggish and terrified manner. They instantly saw Xia Jiuyou's sharp and icy eyes, as well as Xia Luo.

"Teacher Xia Luo!" Xiao Xuan could not stop herself from shouting, though her mouth was immediately covered by her classmates who were next to her. The entire group stared into the distance.

Xia Luo evaded a blade and saw the students off in the distance. Xia Jiuyou also saw them, but continued to raise his blade and then brought it down. "Xia Luo, don't resist."

Xia Luo shouted, "Stop!" and he walked forward to meet the blade.

Xia Jiuyou sneered, "Stupid."

As he spoke, he flipped his blade around and used the back of the blade to strike Xia Luo's forehead.

Xia Jiuyou landed on the ground and looked down at Xia Luo, who had already passed out. "As soft-hearted as a little girl."

He then reached down with a hand, and Xia Luo's body slowly became transparent before gradually disappearing.

Xia Jiuyou's eyes were filled with ecstasy; he had succeeded and had finally absorbed Xia Luo! A surge of power erupted from Xia Jiuyou's body, and he tipped back his head and roared. Suddenly, everything he saw changed. By mastering how to condense the Triple Blade Will, he had achieved the same level of attack power as Progenitor Chen had shown during ZENITH.

After absorbing Xia Luo, both Xia Jiuyou's battle strength and control of star energy had risen an entire level, and even more importantly, he had gained one more life. Only with this level of strength would he stand a chance at fighting for the upcoming opportunity, and he had to win that chance.

No matter who he faced, Lu Yin, Wang Yi, Shang Qing, or Wu Taibai, no one could stop Xia Jiuyou.

He had an even grander plan hidden deep in his heart, and it was a plan that could only be carried out by cultivating the Nine Clones Secret Technique.

Finally, everything was perfect.

Just as Xia Jiuyou was ready to leave, the flames in front of him changed. They suddenly transformed into a ghost-like Xia Luo who charged at Xia Jiuyou.

Xia Jiuyou's expression changed dramatically. "You? What's going on? You should be gone."

The flames twisted, and then changed from Xia Luo to Lu Yin, then to Shang Qing, Wu Taibai. They transformed into Xia Jiuyou's enemies, old friends, and even his relatives.

Xia Jiuyou's face went pale and his breathing grew unsteady. What had just happened? What was going on?

There was a bang, and Xia Jiuyou felt like his brain was struck. He started bleeding from his seven orifices, and the massive shock caused his vision to blur. He suddenly felt a sharp pain in his chest, and he could not stop himself from spitting out a mouthful of blood as his body slammed down into the flames.

No, this is all an illusion, Lu Yin! Xia Jiuyou's eyes opened up. "Lu Yin, I know it's you!"

The first person to pop into his mind was Lu Yin, as only Lu Yin would cooperate with Xia Luo to ambush Xia Jiuyou while he was in Astral-10 and also had the ability to force Xia Jiuyou into an illusion.

Outside of Astral-10, the same moment Xia Jiuyou was injured, Xia Meng's eyes went wide, and she moved out and tried to enter Astral-10.

However, there were invisible forces that isolated Astral-10, and there were also the academy's mentors. The Sandmaster, the Rainmaster, the Starmaster, and Old Cai all appeared one by one.

Xia Meng's body trembled as she looked at the people before her. "You're looking to die! You actually dare to act against my Xia family?"

The Trialmaster raised his hand, and the Channeling Diagram appeared in front of the mentors.

It dispersed the power of Xia Meng's attack, but she had a power level of more than 900,000. Even if the Trialmaster was able to disperse the attack a bit, it was not enough to stop the attack completely. All of the mentors worked together, only to still be injured by Xia Meng's attack. "Out of my way!"

At this moment, a frantic laughter arose from within the academy. "You provoked the war! Hahahaha! You provoked the war, and you'll suffer the consequences all by your own, hahahaha! Suffer the consequences..."

Xia Meng's expression changed. This insane voice shot through her mind like a sharp blade and gave her a splitting headache. "Astral-10's mad headmaster."

The mentors looked at each other and then returned to Astral-10.

Xia Meng gritted her teeth and rushed towards Astral-10 once more. Down below, in the Rain Observatory, the crazy headmaster sensed something. He raised his head, once again completely mad.

"War, war—," he shouted. He did not know what he was doing. He went from watching the rain from a platform, into space. The void changed in his passing, and space looked completely different, as though a different layer of the universe had been revealed.

An incomparable attack appeared in Xia Meng's vision.

Xia Meng roared, "You old madman!"

She raised her hand, and there was a bang.

Fluctuations of invisible energy spread from Astral-10, sweeping out in all directions. At this moment, all of Erudite Flowzone trembled, and the tributary astral rivers were all pushed back.

All of the cultivators on the Wen family's homeworld felt shocked when they sensed this terrifying power.

The Wen patriarch, Wen Zizai, dropped the broom he had been holding. The power he was sensing had completely erased his mood to sweep. He went pale and turned to look towards Astral-10. What had happened?

In the ruins of Astral-10, outside of the flames, Xiao Xuan and others all saw a strange sight.

They had first had a blade attack brush by them, and then they had seen the man who called himself Xia He attack Xia Luo. He had then gone still before starting to laugh maniacally, sounding just like the crazy headmaster. They had no idea where the attack had come from that had struck the crazed man, but then he had shouted out 'Lu Yin.'

Lu Yin was a legend for the students of Astral-10. He was the reason that Astral-10 had managed to escape its period of decline and enter a time of prosperity. This place had once been known as the first of the ten branches of the Astral Combat Academy, and all of the student had joined Astral-10 because of Lu Yin.

Arbiter Lu Yin, are you here?

Xia Jiuyou was smashed into the flames by Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm. He vomited up blood, feeling agony throughout his internal organs. However, he had also escaped the illusion, but then his vision went black once again. Night Advent had fallen.

Xia Jiuyou's pupils shrank sharply, and he rushed forward, trying to escape Lu Yin's spiritual force attack. Xia Jiuyou's spiritual force could not compare to Lu Yin's.

It was easy to escape Night Advent, and Xia Jiuyou leaped out of the flames. There was blood dripping from his mouth. He saw the students who were watching from a distance, and his eyes flashed with a fierce light as he raised a hand to grab for one of them.

He easily grabbed a girl by her neck. "Lu Yin, I'll kill her if you attack again!"

"Who are you going to kill?" A familiar voice spoke from in front of Xia Jiuyou, and he looked at the girl, only to see that she had become his father, Xia Yi.

Xia Jiuyou's scalp went numb. This was not good! He was in another illusion.

There was another bang, and a sharp pain erupted from his head. Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm had landed square on Xia Jiuyou's head and Xia Jiuyou's feebly let go of his grip. His pupils dilated, and his vision blurred and started to grow dark. He could no longer tell the difference between reality and illusion.

The gap was too big. Xia Jiuyou was never even able to see Lu Yin, and he had been on the back foot throughout their entire exchange.

Chapter 1339: Merging

There was another bang, and Lu Yin appeared above Xia Jiuyou's head. He slapped down a palm, and Xia Jiuyou coughed up more blood. This attack had taken most of Xia Jiuyou's life.

The Nine Clones Technique gave the user nine lives, but Lu Yin had no intention of killing Xia Jiuyou, as that would not help anything. If Lu Yin wanted to, he could instantly eliminate Xia Jiuyou, but killing Xia Jiuyou was not the goal.

Xia Jiuyou collapsed halfway to his knees. His arms trembled, and he could barely support his own body. He maintained only the tiniest bit of his consciousness. He knew what Lu Yin was wanting to do, he was trying to knock Xia Jiuyou out cold to allow Xia Luo to absorb Xia Jiuyou instead of the reverse. Xia Jiuyou would rather die than be absorbed by Xia Luo.

"Brother Jiuyou, your hand's broken." In his half-conscious state, Xia Jiuyou saw a child approaching. It was his younger brother, his own brother. He looked so cute, and he looked at Xia Jiuyou with so much admiration in his eyes.

Another child appeared, this one with the same appearance as Xia Jiuyou himself. It was Xia Jiuyou when he had been a child.

"A wound on your hand? Here, let Brother give it a small huff and puff and the pain will go away."

"Thank you, Brother."

A girl walked up behind Xia Jiuyou. "Brother, let's go! Let's sneak out to play! I heard that people outside call us one of the Three Dark Hands! That's so funny."

Xia Jiuyou blinked at her like a child. "The Three Dark Hands? What's that mean?"

"It means we're great, so how about we go bully people?"

"No, you old lady! Stop bullying people!"

"Hey, who turned you kind?"

"Brother Jiuyou, it's very difficult to practice the Yōu Reinforced Palm."

"Brother Jiuyou, I'm hungry."

"Brother, my sister wants to play with you."

"Aren't you Big Brother Jiuyou? You're really amazing!"

"Brother Jiuyou is amazing!"

In a blink of an eye, the entire situation had changed. "Big Brother Jiuyou, kill me! The Xia family will only allow you to live."

"Brother Jiuyou, I don't want to die, but I want you to live, so say goodbye."

"Brother, remember me and live, no matter what."

Xia Jiuyou's eyes grew bloodshot as scenes from his past appeared. He was overcome with anguish. The memories of his brother and sister caused him to collapse, and tears combined with blood before falling from the corner of his eyes.

Ever since he had been old enough to understand, the Xia family had instilled in Xia Jiuyou to win by any means necessary. This was the reason why Xia Jiuyou had killed his brother, his sister, and everyone he had held dear, following his father's orders one step at a time.

Successfully cultivating the Nine Clones Technique had not only been a means for Xia Jiuyou to become stronger, but also a method to split his personality.

Each clone had broken away, one by one, and each one of the clones had taken away a portion of his empathy. In the end, Xia Jiuyou, who had been left alone, had been left with nothing but ruthlessness, deceit, and—weariness.

Lu Yin stared at Xia Jiuyou as the young man shed blood and tears. Xia Jiuyou's pupils were unfocused and he was almost unconscious, so why were his eyes filled with so much pain and sadness at this moment?

Xia Luo approached and stood in front of Xia Jiuyou. "Xia Jiuyou is someone who is ruthless and unscrupulous. He is trying to become as invincible and powerful as Progenitor Chen, and if it's something that will help him become stronger, he will ignore the rules, hide, and allow people to humiliate him. However, he is also very tired, and deep down in his heart, there is still a trace of his obsession with dying, which has been there since he was a child.

"To absorb him and replace him as the Xia family's inheritor means that I am also taking on his obsession, as well as his pain."

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed his eyes, and he thought of Ming Yan. Her white-haired personality had taken on all of Ming Yan's pain and sorrow, and it turned out that Xia Jiuyou's situation was exactly the same as hers.

"Truthfully, you also truly want to set down your burden. I will take it for you, so you can rest easy," Xia Luo stared into Xia Jiuyou's eyes as he spoke slowly. He spoke like he was hypnotizing Xia Jiuyou, but also like he was making a promise.

The last trace of Xia Jiuyou self-consciousness completely disappeared.

Lu Yin turned around and walked away.

Only Xia Luo and Xia Jiuyou stayed behind.

Even at the end, Lu Yin had never known Xia Jiuyou.

Everyone has a side to themselves that others did not know. In the Mountain and Seas Zone, Xia Jiuyou had suffered multiple defeats after he had appeared, and he had been mocked by others. At that time, who had known that everything had been in his control. He had later stepped onto the golden platform and proven himself to be one of the strongest people in the entire younger generation. He was brilliant, but he had sabotaged himself in a bid to win ZENITH.

Xia Jiuyou had many faces, but it appeared that they had all been created by his own internal traumas.

Lu Yin remembered Jin He and Tong Zhan, both of whom he had personally killed. They had been his enemies, but had there also been an unknown side to them?

With a wry smile, Lu Yin lifted his head and let out a long sigh. He still over-thought things. This was the way of the universe. As long as there was life, there was a reason for existence and there would be an obsession to live. Lu Yin was no different, and this led to competition.

In a universe ruled by survival of the fittest, kindness was the least valuable commodity that existed. The only thing that a person could hope to preserve was a line they would not cross no matter what.

Off in the distance, Xiao Xuan and the others were blankly staring at Lu Yin as he approached. Lu Yin had returned to his normal appearance, and his face belonged to a person who had been obsessed over by Xiao Xuan and the others. Their idol was in front of them.

"Lu- Arbiter Lu!" Xiao Xuan squeaked in surprise.

All of the other students were also excitedly staring at Lu Yin. "Senior!"

"Arbiter Lu."

"Champion Lu."

Lu Yin was met by a similar scene to before. The last time, he had not been able to face the students, and this time he felt a little embarrassed. However, he had also just attacked someone, and he was feeling a bit down about it.

"Why are you here? This place is very dangerous," Lu Yin said.

Xiao Xuan was so excited that stars shone in her eyes. "Senior, you're back? When? Did you come back to graduate?"

"Senior, I heard that you entered the Rain List right from the beginning, right? That's so hard!"

"Senior, is it lonely being such a powerhouse?"

"Senior, what was that power you used during the last fight of ZENITH? You were so handsome, and so charming."

The corners of Lu Yin's mouth were pulled up, and he looked over at the girl who asked the last question. She had a great eye. "Cough, This place is very dangerous, so don't try to go any further and worry the mentors."

"Senior, when did you get back?" Xiao Xuan asked.

"A few days ago."

"We've been working up in the space station, but we didn't see you. Ah, I remember now, you were the senior from Legend 1!" Xiao Xuan exclaimed, startling Lu Yin.

He did not deny her conclusion. "I needed to do something after coming back, so it's best if I don't say."

On the other side, a boy asked, "Senior, could you guide us? Teach us how to leave our name on the Rain List? We've stayed in the Rain Observatory for a whole year, yet we can't even see the Rain List."

Lu Yin smiled and said, "In addition to trying to simply control star energy, there's also the aspect of comprehension, which is understanding it. I'll leave you with this: hold a wild flower in your hands and in doing so, the world."¹

"Hold a wild flower in your hands and in doing so, the world?" These young students were all confused. This simple phrase had given them enough to think on for a lifetime.

The truth was that Lu Yin did not understand this phrase himself. Although he had reached the Worldliness realm of star energy control, he fell far behind Liquor Hero. She was a peerless talent who had truly understood the meaning of one flower, one world. She had used a single drop of wine to trap Bai Mai, and the bug had been unable to escape. Liquor Hero's Creation realm of star energy control had also allowed her to simply absorb the various weapons that God Qingguang had created with Truesight. Liquor Hero's star energy control was simply exquisite.

If possible, Lu Yin wanted to speak with her about how she had reached such an enigmatic realm of star energy control.

One girl was very excited, and she squeezed herself in front of Lu Yin. Her face was flushed and her eyes were full of admiration. "Senior, during ZENITH's last fight when you singled out all of the top ten, why did that power make you so handsome? What kind of power is it?"

Everyone wanted to know what sort of power Lu Yin had used, and Lu Yin was absolutely certain if not for his own level of strength, there would be countless people from all parts of the universe who would want to capture him in order to find out about that power.

That energy had given Lu Yin the strength to overwhelm all of ZENITH's top ten, even with powerhouses like Shang Qing. Not only that, Lu Yin had crushed all of the others. Such a power was truly monstrous, and even Lu Yin himself felt it was horrifying, especially since it was difficult to control.

"That power is something that I only managed to obtain by chance, and it would be difficult to use it again." Lu Yin did not want to share much information.

...

Still, it was pleasant to chat with his juniors. All of them were full of energy and curiosity towards the universe. They had a strong desire for adventure flowing from their hearts, though they had no idea what awaited them once they entered the universe.

Even with Lu Yin's talent and strength, he had nearly died multiple times, and he had truly died several times more.

The universe was a cruel place, and the competition within an academy, or the oppression felt from a powerful family was nothing more than the tip of the iceberg, and was truly nothing in the greater universe.

Confronted with a dozen pairs of eyes, each full of hope for the future, Lu Yin smiled gently. "Remember what Senior told you: no matter what you experience in the future, never give up hope, not even when facing unimaginable giants. There is a silver lining to everything in the universe, and maybe you'll catch

it, and maybe you won't, but if you ever give up, it simply means an early end. Also," At this point his smile grew a bit bigger. "Astral-10 is our home, so never forget our home."

"Yes, Senior," everyone replied, each of them staring at Lu Yin with excitement and admiration. They had only briefly interacted with Lu Yin, but it had still greatly increased their respect for him.

"Alright, head on back. In the future, to go so deep into the ruins. It's dangerous." Lu Yin waved a hand to dismiss the students.

"Goodbye, Senior!" All of these students implicitly believed Lu Yin's words, and decisively acted on them. In the blink of an eye, they were all gone, though their eyes were filled with reluctance.

Soon, Xia Luo walked out of the flames behind Lu Yin with a smile on his face.

Lu Yin turned around and looked at Xia Luo.

Neither of the two spoke, and instead they just looked at each other.

After a while, Xia Luo asked, "Brother Lu, why are you acting so hesitant?"

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. "Your gaze feels unfamiliar to me."

Xia Luo spread his hands. "It's not that, but this is how merging works. Xia Jiuyou hasn't disappeared, but rather our minds have merged. His feelings, as well as some of his attachments, have affected me. Still, I am the dominant one."

"So, are you the second Xia Jiuyou?" Lu Yin smiled.

Xia Luo smiled. "You can say that. Let's go. Elder Xia Meng is in a hurry."

Lu Yin nodded.

Outside of Astral-10, up in space, Xia Meng's face had become exceptionally gloomy, and she was quietly waiting.

She had not made any moves after the crazy headmaster had appeared. She had not been able to get into Astral-10, and her efforts had been futile. Hidden in the dark, the powerhouse sent by the Hall of Honor to protect Xia Jiuyou also remained still.

Several of Astral-10's mentors were vigilantly keeping an eye on Xia Meng.

Old Cai was anxious. He did not know what had happened to Lu Yin and the others, and everyone was still worried about Xia Luo. After years together, Xia Luo was like a child in their hearts. They had never said anything, but their actions had spoken for them. Even with their strength, if it had not been for Xia Luo's sake, not one of the mentors would have risked going up against Xia Meng, even with their strength.

Fortunately, Xia Meng was too powerful, and she had drawn the attention of the crazy headmaster. Otherwise, Xia Meng would have broken into Astral-10.

Chapter 1340: Leaving A Name On Boundless

Space distorted as Xia Luo and Lu Yin emerged.

The tension drained out of the eyes of the Trialmaster and the other mentors, as this meant that Xia Luo won.

Across from the mentors, Xia Meng stared at Xia Luo with complex emotions filling her eyes. She did not know how to view Xia Luo; was he Xia Jiuyou's murderer? Or was he Xia Jiuyou himself? No one could understand Xia Meng's feelings at this time.

She had been very protective of Xia Jiuyou for a long time. During his youth, Xia Jiuyou had been kind and innocent, and Xia Ming had become attached to him then. This was why, despite risking offending the patriarch, Xia Yi, she had hidden away the Nine Clones Secret Technique for Xia Jiuyou. However, in the end, the dominant personality was not Xia Jiuyou.

She clenched her fists tightly as she stared at Xia Luo, whose face was very similar to Xia Jiuyou's.

Xia Luo stepped forward and approached Xia Meng. He looked up at her. "Auntie Meng."

Xia Meng's body went stiff from shock. This was how Xia Jiuyou had referred to her the first time he had seen her. This was also the name that had caused Xia Meng to view Xia Jiuyou as practically her own son. However, as Xia Jiuyou had grown older and started cultivating the Nine Clones Secret Technique, his personality had completely changed. He had become more ruthless and more practiced at deceit. Eventually, he no longer called her so familiarly anymore.

After so many years, she had not expected to hear this name again.

"You..." Xia Meng's fingers trembled as she stared at Xia Luo.

Xia Luo smiled. "Auntie Meng, let's go home."

She stared at Xia Luo blankly, and it was as if she was seeing the kind and innocent child version of Xia Jiuyou. "O- okay. Okay, let's go home."

Xia Luo turned back to look at Lu Yin. "Brother Lu, you'll soon receive what was promised to you."

He then revealed a bright smile. "I'll soon see you at that place."

Lu Yin knew that Xia Luo was talking about the place that they would soon be sent to where they would fight for an opportunity. It seemed that Xia Luo knew something.

It was only then that Xia Meng noticed Lu Yin, and her eyes burned with a killing intent that made Lu Yin's scalp tingle.

He frowned, but he was not actually worried. The High Sage Grandmaster was keeping an eye on Lu Yin at all times, and it would be incredibly bizarre for Xia Meng to take action against Lu Yin at this time.

Xia Luo quickly spoke up. "Auntie Meng, he's my friend."

Xia Meng stared at Lu Yin, not knowing what to do. Should she get revenge? Xia Meng herself did not understand what she was feeling at this moment.

Lu Yin greeted Xia Meng. "Senior, Xia Jiuyou was Xia Luo, and Xia Luo is still Xia Jiuyou. With Xia Jiuyou's mind, he would not have been able to proceed far with the Nine Clones Secret Technique, but Xia Luo is different. He's more like the Xia Jiuyou you remember, isn't he?"

Xia Meng released her hand and snorted. "Junior, sometimes it's bad to be too clever, and you would do well to keep a low profile in that place. There are some places where you can't act freely. If you do end up in trouble, don't drag down Xia Jiu- Xia Luo."

Lu Yin smiled. "There's no need for senior to worry."

"Hmph!" Xia Meng was still very upset with Lu Yin, but there was nothing that she could do about him, so she simply left with Xia Luo.

Before leaving, Xia Luo bowed to Astral-10 and all of the mentors. "This student will come back. Please take care, mentors."

Lu Yin stared at Xia Luo's back as he left. More than anything, Lu Yin was looking forward to the 900 million star essence, as that was a massive sum of money. It was enough to stir anyone's greed, enough to even entice one of the Hall of Honor's overseers.

Lu Yin turned to face the Trialmaster and the other mentors and bowed low as well. "We students brought disaster to the academy. Thank you, mentors, for helping us."

The Rainmaster, the Starmaster, the Sandmaster, and the Trialmaster all just glanced at Lu Yin before returning to Astral-10. Old Cai made a certain gesture that Lu Yin was very familiar with, and Lu Yin instantly understood. "Don't worry, Old Cai. This student understands."

With that, Old Cai was satisfied.

As the rest of the mentors left, Lu Yin suddenly saw a pair of murky eyes that had seen countless years pass by. These eyes were at Astral-10's Rain Observatory, and they belonged to the crazy headmaster.

More than ten years had passed since Lu Yin had entered Astral-10, but Lu Yin and the crazy headmaster had barely ever spoken to each other. In fact, Lu Yin had actually never seen the headmaster in a normal state of mind, though the headmaster had helped Lu Yin a great deal.

The headmaster had helped Lu Yin break through to the Melder realm and had also helped him deduce the ninth star of the Cosmic Art. And recently, the headmaster had held Xia Meng back.

Although the crazy headmaster had never taught Lu Yin anything, Lu Yin still had a great deal of respect for the old man.

Before the Astral Combat Tournament, there had been rumors that the crazy headmaster had spoken to Astral-10's mentors and asked them to teach the students, which had led to everyone rapidly improving. Astral-10's mentors were not true instructors, but rather the crazy headmaster's caretakers.

As Lu Yin's status and strength improved, he had become able to more clearly see the events of the past.

For example, Lu Yin was certain that, at this moment, the headmaster was not insane, but rather in his proper state of mind.

Lu Yin slowly descended onto Astral-10 and approached the Rain Observatory.

Rain softly fell onto the platforms, and Lu Yin swept past the giant trees until he eventually stopped close to the headmaster. He then moved closer one step at a time, until he finally stopped less than

three meters away from the crazy headmaster, at which point Lu Yin slowly bowed. "Student Lu Yin greets the headmaster and thanks the headmaster for his help."

The crazy headmaster did not answer. His clothes were messy, his hair looked like a hornet's nest, his face was filthy, and there were no shoes on his feet, making it impossible to know what he had stepped in. All in all, he looked like a beggar.

Lu Yin did not stand up, and he remained in a bowing position as he respectfully saluted the old man.

One hour. Two hours. Three hours. Finally, a full five hours passed. The headmaster had not moved at all during this time, and neither had Lu Yin.

"Have you graduated yet?" the headmaster asked. His voice sounded desolate.

Lu Yin said, "This student still has not yet graduated."

The headmaster lifted his head. "Then you're still a part of the academy, and helping you is something that we should do."

Lu Yin was grateful. "All of us students are grateful for the headmaster's help. We created problems for Astral-10, and I deeply apologize for this."

"There's no need to apologize. As long as you are able to leave your name here at Astral-10 and become a guest instructor for Astral-10, everything is fine." the headmaster said.

Lu Yin was surprised. "A guest instructor? Like Xia Luo?"

"No, that's different. He did not leave his name on the academy. As for you, your name will be carved on Boundless. In the future, no matter what happens, if Boundless is around, so will you. If it's destroyed, then you will perish before it does." The mad headmaster turned around and spoke in a somber tone as he stared at Lu Yin.

Boundless was the name of the battleship that had become Astral-10.

Lu Yin felt an inexplicable solemnness. At this moment, it felt like he was participating in some kind of ceremony.

Boundless, Boundless, Boundless. Lu Yin did not dare to immediately answer. "Might I ask headmaster, where did this Boundless come from? Where is it going? Is there a destination?"

The mad headmaster's expression suddenly turned pious. "It is going from the Daosource Sect to the enemy's location. There is no final destination, as can there be an final end to humanity? Even if there is, there is no end for Boundless. She must carry mankind's hope. She bears the seed of inheritance. This is Boundless's destiny."

Lu Yin's eyes glanced about. "Seed of inheritance? Isn't this a battleship?"

The headmaster's eyes suddenly went wide, and a terrifying pressure fell upon Lu Yin. All that Lu Yin could sense was that something had suddenly changed, and it felt as if the universe had instantly been destroyed. The mounting pressure almost forced Lu Yin to kneel down.

"Boundless's mission is not one of war, but rather of delivering an inheritance. Only an inheritance can bring hope that can be passed down." The headmaster once again looked insane as he spoke, but then he smiled. "Hahahaha! The war that you caused was brought on by yourself and was self-inflicted. Eat the bitter fruit! Hahahaha, you caused the war." As he spoke, the crazy headmaster fled and almost instantly disappeared.

Lu Yin had not expected his question to trigger the headmaster's insanity, and he was stunned.

The Rainmaster appeared nearby. "Don't worry about it. That's how he always is, and he won't be himself for several days."

Lu Yin was curious. "Mentor, isn't Boundless a battleship? Why did it end up as an academy? The headmaster seems to be very serious about this ship's role."

The Rainmaster answered in a heavy voice, saying, "What he values is not the academy, nor the so-called glory of being headmaster, but rather the word 'Boundless.'"

"Boundless?" Lu Yin muttered to himself.

The Rainmaster stared off into the distance. "I am also fulfilling my responsibilities as a mentor because I have no boundaries. No matter how this warship is regarded, the truth is that it used to be a flagship. It was not just a flagship for a war, but rather one for all of mankind. It was the guiding light for mankind, and the inheritance that it carries is the hope of mankind. No one can bring shame to Boundless."

"What did the headmaster mean by an inheritance?" Lu Yin asked.

The Rainmaster replied, "That involves too much. For now, you just need to train hard, and I will explain this matter to you later. If the headmaster asked you to stay here in Astral-10, don't bother for the time being. Once you become an Envoy and understand the truth of Boundless, then you can decide whether or not you want to leave your name here. However, once you leave your name, the burden will be greater than what you can currently bear."

Lu Yin became really curious. No matter what, the Astral Combat Academy was just an academy, or perhaps a battleship that was a relic from ancient times. Could it actually carry an even greater burden than the Hall of Honor? That should be impossible, but the Rainmaster's words indicated that Lu Yin did not yet qualify to leave his name down on it. He was peerless within his generation, the pinnacle talent who could mobilize the protection of Semi-Progenitors, but he still was not qualified to leave his name on the ship.

There were too many secrets in the universe.

As for leaving his name, Lu Yin had initially been a bit torn over the decision, but with this additional information, it became even worse. All he wanted to do was settle his own matters.

In the Neoverse, on the sword-shaped mainland that was the Xia family's home, Xia Yi, the Xia patriarch, officially announced that the Xia family's inheritor had become Xia Luo. At the same time, Xia Yi requested that the Hall of Honor allow Xia Luo to replace Xia Jiuyou as one of ZENITH's top ten.

No matter if it was Xia Jiuyou or Xia Luo, they could both be regarded as an avatar of the main body. After Xia Jiuyou merged into Xia Luo, his strength climbed higher than ever before, so there was no reason for the Hall of Honor to refuse this request.

However, many people could not understand the concept of Xia Jiuyou merging with Xia Luo, and Xia Yi's attitude was even more confusing to them because he truly did not seem to care.

Though, if one considered this matter closely, Xia Jiuyou and Xia Luo were both Xia Yi's sons, and no one could change this fact. In the depths of Xia Yi's heart, he had actually hoped for Xia Luo to replace Xia Jiuyou because Xia Jiuyou actually harbored a deep hatred towards him, his father.

Inside the Xia family's headquarters, Patriarch Xia Yi slowly bowed down to an old man standing in front of him. This old man was Xia Ji, one of the Human Domain's seven Semi-Progenitors. He was the Xia family's top powerhouse.

"Xia Yi, you have no way to teach your son. Do you understand your guilt?" Xia Ji spoke in a flat tone, but when Xia Yi heard it, he shuddered even though he was responsible for the deaths of several members of the Xia family with no one being more ruthless than him.

"This junior is indeed guilty," Xia Yi immediately admitted to his error.

Xia Ji sighed. "The Nine Clones Secret Technique could have made Xia Jiuyou a perfect powerhouse. One is divided into nine, and each goes their own way. This method can even make up for the flaws in one's character. It's a pity that you educated that child through steel and blood. You allowed that child to use the Nine Clones Secret Technique as a means of separating his grief, which infinitely magnified the flaw of the technique. This made it so that he had no way to exert the true strength of the Nine Clones Secret Technique.

"The Nine Clones Secret Technique has now been repeatedly defeated by others of the same generation, which is truly humiliating to Progenitor Chen."