

## STAR ODYSSEY 1391

### Chapter 1391: Multiple Inheritances

How could Lu Yin agree to such an offer? He let out a dry laugh. "Brother Liu, stop messing around. This little brother couldn't be that lucky."

Liu Hao felt a bit of regret. He had already known that there was not much chance of Long Qi agreeing to the offer. After all, Long Qi was from the White Dragon Clan, which was one of the four ruling powers. No matter what happened, the Liu family was still limited to the Middle Realm.

"Then let's keep going. I want to find out what Brother Long is capable of." Liu Hao attacked again. The blade of grass moved again, and Liu Hao stepped forward and appeared right in front of Lu Yin.

Lu Yin did not want to keep fighting, but Liu Hao would not relent. He wanted to have Lu Yin unravel another sword technique, despite Lu Yin's refusal. Liu Hao did not want to abandon such a rare opportunity.

In what felt like the blink of an eye, half an hour had already passed. During this time, Liu Hao had not used any powerful attacks. He had instead only used simple sword moves, and yet Lu Yin was able to see through every last one of them. Lu Yin was not able to see through the attacks, but he undid the moves by just following his instincts, and managed to break the attacks in the simplest manner possible. In comparison, Liu Hao's attacks seemed rather crude.

Liu Hao's eyes gleamed brighter and brighter. Only half an hour had passed, and yet already his comprehension of the sword had improved a bit. Some of what he had previously used could be completely discarded. This person really was able to see through all of the movements of a sword.

Off in the distance, Long Kui was in absolute shock. Long Qi had actually managed to endure for half an hour against Liu Hao! This was someone who had the ability to challenge Junior Progenitor Long Tian. Liu Hao's strength had been second only to the Junior Progenitors during the Yuanlun Festival. He was one of the most powerful members of his generation, and it was possible that he even surpassed Princess Long Xi.

How could Long Qi compete with such a person? Could his strength really have risen so far in such a short amount of time that he could compare to Princess Long Xi?

No. Liu Hao was not putting his full efforts into this spar. He was only using basic sword moves, but even that was terrifying. The moment that Long Qi became an Enlightener, he would absolutely be comparable to Princess Long Xi.

Was this child not as pathetic as everyone had believed? Or could it be that the Sword Monument had completely transformed Long Qi?

Long Kui had not forgotten when he had seen Long Qi grab the Dragon Blood Replica on White Mountain. Even though Long Qi had been domineering when wielding that spear, he had no understanding of it as a weapon. At the present moment, Long Qi was completely different.

Long Kui figured that it was due to the Sword Monument and felt a need to immediately contact Long Xi.

It seemed that Liu Hao was becoming more excited as the fight progressed, because he was forgetting to suppress his strength, and his attacks were growing stronger and stronger. He had replaced the blade of grass with his actual sword as a sign of his respect for Long Qi's skills. Without thinking, Liu Hao used his attack that he used against his most powerful peers, such as Long Tian: Sword Spirit.

Sword Spirit was a sword technique bestowed by the Sword Monument. It gave a sword a spirit, vitality, and even spirituality like what humans and other beings possessed.

Jian Yuan gave a sword spirituality.

Liu Hao's sword transformed the moment he used this technique. The sword was activated by an Enlighter power within his body, and the sword revealed incomparable destructive power. As this sword approached, Lu Yin clearly swept his spear away. It could be seen that the sword technique had been broken, but the spear had also been shattered. Liu Hao's full strength had been behind that attack that Lu Yin had broken, and the attack seemed to continue through the void towards Lu Yin.

Many of the Liu family members shouted when they saw this.

Elder Song frowned. Liu Hao's sword skills were not able to surpass Long Qi's insight. This match was over.

Lu Yin stood still as he watched Liu Hao's attack approach. He knew that he would not be injured. The Liu family had many Envoys and powerful experts, and any one of them could lock down such an attack in an instant.

However, Lu Yin felt that he had not yet done enough. The strength that he had revealed so far was not enough to earn the attention of a Junior Progenitor.

At this thought, Lu Yin raised a hand. The scattered star energy from the shattered spear moved about and set up a Channeling Diagram. He would reveal a third inheritance. Three inheritances from the Sword Monument should be enough to attract the attention of a Junior Progenitor.

The Liu family's expert who had been ready to step in suddenly stopped.

Liu Hao's attack landed on the Channeling Diagram, and the attack was dispersed and diverted into numerous directions. Fortunately, the dispersed attack was stopped by the Liu family's powerhouses.

Lu Yin stood in place, and the attack struck the top of his head and exploded like a firecracker as the sword qi was scattered. Liu Hao's sword could not move any further.

Liu Hao had not released the full strength of his technique as he would have against someone with the same level of cultivation, but it had still been an attack that no ordinary Hunter could have withstood.

Liu Hao was shocked. He withdrew his sword and stepped back as he stared at the Channeling Diagram that had been formed from the star energy from the shattered spear. He was both surprised and confused. "Is that a sourcebox array?"

The people around were stunned.

Lu Yin was gasping for breath; his face pale. "Yes, it's a sourcebox array."

"You actually comprehended a sourcebox array?" One of the Liu family's elders was completely incredulous.

Lu Yin showed a bitter smile. "It was part of the inheritance from the Sword Monument."

Everyone nearby was utterly speechless; just how much had this kid received? Could this be true? When they considered the fact that Lu Yin had been lost in the Sword Monument for six days, they felt it might be true.

This Sword Monument had been too generous this time, and had strangely given so much to this person.

Liu Hao was left speechless, and he looked at the Channeling Diagram oddly. "Have you studied lockbreaking?"

Receiving a sourcebox array as an inheritance meant nothing if one was not a Lockbreaker, and it should be impossible to comprehend a sourcebox array so quickly. They were not the same as battle techniques.

Lu Yin removed the Channeling Diagram as he nodded. He explained with a voice filled with exhaustion, "I've been learning it for a long time. I already have a powerful domain."

With that, he unleashed his domain to envelop the area.

Everyone was stunned. Lu Yin had given them multiple surprises this day.

Liu Hao quietly commented, "This is an impressive domain. The fact that you were able to take that last sword attack from me shows that you are strong enough to be known throughout the Perennial World. Long Qi, you actually are worthy of Long Xi."

Lu Yin pursed his lips, as he did not know how to reply to this.

"It's just a pity that your cultivation is too weak. You started too late, and you probably won't be able to go to the Dominion Realm," Liu Hao said. He continued to stare at Lu Yin. "If you have the chance, come visit my Liu family. The Celestial Frost Sect is ruthless, and they won't be willing to leave you alone."

Lu Yin was able to hear Liu Hao's sincerity. He was someone dedicated to the sword. It seemed that many swordsmen were straightforward. Even if the Sword Sect in the Fifth Mainland was at odds with Lu Yin, that was just a matter of conflicting interests. Most of the sect's disciples were entirely focused on pursuing the sword, and were completely unconcerned with other matters. The Liu family that stood guard over the Sword Monument seemed to be the same.

Everyone who had been watching quickly dispersed. Elder Song greatly admired Lu Yin. "Child, come back here when you have the time. We will allow you to observe the Sword Monument once more."

Lu Yin had not expected the old man to be so generous.

Elder Song smiled. "Humanity has a deeply rooted respect towards Humility's Gate. All this old man can do is strive to provide better opportunities for the later generations. You are very impressive."

Lu Yin felt grateful. "Thank you, Senior."

He was struggling over what to do about Liu Ke.

In a normal situation, the Liu family would send someone to show Lu Yin around their territory, and Lu Yin had intended to use that time to come up with some way to proceed with his mission, but it was quite clear that the Liu family had no intention of showing him anywhere at all. Everyone was leaving, even Liu Hao who had been trying to convince Lu Yin to stay.

Lu Yin looked around. Even though he saw excitement in the eyes of the Liu family members who looked at him, none of them showed any inclination to step forward and act as a host.

Was this how the family showed their hospitality?

Seeing that Elder Song was about to leave, Lu Yin quickly spoke up, "Senior, please wait."

Elder Song turned to look at Lu Yin. "Is there anything else?"

Lu Yin could tell that the old man held a very high position within the Liu family, and he had also treated Lu Yin very well. The old man was even willing to allow Lu Yin to observe the Sword Monument a second time. If Lu Yin wanted to complete his assignment, he would need to rely on this elder.

This was the first assignment the Fourteenth Gate had given Lu Yin, and he had to complete it. Failure would make his path much more difficult in the future.

It was obvious from the fact that the Fourteenth Gate had rewarded Lu Yin with the opportunity to observe the Sword Monument that the division of Humility's Gate had incredible influence.

Lu Yin's mind continued to race even as he bowed low to Elder Song. "Junior Long Qi is part of the Fourteenth Gate, and I was sent here on a mission, and so I must offend Senior and the entire Liu family."

Many of the people who had not yet left instantly grew furious when they heard Lu Yin's statement. "The Fourteenth Gate wants to arrest another person from my Liu family? You've got guts! My Liu family's Progenitor has already stated that none of our people will be taken away again."

"My Liu family studies the sword. We have no traitors here. Leave!"

"Boy, get out!"

Zhang Dingtian had already shared with Lu Yin about how the Liu family resented and even hated the Fourteenth Gate, but Lu Yin had still not expected such a strong reaction.

Zhang Dingtian was watching from a ways away, and he frowned at this development.

Liu Tianmu simply turned around and left.

Despite being assaulted by the hatred from the Liu family, Lu Yin remained respectful and maintained his deep bow.

A Liu elder standing behind Elder Song shouted, "Leave! My Liu family no longer welcomes you!"

"Child, who is the target of your mission?" Elder Song suddenly spoke up, and the moment he spoke, everyone else went silent.

There was a young man in the crowd whose eyes began to flicker, and he was clearly nervous. He had been the first to shout at Lu Yin, and had also been the most passionate in his hatred.

"Liu Ke," Lu Yin answered quietly.

An uproar broke out in the surrounding crowd, and some of them stared at a person among them. They were staring at the person who had yelled the loudest against Lu Yin: Liu Ke.

Elder Song also turned to look at Lu Yin's target.

Liu Ke's face went pale. He clenched his teeth and his eyes grew bloodshot as he stared at Lu Yin. "Your Fourteenth Gate still wants to screw over my Liu family! You're just a dog of the four ruling powers; what did they give you to do this? They want to destroy my Liu family!"

Many people in the surrounding Liu family picked up on Liu Ke's words, "That's right, the Fourteenth Gate is nothing but the four ruling powers' lackey!"

"Get away from the Sword Monument!"

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Lu Yin looked at the young man. "Are you Liu Ke?"

Liu Ke lifted his head high. "That's right! You claim I'm a traitor; do you have any evidence? If you do, show us."

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. "After the last incident, everyone is aware of how the Liu family feels about my Fourteenth Gate. Given that bit of history, why would they send me here on a mission? Your ancestors have already stated your family's position, and yet I was still given this mission. The only possible reason is that you are a traitor. There's no other option."

This logic caused many people to consider the situation. They knew that the Liu family had made their position crystal clear, and yet the Fourteenth Gate was adamant about arresting Liu Ke. Either the Fourteenth Gate was targeting the Liu family, or Liu Ke really was a traitor.

If the Liu family was being targeted, there was no way the Fourteenth Gate would send a mere Hunter for this task. Additionally, they had sent the son-in-law of the White Dragon Clan's main family. It was obvious that the Fourteenth Gate wanted the Liu family to hesitate to do anything to the person they had sent. This appeared to be in line with getting a job done, not targeting the Liu family.

Liu Ke became enraged. "This is bullshit! Show proof if you have it."

"It looks like you have no proof of your innocence," Lu Yin coldly retorted.

Liu Ke's eyes turned panicked, but then he sneered. "I never betrayed humanity! I'm not some traitor! Where's your evidence? Or did you forge some? You must be dreaming if you want to arrest me while within the Liu family's territory."

Lu Yin's eyes flashed. His mission had only been to arrest Liu Ke, and no information or evidence had been provided. While the Fourteenth Gate had to be completely certain of Liu Ke's guilt, there was no evidence. If there was, everything would have been quite simple.

### **Chapter 1392: Kui Luo**

It was possible to conduct a successful interrogation as long as Liu Ke was captured, but the Liu family would never allow it.

Elder Song looked at Lu Yin. "Child, you can't take him away unless you can prove that he's a traitor. The ancestors have already made this declaration. Still, there's no reason for you to worry; since the Fourteenth Gate suspects him of being a traitor, my Liu family will not ignore this matter. We have our own methods of interrogation, and if it's discovered that he is a traitor, he will not be able to escape."

Liu Ke's heart fell. He had actually forgotten that even if he did manage to escape the Fourteenth Gate, he would never be able to avoid being interrogated by the Liu family.

Lu Yin had to speak up. "Senior, there are many different powers in the Perennial World, and there would be nothing for Humility's Gate to do if everyone was allowed to interrogate their own members like the Liu family requires."

"Then show us the evidence. Humility's Gate symbolizes the hope of humanity, and they cannot be allowed to make unfounded accusations," Elder Song said gently.

Lu Yin's thoughts took a sharp turn as he listened to the discussions of the Liu family members in the surrounding area. Lu Yin's eyes turned hard. "Senior, would you allow this junior to be presumptuous enough to speak to Liu Ke?"

Elder Song nodded.

Lu Yin looked at Liu Ke and walked towards him one step at a time.

Liu Ke was not at all worried. He was in the Liu family's territory, so he was eager to have Long Qi attack. Liu Ke's eyes were arrogant and antagonistic.

Lu Yin moved as close to Liu Ke as possible. They were only ten meters apart when Lu Yin was stopped by the members of the Liu family. "Liu Ke, what is your mission?"

Liu Ke sneered; what an idiot! This person was treating Liu Ke like an idiot. "What mission? I'm just a regular member of the Liu family; what kind of mission could I have?"

The moment he finished speaking, the scenery around him changed. It was no longer Long Qi standing in front of him, but a scarlet-eyed corpse king who was shrouded in darkness. All that Liu Ke could see were the scarlet eyes with the vertical slits. As he looked at the corpse king, the being raised its hand and slapped down, shattering the world.

Liu Ke instantly was overcome with despair, and his pupils shrank in a moment. "No! I'm one of you, don't kill me! I've gathered enough merit for you! I'll give you the Liu family and will scheme for the Sword Monument to be handed over!"

The next moment, his surroundings returned to what they had been, and Liu Ke saw Long Ke smiling at him, as well as the expressions of disbelief on the people around him. Finally, he saw murder in Elder Song's distant eyes.

Liu Ke still remembered what he had just said, and he glared at Lu Yin with bloodshot eyes as he screamed, "That was an illusion! You put me in an illusion!"

He immediately dropped to his knees and spoke to Elder Song. "Elder, Long Qi attacked me! He used an illusion to confuse me. I- Elder, I beg you to act as my senior! Long Qi was the one who controlled what I just said! Elder, please stand up for me! Please!"

Lu Yin spoke in a loud voice, "All I did was show you an illusion of your death. I never spoke a word, and everything you said came from no one but yourself."

Lu Yin had just used Night's End, Daybreak. By itself, it created an illusion that people could not resist, even if they knew they had been forced into an illusion. Liu Ke was nothing more than a Cruiser, so it was impossible for him to resist Lu Yin's illusion.

Throwing someone into an illusion could be an effective means of interrogation that Humility's Gate would sometimes employ, but they were only effective on the simplest of traitors. Liu Ke was a member of the Liu family, which meant he was far from a simple traitor, and most illusions would not work on him. This was why Humility's Gate had ordered Liu Ke's capture, as interrogation was the only means available to extract information from this person.

It was simply that Lu Yin's Night's End, Daybreak was different. This was the most powerful illusion technique in the Fifth and even the Sixth Mainlands. With this technique, Lu Yin had managed to convince both Wang Yi and Shang Qing into believing that the illusion affecting them had been real. Even in the Perennial World, Night's End, Daybreak was a top-tier technique, so there was no way for Liu Ke to resist it.

Also, it had to be mentioned that Liu Ke had been completely unprepared for Lu Yin to attack with an illusion, as otherwise Liu Ke would not have broken so easily.

"Thank you, Senior, for allowing this junior to take action. You have this junior's gratitude." Lu Yin bowed to the old man. The moment that Lu Yin had taken action against Liu Ke, several of the Liu family's powerhouses had moved to stop him, but Elder Song had stopped all of them. The old man greatly admired Lu Yin, but the other thing was that he also wanted to uncover the truth of the matter.

There was a terrible expression on Elder Song's face. "That one's not family, but scum. Our family was not strict enough. Even as he spoke, his sharp eyes swept over Liu Ke, and the Cruiser dropped dead on the spot.

Lu Yin's heart lurched. He had expected the Liu family to agree to Liu Ke's arrest, and had not expected them to settle the matter so decisively. Did this count as him completing his mission or not?

Elder Song left, his mood completely ruined.

The other nearby members of the Liu family stared at Lu Yin with unfriendly eyes, though no one said much. It had turned out to be true that Liu Ke had been a traitor. There was no denying this. They could not hold this matter against the Fourteenth Gate, as holding a grudge over a traitor would be ridiculous.

"Brother Long, allow me to see you out," Zhang Dingtian offered.

Lu Yin nodded. He then turned to face the Sword Monument and bowed to it once again. "Junior has offended this family."

He then turned and followed Zhang Dingtian along the path they had taken to reach the Sword Monument.

It was only after they had moved quite far away from the Sword Monument that Zhang Dingtian spoke up, "Actually, Liu Ke wouldn't have been able to escape from the moment you spoke his name. Your accusation guaranteed that the Liu family would have interrogated him."

Lu Yin felt helpless. "I only just joined the Fourteenth Gate! My first assignment shouldn't have been so difficult."

Zhang Dingtian commented, "You do realize that you'll never be allowed to observe the Sword Monument again because of what just happened, right?"

Lu Yin had already mentally prepared himself for such an outcome. Life was full of sacrifices. If this sacrifice allowed him to complete his mission and win the favor of the commander of the Fourteenth Gate, it would mean that he would have a much easier time in the future. Also, he had felt that he might have another opportunity far in the future. An easier time in the future far outweighed this opportunity at hand.

The two did not say much more, and before long, they reached the line marking 100,000 miles away from the Sword Monument. Past this line, there were countless people kneeling in worship. Lu Yin vaguely heard comments about people seeing a light from the direction of the Sword Monument.

After the two proceeded a bit further, Lu Yin saw a massive creature off in the distance, as well as Long Kui, who was already staring at Lu Yin. He turned to Zhang Dingtian. "Brother Zhang, I have to leave now."

Zhang Dingtian nodded. "Brother Long, I wish you safe travels."

Lu Yin nodded and watched as Zhang Dingtian returned.

It was not long before Lu Yin was on Gui's back as the beast flew into the distance. They were making their way towards White Mountain.

Lu Yin could not return to the Yinshan District since he had already joined the Fourteenth Gate. The only place he could return to was White Mountain, even if Long Xi was not there.

As they flew through the sky, Lu Yin shared what had happened in front of the Sword Monument. Since everything had been witnessed by many people, it would be easy for the White Dragon Clan to learn of what had happened, so there was no need for Lu Yin to try to hide anything.

"You actually were able to use an illusion technique that worked on a traitor? Those people are trained to resist spiritual force techniques, especially someone like Liu Ke who had been the only traitor hidden within the Liu family. Illusions from an Enlightener who is on the verge of becoming an Envoy wouldn't have been enough to affect him, so how did you manage to do so?" Long Kui was surprised.

Lu Yin had already considered what explanation he would give on his way back to Elder Long Kui. He felt a wave of gratitude towards Guan Yun, as the Redback's memories had let Lu Yin learn about the existence of a certain person within the Perennial World. The person who Guan Yun had most admired had been the legendary Kui Luo, who was a top powerhouse, who also happened to be a pinnacle expert when it came to spiritual force.

"Has elder investigated for Long Tian how I managed to become a Hunter?" Lu Yin suddenly asked. This seemed to be a change in topic to something completely irrelevant to Lu Yin's illusion technique.

Long Kui's eyes flashed, but he did not refuse to answer. "I looked into the matter, but I couldn't learn anything."

Lu Yin smiled. "An average member of the White Dragon Clan from a branch family actually managed to become a Hunter at a young age, and his physical strength is not bad. He also has a domain that can compare to those of some of the geniuses of the main branch of the clan. This is logically impossible, right?"

Long Kui stayed silent.

"Actually, I received my cultivation technique from a person, and it's someone I'm sure Elder Long Kui must have heard of before: Kui Luo," Lu Yin said quietly.

Long Kui was startled badly enough that even Gui froze, and the beast's two heads turned to stare at Lu Yin in astonishment.

"Kui Luo? Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo?" Long Kui shouted.

Lu Yin nodded. "Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo. For some unknown reason, he left a part of his inheritance near Dalian Mountain, and I happened to stumble upon it. The illusion technique that trapped Liu Ke is something that I received from Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo, as well as my physical training and domain cultivation. Everything comes from what I received from that inheritance. Unfortunately, that inheritance was lacking, so I was only able to reach this level."

Long Kui's pupils fluctuated between shrinking and dilating; Kui Luo! He was one of the most powerful Semi-Progenitors in the Perennial World, and his reputation matched his strength.

He was a powerhouse who specialized in spiritual force attacks and techniques, as well as illusions. It was unknown what the expert had gone through in his youth, but there seemed to be some problems with the powerhouse's behavior. There were times when he would be ruthless and emotionless, while other times he would act like a child. He had left inheritances that offered battle techniques and cultivation techniques, and they were even able to attract people from the four ruling powers, but these inheritances always ended in death.

Kui Luo was a legend in the Perennial World, but he was also the poster child for mental instability.

"You actually inherited something from Kui Luo?" Long Kui was slow to return to his senses.

Lu Yin nodded. He knew that such a claim was nonsense, but there was no one who could prove that it was a lie. The most important thing for this story was the information spread by the four ruling powers.

They all acknowledged Semi-Progenitor Kui Luo as mentally unstable, and so everyone actively worked to avoid him. It was considered unlucky to meet this elder, and no one wanted to get involved with him.

Not even Kui Luo's own son would ever admit to any sort of connection with the infamous expert. Lu Yin had deliberately revealed that he had received an inheritance from Kui Luo, as it was somewhat unbelievable to people, but he was universally shunned, and his reputation made Lu Yin's story plausible.

The more shocking this story was for Long Kui, the more likely he would believe it, and the same was true of others as well.

If Lu Yin had claimed to have obtained an inheritance from anyone else, Long Kui would not have believed it. But how could there be such a fantastic coincidence? Even if Long Kui did not believe that Long Qi had received Kui Luo's inheritance, he still had to believe it. It was common sense that no one wanted to be associated with Kui Luo.

Things fell silent between the two men, and Lu Yin was clearly able to sense Long Kui's strange reaction, though he was not able to determine just how strange it was.

There was nothing Lu Yin could do about his situation. Once this story spread to other people, they would believe that he had received Kui Luo's inheritance, his reputation would be ruined, but it would still be better than being discovered as a trespasser.

Also, while Lu Yin claimed to have received a bit of Kui Luo's inheritance, he was not claiming to be the Semi-Progenitor's disciple, so it was the worst situation. Besides, the White Dragon Clan would not allow Lu Yin's reputation to be completely destroyed.

Lu Yin assumed that Long Kui had already reported the events that had played out at the Sword Monument to Long Xi, and possibly even Long Tian. Lu Yin was just waiting to receive a call from the White Dragon Clan and the Fourteenth Gate.

He actually did not even know where to submit a report of what had happened for it to be sent to the Fourteenth Gate.

A day later, his communication crystals vibrated, and Lu Yin looked down to see that Long Xi was calling him, so he answered.

Her image appeared, and she looked at Lu Yin with a strange expression.

Lu Yin pursed his lips. "I really didn't want to say anything about it, but I didn't have any choice but to reveal it. Can you help me keep this matter a secret?"

Long Xi frowned. "How much were you able to receive from Kui Luo's inheritance?"

Lu Yin helplessly replied, "Only enough to become a Hunter."

#### Chapter 1393: Flying Armor Pass

Long Xi felt quite the headache. The longer she looked at Long Qi, the worse her headache became. He had originally been a trickster, and he had done nothing but cause her more problems from that

moment on. Now, he was revealing that he had a connection to one of the most notorious figures in the entire Perennial World! If word of this ever leaked out, the White Dragon Clan would become a joke.

"You have to remember that you can never say anything about this matter to anyone in the future. Not anyone, no matter who they are!" Long Xi shouted.

Lu Yin nodded. "Don't worry, I understand. I'll obey perfectly."

Long Xi's head ached even worse when she heard Lu Yin's response. Every time he had said such words to her, disaster had soon followed. "There are many people who've found out about you receiving three inheritances from the Sword Monument, and it's known that you received an inheritance related to spiritual force. It came from the Sword Monument, right?"

Lu Yin blinked. He had wanted to use this excuse before, but had felt that it would be absurd to claim to have received so much from the Sword Monument, so he had said nothing about it. "Alright."

"What about your match with Liu Hao?" Long Xi looked at Lu Yin, her eyes bright. The husband who she had believed to be useless had suddenly radiated a brilliance that had shone over the entire Perennial World. He had spent six days receiving an inheritance from the Sword Monument, which was a record that surpassed even that woman. This matter had created waves even in the Higher Realm, and it had made the White Dragon Clan look wonderful.

Lu Yin felt helpless. "He's strong. Very powerful."

"Bullshit!" Long Xi could not keep herself from cussing.

Lu Yin pursed his lips. "I'm not that bad! If my cultivation was enough, I might be able to match even you."

Long Xi's eyes were radiant, which made her amber eyes even more beautiful than normal. "I'll be seeing you soon, and I'll test your strength. If it's good enough, I can see about getting you to a Junior Progenitor Planet with me."

Junior Progenitor Planet? Lu Yin was momentarily stunned, while also secretly thrilled. He very much wanted to go to a Junior Progenitor Planet; because there was a vast amount of resources there. They were planets that the rulers of the Perennial World had put together to allow those who had received the title of Junior Progenitor to increase their cultivation with the resources there. These Junior Progenitors were allowed to select powerful peers to accompany them to the Dominion Realm.

There were four Junior Progenitors, so there were four Junior Progenitor Planets. Things would become quite lively when the Junior Progenitors selected their companions for their different parties. Many youths would fight hard for this chance, despite the grave dangers and low success rates of the trips to the Dominion Realm.

"Have you been given another mission by the Fourteenth Gate?" Long Xi asked.

Lu Yin shook his head. "Not yet."

"Let me know as soon as possible when you're issued any tasks. I'll remind you again that everything you do not only reflects on you, but also the entire White Dragon Clan," Long Xi sternly stated as her expression completely changed.

Lu Yin immediately agreed.

At the same time that Lu Yin was talking with Long Xi, Long Tian was trying his best to contact the Gate Master of the Fourteenth Gate, but unfortunately for Long Tian, the Gate Master completely ignored him.

Long Tian was infuriated. "Even Qing Chen, the supervisor of the Middle Realm's Nine Gates isn't so disrespectful!"

No matter how many times Long Tian reached out, Xiao would not accept any call.

A bit after Lu Yin's call with Long Xi ended, his Channeling Stone vibrated. It was a message from the commander of the Fourteenth Gate: "Flying Armored Pass. See Guo Shan."

There were only six words to inform Lu Yin of his next mission.

Lu Yin's face went pale, and he looked up. "Elder, please head towards Flying Armor Pass."

Long Kui was surprised. "Another mission from the Fourteenth Gate?"

Lu Yin nodded.

The beast immediately changed direction, and Long Kui commented, "It will be about twelve days for us to get to Flying Armor Pass."

"Is Elder quite familiar with Flying Armor Pass?" Lu Yin asked.

Long Kui replied in a low voice, "Flying Armor Pass is a special place. The land there is like a cauldron, and it's the place where many powerhouses worship the ancient ancestors. Since there are many Envoys and other experts, it's also a very chaotic place that has endured countless tribulations, which means that it's one of the very few places in the entire Perennial World where you can find tribulation crystals. You should already know how valuable those crystals are, as even the four ruling powers only have a few tribulation crystals.

"That's also why that place is constantly fought over. Flying Armor Pass has been controlled by the White Dragon Clan for almost a hundred years, and if the Fourteenth Gate is sending you there, then they probably want to take advantage of your identity in the clan."

Tribulation crystals? Lu Yin knew nothing about these things, as he had never heard anyone mention them, and Guan Yun's memories had been as vast as a sea, so Lu Yin had only glimpsed a small portion of them. However, he also could not ask anything about these tribulation crystals, as they were apparently common knowledge!

"Things are not that peaceful even within the White Dragon Clan, and there is also always a bit of friction between the more powerful families within the clan. Don't be reckless when we get to Flying Armor Pass. You have to keep in mind that you are first a member of my White Dragon Clan, and then a member of the Fourteenth Gate." Long Kui made sure to carefully remind Lu Yin.

Lu Yin replied, "I understand."

Judging by the way the Fourteenth Gate generally handled matters, Lu Yin should receive his reward for exposing Liu Ke once he arrived in Flying Armor Pass. While Lu Yin had not technically succeeded in arresting Liu Ke, the traitor had been exposed by Lu Yin, so he should receive credit for the matter. Still, he had no idea what his reward would be.

Long Kui had no expectations for Lu Yin with this next assignment, but since the Fourteenth Gate had sent him to Flying Armor pass, so what was the meaning behind this? Was there a traitor there? If that was the case, things would become troublesome, as the other rop powers would seize this opportunity to make another play for Flying Armor Pass.

Realizing this, Long Kui immediately contacted the clan. This was a matter that was too big for Long Xi or even Long Tian to handle.

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Just ten days after Lu Yin had left the Sword Monument, a slender, beautiful woman appeared 100,000 miles away from the Sword Monument, where she waited quietly.

Zhang Dingtian soon arrived to meet her. "Miss Yu Chen?"

Yu Chen had arrived in person to visit the Liu family. She had only one objective for this visit: to convince Liu Hao to support Bai Shaohong when he traveled to the Dominion Realm.

"Brother Zhang, I've heard of you for a long time. You joined the Liu family as a sword cultivator, yet eventually accepted Master Yijian as your master. Such a change had almost never happened throughout the ages." Yu Chen smiled, her eyes revealing her admiration.

Everyone, no matter who they were, would feel at ease around Yu Chen, as she had a very relaxing temperament.

"I simply was lucky. Please." Zhang Dingtian gestured for Yu Chen to proceed into the Liu family's territory, his face somber.

Only a single day after Yu Chen arrived at the Sword Monument, a representative of the Wang family arrived. They intended to ask Liu Hao to join Wang Su during the trip to the Dominion Realm. Naturally, representatives of the White Dragon Clan and Shenwu's Sky also appeared.

There were many other powerhouses in the same generation as the Junior Progenitors, but there were few who were powerful enough that the Junior Progenitors felt would be able to offer any help in the Dominion Realm. The Liu family was famous for their mastery of the sword, as well as their righteousness. The family had an excellent reputation. Thus, Liu Hao had naturally become a target for the four Junior Progenitors, and was currently being treated as a competition by the four Junior Progenitors.

Liu Hao confronted Yu Chen face to face. After listening to Yu Chen's presentation, he casually said, "You should already know how my Liu family feels about the four ruling powers, so what gave you the confidence to approach me for support?"

Yu Chen smiled and replied, "It's not about the four ruling powers, or even Junior Progenitor Bai, but for yourself. Brother Liu. Given the Liu family's ability, they can help you open the bottom meridian point at

best, but you probably won't be able to open the middle meridian point in your fingers, let alone the upper meridian's wisdom point. However, if Brother Liu is willing to help Junior Progenitor Bai in the Dominion Realm, my Celestial Frost Sect is willing to get you to breakthrough the middle meridian point."

Liu Hao could not help being impressed. "As expected, the Celestial Frost Sect is incredibly generous. Even after countless years passing, there are still enough resources left to get an outsider like me past the middle m point."

Yu Chen answered in a helpless tone, "This little sister had also hoped to pass the middle finger, but my cultivation has not improved quickly enough. My Junior Progenitor's trip to the Dominion Realm is too important, and it's also related to opening meridians, so I can only suppress my disappointment and devote the last of the resources over to Brother Liu, if you might be willing?"

Liu Hao did not answer.

Yu Chen smiled. "It's also possible that Shenwu's Sky, the White Dragon Clan, or the Wang family could help Brother Liu get past the middle meridian point, but Brother Liu should never forget that the higher levels of this Perennial World are not safe. The most secure path is to follow the strongest, and death always occurs in the Dominion Realm."

Liu Hao frowned. "Is Miss Yu Chen threatening me?"

Yu Chen smiled. "I wouldn't dare. I would simply hate to see Brother Liu end up as Junior Progenitor Bai's enemy. I'm not only sharing the wishes of Junior Progenitor Bai, but also that person's wishes."

A trace of fear flickered through Liu Hao's eyes. He knew who that person was. The image of a certain woman appeared in his mind. She had a matchless elegance, and was also domineering and awe-inspiring. She had already suppressed the current era.

"Allow me to consider this offer," Liu Hao said.

Yu Chen smiled. "Of course. I know that Brother Liu will end up making the right choice."

Yu Chen then bade her goodbyes and left.

Right after Yu Chen left, the Wang family's representative arrived to petition Liu Hao's support. This person was a middle-aged man, and he was one of the Wang family's elders. He was surprised to see that Yu Chen had made the trip on behalf of the Celestial Frost Sect.

Yu Chen smiled at the man, but simply left without showing any hint of hesitation. In fact, she did not even look towards the Sword Monument.

A young girl made her way over from far away from the Sword Monument. She was beautiful and energetic. She was Xia Taili, and she had traveled to the Liu family on behalf of Shenwu's Sky to ask Liu Hao to accompany Xia Shenfei to the Dominion Realm.

The members of the Liu family were renowned for their honest character, and with Liu Hao's strength, he was able to gain the attention of all four of the ruling powers.

Yu Chen and Xia Taili moved closer and closer to each other, and they eventually saw the other. However, neither showed any surprise.

Xia Taili flashed a defiant smile towards Yu Chen, while Yu Chen maintained a delicate smile that gave her an elegant and beautiful appearance.

Xia Taili grew upset at Yu Chen's response. This woman was someone who even Xia Taili's brother was infatuated with, despite the fact that the woman was nothing but a maid. "Hey, based on our statuses, you should greet me with a bow!"

Yu Chen replied quietly, "Very well."

With that, she truly did bow to Xia Taili. "Maid Yu Chen greets Princess Taili."

Xia Taili became even more upset. This woman was able to act subservient in such a ready and graceful manner that it felt like Xia Taili was being mocked. "Hmph! I hate this!"

The young girl then picked up her pace as she walked towards the Sword Monument.

However, just when Xia Taili passed by Yu Chen, Yu Chen's voice entered the girl's ears, "How are Big Brother Shenfei's preparations going for the trip to the Dominion Realm? He has two people from the Tai generational name, and another from the Lin generational name, no?"

Xia Taili snorted. "You think it's a done deal that Liu Hao will go with Bai Shaohong? Stop dreaming! Your Celestial Frost Sect was the one to start things back then, so it would be strange for the Liu family to offer you any sort of assistance at all."

Yu Chen smiled. "There are no absolutes. Liu Hao has to think of what's best for himself, as well as what's best for the Liu family. The flow of the universe is impossible to change."

"What's supposed to be the flow of the universe? Your Celestial Frost Sect? That's just narcissism." Xia Taili rolled her eyes. She no longer wanted to banter with Yu Chen, and she was just about to leave, but suddenly a tremendous amount of sword qi shot into the air before dissipating.

The two women looked over in amazement to see a woman who stood holding a sword. There was a cultivator from the Liu family collapsing in front of the woman. It was Liu Lu.

Liu Lu fell to his knees and looked up at the woman before him. She had challenged him out of nowhere, and then had defeated him with a single move of her sword. She had used an invisible attack to strike directly at his heart. This was the second time he had felt such utter defeat.

Both Yu Chen and Xia Taili were familiar with Liu Lu, as the Liu family had few members, so their powerhouses were all known. Both of the women were shocked to see that Liu Lu had been defeated in a single move.

The swordswoman was Liu Tianmu.

"Where did you learn such a sword technique?" Liu Lu asked in a loud voice. He was completely confused.

Liu Tianmu casually replied, "I received it when observing the Sword Monument."

Liu Lu almost spat out blood, and he could no longer keep a firm grip on his sword.

### **Chapter 1394: Powerhouses From Various Factions**

After Liu Tianmu gave her curt explanation, she turned towards Yu Chen and Xia Taili. Sword qi swirled around the two women, and it seemed like Liu Tianmu was about to attack.

Yu Chen's eyes flashed as she smiled. "Might I ask for Sister's name?"

"Liu Tianmu."

"Do you have any interest in visiting the Celestial Frost Sect's Junior Progenitor Planet?" Yu Chen asked.

Xia Taili quickly butted in, "Don't go to the Celestial Frost Sect's Junior Progenitor Planet! Go to Shenwu's Sky's Progenitor Planet! My oldest brother is Junior Progenitor Xia Shenfei."

Yu Chen did not bother arguing with the girl. The Celestial Frost Sect's name rang loud throughout the Perennial World, and it was a place everyone should want to go, so there was no need to push anyone who was uninterested.

"If Sister comes to the Celestial Frost Sect's Junior Progenitor Planet, you might gain the opportunity to travel to the Dominion Realm with our Junior Progenitor and leave with your life. Goodbye then," Yu Chen spoke in a light tone before simply leaving.

Xia Taili muttered, "Why are you acting nervous like everyone's staring at you? You don't have any breasts or butt."

She then eagerly looked over at Liu Tianmu. "Com'on, Shenwu's Sky's Junior Progenitor Planet! My big brother likes you a lot! Wait, no, it wasn't supposed to sound like that. It's not that kind of like. I mean, you get what I was saying?"

Liu Tianmu was naturally indifferent to most things, so she just nodded. "I got it."

Xia Taili blinked; she got it? Xia Taili herself had not understood what she had been saying! However, since childhood, Liu Tianmu had possessed a personality that others found difficult to interact with, so Xia Taili did not know how to continue the conversation.

The Wang family's elder was already approaching from the other side, and Xia Taili noticed the man. She quickly reminded Liu Tianmu, "Remember, go to Shenwu's Sky's Junior Progenitor Planet! My brother will definitely choose you."

When the two were compared, Liu Hao was clearly the better choice over Liu Tianmu. If Liu Hao was willing to join a team, he would immediately be qualified to make the trip to the Dominion Realm, while Liu Tianmu would need to pass through the selection process on a Junior Progenitor Planet.

Though she had already attracted the attention of the Celestial Frost Sect and Shenwu's Sky, Liu Tianmu did not feel like she had done enough, so she quickly challenged Liu Lu once more when the Wang family's elder was passing by. Liu Lu was speechless, but it was also clear that Liu Tianmu wanted to get the attention of the Junior Progenitors. Still, was it impossible for her to challenge someone else? She had already broken his sword.

Xia Taili soon left the Sword Monument, and she did not seek out Liu Tianmu again before leaving.

However, Liu Hao soon sought out Liu Tianmu. "Do you want to go to the Dominion Realm?"

Liu Tianmu casually replied, "That was my plan."

Liu Hao was not surprised. "The Dominion Realm holds humanity's legacies going back to ancient times, and it's easy to be lucky enough to stumble upon valuable resources, so I get why you want to go. Have you decided which of the Junior Progenitors you'd like to follow?"

Liu Tianmu shook her head.

Liu Hao fell into thought for a bit. "While the Celestial Frost Sect's Bai Shaohong seems easy-going, he's completely ruthless. He keeps his thoughts hidden and is adept at taking advantage of people. Still, he is also stronger than his peers, and no one knows just how strong he is, and he's supported by his sister who practically runs the Perennial World.

"Shenwu's Sky's Xia Shenfei is an honest person, but he also likes to drink. When he drinks too much, he goes nuts and he often can't distinguish between his enemies and allies. Still, his character is guaranteed.

"The Wang family Wang Su is a woman as indifferent to people as you. She has no friends, and no one seems to know what she's thinking.

"The White Dragon Clan's Long Tian is close to Bai Shaohong. He's a cold person, and doesn't seem to even care for the members of his own clan. He doesn't show any sort of favoritism to them. Still, he's more stubborn than Bai Shaohong."

Liu Tianmu continued to quietly listen, and Liu Hao finally said, "You're part of my Liu family, and your obsession with pursuing the path of the sword is something etched into your bones. You're someone chasing after the peak of the sword, but you have no skill when it comes to scheming and plotting. In that case, if you want to go to the Dominion Realm, it would be best for you to try to go with Xia Shenfei, and keep Wang Su as your second choice."

"Understood. Thank you," Liu Tianmu said calmly.

After Liu Hao was scouted, Seed Garden's Nong Sanniang, a descendant of the Nong family, also received invitations. The Liu family was known for their persistence, while the Nong family were pure-hearted, so much that it rendered others speechless. There were few people in the Perennial World who were able to understand that farming could also improve the future.

Even Yu Chen, despite her peerless insight, felt lost when trying to communicate with Nong Sanniang. No one was able to say something arrogant when standing in the field across from a peasant woman.

Nong Sanniang was an average-looking woman who, at best, could be referred to as delicate. She was dressed completely like a peasant woman, and she held a hoe in one hand while digging at the ground with it again, and again, and again.

Nong Lie stood next to the woman. He had a white cloth over his head that he used to wipe off his sweat when he was tired. He acted like Yu Chen and the other people standing outside of the field were nothing but air.

"Hey, Sanniang! Why don't you help my big brother in the Dominion Realm? There are beautiful mountains, water, and fields there that you can farm!" Xia Taili shouted.

Elsewhere in the field, Guo began jumping up and down much more cheerfully after hearing Xia Taili's voice, and the strange fruit let out little yiyiyis.

The same elder from the Wang family was also present. "Our Junior Progenitor wishes to see you once more and travel with you to the Dominion Realm."

Yu Chen spoke up, "My Celestial Frost Sect is willing to help you open your middle meridian point."

A blunt offer of benefits was frequently the most attractive.

Nong Lie straightened up. He looked tired, and his voice sounded exhausted. "'Sister, have you decided? Are you going or not?"

Nong Sanniang drank a bit of water and moved her hoe to rest on her shoulder before turning to look at the three people at the edge of the field. "I'm going, definitely! I already decided that. As for you, you can go or stay here and help with the farmwork. Ya know, a lot of the greenery here in the Perennial World gets hurt, and that ain't good for the Mother Tree."

Yu Chen was getting frustrated. It was rare for her to be unable to manipulate a person, but there was nothing she could do with Nong Sanniang. Yu Chen just could not fathom what went through this woman's mind. From the moment Yu Chen had first met Nong Sanniang, the woman had focused on nothing but farming, but it was impossible to know just what she was farming.

Xia Taili was intrigued, and her eyes lit up. "Can I farm, too? I'm tired of traveling, and I want to play!"

Nong Sanniang smiled as she replied, "Farming ain't no joke, you might sprain a muscle or two."

"I'm a cultivator!" Xia Taili clenched a fist as she stepped into the field.

Elsewhere in Seed Garden, there was a field of golden wheat planted in a pattern that formed several diagrams when viewed from afar in the crops. There was a woman in the field struggling to harvest the field, and there were strange creatures that would occasionally pop up before running away. It painted a picturesque view, as though something from a scroll. The woman was Qiu Shi.

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In another part of the Middle Realm, inside the Nest, there was a massive creature with a power level of more than 400,000 that had raised up a clawed paw to grab at something. Standing outside was a sinister looking old hag who muttered, "Eat up, eat up. After you're done feasting you will need to fly for your life." However, there was a sudden stream of qi that wrapped around the creature, and then there was a wail as the beast collapsed.

There was an old woman outside of the Nest, and her expression drastically changed. "My precious!"

She looked up, focusing her anger-filled eyes onto the Nest before charging towards it. "Who did it? You dared to kill my pet? Get out here!"

As soon as she rushed in, she was faced with a pair of cruel and bloodthirsty eyes. The Nest was the worst prison in the Middle Realm, and was treated as a dining table by countless beasts. The entire place was filled with sounds that seemed much the same as what lambs made when they were being slaughtered.

The woman was rushing straight for the top of the Nest.

This woman was not weak, and she was on the verge of becoming an Envoy, but she was not able to break through.

It was possible to enter the Nest, but impossible to leave.

"You're the one behind that attack just? You're called Shang Qing, right?"

"This junior is Shang Qing."

"Come with me. You're getting a chance, and actually, so am I, hahahaha."

"Yes, Senior."

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There was a massive region of the Higher Realm that had a unique terrain. There were mountains and rivers, and the rivers looked like thorns that poked up into the sky. There was no light in the sky in this place, though there was a hideous monster that seemed to have the form of a dragon bound here. This place was Shenwu's Sky.

There were nine incomparably huge chain links between the ground and the sky that surrounded Shenwu's Sky. Directly above Shenwu's sky was a ferocious dragon that was bound by chains and its tail was pierced to the ground by a broken blade.

One day, an elegant-looking young man arrived at Shenwu's Sky. He held an open fan, and was looking up into the sky. "It shocks me each time I see this imprisoned Jiao."

Several figures approached quickly from the distance, and they surrounded the young man. The man in the middle of the new arrivals quietly said, "Wu Taibai, you dare return after sneaking away? This is no different than betrayal!"

The elegant-looking young man was Wu Taibai. He was actually the young master of Shenwu's Sky's Tian generation, and was equally as famous as Xia Taili. He was someone who stood second only to Xia Shenfei, who was a peerless powerhouse.

Wu Taibai looked around. "I bring some important news that's enough to forgive my crimes."

"Ignore his nonsense! Arrest him and force him to talk--"

Before the man could finish speaking, Wu Taibai smacked the man away. Wu Taibai's eyes were cold as he folded his fan and put it away. "I am Wu Taibai, and even Xia Shenfei needs to be polite to me! When did trash like you had the audacity to speak to me in this manner!!"

Wu Taibai's figure then flashed as he continued on towards the interior of Shenwu's Sky.

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More and more powerhouses revealed themselves as the time for the Junior Progenitors' trip to the Dominion Realm approached. All of these people wanted to get the chance to follow a Junior Progenitor to the Dominion Realm.

While the Dominion Realm was incredibly dangerous, it also held unmatched opportunities. Many of the great families in the Perennial World had been lifted up by ancestors who had found and won opportunities in the Dominion Realm. If anyone managed to be invited to support the Junior Progenitors, their future would end up completely changed.

In order to draw a Junior Progenitor's attention, a person had to have been famous throughout the Perennial World for a long time, or they had to make their way to a Junior Progenitor Planet and then distinguish themselves from the others attempting the same thing. However only a few people would be selected from among those who competed on the Junior Progenitor Planets, as the Junior Progenitors would have already decided upon most of their supporters.

Long Kui kept a close eye on the news from the communication crystal as he sat on Gui's back. The trip to the Dominion Realm was something that mattered to everyone, and as long as a Junior Progenitor managed to break through the upper meridian's wisdom point and succeed in the Dominion Realm, they would have a high likelihood of becoming a Progenitor in the future.

One of the Junior Progenitors did not have enough people who would accompany him to the Dominion Realm. He had already decided upon Princess Long Xi, but there were still two more slots that he did not know how he would fill.

Lu Yin was also thinking about the Dominion Realm, and was trying to come up with a way to get there.

Far away, there were gray mountains that together formed the shape of a tripod. Long Kui looked up and quietly said, "We're about to arrive at Flying Armor Pass, which is where my White Dragon Clan's Flying Armor Troops is stationed. They're led by Long Xian, who holds a grudge against the main family, which is why he's been stationed here. This is something that outsiders don't know about, and the Fourteenth Gate shouldn't be aware of, either. If you want to investigate things here, it would be better for you to do so as an outsider and a stranger than as the son-in-law of the White Dragon Clan's main family.

"Remember, you are a member of the White Dragon Clan first, and then a member of the Fourteenth Gate."

This was the second time that Lu Yin was hearing this reminder. The first time, he had basically ignored it, but this time, Lu Yin focused on Long Kui and saw that the Envoy was staring intently at Lu Yin.

### **Chapter 1395: Stellar Tribulation**

When Lu Yin saw Long Kui's expression, a thought flashed through his mind. The elder was trying to remind Lu Yin to keep an eye closed for the duration of this mission. Even if he uncovered anything, he would need to stay silent about it in order to not ruin the White Dragon Clan's reputation. However, this

was also not anything that could be said aloud, which was why Long Kui was reminding Lu Yin of his status.

"Do you understand?" Long Kui pressed.

Lu Yin replied, "I understand."

"Are you sure?"

"Absolutely."

Long Kui nodded, and his face relaxed. This child was not too stupid.

There were certain things that could not be said, lest they prove true. This was particularly true when it came to Humility's Gate and traitors. After all, these two organizations concerned the entire human race, and not every ancestor was as much of a misfit as the Liu family's ancestor.

One day later, Gui had flown into the gray mountain range that surrounded Flying Armor Pass. Half a day had already passed from when they had encountered a patrol from the Flying Armor Troops, which had bowed to Long Kui without approaching.

Gui was flying towards Flying Armor Pass in a normal fashion, when Long Kui shouted, "Stop."

The giant beast froze, and then looked to the south with a bit of confusion, but that quickly changed to fear.

Long Kui's face had already grown solemn. "Let's go see."

Gui changed directions and made his way south.

Lu Yin felt confused. "Elder, what's wrong?"

"Someone's undergoing a stellar tribulation," Long Kui said solemnly.

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed, stellar tribulation? This sounded very familiar. Where had he heard it before? Wait, stellar tribulation? Tribulation crystals?

"Do you know about the stellar tribulation?" Long Kui asked Lu Yin as he looked at the youth oddly.

Lu Yin answered honestly, "I've heard of it, but I don't actually know anything at all about it."

The sky suddenly changed far away, and the void warped before a vortex formed over it. It was like a massive monster that released roars in bursts and caused the entire void to roil.

Lu Yin's pupils instantly shrank as the star energy inside his body began to surge out of his control. Noticing that he could no longer control his own power, Lu Yin's hands began to tremble.

"The universe is split into the visible universe, and the true universe. The visible universe is what we all see and live in, while the true universe is more pure. The biggest difference between Envoys and Enlighters is that Envoys have broken free of the visible universe and are able to touch and enter the true universe. The energy in the true universe is called stellar energy, and star energy is what spills over from stellar energy and is then used by people to cultivate. Yes

"Once one becomes an Envoy and is able to come in contact with the true universe, they are able to cultivate with the source of star energy: stellar energy. The true universe's source of stellar energy is not endless, so Envoys need to use their bodies as a vessel to store the stellar energy that they drag into the visible universe. By drawing a portion of the stellar energy from the true universe, the true universe will have one less portion of it. In order to protect its resources, the true universe will bring upon stellar tribulations to the cultivators who attempt to do so. Its goal is to destroy the vessel carrying the stellar energy.

"And this is a stellar tribulation," Long Kui explained lightly.

Lu Yin was surprised to learn of such a thing. So star energy was just energy leaked out from stellar energy? Lu Yin remembered that one time when he had confronted one of the Sixth Mainland's Imprinters, the powerhouse had simply dissolved Lu Yin's star energy with stellar energy, which had made anything that Lu Yin could do with star energy completely useless.

As for the stellar tribulation, Lu Yin saw it as something like the relationship between the Mother Tree and the monsters in the Lower Realm.

One side nurtures, while the other destroys. It was a cycle of mutual growth and restraint. In this scenario, cultivators were like the Mother Tree, while the stellar tribulation was like the monsters. The purpose of the two was the same, which was to return the universe to its original state.

This was how the universe continued the cycle of life.

Gui stopped after Long Kui finished speaking, as the stellar tribulation in front of them had already fully formed.

"Isn't it possible to simply avoid the stellar tribulation?" Lu Yin asked.

Long Kui shook his head. "That's not possible. The only option is to defend against it. The stellar tribulation senses the stellar energy vortex within a cultivator's body, and the more stellar energy the vortex contains, the more terrifying the stellar tribulation. Also, the tribulation is able to sense if a powerhouse capable of resisting is nearby, and the power of the tribulation will then increase accordingly. Any stellar energy within range of the tribulation will be attacked, no matter who it belongs to."

Lu Yin stared into the distance where he saw an old man with an expression of fury on his face as he roared up at the sky. There were numerous people watching the old man, but no one dared approach him.

"Come on, stellar tribulation, come on! This old man will survive!" the old man roared before taking several weapons out of a cosmic ring. There were various defensive tools, as well as all kinds of strange items.

The stellar tribulation twisted the void above the man's head, and the void broke before a swirling stream of energy fell down and struck at the old man.

The old man went pale and roared in defiance. An impressive amount of star energy shot into the sky, and at the same time, nine lined battle force covered the man's hand. Combined with the star energy,

the old man's palm strike was so powerful that Lu Yin did a double take. This old man was not a normal Enlightener.

The stream of qi descending from the void struck the old man's hand, and the earth and sky exploded. The violent stream of qi shot out in all directions, and simultaneously crushed the old man down to the ground where his blood splattered around him. The vortex over the old man's head twisted and took a rope-like shape that entered the old man's body.

"Each stellar tribulation is different, and no one knows what sort of tribulation they will have to face, but it will always appear in a form that the universe has already seen." Long Kui's voice was solemn, as every expert who attempted to become an Envoy would have to suffer an stellar tribulation, as there was no escaping this disaster.

Behind every ten Envoys who successfully broke through, there might have been a hundred enlighteners who were erased by the stellar tribulation.

The old man shattered his cosmic ring and clutched a treasure that looked like a conch shell in his hand. At the same time, he was frantically trying to swallow a medicinal pill in an attempt to recover a bit.

The rope-like vortex that had appeared during the stellar tribulation whipped towards the old man and he lifted a hand where a conch shell flew out, with a low echoing noise. The void was pushed back, and the tribulation was forced upwards. It acted in much the same way as the protective ring that Lu Yin had been given, and it had a power level of roughly 500,000.

The rope-shaped vortex pulsed with the dull sound, and the sound gradually faded. The shape of the vortex then changed once more, and it took the shape of a spear that charged for the old man and stabbed through his body, pinning him to the ground.

A wail was heard, and a woman cried as she raced for the old man. She looked to be his granddaughter.

The old man had been pierced through, and could not survive. He bitterly looked over as his granddaughter ran towards him, and said bitterly, "Grandpa spent his whole life for this, yet still ended up dying to the tribulation. Silly child, don't cultivate any longer. This cultivation path is wrong." After he finished speaking, his body was disintegrated by the spear and completely disappeared.

The woman finally arrived, but she was not even able to see her grandfather one last time. She saw nothing but empty space and a shattered cosmic ring on the ground.

Long Kui shook his head and sighed. "Clearly that man was fully prepared, and he even had a defensive treasure the level of an Envoy to help him pass his tribulation, but unfortunately, his energy was too powerful and he stood too far above regular Enlighteners, and so his preparations were not enough to keep him alive."

After speaking, Long Kui patted Lu Yin on the back. He then turned around and continued towards Flying Armor Pass.

After Lu Yin heard Long Kui's comment, his back went cold.

The strength of a stellar tribulation was determined by the amount of star energy within a person's body? That did not make any sense! Lu Yin had about 200 times the amount of star energy that a normal

cultivator possessed, and not even the old man who had failed his tribulation had as much star energy as Lu Yin already possessed, and Lu Yin was still only a Hunter. How much star energy reserves would Lu Yin possess after becoming an Enlightener? What about when he was trying to become an Envoy? It would be drastically more than that old man, and likely at least 200 times more.

Lu Yin thought of the stellar tribulation, and then considered one 200 times more powerful than what he had just witnessed. He gulped. It seemed like the universe itself must hate him.

"This is where people come to pass their stellar tribulations. After a certain amount of time passes, there will be tribulation crystals of different sizes forming in this place. This is why the Flying Armor Pass has tribulation crystals. These tribulation crystals can help people open the lower meridian point, and the middle meridian point. This should let you understand the importance of Flying Armor Pass, and you have to be cautious while here." Long Kui could not stop himself from giving Lu Yin yet another reminder, which amply demonstrated the importance the man gave to Flying Armor Pass.

Lu Yin was still caught up thinking about that terrifying tribulation he had just witnessed. A person's body would be instantly and utterly destroyed after they failed their tribulation.

Undergoing a stellar tribulation did not only mean that a cultivator would be able to use the true universe's stellar energy, but also that the true universe would take back the stellar energy from a cultivator's body, and the two forces would be in constant competition.

It was not long before a quaint city appeared in Lu Yin's vision. It was Flying Armor Pass.

Gui stopped less than a hundred miles away from Flying Armor Pass. No one was allowed to freely enter the city, not even the White Dragon Clan's elders.

Long Kui carelessly commented, "This is as far as I can take you. After all, you need to complete your mission for the Fourteenth Gate, and it would be inconvenient for me to intervene."

"Thank you, Elder."

"Try to stall with this mission. The Junior Progenitor will soon find a way for you to get back to Dragon Mountain in the Higher Realm," Long Kui said.

Lu Yin nodded before jumping down to the ground.

The gray dirt was extremely hard, and Lu Yin discovered that it was comparable to the hardness of natural minerals once he stepped on it. It seemed like this place had been repeatedly refined by countless stellar tribulations.

The entire gray earth was in the shape of a cauldron with three legs. The ancients had held an unusual obsession with cauldrons, and everything that had a connection to cauldrons was out of the ordinary.

Lu Yin remembered the Ninesuns Cauldron Transformation. It had been a very long time since he had last visited the Daosource Sect's ruins. He still wanted to acquire that battle technique that was known to be invincible, but unfortunately, he had no time to return for it.

Flying Armor Pass was not somewhere that normal people could visit, so it was almost all cultivators in the city.

The number of people rose the closer Lu Yin drew to the city.

The land opened up before him, and Lu Yin saw a majestic city. There were armies flying about patrolling the sky and the surface, as well as guards in the air to protect the city's gate.

Even though he could not see runes in this universe, Lu Yin's control of star energy was able to tell him that Flying Armor Pass held an extraordinary aura, and it reminded him of a sourcebox array.

This was a place that was constantly fought over, and so any power that gained control of the city would naturally establish the strongest defenses possible.

Lu Yin entered Flying Armor Pass, but had no idea as to how to find Guo Shan. However, he believed that Guo Shan must have some means of finding him instead. It would be rather amusing if the mission failed because neither was able to find the other.

He ordered a few snacks in a restaurant, and then enjoyed them while gazing into the distance. He was able to see that far from Flying Armor Pass there were numerous cultivators digging in the ground, and all of them were holding similar tools. They were some sort of detector, and everyone was searching for tribulation crystals!

Before long, an average-looking middle-aged man approached Lu Yin. "Little brother, can I sit here?"

Lu Yin turned to look at the man who was smiling at him. The man had a kind-looking face, but his clothes were rather simple and sloppy. "Please, have a seat."

The man sat down and looked at Lu Yin before introducing himself with a smile, "I'm Guo Shan."

### **Chapter 1396: Rewards**

Lu Yin looked at Guo Shan in front of him, and politely replied, "Long Qi greets Senior."

Guo Shan smiled. "I wasn't expecting Little Brother to get here so soon."

"Should Junior have arrived quite a bit later?" Lu Yin wondered.

Guo Shan replied, "I'll tell you this, Junior, every task should be delayed a bit, especially when it comes to this Flying Armor Pass. This place is not like other places."

Lu Yin smiled. "I was sent here because of my status."

Guo Shan did not try to hide anything. "Not bad."

"What's the mission?" Lu Yin asked.

Guo Shan picked up his chopsticks and took a few bites of the food on the table. "Don't worry too much about that. You have to make sure you're enjoying life first. I'm someone who eats the sweet foods first, and saves the bitterness for later. Little Brother, you completed your last task very well, so let me give you the reward from Humility's Gate."

Lu Yin's eyes lit up. "Thank you."

Guo Shan laughed. "You don't hold back at all!"

Lu Yin shrugged. "Humility's Gate is big, and it has abundant resources, so why should I politely refuse my reward? It's better to accept such generosity with gratitude."

Guo Shan smiled. "Yes, but unfortunately you're wrong about one thing; your reward isn't resources, but me."

Lu Yin blinked, his face completely blank.

Guo Shan smiled. "Little Brother's domain is very powerful."

Lu Yin's eyes flashed. "It's alright."

Guo Shan nodded. "You caught it. Humility's Gate's reward for you is for me to train you how to cultivate your domain."

Lu Yin was temporarily stunned, as he had not expected this sort of reward. "Could I ask how far Senior can train this junior?"

Guo Shan thought for a moment. "I've reached the spirit manifestation realm myself. No matter how talented you might be, that's as far as you can cultivate."

"What is the spiritual transformation realm?"

"Don't worry about it. It's too annoying to talk about something so serious when you first meet someone. I'll show you around Flying Armor Pass first."

As for Lu Yin, even if he had entered the city quietly, he had still attracted the attention of the Flying Armor Troops the moment he had arrived in the city.

At the moment, there was an image of Lu Yin in Long Xian's office in the Flying Armor Troops' headquarters.

Long Xian seemed calm as he looked at Lu Yin's picture, but his son, Long Ding, stood in front of the army commander, and looked decidedly unhappy. "Father, the princess really married this guy?"

Long Xian answered lightly, "Yes, him. His name is Long Qi."

"Hmph! What dog-shit luck," Long Ding said.

Long Xian looked up. "He's not lucky. We all gave up when the princess announced that she was marrying a branch family."

Long Ding's face froze. When Long Xi had called for a husband, everyone had been unwilling to offer up their sons, as they were afraid of the Celestial Frost Sect. Long Ding had no one to blame for his loss, but he remained stubborn. "The Celestial Frost Sect won't give up. He'll die sooner or later."

"Don't underestimate him. Everyone first believed him to be some trash from a branch family, but he's been with Humility's Gate for only a few months, and he's been arresting traitors non-stop, and he even exposed the Huaiyuan gate master as a Redback, which allowed him to be transferred to the Fourteenth Gate. He spent six days receiving an inheritance from the Sword Monument, which beats even Bai

Xian'er's record, and he exposed a member of the Liu family as a traitor. This brat's quickly becoming a legend," Long Xian explained.

Long Ding answered in a cold voice, "It's nothing more than luck. Once your child opens the lower meridian point, I'll be allowed to the Junior Progenitor Planet and will then win the right to travel with our Junior Progenitor to the Dominion Realm, where I will find some Origin Matter. I'll open the middle or even the upper meridian point, and I'll have a chance to become a Progenitor in the future."

Long Xian was not happy with Long Ding's response. While Long Ding had spoken easily, every single thing he had mentioned was a difficult feat to accomplish, especially the trip to the Dominion Realm. Even a Junior Progenitor could die in that place, not to mention someone like Long Ding. However, the trip was also crucial. Even if Long Ding did not manage to get any Origin Matter, he would still return with a closer relationship with Junior Progenitor Long Tian, and that could only allow his status within the clan to climb higher in the future.

Long Xian considered everything.

"Father, what did the clan say about the mission that Long Qi received that sent him here to our Flying Armor Pass? Is there a traitor or a Redback here?" Long Ding asked.

Long Xian frowned. "That's simply impossible. I only have the Flying Armor Troops in Flying Armor Pass, and who qualifies to be a Redback? As for traitors, that's also impossible."

After remaining silent for a while, Long Xian waved a hand. "Okay, head out and practice. Since the Fourteenth Gate has sent someone to Flying Armor Pass, it means nothing good for us. You need to open the lower meridian point as soon as possible and reach out to the Junior Progenitor so that you can have a position on his team."

"Yes, your son will take his leave."

Inside Flying Armor Pass, Lu Yin and Guo Shan left the restaurant, and then Guo Shan led Lu Yin on a tour of the ancient, majestic city.

Said to be majestic, in fact, it is not too spectacular. Lu Yin has seen Ye Wangxing, Honor Mountain, and many shocking scenes. This Flying Armor Pass can only be regarded as a city.

"Don't underestimate this city. The White Dragon Clan has their Flying Armor Troops here, as well as a very powerful sourcebox array.

"Look around. This place is all dark red, and the city's been destroyed multiple times since ancient days, and rebuilt just as many times. These are blood stains that are almost a hundred years old, and even though it was only a hundred years ago, it still looks like the entire city was stained with blood. The same thing happened in the past, which shows how cruel the fights for this place are.

"Take a look at that brick! It might look like a brick- Eh? Um, sorry, that's just a brick."

...

Guo Shan led Lu Yin around all day and the tour continued into the night. Lu Yin was in no hurry, and even Long Xi suggested that Lu Yin stall for this mission. Also, there was no guarantee that Guo Shan was acting against the mission. Lu Yin just simply did not know.

While they were walking, Guo Shan suddenly pushed Lu Yin to the side.

Lu Yin instinctively resisted the push, and even if the push was unexpected, Lu Yin's incredible physical strength meant that Guo Shan was not able to move Lu Yin very far, and Lu Yin even raised a hand, ready to counterattack with a Vacuum Palm. "Watch out! Assassins."

Lu Yin moved a little ways away. The people in the area were giving the two men strange looks; one had just pushed the other away. There was something wrong with the two.

Guo Shan's face was solemn, and he stared at the ground.

Lu Yin followed the other man's gaze, but saw nothing more than a puddle of what looked to be some sort of green mud. "What do you mean there's an assassin?"

Guo Shan pointed at the ground. "You know what that is?"

Lu Yin shook his head. The green was clearly no poison, as if it was, some changes on the earth would be noticed.

"This thing's called rindmill. Well, actually, this is called mill, and there's something else that's the rind. Each one's useless alone, but when combined, they can numb your channels and slow you down. So, even if they're not fatal, what's going to happen when your mind and senses slow down," Guo Shan solemnly explained.

Lu Yin's scalp went numb, and his back went cold. This was a terrifying poison. Lu Yin did not fear being poisoned or a toxin that slowed his body, but this was something that could actually slow his mind. Even if he had a plan to victory, it would be useless if his mind was too slow to implement it.

There were people who would train certain motions until they became reflexes, and they became able to respond to things faster than the average person, but such abilities were useless when faced with this sort of toxin, as it was able to slow both the mind and the body, which meant that any reaction would be delayed no matter what.

"So this is just mill?" Lu Yin asked.

Guo Shan nodded and turned to look at Lu Yin with a serious expression. "Someone analyzed your behavior, and set things up for you to step in this mill first, and then later would arrange for you to step in the rind, which would cause you to unwittingly be poisoned. After that, they would spring the attack and kill you. You've been studied, and they've already predicted your actions."

Lu Yin's gaze grew sharp. "Predicted?"

Guo Shan glanced around. "This assassin must be a domain master. He reflexively used his domain to predict your actions to make sure that you would step into both toxins. Even I didn't sense anything, which means they're powerful. They should be one of Realmless's assassins."

A strong killing intent flashed across Lu Yin's eyes. Realmless assassins; they were after him again. They had attacked him the first time in the Lower Realm. Long Xi had been led away by one of the assassins, while the second had pretended to be dead and had then tried to sneak attack Lu Yin. Another

assassination attempt had occurred while they had been traveling, and this was the third attempt on Lu Yin's life.

Also, the attacks were becoming more bizarre, and it was becoming much harder to notice things. It was no wonder Realmless was known as the most powerful assassination organization. Each time an attack failed, they not only sent a stronger assassin, but also one who employed a stranger method of attack.

Lu Yin had been very careful all along. He no longer casually looked at anything, and yet he had still almost been attacked successfully.

However, he also did not understand. He was a member of the Fourteenth Gate, so even if Realmless was willing to target him, who would be bold enough to hire such a hit? Were they not afraid of the Fourteenth Gate's retaliation?

Humility's Gate protected their own, and they frequently would not even observe the need for any evidence when it came to such protection. If a member of Humility's Gate was being targeted by assassins, Humility's Gate would absolutely respond.

Since that was the case, how did Bai Shaohong have the courage to target Lu Yin with Realmless's assassins? Or was it someone else?

"Looks like you've made a lot of enemies. You can only blame yourself for being too brilliant. You've become too visible, and now you're like the rest of us. Normally, nobody will know anything when you expose a Redback, and so you don't get all the attention." Guo Shan shook his head and said.

Lu Yin was surprised. "Are you saying that a traitor or a Redback hired Realmless to kill me?"

"Of course. You're part of the Fourteenth Gate. Our Commander is very protective of his underlings, so who would dare to target any of us? Even if someone wants to deal with you now, they couldn't do so by hiring an assassin; only a Redback would take that risk. A lot of powerhouses in the Fourteenth Gate have been assassinated," Guo Shan shared.

"The Commander didn't go after Realmless? Or track down the traitors and the Redbacks through the attack?" Lu Yin wondered.

Guo Shan sighed. "Of course he took revenge, and he also destroyed many of Realmless's bases, but you have to realize that wherever there's light, there's also darkness. Even if Realmless is destroyed, another group of assassins will pop up. It's better to have a single, massive organization like Realmless. The bigger they become, the more cautious they become. They are very diligent about keeping their employers secret, and will not reveal anything even in death."

Lu Yin understood this. It was impossible for anyone to completely eradicate the darkness. Light and darkness always coexisted. If Realmless was wiped out, there was the potential for multiple organizations to emerge in the Perennial World, and that would lead to chaos.

There were matters you needed to be cautious of, no matter how high you managed to climb. Lu Yin absolutely believed this to be true.

"Let's keep going. I can't find this assassin, but they won't have an easy time getting to you with me around. Your strength isn't enough to draw out the best assassins, and the pay and effort are not

proportionate," Guo Shan stated before laughing. "Now you can see the benefits of being able to predict an enemy's attacks."

Lu Yin nodded and respectfully said, "I'll have to trouble Senior for your guidance."

### **Chapter 1397: Tribulation Crystals**

Somewhere in the Middle Realm, a pair of long, dark, narrow eyes appeared. "Assassination failed. Your commissions for this job will be returned, or you can pay the price increase."

"Price increase? Why? Just because you failed to kill him? Isn't your reputation the most important part of your organization? You failed to deliver on a job, so you just raise the price? Who's going to work with you in the future?"

"There were two attempts to kill him before you hired us. Both attempts failed. With this third failure, the price has to go up."

"Hmph! Sounds like the people who hired you before just gave up. You're trying to fleece me like a fat sheep."

"Pay the increase, or give up on this job. Choose." The long, narrow eyes grew darker and darker.

"Alright, I'll pay the difference, but you need to complete the job this time. As you know, I wasn't the one to provide you with the information for this hit, and you set the price on your own."

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Lu Yin had entered Flying Armor Pass on his own to search for Guo Shan. Meanwhile, Long Kui had Gui shrink down and rest on the Envoy's shoulder as he entered the city on his own as well. He headed straight for the Flying Armor Troops' headquarters to meet with Long Xian.

Long Xian was not surprised to see Long Kui arrive.

The two sat across from each other, and Long Xian showed quite a bit of enthusiasm towards Long Kui's visit. "Although we haven't met for hundreds of years, Elder Long Kui is still the same as ever. You haven't changed a bit."

Long Kui gave a small smile. "You and I are both Envoys, and it can take hundreds of years to even flick your fingers, so how could there be any changes? There's only been enough time for a single round of training. However, this is my first time seeing Young Master Ding."

Long Ding was standing next to Long Xian, and he bowed respectfully to Long Kui. "Nephew Long Ding greets Elder Long Kui."

Long Kui nodded, and Gui looked curiously at Long Ding from where it sat, perched on Long Kui's shoulders.

"Long Ding, are you comfortable here? It looks like Brother Xian has quite a decent life here in Flying Armor Pass." Long Kui's eyes flashed.

Long Xian smiled, "I don't dare to make myself comfortable here. After all, my White Dragon Clan fought and won this Flying Armor Pass, and I still vividly remember that battle against the three other parties. Given what my Flying Armor Troops has sacrificed, how could I dare become complacent?"

Long Kui replied, "Young Master Ding has a decent level of strength. He's already a Hunter, and it looks like he will soon be able to become an Enlightener. It's a pity that he wasn't able to break through sooner. Otherwise, he would have been able to help our Junior Progenitor in the Dominion Realm. It's really too bad."

Long Ding was just about to say something in response, but Long Xian spoke up first. "I can only blame my child for not having any luck. It's caused his elders to worry about him."

Long Kui laughed. "Brother Xian, you should already know why I'm here."

Long Xian nodded. "The Fourteenth Gate sent someone here to Flying Armor Pass, and they chose to send Long Qi, the son-in-law of the White Dragon Clan's main family. We're aware of all this."

"Don't be too concerned about Long Qi. However, the important detail is that the Fourteenth Gate is targeting Flying Armor Pass. Brother Xian, is there anything that you have to say?" Long Kui stared at Long Xian. After Long Kui had reported Long Qi's mission to the clan, he had been ordered to act as a judge. If there was any hint that Long Xian was actually a Redback, then Long Kui was to immediately kill him. Long Xian could not be allowed to be taken by the Fourteenth Gate.

Long Kui did not know whether or not Long Xian was a Redback, which was why he had immediately visited him the first thing after entering the city.

Long Xian's eyes grew sharp. "The fact that the Fourteenth Gate sent someone here only proves that they are suspicious about something in my Flying Armor Pass. It does not guarantee that there is a Redback or a traitor here. Why? Has the clan come to doubt us? I, Long Xian, am in charge here, and the Flying Armor Troops have never slacked off. Also, this city holds nothing that is worth those monsters' attention. If they do have any interest in this place, then it could only be for the tribulation crystals. However, has the clan noticed any decrease in the number of tribulation crystals sent in?"

Long Kui quickly raised his hands in a placating manner. "No one in the clan has any doubts about Brother Xian, but the Fourteenth Gate's presence is an ill omen, which is why I just want to remind Brother Xian to be careful."

"Those who are clean and take care of themselves have no need to be concerned about the Fourteenth Gate," Long Xian replied.

Long Ding suddenly spoke up. "Nephew is very curious about Brother Long Qi, and I would like to see what sort of person is worthy of our princess. Is there a chance that I could meet him?"

Long Xian shouted, "Be silent and step down!"

Long Ding was stubborn. "Father, I merely want to meet Brother Long Qi."

"Right now, Long Qi is someone from the Fourteenth Gate who's here to investigate Flying Armor Pass. You can think about this after the investigation is over, but for now, get back to your training!" Long Xian shouted angrily.

Long Ding was frustrated, but he still turned to bow to Long Kui. "Nephew will take his leave."

Long Kui smiled and nodded.

Even after Long Ding left, Long Xian's anger still did not subside. "I've let Elder Long Kui see a joke. That child's feelings for the princess have not faded at all, which is why he's so curious about Long Qi. There's nothing malicious behind it, so please don't misunderstand him, elder."

"Hahaha, kids! When is no one jealous? Brother Xian is treating this matter too seriously," Long Kui said with a laugh.

Long Xian smiled bitterly. "Let me show elder around Flying Armored Pass. It's not easy to harvest the tribulation crystals, so I wonder if Elder Long Kui would be interested in seeing the process."

Long Kui nodded. "Please."

"Follow me."

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Tribulation crystals could be mined anywhere outside of Flying Armored Pass, but it was a matter of luck to dig any of them up.

Lu Yin curiously looked at the people holding some tools. "Can the things that they're holding detect tribulation crystals?"

Guo Shan disdainfully responded, "Of course not! Those things are just random tools that some merchants made to take advantage of an opportunity to make huge profits. Those idiots over there believe in their dreams, so they force themselves to believe that it's a good idea to buy those things on credit to help them find and extract tribulation crystals. There's also been a bunch of propaganda promoting those things."

After Guo Shan finished speaking, one of the men behind him holding one of the detectors stared blankly at the man who had just gone off on a rant.

Guo Shan sneered once again.

The detector fell from the man's hands. "This thing's useless?"

Guo Shan just rolled his eyes.

Lu Yin coughed. "Don't bother listening to him. He's been digging here for hundreds of years but hasn't been able to find anything, so all he does is vent."

The man let out a sigh of relief. "I was just going to say, how can it be useless? I already dug a bit up."

Guo Shan and Lu Yin were both speechless. "You found tribulation crystals?"

Tribulation crystals were not easy to extract. They were not some kind of ore that stayed in place, as tribulation crystals moved with the energy that flowed through the land. What's more, no one could determine any sort of pattern to this flow. There were some that believed that the flow was determined

by star energy while others were certain that the flow was connected to the true universe's stellar energy. Regardless, no one had been able to verify anything.

Thus, you could not just dig in place and expect to find tribulation crystals. You needed a tremendous amount of luck.

An Envoy's Origin Tribulation would at best produce tribulation crystals the size of a fingernail, and these crystals would even be scattered throughout the soil in a large area. Thus, they were not easy to see or find.

The man carefully took out a clear bottle that contained a miniscule crystal.

Guo Shan was shocked. "It's really a tribulation crystal! You found this? How long did you search for?"

The man smiled proudly. "Nine years."

This seemed a bit strange to Lu Yin; the man had spent nine years searching, and yet this was all that he had managed to get? Was it even worth his time?

"That's definitely worth it then. You spent nine years digging, and now you can sell it to the White Dragon Clan and be set for life!" Guo Shan said admiringly.

The man laughed. "That's what I was thinking!"

He picked his detector back up off the ground. "So, it seems that my family's detectors actually work!"

"Based on what you said? They definitely work."

"Yes, they definitely work. I spent nine years digging, but now I don't need to work for the rest of my life! That's definitely worth the cost."

"Those things are definitely worth the price! I'm going to buy another one."

"I want to buy a tribulation crystal detector!"

...

Guo Shan was dumbfounded, and Lu Yin was the same as well. They had actually been tricked into being used for a bit of free advertising. That guy was no idiot.

The man proudly placed his detector in Guo Shan's hands. "Thank you!"

Then, he ran away.

Guo Shan swallowed. He was a member of the Fourteenth Gate who had been sent to this city to investigate the traitors and Redbacks, and yet he had just been played like a fool. This was humiliating.

Lu Yin's face had also gone red. This was shameful. It was just too humiliating to be tricked in such a manner.

"I'm gonna kill him." Guo Shan gritted his teeth as he glared daggers at the back of the man who had just left.

Lu Yin just held his head. "Alright, let's just get out of here. This one's on us."

Guo Shan was frustrated, but the man was nothing but an Explorer, and Guo Shan could not bring himself to care about such a weakling.

This was what it meant to trip in the gutter. This was the darkest day of Guo Shan's life.

Long Xian and Long Kui were watching from a distance. They had stumbled upon this scene while exploring the city, and Long Kui's face twitched. "Let's go somewhere else."

Long Xian smiled. "People will try anything in order to find and dig up tribulation crystals, and there are even people who will pray before each attempt. Don't take any offense to them."

...

There were many people who searched around Flying Armor Pass for tribulation crystals. Every day, some would give up, but there were even more who started.

Guo Shan took Lu Yin to a relatively empty part of the city, got rid of the tail that they had picked up, and then turned to Lu Yin. "Do you know anything about the spirit manifestation realm of a domain?"

Lu Yin shook his head. "I've heard the name, but I don't know much about it."

Guo Shan grew much more serious. "The spirit manifestation realm can be taken literally. You use your mind to grant an inanimate object intelligence by giving it a spirit."

Lu Yin's eyes went wide. "That's impossible!"

Guo Shan continued, "Strictly speaking, it doesn't really gain intelligence, but it definitely seems like it, and it allows for easier control as well. For example-" As he spoke, a stone beneath Lu Yin's feet flew up and struck him with a rather powerful blow.

The stone that had hit Lu Yin was not being controlled by star energy or a domain, and it truly appeared as though the stone had attacked Lu Yin on its own.

"Once a domain is cultivated to the spirit manifestation realm, you'll be able to make your domain into your own world. While this might not seem too useful at first, if you think about it, a battle could instantly change if you're able to use the ground or the air to sneak attack your opponent. Also, the greatest utility of the spirit manifestation realm is as preparation for developing a domain at the void realm."

Lu Yin's expression changed when he heard about the void realm. This was the legendary realm of a domain that was supposed to be the highest realm attainable. "What is the void realm?"

Guo Shan looked up at the sky and seemed to lose himself in thought. "The void realm is when your domain can interact with the void itself. It allows for instantaneous movement, and it can also tear space itself away. It allows a person to dominate others, as they are even able to strip away an opponent's attack once their domain has been raised to a high enough level. The most popular way of explaining this realm is that it can compare to a secret technique."

Lu Yin's eyes lit up. This was great news. He had the Yu Secret Art which allowed him to divert attacks that were otherwise impossible to avoid, much like a domain at the void realm. However, it was still a secret technique, which meant that it was impossible to use freely. However, once a domain reached such a godly level, there were no such restrictions.

If his domain had been cultivated to that level before ZENITH, then Lu Yin would have easily won the entire competition, even if he had not used the God of Death Transformation. He could have even defeated Shang Qing without breaking a sweat.

"Don't think about this too much. It's not easy to cultivate a void realm domain, and you have to first train to a level where you can predict other people's attacks," Guo Shan stated.

"How do I do that?" Lu Yin asked.

"Actually, your domain has already gone past the level of predicting attacks—you just haven't trained your domain properly for that," Guo Shan said. After that, he began to teach Lu Yin how to properly cultivate his domain.

#### Chapter 1398: The Battlefield Behind The Mother Tree

Lu Yin's domain had long since surpassed the level that Unseen Light's battle spirit had used in the space with the golden ocean. The reason why Lu Yin was still unable to predict his opponents' attacks was because he had not trained for it.

"What people refer to as predicting attacks with a domain is not nearly as mysterious as divination, and it's not even as difficult as most people believe it to be. Of course, I'm saying this assuming that someone has a powerful enough domain and a sufficient level of star energy control..." Guo Shan began a full lecture on how to cultivate domains.

Predicting an opponent's movements with a domain was similar to trying to see past a veil; it was only difficult until the veil was removed, at which point it became simple.

Based on what Guo Shan said, Lu Yin needed to let his domain spread across every inch of his surroundings and encompass every single detail within his range rather than unleash it as far as possible, which was what he had done previously.

Previously, he had used his domain to gain control over his surroundings, while this new method was more like treating his domain as a part of his body.

"This is the way, yes. Spread out your domain so that you can completely sense all the changes within its scope and have an image of everything around you within your mind. You need this to start guessing and making some speculations. There is an order to these things, yes..." Guo Shan spoke and guided Lu Yin through his training.

Lu Yin spent several days training under Guo Shan in this manner. It was impossible to cultivate a domain to the degree where he could predict attacks in one session. Still, Lu Yin had a very powerful domain, and by condensing it as he had been told, he was able to start making some rough predictions, such as which direction the insects on the ground would crawl, or which leg would move next. He was also able to clearly read several books at the same time now.

Lu Yin had already mastered several secret techniques, such as the Yu Secret Art. Because of this, he was not very excited about the prospect of training his domain to the point where he could predict his opponents' attacks. His goal was much further away: a domain at the void realm. Being able to use something with the power of a secret technique, but without those limitations was just too appealing.

Guo Shan stared at Lu Yin in amazement. "Show me where that bird's going to fly."

Lu Yin raised his hand and drew a line in the sky with his star energy.

Guo Shan blinked. "You barely pass the test."

Lu Yin smiled. "Thank you."

Guo Shan was completely speechless; just who was this kid? Even if an incredibly talented person with a powerful domain tried to properly master the method that he had been teaching to Long Qi, they would need to train for years before they could reach a level of mastery where they could make predictions. For an average person, they would need decades or even centuries to achieve such mastery, and some would never succeed at all. Despite all of that, this kid had accomplished it in just a few days. Damn...

"You've mastered the basic technique behind predicting attacks, so let's move on to training your domain to the spirit manifestation realm," Guo Shan said.

Lu Yin was eager. "How far must we cultivate in the spirit manifestation realm before entering the void realm?"

Guo Shan rolled his eyes. "Don't get ahead of yourself, kid. I've never reached the void realm. Even if you search through the entire Perennial World, the number of domain masters who have reached that level can be counted on one hand, and each and every single one of them is far more powerful than an Envoy. Kid, don't worry about it until you become an Envoy yourself."

Lu Yin snorted.

Guo Shan kept going, as though he had not already made himself clear enough, "Listen, cultivating your domain to the void realm is just one aspect of that level, and the other is one's physical strength. Do you really think that just reaching the void realm will let you freely strip away the void? While that's true in theory, that action places a tremendous amount of stress on a person's body, so there are very steep physical requirements for one to strip the void away. I'll be honest, my body hasn't reached that level."

Lu Yin nodded. He was completely confident when it came to any sort of physical strength requirements.

"Are we going to train here?" Lu Yin asked. Even though he was not in any particular rush, he could not stay in this city indefinitely. He expected the trip to the Dominion Realm to be fast approaching.

Guo Shan replied, "The mission's already finished, so we're on break for now."

Lu Yin was caught off guard. "It's done? Since when?"

Guo Shan explained, "Our mission is to draw the Flying Armor Troops' attention, and you did a wonderful job of that."

Lu Yin's eyes flashed. "So I completed the mission the moment I entered Flying Armor Pass. You did that just by taking me around the city."

Guo Shan nodded. "It's good to see that you understand, so there's no need for an explanation."

Lu Yin looked over at Flying Armor Pass. "It looks like there aren't any Redbacks or traitors here. Otherwise, this mission wouldn't have been so peaceful."

"This is for the best. As long as there are no traitors among humans, there is no need for us to get dragged into any messes. Many members of Humility's Gate dream of visiting the battlefield behind the Mother Tree," Guo Shan became emotional as he waxed on.

Lu Yin asked, "Is the battlefield behind the Mother Tree really that brutal?"

Guo Shan began to recount some details. "It wasn't at first, and many people even treated it as a training ground, but all of that completely changed about a year or two ago. The experienced fighters all died, and Humility's Gate had to scramble to reorganize. Due to that, the number of Redbacks and traitors has spiked ridiculously, and no matter how many we catch, we can never get them all."

About a year or two ago? Lu Yin felt his heart skip a beat. Doesn't that coincide right with when the competition for the Cosmic Five finished? Yeah, that was when I was captured by the Neohuman Alliance and when the Neoverse changed due to that blackhole barrier popping up to block those monsters. The timing lines up.

The barrier made by the blackhole had spread from the Neoverse to the Starfall Sea, and it had even touched the Sixth Mainland. It was all a part of Progenitor Hui's plan, but what was its connection to the Perennial World?

Lu Yin's mind raced as he tried to find some connection, and he finally remembered the Upper Three Gates.

The barrier formed by the blackhole had cut through the Starfall Sea, which meant that those monsters were also attacking the Starfall Sea, which was where the Upper Three Gates were located. The Sea King had managed to break through the Upper Three Gates, which changed the Fifth Mainland's sky. Since he had managed to break through those gates, the monsters were naturally able to do the same, not to mention how they were the enemies of all of humanity.

Upon thinking this far, Lu Yin felt that his assumption was correct and that this really was the place that lay beyond the Upper Three Gates. Furthermore, the monsters had started pouring into this universe through the Upper Three Gates after the changes that had rocked the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands. The monsters had gained access to the back of the Mother Tree.

Lu Yin also felt that there might be a deeper purpose to the presence of the Upper Three Gates. They might not just be a path between the Perennial World and the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands, as they might also be connected to those monsters, seeing as the Upper Three Gates had opened to the back of the Mother Tree. With those gates open, the monsters would be able to freely strike at the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands through that passage.

This also made the connection between the Perennial World and the Fifth and Sixth Mainlands a bit unclear. The two mainlands were regarded as the Forsaken Land, but the Upper Three Gates seemed to have been protecting them.

Lu Yin became so preoccupied with this new revelation that he even stopped listening to Guo Shan's words. The older man had been reminiscing about something, and he seemed to miss his former comrades.

Many soldiers who fought on the battlefield would have these feelings, and they were admirable emotions to have towards one's brothers and sisters in arms.

"The battlefield behind the Mother Tree is getting worse and worse. Honestly, it's better if you don't go there, as you'll just die quickly." Guo Shan's tone of voice suddenly changed.

Lu Yin blurted out, "If the Redbacks and traitors disappear, then Humility's Gate will no longer have a purpose."

"That's the best outcome," Guo Shan replied seriously.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed. That seemed almost correct. While it was best for there to be no Redbacks and for all the traitors to be wiped out, Lu Yin still felt that it was better for Humility's Gate to exist.

The Middle Realm was massive. Some places were illuminated by suns while others had special means of lighting up the sky. Flying Armor Pass was a normal place, and the stars in the dark night sky shone down upon the city. It was also possible to see the glow of several planets far above.

When Lu Yin looked down, he saw that he had six shadows. He looked up, and he saw six stars lighting up the sky. This meant that tribulation crystals could be mined regardless of if it was day or night.

Lu Yin's domain stretched out like a stream of water. It formed what looked like countless tentacles that stretched into the sky from the ground, the trees, and even the stones. Suddenly, a black shadow flashed by. Lu Yin's eyes snapped open, and he charged out at where the black shadow had appeared. Every step that Lu Yin took was exactly the same as the black figure, and even his posture was identical. This was due to Lu Yin's newfound ability to predict the future with his domain, and he took the same path as the black figure and used the exact same movements.

The eyes hidden behind a mask flashed with surprise, but then they turned ruthless as purple and red lines covered the figure. This was nine lined battle force.

Lu Yin frowned, and Guo Shan appeared next to him. The older man did not say a word as he blasted his star energy into the sky. They were in Flying Armor Pass, and the Flying Armor Troops would instantly respond to any battle that broke out.

However, the star energy dissipated while it was still rising through the air.

Guo Shan was surprised. "We're trapped?"

Suddenly, several more figures appeared in the distance and attacked the older man. He quickly warned Lu Yin, "Take care of yourself."

Lu Yin had no time to speak as the black figure had already arrived in front of him, wielding a long knife that they had pulled from their sleeves. The blade fell down, reinforced by nine lined battle force.

The dark figure felt that the knife would be able to injure Lu Yin, but then they recalled that Lu Yin had defeated Liu Lu during his time at the Sword Monument. Thus, they had added battle force to the attack just to be sure.

The assassin had made the right decision, as Lu Yin instantly released a Vacuum Palm that struck the dark figure. Even though Lu Yin had not used a full force Vacuum Palm, this attack was still more than what a Hunter could withstand. Lu Yin's Vacuum Palm had even been able to injure Wang Yi during ZENITH while this assassin was only an average Hunter in comparison.

This palm attack not only shattered the nine lined battle force, but it also bent the knife. The assassin's pupils shrank, and the knife flickered in a different direction to dissolve the force of the Vacuum Palm.

Lu Yin sneered and used the same attack again. "How many palms can you take?"

The dark figure stood in front of Lu Yin with the knife held in front of their body. There was a bang as a palm imprint appeared on the knife before the assassin was blasted hundreds of meters back. The figure was not able to stop themselves from coughing up a mouthful of blood. How could some common clansman possess such strength?

On the other side of the small battlefield, Guo Shan was still paying attention to everything. He was just as shocked as the assassin when he saw Long Qi overpower a Hunter with nine lined battle force. It was no wonder why this kid had been sent to the Fourteenth Gate. Guo Shan then remembered what had happened during the first assassination attempt when he had tried to push Long Qi away from the mill and Long Qi had almost counterattacked him. It seemed that that had not been a mere coincidence.

This kid had hidden a tremendous amount of strength very deeply.

The assassin's knife had shattered, and they stood up from where they had landed and stared at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's eyes had turned sharp. "You're not an assassin from Realmless. Your skills don't match up."

The black figure stared at him for a moment longer before pulling out a spear from their cosmic ring. The weapon was quickly covered with nine lined battle force, and the assassin rushed forward. The person was clearly charging straight ahead, but their body was moving in a strange manner, much like a roving dragon.

### **Chapter 1399: Opening The Three Meridian Points**

Was that the Roving White Dragon? Lu Yin was instantly caught off guard—this person was clearly from the White Dragon Clan, and he immediately thought of the Flying Armor Troops. The army was the only group that could lock down an area inside Flying Armor Pass, which meant that he was being targeted by someone from the White Dragon Clan; this was an inside job.

Given that he was facing someone under Long Xian, Lu Yin needed to be careful to not reveal too much of his strength. With that in mind, he released his domain and tilted his head. The attacker's spear shot forward towards Lu Yin's chest, tearing apart the ground as it passed by. Lu Yin was able to clearly see the attack and even predict its trajectory, so he took a simple step back to avoid the attack. The dark

figure's eyes flashed with frustration. Then, they stepped forward with their right foot as their breathing suddenly changed. Lu Yin heard a roar.

"White Dragon Transformation! Watch out!" Guo Shan shouted.

Lu Yin's eyes showed his surprise. The White Dragon Transformation was one of the White Dragon Clan's inherited techniques, and it allowed the user's strength to momentarily spike. This attacker was definitely a descendant of the White Dragon Clan.

After using the White Dragon Transformation, the dark figure's strength surged. The spear swept out again, much faster than before, and the person also used the Roving White Dragon. Lu Yin was no longer able to predict the attacker's movement, but he was still able to evade.

The black figure seemed to be in a rush, and they quickly abandoned the spear to attack Lu Yin with a palm. Guo Shan shouted from a distance, "Don't block it!"

Lu Yin completely ignored the advice and responded with a Vacuum Palm of his own. The two attacks clashed, and an explosion blasted everyone's ears as the shockwave swept out while the ground broke open and formed a crevice beneath them. Both Lu Yin and the dark figure retreated at the same time, opening up some space between them.

The black figure was stunned. Even though they had used the White Dragon Transformation, they still weren't able to gain the upper hand. Long Qi was not an easy opponent.

Lu Yin was also surprised that his attacker had managed to withstand a Vacuum Palm that contained nearly 200 Stacks. While Lu Yin had not combined it with any battle force, it still was not an attack that most Hunters could withstand. Actually, even an Enlightener like Unseen Light would not be able to endure that attack.

This was the power of the White Dragon Transformation. Using it tremendously increased a person's physical strength.

"Time's up!" shouted one of the people fighting with Guo Shan.

Lu Yin immediately attacked again, once more using a Vacuum Palm. The invisible attack was too fast for the black figure to react to, and the palm struck them in the chest, knocking them a thousand meters back. The mask was stained with blood, and the figure was clearly enraged that they had been attacked. Despite their fury, the attacker did not continue the assault. The sky cleared, and the restrictions on the area disappeared.

The dark figure glanced at Lu Yin in frustration, but they still turned around and left.

Lu Yin did not want to let his attackers go, so he instantly pursued them.

Guo Shan did the same.

But the dark figure simply used Roving White Dragon and disappeared in the blink of an eye. If they were still in the Fifth Mainland, it would have been impossible for Lu Yin's attacker to escape so easily, but he could not use any secret techniques or reveal too much strength in this place. Thus, he could only watch the attackers leave.

Lu Yin looked down at his slightly reddened hand as the color quickly faded away. That person had been very strong; did the White Dragon Transformation really increase a person's strength that much?

"How are you? Are you hurt?" Guo Shan asked while looking down at Lu Yin's hand.

Lu Yin shook his wrist. There was a bit of pain as it moved around.

Guo Shan rolled his eyes. "I told you not to fight against them head on. The White Dragon Transformation is one of the White Dragon Clan's inherited techniques, and the user's physical power will completely change after using this technique. They'll basically turn into a humanoid monster, but the person who attacked you was clearly not very strong. If it was your future wife who used it, then she would have crippled you with a single hand."

Lu Yin shrugged. "Yeah, that was really impressive."

"It's too bad that you're only from one of the White Dragon Clan's branch families. Almost no one who's not from the main family can learn the White Dragon Transformation. It's really too bad that your bloodline isn't pure," Guo Shan said.

Lu Yin stared off into the distance. "Who the hell attacked me just now?"

"You want to know?" Guo Shan smiled. "I know how we can find out."

"How's that?"

"Follow me. Whoever stops us was the attacker. Watch." Guo Shan then rushed back towards Flying Armor Pass.

After a while, the two men entered the city, and Guo Shan loudly said, "I left a mark on that person, so he won't be able to run away. The mark will last for a quarter of an hour before fading."

Lu Yin showed his excitement. "Then let's go! Anyone who dares to attack our Fourteenth Gate is courting death."

Before the two made it very far, a squad of flying cultivators in armor stopped them. They were led by a bearded, middle-aged man who stared at Lu Yin and Guo Shan. "There was a violent fight just outside the city, and the commander has ordered you two to be placed under a half month house arrest. You are both to immediately return to your residence. The other party will be arrested."

Guo Shan and Lu Yin looked at each other, and Lu Yin stepped forward with his head held high. "I am Long Qi of the White Dragon Clan. I wish to see the commander."

The bearded man frowned. "The commander is busy with certain affairs and has no time to meet with you at this time."

"Brother, you aren't even from the army's headquarters, so how do you know the commander's busy? Aren't you supposed to be on break right now?" Guo Shan shot back.

The bearded man's eyes froze. "There was a violent fight just outside the city, and the commander sent a qualified person to investigate. There is no need for us to report to you."

He then looked at Long Qi, and his voice lost a bit of strength. "If the young master wishes to meet the commander, then I must ask you to return to your residence and wait while I submit a report."

It would take at least fifteen minutes for this report to be made. Lu Yin already knew that someone under Long Xian had attacked him, but there was no way for it to have been Long Xian himself. The man was not that stupid.

The attack had happened outside of the city, so how could the army have found out about it so quickly? Also, a house arrest was a stupid excuse, and it had only been done to delay the two from tracking down their attackers.

"If that's the case, then let's go. We don't want to hinder the Flying Armor Troops from doing their business," Guo Shan said.

Lu Yin nodded.

"Young Master Long has my respect," the middle-aged man said quickly. He personally made a point of watching the two leave before turning to a person beside him. "Go and tell the young master that everything is going well."

"Yes."

...

Back outside the city, Lu Yin felt curious. "Long Xian shouldn't have been the attacker, so who could it have been?"

Guo Shan laughed. "You don't even know about the other members of the White Dragon Clan?"

Lu Yin shook his head. "Not about Long Xian."

Guo Shan said, "Long Xian has a son named Long Ding, and he's the one who attacked you just now. The body shape, battle techniques, and cultivation realm all match up."

Lu Yin did not know anything about this person. In fact, let alone Lu Yin, even Long Kui had only recently met Long Ding for the first time.

"Why'd he attack me?" Lu Yin asked.

Guo Shan gave Lu Yin a strange look. "Don't try to tell me that you had a happy time in the White Dragon Clan. Did no one ever target you? No one ever tried to bully you?"

Lu Yin immediately understood; this person was another fool who had a crush on Long Xi, but was too afraid of Bai Shaohong to do anything. Despite his own fears, Long Ding was jealous of Lu Yin, who had married Long Xi. Lu Yin's future wife really was too charming.

"How did you feel when fighting against Long Ding just now?" Guo Shan asked.

Lu Yin thought for a moment before answering, "He's very powerful, though I'm talking about after he used the White Dragon Transformation."

Guo Shan nodded. "Every member of the White Dragon Clan will completely transform after using that technique. Long Ding's strength spiked, but he was still weaker than you. You managed to injure him, but things will change in a few days. He's definitely going to find another chance to fight you."

"What kind of change? Oh, are you saying that he'll break through to the Enlighter realm soon?" Lu Yin asked.

Guo Shan sneered. "Enlighter? That's just a small part of it. More importantly, he'll try to open his lower meridian point."

Lu Yin was surprised. "Can he open the lower meridian point? How? Does he have that many tribulation crystals?"

Before, Lu Yin had not known about the meridian points, but then Long Kui had mentioned how tribulation crystals could be used to help a person open their meridian points, first the lower and then the middle. Lu Yin had finally understood the temptation for these crystals.

The human body had three meridian points: the lower meridian point, the middle, and the upper. These meridian points could not be opened by regular cultivation, not even if one became an Envoy or an expert with a power level of more than a million. Not even a Semi-Progenitor would have these meridian points opened, as they did not affect one's cultivation.

However, it was necessary to open these meridian points in order to become a Progenitor.

The higher one's cultivation became, the more difficult it was to open these meridian points. Thus, it was best and easiest to open them while still young with the help of tribulation crystals.

Also, aside from opening up the possibility of becoming a Progenitor in the future, each time a meridian point was opened, a person's strength would rise by leaps and bounds, similar to breaking through to a new cultivation realm.

Everyone in this universe dreamed of opening their meridian points, but this kind of opportunity could not even be asked for. Not even a major clan was guaranteed to gather enough tribulation crystals, and even though the White Dragon Clan had spent years doing so, they had still only managed to gather enough to allow Long Tian to open the lower and middle meridian points. Not even Long Xi had been able to open a meridian point.

The reason why Long Tian, Bai Shaohong, Wang Su, and Xia Shenfei had managed to become Junior Progenitors was entirely because they had become peerless within their generation, and they had done so by opening their lower and middle meridian points. Their strength could not compare to that of others.

It had taken so much for those four to accomplish this task, and even the forces behind them had not been able to provide enough tribulation crystals for everything that they needed, so how could this Long Ding manage to open a meridian point?

"That's precisely why our Fourteenth Gate is investigating Flying Armor Pass," Guo Shan said solemnly.

Lu Yin frowned. "Are you saying the Fourteenth Gate suspects Long Xian of becoming a Redback because of the tribulation crystals?"

Guo Shan nodded. "Think about it—the four ruling powers have spent countless years accumulating resources to allow their Junior Progenitors to open up just two meridians, and maybe one other person to open a single meridian point. So then, just how could this Long Ding have enough tribulation crystals to open a meridian point? How?"

"Are there any problems with this investigation?" Lu Yin wondered.

Guo Shan nodded. "The biggest problem is that no one knows where Long Xian got the tribulation crystals. No matter how many years he might have spent skimming off the top from what's been gathered in Flying Armor Pass, it's impossible for him to save up enough to open Long Ding's meridian point, let alone the few years that he's been the commander here. However, our investigation has ruled out the possibility of him being a Redback or a traitor. This whole thing is very strange.

"Still, since we've ruled out the possibility of him being a Redback or a traitor, Humility's Gate no longer has any jurisdiction to investigate. No matter where his tribulation crystals are coming from, it's got nothing to do with us."

Lu Yin felt twitchy. The moment that he had learned about the three meridian points, he had understood the importance of tribulation crystals, and he had developed an insatiable greed for them. However, tribulation crystals were different from star essence in that no one would ever sell tribulation crystals.

"You need to open all three meridian points if you want to become a Progenitor, and it becomes harder to open them the older you get and the higher you climb. Even a Semi-Progenitor would find it practically impossible to open a single meridian point, and it's almost impossible to do so without tribulation crystals. It also takes more and more tribulation crystals to succeed as you get older, and even the four ruling powers struggle to gather enough for even their Junior Progenitors. This is why it's necessary to open the meridian points at as young an age as possible, as otherwise you'll never have any chance at all of becoming a Progenitor," Guo Shan said with clear envy.

The four Junior Progenitors had all opened their middle meridian points, and the upper meridian could not be opened with tribulation crystals as that one required Origin Matter, which could only be found in the Dominion Realm. This was the motivation behind the Yuanlun Festival, and it was also the entire purpose behind the trips to the Dominion Realm.

Only after visiting the Dominion Realm was it possible to determine who had the greatest chances of becoming a Progenitor in the future.

This was just one part of why it was so difficult to become a Progenitor.

#### **Chapter 1400: Tribulation Crystal Pillar**

The next day, the bearded soldier returned to Lu Yin and respectfully said, "Your request for a meeting was delivered to the commander, and he is waiting for you at headquarters."

Lu Yin nodded. "Alright."

The man then left.

Lu Yin sighed. It seemed that Long Xian had found out about the incident the day before between Long Ding and Long Qi. But then, why would the commander want to meet with him at this time?

Meeting with Long Xian would drag Lu Yin into the White Dragon Clan's internal conflicts. Thus, he immediately contacted Long Xi to avoid any mistakes. He did not want to infuriate her, and her temper was quite poor.

Long Xi's image soon appeared. Her amber eyes were as beautiful as ever, but they seemed worried. "What did you do?"

Lu Yin was stunned. "What do you mean?"

Long Xi's eyes narrowed. "You wouldn't contact me unless you've already done something wrong."

Lu Yin was left speechless. This woman really had a horrible impression of him. "Long Ding attacked me yesterday."

Long Xi's brows rose. "Long Ding? Long Xian's son?"

Lu Yin nodded.

"You aren't injured, right?" she asked.

Lu Yin answered, "I'm fine, and I even managed to wound him."

Long Xi's eyes gleamed. "Was that by using the inheritance that you got from the Sword Monument?"

Lu Yin nodded. "Long Xian just invited me to the army's headquarters. Do you think that I should go?"

Long Xi replied, "Wait a minute."

She then ended the call.

Lu Yin's communication crystal vibrated a short while later, and Long Xi's image reappeared. "Go and meet him. I've spoken with Elder Long Kui, and he's at the army's headquarters as well."

Lu Yin nodded. "Long Xian won't try to do anything to me, right?"

Long Xi reassured him, "He won't. By the way, take Guo Shan with you."

Lu Yin nodded, realizing that Long Xi wanted to drag the Fourteenth Gate into the mess.

Humility's Gate was not allowed to get involved in the four ruling powers' internal conflicts, but many people liked how Humility's Gate was very protective of its own. Thus, the four ruling powers often did their best to have their juniors enter Humility's Gate, like what the Junior Progenitors had all done.

Out of all of Humility's Gate's various gates, the Fourteenth Gate was the most protective of their members.

If Lu Yin brought Guo Shan along to the army's headquarters, then Long Xian would be unable to do anything to Lu Yin at all. Even if the army commander did not care about Long Kui, he would still have to be cautious of the Fourteenth Gate. It was a hornet's nest, and kicking it would help no one. The Progenitor behind Humility's Gate was a massive deterrent to everybody due to his overprotectiveness.

However, that overprotectiveness also allowed Humility's Gate to be more united than a typical organization, letting them develop many powerhouses.

However, it would not be easy to drag Guo Shan into the mess. The man was not dumb, and he was clearly aware that Long Qi was entangled in the White Dragon Clan's internal conflicts, especially after the earlier attack. And now, Long Qi was actually going to the army's headquarters.

Unexpectedly, Guo Shan readily agreed to go when Lu Yin invited him. Guo Shan was not going in order to help Lu Yin, but rather because the older man knew that Long Xian was not stupid and that he would not dare to do anything to Long Qi. Yesterday's attack had failed, and everybody knew who was behind the attack. Since Long Qi was being invited to the army's headquarters, it indicated that the commander was either planning to apologize, or the man was confident that he could save face.

The only way for the army commander to save face was to have Long Ding openly fight against Long Qi and then win. And the only reason why Long Ding would be confident in his victory was by either becoming an Enlightener or by opening his lower meridian point.

"I've never seen anyone open their lower meridian point, so this'll be a new experience for me," Guo Shan said.

Lu Yin was also curious about this matter, as he had never seen it before either.

The Flying Armor Troops' headquarters lay in the center of Flying Armor Pass. It took up a massive area, and many troops patrolled about, making the area impenetrable.

Long Xian personally welcomed Lu Yin and Guo Shan. Meanwhile, a young man stood behind the army commander, and the youth glared viciously at Lu Yin. Although the young man made an attempt to be polite, Lu Yin was already certain that this person was Long Ding.

"The Fourteenth Gate's Guo Shan and Long Qi have arrived."

Displeasure flashed through Long Xian's eyes as he heard Lu Yin's name, but it disappeared nearly instantly. "Please enter, Master Guo."

Guo Shan smiled.

Long Xian then turned to Lu Yin and laughed. "So you're Long Qi, the son-in-law of the White Dragon Clan's main family."

Lu Yin humbly replied, "You're too kind, commander."

Long Xian continued to say, "Being able to surpass Bai Xian'er's record at the Sword Monument is quite impressive, and you're now the person who holds the record for taking the longest to receive an inheritance from the Sword Monument. Your name's already spread throughout the Higher Realm and even the entire Perennial World."

Lu Yin's reputation in the Perennial World had grown tremendously after he had received that inheritance from the Sword Monument. People had started to accept his talent, and if not for that incident, then his earlier fight against Long Ding would have made Lu Yin's strength incredibly suspicious to Long Kui, Long Xi, and even Long Tian.

However, after Lu Yin had received an inheritance from the Sword Monument, nobody would question a sharp increase in his abilities. They would only be jealous.

Lu Yin humbly replied, "I only learned a few battle techniques, and there's no way I could compare with your son. This must be Brother Long Ding.

Long Ding walked forward and tried his best to put on a friendly appearance. "I've heard a lot about you, Brother Long Qi."

Lu Yin answered, "What you've heard are just exaggerations. I can't compare with someone like you who has actual experience."

Lu Yin looked completely sincere as he spoke, and nobody would have been able to pick up on his sarcasm if not for the previous day's incident.

A murderous intent flashed through Long Ding's eyes.

Long Xian led Lu Yin and Guo Shan into the building. Nobody brought up the incident from yesterday, and the conversation remained casual and the atmosphere friendly.

Half a day later, somebody came to report, "Commander, everything is ready."

Lu Yin and Guo Shan looked at each other. Ready?

Long Xian laughed. "Go and invite Elder Long Kui to watch the ceremony."

"Yes, Commander."

Long Ding looked at Lu Yin, clear excitement in his eyes. He was clearly eager for whatever was about to happen.

Long Xian smiled at Lu Yin and Guo Shan. "What a coincidence that both of you are here today. My son is about to open his first meridian point. Would you like to watch the ceremony?"

Guo Shan acted surprised. "Open his lower meridian point? Commander, are you saying that you have enough tribulation crystals for your son to open his lower meridian point?"

Long Xian replied, "I stumbled upon an unexpected inheritance that belonged to my ancestors and gained some tribulation crystals. Thus, I have just enough for my son to open his lower meridian point. It was just luck."

Nobody would ever believe such crap, Lu Yin and Guo Shan both thought.

"Commander, you're so lucky! There are very few people who are able to open their meridian points, and usually, only one or two people a century from each of the four ruling powers are able to do so. I can't believe that I'm lucky enough to watch your son open his meridian point today. Congratulations!" Guo Shan exclaimed.

Long Xian laughed heartily and turned to face Lu Yin. "Long Qi, you're Princess Long Xi's husband, so the clan will definitely do their best to help you open your lower meridian point as well. You can watch Long Ding go through it today so that you can know what to expect."

Lu Yin remained polite. "That would be great."

He then turned towards Long Ding and enviously said, "Congratulations, Brother Long, on this breakthrough."

Long Ding waved a hand. "It hasn't even happened yet. Let's go, Brother Long Qi."

"After you."

Many of the Flying Armor Troops' powerhouses had already gathered in the central courtyard, and all of them were keeping a close eye on the central platform. There was a ten meter tall cylindrical object standing there that had been covered by a sheet of cloth.

Once Long Xian arrived, he waved a hand and removed the cloth, revealing a giant collection of tribulation crystals.

Even though he had already known what would happen, Guo Shan was still shocked by what he saw.

Most people would only ever have a chance to see a tiny amount of tribulation crystals, and each crystal might not even be visible to the naked eye. Despite that, even a tiny amount of tribulation crystals would be enough wealth for anyone to live a good life. It was rare for anyone to see a tribulation crystal the size of a normal rock, let alone a ten meter tall pillar of crystal that was a full meter in diameter.

Lu Yi felt astounded; was this really how much tribulation crystal a person needed to open their lower meridian point? This was insane.

The man who had found that crystal that was the size of a fingernail could already live out the rest of his life in comfort from what he would gain from that crystal, and this pillar was hundreds of times bigger than the crystal that the man had found.

Tribulation crystals only formed when Enlighteners underwent their stellar tribulation and tried to break through to an Envoy, but how many crystals were produced by each tribulation? It would only be a small amount, and some tribulations did not form any crystals at all. How long would it take to gather this many tribulation crystals?

How many Envoys were represented by this crystal pillar? Lu Yin could not even make an estimate.

Long Ding's breathing began to pick up as he looked at the crystal pillar with fervent eyes. He had only seen it once before, after which his father had forbidden him from looking at it again. Now, Long Ding was finally able to see it once more.

This amount of tribulation crystals was enough to drive even the four ruling powers crazy.

How many tribulation crystals were each of the four ruling powers able to accumulate during a century? There were enough tribulation crystals here to trigger an actual battle.

The crystal pillar had been formed by combining countless tribulation crystals. It looked like each individual crystal had a unique light, and it was even possible to see lightning flickering within the pillar.

The gigantic pillar looked like something from another world, and it caused space to twist around it and even affected the sky above Flying Armor Pass, causing the true universe to be revealed.

Long Xian's palms grew sweaty as he looked around. Many of the powerhouses from the Flying Armor Troops were looking at the pillar with burning eyes. Fortunately, they had already activated the Flying Armor Array; otherwise, someone would have likely done something stupid.

Long Kui also arrived, and he stared at the pillar in shock. "This-"

The elder had absolutely no idea that Long Xian possessed so many crystals. Long Kui had merely received an invitation to attend a ceremony, and he had not been informed that it was to open Long Ding's lower meridian point. Long Kui was an elder of the White Dragon Clan, but he was still astonished when he arrived in the courtyard.

Long Xian glanced at Long Ding and winked.

Long Ding leaped up onto the platform and walked towards the crystal pillar. Star energy surged around him as he placed both of his hands onto the pillar.

The first step to opening a meridian point was to refine the tribulation crystals into the smallest size possible so that they could absorb it better. The crystals would then help open the lower meridian point that the human body was normally unable to open on its own. What's more, it was only possible to open a meridian point with the use of tribulation crystals, as they were the only things capable of stabilizing the meridian points and breaking through them.

Opening a meridian point would improve a person's ability to circulate star energy, as well as double their strength, which was a massive increase.

The human body was extremely complex, and opening all three meridian points was the best way to increase one's strength. Not to mention, it was also a necessary step towards becoming a Progenitor.

Long Kui still had not had a chance to react when Long Ding started refining the pillar.

"Brother Xian, what is this?" Long Kui was confused.

Long Xian smiled. "Elder, weren't you wondering why the Fourteenth Gate was investigating Flying Armor Pass? I can now tell you that it's because of this tribulation crystal pillar."