

STAR ODYSSEY

Chapter 1745: Bubble

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Lu Yin gave the patriarch a slight smile. "Patriarch Autumnfrost, this is our first time meeting, but I've been waiting for this for a long time."

Autumnfrost Chen instantly brought out his imprint while simultaneously activating his bloodline. His body rose into the air, and he wanted to attack, but a slash of sword qi suddenly shot by, and Autumnfrost Chen felt a sharp pain in his leg bones. When he looked down, his pupils abruptly shrank; his legs were gone!

An old man holding a sword of stellar energy had appeared in front of the patriarch, and he looked at the patriarch with cold eyes.

Autumnfrost Chen's mind could not catch up to what was happening.

His body crashed to the floor as a pool of blood spread out. The man could not stop himself from trembling as he stared at Lu Yin. "Lu Yin, what do you want?"

Lu Yin sat back down. "People from your Autumnfrost family were on their way to Frostwave Weave in order to threaten me, and yet you ask what I want?"

Autumnfrost Chen's complexion paled even further; how did Lu Yin know about this?! No matter how fast Nan Qi had been moving, it was impossible for him to have already arrived at Frostwave Weave. There was no way for Lu Yin to know about this!

Still, this was not the time for Autumnfrost Chen to be considering such matters. "Where's Qing'er?"

Lu Yin's eyes grew sharp, and his spiritual force surged: Night's End, Daybreak.

It was easy for him to draw Autumnfrost Chen into an illusion. Given the strength of Lu Yin's spiritual force, unless he was facing an Envoy with a power level of more than 600,000 who had also strengthened their own

spiritual force, Lu Yin's opponents would not be able to resist his technique. While Autumnfrost Chen was an Imprinter with a power level of a bit more than 500,000, the Autumnfrost family did not focus on cultivating spiritual force.

After falling under the illusion's hold, Autumnfrost Chen was no longer able to keep anything hidden. He not only revealed the locations of all the Autumnfrost family's resources, but the man also shared the Autumnfrost family's battle techniques and bloodline secrets.

Lu Yin had no interest in the Autumnfrost family's battle techniques or bloodlines. Instead, he was keenly interested in their resources and any information regarding Ancestor Autumnfrost.

Unfortunately for Lu Yin, Autumnfrost Chen knew almost nothing at all about Ancestor Autumnfrost aside from the fact that the man was the family's ancestor. The patriarch was actually ignorant to the fact that the real Ancestor Autumnfrost had already died.

Once Autumnfrost Chen died, the pure descendants of the Autumnfrost family had all disappeared.

No one knew about Autumnfrost Chen's death, as Lu Yin and the other two came and left without a trace. No one could find any sign of their visit.

Before leaving the Autumnfrost family's headquarters, Lu Yin made sure to collect all of the resources that he could carry.

He was quite surprised by the amount of resources that the Autumnfrost family possessed, as their treasury held 600 million star essence. Lu Yin had no idea how they had gathered it all.

600 million star essence was not very much for a family with a World Imprinter and multiple Envoys, as it did not even match up to the sylvan dragon clan's hoard. However, that was only when the Autumnfrost family's wealth was considered in the context of the Sixth Mainland. They had lost most of their possessions when Aeternus had destroyed the Sixth Mainland, but Lu Yin was quite satisfied with what they had managed to save.

Lu Yin also found a great number of raw materials, as well as the Sky Overlord bloodline, which could be sold for a great deal.

Without any hesitation, Lu Yin took everything. When he left, he did not return the way that he had come, but instead continued on further. He was going to visit the place where Ancestor Autumnfrost had been constructing the tool.

Autumnfrost Chen had also not known anything about the tool, and he had simply followed Ancestor Autumnfrost's instructions regarding the project.

Lu Yin was not surprised to learn this. Since the real Ancestor Autumnfrost was already dead and the tool was being constructed by an impostor, how could Autumnfrost Chen have been told anything about it?

The construction site was quite close to the Autumnfrost family's headquarters, so Lu Yin and the two Envoys arrived quite soon.

Lu Yin was stunned as he stared at the endless expanse of metal that stretched out into the distance and connected numerous planets. He could not imagine what this tool that spanned an entire galaxy was supposed to do.

The metals used in the construction were very common, and they did not even qualify to be sent to First Edition City. Just what could it even be used for?

Lu Yin could easily crush this sort of metal without any effort, but the construction was all quite delicate. It was no wonder why it had taken Big Pao and Little Pao three years to learn how to work on this project.

Lu Yin traveled through outer space, crossing through the entire galaxy in order to determine the overall design of the tool.

It was shaped like a pot. It had an incomparably massive concave metal plate in the middle that was surrounded by many other pieces of metal that were connected to the center plate.

There were countless people working on the construction.

While Autumnfrost Chen had not known the purpose of the tool, he had been aware of the fact that the Autumnfrost family had dedicated all of their material and human resources onto this project. Even Imprinters had worked on it.

Lu Yin had no idea what this pot-shaped tool was intended to be used for, so he planned to simply destroy it. The Autumnfrost family was his enemy, and even the fake Ancestor Autumnfrost was an enemy. Lu Yin would never show

mercy to his enemies, and whatever they wanted, he would take first or destroy. There was no third option.

"Let's do it," Lu Yin said.

Liu Huang raised a hand, and sword qi spread upwards and outwards, tearing through the galaxy and distorting space. The tool was instantly reduced to shattered shards.

The metal plate at the center also shattered, revealing the black energy crystal that Big Pao had mentioned. It truly was the size of a planet. The crystal was much harder than the metal, but it was still destroyed by Liu Huang's attack.

Lu Yin held a piece of the black crystal fragment, but he could not see what it was supposed to do, so he simply stored the piece away.

Just as he was about to leave, a strange color entered his vision.

Lu Yin turned around to look, and he saw that there had been a bubble in the center of the black crystal, and within it was a reddish liquid. It was a very small bit of liquid that was only the size of a finger, and it floated within the bubble.

It looked as if the bubble would pop the moment it was touched.

Lu Yin quickly asked Liu Huang to stop his attack, and he quickly approached the bubble.

The Second Nightking and Liu Huang were both watching with curiosity.

"Can you tell what it is?" Lu Yin asked.

The two both stared for a long time. "No."

Lu Yin was able to see that the liquid possessed no runes, but it was also possible that the bubble was concealing the runes. He stretched out a hand, ready to pop the bubble.

Just as his fingers were about to come into contact with the bubble, Lu Yin stopped and reconsidered his actions. Instead, he stored the entire bubble away in his cosmic ring.

"Let's go."

The Second Nightking and Liu Huang did not say anything, as neither of them were particularly curious about the bubble. Lu Yin was the only one who knew that the current Ancestor Autumnfrost was a fake, and he also suspected that the imposter had assumed Ancestor Autumnfrost's identity because of this tool.

Lu Yin simply wanted to see how Ancestor Autumnfrost would react so that he could determine the importance of the liquid within the bubble.

If it was valuable but ended up disappearing because he popped the bubble, he would definitely regret his actions.

From beginning to end, no one discovered that the three men had visited the Autumnfrost family's territory, killed their patriarch, destroyed the construction project, and stolen the bubble.

In the distant Ironblood Weave, the moment that Ancestor Autumnfrost learned that the tool had been destroyed, he was utterly stunned. He instantly abandoned all the other cultivators from the Sixth Mainland and ran back to the Autumnfrost family's territory at full speed.

However, how could the massive python from the Celestial Beast Empire simply allow Ancestor Autumnfrost to leave? The serpent's enormous body wound out, but Ancestor Autumnfrost ignored everything and raced away from Ironblood Weave.

"If you leave, I will slaughter everyone here!" the python roared.

Still, Ancestor Autumnfrost fled without any sign of hesitation. It was as though the man had not even heard the beast.

The abandoned cultivators looked up as the python's attack fell upon them as they screamed in despair.

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At the Sixth Mainland's border with the Great Eastern Alliance, the Cloud Valley Master read a report on his gadget and then suddenly let out a roar of fury.

He had been sent a report regarding Ironblood Weave. With Ancestor Autumnfrost's sudden departure, the Sixth Mainland had suffered heavy casualties as their people had been slaughtered by the Astral Beast Domain. The astral beasts had instantly routed the Sixth Mainlanders, pressed on through Ironblood Weave, and were now invading the Outerverse.

Even though most of the casualties had come from the Autumnfrost family's forces, people from the Cloud Valley and other powers had also been slaughtered.

More importantly, the Astral Beast Domain had invaded the Outerverse! There was someone to blame for this matter, and the Cloud Valley Master intended to find them.

The Cloud Valley Master immediately called Ancestor Autumnfrost, but the call was ignored.

"Brother Nong, please head out to visit the Autumnfrosts' territory and capture Autumnfrost Feng," the Cloud Valley Master angrily ordered.

Autumnfrost Feng was Ancestor Autumnfrost's full name.

Nong Laohan felt puzzled. "What happened to Autumnfrost Feng?"

The Cloud Valley Master gritted his teeth. "He abandoned the battlefield and left without permission, which led to Ironblood Weave being captured by the Astral Beast Domain. Also, they've invaded the Outerverse!"

Nong Laohan was quite surprised. "Did Autumnfrost Feng go crazy?"

The Cloud Valley Master turned to look at Nong Laohan and solemnly declared, "Autumnfrost Feng must pay for this! The moment that my Sixth Mainland took over the Outerverse, the Astral Beast Domain invaded. This is a humiliation, and we will be laughed at for 10,000 years! I will go now to Ironblood Weave while Brother Sightless will remain here. Brother Nong, I leave Autumnfrost Feng to you. No matter what his reason may be, capture him. The Daosource Sect will be the one to judge him."

Nong Laohan felt rather conflicted, as he really did not want to do such a thing, but this matter had already gotten far too out of hand. "Understood. I'll go to the Autumnfrost family's territory."

The Cloud Valley Master led a large group of cultivators towards Ironblood Weave while Nong Laohan made his way towards the Autumnfrost family's territory alone. Ancestor Sightless and the Cemetery Keeper were left at the border.

The shifting battlefield in Ironblood Weave had not only been reported to the Sixth Mainland, but also to the Great Eastern Alliance.

Yuan Shi was solemn as he received the report. The Astral Beast Domain had actually forced the Sixth Mainland out and taken control of Ironblood Weave. There was no chance of the Celestial Beast Empire easily giving up Ironblood Weave after claiming it, and they were sure to send out more true experts to hold the weave.

Even though Yuan Shi had agreed to abandon Ironblood Weave due to the bigger picture, he still ached to see it fall under the Astral Beast Domain's control.

Lu Yin's strategy had never been to abandon Ironblood Weave, but rather to have the Sixth Mainland and the Astral Beast Domain fight each other there. According to Yuan Shi's understanding, the Sixth Mainland was far stronger than the Astral Beast Domain, so it did not make sense for the Sixth Mainland to have been driven out and lose control of the weave.

Lu Yin could never have imagined that his passing whim had led to the Sixth Mainland's complete defeat in Ironblood Weave.

Lu Yin traveled with the Second Nightking and Liu Huang to Aegis's former headquarters. Because Aegis had abandoned the planet, nothing remained on the planet aside from a few Sixth Mainland cultivators.

These people were most likely independent cultivators who had been unable to find a better place to train, so they had simply chosen this abandoned planet.

Aegis had chosen this planet as their headquarters solely because of the existence of the Bizarre Sect's ruins in the pocket dimension. However, the Sixth Mainland had not discovered the ruins, and these cultivators remained on the planet only because they had no other choice.

Lu Yin did not bother these people, and he simply went straight to the entrance to the pocket space. After having the Second Nightking and Liu Huang stand guard outside, Lu Yin entered the ruins.

Both the Second Nightking and Liu Huang were surprised, as they had not expected to encounter a pocket dimension in this place. They were both quite curious as to what Lu Yin was doing inside.

After entering the ruins, Lu Yin looked up at the black sun that was still just as high in the sky as ever, completely unapproachable.

He leaped up and shot towards the black sun. When he could get no closer, he shifted the fate sand within his chest to the side.

At that moment, his body quivered, and the black sun became a bit bigger. He had moved closer to it. While this happened, the black sun released a strand of death energy across the sky that slowly connected to Lu Yin.

Death energy surged into his body.

Chapter 1746: The Silhouette

Lu Yin let out a slow breath as the death energy revolved within his chest. The black and white mist that usually sat there slowly returned to normal.

While Lu Yin was absorbing death energy, Ancestor Autumnfrost was shooting through space at top speed, racing back to the Autumnfrost family's territory as soon as possible.

Autumnfrost Chen was already dead, but Ancestor Autumnfrost did not care. The only thing that he cared about was the tool.

The man's face twisted as he stared at the shattered remains of the massive construction project. He quickly approached the center, but once he saw the countless shards of the shattered crystal, he let out a roar and began to frantically search for something.

"No, it hasn't broken, so it must have been taken away! Who?" the man said to himself.

A spacecraft approached from the distance. It carried the members of the Autumnfrost family who were responsible for the construction.

Ancestor Autumnfrost looked at them sharply. "Who did this?"

The members of the Autumnfrost family aboard the vessel were terrified, but they also had no answer.

Ancestor Autumnfrost was truly furious, and he destroyed the ship. None of the people on it survived.

The man seemed crazy at this moment, and he did his best to find out who had destroyed his tool, but he could not find anything at all.

Nong Laohan arrived, and he watched Ancestor Autumnfrost, who was still searching through space for something. Nong Laohan hesitantly asked, "Autumnfrost Feng, why did you leave Ironblood Weave without permission?"

Ancestor Autumnfrost ignored the man.

The old man's eyebrows rose sharply. "Autumnfrost Feng, I am speaking to you! Why did you leave Ironblood Weave without permission? You should know that abandoning your post has caused Ironblood Weave to be occupied by the Astral Beast Domain, and they have even invaded other weaves in the Outerverse. You understand that this concerns my Sixth Mainland-"

Before the man could even finish speaking, Ancestor Autumnfrost angrily shouted, "Get lost!"

Nong Laohan was stunned for a moment, but then he also became angry. He was a good-natured man who tended to not get into fights, so he did not enjoy a particularly high status among his peers in the Sixth Mainland. Still, people would be respectful when speaking to Nong Laohan, and no one would dare to underestimate someone with his strength. This had always been true of Ancestor Autumnfrost in the past, but at this moment, Ancestor Autumnfrost seemed to have lost his mind and raised his voice against Nong Laohan.

No matter how good-tempered the old man might be, he could not tolerate such behavior. "Autumnfrost Feng, no matter what it takes, I will capture you myself!"

He then raised a hand and unleashed the terrifying strength of a Cosmic Imprinter to attack Ancestor Autumnfrost from the true universe. Nong Laohan was trying to use the power of pure stellar energy to suppress Ancestor Autumnfrost.

Ancestor Autumnfrost clenched his fists, and his breathing changed.

When Nong Laohan emerged from the true universe, Ancestor Autumnfrost suddenly looked up. The man's eyes had turned scarlet, and his pupils were slits. An unfathomable aura surged forth and shot upwards to smash into Nong Laohan's descending palm.

Nong Laohan was startled, and he blurted, "A third transformation corpse king?"

Ancestor Autumnfrost turned to stare at Nong Laohan. "You... court death."

Nong Laohan hesitated for a moment, but then he fled without even looking back. The Neohuman Alliance's corpse king transformation was an absolutely terrifying battle technique, as each subsequent transformation raised the user's physical strength by tenfold.

Corpse kings were naturally much stronger than ordinary humans, and after a third transformation, the corpse king's physical strength would be 1,000 times its original level. Even if Ancestor Autumnfrost was just a World Imprinter, Nong Laohan did not want to fight against a corpse king with such power, and he was not even sure if he was facing the real Ancestor Autumnfrost.

It should be impossible for Ancestor Autumnfrost to be a corpse king.

Ancestor Autumnfrost moved forward and crushed space with a fist that shot straight towards Nong Laohan. The terrifying physical might left the void quivering as the attack forced its way into the true universe. Everything before the fist shattered. It was unstoppable.

Nong Laohan felt Ancestor Autumnfrost's attack approach him from behind, and he could even hear the corpse king breathing. Those scarlet eyes and slitted pupils made the Cosmic Imprinter's scalp go numb.

Suddenly, he whirled around and raised a hand. "Skylock Pattern."

As his voice rang out, a circular pattern appeared before him, the interior of which was entirely composed of stellar energy chains that shot straight for Ancestor Autumnfrost.

Ancestor Autumnfrost crashed into the Skylock Pattern.

He had assumed that he could smash through the Skylock Pattern with his body, but the corpse king had underestimated Nong Laohan, as well as the power of a Cosmic Imprinter. No matter what the corpse king's physical power might be, there was still a gap in their cultivation.

Ancestor Autumnfrost became trapped by the Skylock Pattern, and the chains bound his limbs. He was quickly and completely suppressed by the technique.

Nong Laohan spun back around and left. He had no desire to continue attacking.

Even if Ancestor Autumnfrost had been trapped, his physical power had increased so much that it not only gave him a much more powerful attack, but also an incredibly robust defense. Nong Laohan was not certain that he could overcome Ancestor Autumnfrost's defenses.

Roar!

With a roar, Ancestor Autumnfrost fought against the Skylock Pattern using his peerless physical strength, intent on chasing after Nong Laohan once more.

Nong Laohan looked back, but it was impossible for him to kill the creature, as he had only managed to trap it for less than ten seconds. Helpless, Nong Laohan attacked again, and another Skylock Pattern shot through space.

This time, Ancestor Autumnfrost dodged the attack. Even if he could destroy the Skylock Pattern, he did not want to be trapped again.

However, despite clearly avoiding the attack, the Skylock Pattern changed directions and struck Ancestor Autumnfrost from behind, trapping him once more.

Nong Laohan seized this opportunity to escape.

A Cosmic Imprinter was far faster than a World Imprinter.

By the time that Ancestor Autumnfrost destroyed the second Skylock Pattern, Nong Laohan had long since disappeared.

Nong Laohan fled a great distance. His breathing was ragged, but he immediately called Bluedome Elder.

The Empyrean Imprinter was absolutely shocked by the report. "What did you just say? A corpse king?"

"Yes. Ancestor Autumnfrost is one of the corpse kings from the Fifth Mainland's Neohuman Alliance. He used a third stage corpse king transformation, and I immediately fled." Nong Laohan still felt a lingering fear.

Bluedome Elder grew completely solemn. When it came to the Neohuman Alliance, the Sixth Mainland also treated them as an enemy, but their attitude was far from the Fifth Mainland's, which held the position of destroying any trace of the Neohuman Alliance at any cost.

In fact, the Sixth Mainland had even cooperated with the Neohuman Alliance in the past to deal with the Fifth Mainland, even if very rarely.

At least, this had been the Sixth Mainland's attitude before their home had been destroyed by Aeternus. After the Sixth Mainland's destruction, the Sixth Mainland's attitude towards the Neohuman Alliance had completely changed, and they also believed that all corpse kings needed to be eradicated.

In some ways, the Sixth Mainland held even greater hatred towards the Neohuman Alliance than the Fifth Mainland. While the Fifth Mainland's hatred was born of old feuds and rules that had been passed down from ancient times, the Sixth Mainland's enmity was fresh. Naturally, their hatred for the Neohuman Alliance far surpassed what they felt for the Fifth Mainland.

Upon learning that Ancestor Autumnfrost was a disguised corpse king, Bluedome Elder immediately ordered Ancestor Lingtong, who was the closest powerhouse, to cooperate with Nong Laohan and Ancestor Sightless to deal with Ancestor Autumnfrost. As for the Great Eastern Alliance, they were a much lower priority.

Nong Laohan told Bluedome Elder that he could not handle Ancestor Autumnfrost alone.

"Your Excellency, after undergoing a third stage corpse king transformation, Ancestor Autumnfrost is definitely not something that we can compare to. He is too strong now, and we will at least need some Empyrean Imprinters to handle him," Nong Laohan hesitantly protested.

Bluedome Elder answered in a low voice, "He is nothing more than a World Imprinter. Even if he did undergo a three stage corpse king transformation,

two Cosmic Imprinters are still enough to deal with him. Do you want to us to do your work for you?"

Nong Laohan opened his mouth, but after a moment's thought, he closed it again. It was clear that Bluedome Elder did not want to deal with this.

"Your Excellency, Ancestor Autumnfrost has likely run away by now, and we may not be able to find him." Nong Laohan really did not know how to handle this matter.

"Do whatever it takes to find him," Bluedome Elder ordered firmly.

Nong Laohan felt even more helpless than ever.

Ancestor Sightless had been left at the border with the Great Eastern Alliance with only Cemetery Keeper.

Cemetery Keeper had a very minimal presence, and he even looked like a corpse. Yuan Shi had no idea how to speak to such a person, so he did not even bother trying.

In the pocket dimension hidden at Aegis's former headquarters, death energy poured into Lu Yin's chest, gradually forming a black and white mist.

He was absorbing much more death energy than last time, and his body was also being pulled towards the black sun.

Suddenly, Lu Yin opened his eyes as a tremendous amount of death energy entered his body. He looked out and saw a shattered region of outer space where a sun was setting in the distance where a strange, limbless creature with no eyes stretched to the horizon and was headed towards him.

Off in the distance, there was a lonely figure sitting on the ground with a black scythe next to him. His arms were wrapped around his knees, and his chin seemed to be resting on his hands. Even though Lu Yin could not see the person's face, he could feel the person's abject loneliness, as well as their indifference at facing such a strange creature.

The lonely silhouette and the setting sun were both instantly covered by a black fog, which then condensed into a gigantic black sphere that shot into the

sky to strike at the back of the strange creature. The creature could not resist at all and was simply forced to the ground.

There was no sound, and yet Lu Yin felt like he could hear the creature's wails and frustrations. Still, everything was soon overwhelmed by the black sphere. Eventually, the black fog dissipated, and the setting sun disappeared from the starry sky. The figure's back also vanished, and the only remaining thing of the scene that Lu Yin had witnessed was a drop of blood.

That drop of blood transformed into the setting sun.

Lu Yin suddenly opened his eyes, confused. What had he just seen? That figure that he had seen from the back, as well as that familiar scythe; could that person have been the legendary God of Death? Had Lu Yin just seen something from the God of Death's time?

People claimed that the God of Death was nothing more than a legend, and even if Lu Yin cultivated death energy and could use the God of Death Transformation, he still was not completely certain that the God of Death had truly existed. It was possible that the God of Death was just an imaginary figure and Lu Yin just happened to be cultivating something similar to what everyone pictured for the God of Death.

Even if Xiao Shi had read about the God of Death in his mysterious book, and even if the Celestial Frost Sect's Bai family was certain that the legends were true, Lu Yin had never been completely confident in the existence of the God of Death.

However, Lu Yin was now absolutely certain that the God of Death had once lived, because he had nearly seen his face!

Lu Yin slowly descended from the sky. The death energy had been restored within his chest, and it had even been increased by a small amount. That meant that the duration of his God of Death Transformation would also be somewhat extended.

Lu Yin felt a bit of regret that he had only seen the back of the God of Death. He wished that he could have clearly seen the face of the person who had become the legendary God of Death.

After exiting the Bizarre Sect's ruins, Lu Yin's gadget beeped. He looked at the message only to be shocked; had such a thing really happened?

Ancestor Autumnfrost had abandoned the war in Ironblood Weave, which had led to the Astral Beast Domain completely occupying Ironblood Weave. The Cloud Valley Master had personally moved out to reclaim Ironblood Weave.

Right after the first message, another arrived. Ancestor Sightless had left the border, which meant that only Cemetery Keeper remained at the Sixth Mainland's border with the Great Eastern Alliance.

Something must have happened.

It was impossible for reports from within the Sixth Mainland to spread to the Fifth Mainland, but if the matter was serious enough, it would eventually reach Lu Yin's ears. Still, Lu Yin did not want to wait, so he pulled his gadget up and called someone he had not spoken to in a very long time: Xu San.

Xu San was someone whom Lu Yin had taken away from Earth but had later disappeared. When Lu Yin had entered the Cosmic Sea for the first time, it had been during the Sixth Mainland's invasion, and he had met Xu San there once again. However, at that time, Xu San had gained the favor of Ancestor Lingtong due to the fact that they shared the same innate gift of double sight. Xu San had been accepted as a disciple and had then become the young master of the Sixth Mainland's Lingtong clan.

When Lu Yin had met with Xu San in the Cosmic Sea, Xu San had promised to help Lu Yin and the others, which was considered repayment for all that Lu Yin had done for Xu San in the past, but that they would never speak again.

However, as a potential catastrophe loomed over Xu San in the Sixth Mainland, he had shamelessly left a message at Zenyu Star for Lu Yin to contact him.

Chapter 1747: Interests Above All Else

In order to prevent Xu San from being discovered, Lu Yin had made it a point to never reach out to him, but this was the right time to do so.

The call connected, and after a period of silence, Lu Yin heard a loud shout come through. The voice was arrogant and narcissistic, clearly belonging to someone who was used to ordering others around. "Who is it?"

Lu Yin just laughed. "Me."

The call went silent again, then a much softer voice called out, "Bo- Boss?"

Lu Yin snorted.

Xu San grew excited. "Boss? It's really you! This is great, Boss! You finally remembered your little brother San!"

Lu Yin retorted, "Didn't you say you never wanted to get involved with me again?"

"When did I ever say that? Boss, who's trying to tear us apart? Was it that idiot Ling Que? Or was it that scheming chick? Boss, Little San's loyalty to you can be seen from the sun and moon! I called home as soon as I came to the Outerverse. I've missed you, Boss!" Xu San immediately started whining loudly, wailing about how miserable his life had been.

Lu Yin was left speechless. After all, he was well aware of just how doted upon Xu San was. Even if the Sixth Mainland was destroyed, as long as Ancestor Lingtong remained alive, Xu San would still be the young master of the Blackblood Realm. On top of that, Ancestor Lingtong was just a single step away from becoming a Cosmic Imprinter, and the moment he broke through, he would immediately become an elder in the Sixth Mainland's Daosource Sect.

In fact, Ancestor Lingtong was already one of the Daosource Sect's protectors, which was a truly lofty status.

"Alright, cut the bullshit. I need to ask you something: what happened to the Autumnfrost family?" Lu Yin asked.

Xu San was taken aback, as this was a strange question. "The Autumnfrost family? No clue."

"Is that how you answer me?" Lu Yin's voice grew cold.

Xu San quickly corrected himself, "Boss, just wait a moment! Little San will ask about this right now!"

Lu Yin went out to join the Second Nightking and Liu Huang. After waiting for a long time, his gadget finally beeped again.

He heard Xu San's voice, this time with a solemn tone. "Boss, Ancestor Autumnfrost is a corpse king."

Lu Yin was shocked. "What did you just say?"

Xu San earnestly explained, "The Autumnfrost family's been destroyed. Their patriarch, Autumnfrost Chen, and their heir, Autumnfrost Qing, are both dead. All of the family's resources have disappeared, and Ironblood Weave's been lost because of Ancestor Autumnfrost's actions! He was supposed to stay there, but he left to return to his family's territory, so Ironblood Weave's been taken by the Astral Beast Domain.

"Ancestor Autumnfrost even underwent a third stage corpse king transformation."

Lu Yin's eyes flickered. So the imposter was actually a corpse king? A corpse king had impersonated Ancestor Autumnfrost just to construct that massive tool, and then it had even exposed itself and abandoned Ironblood Weave because of that very same tool.

The tool was clearly incredibly important, but what did it do?

"Boss, several powerhouses have joined together to go to the Autumnfrost family's territory to destroy Ancestor Autumnfrost. The Autumnfrost family is finished," Xu San explained.

"How do you know all this?" Lu Yin asked.

Xu San answered proudly, "I've been in the Sixth Mainland for many years now, and I've made many connections. After the Di and Mojiang families fell into hard times, the Autumnfrost started dominating the Bloodburn Realm, which was something that a lot of people didn't like. This information has already spread out among my group of contacts, and I wanted to find out more, which is why I took so long to tell you about all of this."

"Got it. I understand," Lu Yin replied as he prepared to end the call.

Xu San quickly spoke up again. "Boss, um... I heard that the Great Eastern Alliance isn't doing well right now. Is there anything your little brother can do to help? Just say the word!"

Lu Yin had to ask, "Even if the Sixth Mainland's already been destroyed, the refugees who escaped to the Outerverse aren't weak. Why are you trying to butter me up when you can live a good life following Ancestor Lingtong?"

Just when Xu San was about to continue flattering Lu Yin, Lu Yin coldly cut him off. "The truth."

Xu San coughed awkwardly before falling silent for a moment. "Actually, Ancestor Lingtong is about to have a breakthrough."

Lu Yin's eyes grew sharp—a breakthrough? Was the man about to become a Cosmic Imprinter?

"While having a breakthrough is a good thing, if it fails, it's an absolute tragedy. Boss, you should know that if anything happens to Ancestor Lingtong at all, I'll be done in the Sixth Mainland. Even ignoring the people with grudges against the Lingtong clan, even within the clan, there are people who would love to get rid of me. Don't look down on that Sixteen guy, not even if he spends his days skulking around. I won't even survive as a pawn if something happens to Ancestor Lingtong."

"If he fails his breakthrough, Sixteen will be the first to come after my life."

Lu Yin casually said, "You're pretty aware of your situation. In that case, tell me, if Ancestor Lingtong's breakthrough is a success, are you going to cut me off completely?"

Xu San quickly answered, "Boss, you have to believe in Little San's loyalty to you! Little San is anything but an ungrateful person. Boss, you have to believe me!"

Lu Yin was too lazy to listen to such nonsense, so he simply ended the call.

Xu San was very cunning, and he always had alternative plans prepared. People would look out for themselves, as it was just the way of things, and Lu Yin did not mind Xu San's behavior.

Even if Ancestor Lingtong did succeed in his breakthrough, Lu Yin still would not consider getting rid of Xu San. While it was impossible to use Xu San for anything major, Lu Yin could still get some news from him now and then.

"A corpse king?" Liu Huang stared at Lu Yin, searching the youth's face.

Lu Yin nodded. "Ancestor Autumnfrost is a corpse king."

"If he's a corpse king, then he definitely shouldn't have exposed himself to rush back to the Autumnfrost family's territory," the Second Nightking added. It was very rare for the man to speak up voluntarily.

Lu Yin knew that the corpse king had exposed itself because of the tool, and more specifically, because of the bubble and the red liquid within it that Lu Yin had taken away.

"Let's go. We need to head back to the border first," Lu Yin said.

While the three people headed towards the Great Eastern Alliance's border, Nong Laohan, Ancestor Sightless, and Ancestor Lingtong were making their way towards the Autumnfrost family's territory.

Along the way, Ancestor Sightless asked Nong Laohan about the strength that Ancestor Autumnfrost had revealed after undergoing the third stage corpse king transformation.

"I couldn't beat the corpse king after that transformation or even trap it. Alone, neither of us have any chance of winning," Nong Laohan stated, still clearly scared from his encounter.

Ancestor Sightless grew solemn. "A World Imprinter overwhelmed you after undergoing a third stage corpse king transformation? Aeternus's monsters are truly terrifying."

"Ancestor Autumnfrost is definitely not in the Autumnfrost's territory right now, so is there any way for you to find him, Brother Sightless?" Nong Laohan asked.

Ancestor Sightless shook his head. "It's not my area of expertise."

Nong Laohan heaved a sigh of relief, though he said, "That's unfortunate. I'm also not very good at tracking, but we've been sent to find and eliminate Ancestor Autumnfrost. If we actually do run into the corpse king, it will all depend on you, Brother Sightless."

Ancestor Sightless frowned, but he did not refute the statement. Even though Nong Laohan was also a Cosmic Imprinter and famous for his good-natured

personality, when it came to fighting, the man had done far too little. Nong Laohan was lucky when it came to chance encounters though.

It was impossible to rely on such a person in their current situation.

Also, Ancestor Sightless did not put much trust in Nong Laohan's report regarding the corpse king's strength, even if it had undergone a third transformation. After all, Nong Laohan was simply too weak. In fact, he was considered to be the weakest of all the Cosmic Imprinters.

The two quickly arrived in the Autumnfrost family's territory, only to be completely dumbfounded.

They had come to this place to search for clues regarding Ancestor Autumnfrost, and they were completely stunned to see that Ancestor Autumnfrost still had not left.

The corpse king was still in the same galaxy where the tool had been shattered, searching for something with its scarlet eyes. When Nong Laohan and Ancestor Sightless arrived, the corpse king instantly attacked. "You two... courting death!"

Nong Laohan was flabbergasted; was this creature too arrogant to leave?

"Brother Sightless, it's up to you!" Nong Laohan shouted.

Ancestor Sightless attacked, and a circle of light enveloped Ancestor Autumnfrost. This was Ancestor Sightless's innate gift; he could move anything within the circle to anywhere within his sight.

Ancestor Sightless did not instantly move Ancestor Autumnfrost, but instead received one of Ancestor Autumnfrost's punches to personally test the creature's strength after it underwent a third corpse king transformation. Space exploded with a deafening bang, and the shattered remnants of the black crystal were blasted away.

Even Nong Laohan was forced back.

The Sightless clan possessed one of the Sixth Mainland's invincible bloodlines. It gave them the ability to turn into a cocoon when on the brink of death and then emerge fully restored and with improved strength.

Every time Ancestor Sightless had emerged from his cocoon, his strength had leaped forward. After going through the process several times throughout his life, Ancestor Sightless had become extremely powerful, and there were very few people among his peers who could compare to him.

As far as most people from the Sixth Mainland were concerned, Nong Laohan was the weakest a Cosmic Imprinter could possibly be while Ancestor Sightless was the strongest. This was mostly because no one could know whether or not Ancestor Sightless could turn into a cocoon and be reborn once again. If he could accomplish that, he would likely become invincible within his realm.

This unique trait of the Sightless clan's bloodline allowed them to improve everything, so there were very few who could compare to Ancestor Sightless with either their cultivation or physical strength.

Even after a third stage corpse king transformation, the corpse king's punch could not overpower Ancestor Sightless. Both were pushed back, as they were evenly matched.

Ancestor Sightless was shocked. He was a Cosmic Imprinter while Ancestor Autumnfrost was not. There was an entire level between them, and on top of that, Ancestor Sightless was one of the most powerful Cosmic Imprinters alive. Despite his strength, Ancestor Sightless had still been pushed back. This was the strength of a third corpse king transformation.

The next moment, Bluedome Elder's imprint appeared behind Ancestor Sightless, and his strength rose yet again.

Ancestor Autumnfrost's eyes blazed scarlet as he rushed forward once more. Given the peerless strength of the corpse kings, the creature was shocked to discover that it was evenly matched with Ancestor Sightless.

Nong Laohan was off in the distance, retreating further and further as the corpse king crazily attacked.

The fight lasted for a full hour, and although Ancestor Sightless managed to suppress Ancestor Autumnfrost with the combination of his bloodline, imprint, and the Sightless clan's battle techniques, Ancestor Sightless could not win or even seriously injure Ancestor Autumnfrost.

On the other hand, Ancestor Sightless was being injured by each attack that the corpse king managed to land.

"Nong Laohan, attack!" Ancestor Sightless felt forced to ask for help as he endured the corpse king's assault.

However, Nong Laohan moved back even further. "Brother Sightless, I can't attack, as I'll disrupt the flow of your battle!"

Ancestor Sightless was furious, and he glared at Nong Laohan. Distracted, Ancestor Sightless received a punch to the chest, and he spat out blood. However, he used the impact to counterattack himself. Still, the corpse king was merely forced back, and it was completely unharmed. The creature's physique was too robust.

Upon seeing that Nong Laohan was still just watching from the sidelines, Ancestor Sightless used his innate gift to move Ancestor Autumnfrost, and threw the corpse king over to Nong Laohan. In fact, there was only a meter between the two.

Nong Laohan was stunned for an instant, and then he became startled. Ancestor Autumnfrost snapped a foot out and kicked the old man out of the true universe. A cracking sound was heard from Nong Laohan's abdomen, and then fragments of what looked like glass fell down. Nong Laohan had been protected by a precious treasure, but it had been instantly destroyed by Ancestor Autumnfrost.

Chapter 1748: A Grave Matter

Nong Laohan's face grew pale, and he threw out a Skylock Pattern to trap Ancestor Autumnfrost as he raced away.

At this moment, a beam of light shot through the universe. It originated from far away, but it accurately struck Ancestor Autumnfrost.

When the corpse king was struck, the beam of light instantly pierced a hole in its body.

Ancestor Sightless and Nong Laohan both spun to see where the attack had come from; what was this battle technique?

"Seniors, let's work together. It's very difficult to kill a corpse king after it's gone through three transformations," said a middle-aged man with a smooth complexion. He was extremely handsome, and his voice was calm, which was a sharp contrast to the fear displayed by Nong Laohan.

The man was Ancestor Lingtong, Xu San's master.

The strongest person in the Blackblood Realm had originally been the dead Ancestor Di, followed by Ancestor Sightless. Beneath him was Ancestor Lingtong.

Despite the fact that Ancestor Lingtong was just a World Imprinter, his strength had already reached the level where he was considered a half-step Cosmic Imprinter.

Given the fact that Ancestor Autumnfrost was actually a corpse king that had undergone three corpse king transformations, the creature was able to go toe-to-toe with a Cosmic Imprinter, but Ancestor Lingtong was capable of doing the same.

When it came to Ancestor Lingtong, not even Ancestor Sightless could see the man's full potential, but it was clear that once Ancestor Lingtong became a Cosmic Imprinter, there would be few capable of facing him aside from Empyrean Imprinters.

Not even Ancestor Sightless would be a match. This was just how powerful Ancestor Lingtong was.

From his youth to his current level, Ancestor Lingtong had always stood above his peers. He was much younger than Ancestor Sightless, and yet he was almost equal to the older man.

Ancestor Lingtong's participation in the fight was much more helpful than Nong Laohan's presence, at least as far as Ancestor Sightless was concerned. In particular, the battle technique that Ancestor Lingtong had used as soon as he arrived had actually pierced through the corpse king's body, which indicated that it was more powerful than Ancestor Sightless's own attacks.

At this moment, Ancestor Autumnfrost broke free from the Skylock Pattern. His scarlet eyes locked onto Ancestor Lingtong with a tinge of fear in them.

Ancestor Sightless targeted Ancestor Autumnfrost once again while shouting, "Attack!"

Nong Laohan pushed another Skylock Pattern forward as Ancestor Autumnfrost threw himself at Ancestor Sightless. The Skylock Pattern approached from a tricky angle, trapping the corpse king once more. Ancestor Lingtong's pupils dilated for a moment and then pointed at Ancestor Autumnfrost's forehead. "Aurora Beam."

Light condensed and then spread out to form a finger that shot forward to strike Ancestor Autumnfrost square in the forehead.

...

At the border between the Great Eastern Alliance and the Sixth Mainland, Lu Yin quietly slipped across, only to be immediately discovered by Yuan Shi. "The latest news is that Ancestor Autumnfrost was killed. He was a corpse king that was actually able to perform a third corpse king transformation."

Lu Yin was taken aback. "Ancestor Autumnfrost's dead? What happened?"

Yuan Shi received his information directly from the Hall of Honor. Since the Sixth Mainland had settled in the Outerverse, how could the Hall of Honor not know what they did?

The Sixth Mainland was searching for a way to infiltrate the Fifth Mainland's Hall of Honor, but the Hall of Honor was also trying to find a way to sneak into the Sixth Mainland's Daosource Sect.

Lu Yin was able to get some information from Xu San, but the truth was that Xu San's status was too low, and he had needed some time to gather the information.

The Hall of Honor was able to gather their intel much faster.

Lu Yin frowned at what he heard from Yuan Shi, and this was a grave matter. Things had taken a sharp turn.

That instrument had been far more important than anything Lu Yin could have imagined.

Just what could that tool's purpose have been that its destruction warranted the corpse king that had impersonated Ancestor Autumnfrost, a World Imprinter with a power level of more than 800,000, to expose itself and be killed? The creature had even been one of the rare few corpse kings capable of performing a third stage corpse king transformation, and yet it had sacrificed itself without hesitation. Clearly, the tool was incredibly important, as it had to be vastly more valuable than even Ancestor Autumnfrost.

The fake Ancestor Autumnfrost had only spent around ten years working on the tool's construction, which meant that the tool itself was not particularly valuable. After all, it could be rebuilt in just a decade. The important thing had to be the black crystal and what it had held inside.

However, just what was in that bubble?

Lu Yin had a hunch that even the Neohuman Alliance's headquarters for the Innerverse and Outerverse that he had destroyed would be considered much less important than what he had found inside that crystal.

Lu Yin took out a piece of the black crystal fragment and stared at it intently.

He soon went to find the Second Nightking.

"Go back to the Autumnfrost family's territory?" The Second Nightking felt rather confused. "What do you want me to do?"

Lu Yin answered solemnly, "Nothing at all. I want you to keep an eye on the shattered bits of the black crystal and see what happens."

The Second Nightking replied, "A corpse king fought against multiple experts with power levels of over a million in that place. Many people will want to see it."

"Just keep an eye on the place. You might find something interesting," Lu Yin said. Ancestor Autumnfrost had wanted to search through that place even if it meant his death. The Neohuman Alliance would not be the only group to show interest, so if the Second Nightking was there, he might see some interesting people show up.

The Second Nightking reluctantly left.

Yuan Shi was at the border, and both the Second Nightking and Liu Huang needed to avoid the ancient powerhouse, so it was pointless to try to keep them nearby.

After sending the Second Nightking away, Lu Yin started looking into information regarding Ironblood Weave.

The Celestial Beast Empire had not disappointed Lu Yin; they had sent millions of powerful beasts to reinforce the creatures from the Primal Zone, and they had taken complete control of Ironblood Weave.

As Lu Yin stared at the star chart, he let out a long sigh. He felt incredibly guilty; Ironblood Weave had stood as the border of the Human Domain and had been a staunch bulwark against invaders for countless years, and yet it had been conquered. Lu Yin felt as though he owed a terrible debt to his seniors who had sacrificed themselves to protect Ironblood Weave.

"Don't worry. What's ours is ours! I, Lu Yin, swear that I will take back our territory, all the way to the Primal Zone and into the Astral Beast Domain!" Lu Yin vowed to himself.

Although the Cloud Valley Master had personally gone to Ironblood Weave, the Cloud Valley Master was not the one targeting the Great Eastern Alliance, but rather the four powerhouses behind him.

In the blink of an eye, the two week deadline had passed, and Ancestor Sightless and Nong Laohan returned to the border.

Lu Yin's time was up, so the Sixth Mainland's cultivators had appeared to force the Great Eastern Alliance out.

Lu Yin stared into outer space with stern eyes.

"Alliance Leader Lu, your time is up. Please leave the Outerverse," Ancestor Sightless loudly declared.

Lu Yin raised his head. "Senior Bluedome Elder promised me five weaves for the Great Eastern Alliance. Has that been revoked?"

Ancestor Sightless simply replied, "As the Cloud Valley Master already told you, that deal will be honored, but we will be the ones to choose which weaves you will retain."

Lu Yin raised a finger. "We don't need five weaves, as just one is enough, but we get to choose the weave."

Ancestor Sightless did not reply, as this was not a decision that he could make without consulting Bluedome Elder.

At this time, Nong Laohan was standing close to Ancestor Sightless, and the old man glanced down at his gadget. Instantly his expression changed drastically. "Another corpse king showed up in the Autumnfrost family's territory."

Ancestor Sightless's expression also changed in an instant. "When?"

"Right now. However, it wasn't just a corpse king, as the Second Nightking from the Fifth Mainland's Daynight clan also appeared."

Ancestor Sightless and the other Imprinters were not the only ones to be informed about the corpse king's appearance, as the Second Nightking had already sent a report to Lu Yin.

The Second Nightking had actually run into a corpse king in the Autumnfrost family's territory.

Lu Yin stared at his gadget, reading the message from the Second Nightking. While there had only been a brief battle, both the Second Nightking and the corpse king had been exposed.

Lu Yin's expression grew solemn. Sure enough, another corpse king had gone to the Autumnfrost family's territory already. The liquid within the bubble had to be extremely important.

This news was much more important than the Great Eastern Alliance, and Ancestor Sightless instantly called Bluedome Elder.

One day later, the Second Nightking silently returned to the border to meet with Lu Yin.

"What happened?" Lu Yin asked.

The Second Nightking stretched out his right arm to show a bleeding wound on his wrist that had reached the bone. "It was a powerful expert."

"The corpse king?" Lu Yin was surprised. Even though the Second Nightking had not yet fully recovered his strength, his power level was still almost at a million. Without this, he would have never been able to hide from Yuan Shi. However, despite the Second Nightking's strength, he had been injured in a brief fight, which proved the strength of his opponent.

The Second Nightking replied, "It was an accident. The Autumnfrost family has created too many grudges over the years, and one family went to go make trouble for them. I was nearby and saw the corpse king appear and destroy the cultivators from the family. However, it started questioning them, so I moved closer to find out what it was asking. I ended up being discovered by the corpse king, and it attacked me. It absolutely had a power level of over a million."

"Why did you reveal yourself?" Lu Yin was frustrated.

The Second Nightking started grinding his teeth. "If I hadn't done my best against a corpse king that powerful, I would have died. Even if it's not as strong as one of the Seven Skygods, it's not far off."

The Second Nightking clearly did not know much about the Seven Skygods, but Lu Yin knew for a fact that the Seven Skygods were not nearly as simple as they first appeared to be. On the battlefield behind the Perennial World's Mother Tree, Aeternus had their twelve Marquises, and yet Shaman God had been able to order them all around. Just this was enough to show that the Seven Skygods held a higher status than most people imagined.

Lu Yin looked towards the west. A corpse king had appeared in the Autumnfrost family's territory again, and even an idiot could tell that there was something there that the Neohuman Alliance desperately wanted to regain. This would be a big headache for the Sixth Mainland.

Both a corpse king and the Second Nightking had appeared in the Autumnfrost family's territory, and the incident sent waves throughout the entire Sixth Mainland.

After the Four Emphyreans held a discussion, Bluedome Elder headed out to investigate the Autumnfrost family's territory. Everyone believed that there had to be something in that place that was important enough to warrant such attention, and anyone investigating the Autumnfrost family would easily learn of the massive tool they had been building.

Bluedome Elder's goal was to unravel the purpose of the tool.

The aura of an Emyrean Imprinter enveloped the Autumnfrost family's territory, leaving everyone there trembling.

Bluedome Elder blazed like a sun that illuminated the entire region that belonged to the Autumnfrost family. He was truly one of the Four Emyreans.

It was easy to ignore what lay on the ground below after one rose too high up. For example, Bluedome Elder could easily crush the black shards of the shattered crystal, so he completely disregarded it. It was also clear that the Neohuman Alliance had no interest in the crystal, as it would have already been taken away if that was the case. They had certainly had the time to recover the shattered crystal.

Many other people had already thought of this as well, and Lu Yin was the person who knew the Neohuman Alliance's goal the best. He expected that after the Neohuman Alliance finished frantically searching, they would start to investigate everyone who had visited the Autumnfrost family's territory. Lu Yin needed something to prevent the Neohuman Alliance from going after him...

After staring at the black crystal for a while, he pulled out his gadget.

...

Lin Dong was a self-respecting man. He had been born into an ordinary human family and raised by them. It was only later that he had discovered a cultivation art and become a cultivator.

If he was honest, it had taken him a hundred years just to become an Limiteer, which made him quite the average talent. He was someone with no status within the Autumnfrost family and was just a random person who was given odd jobs. This became even more true after the Autumnfrost family had become the dominant power in the Bloodburn Realm and more experts had flocked over. It was at that time that Lin Dong had lost nearly all value to the Autumnfrost family, and he had been sent to oversee a massive construction project. He had been left there, unable to leave with no one to even speak with.

Lin Dong believed in his own worth, and he was confident that he would one day become an Explorer who could wander about the universe. Once he crossed that line, his future would be limitless.

This was why, after the massive tool had been destroyed, after all sorts of incredible powerhouses had left after fighting, and while everyone else had fled, Lin Dong had returned to the construction site in his spacecraft to take away shards of the broken black crystal.

Chapter 1749: Shocking News

Lin Dong had no idea what the purpose of the black crystal might be, but Ancestor Autumnfrost had valued it immensely, so there had to be something about it that ordinary people could not even imagine.

Unfortunately, a few days later, Lin Dong learned that he had been wrong. The invincible powerhouses had stopped fighting, and they had simply left countless fragments of the enormous black crystal behind. They were just floating around in space, and although many people passed through the area, no one cared about the crystals. They were treated like garbage.

It was possible that the crystal was destined to be nothing more than a decorative piece of art. Still, the shard that Lin Dong had picked up was quite symmetrical, and it was shaped like a hexagon.

Beep beep beep!

His gadget beeped as Lin Dong sat inside his spaceship. He had been staring out into space, lost and confused, with no idea when he might be able to become an Explorer. He was confident in himself, but still.

He glanced down, and his pupils instantly constricted, and he became short of breath as he stared at the message that he had just received in utter disbelief: 'May I ask if your fragments of the black crystal are for sale? I'll pay a thousand star essence.'

The man was stupefied; what did a thousand star essence represent? He rubbed his eyes and looked at the message again. It stayed the same, and it still said a thousand star essence.

For a bottom-tier cultivator like Lin Dong, star essence was an unattainable cultivation resource. People like him only used star crystals. When had he ever even seen star essence?

A single star essence was worth 100,000 star crystals, so didn't that mean that 1,000 star essence was hundreds of millions of star crystals?

Lin Dong became increasingly excited. Hundreds of millions of star crystals? What sort of an astronomical number was that? At the moment, all of Lin Dong's wealth put together only amounted to around 200,000 star crystals.

This person should not be a liar. Lin Dong grew wary, but after thinking about it, he felt like it should not be the case. After all, what would anyone gain by lying to him? The black crystal? There were too many fragments that had been left behind for that to make sense.

Wait a minute... Lin Dong's expression changed. With there being so many shards of the black crystal strewn throughout space, why would anyone offer so much money to buy a single piece? This did not seem right.

As he was thinking about this, his gadget beeped again. 'Not enough? How about 2,000 star essence?'

Lin Dong's eyes went wide. 2,000? Would that be 200 million star crystals? This- this-

Lin Dong did not even know what to think anymore as he stared at the numbers. He really wanted to ask if the person had made a typo; did they mean star crystals instead of star essence?

'Still not enough? 3,000?'

Lin Dong's eyes were bloodshot, and his expression was absolutely hideous. He gritted his teeth; this was proof that the sender was clearly a liar who was trying to trick him. There were so many pieces of black crystal still floating around through space, so why would anyone spend money buying them, let alone so much money? Something was not right.

This was just too much. Lin Dong was merely a measly Limiteer, and yet someone was pranking him like this. This was no different from an ordinary person being told that they had won the lottery, only to realize that it was a

scam. Such a roller coaster of emotions left Lin Dong feeling like he was about to vomit blood.

He was so furious that he wanted to express his emotions by extending a long greeting to the prankster's parents.

It was at this time that yet another message appeared: 'Such a symmetrical crystal is truly rare, so, 4,000. 4,000 star essence for the crystal.'

Lin Dong stared blankly at the message. Symmetrical? He took out his piece of black crystal. Yes, it was almost perfectly symmetrical. Could this be why this person was so interested in it?

At this moment, still another message arrived: 'It seems that you are an expert. In that case, I'll cut to the chase and give you a final price: 50,000 star essence. Take it or leave it. Someone else should also be able to find a symmetrical black crystal like what you have.'

Lin Dong did not hesitate to reply: "Deal. 50,000 star essence."

The next dozens of seconds felt like an entire year to Lin Dong as he stared at his bank account. Finally, there was a notification. He stared blankly at the amount in his account. He also saw that his account had been upgraded to the highest tier, and he had even received an invitation from the Mavis Bank to become a VIP member.

Everything felt like a dream to Lin Dong, as it had happened too suddenly and without any warning. Had he just become super wealthy in an instant?

Forget Limiteers—even a Hunter would struggle to gather this much star essence. Lin Dong remembered hearing about a senior who had become an Enlighter. The powerhouse had mentioned that he needed to absorb more than 60,000 star essence each cycle.

This meant that the 50,000 star essence that he had just received was the equivalent to the internal reserves of the average Enlighter!

The Enlighter realm was nothing more than an unattainable dream to Lin Dong. He was confident in himself and believed that he could become an Explorer, but he had never even considered the possibility of becoming a Hunter, let alone an Enlighter.

'Send the black crystal to these coordinates. No tricks, or else I will find you.'

This was someone who had casually offered up 50,000 star essence, and Lin Dong did not dare to play any tricks with such a person, as he would die before even knowing what had happened.

If the Autumnfrost family were still around, Lin Dong would not be this afraid, as no one would be arrogant enough to go against the Autumnfrost family. However, the family had fallen to pieces, and Lin Dong could once again be considered an independent cultivator with no one to rely on.

'If there are other symmetrical fragments of the black crystal like this one, please contact me. You will definitely be satisfied with the price. Happy to work together.'

Lin Dong closed the message. He needed time to digest what had just happened. This had not been just a dream.

The next day, Lin Dong packed up everything that he owned and returned to the galaxy where the black crystals had shattered. The Horned Galaxy was a place he had once hated, but it had now transformed into a treasure chest in his eyes. No one else wanted the shards of black crystal, so he could just move along and sweep them all up. With so many pieces to be found, he refused to believe that there were no more symmetric ones.

Lin Dong believed that he had silently acquired a fortune, but he had forgotten something important: pies did not fall from the sky.

While he was on his way to the Horned Galaxy to search for more of the black crystal fragments, his transaction was posted publicly on the network.

Instantly, countless people were caught up in a frenzy.

50,000 star essence was enough to make Lin Dong lose his mind, and others were no different.

How many people had never even seen star essence in their entire lives? And yet at this moment, such a treasure was right in front of them! As long as they were able to find a symmetrical black crystal within the Horned Galaxy, they would be able to make at least 50,000 star essence.

Everyone dreamed of achieving the same thing.

At that moment, no matter if they were from Sixth or Fifth Mainlands, countless people flocked to the Horned Galaxy.

In particular, since someone had already made a profit and proven that the deal was real, it drove people even crazier.

Others started to find value in the symmetrical black crystal fragments as well. Since someone had bought one for such a sky-high price, there had to be some use for the crystals. Thus, various powers with sufficient funds started looking for ways to acquire the crystals to study them as well.

The Horned Galaxy instantly became famous. First, incredible powerhouses had fought there and destroyed the galaxy, and then it had spurred a transaction involving an unimaginable sum. Soon, there was word of four different crystals being bought, and countless more people started searching for the crystals. The galaxy had immediately become a treasure trove for countless adventurers.

At the Great Eastern Alliance's border, Lu Yin lowered his gadget. He had been the person who had bought the first black crystal fragment for a sky-high price. His goal had been to lure people into the Horned Galaxy in order to muddy the waters for the Neohuman Alliance, and thus avoid having his visit to the galaxy be discovered.

That bubble had definitely been very important, and if it was discovered to be in his possession, he could forget about his safety in the future.

Lu Yin had only bought the black crystal piece in order to trigger the public frenzy. As soon as he had completed the transaction, he erased all traces of it in order to prevent the Neohuman Alliance from learning about it.

If Lu Yin were the one leading the Neohuman Alliance's investigation, he would not only look into people who had recently visited the Horned Galaxy, but also anyone who knew about the tool and the black crystal. Any of the slaves working on the project who had escaped would also need to be hunted down.

Fortunately, Big Pao and Little Pao were both hiding in Astral-10, and it was even possible that the Autumnfrost family had never acquired any of the brothers' personal information. After all, given the two's low cultivation realm, they might not have even been considered worth keeping a record of. As long as no one suddenly appeared in front of the brothers and recognized them as

people who had worked on Ancestor Autumnfrost's construction project, they would be fine.

At the same time, Lu Yin pressed the Great Eastern Alliance to accelerate their retreat to the Innerverse.

He had once wanted to let the Great Eastern Alliance remain in the eastern region of the Outerverse, which was why he had tried to negotiate matters with the Sixth Mainland, but he had overestimated himself. Lu Yin still did not qualify to negotiate with the Sixth Mainland, and not a single one of the Four Emphyreans would step forward to speak to him.

The only thing he could do was move the entire Great Eastern Alliance while doing his best to retain Frostwave Weave, if at all possible.

Close to the Autumnfrost family's territory was a small family that lived in the same weave. They had always lived in the shadow of the Autumnfrost family and sent tribute to the Autumnfrost family every year. In essence, they were servants of the Autumnfrost family.

After Ancestor Autumnfrost was exposed as a corpse king and then killed, the Autumnfrost family was completely finished. They were even being investigated by Daosource Sect.

The small family grabbed this opportunity to pull in some people who had fled from the Autumnfrost family in order to expand their own clan. Seeing the price that the black crystals were being sold for on the network had invigorated the entire family, and they made their way to Horned Galaxy to take advantage of their family's power to collect the black crystals.

One day later, the family's blood spilled. There was not a single survivor. Many of the people had also experienced true terror before their deaths. It looked as though they had been interrogated, though there were also bodies that had been completely torn apart. The entire scene radiated extreme cruelty.

Similar incidents occurred throughout the western weaves. Many people died, and they all had one thing in common: they had some sort of connection to the Autumnfrost family.

However, all of the people who died were only part of small powers, so the deaths did not attract much attention.

However, a few days later, something was announced that shocked the entire universe, including the Fifth Mainland's Hall of Honor, the Sixth Mainland's Daosource Sect, and even the Technocracy and the Astral Beast Domain.

Bluedome Elder had died.

The Four Empyreans from the Sixth Mainland's Daosource Sect held lofty statuses and were all extremely powerful. No one had imagined that one such top expert would suddenly die. His death was not only untimely, but could even be considered bizarre. It looked as though he had died without a fight. His body was found standing still in outer space. It looked as though he had not noticed anything before dying in an instant.

People with the strength of an Empyrean Imprinter would definitely make a commotion, even if they died. Aside from a Progenitor, who else could silently eliminate an Empyrean Imprinter? However, there were only three Progenitors in the universe, and they were all from the Sixth Mainland. It was impossible for them to have killed Bluedome Elder, though even if they had, they would not have done such a thing without announcing anything.

News of Bluedome Elder's death shocked everyone when it spread.

Lu Yin struggled to believe the news when he first heard it.

Yuan Shi grew incredibly solemn, and his eyes revealed his disbelief. "It's true, Bluedome Elder is dead, and his death was quick."

Lu Yin was horrified. How could an Empyrean Imprinter have died without releasing even the slightest ripple? How was that possible?

"Can they find his killer?"

Yuan Shi looked at Lu Yin. "They can find nothing, and there's not even the slightest trace to be seen. However, they believe that he was killed by the Neohuman Alliance. It was likely one of the Seven Skygods."

Chapter 1750: Sharing Intel

Lu Yin's finger twitched; the Seven Skygods? While that might not be impossible, even the Seven Skygods should not be able to kill Bluedome Elder without him being able to even resist.

While Bluedome Elder might not have been a Semi-Progenitor's opponent, he still should have been able to put up some sort of fight, so how could he have died so silently?

This particular detail was difficult for Lu Yin to accept. After all, if Bluedome Elder had died so silently, did that mean that Lu Yin could soon follow him?

Bluedome Elder's death brought terror to people along with shock.

The Neohuman Alliance was a malevolent force that had been the Fifth Mainland's worst enemy for countless years, and at this moment, they had begun to bare their fangs towards the Sixth Mainland.

Already, the Sixth Mainland had witnessed the World Imprinter Ancestor Autumnfrost to be a corpse king in disguise that had possessed the power to fight against a Cosmic Imprinter. Right after that, another corpse king had appeared that had fought and even injured the Second Nightking. If Bluedome Elder truly had died at the hands of the Neohuman Alliance, then they possessed a hidden strength that would intimidate even the Sixth Mainland.

At the moment, no matter who had killed Bluedome Elder, the Sixth Mainland would not stop pursuing this matter. In the end, one of their Four Emyreans had died. This was a slap to their face.

In Southside Weave, an old man emerged from a spatial crack. He looked towards the east and let out a long sigh. "I can't even cultivate in peace. The Progenitors are going to be upset..."

He then stepped forward and disappeared.

Soon after that, the old man appeared in the Horned Galaxy. He looked at a fragment of the black crystal that he held in a hand, an odd light in his eyes. Just what was this substance capable of that it would induce such a reaction from the Aeternals?

Nearby was Bluedome Elder's corpse, still standing still in space. No one had dared to move or even touch it.

A crowd of experts from the Sixth Mainland were gathered around the corpse. Some of them had noticed the old man's inexplicable and sudden appearance, and someone quickly stepped forward to say something, but someone else suddenly appeared in front of the old man.

When the person approaching the old man saw who had appeared in front of him, he was startled. "Your Excellency."

All of the other nearby cultivators instantly bowed as well. "Your Excellency."

The person who had appeared in front of the old man was Mr. Lifeview, one of the Four Empyreans. As soon as he had heard of Bluedome Elder's death, he had instantly rushed over.

Mr. Lifeview ignored the cultivators around and proceeded right in front of the old man who seemed to be deep in thought. Mr. Lifeview immediately bowed, saying, "I am Lifeview, from the previous generation. I pay my respects to Senior Jiu San."

All of the other people in the place were stunned. To their understanding, the Four Empyreans were second only to the three Progenitors, and yet one of them had just bowed to this old man. Could he be a Progenitor? They did not dare even consider such a possibility.

The old man lowered his hand and looked over at Mr. Lifeview. "It's been a long time."

Mr. Lifeview and the old man both looked at each other. "I didn't expect you to come out, Senior Jiu San."

The old man shook his head. "It's only to be expected. My Sixth Mainland has been taken from us, and many of my old brothers died in battle. If I'm still alive, it would be best for me to at least wander around a bit. I may die one day, but I still haven't seen enough of this place."

Mr. Lifeview grew somber, "Senior Jiu San is destined to become a Progenitor, so how could you die?"

The old man just laughed before looking over at Bluedome Elder's corpse. "Didn't he die? He even died so peacefully. It looks like he didn't suffer, so he was at least lucky for that."

Mr. Lifeview's expression grew bitter. "He should have been killed by the Neohuman Alliance."

The old man nodded. "One of the Seven Skygods: Forgotten Ruins God."

"You can tell?" Mr. Lifeview was surprised.

The old man's eyes continued to stare at the corpse. "The power of the Forgotten Ruins still hasn't completely dissipated."

Mr. Lifeview expression grew dark. "Even if one of the Seven Skygods attacked, there's no way that Bluedome Elder would not have been able to at least retaliate."

"The most terrifying aspect of the Seven Skygods is not just their might, but also the fact that they remain perfectly hidden. You can never know who around you might be one of the Seven Skygods. Those seven have been humanity's enemies since ancient times. As far as many people are concerned, the Seven Skygods are the foundation of Aeternus."

"They are only Semi-Progenitors."

"In this place, they are only Semi-Progenitors," the old man corrected.

Mr. Lifeview's instantly shrank. "What do you mean?"

The old man shook his head.

"Regardless, the Seven Skygods have made a move. This is something that we have rarely dealt with, but the Fifth Mainland has suffered it many times. Most recently, there was an attempt to assassinate the top ten of ZENITH. It's time that we had a chat with the Fifth Mainland."

In Ironblood Weave, the Cloud Valley Master looked quite upset. Everything that had happened recently had been completely unexpected. Starting with the moment that Ancestor Autumnfrost had abandoned Ironblood Weave, numerous things had spiraled out of control, and even Bluedome Elder had died.

Bluedome Elder and Mr. Lifeview had been the driving force behind kicking the Great Eastern Alliance out of the Outerverse, and with Bluedome Elder dead, the Cloud Valley Master had no idea what to do next.

While Lu Yin's one month time limit had already expired, Mr. Lifeview most likely had no energy to even notice the Great Eastern Alliance.

Still, the Cloud Valley Master knew that his first priority had to be to stabilize things in Ironblood Weave.

The Cloud Valley Master was not the only person to have his plans thrown into complete disarray; Lu Yin had also been caught completely off guard.

Bluedome Elder's death caused things to escalate even further in the Horned Galaxy, and Lu Yin no longer had control of the situation, which left him scared. Once the Neohuman Alliance learned that Autumnfrost Chen was also dead and that the tool had been completely destroyed, Lu Yin could not even imagine how the Neohuman Alliance would react.

Would they kill him? Or just take back the bubble and give him a warning? If one of the Seven Skygods appeared, would Lu Yin be willing to give the bubble back?

Lu Yin felt completely confused by the situation.

It was at this moment that Wei Rong called Lu Yin. The man wanted to know if Lu Yin wanted to take advantage of the recent developments to do something.

Lu Yin instantly shot the idea down. Wei Rong was not the one who was exposed to a blade, so he could not understand what Lu Yin was feeling, but Lu Yin was absolutely terrified that the Neohuman Alliance would suddenly find him. Each of the Seven Skygods was a Semi-Progenitor, and there were no Semi-Progenitors nearby who could protect Lu Yin.

Lu Yin could not even determine if the tool that had been being built in the Horned Galaxy or Shaman God's plan was more important, and thus, he did not want to take any risks.

His best choice was to just leave. He would act like everything that was happening was completely unrelated to him, as though he did not care or know anything at all.

Lu Yin immediately made a call to Arch-Elder Zen. Even if Lu Yin wanted to leave, he could not just walk away from the Great Eastern Alliance. They still needed to retreat to the Innerverse. While they had been moving quite quickly, transferring everything to the Innerverse was far from an overnight project, and so Lu Yin wanted to ask if the Hall of Honor would be able to step forwards and buy a bit more time.

Although the Great Eastern Alliance belonged to Lu Yin, it was also a power from the Fifth Mainland. After hearing Lu Yin's request, Arch-Elder Zen agreed to help. "I will try my best to negotiate with the Sixth Mainland to get you some more time to evacuate your people."

Lu Yin felt truly grateful. "Thank you, Arch-Elder Zen."

After learning of Lu Yin's identity as Lu Xiaoxuan, Arch-Elder Zen no longer felt a strong need to protect Lu Yin.

From Arch-Elder Zen's perspective, Lu Yin was a descendant of the Perennial World's Lu family, and that family had been the ones to lead the primeval surnames in abandoning the Fifth Mainland.

Lu Yin was genuinely grateful that Arch-Elder Zen had not completely turned him away. According to the way things were normally handled, Lu Yin should have been kicked out of the Fifth Mainland entirely.

"The Neohuman Alliance has made quite a fuss this time, which is much different from their usual behavior. Be careful. They might start assassinating key people like they did after ZENITH," Arch-Elder Zen warned.

Lu Yin grew solemn. "If one of the Seven Skygods moves against me, this junior will not be able to do a thing about it."

Arch-Elder Zen fell silent for a bit. "No Semi-Progenitor will protect you this time, so you will have to take care of yourself."

Lu Yin snorted. "Thank you for the warning, Arch-Elder Zen."

"The Sixth Mainland just sent someone to speak to me, but not one of the Four Emphyreans," Arch-Elder Zen said.

Lu Yin instantly grew curious. "Not one of the Four Emphyreans? A Venerable?"

Arch-Elder Zen grew serious. "The Daosource Sect's strongest people do not concern themselves with matters outside the sect, and they are all Semi-Progenitors."

Lu Yin was not surprised by this. Bluedome Elder had been an Emphyrean Imprinter, but Emphyrean Imprinters were not necessarily Semi-Progenitors.

For example, the most recent people holding the posts of the Four Emyreans were not Semi-Progenitors. The Sixth Mainland hid their Semi-Progenitors within their Daosource Sect. In comparison, the Fifth Mainland's First Protector of Mt. Microcosms was powerful enough to contend with the Sixth Mainland's Four Emyreans, but he could not come close to comparing to Arch-Elder Zen or the Fifth Mainland's other Semi-Progenitors.

As for the Chief Justice, he remained a complete unknown, as he was too mysterious.

Semi-Progenitors focused solely on their cultivation, as they were only a single step away from becoming a Progenitor. If they could take that last step, their entire existence would change, and they would undergo a true transformation. As far as cultivators were concerned, Progenitors were essentially gods. Most Semi-Progenitors would not concern themselves with mundane affairs, which was also why most of the matters concerning the Hall of Honor were left to the overseers and the Interstellar Supreme Court to handle.

"How many Semi-Progenitors are in the Sixth Mainland's Daosource Sect?" Lu Yin asked curiously.

Arch-Elder Zen answered solemnly, "I don't know, but there can't be many left. The Sixth Mainland was taken from them, their true Daosource Sect was destroyed. The three Progenitors were rebuffed, so the casualties among their Semi-Progenitors cannot have been small. The person who reached out to me was Jiu San. Jiu is the Progenitor of Combat's surname. This man is the Progenitor's great-grandson."

Lu Yin was stunned. The Progenitor of Combat's great-grandson? That was a very important person in the Sixth Mainland, and yet he had taken action at this time.

"Be sure to prepare yourself. When I speak to him, I will also bring up the Great Eastern Alliance, so if he seeks you out to speak with you, do not be rude," Arch-Elder Zen cautioned.

Lu Yin nodded. "This junior understands."

No one knew anything at all about the conversation that took place between Arch-Elder Zen and Jiu San until a day later. At that time, Lu Yin received a

message from the Semi-Progenitor, informing Lu Yin that the Great Eastern Alliance had been given a reprieve of three years to move out of the Outerverse.

Lu Yin let out a big sigh of relief. Three years was enough. He quickly replied and asked Arch-Elder Zen what price had been paid for this.

Arch-Elder Zen simply explained that he had shared information regarding the Neohuman Alliance.

Regardless of the Sixth Mainland's attitude towards the Neohuman Alliance in the past, the moment the Aeternals invaded the Sixth Mainland and drove the humans out and into the Outerverse, the Sixth Mainland's hatred of the Aeternals and the Neohuman Alliance had actually surpassed the Fifth Mainland's. Sharing intelligence regarding the Neohuman Alliance benefited both parties.

As for the Great Eastern Alliance, this matter was considered unimportant to the Sixth Mainland. After all, three years meant nothing to cultivators.

With the threat of the Sixth Mainland removed, Lu Yin left the Outerverse with the Second Nightking and Liu Huang the same day that Arch-Elder Zen sent the message. Within three years, not only would Lu Yin shift the Great Eastern Alliance into the Innerverse, he would also unite the Innerverse, or at least ensure that he no longer had any enemies in the Innerverse.

Lu Yin knew nothing at all about the Neohuman Alliance, and the incident in the Horned Galaxy had nothing to do with him at all.

The Astral River Ark ferried over to the Innerverse. The entire thing was completely packed. The cabins, decks, and even the fishing platforms of the Ark were completely full of people. All of them were from the Great Eastern Alliance.

Lu Yin was able to cross the Astral River without the Ark if the Second Nightking or Liu Huang helped, but instead, Lu Yin chose to use the Astral River Ark to return to the Innerverse.

This was likely the first time since the moment of its construction that an Astral River Ark had carried so many people, but this would become standard for the next three years.

