

STAR ODYSSEY

Chapter 1756: Venom Flowzone

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Ling Gong glared at Ling Que. "If you have the guts to make trouble like this again in the future, I'll lock you up until you become an Enlighter."

Ling Que's expression instantly grew bitter. "Sister, I'm not like you."

He had actually wanted to say, "a freak like you," but he did not have the courage to voice such thoughts under Ling Gong's fierce glare. He could only suffer in silence.

Several people soon entered the room in the spacecraft, including a rock, which was actually Little Mountain God.

"Senior Mountain God didn't come?" Ling Gong asked the Little Mountain God.

Little Mountain God replied, "Senior Ling Qiu also didn't come."

"What are Senior Mountain God's plans?" Ling Gong asked.

Little Mountain God was floating in the air, and he swayed slightly. "We intend to observe the situation for now. Mostly, we want to evaluate Qing Shaohuang's attitude."

"What is Qing Shaohuang going to do? Attack Lu Yin directly? That's highly unlikely," Ling Gong retorted.

Ling Que rolled his eyes. What nonsense—it was simply impossible. It did not even matter if such an attempt would succeed or not. Even if it did, the powerhouses who supported Lu Yin could easily eliminate the Divine Venom Dynasty, and Qing Shaohuang was no fool.

Ling Que observed Ling Gong for a moment; had his sister gone stupid?

Little Mountain God replied, "Most likely, poison will be involved, as that is how the Divine Venom Dynasty usually handles things."

"The Great Eastern Alliance has completely moved into the Innerverse, which has put too much pressure on us. Tell Senior Ling Qiu that they must cooperate with us, or else the Innerverse will really end up belonging to Lu Yin."

"There's no need to say that." Ling Gong's voice was cold. The relationship between the Lingling clan and Beast Tamers Flowzone was not a good one. If not for the fact that they needed to deal with the Great Eastern Alliance, the two would never willingly cooperate.

"Your Lingling clan has remained silent since the beginning, and we still don't know the reason for this," Little Mountain God spoke indifferently, but he looked like he was about to leave.

Suddenly, he froze, slowly turned around, and stared at a corner of the room. He was utterly dumbfounded.

"What?" Ling Gong asked as she stared at Little Mountain God. She frowned when she noticed that he had entered a daze and was staring at a corner of the room, so she followed his gaze, only to be startled. She had no idea when, but a person had entered the room and was standing in a corner. Was that Lu Yin?

Ling Que also looked over, and his mouth fell open. "Lu Yin?"

Everyone was staring at the corner. None of them could believe that Lu Yin was actually in the room with them, and he seemed to have been there for a long time. This- this-

This was extremely embarrassing! They had been discussing how to deal with Lu Yin in his absence, and they had never considered that he would somehow be in the room. This was the first time any of them had ever experienced such a thing in their entire lives, so none of them knew how to react.

Lu Yin just smiled at them. "This isn't a coincidence. After all, we're all headed to Venom Flowzone, so it's perfectly normal for us to meet up with each other."

"How long have you been standing there for?" Ling Gong gritted her teeth as she spoke to Lu Yin with clear disdain.

Lu Yin put on a pondering expression. "I got here just before the cheerleaders left."

"So you were eavesdropping on us just now?"

Lu Yin casually replied, "How can it be eavesdropping when I didn't even bother to hide myself? It's not my fault that you didn't look over here or see me. Well, actually, Little Mountain God did see me, so I guess his eyes are just fine."

"How is this a problem with our eyes? You were just eavesdropping on us!" Little Mountain God angrily retorted. He still remembered almost dying in Blazing Mist Flowzone to powerhouses from the Great Eastern Alliance. That assassination attempt had been unforgettable, as he had come incredibly close to death.

Lu Yin frowned and then suddenly appeared right behind Little Mountain God with a raised hand stretched out to grab the rock. The two people from Beast Tamers Flowzone who always accompanied Little Mountain God moved to stop Lu Yin, but they were both only Enlighters. Still, one of them had an impressive strength that exceeded a power level of 400,000, but the expert was still nothing more than a child to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin easily pushed the two Enlighters back, and he set a hand on top of Little Mountain God's head. Well, it should be his head... After all, Little Mountain God was just a rock.

No one had expected Lu Yin to attack so suddenly, and Ling Gong shouted, "Lu Yin, don't mess around!"

Little Mountain God did not dare to even try moving. He was completely frozen, and he just stared at Lu Yin in abject terror.

Lu Yin moved closer as a smile spread across his face. "Little guy, didn't your master tell you to be polite to me? Forget you, I'd even kill your master if he said such a thing."

Little Mountain God did not dare to move, and he just stared at Lu Yin.

His two protectors also stared at Lu Yin. One of them had a strange bird standing behind him while the other had a ball that was wrapped around his arms. Both of these things were their tamed beasts. "Alliance Leader Lu, the

young master did not mean to offend you just now. Please show Senior Mountain God some face and spare the young master."

"Please show mercy, Alliance Leader Lu."

Lu Yin gently patted Little Mountain God, and the stone fell to the floor with a light bang.

"I just came to say hello. There's no need to be so nervous." Lu Yin gave a small smile as he looked over at Ling Gong. "Let's chat."

Ling Gong waved a hand, dismissing everyone from the room. Little Mountain God was carried away, too scared to move on his own.

Ling Que kept himself as innocuous as possible, hoping that Lu Yin would not notice him. After all, Ling Que had slandered Lu Yin quite badly just a few minutes ago, but given Lu Yin's reaction, he probably had not heard all of it.

"What do you want to say?" Ling Gong remained cold.

Lu Yin frowned. "Is this how you're going to talk to me?"

"What? Do you want me to serve you some tea?" Ling Gong mocked.

Lu Yin suddenly disappeared, and when he reappeared, he was already right next to Ling Gong. Her expression changed in an instant, and she reflexively split into three clones and tried to move away from Lu Yin.

However, Lu Yin appeared in front of each of the clones simultaneously. It was not that Lu Yin was able to produce clones as well, but that he was simply too fast.

Ling Gong could only watch as Lu Yin reached out and removed her mask. She did not react at all, aside from the anger that filled her eyes. "You are too egoistic!"

Lu Yin held the mask in his hand while looking at Ling Gong's delicate features. He smiled at her. "That's better. It's only basic manners to speak to someone face-to-face."

Ling Gong was absolutely furious, and her spear appeared in her hand. She thrust it at Lu Yin, but he easily evaded the attack and grabbed hold of the

spear shaft with just two fingers. He then exerted a bit of strength and caused the spear to vibrate. Multiple Overlying Stacks traveled through the weapon, and Ling Gong could feel a terrifying power spread to her hands from the spear. Her hands almost burst apart, and she had no choice but to release her weapon.

Ling Gong glared at Lu Yin. "You-"

However, before she could finish, she saw Lu Yin's hand appear right in front of her face, and a finger flicked her forehead between her eyebrows. Her body was sent flying, and she only stopped when she smashed against the wall.

Lu Yin had not used a powerful attack, but Ling Gong had been absolutely powerless to resist.

She had already known that Lu Yin was very powerful, and she had even heard the rumors that claimed he could fight against Envoys, but she had never expected that she could not fight back at all.

Lu Yin stared at Ling Gong's flushed face and at the red mark that had appeared between her eyebrows from his finger flick. He suddenly felt like he was bullying someone's little sister.

"Do you want to keep going?" Lu Yin asked with a smile.

Ling Gong was trying to catch her breath. Her entire body felt weak, and her spear was still trembling on the floor nearby. She had not even been able to maintain control of her own weapon. The first time she met Lu Yin had been in the ruins of the Fifth Mainland's Daosource Sect, and she had been the one in complete control of the situation at that time. How much time had passed since then? Why had the gap between them reversed and even grown so large?

Even during ZENITH, Ling Gong had at least been able to put up a fight against Lu Yin, but at this moment, she was not able to do a single thing at all.

Ling Gong slowly got back up, rubbing her forehead as she stared at Lu Yin. "What do you want to say to me?"

Lu Yin let out a long breath. "The Lingling clan would be welcome to join the Great East Alliance."

Ling Gong's eyes instantly narrowed. "Do you think that just saying that is going to convince us?"

"I'm not trying to convince you—this is a threat." Lu Yin did not beat around the bush. "If you don't join us, there's no reason for the Lingling clan to remain."

Determination flashed across Ling Gong's eyes. "My Lingling clan doesn't fear death!"

"But that is all on the premise that one's death is not in vain. When we first met, the Inniverse was an untouchable force in my eyes, but now I've destroyed the Daynight clan and have united several flowzones. Meanwhile, you've been reduced to the point where you're being forced to cooperate with other flowzones. Have you even considered the purpose in your actions? Is this really just to deal with me?" Lu Yin said.

"Isn't that enough? You're too ambitious," Ling Gong retorted.

"The Great Eastern Alliance is simply a united collective. I have not ever directly intervened in any organization's internal affairs. On the other hand, if not for the Great Eastern Alliance, the Outerverse would have never been able to mount any sort of resistance against the Sixth Mainland's invasion. In the future, humanity's enemies will only continue to grow stronger. A divided Inniverse is much weaker than what a united force can accomplish," Lu Yin stated solemnly.

Ling Gong instead sneered. "How absurd! The Inniverse hasn't witnessed any sort of crisis for countless years, and yet you claim that one exists?"

Lu Yin shook his head. "That's because you haven't reached a high enough status yet. Go back and ask Ling Qiu what sort of threat Aeternus is."

"There's no reason for you to be speaking to me." Ling Gong remained completely cold towards Lu Yin.

Lu Yin nodded. "True, but we happened to run into each other, and you're a future powerhouse of the Lingling clan. I don't want the Lingling clan to disappear, but anyone who blocks my way is an enemy. More importantly-" At this moment, Lu Yin stared at Ling Gong in a much more serious manner than before. "You're a friend I think I can get along with, and you're also Wendy's friend."

Friend? Ling Gong's eyes relaxed a bit. What did that word mean?

She stared at Lu Yin. For many years, Ling Gong had had no friends, so this was a completely foreign word to her.

Lu Yin left. His conversation with Ling Gong had been nothing more than a chance encounter, but he honestly did not want to be enemies with the Lingling clan. However, if they insisted on working against him, he would not show them any mercy.

Soon, Lu Yin's vessel entered Venom Flowzone.

This flowzone was full of poisonous gases, and there were poisonous creatures roaming about in outer space from time to time. These creatures did not actually have the strength of an Explorer, but they were still able to roam the universe. The universe gave birth to many bizarre lifeforms. There were creatures that were immortal, and others that were born to live in outer space. Such things were quite normal.

Needing the strength of an Explorer to wander the universe was a limitation that only applied to humans.

After talking with Liu Qianjue and learning about Venom Flowzone's internal situation, Lu Yin was no longer a complete stranger to the place, but he felt quite different after actually entering the flowzone.

Venom Flowzone could be thought of as a cave that was full of poisonous gas. It was home to all kinds of poisonous insects and monsters, and it boasted a truly strange ecosystem as almost all the lifeforms in the flowzone were poisonous. It was even possible that poison in this flowzone was like oxygen to humans: absolutely necessary for life.

The Second Nightking parted ways with Lu Yin. He followed Lu Yin's orders and reached out to contact the Divine Venom Dynasty.

For his trip to the Divine Venom Dynasty, Lu Yin had only brought along the Second Nightking. Liu Huang had returned to the Sword Sect, and all the other Envoys under his command had their own tasks.

As one of the Inniverse's eight great flowzones, Venom Flowzone was far from small.

Lu Yin set a course for the coordinates that he had been given, and his spaceship headed for the core of the Divine Venom Dynasty: the Divine Venom Continent.

Ling Gong and the others avoided using the same route as Lu Yin, instead using a different path to make their way towards the Divine Venom Continent.

One day later, Lu Yin stopped his vessel. He stared up ahead in true amazement. There was an old man in space. He was carrying a bamboo basket on his back while he walked through a poisonous green gas that filled a large area of space. There were also strange flowers that were blooming within the poisonous gas.

Chapter 1757: Qing Cao

Lu Yin could see from the rune lines of this poisonous gas, and it was as strong as Enlighters, which made it extremely dangerous. Still, the old man had even more runes, which meant that he had no problem walking through the gas. In fact, it even looked like the old man was studying something.

The most interesting thing of all was the old man's identity, as he was wearing clothes with Windrift Hall's emblem on them.

Lu Yin exited his vessel and made his way towards the old man.

The old man was wearing a white robe, and he was staring intently at one of the strange little flowers that grew within the poisonous gas.

Lu Yin did not want to bother the old man, so he just stood behind him, waiting. More than ten hours passed until the small flower finally wilted. The old man suddenly moved, and his hand shot out to grab hold of the flower. There was a satisfied smile on his face as he collected it.

"May I ask what Senior is doing?" Lu Yin asked. He did not raise his voice, but due to the absolute silence in the area, the old man was quite startled.

He turned around, an ugly expression on his face, but he let out a sigh of relief when he saw the curiosity in Lu Yin's eyes. The man patted his chest. "Young man, do you know that it's possible to scare people to death?"

Lu Yin quickly apologized, "I'm really sorry. This junior didn't mean to startle you."

The old man waved a hand dismissively. "I know. You must have been waiting here for quite a while."

"A bit more than ten hours."

The old man admired Lu Yin's patience. "You waited here more than ten hours without disturbing me? You're pretty good. Actually, young man, have we met before? You seem rather familiar."

Lu Yin smiled. "This junior is Lu Yin."

The old man thought for a moment before suddenly exclaiming, "Lu Yin? I remember now—you're the leader of the Great Eastern Alliance. You must need something quite important."

Lu Yin said, "It's nothing too important. I just wanted to ask for Senior's name."

"I am Qing Cao," the old man said with a smile.

Lu Yin was surprised. "The master of Windrift Hall? That Master Qing Cao?"

The old man smiled and waved a hand dismissively. "It's nothing worth mentioning."

Lu Yin was quite impressed, as he had not expected this old man to be the master of Windrift Hall. Even though it was not a particularly large power, its members were all well respected individuals because they all healed and saved other people. They had no connection to any other organization, and they had no conflicts of interest either. They simply wanted to help save the world.

If Shamrock Enterprise was a company that manufactured pharmaceuticals purely due to their desire for profits, then Windrift Hall was a place that was formed on the basis of kindness.

The truth was that cultivation encouraged cruelty and ruthlessness, which was why Lu Yin had never believed that a group like Windrift Hall could actually exist. Even if a power was established on such principles, things would change over time. However, Windrift Hall had not changed; it had always remained the same.

This was also why when Lu Yin had seen that the old man was from Windrift Hall, he had not left or disturbed him. Lu Yin had instead stayed, mostly hoping to help the old man if possible. After all, Lu Yin had been helped by Windrift Hall before. When Lu Yin had been at the pirate port with Zhuo Daynight, Windrift Hall's Zeng Die had saved the girl. Also, Lu Yin had a good relationship with both Coco and Zora; overall, Lu Yin had a very good impression of Windrift Hall.

Windrift Hall was a place that deserved respect.

"Windrift Hall helps the world and saves people. This junior had been helped by Windrift Hall in the past, and Master Qing Cao has done much to help others in the universe. This junior is genuinely grateful." Lu Yin sincerely expressed his appreciation.

Master Qing Cao smiled. "There's no need to concern yourself with that. Windrift Hall is able to cure diseases and save people, but part of why I do such things is that I enjoy studying pharmacology, and I also am not by any means short of money. This is why I can often help others for free. However, things will become quite different if I end up broke, haha."

Lu Yin smiled. "If Windrift Hall ever ends up short of funds, this junior would be happy to help."

"Then I'll offer Alliance Leader Lu my thanks. I've long since heard that you are quite wealthy, so this old man won't be shy." Master Qing Cao remained calm and did not refuse Lu Yin's gesture.

Lu Yin looked out at the poison gas before them. "What did Master Qing Cao just do?"

"Venom Flowzone is sick, so I am treating it."

Lu Yin was stunned for a moment, and he blinked, as he did not understand the old man at all. "Master Qing Cao, what do you mean?"

Master Qing Cao smiled and repeated himself. "Venom Flowzone is sick, so I'm treating it."

Lu Yin looked around. "I guess so."

Master Qing Cao laughed. "Do you understand?"

"Not at all."

Master Qing Cao smiled. "Life is truly miraculous. It is capable of self-repair and can expel harmful substances. For example, when people get sick, there are some minor illnesses that can be healed without outside assistance because of life's innate ability to protect itself. Venom Flowzone is also a form of life—the poison is its blood, and the planets form its meridians. At the moment, it is sick, so I want to find the cause."

Lu Yin finally understood. "This junior understands what you're saying, but how do you treat such a disease?"

Master Qing Cao shook his head. "I don't know. I've been studying this place for hundreds of years, but I still can't find the source of this sickness."

"How do you know that Venom Flowzone is sick?"

"It's quite easy to see that the poisonous gasses are moving about abnormally. It's just like when a human's breathing is wrong."

"You can see this?"

"You can't?"

Lu Yin was left speechless. Still, everyone has their own abilities. If an ordinary person was asked to observe another person's rune lines, it would be impossible for them to see anything at all. Qing Cao was able to see Venom Flowzone from a completely different perspective than Lu Yin.

"I know that you can't see it," Qing Cao continued quietly.

Lu Yin pursed his lips. He had first believed that Qing Cao was an honest and straightforward person, but why would the old man ask such a question if he already knew the answer?

"Let me give you something." Master Qing Cao took a piece of grass out from his cosmic ring and handed it over to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's eyes lit up; green grass? Just like Master Qing Cao's name. Could this grass be a natural treasure? While surprised, Lu Yin did not feel such a thing was completely unexpected. While Master Qing Cao was just an Enlightener, his power level was more than 400,000. The man was mostly

admired for his skills in healing and his eagerness to heal and save people, not his personal strength.

Even if this green grass was a rare natural treasure, it could not be anything too impressive.

Lu Yin took the grass and studied it. He frowned, as there were no runes at all. No matter how he looked at it, it was the most ordinary sort of grass.

"Senior, what is this?" Lu Yin felt quite puzzled.

Master Qing Cao solemnly replied, "Grass."

"This junior knows that much."

"Then why ask?"

Lu Yin hesitated. "Why did you give me a blade of grass?"

Master Qing Cao grew serious. "Look, when the day comes that you are able to see this grass observing you, you should also be able to see Venom Flowzone's breath. In this universe, every natural order has its own breath and its own life."

Lu Yin blinked. While this sounded quite profound and quite logical, why did it also feel rather strange?

Suddenly, Lu Yin remembered something else and he asked, "Do battle techniques also have breath?"

Master Qing Cao glanced over at Lu Yin in surprise, and he voiced his admiration. "Young man, that's quite perceptive."

"So, do battle techniques have breath?"

"Are you asking me? I thought you already knew. Keep working at it." Master Qing Cao sighed.

Lu Yin left, as Master Qing Cao wanted to remain where he was and continue his research. There was no need for Lu Yin to be concerned with the old man's safety, as he had already been in Venom Flowzone for hundreds of years.

Before leaving, Lu Yin asked about Coco and the other people he knew from Windrift Hall, as he had not seen any of them for a long time. However, Master Qing Cao could not answer, as he had absolutely no idea who any of the people Lu Yin asked about were.

There was a massive landmass in the center of Venom Flowzone that was known as the Divine Venom Continent. It was surrounded by poisonous gas, and rumors claimed that Venom Flowzone's oldest and most powerful creatures lived beneath the landmass, but no one knew what creatures there might be.

At the center of the continent, there was a city known as Venom King City, which was the capital of the Divine Venom Dynasty. It was ruled by the Qing family, which had established the city as the capital from which they ruled the entire Divine Venom Dynasty.

It was not easy for outsiders to get access to the Divine Venom Continent, and each person had to go through stringent identity checks before entering the continent. They also had to have a token from the Divine Venom Dynasty, which gave people the ability to resist the countless poisonous creatures that lived on the Divine Venom Continent.

Of course, this only applied to ordinary cultivators. For people like the Second Nightking, the Divine Venom Continent, Venom King City, and even the Divine Venom Dynasty's imperial palace were perfectly accessible and safe to enter.

"Second Nightking?" Qing Shaohuang blurted out in shock as he stared at a man relaxing in the imperial garden while quietly enjoying a drink.

Even though the Divine Venom Dynasty was sealed off, they were not completely isolated from the outside world. They remained quite aware and informed about major events that occurred, but their focus was simply different. They were merely concerned about whether or not any major events would affect Venom Flowzone.

For example, both battles between Envoys and the war between the Daynight clan and the Great Eastern Alliance had garnered attention, particularly so the current situation regarding the Daynight clan. After all, the Divine Venom Dynasty and the Daynight clan have an inseparable relationship.

Qing Shaohuang had always paid attention to news regarding the Second Nightking. There was when the ancient powerhouse had left the Celestial

Frost Sect's ruins, the prison break that had occurred in Gaia's Swamp that had allowed the Second Nightking to escape, and how the man had become wanted by the Hall of Honor; Qing Shaohuang had paid attention to all of these details.

The imperial garden was quite beautiful, and it was full of all kinds of exotic flowers and plants that were in full bloom. This place was not as poisonous as many people would expect.

As for the Second Nightking, he lowered his wine glass and calmly looked over at Qing Shaohuang. "You look a great deal like your ancestor."

Qing Shaohuang glanced around, but the guards patrolling around the garden acted no differently than usual. They were likely being controlled by the Second Nightking, as it would have been otherwise impossible for them to show absolutely no reaction to his presence. No one in the entire imperial palace had sensed the Second Nightking's arrival or presence. The emperor's heart sank; if the Second Nightking wanted to attack, the emperor would most likely not be able to escape.

"Junior Qing Shaohuang greets Senior Second Nightking." Qing Shaohuang stepped forward and bowed in the manner of a junior. He behaved in a very respectful manner.

The Second Nightking stood up. "The Third Nightking was the one who helped your family found your empire, but we all knew what he was doing at that time and allowed it."

Qing Shaohuang expressed his gratitude. "Many thanks to the Daynight family for the help that they gave my Qing clan."

"Back then, there was only one person in the Qing family who barely managed to become an Envoy, which was the first emperor, Qing Fan. However, right now, your strength exceeds what he achieved. If I still possessed my strength from back then and not what I have achieved more recently, I might not even be able to compare to you." The Second Nightking sighed.

Qing Shaohuang grew solemn. "The Daynight clan's kindness towards my Qing clan is something that can never be repaid. Senior is like an ancestor to my Qing clan."

"Very well." The Second Nightking stared at Qing Shaohuang. "I had thought that your Qing clan had forgotten about your original oath, but since you remember, then can you help me? With this, there will be no debts between us."

Qing Shaohuang instantly became serious. "Senior, please tell."

Hatred filled the Second Nightking's eyes. "I want Lu Yin to die."

Qing Shaohuang was startled. "Senior, this-"

"What? Is there a problem?" The Second Nightking stared at Qing Shaohuang with cold eyes.

Qing Shaohuang answered in a solemn tone, "Lu Yin is visiting the Divine Venom Dynasty because he was personally invited by this junior. If he dies while here, my Divine Venom Dynasty would lose the entire universe's trust."

Chapter 1758: Local Produce

The Second Nightking laughed at Qing Shaohuang's response. "Are you trying to say that you wouldn't do anything to Lu Yin without my request?"

Qing Shaohuang's expression twitched slightly, but he just stared at the Second Nightking. "What are you trying to say, Senior?"

"The current situation of the Inniverse is clear at a glance. The Sword Sect has been trying to work with you for some time, and you would not have invited Lu Yin here for no reason. Since you have invited him, you must have some sort of plan. While I might not know what exactly you hope to do, it has to be related to poison. Making your position clear is your best option here, as you want to show that your Divine Venom Dynasty has no intention of getting involved with the outside world," the Second Nightking coldly stated.

Qing Shaohuang felt embarrassed, and his mind started racing. He was already aware of the Second Nightking's hatred for Lu Yin, as the youth had destroyed the Daynight clan, ruined their ancestral grounds, and released the Dayking clan from their enslavement. In truth, even if the Second Nightking had not been imprisoned in Gaia's Swamp, he still would have possessed enough motivation to kill Lu Yin a million times over.

However, Lu Yin could not be killed while he was in the Divine Venom Dynasty, and neither could the Second Nightking be allowed to move against the youth. Even though the Divine Venom Dynasty had isolated themselves from the outside world, they were not completely cut off. Not to mention, the powerhouses supporting Lu Yin could easily deal with all of Venom Flowzone by themselves.

If the Divine Venom Dynasty did not feel fear, they would have never considered cooperating with the Sword Sect and the other Inniverse powers, but it was precisely because of the threat that Qing Shaohuang felt from Lu Yin that he was considering joining the Inniverse in working against Lu Yin.

Qing Shaohuang stared at the Second Nightking, unsure of how to refuse the ancient powerhouse's request. The only option was to agree as much as possible. "Senior, this junior will help you."

The Second Nightking nodded. "Good. I don't want Lu Yin to live to see the outside of Venom Flowzone."

"If Senior takes action, you will be exposing yourself. This-"

Qing Shaohuang tried to bring up an objection, but the Second Nightking just sneered. "Given the size of the Fifth Mainland, it's not difficult to find somewhere to hide."

"Senior can hide within my Divine Venom Dynasty," Qing Shaohuang offered.

The Second Nightking shot the emperor a cold look. "We'll talk about it later."

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A few days later, Lu Yin finally saw the Divine Venom Continent from his spacecraft.

From a distance, the Divine Venom Continent looked like a monster lying in space that was emitting a strange gas. He stared at the landmass as he thought of the rumors claiming that there was a terrifying poison beneath it.

Lu Yin was still very interested in poison. Long ago, Elder Wu's poisons had been a great deal of help to him. There had to be a poison in the Divine Venom Dynasty that Lu Yin could Enhance to a level where it would threaten

even experts with power levels of more than a million. Like that Transience poison... Lu Yin felt that he would need to pay the king a visit.

Given Lu Yin's status, he was welcomed by King Qing Li, who was Qing Shaohuang's younger brother. In other words, Qing Li was among the top three people in the entire Divine Venom Dynasty. Even if Qing Longlong, the first princess, saw Qing Li, she would only refer to him as uncle. He was one of the few people in the entire empire who was qualified to know about Transience and use it.

Qing Li did not want to be the one to greet Lu Yin, but Qing Shaohuang had ordered the king to go. Given the fact that either Qing Li or Qing Shaohuang would have to greet Lu Yin, there was no way for Qing Li to refuse.

Lu Yin smiled when he saw Qing Li appear to welcome him.

The king despaired when he saw Lu Yin's smile, as he could still remember how much he had suffered when he had last seen Lu Yin; he had almost confessed to wetting the bed as a child at that time. Still, Qing Li forced out a smile. "Welcome, Alliance Leader Lu, to the Divine Venom Dynasty. You're a welcome guest to my Venom King City."

Lu Yin smiled back and said, "So it's Qing Li. This isn't our first time meeting."

Qing Li smiled back. "Of course not, Alliance Leader Lu. Please, follow me."

Lu Yin followed Qing Li towards the Divine Venom Continent. The sky was overcast and misty, but it was still possible to make out the outline of the continent from a bird's eye view.

The Divine Venom Continent actually looked no different from an ordinary landmass, as it had mountains and rivers, but there were also strange patterns that covered the land, and some places actually contained poisoned corpses that could easily be seen.

As they moved along, Qing Li shared information about the land with Lu Yin. The visiting Lu Yin was quite interested in this place, and he already saw it as something that would eventually belong to him. In his mind, learning more about it would never hurt.

"Your Highness, do you still remember what I said back then?" Lu Yin suddenly asked as the two of them were wandering about the sky above the Divine Venom Continent. At this moment, they were close to Venom King City.

Qing Li's eyes flickered. "I don't really have any interest in the outside world, but thank you, Alliance Leader Lu, for your kindness."

Lu Yin expressed his disappointment. "Regardless of how beautiful the scenery in Venom Flowzone might be, it's just one place, and it's honestly too small. Even the outside world is like that—there's just the Inniverse, the Outerverse, the Cosmic Sea, the Neoverse, the 3,000 hidden worlds, and the rest of the Fifth Mainland. However, the massive region beyond the Fifth Mainland is truly fascinating. With Your Highness's strength, it really is a pity that you aren't able to go out and explore."

"A place beyond the Fifth Mainland? Are you referring to the Sixth Mainland?" Qing Li asked. Before the Sixth Mainland had invaded them, not even Qing Shaohuang had known about the existence of the Sixth Mainland. But afterwards, almost every cultivator in the entire Fifth Mainland had learned of them.

However, there was only the Fifth and the Sixth Mainlands.

Lu Yin shook his head. "Aeternus took over the entire Sixth Mainland. I'm talking about another place."

Qing Li was stunned. "Another place?"

Lu Yi was surprised. "Did your brother not tell you about this? There's another place where people can still become Progenitors."

Qing Li's expression grew sharp, and he instantly froze in place. Every cultivator's greatest dream was to one day become a Progenitor. Even someone who had only just started cultivating would dream about reaching the apex as a Progenitor, even if they knew that their chances were not even one in ten billion. Qing Li was no different. He was the closest person to the threshold of the Envoy realm in the Divine Venom Dynasty, and he naturally also dreamed about one day becoming a Progenitor. Still, he knew that his dream was too far out of reach.

Lu Yin continued moving along without pausing, and Qing Li hurried to catch back up. "Alliance Leader Lu, where is this place where one can become a Progenitor?"

Lu Yin indifferently replied, "Go ask your brother. If he hasn't told you yet, he must have a reason."

Qing Li's eyes flashed; was Lu Yin trying to instigate something between them? Seeing Lu Yin's serious expression, the king felt confident that Lu Yin was trying to sow doubt into his relationship with Qing Shaohuang. Still, the desire to become a Progenitor was too strong. Was it possible that Qing Shaohuang really did know about such a place? If so, why would he have never told him about it?

"Is that Venom King City right in front of us? Your Highness, could you show me around?" Lu Yin asked, and Qing Li hurried to catch up once again.

"Yes, that's Venom King City, Alliance Leader Lu."

Venom King City was surrounded by high walls, and water poured down from them like waterfalls. Mist shrouded the river, but this mist was not the normal white color, but rather iridescent as it was actually spat out by giant toads that crouched along the walls.

Lu Yin observed the wall surrounding Venom King City in surprise.

He stared at the wall as the enormous toads spat out rainbow-colored balls at regular intervals. Each of the orbs would strike a pillar above the city, and then shatter. Rainbow colors then rained down upon the city.

With the number of giant toads contributing to the mist, the iridescent mist was able to cover the entire city.

"What are those toads?" Lu Yin asked in surprise.

Qing Li proudly answered, "Those are not just any ordinary toads but rainbow toads. While they aren't aggressive, they are an extremely poisonous species that our Divine Venom Dynasty has bred. The rainbow-colored balls that they spit out strike the poisonous heart pillar of Venom King City, and the mist that is produced by that combination is something that even Envoys fear."

Lu Yin entered the true universe and tried to move into the city through that method, only to be caught off guard when he discovered that the iridescent fog also surrounded the area in the true universe that corresponded to Venom King City.

"While Envoys are able to enter Venom King City through the true universe, their bodies will still be contaminated by the iridescent mist's poison, which means that they will be discovered the moment they enter the city. Only peak experts are strong enough to avoid the mist, and those powerhouses are strong enough to easily enter the city without needing to sneak in, as my Venom King City would welcome such powerhouses with all the respect that they are due," Qing Li explained.

Lu Yin nodded and then praised, "This is the first time I've ever seen such a defensive method."

Qing Li smiled. "This is not a means of defense, but rather just a warning system. Anyone weaker than an Envoy can't force their way in while even Envoys will be discovered."

"How do ordinary people enter?"

"They just need to have a token from Venom King City. Those tokens naturally repel the rainbow mist, so they allow anyone can enter."

"What if an enemy grabs a token?"

"Each person's token is unique," Qing Li said as he lifted a hand to show a common-looking token that had the character for venom on it that he handed over to Lu Yin. "This is yours, Alliance Leader Lu."

Lu Yin took the token and then saw a series of nine digits on it.

"The number entered the first time must precisely match the number entered after in order to open the token's compartment and release the substance that repels the iridescent mist. Without that, the tokens are useless. By the way, there's only one chance to enter the number," the king explained.

Lu Yin was left speechless; was this any different from a password? With something as ancient-looking as these tokens, he had assumed that they would be bound to a person by blood or some other method, though he would not have been willing to bind it with his blood.

While Venom King City's defenses seemed quite impressive at a glance, Lu Yin's opinion of it dropped substantially after he learned how the tokens worked.

Qing Li led the way, so Lu Yin easily entered the city.

Venom King City was quite lively, and the clothing style of the Divine Venom Dynasty was quite unique. Lu Yin's eyes lit up when he saw what the local people were wearing.

No matter what sort of impression the outside world had of the Divine Venom Dynasty, the people that Lu Yin saw seemed very happy, and everyone had a sincere smile. He understood why Yuan Taishi was so determined for the Divine Venom Dynasty to remain uninvolved with the matters of the outside world.

For better or worse, such a thing would disrupt the peaceful lives of all the residents in the Divine Venom Dynasty.

Not long after entering the city, Lu Yin ran into an acquaintance.

"One million star crystals. Deal or no deal?" Wen Qian'er's voice drifted out of a shop in the city while Wen Sansi was standing beside her.

All kinds of poisons were being sold in the store, and it was the most common kind in the Divine Venom Dynasty as everyone here needed poison.

"No, this is a highly venomous snake! How can such a creature be bought for just a million star crystals? A million and a half, minimum," the shop owner flatly replied.

Wen Qian'er shouted, "I'll give you 1.2 million star crystals."

"It has to be a million and a half."

"1.3 million."

"One and a half."

"Boss, is something wrong with your head? This isn't how negotiating works! You have to at least give in a little bit."

"The listed price is 3 million! You got me to lower it to 1.5 million, and yet you still want me to lower it further? That's just too much!"

"Cough, 1.4 million. Show me some face."

"Who are you? Why should I give you any face?"

Wen Qian'er grew furious, and her eyes flared.

Lu Yin then walked in, attracting the attention of the small group of people.

Wen Qian'er looked over and was surprised. "Lu Yin?"

Lu Yin nodded to Wen Sansi before looking at Wen Qian'er. "You like poisonous snakes?"

Wen Qian'er retorted, "Of course not! Still, since I'm here, I need to get some local produce to take back."

Lu Yin found this quite funny.