

Chapter 191: Pirate Port

Little Eight was startled by Lu Yin's inquiry, and he unconsciously grimaced. "Boss, please don't scare me like that. You can learn all of this just by asking around. At least half of the people on this ship know more than me."

"Is that so?" Lu Yin replied noncommittally. When he had initially chosen him to control these pirates on his behalf, he had already noticed that Little Eight's personality was different from that of the typical fugitive. His rough, ruffian demeanor also seemed deliberately crafter, but this had nothing to do with Lu Yin. They would all go their own ways when they reached the pirate port. And anyways, he was currently more concerned about that woman, Zhuo Daynight, and was hoping that she would not die.

He left the control room and went to check in on Zhuo Daynight in the sick bay. She was currently soaking in a nutrient bath that enveloped her entire body. Her vitals, such as her heartbeat, were all normal. "She won't just die on us, right?"

The ship's doctor replied, "No. While her injuries are serious, they have stabilized and won't deteriorate as long as her body receives no further damage. However, within a month, she will definitely die without receiving proper treatment."

Lu Yin relaxed and looked at Zhuo Daynight.

He thought back to the first time that he had met her and seen her murderous expression. He still remembered all those complicated emotions that had accompanied it; desperation, remorse, and helplessness, all intermingling with rage in her eyes. How had she fascinated him so much so that he couldn't bring himself to just abandon her? Was it because of their agreement? Lu Yin didn't even know himself. He could have left her to die and burn to ash along with the Knight Pirates, but he had instead saved her without hesitation even though he himself did not know why.

Within the nutrient bath, Zhuo Daynight frowned. The distorted expression on her slender and pale face was enough to cause others to feel distressed for her. Her looks were naturally innocent, and her current state lent an additional trace of helplessness and fragility to it; the her that was a Daynight powerhouse who had massacred countless pirates seemed to be a complete other person.

"Please, please, release them. Release my parents. The Sealed Cage Technique, please release it, please..." Zhuo Daynight was unconsciously muttering something under her breath and seemed to be incessantly pleading.

Lu Yin approached her and indistinctly heard phrases like "parents" and "Sealed Cage Technique," but the fragments that he caught weren't enough to make anything out. He shook his head and walked to the door, but turned around to look at her when he reached the entranceway. His heart trembled. In the few moments that had passed, a trail of freshly shed tears traced their way down Zhuo Daynight's tightly face. Such grief, such desperation.

Lu Yin's eyes burned with emotion, and his gaze kept flickering. This trail of tears moved his heart, and he stared at her figure for a while before he took a deep breath and finally left the sick bay.

The pirate port was flourishing, and in Lu Yin's eyes, it was at the very least no worse than Zenyu Star. The space station was especially impressive, and there weren't just one or two landing stations, but rather a whole procession of them with lines of docking berths.

The pirate spacecraft landed at one of the more covert space stations with Lu Yin's Aurora spacecraft still stored aboard.

Lu Yin formally bid farewell to Little Eight and the rest, not the least bit reluctant to part ways with them. For Lu Yin, the only important thing he had done during this time period was earn money.

Little Eight and the rest rejoiced when Lu Yin left, and they also needed to discuss what to do with their newfound freedom. They had to retire as pirates since they had been exposed and there were rumors that the pirates who they had robbed along the way were planning on joining forces to hunt down the rogue crew. Thus, their first priority was to escape.

Lu Yin carried Zhuo Daynight as he walked out of the space station. He stopped by a random aircraft and ordered, "Head to the nearest hospital."

The pilot, who had slightly elongated ears and arms, immediately started the vehicle upon hearing Lu Yin's words.

Lu Yin gazed at the stream of people that they passed by. The scenery here was poor, especially since there was no sun, causing the entire planet to be covered in a gloomy atmosphere. The occasional thick patches of fog that blew past them made the scenery even eerier. Explosions could be heard from time to time, but the pilot remained calm as if he was accustomed to it.

Zhuo Daynight's attention-grabbing hair had been covered by Lu Yin, and her entire body was protected while in Lu Yin's embrace. Her forehead was burning like fire, and her heartbeat was sluggish.

Lu Yin felt helpless and leaned back against the seat, waiting to arrive at a hospital.

After just a few minutes, the aircraft stopped. "We're here, sir."

Lu Yin looked at the short bungalow in front of them in astonishment. "This is a hospital?"

"Yes, sir. This must be your first time here. All of the hospitals are kept underground on this planet. Not only hospitals, but the shopping centers, businesses, public facilities, etcetera, are also built underground. You must have heard why."

Lu Yin finally understood. That's right, this is the pirate port. There are vicious criminals to be found everywhere, and fights commonly break out at a moment's notice.

He paid the pilot one star crystal and carried Zhuo Daynight out of the aircraft. As he was about to leave, however, the pilot blocked him with a stern gaze. "Sir, this doesn't cover the fare."

Lu Yin's brows rose as he asked, "How much?"

"Ten energy crystals."

Lu Yin could not stop himself from laughing, and he gently pressed his hand down on the man's shoulder. In that instant, the pilot's face changed as he felt an intense pain in his shoulder, as if a mountain were pressing down on it.

"Bro, I'm not in a great mood right now. I don't have the energy to take a joke."

The pilot's forehead broke out in a layer of cold sweat and he forced a smile onto his face. "I'm sorry to have disturbed you. Have a pleasant trip."

Lu Yin released his hand, stepped past the man, and entered the bungalow.

The man panted heavily as he cursed, "Damn it, what shit luck! I actually provoked such a troublesome person. He was just a Melder, but he was definitely more terrifying than a Limiteer. That brat must be a disciple of some great power that was sent out here for training." He shook his head and quickly left with his vehicle.

Although the pilot had tried to blatantly extort money out of Lu Yin, he had actually taken Lu Yin to a decent place. When Lu Yin stepped into the building, he followed the flow of people and quickly reached the underground hospital. Its construction was simple, but the facilities were quite good and even seemed to be superior to the facilities that had been used to treat Undying Yushan.

After all, this was a rest stop along the passageway that connected the Outerverse and Innerverse. No one could guarantee that they would not be injured, and that even included Innerverse powerhouses. Thus, the pirate port's medical facilities had to be top-notch to treat such guests. The Leo clan had paid a high price to build these facilities, and in the process, they had attracted countless patrons with their high quality medical conditions. At least, that was what Little Eight had said.

Many people were queued up for treatment, and each had a gloomy face. Some did not even expose their faces and had wrapped their figures in thick cloaks. Lu Yin did the same and covered his body, not wanting to reveal his identity.

An entire hour went by before it was his turn.

Suddenly, it became noisy outside as dozens of fierce looking people rushed in. One viciously roared, "Where's the doctor? Hurry! Our boss is almost dead!"

They then began to disperse the surrounding crowd as they carried a big man covered in blood forwards.

Lu Yin frowned, as these people all strongly reeked of blood.

Cough cough.

Zhuo Daynight suddenly coughed, and Lu Yin comfortingly patted her back. At the same time, the gangsters arrived before Lu Yin and tried to push him aside. But Lu Yin's eyes turned cold, and he raised a single hand. Crack! One of the gangsters' arm was twisted, and he was tossed a dozen meters away as the rest simultaneously looked at Lu Yin.

"Get lost," Lu Yin warned.

They grew furious and attacked together, completely tossing aside any notion of negotiating.

The hospital staff quickly took shelter, as did the patients.

Lu Yin was enraged, and his palm turned into a claw. It was accompanied by a beast's howl that resonated through the void. His Skybeast Claw killed a dozen of the attackers while the rest were knocked onto their backs, where they stared at Lu Yin in shock.

At this point, the troops had arrived. It was the private army of the Leo clan. They surrounded everyone and said, "The use of force is forbidden in the hospital. Everyone raise your hands."

Amidst the surrounding chaos, Lu Yin frowned and looked around. He wanted to find a doctor since Zhuo Daynight had experienced some jostling just now, and her injuries seemed to be worsening slightly.

Suddenly, the large man drenched in blood stood up, retrieved a fist-sized metal ball from beneath his clothes, and smashed it against the ground. Lu Yin's hair instantly stood up and he instinctively evaded with Flash. There was an intense explosion, and air currents ripped the atmosphere apart and directly shattered the lights in the area. The violent blast sent all of the troops flying away, killing quite a number of them in the process.

Lu Yin used Flash consecutively and rushed away with extreme speed before finally breaking through the roof with a palm strike and escaping. He had just reached the surface when the earth shook, and then caved in, burying everyone in the hospital alive.

Lu Yin stared at this scene in horror. What just happened?!

Smoke filled the air as alarms rang out in all directions.

Lu Yin used Flash again and fled with Zhuo Daynight.

Cough cough.

Zhuo Daynight opened her eyes, and feebly spoke out, "Do not... get shot."

"You're awake," Lu Yin replied in a muffled voice. He didn't know what was going on in all the chaos.

Zhuo Daynight feebly said, "That... was... the great powers'... contest."

"Contest?" He was puzzled.

"Some... great powers... take... extreme measures... to gain... great profits." Zhuo Daynight had to push out each word with great effort. When she was done, she fell unconscious again.

Lu Yin breathed in deeply and stood in a dark corner as he stared in the hospital's direction. The great powers' contest? What about all those soldiers? So those doctors and patients were all pawns in their game!

Truthfully, Lu Yin had long since admitted to himself that he was no saint. The deaths of others did not concern him too much, and he was not afraid to adopt some extreme measures for his own personal gain. But this was his first time viewing such a bloody scene from such a direct and inferior perspective. It was even more drastic than what had happened on Earth.

If he had been any weaker, then he would have been sacrificed just like the rest of them. Strength was a good thing, and it influenced everything else in one's life.

He glanced at Zhuo Daynight, whose condition was even more feeble than before, and felt a pressing need to find a new hospital.

The heavens seemed to be playing a joke on Lu Yin as dozens of explosions rang out that day on the pirate port planet. They all targeted hospitals, which threw the port into an unprecedented panic. The Leo clan even dispatched Explorers to quell the attackers, but that wasn't enough to calm the terror.

How could the pirate port attract anyone without any hospitals? This was the pirate port, the dark underbelly where people were injured and where blood was shed everyday.

The first step was the hospitals, and the second would naturally be the businesses focused on food, clothing, or accommodations.

Lu Yin reconsidered his options as he did not want to continue running into areas targeted by the terrorists, but Zhuo Daynight's condition required immediate attention.

Suddenly, Lu Yin thought of Coco. It was rumored that the members of Windrift Hall frequently wandered the universe. If there were any Windrift Hall members in the nearby weaves, he could take Zhuo Daynight to them for treatment. From what he had heard, they did not even require advanced medical facilities to treat someone, so after a moment's thought, Lu Yin contacted Coco.

Outsiders could not use their gadgets to contact students who were within the Astral Combat Academy, but other students were allowed to do so.

Coco didn't pick up. It was possible that she was in the trial zones. Lu Yin tried Zora next, but it was the same result. The duo were in the same team, and they were always together. Lu Yin had no choice but to wait.

He found a random building that seemed remote and somewhat abandoned and entered it with Zhuo Daynight.

Chapter 192: Desperate Straits

Lu Yin was unable to contact Coco for the next three days. During this time, he found that he had guessed correctly; the attacks had shifted from hospitals to hotels and popular shopping centers. The space stations were soon crowded with countless people trying to flee the planet. Additionally, people were only allowed to leave, but not enter the pirate port.

Food and drinks were rushed over along with other supplies, as even a local branch of Shamrock Enterprises had run out of its inventory.

The most disturbing news, however, was that a branch of Darkmist Weave Bank had been evacuated. This portended something dark brewing on the horizon.

At noon, three days later, Lu Yin finally managed to get into contact with Coco.

"Brother Lu, what's the matter?"

Lu Yin was flustered as he asked, "Coco, my friend's been heavily injured. Do you know anyone in Darkmist Weave?"

"Darkmist Weave? I'll check," Coco immediately searched through her contacts, enlisting Zora's help as well.

Coco quickly raised her head and replied, "Yes, Brother Lu. A senior of mine is currently at a strange planet of Darkmist Weave."

"Great, give me their location," Lu Yin said in a delighted tone.

Coco fidgeted as she answered, "I don't know his location, but I can send you his contact information. Go ahead and call him as I've already let him know that you'll be contacting him." She then passed Lu Yin a string of numbers. Lu Yin hurriedly disconnected from the call with Coco and entered the numbers.

A voice quickly replied, "Windrift Hall, Zeng Die."

"Excuse me, I'm Lu Yin. Coco should have mentioned my situation already," Lu Yin greeted politely.

"Yes, you can come find me. I'm at the pirate port in Darkmist Weave. You should know where it is."

Lu Yin was stunned, but then quickly became delighted. "I'm also at the pirate port."

The other side was obviously stunned as well. "Tell me your position and we'll meet halfway."

Lu Yin immediately sent Zeng Die his location and then headed north with Zhuo Daynight. He even used an aircraft to reach the meeting point sooner.

Zhuo Daynight's condition seemed to be worsening as her face had paled even further. Her consciousness was also growing fuzzier as she started continuously murmuring something unintelligible.

Lu Yin did not know why he felt so anxious. He kept thinking about her desolate and helpless expression even though he wasn't looking at her, and her weak and pale face came up quite often as well. He grew increasingly worried.

The pirate port was large, but the distance between the two was not that great, and they met after an hour of traveling.

Zeng Die appeared to be an elegant man who was older than Lu Yin and was likely not of the younger generation. There was a woman accompanying him who was most likely his partner as the Windrift Hall seemed to mostly operate in pairs.

Lu Yin did not bother with pleasantries and gently placed Zhuo Daynight down.

Zeng Die examined her and was shocked by her condition. "Such a powerful strength, and continuous explosions at that. It's pretty good that she lasted for this long." He then removed Zhuo Daynight's coat and saw her black and white long hair. He exclaimed, "The Daynight clan?"

Zeng Die's female partner was also astonished. "Someone from the Daynight clan?"

The two simultaneously looked at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin nodded. "Yes, she's from the Daynight clan."

Zeng Die nodded and did not ask any further questions. The Windrift Hall treated people regardless of their ancestry. The hall differentiated between good and bad, but not between backgrounds. This was a major reason why the Windrift Hall had such an excellent reputation in the universe.

“How does her situation look?” Lu Yin was nervous.

The originally silent Zeng Die raised his head and smiled proudly. “There’s no patient that a Windrift Hall member cannot save.”

Lu Yin was flabbergasted. This man before him had seemed dull, but his arrogance had suddenly rocketed just now. The contrast was very intense.

The woman spoke up, adding, “Don’t interrupt him. He’s saved patients with heavier injuries than your little girlfriend.”

“She’s not my girlfriend.”

“Right.” She clearly did not believe Lu Yin and turned away.

Lu Yin was startled—apparently, he looked too anxious. He stood up and walked outside to gaze at the dark pirate port. This planet was a battlefield for the contest, and the countless number of lives being sacrificed to fulfill it was too tragic to him.

“I heard Coco mention that you’re Astral-10’s leader,” the woman said in a curious tone as she walked up from behind Lu Yin. “I’m Kaname, an expelled student of Astral-7.”

Lu Yin was shocked by the admission, but he quickly realized that Kaname held no negative emotions towards her expulsion. “I was lucky.”

Kaname measured Lu Yin and smiled, “To be able to defeat the freaks in the Astral Combat Academy isn’t luck. Coco has shared the situation of Astral-10’s twelve new students, especially you. Thank you, for without you, she might not have made it in.”

Lu Yin smiled. “You’re being too polite. Coco’s innate gift for extreme speed means that, one day, she’ll be unstoppable.”

“Then you don’t really know Coco. That girl is very timid. If she heard that someone from the Blaze Realm was obstructing the entrance examination, then she would have given up, not daring to carry on. No matter what, the Windrift Hall owes you a favor.”

Lu Yin laughed, but did not disagree. A favor from Windrift Hall was very valuable.

Kaname’s eyes swept across Zhuo Daynight, who was being treated, and spoke again. “She’s really not your girlfriend?”

Lu Yin shook his head. “We met by chance.”

“That’s good.”

Lu Yin thought that her response was slightly strange, and he asked, “Why?”

Kaname gave Lu Yin a serious look. "Don't allow any feelings for her to grow. If they already exist, then immediately wipe them out. Otherwise, it will cost you more than what you can bear in this life."

Lu Yin's eyes flickered and he glanced at Zhuo Daynight before again asking Kaname, "Why?"

She shook her head. "This involves the matters of the Daynight clan, so it's not my place to speak. But heed my warning: never, ever let your heart be moved by her, or else the price will surpass your imagination." She then turned around and walked back towards Zeng Die.

Lu Yin turned around, and his mind flashed back to the scene of Zhuo Daynight crying while muttering the words "them," "parents," and "Sealed Cage Technique."

After slightly more than half a day, Zhuo Daynight's injuries were stabilized by Zeng Die.

He got up, wiped sweat off his forehead, and with an exhausted look, said, "Alright, she just needs to rest for several months before she'll be fully recovered."

Lu Yin was very grateful. "Thank you, Brother Zeng."

"No need. I've yet to thank you for the matter with Coco."

Kaname spoke up. "I've already said that Windrift Hall owes him a favor."

Lu Yin raised his hand. "You've helped me save her, so this favor has been returned."

Zeng Die's face grew serious as he replied, "Brother Lu, that's not the case at all. Saving others is Windrift Hall's mission, so even if Coco hadn't asked me, I would have helped her if we had met the two of you. After all, the more we save, the better our fortune, and the greater our longevity."

Lu Yin blinked. These words sounded very familiar as Coco had once spoken them as well. These people were very heavily indoctrinated by their master.

"We should leave," Kaname reminded Zeng Die.

Zeng Die looked at Lu Yin as he said, "Brother Lu, this planet's very dangerous right now. You two should leave immediately if you can."

Lu Yin nodded.

Zeng Die and Kaname quickly left, and Lu Yin carried Zhuo Daynight away, as the girl had finally stabilized and could be moved without complications. He considered his options for a moment, and then piloted the aircraft towards the space station. It was time to leave.

More and more explosions engulfed the pirate port as numerous people escaped in a panic. Lu Yin sat down in his vehicle and gazed down at the chaotic crowds with complex thoughts.

Suddenly his eyes narrowed as he spotted a familiar figure in the crowds. Was that...?

He parked the aircraft on a rooftop and left Zhuo Daynight inside before charging into the crowd. A man among the crowds was quickly grabbed by Lu Yin. The man was startled and turned around to knee his assailant, but was easily stopped by Lu Yin. "Big Chong, it's me."

The man stared in amazement at Lu Yin before crying out, "What are you doing here?!"

Lu Yin pulled the man out of the crowd and happily exclaimed, "Why are you here, too?"

This man called Big Chong was anxious. "Did the family send you here? No, that's impossible. Why would they send you here?"

"What does that mean?" Lu Yin started to grow uneasy.

"Don't ask any more questions. Just leave now! Quickly!" Big Chong grabbed Lu Yin, wanting to take him to the space station.

Lu Yin shook off Big Chong's hand as he had many questions. Suddenly, a burst of rushing traffic separated Lu Yin from Big Chong. Lu Yin's scalp grew numb as he saw a glaring light descend from the sky. Everyone looked up to see the final scene of their lives. A solitary light beam had descended from the void to blast the ground into oblivion. This was a warcraft's attack.

Big Chong shouted, "RUN, LITTLE SEVEN!"

Desperate cries echoed throughout the crowd as buildings on both sides of the street collapsed. But Lu Yin couldn't hear any of the commotion. He had been instantly struck by the light beam and had instinctively activated his Cosmic Art. Yet all defenses were ineffective in the face of this attack that was strong enough to kill Explorers.

Boom!

The entire street was vaporized while Big Chong was swept away by the intense impact. Lu Yin had managed to evade the beam with Flash at the final, critical juncture and had not received a direct blow. Even still, he was swept up by the attack's aftermath, and he spat out a mouthful of red blood. His hair, clothes, and everything else had been completely burned away while his body had been clawed to shreds and scorched. His blood was instantly congealed and charred to a black ash before he landed against a distant wall like a pile of rotten meat, and then he lost consciousness.

Another beam of light followed closely behind it, bombarding the adjacent street, and then the next. Each of these beams were attacks that could destroy a planet, and everyone was insignificant when faced with such an attack. Only a powerhouse who could explore space on their own could block it, which did not include the average Explorer. Originally, these light beams were supposed to be used to deal with the Cruisers of the Leo clan.

The entire pirate port was plunged into a sea of death. The beams of light shone out mercilessly time after time, killing an unknown number of people.

On the now non-existent street, Lu Yin's body had been wrecked to such an extent that there was no longer any intact portion of his flesh. Logically, these injuries should have killed him, but the peculiar seal on his back that had originally prevented him from breaking through to the Melder realm had reappeared and was now emitting a faint radiance. It brought him back from death's door and was slowly restoring his body.

After some time, Lu Yin faintly heard someone speaking. "There's still someone alive. Grab him."

"There's no need. There's not even a piece of meat left on his body. He's dead."

“How does that concern you in any way? Take him to Driftcharge Planet. The higher-ups have given orders to take away everyone who hasn’t died yet.”

“Okay.”

...

Boom.

Lu Yin painfully opened his eyes, only to see a glaring light that immediately forced his eyes back shut. He could not see anything clearly. What’s happening?

“This person survived even with those injuries?”

“He should have been struck directly by the attack. He’s really lucky to still be alive.”

“Someone like this still has to be saved?”

“Pshh, of course they’re not going to be saved. They’re for the cannibals.”

“What cannibals?”

“The Driftcharge Planet’s slaves can’t be considered people. They eat anything.”

“You’re saying that...? Eew...”

...

When Lu Yin regained consciousness for the third time, he saw that he was at a high altitude. He had been thrown down from the sky and was breathing in some kind of unpleasant gas. The surroundings were dark red, and lightning streaked past him from time to time. He had seen this scene before. This was what usually happened to planets that were about to be destroyed. He lowered his head and his pupils shrank. He saw countless black dots waiting below him and indistinctly thought, Are they... people?!

Chapter 193: A Planet’s Final Stage

A few others had also been thrown down from the sky along with Lu Yin, and they were all alive for the moment. Or rather, they were soon-to-be dead people as they had been thrown out as food for those miner slaves below.

Lu Yin grit his teeth and looked at his arm. His cosmic ring and gadget were both missing, leaving him with nothing. There was only a meager amount of stray star energy in the atmosphere, though fortunately, his body still had some star energy stored within it. He could not allow himself to fall to the ground in his current condition. Even if he managed to survive the fall, he would be eaten; he had already heard those crewmembers talking about the “cannibals.”

The distant ground drew closer and Lu Yin’s gaze grew malevolent when he saw the appearance of those slaves; they could not even be considered human. They had beast-like mouths that they used to pick up mangled corpses and directly swallow them whole.

This was not the first time that Lu Yin had seen such a scene; he had witnessed a similar one during Earth's trial. But at that time, he had been removed from it as he had held a powerful position. Now, he was the one waiting to be eaten.

He approached the ground at a dizzying pace, and just as those slaves were about to grab Lu Yin, he growled, forced a palm in front of his body, and released a Shockwave Palm.

Bang!

The ground was sundered by his palm strike, and a shockwave spread in all directions for dozens of meters, crushing all of the slaves within its range. Lu Yin tried to preserve his life by using Roving Steps, but he nonetheless tumbled to the ground, panting heavily while his body was wracked with intense pain. The nearby slaves tried to escape as they stared at Lu Yin in horror. They were merely regular humans and not a single one of them was a cultivator. Even with his severe injuries, they didn't dare to approach him.

Lu Yin did not dare to faint, as he knew that he would die if he fell unconscious. He tried to move his body, but he didn't even know when he had last eaten, and he had no strength. All he could do was twitch his fingers.

He looked around and realized that all of his hair had been burnt off and that he wasn't wearing any clothes. It was possible that the people from before had stripped him so that it would be easier for the slaves to eat him. Regardless of the reason, Lu Yin was now lying on the floor, naked, and glaring in all directions to scare all the slaves away.

A pungent smell wafted up from the dusty ground. This planet was unsuitable for habitation, and only strange bugs crawled out from the dry dirt. Lu Yin was starving and forced himself to swallow one of the bugs. It was disgusting, but it was all that was available. If Lu Yin didn't go to such extremes to survive, he would starve to death and become food himself.

He had never imagined that he would one day experience such a thing. This was an indescribable and inhuman torture.

Lu Yin faced off against the slaves in this manner for days. Despite his critical condition, Lu Yin remained awake and desperately kept his bloodshot eyes open.

On the fifth day, all of the slaves surrounding Lu Yin mysteriously dispersed as a skinny, hunchbacked old man appeared before Lu Yin. This old man slowly stepped up to Lu Yin, one foot at a time, until he reached Lu Yin, where he slowly squatted down.

The old man was so close to Lu Yin that he could even smell a rotten stench. "Scram," Lu Yin tried to growl as star energy sparkled on his fingertips and he tried to form flames to scare the old man away. A strand of battle force even appeared along his hand, though it quickly vanished.

The elder was shocked and said in a hoarse tone, "Battle force? Kid, are you a disciple of one of the great powers?"

Lu Yin did not answer and stared at the elder in desperation. His heart sank; this person was definitely not a common person if he had recognized battle force. The old man was most likely a cultivator, so Lu Yin wouldn't be able to scare him away either. Was he finally going to be eaten? Lu Yin felt aggrieved as

he had never expected to end up dying as a sacrifice in a contest between the great powers. He did not even know which group had been behind what had happened to him. He was just like a pawn that could be easily disposed of.

“Do you want to eat?” the elder asked, his two skeletal eyes flashing with a bright light.

The elder’s words shocked Lu Yin, and he continued to stare at the old man while desire filled his bloodshot eyes.

The elder’s lips quirked up and formed a strange expression in tandem with the two deeply sunken eye sockets on his sinister face. He approached Lu Yin some more and hoarsely said, “Human meat, also called white meat... do you want some?”

Lu Yin fiercely growled, “Get lost.”

The elder let out a mischievous laugh and sat down in front of Lu Yin. He did not do anything, but he did not leave either.

Another strange bug crawled out of the ground. This one was about the size of a palm, and its tail even had a green reverse hook. Lu Yin bit down again. Even though the reverse hook pierced his lip, nothing was more terrifying than starving to death.

Green liquid dribbled down his lips while he continued to stare intensely at the elder.

The elder did not move, but he continued staring at Lu Yin, waiting for the young man to run dry and completely collapsed. Lu Yin did not know if he was dying or fainting, but this might be the last time he ever closed his eyes.

The moment Lu Yin lost consciousness, the elder stood up, walked behind Lu Yin, and then tapped his back with a finger. His two hands then wandered around Lu Yin’s body in a strange route, accompanied by star energy. It seemed as if he were tracing the operational routes of the star energy within Lu Yin’s body.

Half an hour passed before the elder stopped. He then fell to the ground as he continued to stare at Lu Yin. “Your life and death now depends on how good your luck is. If you don’t die, then my clan will have a glimmer of hope.”

At this same time, an announcement was finally released, stating that the Astral Combat Tournament would begin in three months. The Astral Combat Tournament was the biggest event that the ten academies hosted, but it did not have much effect on the outside world. At most, it would attract some of the great powers looking to recruit talented youths, but even that could not be considered a great effect as almost all of the geniuses who could enter the Astral Combat Academy already belonged to the various great powers. But this specific Astral Combat Tournament was related to the star expanse war and was a recruitment scheme put forth by some significant characters of the universe. Hence, they wanted to spread the news throughout the entire universe, causing it to have a very big influence on the entire universe.

This time, the Astral Combat Tournament would be broadcasted to people of all walks of life, regardless of their status.

Due to the far-reaching influence that this Astral Combat Tournament would have, the originally hidden geniuses of the great powers had come into the light and joined the Astral Combat Academy in anticipation of the great tournament three months later.

However, Astral-10 was overcast by a new shadow. Elder Cai looked at the scene on his gadget and sighed. He then shook his head as he forced a smile onto his face. The screen displayed the moment that Lu Yin was struck by the beam of light in the pirate port. It was just a clip without any followup, but no one had any hope that Lu Yin had survived, since he had been hit by a weapon that was designed to kill Cruisers. Even Explorers would find it hard to survive a direct hit, let alone a mere Melder.

“Why did that brat have to coincidentally appear in the pirate port?” he sighed.

Michelle stood beside the Elder and watched the video of Lu Yin being struck. She frowned and said, “He’s Astral-10’s leader. In any case, we can’t let him die for nothing.”

“Revenge can’t be exacted in that place.”

Michelle didn’t understand.

“That’s the pirate port. Those who are killed there are forever stained with the reputation of being a pirate. No matter who it is, they will bear that reputation, which is why these people were able to kill without restraint on that planet.”

Michelle was furious, “So that’s it then?”

Elder Cai wrung his hands as he replied, “Of course not. Rest assured, someone will do something about this.”

Lu Yin was a Lockbreaker, and he even had acquired contributions. His death would definitely incite the wrath of the Lockbreaker Society. The society would not let those who had killed him off, unless they discovered he really was a pirate.

Soon, all Astral-10’s new students heard about Lu Yin’s matter as Elder Cai did not conceal it. The Astral Combat Tournament was quickly approaching, but Lu Yin was the student leader of Astral-10. News about him could not be hidden.

“What? Brother Lu’s dead?” Coco was saddened and she took out her large syringe. “It’s my fault for not being beside him. Otherwise, I would have saved him with one jab.”

Zora was dumbfounded. “Coco, this is completely unrelated to you.”

Coco worriedly said, “That’s right, Brother Lu met with some of our seniors on that planet, right? Are they okay?”

“Relax, they’re fine.”

Xia Luo looked at the display and a rarely seen expression of helplessness appeared on his face. “He died that easily? Such a pity.”

Lulu became depressed. She treated Yin as one of her closest friends since they had walked to this point together after Earth's trial. Who would have thought that he would suddenly die now? Life was too fragile.

It was rare to see Silver without a smile, but there was an endless iciness in his eyes. Lu Yin's death had clearly disrupted his rhythm.

Astral-10 wasn't the only place that had obtained the footage of Lu Yin's supposed death, and the other academies could as well. This was, after all, a student of the Astral Combat Academy, and his death was more than sufficient to attract the attention of the other branches.

"We thought that Astral-10 was about to rise from the ashes, but their leader died so easily and in the pirate port too. Haha!"

"The people of Blaze Realm are going to be happy. Hey, could they have been behind this?"

"That's impossible. They don't have the guts to plot against an Astral Combat Academy student. This fellow was just too unlucky and was caught in the crossfire while other powers were trying to eradicate the pirates."

"We didn't guess wrongly before, then. This person was definitely used by Astral-10 to distract the other academies."

"Don't be deceived—the strongest in Astral-10 isn't this Lu Yin, but rather the others like Xia Luo and Lulu Mavis."

"Wrong, it's got to be Big Pao and Little Pao. They joined forces to challenge the Dao of Heaven's Realm Master and are definitely top experts equal to the Area Masters."

...

In Astral-6, Charon was excited beyond limits. "He's dead! Really dead! Great. Wait, what does this bastard's death have to do with me? His uncle's more important, that bastard."

In another corner, Liu Ji frowned. "He was even a Lockbreaker, but he actually died in a pirate port. This matter will not be dropped by the Society."

In Astral-8, a smile was plastered across Jared's face, as Lu Yin's death had freed him of his worries. "Go and inform Xi Yue of this news. She will be pleased."

Meanwhile, in the Inniverse's Soul Seal Flowzone's Souldream Tribe, Xi Yue watched the scene of Lu Yin's death, but somehow, she was not happy. She kept reminiscing about the events that had taken place in the Sand Ocean's second layer as a melancholic sadness filled her heart.

At the same time, when Master Wusheng received the news, he became furious. "Go and check who dared to touch a member of my Lockbreaker Society! I don't care if it's the Leo clan or whoever—check all their details. My society must receive an answer for this."

Because of Lu Yin's supposed death, the massive entity that was the Lockbreaker Society began to move. Any Lockbreaker was a treasure of the universe, and they would not allow a single one of them to simply die. If a Lockbreaker's death was not investigated, then the Lockbreaker title itself would lose its

prestige, which was unacceptable to the 630,000 registered Lockbreakers. Even a Lockbreaker without any contributions would have their deaths investigated vigorously, let alone a one star Junior Lockbreaker. This was the terror of the Lockbreaker Society.

Chapter 194: Stonewall Scriptures

After an unknown period of time, Lu Yin woke up to the sound of dripping water as well as a strange buzzing noise that sounded like a cicada rubbing its wings together.

He slowly opened his eyes and saw a strange bug in front of him. He thought of eating it, but he ended up licking his parched lips that were as dry as sand. He needed to drink water. But at that moment, the insect flapped its wings and flew off.

Rays of deep red light blinded him, causing Lu Yin to instinctively close his eyes. When he reopened them, the emaciated elder had appeared before him yet again.

Lu Yin's eyes changed when he saw the elder, and he tried to stand, but he couldn't feel his entire body. Wait, no sensation... Could it be gone?! He strained to look down at his body, and to his relief, found that it was fortunately still intact.

A large chunk of roasted meat was thrown in front of Lu Yin. "Eat. You haven't eaten anything in a month."

Lu Yin stared at the meat in front of him and tried to suppress his saliva but found that he had none. He resisted the urge to take a bite and continued staring malevolently at the elder.

The elder laughed strangely. "Relax, it's not white meat."

Lu Yin squinted, his eyes flickering with indecision.

The elder shook his head and moved to the side. Behind him there was a giant, three meter long insect. It was missing several legs and traces of meat being cut out could be vaguely seen.

After Lu Yin ascertained that the roasted meat was not white meat, he immediately bit down. He swallowed the meat without chewing and quickly devoured the giant piece of meat, but an unbearable thirst soon followed.

The elder raised a finger, causing some of the trickling water droplets on the wall to slowly fly into Lu Yin's mouth. This was a welcome shower after a long drought, and Lu Yin slowly drank the water for a long time. He then licked his lips and in a hoarse voice, asked, "Why did you save me?"

The elder sat down before Lu Yin. "It's not for charity."

"State your terms."

A chilling smile crept into his skeletal face, "I need you to take some things to the Neoverse."

"Neoverse?" Lu Yin was at a loss.

"You don't need to know what that is for now. When you are able to reach the first Flowzone of the Innaverse, you will naturally know everything about the Neoverse."

Lu Yin forced a smile onto his face. "Do you really think that I can enter the Inniverse? I can't even get off of this planet."

"There's no rush. Where there's a will, there's a way," the elder replied before he suddenly recalled something. "I nearly forgot—in order to ensure that you'll uphold your end of the bargain, I've placed a dark seal on you. Only the person that I'm sending you to can remove it. No one else, not even Hunters, can help you. You can let them try if you don't believe me, hehe."

Lu Yin didn't care about some dark seal. He had been on the verge of death and couldn't be bothered about some trivial restriction.

"What is this place?"

"Driftcharge Planet. It's a planet in its final moments, and one that's about to be destroyed," the elder replied. He then lifted a hand and began carving something into the stone wall with star energy. Lu Yin watched for a moment before a strange expression appeared on his face. The old man was carving words, and while he recognized the words being carved, he did not understand their meaning.

Half an hour passed before the elder finally stopped and let out a breath. He looked at the stone wall with a complex expression before turning to Lu Yin. "Memorize it."

Lu Yin was dumbfounded. "What?"

"I'm making you memorize it," the elder barked with an unkind tone.

Lu Yin was speechless. "You wrote for an entire half an hour, but you want me to memorize it all? How long do you think I'll take?"

The elder stared at Lu Yin. "You can either memorize it, or you can go outside and become white meat."

Lu Yin did not have a choice. "Alright, but don't blame me if I take too long."

"It wouldn't be quick even if you wanted it to." The old man sighed again, no longer in a mood to continue conversing. He soon left the burrow.

Lu Yin lay on the floor, motionless, and stared at the wall. "To be good at communicating, the Dao of Heaven refuses. To jump and lie in the heavens, the Dao of Heaven accepts. To jump and lie in the horizon, to condense gas, to swallow rivers..."

After Lu Yin had reached the Melder realm, all aspects of his body had been greatly upgraded, and memorizing a segment of words was not difficult for him at all. But this text was strangely difficult, and he even felt a sense of oppression while trying to memorize it. It almost felt as if something was staring at him in the dark. It wasn't obvious, but his head grew dizzier as he read it over and over, and after twenty minutes he fainted.

The elder stepped into the cave and looked at the unconscious youth. "If it wasn't dismantled for you to memorize, then you wouldn't be able to remember even a single sentence." He then gazed at the stone wall. "I really hope that this can truly be inherited."

Lu Yin woke up with a splitting headache after spending half a day knocked out. What happened? What was that text? Did it actually give me a headache just from me memorizing it?

“Continue,” the elder commanded from where he was sitting nearby.

“May I ask what’s the point of memorizing this text?”

“You will have to go to the Neoverse and transcribe it to the person that I’m sending you to meet.”

“Alright.”

“It’ll also benefit you to memorize all this. Haven’t you felt the pressure increasing as you memorize more of it?”

Lu Yin’s brows furrowed even though his brows had been burned off. “What’s so good about the pressure?”

“Humans are composed of their body and their spirit. Some forces focus on the body, while others on the spirit. This pressure will polish your spirit so that you will have no weaknesses.”

Lu Yin was reminded of the Daynight clan and the unique characteristics of their battle techniques. For example, Ghostfire had been immune to every physical attack, but he had not been able to withstand the Daynight Punch. This was because the Daynight clan’s battle technique damaged both the body and the spirit, which was Ghostfire’s weakness.

“Alright, continue memorizing the text,” the elder ordered after giving Lu Yin a taste of knowledge.

Lu Yin breathed in deep, looked towards the stone wall, and continued reciting. He lasted for almost half an hour this time, which was a few minutes longer than the previous time. However, he had only memorized a small portion of the text on the wall so far.

Unknowingly, half a month passed with Lu Yin constantly reciting the words on the stone wall in his mind. From his initial limit of twenty minutes, he could now hold out for an hour. The elder had also indicated that if Lu Yin memorized the entire passage, no one weaker than a Hunter would be able to damage his spirit.

These words had been said to motivate Lu Yin, and Lu Yin had realized this, but he still accepted them as true. This was because he could already see the results. He could acutely sense that his spirit had become more durable, and the most obvious example was that he could now suppress his hunger.

By the end of the half month, he had memorized half of the Stonewall Scriptures. Although he had been reprimanded by the elder for being talentless, Lu Yin was satisfied with his progress. Even if there had been someone watching all this, they would not have been able to understand the pain that he had endured during this half month. He had only focused on memorizing the scriptures from the moment he woke up to the moment he passed out. These days had been very painful for him, but fortunately, his body had recovered quite a bit as well.

That warship’s light beam had nearly destroyed his body. No one knew why, but his body had recovered slightly by the time he had landed on this planet, and with each passing day, it continued recovering a little more. It had now reached the point where he could move his arm a bit.

“Your body’s strange. It’s very strong.” These were the first words that the elder said to Lu Yin for in half a month. Besides monitoring Lu Yin’s memorization, he also periodically left to do some unknown errand, but he was always more downcast upon his return.

Lu Yin glanced at him. “Strange?”

“Few could have survived an injury like yours. It doesn’t matter if they’re from the Outerverse, the Innerverse, or even the Cosmic Sea. An injury like that would have been a death sentence in a hundred out of a hundred cases. It’s a miracle that you survived.”

Lu Yin’s heart stirred, as he also felt that his body was strange. This oddness had only manifested after he broke through to become a Melder, and his body had continued becoming even more frightening, to the point where it was scarily powerful now. It had always been continuously strengthening itself, and even the Sandmaster had praised it in admiration. During Lu Yin’s first visit to the Dao of Purgatory, Frankfurt’s spear had not penetrated his body and only shattered his organs. In the ported battles, besides Explorers who could instantly obliterate him, no one else could harm his body. These changes were too great to be explained by his advancement into the Melder realm, but Lu Yin didn’t know what else could have happened during his breakthrough.

“You can see the oddness of my body?” Lu Yin was hopeful.

The elder shook his head. “Continue memorizing.”

Lu Yin begrudgingly looked back towards the stone wall.

The elder lowered his head, but kept his eyes trained on Lu Yin. This person’s body was actually even stranger than he had let on. This youth must have eaten some miraculous treasure, or else it was the innate gift of some strong clan. But to his knowledge, there was no clan whose innate gift could allow one to survive that serious of an injury.

The elder continued pondering things over before retracting his gaze and forcing a smile onto his face. He had no ability to snoop around, so it was fine as long as he maintained a glimmer of hope in his heart.

In the blink of an eye, another half month passed by. Now, Lu Yin had memorized all of the words on the stone wall. But he could only recite it section by section, and it was completely impossible for him to memorize it as a singular passage.

Lu Yin’s expression changed when he saw the elder leave. He slowly sat up, finally able to move around by himself. He wiped his body, causing a piece of skin to fall off. His body was shedding. It had recovered from his heavy injuries, and now, all of his dead skin was molting. He rubbed his still-bald head and felt the nearly imperceptible hair-roots poking out. He should be able to grow hair again soon.

Lu Yin lowered his hand, and his expression cooled. The attack on the pirate port was unforgettable, and it had been much crueller than the events that had taken place during Earth’s trial. He had even almost been turned into white meat. Lu Yin looked out of the cave and walked out to stare at the sky.

Thick layers of dark red clouds piled together as lightning streaked through them, forming an apocalyptic image. Thick smoke spouted from the ground, and occasionally, there was an intense and audible rumbling that shook the very ground.

Lu Yin looked at the ground and followed the footprints to find the elder. He found the old man sitting in front of a small mound of earth, tearfully grieving, and constantly speaking. Lu Yin listened in for a while and discovered that the elder's grandson was buried here.

The old man left the cave each day to hunt, but he also came to this place to grieve.

"Grandpa knows that it's cold in there. Don't worry. Grandpa will be with you soon and won't let you be lonely." After the elder said his final sentence, he slowly stood up.

Lu Yin immediately left.

When Lu Yin returned to the cave, the elder had not yet arrived as he was most likely hunting insects. Lu Yin tried his best to absorb some ambient star energy, but it was just too sparse. He unconsciously activated his Cosmic Art, causing nine stars to revolve around him.

The nine stars meant nine times the absorption speed. Even if the stray star energy was sparse, all of it would still be swept towards Lu Yin in a vortex, even though it felt pitifully inadequate.

The elder was dragging a giant bug's carcass towards the cave when he sensed something unusual. He dropped the bug's corpse and walked inside, where his gaze changed as soon as he saw Lu Yin. "This is... a Cosmic Art?"

Lu Yin, meanwhile, was unaware that his Cosmic Art had been discovered. He had wanted to recover his strength and was still blissfully absorbing star energy.

Chapter 195: Changing The Future

The old man's expression changed as he looked at Lu Yin. Sometimes, his expression was strange while at other times, his eyes twinkled as if he were contemplating something abstruse. When he saw the perfect galaxy that was produced with Lu Yin's ninth star, the surprise on his face became even more apparent. This did not seem like the true Cosmic Art.

"The true Cosmic Art requires one to open up thirty six meridians and completely rid themselves of all weak points. This youngster activated his Cosmic Art forcefully and managed to draw out most of its power, but that'll only work for a while. The Cosmic Art isn't something that just anyone can simulate. He'll need to go to the Cosmic Sect at some point." The old man then fell deep in thought, his eyes twinkling the entire time.

A while later, he seemed to make a decision, and with a light tap of his finger, a strong wind blew forth and struck the back of Lu Yin's head, causing him to faint again. During his time on this planet, it seemed that Lu Yin had never managed to fall asleep normally; he kept cycling between a conscious and unconscious state.

The old man walked to Lu Yin's side and lifted up the soles of his feet. "This is where the thirty-six meridians lie. To learn the authentic Cosmic Art, it's necessary to open all of them up. I wonder what those old guys at the Cosmic Sect would do if they saw what's on the bottom of your feet. Unfortunately, I wouldn't be able to see their faces." After saying this, he activated his star energy and began carving something into the soles of Lu Yin's feet.

“The moment the drawing on the bottom of your feet is exposed, your fate will be changed. I hope that you’ll be able to handle it when the time comes,” the old man muttered to himself as he stared at Lu Yin with a complex expression. He had long since undone the dark seal within the youth since there was no longer any need for it. He had merely wanted to foster a sliver of hope for himself, but now, everything depended on this kid’s luck. He had the Cosmic Sect as his background and a lot more opportunities than most. However, why would a disciple of the Cosmic Sect be in the Outerverse? It didn’t make any sense. On top of that, Lu Yin had said that he didn’t know anything about the Cosmic Sea and had been so convincing that the elder had actually believed him.

Whatever the reason, it didn’t matter even if the kid was a traitor to the Cosmic Sect. As long as his Cosmic Art was not destroyed, there would be a chance. Besides, the fact that this kid had managed to cultivate the technique to the stage of manifesting nine stars meant he had somebody powerful backing him up.

The old man would have never even dreamed that Lu Yin had actually stolen his Cosmic Art and that he genuinely knew nothing about the Cosmic Sea. The Cosmic Sect treated the Cosmic Art as a treasure, and the old man did not think that it was even possible to steal that technique; it was all a huge misunderstanding. Whether or not Lu Yin would visit the Cosmic Sect in the future or if the drawings at the bottom of his feet would ever be revealed was something that nobody knew.

Sometime later, Lu Yin regained consciousness and rubbed his temples. What’s going on? I randomly fainted again. Could it be an aftereffect of memorizing the Stonewall Scriptures?

Lu Yin looked up at the scriptures, but what he saw only left him more confused. All of the text had been erased and all that was left were numbers. What was going on? He looked around, searching for the old man.

A piece of meat flew in front of him. Lu Yin grabbed it and looked towards the entrance of the cave as the old man walked over. “Eat that and keep memorizing.”

Lu Yin was speechless. “Seriously? Even the numbers?”

“Cut the crap and just do what I tell you to,” the old man shouted back.

Lu Yin felt an urge to curse the old man; the numbers covered the entirety of the stone wall. It had taken him nearly a month to memorize all of the text from before, but now there was a set of numbers too?!

“Don’t worry. These numbers won’t put much pressure on you, and you’ll be able to memorize them very quickly,” the old man explained when he saw Lu Yin looking increasingly dispirited.

Only after hearing that did Lu Yin perk up a bit. If there wasn’t any spiritual pressure, then it wouldn’t be too difficult to memorize all of these numbers. He was a Melder, after all, and his five senses had become much more sensitive than before.

“By the way, I remember you said that you had comprehended battle force. Give it a go,” the old man suddenly said.

Lu Yin was slightly confused, but he did as the old man asked. Streams of air circled around him. Then, black battle force immediately covered his entire body before purple lines emerged within that. Black battle force with purple lines—this was the hallmark characteristic of three-lined battle force.

Lu Yin looked at his own body in disbelief. Three lines? How did I improve so much? He should have only been at the initial stages of battle force.

The old man, on the other hand, was not surprised at all. "As I thought, your body has very good potential, and you managed to jump from the beginning stages to three lines, which isn't too bad. Compared to the people in your generation, you're relatively strong."

"How's this possible?" Lu Yin was still confused.

The old man snickered. "Because you died."

Lu Yin was bewildered.

The old man's lips curved up as he matter-of-factly explained, "There's a very strange technique that exists in the universe called the Arcane Art - Fatal Revival. This technique isn't difficult in and of itself, but the requirements to train in it are very specific. Almost nobody in the universe can do it, as it's meant for the dead."

Lu Yin narrowed his eyes as he continued to stare at the old man.

"When you first fell to this planet, you activated your battle techniques to the extreme so that you wouldn't get eaten. You then had a stand-off with those slaves for days. When I finally found you, you immediately fainted, though fainting is the wrong word. You actually died there." The old man observed Lu Yin's reaction. When he saw that Lu Yin was still confused, the old man continued, saying, "I manipulated your energy to activate the Fatal Revival. The technique can't heal your injuries. Rather, it actually makes things worse. I tested that technique on you out of curiosity, but you somehow lived, so I guess you managed to succeed in learning this technique."

"How did I survive?" Lu Yin asked with a frown.

"How would I know? Either way, you're alive. I told you before that, with your injuries, most people wouldn't survive for more than a day no matter how powerful they were. Being that severely injured is as good as being dead. I made you use that technique purely out of curiosity, but since you're alive, you'll be able to reap the benefits from it," the old man said enviously.

Lu Yin smiled wryly. "I've already trained in many other techniques. It'll be impossible for me to work on any more."

"Don't worry, you won't need to put any time into training it because only the dead can do so. It's only use is to make one last gamble. If you die, that's it, but if you live, then congratulations. You'll undergo a huge transformation, just like now," the old man said.

Lu Yin looked at his hands, which still had purple lines flowing through them. He could sense that he'd gotten markedly stronger. This was what he had received in exchange for gambling with his life.

"Does this mean that I can keep using Fatal Revival to upgrade my battle force?" Lu Yin asked. If his battle force could improve this much with each usage, anybody would be eager to use such a technique again.

The old man shook his head. "Like I already said, it can't be trained at will, which means that you can't deliberately use it. It's a gamble. At the moment of your death, it compresses and ignites all of your

potential. Everyone has some regenerative ability, but Fatal Revival does not activate this potential, and it actually suppresses a person's regenerative abilities so that their injuries will worsen. The potential will then be transformed into strength. When you die, you lose everything, but if you live, all that strength will return to you. You don't need to be so surprised that your battle force grew so much stronger, because you received that in exchange for nearly dying."

Lu Yin eyed the old man, "So you're saying that you used the technique on me not because you wanted to save me, but because you were curious?"

The old man proudly admitted to it.

Lu Yin looked away. Nobody would believe such a fantastic tale. This old man had clearly been hoping to find someone who was able to memorize those scriptures so that he could send them to a specific person. However, the place that the elder was speaking of was far too dangerous, which was why he had kept gambling on trying to find someone who could survive through Fatal Revival. Whoever managed to survive would become much stronger and would naturally have a better chance of success of fulfilling his mission. Lu Yin definitely wasn't the only one whom the old man had used the technique on, but he was almost certainly the only one to have survived.

The old man was truly quite merciless. When he had found Lu Yin, the young man had been practically dead, but the old man had still used a technique that suppressed his regenerative abilities. It was essentially murder, and the fact that Lu Yin had been able to survive was truly a miracle.

"Back in the day, there was someone who was envious of the technique, but was too afraid to train in it. However, to satisfy his curiosity, he found ten thousand geniuses and used the technique on them after killing them. Unfortunately, they all died. From that point on, the technique was forgotten," the old man muttered as he looked at Lu Yin with envy in his eyes.

Lu Yin chuckled. "With your current state, it seems like you're already ready to train in the Arcane Art - Fatal Revival. Keep working on it. Who knows, you might get a lot stronger and be able to fly out of here."

"Fly out? Kid, do you seriously think that I'm not even an Explorer? Let me tell you this—at my peak, I was able to vaporize over a hundred of planets like this with a single slap," the old man said disdainfully.

Lu Yin rolled his eyes. Who would believe that drivel? Even a Hunter would be hard-pressed to destroy so many planets in one move!

"Enough of that. Cut the crap and keep memorizing the scriptures." The old man pushed him forward.

Lu Yin had no choice but to look at the stone wall and continue memorizing the numbers that seemed to have no pattern.

Although there were a lot of numbers, he managed to memorize everything relatively quickly because there wasn't any spiritual pressure. To ensure that he wouldn't forget it, the old man even forced him to recite all of the numbers and text that he had written down on stone wall before. The numbers weren't difficult to memorize and recite, but the text was more of a challenge. Each time, he could only recite a

little before fainting, after which he would wake up and start over. This cycle continued for another half month.

For the last ten days, Lu Yin had done the daily hunting. While Lu Yin was well aware that the old man was very powerful, he still felt uncomfortable making an elderly man go out and find food. When he saw the desiccated ground and the nearby slaves digging up ore, Lu Yin felt rather pressured. He looked up at the sky where thick, dark-red clouds covered the planet. This place felt like a graveyard.

Tzz tzz

Lu Yin heard a chilling sound behind him, and when he turned around, he saw some strange, gigantic bugs with gigantic jaws lunging at Lu Yin. Each bug was strong enough to bite through metal and tear through the earth with a single snap. The slaves could only run away when they saw these bugs, but these creatures were Lu Yin and the old man's food.

With a boom, Lu Yin killed a bug. As he retracted his hand, he looked at the three lines of battle force covering his body in wonder as he could clearly sense how powerful he had become. What level would he be at in an academy? An Area Master? An ordinary Area Master was definitely no longer a match for him. Frankfurt only had two-lined battle force. Lu Yin might even be strong enough to claim the title of the strongest Area Master.

He wondered when he would be able to return to the academy. Lu Yin looked up again and then dragged the huge bug back to the cave.

At this point, there was only half a month left until the Astral Combat Tournament.

Lu Yin left the bug at the entrance to the cave, where he saw the old man gazing at the sky. He asked, "What are you looking at?"

The old man frowned. "Something's strange. Nobody's come to collect the ores for a whole month."

Lu Yin's eyes lit up. "Collecting ores? Who does this planet belong to? Who collects the ores? And how frequently?"

The old man eyed Lu Yin. "You really want to go back?"

"Obviously," Lu Yin retorted.

The old man burst into laughter before replying, "Don't you know how much stronger you've become over these last two and a half months?"

"Does it matter even if I become invincible? There's no point if all I can do is stare at your face." Lu Yin rolled his eyes.

The old man monotonously answered, "This planet belongs to the Leo clan."

Lu Yin was shocked. "The Leo clan?"

The old man nodded.

“That doesn’t make any sense. I was attacked in the pirate port, which means that the Leo Clan should have been attacked by enemies and might have even been destroyed. How could the perpetrators be the Leo Clan?” Lu Yin was confused.

The old man contemptuously answered, “Don’t dismiss all the possibilities before coming to a conclusion. The truth is that this planet really does belong to the Leo clan.”

Chapter 196: Your Name

After listening to what the old man had to say, Lu Yin sighed. The Leo clan, the pirate port, the attack... He felt like he had stumbled upon something important, but it didn’t really make sense yet.

The old man matter-of-factly continued on, saying, “If a person meets an enemy who’s too powerful, he’ll first hide himself while eliminating any traces that could lead back to him.”

Lu Yin’s eyes shone with understanding as he clenched his fists. Yes, if this planet really did belong to the Leo clan, then the only reason why they would ever attack their own pirate port would be to fabricate a battle so that they could destroy all evidence that could lead back to them. By doing so, the entire clan could disappear into the vast universe, and the events would also help them escape from stronger enemies. He had simply been unlucky enough to be at the wrong place at the wrong time. An unimportant person was pitifully forgettable—nobody would try to help them even if they had been accidentally injured. Lu Yin believed that when the Leo clan realized that Zhuo Daynight was there, they would definitely not throw her onto this kind of planet. When it came down to it, status determined everything, and now, Lu Yin found himself desiring it.

He did not want to be sacrificed this easily again in the future. So what if he was powerful? Unless he was invincible, he would only ever be a chess piece. That was not what he wanted; he wanted to be the player. Lu Yin’s recent misfortunes had left an indelible mark on him, and this inhumane torture had changed the way he thought.

The old man looked into Lu Yin’s eyes and saw something change, causing the corners of his lips to curve up. Sometimes, just one sentence was enough to spark someone’s transformation.

“You just said that the Leo clan hasn’t been here for a month to collect ores, which means they’ve left, right?” Lu Yin enquired.

The old man shook his head. “This planet is well hidden, and the Leo clan won’t easily give it up. However...” The old man paused as his eyes darkened. “The moment they give it up, the entire planet will turn to dust.”

Lu Yin’s heart skipped a beat. “What do you mean? Is this planet going to be destroyed?”

The old man nodded. “Large organizations like them have their own methods of removing their trail. You said that you were thrown onto this planet after the attack on the pirate port. If the Leo clan truly wanted to disappear, then there shouldn’t have been any moves from them after the attack, but you were thrown on this planet. Your existence alone is proof that the Leo clan still exists. In order to destroy all evidence, they’ll definitely abandon this planet and will obviously destroy it in the process.”

“The Leo clan doesn’t even know if I’m alive,” Lu Yin said.

The old man disdainfully replied, "They don't need to know that. They simply want to destroy all possible evidence that could show that they still exist. Even if it's a piece of unfinished white meat, it's still possible to analyze it and determine what kind of meat it is and how long it's existed for."

"What about you? Why are you on this planet?" Lu Yin suddenly changed the topic. With how incredibly calm this old man was, he might have a way to escape.

"You may or may not learn more about me in the future, but now is not the time." All of a sudden, the old man's expression changed. "I was right, kiddo. Pray, because whether or not you'll survive depends solely on this moment."

Lu Yin looked up and his pupils shrank. He saw a beam of light strike the ground. It was such a familiar, memorable sight, as it was those same exact beams of light that had nearly claimed his life before.

Boom!

The earth trembled and shockwaves rippled out towards them from the distance as violent winds dispersed the thick clouds. This was the first time Lu Yin was able to see outer space from the planet's surface.

Large cracks spread across the ground as rivers of steaming red lava appeared from deep underground. The old man grabbed Lu Yin and soared into the sky. While many of Lu Yin's injuries had healed, and even though he was able to use battle force now, his innards were still gravely injured, and it was impossible for him to escape from the destruction on his own.

"Kid, there's a spacecraft five li north of where my grandson's buried. Good luck." He suddenly flung Lu Yin away and brought his palms together. An indescribable chant filled the air. It seemed to have come from the ancient past or the distant future, crossing through time and space to charge straight into the universe.

Above Driftcharge Planet, a huge warcraft floated in orbit as it shot out a stream of light beams, attempting to completely destroy the planet.

Within the spacecraft, a youth's eyes shone as he watched Driftcharge Planet being bombarded with attacks. He sighed in praise, "Thank you for letting me watch, Grandpa Sam! I rarely get the chance to watch a planet be destroyed. It's beautiful!"

Somewhere nearby, a middle-aged man smiled while arrogantly gazing at the planet. "This is one of our properties, but we have to give it up or else our enemies will discover that it belongs to us."

"Are there any people on the planet?" the youth asked curiously.

The middle-aged man laughed. "They're not really people, only slaves."

"It's a pity that I can't see the moment where they get smashed to bits," the youth sighed regretfully.

The middle-aged man chuckled, "There'll be many more opportunities for that in the future. When we get to some other regions, I'll capture more slaves for you to play with."

"Thank you, Grandpa Sam!" The youth was delighted.

All of a sudden, a mysterious chanting resounded throughout Driftcharge Planet's atmosphere and burst out into space.

The ultra-large spacecraft swayed and everyone watched on in shock. Grandpa Sam's expression changed before becoming excited. "It's an inheritance! An ancient inheritance! I didn't expect that an abandoned planet would actually have one!" After saying that, he rushed out of the spacecraft and charged towards Driftcharge Planet along with numerous other people, all of them rushing toward the planet at maximum speed.

They were all members of the Leo clan who had the ability to travel through the universe without a spacecraft. Amongst them all, Grandpa Sam was the only Cruiser in the family. They were all guardians of the Leo clan and had noticed the old man rushing forward, which led to all of them darting towards the planet as well. For people like them, the destruction of a planet could not threaten their lives at all. Only this inheritance mattered right now.

Lu Yin crashed into the ground, far away from the skinny old man. Right next to him was the old man's grandson's grave. Lu Yin gazed into the distance, at the old man who had created such a huge ruckus. What is that old man trying to do?

"Go, kid. Remember to keep memorizing and reciting the Stonewall Scriptures; it'll be good for you. I've already undone the dark seal in you, so forget everything that's happened here and live on," the old man's voice sounded next to Lu Yin's ear.

Lu Yin stared at the old man with mixed feelings. The two of them had spent two and a half months together. Things had started with Lu Yin's distrust for the old man, followed by annoyance, and now... Lu Yin didn't actually know what his feelings toward the old man were. It was complicated. Whatever they were, this person had saved his life and helped him improve greatly.

"Let's go together!" Lu Yin shouted.

The old man turned around, and even though his face was so gaunt that he looked like a skeleton, he managed to smile brightly. Lu Yin even saw some kindness and happiness in his sunken eyes. "That's all I needed to hear. Live on, my child. Go, and I'll pave the way for you."

Lu Yin felt strong currents of wind rise around him and push him towards the north. There was a spacecraft there that had been prepared for him.

"What's your name?" Lu Yin yelled.

"Hahaha, I've roamed the universe freely all my life, but now, I'm going to die in some pathetic place like the Outerverse. What a joke. What a joke the heavens have played on me." The old man laughed maniacally after saying these words. Several people landed at this moment: the powerhouses from the Leo clan.

When they saw the old man, they were all shocked beyond belief. Why is there such a powerful cultivator here?

“It’ll be your honor to die with me.” The old man waved his arm and the entire Driftcharge Planet seemed to change. It felt like time had stopped, and all of the Leo clan powerhouses were rendered powerless in front of the old man, including the Cruiser realm powerhouse. They were all seemingly frozen in time and space.

Lu Yin hit the ground once more and saw this scene when he glanced back. He did not understand how the old man had managed to do such a thing as the gap in strength between them was too massive. Immediately after, the void erupted, and a black spatial crack devoured everything in its way as it condensed into a black hole.

Lu Yin’s pupils shrank, and he slapped the ground with one palm, revealing a personal spacecraft. He entered without hesitation and turned it on.

The spacecraft wobbled unsteadily as it slowly rose into the air. Off in the distance, the black hole’s event horizon continued growing; it had already devoured the old man and the Leo clan powerhouses. Soon, it would devour the entire planet.

The surface of the planet had already been ravaged beyond recognition, with plumes of lava spewing out haphazardly everywhere. Soon, the blackhole ate it all up, causing it all to vanish. Far off in the distance, some slaves screamed, but nobody could save them. Lava flowed towards them like a tidal wave, wiping everything out.

The spacecraft made a clunking sound as it took off at full speed, escaping from the black hole as it shot through the atmosphere and appeared in outer space. Lu Yin turned around and watched as Driftcharge Planet gradually disappeared from view.

In front of him, an ultra-large spacecraft entered his sight. It was the Leo clan’s spacecraft.

A pulling force took hold of the personal spacecraft that Lu Yin was on, dragging it into the Leo clan’s spacecraft.

Everyone in the Leo clan was anxiously staring at where the planet used to be. The planet was almost completely devoured now, so why hadn’t the powerhouses from their family still not come back yet?

The personal spacecraft jerked and Lu Yin opened his eyes. As soon as the door opened, dozens of cultivators from the Leo clan surrounded him, staring at him cautiously. “Get out immediately.”

Lu Yin slowly walked out. He was only wearing a tattered rag and looked like a primitive Cro-Magnon. His hair was long, and his face was black, making him indistinguishable from a common slave.

“Take him to the young master,” someone said. It was one of the at least five Limiteers on the spacecraft.

Lu Yin did not move; with his Invisible Aura Technique, these people had no idea how powerful he truly was. At the moment, all they could think about was finding out what had happened down on Driftwood Planet. All of the powerhouses from their clan had gone down there, which was a disaster for them. Without that protective shield, the clan would not be able to move their resources.

This ultra-huge spacecraft was comparable to a small city with a population of more than a hundred thousand people, all floating in space. The one in charge had been the Cruiser, but now that he had

disappeared along with the planet, the Leo clan was in a state of panic. They were anxious to discover what had happened from Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was pushed through a door and into a main hall where he was encircled by people of the Leo clan.

Lu Yin's gaze swept over the people here. These were the ones who had caused him to nearly die. That single beam of light had cast him into the abyss while they were completely oblivious to the consequences of their actions.

"What happened on Driftcharge Planet?" a middle-aged man asked while staring intently at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin narrowed his eyes. This person was fairly strong and gave him a sense of danger. The man should be a peak Limiteer who was comparable to an Area Master. Additionally, there were many other peak Limiteers around him.

These people weren't as talented as the Astral Combat Academy's students who had reached that level of strength at a young age. However, with time, they'd managed to attain a strength that was at the level of an Area Master or even stronger. Thankfully, Lu Yin hadn't discovered any Limiteers nearby who gave him a sense of extreme danger, which meant that the Leo clan no longer had a Limiteer that was comparable to a Realm Master.

The most powerful person had been the Cruiser who died on Driftcharge Planet.

Chapter 197: Creating An Explosion

"My father asked you a question. Answer him," the young man shouted as he gestured with a hand. Someone then walked over from behind Lu Yin and raised his hand to strike Lu Yin's stomach. But Lu Yin's eyes shone at that moment. When the person behind Lu Yin lifted his arm, blood splattered on the wall—the man was already dead.

"How dare you!" Numerous Limiteers were about to attack Lu Yin, but as his eyes narrowed, three-lined battle force appeared around him, shocking everyone present. This was especially true for the most powerful Limiteer, whose pupils shrank as he felt a chill crawl down his spine.

Ordinary battle techniques were nothing compared to three-lined battle force. Even though Lu Yin was seriously injured and unable to use his battle techniques, just his battle force alone was enough for him to annihilate these two Limiteers without breaking a sweat. The most powerful Leo Clan Limiteer shouted as star energy flowed across his body like violent lightning as he punched out at Lu Yin. Lu Yin raised a hand and tried to block the punch, but his entire body was forced out of the room and into the hallway.

Numerous soldiers of the Leo Clan surged in the direction that Lu Yin was thrown, and multiple star energy spears were launched at him. However, they weren't able to harm him at all.

Another crackle of lightning shook the room as another punch emerged in front of Lu Yin. His eyes narrowed as he twisted to the side to dodge it. Lu Yin then activated his Cosmic Art, allowing him to see the lightning even more clearly than before. He turned to the side once again and evaded the third strike. Battle force gathered at the tip of his finger, and with a single tap, was sent straight to the man's heart. However, this man was worthy of being the Leo Clan's most powerful Limiteer. He managed to dodge Lu Yin's attack as he continuously retreated.

From the left and right of Lu Yin, more and more Limiteers swarmed him.

Lu Yin coughed up some blood as his organs couldn't handle such an onslaught of attacks. Although these Limiteers couldn't compare to the Area Masters from the Astral Combat Academy, they were all rich in terms of battle experience, which meant that Lu Yin could not handle all of them at once. He could only take advantage of the fact that everyone had moved to attack him to use Flash to move next to the young man who had ordered them around earlier. He forcefully endured the pain from his injuries, grabbed him by the throat, and then turned to face the others.

Everyone from the Leo Clan stopped what they were doing. "Let the young master go."

"Release my son!" the middle-aged man shouted.

Lu Yin's eyes twinkled. "If you let me go, I'll let him go as well."

"Fine, we'll let you go, so let him go first," someone yelled.

Lu Yin snickered. "Do you think that I'm an idiot? Screw off."

Everyone slowly moved backwards while still glaring at him. Meanwhile, that young master had been scared stupid; he'd never been in a hostage situation before and could not stop himself from trembling.

Lu Yin held him tightly and whispered in his ear, "Take me to the warehouse."

The young man was surprised by the demand. "Wh-What are you planning?"

Lu Yin gripped his throat tightly, "If you don't want to die, keep your mouth shut. I just want to destroy the mechanical section so that you won't be able to chase my spacecraft. Do it immediately, or I'll tear a limb off."

The young man was terrified and immediately led the way.

Lu Yin was not at all worried about the young man trying anything funny. It would be very difficult for anyone to deal with Lu Yin in a closed area, such as inside a spacecraft. One way was to overwhelm him with numbers, but all of the important people in the Leo Clan were here, and it would be easy for Lu Yin to capture one as a hostage. Additionally, all he wanted to do was leave this place. Revenge would have to wait until he completely recovered from his injuries. As long as he could use his battle techniques again, it wouldn't matter even if he was fighting against twice the current number of people.

"Are you the head of this family?" Lu Yin asked as he looked at the middle-aged man.

The man nodded calmly and then said, "As long as you let my son go and tell me what happened on Driftcharge Planet, I can let you leave safely."

Lu Yin narrowed his eyes. "Prepare ten million star crystals in exchange for your son's life."

Everyone was shocked, including the young man who was being held.

"Ten million? Are you crazy?" The middle-aged man bellowed. The others also glared fiercely at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's eyes glimmered. Is that considered a lot? Ever since Undying Yushan had mocked him for thinking that he had extorted "bribes" from the Great Yu Empire officials when it was truly just welcome

gifts, Lu Yin had decided that he would be more liberal when it came to money. But by the looks of it, he'd gone a bit overboard in this case. As the emperor of the Great Yu Empire, Undying Yushan had only given him a hundred thousand star crystals. No matter how powerful the Leo Clan was, it could not possibly compare to the Great Yu Empire. After Lu Yin had robbed those pirates who had been in the business people for years, he had only gotten a couple hundred thousand crystals. Although ten million crystals was an amount that the Leo Clan could afford, they definitely wouldn't pay that much for the person he was currently holding hostage.

"How much can you give me?" Lu Yin coldly asked.

The middle-aged man grit his teeth. "Five hundred thousand at most. I don't have any more than that."

The man had cut the price by a large amount, but Lu Yin thought it over briefly before nodding. "Alright, get it ready."

The middle-aged man gave one of the Limiteers behind him a look, and the person immediately left.

With his hostage leading the way, Lu Yin slowly made his way over to the mechanical section. This was the core area of the ultra-large spacecraft where the delicate workings of the ship were housed and maintained.

When Lu Yin got closer to the core place, the expressions of the Leo Clan members changed, especially that of the middle-aged man. He glared hard at his son, because he was the person guiding Lu Yin.

"What are you planning, kid? Let my son go, and I can let you leave!" the middle-aged man exclaimed. He could not let Lu Yin continue moving in this direction.

Lu Yin stopped where he was. "Where's my money?"

"It's here. Take it." The Limiteer who had gone to get the money tossed a cosmic ring at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin sent out a gust of wind and blew the cosmic ring into the mechanical section. It went through the door and landed near the core machinery.

The middle-aged man's expression drastically changed. "Get it!"

The Limiteer instantly paled and charged after the ring.

Lu Yin's gaze remained frigid. "I knew that you would do something like this." He then pushed that young man into the mechanical section while he made a hole in the ceiling and escaped through it.

The middle-aged man bellowed angrily and chased after Lu Yin as a red alert warning resounded throughout the spacecraft.

After the warning, an explosion came out from the mechanical section. The middle-aged man stopped where he was and his expression changed. He stopped pursuing Lu Yin and instead darted back toward the mechanical section. That was the one place where they could not afford to take damage.

Lu Yin did not leave the spacecraft. Instead, after thinking things over, he rushed towards the outermost layer of the spacecraft, where the armory was located.

Along the way, numerous troops pursued after him, and quite a few Limiteers tried to stop him, but their attempts all failed. Despite the pain of his injuries, Lu Yin wanted to try to get some revenge. He had initially wanted to take revenge in the future, but the Leo Clan was obviously very adept at concealing itself. If he let them go right now, who knew when he'd be able to find them again?

He had even come up with a plan to exact revenge...

The explosion in the mechanical section had finally been contained. However, the moment the middle-aged man heard that Lu Yin was headed towards the armory, his expression completely changed. He no longer cared about what damage the spacecraft would sustain, and like what Lu Yin had done earlier, he smashed through the walls straight towards the armory.

However, Lu Yin still arrived first, and he easily dealt with the Limiteers guarding the area. The weapons had not been sealed off and were still aimed at Driftcharge Planet. He had originally intended to turn the weapons that had attacked the planet onto the spacecraft itself, but the spacecraft had its own protective mechanisms, and it was impossible to train the weapons onto itself. However, every warcraft also had self-destruct mechanisms to prevent it from being taken over by enemies.

Lu Yin did not know where the self-destruct trigger was, so his only option was to create a huge explosion with the weapons themselves.

By the time the middle-aged man arrived, the armory was already set up to explode, causing him to shout out in alarm, "Stop!"

All of a sudden, the spacecraft gave an unexpected warning that the self-destruct system had been activated.

Lu Yin burst into laughter; he was too lucky today. The spacecraft's self-destructive system was actually right inside the armory!

The middle-aged man bellowed in anger and immediately rushed towards the system, wanting to disarm it.

Lu Yin matched his momentum, and with a bang, the two collided and were both sent flying backwards.

"Who are you?" the middle-aged man yelled in anger, his eyes bloodshot.

Lu Yin icily replied, "Someone who was forced into hell by your Leo Clan."

"I can make up for it," the man yelled as he desperately charged towards the self-destruct system once again.

Lu Yin lifted a leg and kicked out. Three-lined battle force was just too terrifying. Even though he had no star energy and couldn't use any battle techniques, he was still able to suppress the head of a large family. The middle-aged man was rendered completely helpless against Lu Yin's three-lined battle force. Each move left him injured, but as more and more powerhouses from the Leo Clan appeared, Lu Yin eventually realized that he wouldn't be able to deal with them all, and so, he had no choice but to escape.

Only two Limiteers chased after him while the rest all rushed to the system. However, because of the residual damage from the recent battle, the system had malfunctioned and the self-destruct sequence could no longer be stopped.

The middle-aged man shouted, "Hurry! Get the young master and escape!"

The entire spacecraft was enveloped in terror.

Lu Yin did his best to endure the pain wracking his entire body as he tore through all the walls in his way. He quickly found the location where the personal spacecrafts were stored, turned around, and then punched out with both fists. The two Limiteers attacked at the same time. One of them had an innate gift and emitted a disturbing noise that caused Lu Yin's brain to momentarily short circuit. His attacks froze in midair and he was struck. He hit quite a few personal spacecraft and spat out a mouthful of blood. The three-lined battle force on him also gradually vanished.

Battle force was not unlimited. To begin with, his body had already been gravely injured, and he could no longer handle the physical stress of being damaged further.

The two Limiteers immediately went after him to finish him off.

Lu Yin looked up and punched forward. A Nine Stacks Ninefold Shockwave Palm sent one of the Limiteers staggering, but the other one's attack landed. However, Lu Yin still managed to grab that attacker's arm, and with a low growl, sent them flying. This was done through pure physical strength. However, this placed a massive burden on his inner organs, and he coughed up blood again.

The moment he downed the two Limiteers, Lu Yin got into a personal spacecraft and immediately started it up.

The two Limiteers attacked again, and this time, Lu Yin retaliated by shouting, "This spacecraft is about to explode! Do you really want to die with it?"

They froze and exchanged looks.

At this point, most of the Leo Clan's troops arrived, all looking for a spacecraft. The two Limiteers grit their teeth and then headed to a personal spacecraft to escape as well.

These ultra-large spacecraft generally kept hundreds of individual spacecrafts on board. However, compared to the number of Leo Clan members on board, there were still way too few. At this moment, there were less than fifteen seconds before the spacecraft self-destructed.

The spacecraft that Lu Yin was seated in was the first to be activated, and it quickly charged out of the large spacecraft and into outer space. Shortly after, the other spacecraft escaped one after another.

Sadly enough, perhaps because of the system's malfunction, only a dozen or so spacecraft were able to successfully escape. The rest were all trapped next to the door of the hangar as the imminent self-destruction of the spacecraft neared. All that could be heard were mourning yells of despair.

Chapter 198: Lu Yin's Benefactor

Within the large spacecraft, the middle-aged man was deep in anguish. The Leo Clan that had existed for so many years was done for, and it was all because of some random person who had come out of

nowhere. The clan head refused to take this lying down, and he turned to look outside the spacecraft, just in time to see Lu Yin fleeing inside a personal spacecraft.

The middle-aged man's eyes were filled with bloodlust. "If we're going to die, then don't even think about surviving." As he shouted, he aimed a weapon at Lu Yin's spacecraft.

Lu Yin felt his scalp go numb as a desperate chill overcame him. He sensed extreme danger, the same feeling that he had felt moments before he was struck by that light beam back at the pirate port. He turned around, and his gaze seemed to pierce through space to see the crazed head of the Leo Clan.

"DIE!" the middle-aged man shouted, and like a madman, he fired the cannon.

Rumble!

All of a sudden, the first explosion struck the ultra-large spacecraft, causing the entire vessel to sway slightly and the weapon to lose aim. The beam of light brushed by the personal spacecraft that Lu Yin was in and shot off into empty space. Shortly after, the ultra-large spacecraft burst into flames and the entire spacecraft was consumed by a final explosion.

While Lu Yin had not been directly hit by the beam of light, it had nonetheless still damaged the hull. He could feel an extreme force pulling at him as the small spacecraft started rattling dangerously. Air was being rapidly sucked out, and the low pressure made it difficult for Lu Yin to breathe. Things were bad and this personal spacecraft was done for.

As the ominous clanking sounds intensified, Lu Yin frowned. So, in the end, I still wasn't able to escape from the calamity on Driftcharge Planet. My death is imminent.

As his spacecraft broke apart, Lu Yin found himself drifting through outer space. The huge pressure differential nearly caused his body to explode, but fortunately, thanks to his body's astounding physical strength, he did not die right away. He tightly held onto the hatch door. When the shockwaves from the ultra-large spacecraft's explosion reached them, the hatch door was mercilessly launched deeper into space like a comet.

By this point, Lu Yin had already lost consciousness. He was merely a Melder and could not survive in space on his own. Death was just a matter of time, and in this situation, he unconsciously activated the Arcane Art - Fatal Revival.

Not too far away, another ultra-large spacecraft was cruising through space. Within the control room, someone exclaimed, "Sir, there's been an explosion on our starboard. I think that a spacecraft exploded!"

"Ignore it. We'll keep going."

"Yes, Sir."

But then, there was another sudden shout. "S-Sir, look! There's someone floating through space!"

Everybody in the control room looked at the display in shock as it revealed the image of a spacecraft's hatch door drifting by, on which clung a young man dressed in rags. He looked to be quite young and was gravely injured.

“Zoom in!” the pilot said as he frowned.

The image on the screen expanded until everyone could see who the young man was.

The pilot was surprised. “It’s him?! Save him immediately!”

Meanwhile, inside a luxurious lounge, a beautiful woman was looking at a star chart, deep in thought. The pilot’s voice suddenly came through from her gadget. “Madam, please take a look at this.”

The woman looked at her gadget and the displayed image. Her expression changed quickly as she commanded, “Save him immediately! I’ll be right there.”

Not long after, Lu Yin was secured and brought into the spacecraft. Someone quickly transported him to the sickbay, and a number of doctors began treating him.

“Madam, this child’s injuries are too serious. It’s a miracle that he’s even alive.”

“What a powerful body. It’s comparable to an Explorer’s.”

“His innards are seriously injured, and his injuries seem to be getting worse. It’s as if his regenerative abilities are being repressed.”

“Huh? He’s only a Melder? It’s a miracle that he even managed to survive in space.”

...

“I didn’t think we’d end up meeting him again so soon, madam,” the pilot whispered.

This woman was Madam Nalan. As she watched the doctors discussing amongst themselves, she had a strange look in her eyes. “It’s fate. In this vast universe, it’d be unlikely to run into an entire planet even with your eyes closed, and yet, we have managed to run into this same person twice. And on top of that, each time was at a moment when he needed help the most.”

“You’re his benefactor,” the pilot said with a grin.

Madam Nalan watched as Lu Yin was being treated, and the corner of her lips quirked up. “His benefactor? Perhaps I am.”

There was still about half a month left before the Astral Combat Tournament started, and currently, Lu Yin was being treated by Madam Nalan.

For seven consecutive days, every doctor on the Nalan Family spacecraft did everything in their power to treat Lu Yin, and they barely managed to keep him alive. The price that they had to pay was immense, and many precious herbs from the Inniverse had been used on him.

“How is he?” Madam Nalan inquired as she observed Lu Yin lying naked in the nutritional fluid without even blinking.

A doctor whispered back, “The child’s injuries are quite serious, and he doesn’t have the ability to heal himself. However, despite all that, he’s managed to remain alive. After all of our efforts, he’ll live, but it’s hard to tell when he’ll wake up.”

Madam Nalan acknowledged his report with a nod.

At this moment, the door opened, and a girl in a long white dress with refined features walked in. The most attention-grabbing aspect about her was the sword on her back. It wasn't an ancient, detailed sword like those from Ten Thousand Swords Peak, but rather, it was attention-grabbing in its simple design. One could even say that it had no style.

"Who is this person?" the girl asked. She also looked straight at Lu Yin, as if she didn't even acknowledge that he was of a different gender.

Nalan smiled. "He's your classmate from Astral-10, Lu Yin."

The girl was surprised. "Astral-10? I thought that it had disappeared."

"You really don't know much about the Outerverse. This child is much more than he seems. He's the leader of Astral-10, just like how you are the leader of your academy," Madam Nalan said.

The girl was surprised and eyed Lu Yin once more. Regardless of what state Astral-10 was currently in, becoming a leader was no easy feat. However, he was a mere Melder.

"Since Astral-10 still exists, I don't need to rush back to the Innerverse anymore. I'll go straight to Astral-10," the girl firmly stated.

Madam Nalan's eyes lit up, "Of course! How could I have forgotten? Astral-10 is closer, so I'll contact them."

Meanwhile, within Astral-10, the Sandmaster stood quietly in the sand while sizing up Big Pao and Little Pao. The two brothers were exchanging glances.

"You know, Little Pao, I'm getting old. Why don't you give the position of Astral-10's seed to me? I'll remember it forever."

"No, I want to be the seeded student."

"Don't you know anything about humility?"

"That's what I should be saying. You shouldn't be bullying someone younger than you! Don't think that I haven't noticed this: you just want everyone's eyes on you so that you can become famous. The top ten will be up on that platform, and there'll be a huge commotion about them."

"You're heartless."

"If you keep arguing, I won't let you listen to Xi Yue's albums anymore."

"You...!"

...

The Sandmaster grew irritated at their bickering. "Shut up, you useless things."

Big Pao and Little Pao immediately shut their mouths.

At this moment, the Sandmaster's gadget rang, causing him to frown. Truthfully, he hated this thing, but he had been put in charge of running Astral-10 team as the other old men couldn't be bothered with such things.

“Who is it?” The Sandmaster sounded like he was in a terrible mood.

On his gadget’s display, a girl frowned and said, “Greetings, Sandmaster. I’m the leader of Astral-7, Liu Xiaoyun.”

The Sandmaster was astonished. “The leader of Astral-7? Why are you contacting me?”

Big Pao and Little Pao were just as shocked by this call. If she was the leader of Astral-7, then wouldn’t that make her a Realm Master? And a member of the Council of Astral Academy as well? This was someone who possessed real authority, and it had been a long time since anyone from Astral-10 had talked to someone this important.

“I would like to enter the tournament from Astral-10. Please approve it,” Liu Xiaoyun said.

The Sandmaster was confused. “Why not enter from your own academy?”

“I’m currently not in the Inniverse, but rather the Outerverse,” she explained.

The Sandmaster made a sound of understanding. “Alright then, just come over.”

“Thank you very much, sir. There’s one more thing. The leader of your academy, Lu Yin, is currently with me. We’ll head over together,” Liu Xiaoyun casually added on.

The Sandmaster was shocked. “Lu Yin? He’s still alive?”

“He’s alive, but very badly injured. However, he should be able to recover in time for the tournament.”

“When are you arriving?”

“Based on our speed, it’ll take us about ten days to arrive. The tournament starts in seven days, so we’ll most likely only arrive when the drawing of lots actually begins.”

The Sandmaster said in a low voice, “Got it. Hurry over.” With that, he ended the call and looked up to see Big Pao and Little Pao, completely bewildered.

“There’s no need to fight over it anymore. The seeded position is going to Lu Yin’s. He can’t make it before the competition’s start, so he can only be a seeded student. He’ll be in time for that, at least,” Sandmaster explained.

“He’s not dead? That’s amazing! It’s a miracle that he managed to survive after being struck by that beam of light,” Big Pao said admiringly.

Little Pao also said, “Let him be the seeded student then. But he’s pretty unlucky to have to stand next to the Realm Masters from the other nine academies. Hehe, it’s gonna be stressful.”

The Sandmaster started to get annoyed by them again. “Okay, enough of this. Scram.”

When the tournament started, each academy had to pick a seeded student who would take part in the section of drawing lots. Usually, the leader of each academy would take this position, but Astral-10 only had a leader among its new students, and he wasn’t actually the leader of all of Astral-10. However, when Astral-10 submitted Lu Yin’s name, it stirred up quite a ruckus. News of Lu Yin being killed at the

pirate port had already spread far and wide, but Astral-10 had still submitted his name, so this shocked quite a number of people.

Everywhere, there were people wondering if Astral-10 was trying to confuse everyone with this. However, neither Astral-10 nor Lu Yin received news of this.

Seven days later, within Zenyu Star's palace in the Great Yu Empire, a huge screen had been erected. This was connected to the universal network and would be livestreaming the entire Astral Combat Tournament.

This occurred not only at the palace, but also on almost all of the screens in Zenyu Star. Almost everybody would be watching this tournament as it was a huge event for the entire universe.

Within the Huo Family's mansion, Huo Xiaoling looked at the screen with a complicated look in her eyes. She had participated in the entrance exam for Astral-10 but had failed. Otherwise, she would be among the people on that screen. While she thought about this, Huo Xiaoling recalled Schutz and Lu Yin. One was the most powerful of his generation in the Great Yu Empire while the other was King Zishan. These two would probably appear in this tournament!

The Auna Family was also watching their screen. They were going to view the full tournament.

A list of the seeded students from the ten academies appeared, and the tenth seed was Lu Yin.

"There are rumors that he died, but not only did he not die, he even became a seeded student!" Rocky Auna told Xueshan Auna in excitement.

Xueshan Auna watched the screen with just as much excitement and exhaled happily. "That's great to hear. I'm just glad that he didn't die."

Not too far away, Jenny Auna stared at the screen in surprise.

Within Yu Academy, Gerbach, Tian Ming, and the others were all crowded around a screen. Everyone was watching for fun, but they were also watching to see the difference between them and the students of the Astral Combat Academy. This was an order from Wendy Yushan. The Astral Combat Tournament was a battle between the strongest of their generation, and Wendy Yushan wanted them to see just how far they were away from them.

"I didn't think that King Zishan would be Astral-10's seeded student. That's terrifying."

"Right. Schutz isn't even seeded. Does that mean that he's stronger than Schutz?"

"He can't be. Schutz is the strongest in our Great Yu Empire."

...

In the Sixth Squadron's hall, Peach kept smacking her lips as she shoveled in snacks by the handful and stared wide-eyed at the screen. Hurry up! I've been waiting for ages for this. Good luck, Lu Yin!

A spacecraft floated through space. Inside, the second prince, Duke Yushan, intently watched the screen. At this moment, he was not as relaxed as he had been on Zenyu Star. He exuded fatigue from every pore of his body, and he seemed rather upset.

On another spacecraft, an armed mercenary group was also looking at a screen. During this Astral Combat Tournament, all civil strife was forbidden in the entire human star expanse so that everyone could watch in peace.

“lan, pour the wine,” Dana commanded with crossed legs.

Behind Dana, lan stared dumbfoundedly at the screen. Lu Yin? That shameless looter? How the hell did he climb all the way up there?!

Chapter 199: Earth’s Fame

In the northern region of the Frostwave Weave, there was a water-blue planet that was dazzling to the eye. It was called Earth.

Lu Yin and the rest had left Earth quite a while ago. When they left, Earth had still been swarming with waves of zombies, and huge changes had happened since then.

When the Great Yu Empire sent its troops to eliminate the zombies on Earth, they had also refrained from interfering with its private matters. Thus, the current Earth had entered an era of unprecedented peace.

In Jinlin, a giant screen rose as countless people looked on with envy. There were rumors that the tournament that was about to be broadcasted had been organized by the universe’s greatest institution—the Astral Combat Academy. They would be able to clearly witness the strength of the universe’s powerhouses. Earth had undergone a thorough transformation and stepped onto a new path, but they had only taken their first step, and they still could not fathom how long it truly was.

A row of words appeared on the screen, listing the names of the ten seeded students.

Zhou Shan was calmly drinking water, but he spat it out the moment he saw the list. The bottom entry showed that Astral-10’s seed was Lu Yin: the Frostwave Weave’s Great Yu Empire’s King Zishan from the planet Earth.

These words shocked everyone on Earth who saw them, as their planet’s name had appeared at the universe’s most important event. The word “Earth” was clearly seen and countless individuals throughout the universe could see it too.

The entirety of Planet Earth fell into a deathly silence at that moment. This included everyone in the capital, like Huan Sha, to the old northeast blue camp, Zhao Yu, Jinlin, Zhou Shan, Feng Hong, Luo Yi, Qin Xuan, and even the green plains residents like Wu Sheng, and more were stunned speechless; everyone who knew Lu Yin was stunned. His name had actually made it onto the most dazzling list in the universe’s top tournament and had brought Earth’s name to countless eyes.

Besides China, everyone in Europe, the Americas, and Africa, regardless of their relationship with China, was cheering fanatically. They were proud of the name “Earth” and proud of Lu Yin; he was one of them, and someone who had entered the universe by himself and obtained glory.

A dispensable, insignificant planet had suddenly been thrust under the spotlight in front of the entire universe, and it brought another immense change to Earth. Just a simple row of words had motivated countless Earthlings.

In Jinlin, a mesmerizingly beautiful teen's gaze brightened as she stared at the scene.

In the capital, an ashen-faced youth lay on the ground as he stared at the last row of words on the screen. Neither the obstructing crowds nor the filthy gutters could darken his bright gaze.

In the forest, a teenager raised his head with an excited look upon his face.

...

This was the universe's most glorious stage, and they all yearned to reach that place as well.

Within the Outerverse, on a vast continent, there was a city floating in the sky called San Dios. This was where the Outerverse Youth Council's headquarters was located.

When the list of seeded students was posted, Wendy Yushan had been looking at her screen with a curious expression. The last line especially shocked her, as the insignificant bug had really climbed straight upwards and was now qualified for her to glance at.

It wasn't just the Outerverse that was watching; the various major Flowzones in the Innaverse and countless planets there also had these large screens, and everyone was eagerly awaiting the start of the Astral Combat Tournament. This was a grand occasion where the network spanned the entire universe. The purpose of this tournament was to inspire the human race itself and motivate them to make preparations for the future star expanse wars by showing that humans were not weak.

...

Within the Nalan family's spacecraft sickbay, all of the treatments targeted towards Lu Yin's condition were proceeding methodically.

"His heartbeat has obviously sped up compared to before. That means that he should recover soon."

...

"The five viscera are doing well. This kid's vitality is shocking."

...

"There're three days before we'll reach Astral-10. The madam has ordered that he must regain consciousness within these three days."

...

Intermittent noises entered Lu Yin's ears, and he frowned as his eyelids twitched. Where am I? What's happening? Driftcharge Planet, explosion, mutual destruction, the Leo Clan...

Various scenes replayed themselves in Lu Yin's mind until he suddenly saw a light beam descending from the sky that sent him into the abyss. His eyes snapped open and the sickbay exploded with a bang. The nutrient fluid scattered in all directions, and Lu Yin gasped for air as his eyes widened while the fluid dripped down from his hair, drop by drop.

Everyone around him fell silent and stared at him.

After a while, Lu Yin raised his head and surveyed his surroundings. Confused, he asked, "Where am I?"

“Hurry and inform the madam that the patient has regained consciousness and that his regenerative abilities have returned,” someone barked.

Lu Yin was dazed. The madam?

Not long after, in the luxurious lounge, Lu Yin once again met with Madam Nalan. This alluring beauty had saved his life again.

Lu Yin bowed solemnly. “Thank you, madam, for doing me the kindness of saving my life. I, Lu Yin, will never forget this. As long as madam needs me, I, Lu Yin, will not hesitate to offer my aid.”

Madam Nalan beamed at him. “You’ve matured greatly since we last met.”

After his life and death crisis at Driftcharge Planet, Lu Yin’s gaze had become deeper, and his features seemed to have matured as well. After surviving two consecutive close brushes with death, anyone would come out changed.

Not long ago, he had been in control of many things, including even Earth’s development, but the previous months’ experiences had transformed both his world view and his power.

“You’ve saved my life, and now I’ve saved yours. So, we’re even now,” Madam Nalan said with a smile as she poured Lu Yin a glass of wine.

Lu Yin accepted it and breathed in the alluring fragrance that seemed to cloud the mind. It was pleasant-smelling, but this fragrance could cause one to become numb if they indulged in it for too long. “Lu Yin will never forget the kindness that you’ve shown in saving me.”

Madam Nalan pursed her lips, smiled, and then measured Lu Yin with her eyes. “It’s the same serious expression, but you’re a completely different person who you were last time we met. It seems that you’ve experienced many things.”

Lu Yin smiled enigmatically. “Everyone must experience life. That’s right, madam, do you know how long there is until the Astral Combat Tournament starts?”

She pointed at the nearby screen as she replied, “It’s already begun.”

Lu Yin was shocked and hurriedly looked at the screen. It was showing a narrow and remote valley with many people standing on each side of the valley. They were all students. “Madam, is this it?”

“Three Academies Guarding the Gate. You should know about this.”

Lu Yin felt helpless and could only force a smile onto his face. Of course he knew what it was. Three academies would be chosen randomly, and of those three, the top ranked academy would send a student out, who would then select a student from each of the two lower ranked academies to help defend the valley. To continue on in the tournament, the three students had to intercept and stop at least half of the students who tried to cross the valley. Otherwise, the three academies would be eliminated.

But the fact that this event was starting meant that the Astral Combat Tournament had indeed begun and that Lu Yin had not made it in time.

"I never thought that I would miss the Astral Combat Tournament," Lu Yin said lamentably.

Madam Nalan gave a small smile. "You haven't. You are Astral-10's seeded student. You won't play any part in these next three days, and we'll reach Astral-10 by the time you do need to appear."

Lu Yin was shocked by this piece of news. "I'm the seed?"

She laughed in response. "You're the student leader, so of course you're the seed."

Lu Yin felt awkward as Astral-10 also had Big Pao and Little Pao. One of them should have been prioritized for the seed position before him. Wait, hold on. "Madam, you said 'reach Astral-10?' You're headed toward Astral-10?"

"Not me, but her," Madam Nalan said as she pointed behind Lu Yin. Coincidentally, the door opened just at that moment, and a young woman with a sword strapped to her back stepped through before coming face to face with Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was shocked, as the girl's eyes seemed to sparkle with a sword's reflection. This woman was definitely not simple.

The young woman seemed to hold no interest in Lu Yin and quietly kept to herself. She wordlessly sat down in front of the screen and calmly watched the events of the tournament unfold.

"Lu Yin, let me introduce you two. She's Astral-7's leader, Liu Xiaoyun, and a seed as well, like you," Madam Nalan said.

Lu Yin was astonished. Astral-7's leader, so a Realm Master?

"Due to certain reasons, she missed the beginning of the tournament, and she now needs to borrow Astral-10's trial zone mountain to access the Lifeseek Realm, as that's where the tournament is being held."

Lu Yin's eyes brightened. "So I can enter the tournament from there too."

"Of course," Madam Nalan replied with a smile.

At that point, three people appeared in the valley on the screen. The foremost was a proud-looking man from the Daynight clan, as his black-and-white hair was glaringly obvious. Not far behind him stood a slightly older student, and lastly, there was Silver.

Lu Yin was stunned. "Astral-10 was selected to guard the gates?"

"The first student is Astral-3's Chilian Daynight, the second is Dai Ao from Astral-7, and the third is Astral-10's Silver. Your Astral-10 had similar luck before and was selected to guard the gates in the last tournament as well, but they actually ended up causing the other two academies to be completely eliminated," Madam Nalan explained.

"Of which Astral-7 was one," interjected Liu Xiaoyun, who had been quietly watching the screen.

Lu Yin felt a little embarrassed, but it had nothing to do with him as he hadn't even been in the academy at that time.

"But there's no worries this time. Chilian Daynight alone should be enough," Liu Xiaoyun continued.

Lu Yin was puzzled. Chilian Daynight? He does indeed look powerful.

"Chilian Daynight is one of the top five students in all of Astral-3, and he is also one of the Area Masters of the Undying Realm. He specializes in area-controlling techniques. No matter how many people rush at him, if they are unable to defeat him, he can obstruct them all," Liu Xiaoyun said indifferently.

"The students attempting to break through can only defend themselves. They cannot retaliate, use innate gifts, or use battle techniques. Under these circumstances, Chilian Daynight's advantage will be amplified even further. Hence, he chose two random students from Astral-7 and Astral-10 to defend with him." Madam Nalan voiced her opinion as well.

Silver had been randomly chosen. In other words, in Chilian Daynight's eyes, it didn't really matter who the other two students supporting him were.

Lu Yin beamed and stared at the large screen. During the two women's explanations, the tournament had formally started.

With a loud bang, all of the participating students from the remaining seven academies charged out from the valley's northern side. As long as they could pass through this valley, they would successfully enter the next section of the tournament. This was also an opportunity to become famous throughout the universe. Whether it was through strength or luck, if a student could stand out and show their face even just once during this tournament, it would be enough for them to boast about for the rest of their life. For this single chance, all of the students here were prepared to push themselves to their utmost limit.

Chilian Daynight had a look of disdain as he stared at the students charging into the valley. He slowly squatted as his two palms began to vibrate. Star energy suddenly rushed from the sky, causing the void to waver. A moment later, green seaweed abruptly sprouted from the ground and instantly shrouded the valley in a green veil.

Chapter 200: Breaking Through The Three Academies

Lu Yin's eyes widened when he saw Chilian Daynight's innate gift. This forest of seaweed was obviously poisonous, so it was no wonder why he specialized in holding large groups back.

About a thousand students from the ten academies were participating in this tournament, and this was only because participation was limited. Otherwise, every single student would have chosen to join.

Astral-3, Astral-7, and Astral-10 had to send students to defend the valley, which left around 700 students from the other academies to charge into the valley. One versus 700 plus students from the Astral Combat Academy: it was a pressure that could only be imagined. But Chilian Daynight's face remained calm as two-lined battle force appeared all around his body.

It was no surprise for an Area Master to possess two-lined battle force, but in the context of the poisonous seaweed-filled valley, it caused many students to despair.

The dozen of students that were leading the charge ran right into the poisonous seaweed. As soon as they made contact with it, they directly collapsed to the ground, dead. However, despite their near instantaneous death, their bodies gradually vanished from view. All of the competing students wanted to charge straight through the valley, but they first had to face the intense poison of the seaweed forest.

Countless people throughout the universe saw this scene depicted on their screens, and they could all feel the terror of the intense poison.

Nobody knew how the Astral Combat Academy was able to broadcast what was happening in the Lifeseek Realm, but because they were, Chilian Daynight's name immediately became known by many. He, by himself, was enough to deal with nearly half of all the students here.

In the rearmost area of the valley, Silver leaned against a wall in a relaxed pose with his classic wolfish grin. Lu Yin's brows furrowed the moment he saw Silver's grin. He had an odd premonition that this fellow, or perhaps actually the Neohuman Alliance behind him, wanted to mess things up!

Suddenly, the scene in the valley changed once again; a blue aura had covered the skies and frozen the poisonous seaweed. Blue had replaced the green as far as the eye could see.

Liu Xiaoyun's face shifted; this drastic change was a result of someone forcefully using star energy to simulate ice, to the point where even the color of the sky had changed. A powerhouse had joined the battle.

In the middle of the valley, Chilian Daynight's face also shifted, and he gritted his teeth as he stared into the distance. "Sha."

Sha was from Astral-4 and was the Dao of Slaughter's Ice Domain Area Master. He had also been Silver's backer when Astral-10 student first entered the Dao of Slaughter.

"You want to help these people cross through and thus instantly eliminate our three academies? Impossible," Chilian Daynight shouted as he rose into the skies. He then pressed both palms down and in a low voice, growled out, "Blossoming rain."

The previously frozen poisonous seaweed shook as they tried to break free from the layer of ice to reach the students.

The crowd of students did not wait for his attack to land and continued charging toward the back of the valley as quickly as they could.

When Chilian Daynight had acted earlier, he had eliminated almost a hundred students. But now, he was now obstructed by Sha. Even more importantly, a giant beast had suddenly appeared, overshadowing almost half of the valley. It rose into the air, covering the sky and separating Chilian Daynight from the students below him.

Outside the valley, the students watching the battle exclaimed, "It's Long Ze, the sylvan dragon clan's powerhouse! He's one of Astral-4's Area Masters as well."

"It looks like Astral-4 is doing their best to help half of the students pass through so that all three academies guarding the gate will be eliminated. It would reduce the number of opponents."

...

To the south of the valley, there was a high peak that stood above all the others. Ten seats had been placed there for the seeded students from the ten academies. The seeds represented the academy leaders, as was tradition. Aside from the first, seventh, and tenth seats, all of the others were filled.

A girl sat in the third seat, her black-and-white long hair undulating in the gentle breeze. Half of her face was covered by her hair, revealing only her purple eyes. She was Astral-3's leader, the Undying Realm's Realm Master, Nightqueen Yanqing.

As she watched the scene unfold before them, her purple pupils glanced coldly to one side. "Was this your idea?"

A male was sitting on the fourth seat, not far from Nightqueen Yanqing. He had shocking red hair, a cold expression, and a thin, indistinct red aura emanated from his body. He was Astral-4's leader, Dao of Slaughter's Realm Master, Xue Liuyun.

Xue Liuyun did not say anything when he heard Nightqueen Yanqing's accusation, though a scarlet red glint appeared in his eyes. He was the most detached among the gathered academy leaders.

Nightqueen Yanqing frowned and did not speak further. Even further down along the row of seats, Kuang Wang laughed. "Daynight lady, after so many years, you still don't understand the old blood, do you? Does he look like the plotting sort? Obviously, someone further down is ignoring him."

Nightqueen Yanqing snorted. "Humans change. It's no secret that Astral-4 has always wanted to take my Astral-3's position, but unfortunately, Astral-7 will go down together with them."

Xue Liuyun's eyes widened slightly, and he hoarsely replied, "I will make Long Ze pay, but I'm not familiar with the other person."

Kuang Wang said, "You mean Sha. He's a bit of an oddball."

Nightqueen Yanqing stopped talking, as Xue Liuyun's meaning was clear. The actions currently taking place went against his instructions. The sylvan dragon was simply too haughty and dared to ignore his Realm Master's wishes. It really thought that its race had established itself in the human realm, but really, it was only a race that had betrayed the astral beast star expanse and then been forced to settle down in a fiery fringe Flowzone.

In the northernmost area of the valley, the rampant forest of poisonous seaweed finally broke through the ice seal and descended to once again attack all of the charging students. But unfortunately for Chilian Daynight, a good portion of the seaweed was blocked off by Long Ze's enormous body. The dragon had an enormous body, but it also had extreme speed. Though it was not allowed to attack Chilian Daynight, it could still defend itself.

A moment later, the blue ice seal expanded once more and rose above the dragon to cover the sky and isolate Chilian Daynight from the students.

Nightqueen Yanqing's face turned ugly as she remarked, "That fool."

In the middle of the valley, the student from Astral-7 had a solemn expression on his face. He had thought that this stage would be easy to pass, and he had not expected that Chilian Daynight would be

targeted. When Astral-4 used its full force, even the power of the Daynight clan was not enough to compete against them.

Dai Ao could hear Chilian Daynight's furious roar, but it would be very difficult for him to break through the defenses of two Area Masters who were each as strong as himself.

Back on the Nalan family's spacecraft, Liu Xiaoyun's face turned ugly as she watched the scene. This sort of incident rarely happened in the past during the first stage of the tournament. The Astral Combat Tournament paid great attention to fairness, and this first stage was only meant to eliminate the students who did not qualify for the next stage of drawing lots. It was very rare for someone to intentionally attempt to knock out the three defending academies, as this would incite conflict between the academy branches. This had occurred in the last tournament because Astral-10 student had been too lousy and burdened the other two. Now, even though Chilian Daynight had acted, more than half of the students had managed to break past him. This was already equal to them half-successfully breaking through the three academies.

"Xiaoyun, how's the student from your Astral-7?" Madam Nalan asked.

Liu Xiaoyun solemnly replied, "Dai Ao is strong and no weaker than Chilian Daynight. However, he specializes in one-on-one combat and not against a crowd. Astral-7 has a battle technique called the Starburst Palm that allows the user to use their entire strength in every attack without excessive energy consumption. This technique is very potent in single handed combat, but not so much in a large battle setting. Also, Dai Ao himself is not adept at extreme speed."

Lu Yin felt that they did not have much hope. In this situation, a slow guard could essentially be disregarded; how many students could Dai Ao possibly block with a slow speed? These Astral Combat Academy students each had their own unique skills, and it would not be easy for even an Area Master to defeat them. Many of the students were Limiteers, even though there were a few Melders.

Lu Yin thought about it some more and then shifted his gaze towards the rear of the valley, where Silver was still leaning against the mountain in a relaxed manner, though a butterfly knife had appeared in his hand at some point.

No matter how furious Chilian Daynight was, his blockade had already been broken through, and he was now tangled in a fight against two Area Masters. It would be difficult for him to chase after the students now.

In the middle section of the valley, Dai Ao took a deep breath. His face was peaceful despite facing the horde of students attempting to charge through the valley.

When the first student stepped within a hundred meters of him, Dai Ao attacked. It was not the Starburst Palm that Liu Xiaoyun had mentioned, but instead—a gravity field.

When the black gravity field descended upon the valley, the ground shattered, shocking countless people. The students from Astral-7 were especially shocked because Dai Ao had never revealed his innate gift of gravity. Additionally, his field immediately intensified gravity by a hundred times, which was so powerful that even a Limiteer would find it difficult to endure.

Not even Liu Xiaoyun had known that Dai Ao possessed an innate gift of gravity.

Lu Yin's eyes widened. Gravity, and an energy-efficient Starburst Palm... This combination reminded him of someone, Invincible Palm, whom he had met in the ported battles. They had exchanged twenty three strikes before Lu Yin's organs had been crushed by the opponent's gravity.

Lu Yin grimaced as he watched Dai Ao act completely unhindered in the valley. He had only been able to hold out against this person for so long due to pure luck; Invincible Palm had never revealed his full strength during their battle. Rather, it would be more accurate to say that Starburst Palm was only a portion of his strength. It was no wonder why Lu Yin had been finished the moment he had unleashed his innate gift of gravity.

Within the valley, Dai Ao consecutively eliminated seven students, though the eighth managed to block his attack.

Dai Ao was shocked and glanced at the surviving student. It was an Area Master who immediately slipped away. The goal of the three academies guarding the gate was to eliminate half of the students, and an Area Master was obviously not chaff to be tossed away.

If the Astral-7 students were shocked, then those who had barged into the valley felt condemned to doom. They had all thought that the second student would be easy to deal with, but they had actually run into another freak. His innate gift of gravity affected the entire region, and they could not avoid it even if they tried.

This Dai Ao was no easier to deal with than Chilian Daynight.

Outside the valley, Coco was shocked. "There are so many powerful people here. Sister Zora, are we really going to compete against them?"

Zora felt helpless as she replied, "These are the cream of the crop of the Astral Combat Academy. We don't have to compete with them."

Michelle's gaze burned as she stared at the commotion inside the valley. The stronger the students were, the greater her desire to do battle.

The entire valley was trembling. Regardless if one was present in the valley or merely observing the events through a screen, they could all feel that stifling strength.

Within the Great Yu Empire palace, Undying Yushan sighed as he remarked, "This goes to show the disparity that exists within the younger generation."

Gerbach and the rest were speechless. If they were the ones running through that valley, they would not even be able to react before they were killed and eliminated.

On Earth, everyone watched the screens and marvelled at the terror of the universe's powerhouses.

Dai Ao's sudden eruption of strength had elevated the Astral Combat Tournament to even higher heights. From the very start, this tournament was fated to be different from the previous ones.

Just as everyone assumed that Dai Ao would be able to persevere and hold the line, a melodious tune pierced through the air, stunning him. In the sky, an absolute beauty sang and captured everyone's attention.

"That, that's Xi Yue! The celebrity!"

"The Souldream Tribe's young leader has made her move. Xi Yue's music can't be considered an attacking technique. And since it's not based on star energy either, it's also not a battle technique. At its core, it's just music."

"It looks like Astral-8 and Astral-4 are intent on eliminating Astral-3 and Astral-7 here."

...

Xi Yue's music was extremely unusual. Even though it held no star energy, her dreamlike tunes caused the unprepared Dai Ao to fall right into her trap. This was not an attack, but it dragged him into an inescapable vortex of desire.

Student after student streaked past Dai Ao and charged towards the end of the valley. Everyone was very excited as there was only an Astral-10 student left blocking their path. In their minds, they had already won. Astral-10 was nothing in their eyes. The academy newspaper had stressed that there were powerhouses amongst Astral-10 students, but ultimately, everyone had deemed it impossible for Astral-10's students to truly compete against the other academies' students.

Xi Yue's music could not hold Dai Ao for long. He suddenly opened his eyes and saw that a student was trying to sneak past him. Without hesitation, he struck that student with a Starburst Palm. That student pursed their lips and lifted their leg before sweeping it across.

Bang!

The void was torn apart as a spatial crack extended towards the sky, tearing through the valley.