

Chapter 251: Two-stars

Generally, the hardest part about lockbreaking was seeing through all the various energies that composed a sourcebox. But this was a trivial task for Lu Yin; due to his Cosmic Art and the Giant Emperor's third eye, he could see the energy composition of sourceboxes even more clearly than Charon. Although Charon had comprehended a domain, it was still impossible for him to see the energies as clearly as Lu Yin. After one perceived the energies that made up the sourcebox, the next step was to unravel them all.

Lu Yin lifted his hand, causing his star energy to enter the sourcebox. At that moment, the previously balanced energies within the sourcebox underwent a huge transformation. It was as if a huge rock had been thrown into a calm lake, causing huge waves to disturb the formerly calm surface.

Lu Yin nervously stared at the sourcebox and did not dare to relax in the slightest. There were innumerable videos in the Sourcebox Catalog showing Lockbreakers being killed by supposedly harmless sourceboxes. This was because the energy that made up a sourcebox was maintained in a delicate equilibrium, and when it was disrupted, even a harmless sourcebox could very well explode as the deadliest weapon.

Not too far away from Lu Yin, the Trialmaster nodded, not the least bit surprised at what the Cosmic Art was capable of. It was a technique that was incredibly suited to lockbreaking. Even though Lu Yin hadn't comprehended a domain yet, the speed and accuracy with which he could unlock sourceboxes was far better than most Lockbreakers who had comprehended domains. Compared to other Lockbreakers, Lu Yin basically had a cheat in his Cosmic Art that was much better than any lockbreaking tool. The Cosmic Art paired with a lockbreaking tool... This kid only lacks experience. Once Lu Yin filled in for his inexperience, he would definitely become a five-star Discerning Elementary Lockbreaker. With more training, he might even be able to challenge intermediate sourceboxes.

The process of lockbreaking was extremely complicated, but it went smoothly this time. The sourcebox slowly grew smaller as the complex energies on its surface steadily dissipated.

End Of The Road looked on and grew very excited as he stared intently at the screen. His palms were incredibly sweaty right now.

After ten hours, Lu Yin let out a large, pent up breath; he was on the verge of succeeding. During his first unlocking attempt, it had taken him twenty seven hours to succeed, and that experience had been carved into his memory. Right now, he was working on a more complex sourcebox, but he was much quicker than before. This was primarily due to the fact that his Cosmic Art had been cultivated to nine stars, but it was also due to the fact that he had acquired a lockbreaking tool. Finally, the last reason for his improvement was that he had also gained Charon's lockbreaking memories and experience from Possession, and that included the time that Charon had unlocked the Unveiled Sword. These three aspects combined with Lu Yin's general increase in strength caused his lockbreaking to be nearly twice as efficient as before. He believed that, even if Charon could unlock this sourcebox, he might not be any quicker than him.

Of course, a person's lockbreaking speed was not the only way to judge their abilities. Still, it was a rather direct way of making comparisons. At the very least, people like End of The Road could only judge a Lockbreaker's abilities by their speed.

It seemed that there was only a little bit of work left before the sourcebox would be opened and the contents within revealed. End Of The Road was incredibly excited and didn't dare to even breathe too loudly in case he bothered Lu Yin.

After about ten more minutes, with a wave of Lu Yin's hand, the surface of the sourcebox that was about as long as a person's arm seemed to be blown away by the wind. In front of him, there was a green plant that was giving off green rays of light. Some kind of strange gas lingered above the plant along with a strong fragrance.

"So it's a scent shrub..." the Trialmaster said as he stared at the plant.

Lu Yin curiously asked, "A scent shrub?"

"It's a medicinal plant that becomes more valuable the longer it lives. This one is probably over ten thousand years old, so it's sure to fetch a good price if it's sold," the Trialmaster said.

Lu Yin was confused. "If it's not that valuable, then why was it sealed?"

The Trialmaster answered, "That's because of natural changes in the environment. There aren't any specific requirements for an item to be sealed in the universe's dust, but generally, the more worthless an item, the easier it is for that item to decay. However, that doesn't always happen. There are no two sourceboxes in this universe that are exactly the same. Since no two sourceboxes are the same, it means that anything could happen. Who knows, a powerful family might have a sourcebox in their collection that holds nothing more than a rock. It's actually normal for something mundane to turn up."

Lu Yin came to a realization and then burst into laughter. "It seems that this person is pretty lucky to be able to get this then." After saying that, he picked up the scent shrub and took it to the space station.

End Of The Road had been waiting anxiously, so when Lu Yin arrived, he jogged over as quickly as he could before taking the scent shrub with sincere gratitude. He then ordered his men to carefully store it.

Lu Yin repeated what the Trialmaster had told him, and End Of The Road didn't seem disappointed at all. "A scent shrub that's been around for over ten thousand years is sure to sell for a good price. Shamrock Enterprises is always searching for rare medicinal plants that have existed for a long time. This is enough. It's definitely enough." After saying that, he took out a Mavis Bank card and handed it to Lu Yin as payment; it held fifty thousand star crystals.

Not long after, End Of The Road left Astral-10.

Lu Yin took the bank card and glanced at his profile in the lockbreaker network. He had already posted the video of him unlocking that sourcebox onto his catalogue. All that was left now was to wait for his work to be verified. Oh? Lu Yin suddenly saw some numbers under his first video: 18,500. What was that?

He investigated it further and was delighted to find that it was money; it represented 18,500 star crystals. It was the amount that he had earned from people viewing his first video. Each view cost 500

star crystals, which meant that thirty seven people had purchased the right to view it. Wait, perhaps that wasn't exactly the case. It had been purchased thirty seven times, but it might not have necessarily been thirty seven separate people. If a person wanted to view the same video multiple times, they would have to buy it each time.

Lu Yin grew very excited. This was actually a great way to earn money! How many people were there in the universe? There were far too many to count. Those who could access the Lockbreaker's network were not ordinary people. Each one was very rich, especially other Lockbreakers. It was very normal for a Lockbreaker to watch someone else's video. Just having people purchase the right to view it thirty seven times had earned him nearly 20,000 star crystals. What if 370, 3,700, or even 37,000 people wanted to view his videos? He couldn't even imagine it; it was too much money for him to calculate.

Lu Yin had gone through planetary trials and multiple near-death situations. Even after going through all those trials and tribulations, he was still shocked by this path to wealth. After a moment, he sighed and calmed down. It had been about half a year since he'd successfully completed his first lockbreaking attempt, and in the past half a year, the video had only been viewed thirty seven times. If he looked at the amount of time that had passed, this process was far too slow to gain any significant wealth.

His heart sank.

Within the universe, there were very few Lockbreakers. However, there were still hundreds of thousands of them registered in the network. Although this number might be relatively low compared to other organizations, there were still at least a hundred thousand Lockbreakers with achievements to their names. Why had his video attracted any attention at all? It was very difficult for one Lockbreaker to stand out amongst a hundred thousand. Why had these people all viewed his video? With this money, they could have chosen an Intermediate or even an Advanced Lockbreaker's video. Those people had also started out from the very bottom, so their videos should theoretically be the most valuable.

Things took time. After half a year, his video had only been purchased thirty seven times, which was just too few. This meant that nobody knew about him. What he needed to do was to make himself known. If he became somewhat famous, then more people would be willing to spend money and buy the rights to view his videos.

"Take it slow," Lu Yin muttered to himself. He scanned the list of available missions that were nearby. The next one that he decided to take on was a sourcebox owned by someone with the handle "Lost." The sourcebox had been verified to be at the two-star Discerning Elementary grade, so it was suitable for him to attempt.

Lu Yin accepted the mission, but just as he was about to ask the person to come to Astral-10, the mission was cancelled. Lu Yin froze for a second and was rather annoyed that this person did not trust him, but he couldn't do anything about it. A mission went both ways, and the requestor could choose another Lockbreaker if he so desired. End Of The Road had been in too much of a hurry and his offered payment wasn't very high, which was why he had agreed to let Lu Yin make the lockbreaking attempt. To him, the matter was like a gamble. Many people were willing to pay a hefty premium to have Lockbreakers with achievements unlock their sourcebox.

Lu Yin accepted three missions, but he was rejected from all of them. He was merely a one-star Discerning Elementary Lockbreaker, and it made more sense for him to go after one-star Discerning Elementary grade sourceboxes. When he tried to accept a mission with a two-star grade sourcebox, most requestors would not trust him. Besides, he only had one video which meant that he had only unlocked a single sourcebox so far. He simply wasn't trustworthy enough.

Two hours later, the second video that Lu Yin had uploaded was verified. He did not hesitate to upload this second video of him unlocking a sourcebox and immediately made it available at the lowest price.

All of a sudden, Lu Yin remembered something vital. Had he exposed his Cosmic Art in the video? He hastily reviewed the video and then heaved a sigh of relief; thankfully, he hadn't. The angle in the video from his gadget had not captured his body. All that could be seen was a pair of hands unlocking the sourcebox, and not much of the surroundings could be made out. The only recognizable things in the video were his hands and the sourcebox.

Lu Yin was rather disappointed that his achievements weren't enough for him to reach two-stars. It wasn't easy for a Lockbreaker to increase their rank unless they unlocked a very difficult sourcebox. Lu Yin thus had no choice but to take things slow. Even if he managed to unlock two two-star Discerning Elementary grade sourceboxes, it would not be enough. He still needed to unlock at least one or two more of these before he even had a chance of becoming a two-star Discerning Elementary Lockbreaker.

The only other possibility of advancing was if he straight up unlocked a three, four, five-star, or even an intermediate-grade sourcebox. That would be a huge achievement, and it was what Charon had done. Charon had unlocked the Unveiled Sword and had become a five-star Discerning Elementary Lockbreaker right away.

Now that he had been verified as being able to unlock a two-star Discerning Elementary grade sourcebox, Lu Yin quickly found a second mission. It was also a two-star Discerning Elementary grade sourcebox and the reward was 70,000-star crystals—even more than what End Of The Road had offered.

For the next ten days, Lu Yin spent his days unlocking sourceboxes. After every unlocking session, he also needed to rest for a day. Over ten days, he unlocked four sourceboxes. Of those four, his slowest lockbreaking session went on for nineteen hours, and his shortest only took him seven hours. Two of the sourceboxes had been empty while the other two had actually contained something. One was a small bottle that appeared to be ancient, but he had no idea what was inside of it. The other one was a tattered book that should contain a technique within it. However, for the sake of professionalism, he did not look inside.

The reward for successfully unlocking those four sourceboxes raised his achievements to two-stars and also earned him 400,000 star crystals. On the Lockbreaker's network, there was now an additional star attached to Seven's name; he'd officially become a two-star Discerning Elementary Lockbreaker.

The process of lockbreaking was very complicated and painful. After Lu Yin completed his fourth lockbreaking attempt, he slept for three full days.

"Lockbreaking is very difficult. Even when there's no danger, your body still might not be able to handle it. Do you want to keep going?" the Trialmaster asked as he looked at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin shook his head. "No, my head hurts."

The Trialmaster burst out laughing. “That’s a smart answer. If you keep going, then you’ll either go crazy or faint. Did you think that lockbreaking was an easy thing to do? Did you think that you’d be able to unlock as many sourceboxes as you wanted? If that were the case, then Lockbreakers would have become invincible long ago. The unlocking process wears down on a Lockbreaker’s mind. It’s the same with those scholars—nobody can continue with such a draining task for a long period of time.”

Lu Yin bowed towards the mentor. “Thank you, sir.”

“You’re not too bad. Two, three, or even four-star Discerning Elementary grade sourceboxes won’t be a threat to you. If you come across the opportunity, then you can try a four-star sourcebox. Don’t waste your time, but also don’t be in too much of a rush. A five-star sourcebox can still pose a threat to you,” the Trialmaster warned.

Lu Yin acknowledged the warning.

Chapter 252: Exchange

Beep beep beep beep

A series of soft beeps sounded out from Lu Yin’s gadget.

He looked down and his gaze changed; this was incredible. How did this happen?

“The Ten Arbiters have ruled that Lu Yin has no blemishes on his record and that he is allowed to join the Council of Astral Academy.”

Being able to join the Council of Astral Academy was hugely significant to Lu Yin. First, this meant that he was no longer just an ordinary student; rather, he had become a subsidiary member of the Ten Arbiters Council. This status gave him the Ten Arbiters’ protection, and there was no better backer than the Ten Arbiters. Even the Lockbreaker Society’s backing could not compare to the Ten Arbiters Council’s.

However, Lu Yin was slightly puzzled. Nightqueen Yanqing and Nightking Zhenwu had clearly made their moves. He was one of the Ten Arbiters, so how could Lu Yin still be able to join the Council of Astral Academy? At this moment, Lu Yin was feeling less elated and more apprehensive, as something unexpected had happened.

Suddenly, someone called him through his gadget, and Lu Yin answered. A cold and arrogant voice came through, and Lu Yin’s expression sank when he recognized it as Nightqueen Yanqing’s. “Congratulations on entering the Council of Astral Academy.”

“You must be very baffled at how you were able to enter.” Nightqueen Yanqing’s tone was a little lofty and indignant. “You’re pretty good. You even colluded with a Daynight girl and got her to step up and testify for you.”

Lu Yin’s heart skipped a beat and a name suddenly appeared in his mind—Zhuo Daynight. Aside from her, there was nobody else who could testify for him. He had gone to the pirate port back then in order to save her, so she was naturally the only person who could testify and clear his name.

When he was at the Tilting Tower, Lu Yin had already considered requesting Zhuo Daynight’s help, but he had ultimately decided against it. First of all, she might not even appear since she was also a member

of the Daynight clan. Secondly, he did not want to owe Zhuo Daynight any favors, as he already had made her a promise. He wasn't sure how he could pay her back if he owed her any more.

He never expected Zhuo Daynight to spontaneously testify on his behalf and allow him to successfully join the Council of Astral Academy. What was she thinking?

"What's your relationship with that woman?" Nightqueen Yanqing barked interrogatively.

A cold glint flashed through Lu Yin's eyes as he responded, "It's none of your business."

"Is that so? Anyways, I'll have to admit that you have your ways. But so what? That girl has betrayed my brother and been imprisoned in the Daynight clan. Here, take a look for yourself." A video file was then sent to Lu Yin's gadget.

Lu Yin apprehensively tapped on the video, and it was indeed Zhuo Daynight, whom he had not seen for a few months. In the video, she was wearing a prisoner's outfit, and her face had a deathly pallor to it. She seemed to have fainted within the dark prison holding her. Old bloodstains could also be seen on her clothes.

Lu Yin's gaze grew heated, and a flare of anger erupted from within him like never before. This fury was ten or even a hundred stronger than the humiliation he had felt after suffering under Bazeer. He was overcome by a wild impulse to destroy the entire Daynight clan.

With this surge of rage, his star energy turned unstable and even the void surrounding him warped.

At that moment, the Trialmaster lifted his gaze and spoke. "Be quiet." The deep sound that was reminiscent of a drumbeat shocked Lu Yin back to his senses. He breathed in deeply and suppressed his star energy. "What do you want?"

At that moment, his voice was so calm that it was terrifying.

On the other end of the connection, Nightqueen Yanqing involuntarily felt a chill creep into the bottom of her heart, but she paid it no attention. "I've already given you a chance, but you're not discerning enough to accept it. It seems that you really think that you can resist my Daynight clan by yourself. It doesn't matter if you are the strongest person in the entire Astral Combat Academy; my Daynight clan can still easily wipe you out."

"Is she still alive?" Lu Yin's tone was icy, and his eyes hid an even deeper chill.

Nightqueen Yanqing was pleased by his question. "Of course, I'll keep her alive properly. She has colluded with outsiders and betrayed my brother; her crimes deserve decades of torture."

Lu Yin inhaled deeply. "I'll give up on joining the Council of Astral Academy. Do not torture her."

Nightqueen Yanqing snorted disdainfully. "Lu Yin, you think too much of yourself. Do you really think that my Daynight clan cares about you? To my brother, dealing with you is as easy as lifting a finger. In fact, he's already forgotten you. However, this woman has gone against my brother's wishes too many times, and this incident was just the straw that broke the camel's back. You're still not at the level where my Daynight clan would worry about you. As for the Council of Astral Academy, you can join if you wish. It doesn't matter. It's all just a game to my brother." She immediately ended the call after saying her last word.

Lu Yin stood where he was, motionless for a long while. The image of Zhuo Daynight being imprisoned in a dark cell filled his mind, as well as her bloodstained clothes. It was too disturbing and so... heavy.

He did not even know where his emotions were coming from, as he had only met Zhuo Daynight three times. The first was a brief encounter while the second had been hostile. It was their third meeting that had left a deep impression on him—her helplessness, desolation, and nearly silent whispers. He remembered it all deeply. The two of them had not interacted much, but Zhuo Daynight's suffering was all due to Lu Yin. This responsibility was too heavy to bear.

It was possible that Zhuo Daynight had only testified to repay Lu Yin for the favor of saving her life. Even still, Lu Yin felt an invisible burden weigh upon his shoulders, and he hoped that he could rescue that girl.

The Trialmaster sighed. "The Daynight clan. Once again, it's the Daynight clan." He looked at Lu Yin with a complicated expression.

Lu Yin was shocked and hurried towards the mentor. "Trialmaster, do you have any ideas of how I could save my friend?"

The mentor looked at Lu Yin through his old, murky eyes and there was an unprecedented seriousness in his bearing. "Little brat, tell me. What's your relationship with that girl?"

Lu Yin was stumped. Relationship? He actually did not know what he considered her. A friend perhaps? Probably not, but was she an enemy? That was also not the case. After a moment of consideration, he replied, "We can be considered to be reluctant friends."

"The Daynight clan does not allow its clan members to marry outsiders. It's a law that's been passed down since ancient times. Brat, you should know that, right?"

Lu Yin muttered, "Trialmaster, she's just my friend, but I do want to save her."

The mentor sighed again. "Save her? You'll need a core elder of the Daynight clan to personally intervene. I know a Daynight elder, but what can you offer to request their help?"

Lu Yin clenched his fists and wondered what he could use to enlist the help of an elder of the Daynight clan. That person was an elder of one of the strongest clans in the universe. This was someone who Lu Yin was not even qualified to converse with.

Suddenly, Lu Yin thought of something and his heart quickened. He looked at the mentor. "Trialmaster, could you please contact the Daynight elder? I do indeed have something that I can exchange."

The Trialmaster sneered as he replied, "Little brat, the Daynight elders are all great beings who are at least at the Hunter realm. They've seen all sorts of treasure, so don't attract their ridicule."

Lu Yin seriously said, "Trialmaster, rest assured. I'm quite confident that this will move the elder to help."

The mentor nodded. "Very well, I'll contact him." He then retrieved a rather ancient-looking gadget from under his buttocks.

Lu Yin withdrew a certain distance from the Trialmaster and stopped blocking the star energy to his right arm. "Don't talk nonsense or else I'll block you again."

"You're being too much. We are one body! How could you do this to me?" The Ghost Monkey was furious.

Lu Yin had an ice-cold gaze on his face. "I have no time to deal with your nonsense. Tell me, is that beast hide really related to Progenitor Wushang?"

"Of course! That's something that I went to great trouble to obtain. Why else do you think Yao Gu triggered the decisive battle at the border and repeatedly targeted Planet Conan? All of that was just to obtain this one thing. Why are you suddenly asking me about this?" The Ghost Monkey was suspicious of Lu Yin's motives.

"I need to use this thing to trade for a person right now. If what you say is false, then I will instantly obliterate you."

The Ghost Monkey was momentarily stunned, but he quickly recovered and shouted, "What did you just say? Exchange it? You're crazy! Do you know what that thing is? That's Progenitor Wushang's hide! Pro. Gen. I. Tor. Wu. Shang. It's Progenitor Wushang's... You don't even understand what Progenitor Wushang's name means. Exchange? Only you would think of something that harebrained. Even if you sell your entire Astral Combat Academy, it wouldn't be worth a single hair from that hide."

Lu Yin's mood was heavy. "I don't have any choice. This is all I have."

The Ghost Monkey was desperate to change Lu Yin's mind, "What are you trying to exchange for the hide for? An art? A battle technique? A treasure map? Just say what you need, and I can help you get it! I know where many powerhouses' graves are. I can be of great help with robbing tombs!"

Lu Yin shook his head. Since that beast hide really did seem to be related to Progenitor Wushang based on the Ghost Monkey's reaction, it was definitely priceless. To the Daynight clan, it greatly surpassed Zhuo Daynight in terms of value, but to Lu Yin, measuring value was not as straightforward. Zhuo Daynight was suffering because of him, and so he would do all he could to rescue her. He would even not hesitate to exchange the larger beast hide for her freedom. This was just him following his personal code of conduct.

A screen appeared in front of the Trialmaster that showed a desolate ground contrasting against a grey sky. An old man with a downcast expression appeared, his black-and-white long hair falling to his waist. He looked aged, but his skin also seemed to have a roaming brilliance. "Old Tan, how are you? You're not dead yet?"

The Trialmaster duly replied, "How could I die before you?"

The elder sneered. "I'm much younger than you."

The mentor walked in front of Lu Yin. "I don't have much time to talk trash with you. This fellow's the one who wants to talk to you this time."

The elder appeared astonished when he looked at Lu Yin, who could feel the old man's powerful aura even through the screen. It felt as if it could suppress everything in the endless void. He took a deep breath and bowed at the waist. "Student Lu Yin pays his respects to Senior."

The elder sized Lu Yin up and down before turning to the Trialmaster. "So this is your grandchild? Do you have that ability as well?"

The Trialmaster ignored the Daynight elder.

Lu Yin respectfully continued, saying, "This junior is Astral-10's student, and I shamelessly requested for Mentor to contact Senior so that I might request your help."

The elder seemed like he could not be bothered. "My help? Little brat, do you know who I am?"

"A Daynight elder."

The elder arrogantly replied, "I am Nightking Yuanjing, a Nightking elder! Not just some elder from the Daynight clan. Little brat, don't be mistaken about my status."

Lu Yin bowed again. "It's my mistake to have to trouble Senior."

"Alright, I don't have the time to waste chatting with you. Since you dared to contact me, then you must be confident in being able to enlist my help. Speak, and if I'm satisfied, I'll naturally help you." Nightking Yuanjing had little patience.

Lu Yin opened his mouth to speak, but the Ghost Monkey's voice suddenly rang out in his mind. "Hold on, you're trying to make an exchange with the Nightking clan? Why didn't you tell me this earlier? I'll give you some information that they'll exchange anything for."

"Hurry up. I have no time to waste talking to you," Nightking Yuanjing said with a frown.

The Trialmaster also looked at Lu Yin, as he was very curious what Lu Yin would use to plead with a Nightking elder. There were just too few things in this universe that could actually move this old thing's heart.

Lu Yin trembled as he asked, "I don't know if Elder wishes to know the whereabouts of the Third Nightking."

Chapter 253: Third Nightking

All three people were silent, as Lu Yin's sentence had stunned not only Nightking Yuanjing, but even the Trialmaster's attention had been captured. The academy mentor's pupils constricted, and he appeared in front of Lu Yin as he blurted out in disbelief, "What did you say? You know where the traces of the Third Nightking are?"

"Little brat, what did you say? Repeat yourself," Nightking Yuanjing hollered anxiously.

Excitement flashed across Lu Yin's eyes, and he spoke again. "Mentor, Senior, I served at the Human Domain's border warfront for two months, and during that time, I unexpectedly overheard a mutant beast talking about the tracks of the Third Nightking ancestor."

“Quick, state the location!” Nightking Yuanjing completely lost himself and was intently staring at Lu Yin like a lunatic.

The Trialmaster also seemed shocked. “Where is the Third Nightking?”

Lu Yin breathed in deeply and then looked at the elder on the screen. “Senior, this junior hasn’t mentioned his conditions yet.”

Nightking Yuanjing forced himself to calm down and then looked at Lu Yin with his scarlet eyes. “Speak! What are your conditions? As long as you can state them, I will be able to fulfill them. However, I must warn you—don’t even think about deceiving me. If I find out that you were spouting nonsense, even then the Astral Combat Academy will not be able to save you. You can ask that old fart next to you.”

The Trialmaster looked at Lu Yin seriously. “Do you really know where the traces of the Third Nightking can be found? Do not attempt to hoodwink them; the Nightking clan naturally has their own methods to validate the information.”

Lu Yin nodded towards the Trialmaster and then looked back at Nightking Yuanjing. “I hope that the Nightking clan can release a person: Zhuo Daynight. She was imprisoned because of this junior’s actions, and I deeply regret it. If Senior can help erase all of her wrongdoings and protect her from your clan’s persecution, then I will tell you where to find the Third Nightkings’ traces.”

Nightking Yuanjing nodded. “It’s just a junior within the clan, so even betrayal can be forgiven, let alone crimes. As long as you can tell me where the Third Nightking’s tracks can be found—and prove that they are real—then not only will I protect her, but I will even adopt her as my daughter. How’s that?”

Lu Yin did not mind whether or not Nightking Yuanjing would adopt Zhuo Daynight as his daughter. He just wanted no harm to come to her. “The Third Nightking is in the Profound Void Realm.”

“That’s impossible. The Profound Void Realm is where the Void Wanderer clan is. Although they are ranked ninth in the Heavenly Beast List, that’s because of their unique nature and their numbers. They cannot obstruct the Third Nightking.”

The Trialmaster similarly had a look of disbelief on his face, and he looked at Lu Yin. He really hoped that Lu Yin was not trying to pull a fast one over Nightking Yuanjing. Otherwise, even Astral-10 would not be able to protect this student.

Lu Yin said, “Does Senior really think that the Void Wanderer clan relies on their numbers and innate gift to be ranked ninth on the Heavenly Beast List? The list is ranked by Skymender, and he would not carelessly arrange it according to such reasoning. The most basic principle in the universe is strength. There’s an old ancestor of that clan who has survived for tens of thousands of years and has gone through multiple evolutions. Its power is groundbreaking, and that is who has trapped the Third Nightking.”

The look on Nightking Yuanjing’s face flickered, evidently unable to accept the information.

“How do you know this?” The Trialmaster could not resist asking.

“At the warfront, I was captured by a Ghost Monkey, and it was one of the five lords of the Spiritual Academy. It accidentally let the information slip, though I don’t know how it got ahold of this knowledge

in the first place.” He then looked at Nightking Yuanjing. “Senior, I have told you who I wish to be saved. If I were deceiving you, then wouldn’t I be afraid that you would harm my friend?”

Nightking Yuanjing nodded and looked seriously at Lu Yin. “Alright, I’ll believe you this time and search the Profound Void Realm with full force. Still, it will take time to verify your information, though I can assure you that the girl will come to no harm during this time. However, if I find out that you are intentionally deceiving me, then not only will that girl suffer, but you will also die.”

Lu Yin bowed. “If there’s any false information, then Senior may punish me as you wish.”

Nightking Yuanjing looked at Lu Yin intently one last time before ending the connection.

The Trialmaster looked at Lu Yin with a complex expression. “Little brat, I’ll ask you again. Is this news real?”

Lu Yin nodded. “Yes.”

The Trialmaster was moved, and he lifted his face. “For so many years, we assumed that the Third Nightking had been eliminated. If he’s truly found by the Nightking clan, then the Inverse’s structure will undergo great changes.”

Lu Yin felt helpless. “Trialmaster, I had no choice. I’m sorry.”

The mentor shook his hand, “This is something completely unrelated to you. The Third Nightking initially attacked the Astral Beast Domain on the human race’s behalf. He is someone honorable and should be rescued. Alright, you can move along now.”

“Mentor, what of my friend?”

“Don’t worry. Nightking Yuanjing is someone who honors his promises. He will definitely protect your friend since he said that he would. He is extremely important in the Nightking clan, and few can suppress him. They would not ignore rescuing the Third Nightking just because of some girl.” The Trialmaster seemed exhausted and his reply was rather absentminded.

Lu Yin bowed, but he did not leave the trial zone entrance. Instead, he went directly to the trial zone mountain.

Once at the trial zone mountain, Lu Yin quietly asked the Ghost Monkey, “Will the Nightking clan really be unable to save the Third Nightking?”

The Ghost Monkey confidently replied, “It’s definitely impossible. That Void Wanderer elder has lived for tens of thousands of years. The Void Wanderers are very special beasts, and once they enter some unknown cycle, they will be able to live on eternally. This is a race that cannot be understood. Even the weakest Void Wanderer, if it lived for tens or even hundreds of thousands of years, would have a complete change in its power. The proof of that ancestor’s strength is its ability to suppress the Third Nightking. Just the existence of that Void Wanderer elder is enough to raise the clan to the ninth position of the Heavenly Beast List.”

“Can the Nightking clan prove that the Third Nightking is actually in the Profound Void Realm?” Lu Yin asked, as this was what the point he was most concerned about.

“Rest assured. A clan of their strength and history will definitely have their own unique methods. As long as you tell them a specific location, they can definitely verify it.”

“What kind of person is the Third Nightking for him to be able to make the Nightking clan so frantic?” Lu Yin was curious.

“He’s publicly recognized as the third strongest member of the clan ever since the Nightking clan started passing on its inheritance. During his time, the Daynight clan was at its peak, and they even overshadowed the Sword Sect. His arrogance can be seen from the fact that he directly attacked the Astral Beast Domain, although unfortunately for him, he met that mysterious Void Wanderer elder and has been trapped there until now.”

“And that Void Wanderer elder did not kill him either, right?”

“Yeah, it couldn’t kill him and could only trap him. The other powerhouses from the Astral Beast Domain also can’t intervene, as any interference from them would allow the Third Nightking to easily escape. It’s a tricky situation.”

Lu Yin felt that the monkey knew too much and suddenly asked, “How do you know about all this when even the Nightking clan doesn’t?”

The Ghost Monkey had been expecting this question, and he smoothly answered, “Actually I’m an archaeologist.”

“Stop bullshitting me.”

“I’m not.”

“So... you’re a tomb raider!” Lu Yin exclaimed.

The Ghost Monkey fell silent before replying, “... I guess?”

“Are astral beasts also buried in tombs when they die?” Lu Yin was caught off guard by this thought.

The Ghost Monkey felt disgruntled, “Human, don’t look down on us astral beasts! When the universe was first born, humans hadn’t even appeared yet. This region of the universe is actually still considered to be a part of the Astral Beast Domain. In the end, humans themselves are just another species of astral beast, just a degenerated form.”

“We’re an improvement,” Lu Yin was unhappy with the Ghost Monkey’s words.

“Believe whatever makes you feel better, but to us astral beasts, you humans are degenerated astral beasts. You humans can’t freely explore outer space from birth while other astral beasts can. You humans don’t have powerful defensive abilities at birth while other astral beasts do. And you humans have to undergo training to awaken your innate gifts, and even then, the occurrence of an innate gift appearing among you is very rare. Astral beasts are different, and some species can inherit their innate gifts. Even the intelligence that you humans are so proud of isn’t that amazing from our perspective since many astral beasts have an intelligence no lesser than you humans,” the Ghost Monkey replied with a sneer.

Lu Yin couldn't retort, as the greatest intellectual ability that humans had was their creativity. The Ghost Monkey was right; humans were lacking in many areas compared to the astral beasts. And yet, humanity had relied on their creations to compensate for those shortcomings. If they were truly a regressive form of astral beast as the Ghost Monkey had said, then the human race would not have been able to occupy such a massive astral domain and be able to rival the Astral Beast Domain.

He didn't feel like mentioning all this to the monkey, and so, he allowed the astral beast to continue living in its dream that humans were lesser than them. Sooner or later, the human race would leave the astral beasts unable to cry even if they wanted to.

"So, astral beasts are entombed when they die?" Lu Yin continued his previous line of questioning.

"Of course. No intelligent creature would be comfortable with its corpse being used by others for their gain and will find ways to bury itself. After countless eons pass, their bodies will naturally turn to dust. Those places are the best ones to go to, since the tombs naturally hold the objects that were buried together with the dead. That beast hide was obtained from a large tomb, and all the information that I know was recorded within that tomb as well," the Ghost Monkey explained.

This explanation was flawless, and Lu Yin could not argue against it. It should be the truth, as there was no other explanation as to how a Limiteer could possibly obtain such secret information as well as hide the beast hide that Yao Gu was seeking. There was still something that deserved attention, which was how the Ghost Monkey had opened these tombs. If those tombs belonged to powerhouses, then they would definitely not be easily broken into.

But Lu Yin did not ask about this, as he would find out sooner or later. Besides, the Ghost Monkey would only fabricate stories if he was asked about it now, and Lu Yin had more than enough time on his hands.

For now, he needed to wait at the trial zone mountain for a while before seeking revenge.

He was not someone who liked to patiently endure insults, and even though his name contained the "Yin" character, his personality was completely different. When possible, he would take revenge on the spot; otherwise, he would wait when forced to.

It was just like how, when Bazeer had humiliated him back in the Great Yu Empire and Lu Yin was unable to do anything against him at the time, he had later destroyed Ghostfire during Astral-10's examination. That had been his revenge. Nightqueen Yanqing had acted against Lu Yin this time, and now, he had to repay this debt.

Zhuo Daynight would now be protected by Nightking Yuanjing, so she would be fine. Lu Yin had no other concerns, so his retaliation would be wiping the Daynight clan from the trial zones.

Two days later, in the middle of a training ground that had the shape of a green forest in the Dao of Heaven, Rou Daynight slowly opened her eyes. As a child of the Daynight clan, she had been given the green forest and raised into an Area Master, which was already a decent accomplishment. However, she had not even entered the top thirty two during the Astral Tournament and had been harshly criticized by her clan. Even she herself felt that she had been too relaxed in her training.

Still, at least she had done better than Tiankong Daynight. He was also an Area Master, but he had been the first one to be eliminated. How humiliating.

She stood up and scanned her surroundings as many students scattered. The closer one was to the center of the training zone, the more benefits one could obtain. Unfortunately, this green forest training ground was no longer of much help to her, and she wanted to exchange it with another Area Master, but who would be willing?

At that moment, an oppressive aura swept across the area, shocking many as everyone looked up at the sky at the same time.

Rou Daynight looked up as well, as this aura made her feel uneasy. Who could it be?

Chapter 254: Lu Yin's Tyranny

Lu Yin's figure soon appeared above the forest as he stared down at Rou Daynight. His eyes held an endless chill within them.

Many were stunned when they saw Lu Yin, but they all recognized him as an absolute powerhouse who had reached the top four in the tournament.

Rou Daynight's heart sank when she saw Lu Yin. She had heard her clansmen talking about how Nightqueen Yanqing had recently made a move against Lu Yin by trying to stop him from entering the Council of Astral Academy. Rou Daynight didn't know all the details, but she had a bad premonition about him suddenly appearing in the green forest.

"From now on, this place no longer belongs to you." Lu Yin's tone was icy cold, without a single trace of compassion for her.

Rou Daynight was furious. "Lu Yin, you dare to be hostile towards my Daynight clan? Do you know what the consequences of your actions will be?"

Lu Yin narrowed his gaze and answered, "I don't need to know." He then pressed down with a single palm while a berserk aura filled the area. He immediately unleashed a Nine Stacks, Fifteenfold Shockwave Palm which instantly killed Rou Daynight as she was unable to mount any sort of resistance.

Lu Yin would have been able to easily kill Rou Daynight at the Melder realm, let alone the Limiteer realm. There was just too much of a gap between the two.

The surrounding students were stunned at the scene, and they were still processing what had just happened. Only a few of them had heard of the rumors saying the Daynight clan had plotted against Lu Yin.

The Dao of Heaven only held Rou Daynight. Lu Yin's next target was Tiankong Daynight in the Dao of Slaughter.

News of Rou Daynight being killed quickly spread, though Lu Yin already appeared at his next destination by the time Tiankong Daynight received the information.

"Lu Yin, do you really want to make the Daynight clan your enemy?" Tiankong Daynight was nervous; the pressure that Lu Yin was exerting was too much for him to bear.

Lu Yin pressed down with his palm in a similar manner as before, not allowing Tiankong Daynight to escape with extreme speed. The difference between the two was also too vast, and his second target was thus easily wiped out.

The next target was in Undying Realm, which was the trial zone with the most amount of Daynight clan members. It was also the realm that Nightqueen Yanqing was Realm Master of.

The entire Astral Combat Academy was boiling with excitement when all the students learned that Lu Yin had killed two Daynight clan Area Masters one after the other and that he had even announced that Daynight clan members were not allowed to enter the trial zones. This was an act of war against the Daynight clan, whose authority had gone unchallenged for so many years.

Kuang Wang almost spat out a mouthful of water when he heard of this news. He was in disbelief. "Lu Yin actually challenged the entire Daynight clan!"

"He's banishing all the Daynight members from the trial zones. He's gone crazy!" another female student exclaimed. She was one of the students who had been training in the green forest, and she had personally witnessed Lu Yin crushing Rou Daynight to death.

Liu Xiaoyun frowned when she received the news. The Astral Combat Academy is getting livelier, but what is Lu Yin trying to achieve? He might be able to suppress the Daynight clan in the Astral Combat Academy, but what about when he eventually leaves? The Daynight clan is a powerful clan that can dominate the universe and he's not being very prudent about his actions. Hold on. Liu Xiaoyun suddenly stood up as a flash of understanding went through her eyes. She knew that Lu Yin was no idiot, so he definitely had something to rely on if he dared to go up against the Daynight clan, but just what was he relying on?

This was Lu Yin's first time visiting the Undying Realm. The Three Realms Six Daos were collectively called the Nine Trial Zones, but the Three Realms surpassed even the Six Daos. This realm would belong to Astral-10 in future.

Not far away, a figure rushed off into the distance; it was a Daynight junior. He had just entered the Undying Realm, but then, he had seen Lu Yin. He immediately avoided Lu Yin as the news of him attacking the Daynight clan was already widespread.

However, he was quickly intercepted by Lu Yin and beaten down with a single palm.

The man regretted ever entering, and he would have immediately exited the Undying Realm if he had known what kind of fate was awaiting him. But it was too late, as it was impossible to leave the trial zones during a battle. He was summarily killed by a single palm from Lu Yin.

The star energy from Lu Yin's body extended outwards as he continued to search for more students.

Another was quickly captured by Lu Yin, and he had a bitter expression as he was forced to take Lu Yin to the Heavenly Drum, which was the most famous training ground within the Undying Realm. Occupying the Heavenly Drum was equivalent to possessing the Undying Realm and becoming its Realm Master. Naturally, Nightqueen Yanqing was the master of the Heavenly Drum.

At this time, members of the Daynight clan were entering the Undying Realm one after another and congregating at the Heavenly Drum.

Not only were the Daynight clan members gathering there, but many other students had arrived as well. A whole crowd had formed next to the Heavenly Drum, all of them awaiting Lu Yin's arrival.

The Heavenly Drum was a giant battle drum that was a thousand kilometers wide on one surface. It was flatly placed within a mountain range, and it was formed from mutant beast hides. It was beat every month, and its sounds would cause a battlefield to appear. Anyone in the area at that time could observe the ancient battlefield and view all sorts of battle techniques. The luckier ones would be pulled within and get to personally witness the battle techniques. This was the inheritance.

The Heavenly Drum was the Undying Realm's greatest treasure, and it had always been controlled by the Daynight clan. And most of the Daynight clan members had joined Astral-3 because of the Heavenly Drum's benefits.

Nightqueen Yanqing was furious by the recent news, as she never expected that Lu Yin would be so daring as to actually take action against the Daynight clan. And now, he even wanted to snatch the Heavenly Drum away from them. Was he really willing to go this far just to seek revenge for that slut, Zhuo Daynight?

A figure appeared in the skies; it was Feng Shang, Astral-8's student leader and the Realm Master of the Dao of Illusion.

Feng Shang slowly descended to alight atop the Heavenly Drum where more than twenty Daynight clan members were gathered. He looked at Nightqueen Yanqing with a complex expression. "The favors that I owe you will all be returned today, regardless of whether or not Lu Yin appears. After today, there will no longer be any relationship between us."

Nightqueen Yanqing had a cold gaze, "Fine."

Feng Shang slowly released a breath and then closed his eyes. He really did not want to make Lu Yin his enemy, as he rather admired Lu Yin's style. Also, Feng Shang felt that the Daynight clan had truly gone overboard this time. However, he owed the clan too many favors, and he could not just ignore his debts.

Surrounding the Heavenly Drum, many students were anticipating the big incident that was about to occur.

Wu Da had also arrived, and he was hardly able to contain his excitement. His newspaper was selling well, and he still had enough material from the Astral Combat Tournament to publish another two issues. However, he was rather troubled about what he could release after that. He had initially thought that he would have to wait for someone like Grandini Mavis to challenge another student leader for their position, but this rumor suddenly popping out of nowhere had eased his worries away.

"Brother Lu, you're really my lucky star. I'll love you for a thousand years," Wu Da muttered to himself as he excitedly stared at the Heavenly Drum. He was already mentally prepared to exaggerate the descriptions of this battle since it would definitely become famous throughout the Astral Combat Academ- no, throughout the entire universe!

"Nightqueen Yanqing actually brought Feng Shang along since she knows that she can't beat Lu Yin by herself." Some students were discussing the nearby events that were unfolding.

Wu Da hurried over, as these discussions were treasured opinions from the audience that could supplement his article on the event. He needed to collect more information on these speculative discussions.

“Nightqueen Yanqing already lost to Lu Yin during the Astral Combat Tournament, and she can’t have improved that much in just two months. Lu Yin’s different—he even ascended from the Melder realm to the Limiteer realm. He won’t be suppressed by Nightqueen Yanqing’s star energy anymore, and his physical body will also have qualitatively transformed and become even stronger. It’d be strange if she was still be his opponent.”

“Can the Daynight clan win with Feng Shang on their side? He’s not in the top four.”

“Feng Shang’s not weak either. If he hadn’t run into Starsibyl, then he would have battled against Grandini Mavis. Amongst the ten student leaders, he’s probably in the upper half.”

...

Wu Da muttered to himself as he recorded down all the comments being exchanged around him.

“Hey, do you think that Feng Shang and Nightqueen Yanqing had an affair? If not, why would he help her?”

When Wu Da heard that conjecture, his eyes lit up as he immediately wrote it down. This gossip was related to the battle, and there was definitely something newsworthy among all this gossip.

“Don’t talk crap. How is that even possible? The Daynight clan members don’t marry outside of the clan. That rule has been passed down for ages.”

“Feng Shang is the third son of the Feng family, and he doesn’t have a weak position himself. Despite that, he still can’t match up to Nightqueen Yanqing. It’s impossible.”

...

Amidst the ongoing discussions, a heavy feeling of oppression suddenly swept across the area, causing everyone to look up and see Lu Yin appear.

All of the Daynight clan members rose up from the Heavenly Drum and stared at Lu Yin with fury carved in their faces.

Nightqueen Yanqing’s gaze was cold.

Feng Shang’s was helpless.

Lu Yin towered above them in the sky and looked down as his gaze swept across all the Daynight clan members before finally stopping on Feng Shang. “Brother Feng, you’re helping the Daynight clan?”

Feng Shang smiled bitterly. “I’m sorry, Brother Lu. I owe Nightqueen Yanqing a favor, and I have no choice but to repay it today.”

Lu Yin nodded. “It’s just a duel, so I won’t bear any grudges against you.”

“Of course, I, Feng Shang, have no enmity with you either,” Feng Shang shouted back.

Nightqueen Yanqing frowned and looked at Lu Yin with her cold and arrogant purple eyes. “You actually dared to appear here and challenge the Daynight clan. This will be the last bit of regret you feel in your life.”

“Just try and make me feel regret,” Lu Yin savagely barked back. A purple aura marked with dark-gold lines shrouded his body. His five-lined battle force burst forth from his body as he ferociously dropped down towards the Heavenly Drum.

At the same time, Feng Shang waved his hand and caused the entire area to turn green; this was his domain. Nightqueen Yanqing also activated her four-lined battle force as she yelled out, “Nightking’s Body.”

Around the two of them, more than twenty Daynight clan members leapt up to attack Lu Yin.

Boom!

A shockwave pulsed through the Heavenly Drum, creating a visible hurricane that swept outwards from the Heavenly Drum. A portion of the nearby mountains collapsed, and a sinkhole appeared in the ground as more than ten students were instantly shredded to pieces.

The force of this collision was astounding.

Seven Daynight clan members had already been obliterated; their participation had not made much a difference in this battle. The main force that was contending against Lu Yin was formed from the combined forces of Feng Shang and Nightqueen Yanqing.

There were only a few instances in the Astral Combat Academy’s history of two Realm Masters uniting to fight against one person, but another case was happening right now.

Lu Yin swept out with one leg and directly sent Nightqueen Yanqing flying. He then turned around to swat at Feng Shang with his palm, who had also thrust out with his palm. “Cyclone Strike.”

The sheer force of this hurricane had defeated Sha during the tournament, and today, this same vortex was now colliding with Lu Yin’s Nine Stacks, Seventeenfold Shockwave Palm. The first blade of wind was instantly crushed while the second blade could only resist eight stacks. The strength of the ninth stack completely dissipated the third wind blade and went on to crash into Feng Shang’s body, forcing him to slam into the Heavenly Drum, which emitted a thunderous noise.

Lu Yin’s five-lined battle force was invincible, or at the very least, it was against these two; Lu Yin had only made one move, but Feng Shang was already heavily injured. Even though this was not as shocking as when Starsibyl instantly wiped Feng Shang out, it was similarly horrifying.

The dozen or so remaining Daynight clan members all used their own battle techniques to attack Lu Yin.

Lu Yin snorted and vanished with Flash. He then slammed down on the various Daynight clan members with a palm attack that engulfed them all. He instantly closed his hand, disregarding the fact that there were even some Area Masters among his targets. Still, they were nothing to him, and were utterly unable to escape their fate of being crushed to death.

Outside the Heavenly Drum, Xia Ye was shocked. This was Lu Yin? Five-lined battle force was just too overpowering! Even though they had awakened their battle force at around the same time, the disparity between them had become too great.

At that moment, Nightqueen Yanqing appeared behind Lu Yin and violently shouted, "Go die!" She then instantly let loose a Nightking Punch.

Lu Yin turned around and raised his hand. A shockwave pulsed straight down into the ground, splitting it open. The shockwave itself was an attack, and it shattered the void, causing a long spatial crack to extend into the distance.

Everyone stared at the sky in amazement; Lu Yin had single-handedly received Nightqueen Yanqing's strongest blow, but he hadn't even taken a single step yet.

Nightqueen Yanqing's pupils shrank to pinpoints. How is this possible? She recalled their battle two months earlier, when this person had used his five-lined battle force to defeat her. But at that time, he definitely would not have been able to deflect her strongest punch so easily. That was her Nightking Punch after being powered up by her Nightking's Body and four-lined battle force!

Chapter 255: Lu Yin's Background

"From now on, this place belongs to me," Lu Yin proudly proclaimed as he grabbed Nightqueen Yanqing. He exerted some strength through the hand holding onto Nightqueen Yanqing and easily shattered her right shoulder. Another punch passed through the void to connect with her abdomen, sending her flying into a distant mountain range.

Lu Yin felt a chill from behind him as Feng Shang suddenly appeared. "Sorry, but this will be my last strike."

Lu Yin did not bother turning around since he had always been on guard against Feng Shang. He had seen how fast Feng Shang was, and this person's battle experience surpassed all the other student leaders. Feng Shang would not be that easily defeated, though Lu Yin still did not understand how Starsibyl had instantly killed Feng Shang. Regardless, by no means was he weak.

The green domain filling the earth and sky dissipated as Feng Shang struck at Lu Yin's neck with his palm. His The speed transcended the void and sliced right through it.

Lu Yin did not move and allowed Feng Shang's attack to strike him unimpeded. But then, Lu Yin's body slowly dissipated, as it had been only a phantom image. He himself had already vanished.

Feng Shang's eyes widened in shock. When did he do that?

Suddenly, he felt an intense pain in his back before his body disappeared from the Undying Realm.

Lu Yin reappeared as the phantom afterimage slowly vanished. When he had broken through to the Limiteer realm, his physical body had become even stronger. His speed when he used Flash had naturally increased as well, so what did it matter if an attack could slice through the void? Lu Yin could rip through the void with his body now, the same as a space-exploring powerhouse.

Nightqueen Yanqing was in a sorry state as she charged out of the collapsed mountains, screaming. She frantically glared at Lu Yin as she yelled, "I want you dead!"

Lu Yin was unconcerned as this woman was no longer worth his consideration, although the current situation did need a proper conclusion.

Lu Yin's body shimmered as Nightqueen Yanqing suffered the same fate that Feng Shang had. Her body dissipated and disappeared from the Undying Realm as she had immediately perished.

Everyone fell silent; the Daynight clan had been entirely wiped out, including even Nightqueen Yanqing. From now on, Lu Yin was the Undying Realm's Realm Master.

Many swallowed nervously, as this matter was too monumental. The Daynight clan would not take this lying down, and they might even make moves outside of the Astral Combat Academy. Was Lu Yin really this fearless?

Xia Ye was stunned; she could only feel Lu Yin's dominating aura.

Wu Da was staring excitedly at Lu Yin. This person would never stop providing him with newsworthy material.

Liu Xiaoyun left after watching the battle's conclusion from a distance. There was nothing else to see aside from Lu Yin's improvement in strength, although there would undoubtedly be trouble after this. The Daynight clan's revenge would not be simple.

From afar, Kuang Wang raised a thumb at Lu Yin. He was similarly vicious and arrogant, but even still, he did not dare to provoke the Daynight clan. This Lu Yin was truly a freak.

Even further away than Kuang Wang, a girl in white clothes with a cloth covering her face silently stared at Lu Yin. No one noticed her presence; in fact, they didn't even remember her being there, but if they rewatched the Astral Combat Tournament, then they would realize that this girl had been Astral-1's representative during the Tribute to the Ancestors section. She had vanished after that and not participated during the battle of drawing lots.

Lu Yin looked down and saw countless eyes. Shock, admiration, surprise, ridicule, sympathy, and many other various emotions were emanating from those eyes.

He knew the consequences of his actions, but he did not regret them. As a man who wanted to live in this universe, he could not act cowardly or be overly cautious. While the Daynight clan might retaliate harshly against him, he could not stand idly by and remain actionless out of fear, as that would affect his mental state.

He had an Honor Point, the identity of a Lockbreaker, and the status of an Astral-10 student. His family would also help him from the dark, although it was unlikely that the Daynight clan would personally act against him. It was possible that the Great Yu Empire might be implicated, but his relationship with them was not that deep either. Also, the Great Yu Empire was definitely not as simple as it seemed; there were members of the Neohuman Alliance there, and it was also a point of interest for his family. Perhaps the Daynight clan could even help to tear away its disguise.

He was even less worried about Earth, as a high profile conflict between students would never implicate such a remote fringe planet. The Daynight clan might do something to him if they feared his constitution, but they would never make trouble for Earth.

Still, since his special constitution had never been confirmed, they might guess that his constitution had something to do with Earth. Lu Yin fell deep into thought. He had to resolve this matter too. He could not be too willful about this, or else he would just be painting a target on Earth. The only way was to divert their attention.

But after all was said and done, what really gave Lu Yin the confidence to act this unbridled was none of the aforementioned reasons but rather a single person—Nightking Yuanjing. The squabbles of the clan's juniors were insignificant compared to the importance of the Third Nightking. Unless the Third Nightking was saved, Lu Yin himself would always have value, and he would continue to be protected as long as he had even a trace of usefulness. The Daynight clan would not act against him because of this, and this was what gave him the confidence to uproot them in the trial zones.

As a result of this single battle, all of the Daynight clan members were banished from the trial zones, and the Realm Master of the Undying Realm had also changed. News of this spread quickly, shocking even those who were not from the Astral Combat Academy.

As the news continued to spread, the Daynight clan grew increasingly humiliated.

Atop the peak of Astral-3's trial zone mountain, Nightqueen Yanqing shrieked crazily with bloodshot eyes, "I WILL SLAUGHTER YOU! SLAUGHTER YOU..."

Below the trial zone mountain, Cang Shi suddenly opened his eyes. He had joined the Astral Combat Academy solely for the Astral Combat Tournament, but then had developed an interest in the trial zone after the tournament. Thus, he had thus decided to temporarily stay in the academy. Fortunately, he had not left yet, or else he would not have been able to witness such an interesting matter.

Chaosgod Mountain was one of the rulers of the Innerverse's dark side. Dark was always paired with light, and there could be no darkness without light. Many of Chaosgod Mountain's powerhouses had been forced into the darkness, as the Daynight clan's manner was too vicious and overbearing for them to bear. They had forced many powerhouses to desperate straits and left them with no other choice but to walk the path of darkness. Today, Cang Si felt like Lu Yin was the next powerhouse to be forced on that path, so he quickly left to send an urgent message to Chaosgod Mountain. He could not allow the Daynight clan to toy Lu Yin to death; his innate talent was too good.

After screaming her lungs out, Nightqueen Yanqing suddenly opened her gadget and contacted the Daynight clan. She wanted to make Lu Yin rue this day by taking her revenge on that slut.

"What did you say? Not enough authority? I am Nightqueen Yanqing, but I don't have the authority to put her on trial? I am Nightqueen Yanqing!" She was furious at the response that she received.

"I apologize, but Zhuo Daynight has been temporarily imprisoned. No one can put her on trial. These are Elder Nightking Yuanjing's orders."

Nightqueen Yanqing was stunned. How could an insignificant Zhuo Daynight have possibly received Nightking Yuanjing's backing? He was an elder with an extremely lofty status in the clan, and it made no sense as to why he would intervene in this matter.

She closed her gadget and muttered to herself under her breath. She had a bad premonition that the reason why Lu Yin would dare to act so blatantly against her clan was directly related to Nightking

Yuanjing. How had they forged a connection? Or rather, was there someone behind Lu Yin who had ties that reached that far deep into the Nightking clan?

Nightqueen Yanqing became more terrified the more she thought about it; there were only a few powers that could influence the Nightking clan. She thought about how Lu Yin had mastered five-lined battle force after being in the academy for barely over a year. Could the Great Yu Empire be behind this person? That was impossible, so there must be someone or something else. He had hidden his connections well.

But no matter how deeply Lu Yin hid his background, it could not dissolve the fury in Nightqueen Yanqing's heart. She was Nightking Zhenwu's younger sister, so no matter how strong the power behind Lu Yin was, she did not fear it. The Ten Arbiters' power was not just in their personal strength but also in their authority. Even the great powers of the Neoverse had to show the Ten Arbiters respect! She did not believe that Lu Yin could suppress her.

After ruminating over the situation some more, she quickly used her Nightking status to order the Daynight clan to meddle in a war within the Frostwave Weave. She wanted to use the Great Yu Empire as the focus of her retaliation.

Suddenly, her gadget beeped. She frowned and a surprised gaze surfaced on her face. Why is she calling me?

"Can we talk?" A melodious voice rang out through her gadget.

"About what?" Nightqueen Yanqing's tone was gloomy.

"Your feud with Lu Yin."

"What's your relationship with him?"

"Do I need to have a relationship with him?"

"Of course. Otherwise, why would Starsibyl herself speak up for him?" Nightqueen Yanqing sneered.

The person who had contacted her was Astral-1's student leader, Starsibyl. "It's not that I'm helping him. Rather, I made some divinations about him. With the final outcome of the Astral Combat Tournament's rankings, I will be able to extrapolate whether or not this person will be of aid to me in the future. I do not wish for your grudge against him to affect the battle of the final four in the Astral Combat Tournament."

"That's completely unrelated to me." Nightqueen Yanqing directly rejected Starsibyl's request.

"You've already lost, and the Undying Realm's Heavenly Drum now belongs to Lu Yin. This is an indisputable fact. The Daynight clan's experts have all been banished from the trial zones by Lu Yin, and this is all because of you alone. While you, Nightqueen Yanqing, might not care about the Astral Combat Academy's trial zones, this matter is still an irredeemable stain on your name. This affects not only your reputation, but also Nightking Zhenwu's."

Nightqueen Yanqing frigidly responded, “I will snatch back the Heavenly Drum back and completely resolve the matter with Lu Yin.”

“He’s a Lockbreaker, a two-star Discerning Elementary Lockbreaker.”

“What did you say? He’s a Lockbreaker?”

“That’s right. You can verify it yourself. He’s not just a mere Lockbreaker—he also has an Honor Point. Additionally, Astral-10 is not as simple as it appears. You can deal with the Great Yu Empire and the people around him, but you will be rendered helpless against that person unless Nightking Zhenwu personally acts. Although, do you really think that he will risk offending the entire Lockbreaker Society for a single Lu Yin? All you are trying to take revenge for are two defeats while he can harm your relatives, friends, and your reputation.” Starsibyl had accurately deduced all of Nightqueen Yanqing’s thoughts, as nothing was more important to the members of the Nightking clan than their reputation. This was the main reason why Nightqueen Yanqing was so crazily focused on taking revenge against Lu Yin.

Nightqueen Yanqing was indeed discouraged by Starsibyl’s words, as Lu Yin’s identity as a Lockbreaker was enough to make even her wary of striking back. However, it was still possible to assassinate him from the dark, as then, there would be no evidence for the Lockbreaker Society to retaliate with.

“Treat it as giving me some face, and let this matter end here and now. In return, I will allow you to use the Mirror of Clarity.”

Nightqueen Yanqing was stunned, as the Mirror of Clarity was the Lifeseek Realm’s most valued training ground, just like how the Heavenly Drum was the Undying Realm’s valuable training ground. Whoever controlled the Mirror of Clarity was the Lifeseek Realm’s Realm Master. For as long as she could remember, Starsibyl had held this Mirror of Clarity, and no one else had been allowed to use it. Who would have thought that she was willing to pay such a price just for this Lu Yin.

“How about it? I’ll let you use the Mirror of Clarity, and the Daynight clan will no longer be targeted in the trial zones. Let’s treat this as a truce within the Astral Combat Academy, each side taking a step back.”

Nightqueen Yanqing took in a deep breath. “Alright, I’ll let him off for now.”

“Much appreciated,” Starsibyl said before disconnecting from the call.

Nightqueen Yanqing’s eyes flickered as she snorted coldly. Despite agreeing on the surface call, she would use other, underhanded means, to get revenge as she would not definitely not let this matter end like this. She decided to find some other powers to act on her behalf and settle things with Lu Yin.

But everything seemed to be going against Nightqueen Yanqing this day. Just as she was thinking about who she could look for, an order was transmitted that left her trembling. “Do not touch Lu Yin. From the Nightking clan elders.”

Chapter 256: Council of Astral Academy

Not long after Lu Yin snatched the heavenly drum from Nightqueen Yanqing, Starsibyl arrived at the Undying Realm’s best training ground.

Lu Yin was sitting atop the heavenly drum when he saw Starsibyl slowly walking towards him. His gaze remained calm. "I was wondering who would be the first to show up. Never thought that it would be you."

"You guessed that someone would appear?" Starsibyl smiled at Lu Yin and casually sat down beside him, not showing any trace of aloofness despite the difference in their statuses.

Astonishment flashed through Lu Yin's eyes. "Everyone in the universe knows that the Nightking clan places great importance upon its reputation. It was basically guaranteed that someone would speak up for Nightqueen Yanqing since I took the heavenly drum from her. I'm sorry to disappoint you, but I have no intentions of returning it."

"I know. I'm only here to ask you one question. Do you really think that your identity as a Lockbreaker can completely protect you?"

Lu Yin fell silent. It seemed that his identity as a Lockbreaker could not be hidden from people after all, as those who wanted to investigate him would be able to easily find this information. The Lockbreaker Society did not value the secrecy of their members' identities very highly, as to them, a Lockbreaker was a treasure amongst humans, so there was no need to conceal it. This was the society's reasoning, and at this point, Lu Yin had no reason to continue concealing his status.

His identity as a Lockbreaker could help Lu Yin differentiate between two types of people. Wendy Yushan had not been able to discover his identity, which signified that her authority was either not very great or at least unable to contact the Lockbreaker research association. Starsibyl and the alluring Madam Nalan had easily discovered his identity, which just went to show the difference between these two groups of people.

"A two-star Discerning Elementary Lockbreaker is indeed enough for Nightqueen Yanqing to restrain herself openly, but she can still easily take action in secret. Even though the Lockbreaker Society will defend their members even when they are in the wrong, they aren't so foolish as to become enemies with the Nightking clan over a dead person. Even if there's any evidence, nothing will happen to Nightqueen Yanqing, and the matter will be resolved with some compensation and an apology at most. The Nightking clan can also easily come up with a justification for the Lockbreaker Society. As for Astral-10's protection, you cannot expect to never leave Astral-10."

Lu Yin looked at her straight in the face. "I understand what you're saying, but sometimes, I can't control my temper. Also, since you're here, it means that you must've made a deal with that insane woman Yanqing."

"You really don't show mercy with your hands or your words. After all, she's still a girl."

Lu Yin was not swayed. "More like a lunatic."

"The people behind you, your friends and relatives, will not be able to withstand the pressure of the Nightking clan. You must spare a thought for them."

Lu Yin leisurely stretched as he said, "Cut to the chase."

"Don't pit yourself against the Daynight clan."

Lu Yin was astonished. "Just that?"

Starsibyl nodded. "Yes."

Lu Yin stared at her curiously. "Although I haven't known that insane woman, Yanqing, for very long, I understand her well enough. She will not end a battle without exacting some sort of price."

"I have already paid the price for you."

"You did? Why?"

Starsibyl sighed before replying, "You must know that there's a president of the Council of Astral Academy. I am the current president. The stability of the general student body within the Astral Combat Academy is my responsibility, and it is one that was placed upon me by the Ten Arbiters Council. As such, I must pay some price to assure its stability."

Lu Yin was not naive, so why would he believe such words? However, if Starsibyl had really paid the price for them, then there was another problem looming on the horizon: there was no such thing as a free lunch in this universe. What did this woman want from him?

Starsibyl stood up, and a gentle fragrance wafted over to Lu Yin. She smiled at him and said, "Don't overthink things. I'm not plotting against you."

Lu Yin got up as well. "It's alright. I'm not getting the short end of the stick anyways."

She smiled, "You're very amusing."

"Is that so? I've always believed that I'm emotionally insensitive and slow-witted."

Starsibyl turned around and slowly started walking away. "You're already a member of the Council of Astral Academy, so find some time to meet everyone and formally establish your new position." She then directly exited the Undying Realm.

Lu Yin watched her vanish as he pondered the situation. Although the Astral Combat Academy was a single institution, the politics brewing beneath its surface were not simple. Starsibyl was immeasurably mysterious while Nightqueen Yanqing was tyrannical, and there was also that deceptively simple Han Chong hiding in a corner. With all the various powers vying for dominance, it was less of an institution and more of a microscopic reflection of the struggle between the various powers of the universe. Hence, him joining the Council of Astral Academy was akin to skewering himself to be roasted over the fire. Perhaps someone would contact him soon.

"That's Starsibyl? It can't be, she looks like a student. Isn't Starsibyl a powerhouse? Someone who can rival the Ten Arbiters?" The Ghost Monkey had his misgivings.

"Starsibyl is not just a single person. Multiple candidates compete for the title."

"Competition for the job, huh? Interesting... you should stay careful of that woman. Even our star domain has heard a great deal about Starsibyl, and none of it is very pleasant. She has her own plots and schemes, so don't end up working for her or else you'll just end up being used and betrayed by her," the Ghost Monkey cautioned Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was also thinking of this possibility. He really was not confident in facing against her schemes. This was mainly because of Lu Yin's limited understanding of the universe's power structure, which allowed others to easily plot against him. The only method that he had to resist her schemes was to simply limit his contact with her.

"Speaking of which, bro, you're really ruthless. You even destroyed the Daynight clan's reputation!" the Ghost Monkey marvelled, but Lu Yin remained silent.

"Still, the outcomes should be sometimes considered as well. What if the Daynight clan deploys some experts to assassinate you? I'm also afraid, as that's a strong clan that even dared to directly invade the Astral Beast Domain! You're just a Limiteer and will be easily crushed in the face of their might. I'll be so unlucky if that happens. I..."

Lu Yin lost his temper at its incessant rambling. "Shut up! Answer my question if you don't want to die."

"What question?"

"Are you sure that the Daynight clan cannot save the Third Nightking?"

"I've told you before. It's for sure, definite, and certain."

"That's good. As long as the Third Nightking can't be rescued, I'll still be valuable to them."

"Valuable my ass. Do you really think the Nightking clan believes that you can help them?"

"If there's even a glimmer of hope, then the Nightking clan won't be willing to allow anything to happen to me."

The Ghost Monkey agreed. "That's also true. The Third Nightking is too important to them. Even if they're certain that you know nothing, they still won't let anything happen to you. This is just human psychology."

"But what should I do if they look for me? I'll have to offer some useful intelligence." This was Lu Yin's main concern, as if he didn't hold any value, Nightking Yuanjing would not continue to protect him. His opponents were not only Nightqueen Yanqing, as the next to act would be Nightking Zhenwu. He was the great threat.

The Ghost Monkey fell silent.

Lu Yin was not in a hurry, though. The two were already of one body, so if Lu Yin died, the monkey would not be able to survive either. And since he knew that there was a high chance that he would have to face Nightking Yuanjing some time in the future, Lu Yin had to prepare some contingency intelligence for him.

Lu Yin and Nightqueen Yanqing's conflict had been temporarily resolved due to Starsibyl's intervention. Over the next few days, there were occasionally some Daynight clan experts who came to the heavenly drum, but it had already been occupied by Lu Yin.

Astral-10 students could now visit the heavenly drum whenever they wished, and Coco played the drums there to her heart's content. However, Hui Daynight never visited even though he had not helped the Daynight clan fight against Lu Yin either. He was stuck in an awkward position. Still, neither Nightqueen Yanqing or Tiankong Daynight had sought him out, and the latter had even protected Hui Daynight once.

It felt as if Hui Daynight had been exiled.

Just like that, half a month calmly passed by. Dao Bo and Han Chong returned from the warfront during this time, and Lu Yin was finally able to formally call for the Council of Astral Academy to convene with his identity as Astral-10's student leader.

In the Dao of God, Lu Yin silently stood beneath the Tilting Tower. Not far away from him stood Liu Xiaoyun and Kuang Wang, who were the first to arrive. Han Chong arrived soon after, and he looked at Lu Yin with a strange expression, or rather, an expression of surprise.

Lu Yin had a peaceful look on his face, even though the Astral Combat Academy was still abuzz with the news of him and Nightqueen Yanqing's conflict.

Starsibyl also arrived at that moment, and she smiled at Lu Yin before taking a stance nearby.

Many students had appeared and gathered quite a distance from the Tilting Tower, gazing over in amazement. This was a gathering of the ten student leaders: the Council of Astral Academy. Such a thing was a rare sight.

Wu Da also arrived, as he would not miss any newsworthy event for his life. However, he wasn't qualified to listen to the council's discussions and could barely see or hear anything, as the void around the meeting area was distorted.

Next, Dao Bo and Liu Yin arrived.

Feng Shang arrived as well, and he smiled apologetically at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was not bothered by the past incident with Feng Shang, especially since he had not been disadvantaged in any way. He had only found the battle somewhat ridiculous, as his first opponent in the ported battles had been Feng Shang, and he had instantly destroyed Lu Yin. That incident had caused Lu Yin to lose some confidence, but that debt had been paid back with interest now.

There was only one person left: Nightqueen Yanqing.

Xue Liuyun had died at the warfront, so Astral-4 was temporarily devoid of a student leader. Lu Yin felt that Sha was the most likely successor, as his power spoke for itself and he had even defeated Xue Liuyun. He was publicly recognised as Astral-4's strongest student, but he had not returned yet either.

Nightqueen Yanqing appeared with a whoosh and arrogantly stared down at the rest of the student leaders. She was seething with anger when she glanced at Lu Yin, but she ultimately refrained from saying anything. She then descended with an aura that clearly expressed her annoyance.

"Alright, excluding Xue Liuyun who was killed in action, all the other Academy leaders have gathered here today. I shall represent the Ten Arbiters Council and Astral Combat Academy to formally announce that Lu Yin has joined the Council of Astral Academy, which has the responsibility to supervise, test, and

protect the students of the Astral Combat Academy. Along with the authority of the Ten Arbiters Council, the responsibility to supervise, test, and protect the younger generation and to uphold the Ten Arbiters Council..." Starsibyl had many formalities to go through. The others had all heard it all before, but it was Lu Yin's first time.

He paid some attention to one sentence, though. What did "along with the authority of the Ten Arbiters Council, the responsibility to supervise, test, and protect the younger generation" mean? Was the Council of Astral Academy responsible for more than just the Astral Combat Academy?

A thought suddenly occurred to Lu Yin, and he quickly realized that it was possible that Nightqueen Yanqing had spent so much energy to keep him from joining the Council of Astral Academy for another reason besides the special constitution that they believed him to have. It was possible that the Council of Astral Academy was not as simple as it initially seemed to be.

Soon, Starsibyl finished her customary speech and then looked at Lu Yin. She smiled and asked, "Student Lu, is there anything that you don't understand?"

"Almost everything." Lu Yin was very direct.

Starsibyl was stumped by his response while Kuang Wang and Dao Bo both laughed and shook their heads.

Nightqueen Yanqing contemptuously looked down at Lu Yin with a trace of ridicule.

Starsibyl gently said, "It seems that you have absolutely no understanding of the Council of Astral Academy."

Lu Yin agreed, saying, "No one has told me anything about it before."

Starsibyl had a helpless expression as she explained, "Very well then, I'll give you a brief introduction. Generally, the student council helps the academy supervise the student body. However, the Astral Combat Academy is rather unique, as the mentors rarely test us and we students are primarily self-governed. Over time, the Council of Astral Academy's authority has expanded, and with the formation of the Ten Arbiters Council, the Council of Astral Academy's responsibilities have grown to include not only the Astral Combat Academy but the rest of the universe as well."

Chapter 257: Fallen Ring

Lu Yin was startled. "The entire universe?"

"That's correct. You should know that the Council of Astral Academy's position is equal to the Outerverse Youth Council. Did you believe that this position is just for show? The Astral Combat Academy is the Innerverse's top institution and is equivalent to the Outerverse Youth Council in its ability to handle the Innerverse's matters. You can treat the Council of Astral Academy as the Innerverse Youth Council, as it supervises the younger generation of the smaller Flowzones aside from the eight great Flowzones."

Only now did Lu Yin understand just what sort of privilege had been bestowed upon him. The Innerverse contained eight large Flowzones that occupied a large area of the Innerverse. However, there were also many smaller Flowzones, and although the Council of Astral Academy had no authority over the eight

larger Flowzones, their authority over these smaller Flowzones was enough to elevate the student council's position to the point of it rivaling the Outerverse Youth Council. This was, after all, the Innerverse, and there was a fundamental difference between it and the Outerverse.

Dao Bo spoke up, saying, "Don't get carried away, though. We're only administrators. We hold these positions, but we're ultimately unable to make any real decisions. If there's a problem, we still have to report it to the Ten Arbiters Council. Just us students alone are not able to handle the Innerverse's matters."

Nightqueen Yanqing sneered. "Even though we are only administrators, our authority is not small either. Those bumpkins from the fringe weaves can never understand the concept of our sort of authority."

Lu Yin had no time to bother with her. He now held a clearer understanding of the Ten Arbiters Council in his mind.

There were two major subsidiary councils under the Ten Arbiters Council. The first was the Outerverse Youth Council, and it supervised the Outerverse's younger generation with its members being assigned to different weaves or even different powers, such as the Great Yu Empire Youth Council which had been set up to oversee the Great Yu Empire.

The other subsidiary was the Council of Astral Academy, which aided the Ten Arbiters Council in supervising the Innerverse, and their domain was everything aside from the eight great Flowzones. This council could only supervise the younger generation of the other Flowzones and could not take any independent actions.

The Ten Arbiters Council itself focused on the eight great Flowzones of the Innerverse.

The three combined formed the terrifying Universe Youth Council that was ruled by the Ten Arbiters.

"Any other questions?" Starsibyl asked Lu Yin.

"What should I do?"

Starsibyl smiled. "By the order of the Ten Arbiters, you, Lu Yin, a member of the Council of Astral Academy, are to supervise the Astral Combat Academy's students as well as the younger generation of the Northline Flowzone."

"The Northline Flowzone?" Feng Shang was astonished by the appointment and gave Lu Yin a strange look.

Lu Yin felt something was off from Feng Shang's attitude and was puzzled as well. "Where's the Northline Flowzone?"

Starsibyl replied, "The Northline Flowzone lies between the Blazing Mist Flowzone and the Beast Tamers Flowzone. It's similar in size to the Frostwave Weave, and the flowzone is controlled by seventeen clans and a military school, the Shangwu Academy. You can look up the other details."

Lu Yin nodded, but then glanced at Feng Shang and then at Starsibyl. "I have another question."

"Go ahead." Starsibyl seemed to treat Lu Yin well, although Nightqueen Yanqing appeared dissatisfied by it.

“By joining the Council of Astral Academy, am I still able to join the Outerverse Youth Council?”

The rest looked at him in shock, and Nightqueen Yanqing took the opportunity to mock him. “Such ambition! A bumpkin will always remain a bumpkin. Do you think that the Outerverse Youth Council is the same as the Council of Astral Academy? The Ten Arbiters may have given us similar statuses, but in terms of combat power, all of the members of the Outerverse Youth Council are space-exploring powerhouses in the Top 100 Rankings. What can you offer to stand beside them?”

Dao Bo spoke, “It’s theoretically possible, as long as you have the strength.”

Lu Yin grunted before then asking, “Can I meet the Ten Arbiters?”

Everyone fell silent.

Han Chong finally responded, “Not for now. Even we haven’t met them yet, so there’s no need to think about this.”

Lu Yin felt helpless as he knew that this was how the Ten Arbiters maintained their secrecy. He had not thought that, even after joining the Council of Astral Academy he would still not be able to meet the Ten Arbiters. Even now, he could not know of their identities.

Starsibyl gave Lu Yin a series of numbers, which was how he could contact her through her gadget. The rest gave him their numbers as well, though Nightqueen Yanqing left right after.

Kuang Wang patted Lu Yin’s shoulder and sympathizing said, “Brother, you shouldn’t provoke women. Especially a woman from such a powerful family.”

“Take care.”

Starsibyl politely nodded at Lu Yin and then left the Tilting Tower.

The rest left one after the other. Feng Shang walked over to apologize to Lu Yin again before leaving as well. In the end, the only one remaining was Liu Xiaoyun.

“Did you receive the invitation from the Sword Sect?” she asked in astonishment.

Lu Yin was caught off guard, but after thinking about it for a moment, he remembered that Elder Cai had indeed told him about such an invitation after the tournament. “Yes, although I’m not planning on going to the Sword Sect for the time being.”

Liu Xiaoyun did not say much, but there now seemed to be a trace of approval in her gaze. Not everyone could bring themselves to resist the Sword Sect’s allure, especially when they offered to treat Lu Yin as well as Liu Shaoqiu along with other great conditions. If the first Flowzone was considered a dynasty, then Lu Yin would have become its crown prince. It was scary that he was actually able to resist this, which made Liu Xiaoyun admire him.

“Right, out of curiosity, do the student leaders usually stay at the academy all year long?” Lu Yin asked.

She shook her head in response. “Not most of the time. We’ll generally find an agent to handle academy matters for us.”

“Then what about the Flowzone assigned to us by the Ten Arbiters Council?”

Liu Xiaoyun looked at Lu Yin seriously and thought to herself for a moment before answering. "I don't know how to tell you this, as each person has their own preferred methods and personality. You can figure it out yourself, or you could wait for orders from above."

Lu Yin watched Liu Xiaoyun's figure vanish into the distance and fell deep into thought. There seemed to be no strict guidelines on how the Ten Arbiters Council wanted them to handle their responsibilities. His current impression of the Ten Arbiters Council was that their authority seemed to be positioned in the middle of the universe's power structure and that they were directly controlling the younger generation so as to gain control of the universe in future.

It was amazingly bold that ten youths would dare to do such a thing.

Lu Yin breathed deeply and smiled. He raised his head as he realized that he had finally reached this step. One paper with the name "Lu" on it had sent seventy-two others to their graves, and this had been a result of the Ten Arbiters' ruling. There would come a day when he confronted those ten for that matter in the past.

In the distant skies, a giant spacecraft rushed to the north while carrying the Great Yu Empire's younger generation elites. These people were on their way to undergo training, and those who passed would be eligible to join Yu Academy. This was the Yu Academy's selection method.

After watching the Astral Combat Tournament, the younger generation of the Great Yu Empire had become extremely excited, and all of them were looking forward to joining the Astral Combat Academy. They all hoped to step onto the glorious stage of the wider universe, as King Zishan had already become a role model who they wanted to emulate.

Jenny Auna hugged her knees and sat down in her room. She was at a loss for what to do, and her eyes were unfocused while her long hair hung lank. She did not know if she wanted to wait for Lu Yin to return to marry her, or to boldly go out and search for the happiness that she had once longed for.

Ever since she had returned from the Fireforge Planet, she had been unable to forget that blazing king of a man. Those two scorching eyes had thawed her heart, and she now often dreamed of reuniting with him. She longed to marry him, and she didn't even mind that the Fireforge Planet's environment was not suitable for Auna clan members.

But right now, she was further from her dream than she had ever been. Lu Yin was like an untraversable mountain obstructing her path. This feeling had only intensified ever since the Astral Combat Tournament, as everyone worshipped him while being envious of her for being his future wife. But all of this supposed glory was just an intense nightmare for Jenny. The more brilliant Lu Yin became, the deeper she sank into the nightmare.

She sighed with complicated emotions as she took out an exquisite ring. This ring had been given to her by Lu Yin, and although it was beautiful, it was hideous to her.

She walked outside and paused at the corridor, where she saw meteorite after meteorite streak past her.

At that point, her gadget beeped with a new notification.

Jenny Auna looked at it and her eyes widened as she grew ecstatic. “Yan- Yan Feng, is that you?”

Not too far away from Jenny, Jeraldine was distressed and frowning. For this Yu Academy’s selection test, she held no confidence in herself and did not know if she would be able to join it. Although she was a top student in the First Military School, she was too far behind those elites. Whenever she stared at the sky, she remembered that bastard, that repulsive bastard who had hoodwinked, threatened, and blackmailed her. And yet, somehow, he had managed to walk onto the most dazzling stage of the entire universe. How was this possible?

“Mm, Brother Yan Feng, I’ll leave now.” A nearby excited voice sounded out, causing Jeraldine to pause as she peeked around the corner. Jenny Auna was excitedly running to her room while she had left an exquisite ring on the floor behind her.

Jeraldine grew curious since she knew this woman was Lu Yin’s fiancée. She had been paying attention to her ever since she had boarded the spacecraft. Thus, she knew that Jenny had originally been worried and pensive, but now, she had suddenly turned happy. Yan Feng... Who is that?

Jeraldine was still mulling things over when a gust blew past her, as Jenny Auna had quickly sped past her and off into the distance.

Jeraldine walked up and picked the ring off of the ground. It was beautiful, and she sighed as she inspected it more carefully. A great clan was indeed a great clan, and they could even afford to disregard such a beautiful piece of jewelry. She could even sell this ring for a pretty profit. Hold on, this is exactly what that scoundrel would do! A vile feeling welled up when she realized that she was also having such crooked thoughts.

One day later, on the Great Yu Empire’s Zenyu Star, in an office of the Auna clan, Xueshan Auna violently threw his teacup to the floor. “That fool actually dared to do something like that! Bring her back!”

Rocky Auna had an ugly expression on his face. “Brother, this is a delicate situation. We can’t forcefully capture her and gather too much attention to us. Otherwise, our Auna clan will become the laughingstock of the entire Frostwave Weave.”

Xueshan Auna gasped for air and closed his eyes before speaking again in a pained manner. “I never thought that I, Xueshan Auna, would have lived such a shrewd life only to have it be ruined by this brat. She actually dares to abandon us and elope with that Fireforge youngster! It’s too absurd!”

“Jenny’s too young and naive. Yan Feng’s target has always been Princess Wendy, so why would he be suddenly willing to elope with Jenny? But brother, why would Yan Feng coax Jenny away from us? What good does that do for him? Has His Highness’s plan to attack Fireforge Planet been leaked?” Rocky Auna made some guesses at what had happened, but he was bewildered by what could have possibly motivated Fireforge Planet to do this.

Xueshan Auna shook his head. “That can’t be. Only a few know about these military plans, and they would not be leaked that easily. Besides, His Highness will not abandon his invasion plans just for Jenny.”

“If that’s the case, then what are Yan Feng’s goals?”

Xueshan Auna thought about it for a moment, trying to recall who was associated with Jenny. He suddenly thought of something. "Try to contact Schutz and ask him if anything has happened recently at the Astral Combat Academy."

"Brother, do you think that this might have something to do with King Zishan?"

Chapter 258: Northline Flowzone

"Aside from this, Jenny could have no other use for Yan Feng. King Zishan placed in the top four in the Astral Combat Tournament, and I heard that there is a Council of Astral Academy that holds an equivalent status to the Outerverse Youth Council. If King Zishan has joined the Council of Astral Academy, then it's very possible that Yan Feng would be moved to act."

Rocky Auna immediately left.

Xueshan Auna had an agonized expression on his face as he watched Rocky Auna's retreating figure. He hoped that his guesses were not the truth, or else the Auna clan would end up being drawn into an unimaginable crisis. Even a Hunter like himself could be trapped and ripped to pieces since this matter involved the Ten Arbiters Council.

No matter how hard the Auna clan tried to suppress it, news of Jenny Auna leaving her clan inevitably spread. More importantly, someone from the Fireforge planet was taking care of her, and there was also a Daynight clan member with her. This news shocked many, as why would the Daynight clan be involved with Jenny Auna and the Fireforge Planet?

In the Great Yu Empire's palace, Undying Yushan was busy pondering the recent events. He had just formulated his invasion plans for Fireforge Planet, but then, the Daynight clan had suddenly gotten involved. What was going on? The Daynight clan and Jenny Auna were completely unrelated to this, so why had they suddenly appeared in the picture? Could this have something to do with little Yin?

The case of an ordinary girl running away from home had suddenly escalated to become an event that affected the entire Frostwave Weave.

Back at Astral-10, in the Rain Observatory, Silver was calmly watching the continuous drizzle of rain when a smile suddenly bloomed on his face. It was too enjoyable, and although he wanted to wait for a while longer, an opportunity had already appeared, and the answers could soon be found. Brother Lu, it looks like we won't be able to spend much more time together.

Lu Yin was also in Astral-10, and he had not contacted the world outside, and no one from outside had taken the initiative to contact him either. He was entirely unaware of what was happening back in the Frostwave Weave, though he was currently puzzled by the messages he was receiving on his gadget.

He had logged into the Ten Arbiters Council network, where there was a lot of information stored. However, he could not access much of it due to his limited authorization.

With his current clearance, he could only access information regarding the Northline Flowzone and the Outerverse. The only information that he could access was related to his authority. For these matters, he could either propose his own plans for them, solve them himself, or report the matters upwards to the council for them to resolve.

But Lu Yin was still at a loss for what to do. There were ten pages for each of the Ten Arbiters, but he didn't know which one to send his opinions to.

Lu Yin had been able to guess some things the moment he saw those ten pages. Among the Ten Arbiters, all ten of them were also striving for power against each other. The universe was like a cake that the ten were squabbling over. Whichever one of the Ten Arbiters that Lu Yin submitted his proposals to would be the one who he would be subordinate to in future.

No wonder Liu Xiaoyun had advised him to wait. It wasn't for the possible proposals that he could submit, but rather because he should wait for the Ten Arbiters to make their positions on him clear.

He had to choose one of the Ten Arbiters, but they also had to choose him.

Lu Yin was caught in a dilemma, as he did not know who most of the Ten Arbiters were. He only knew of Nightking Zhenwu, Wen Sansi, Hart Phoenix's older brother, and also that person from the Sword Sect. He did not know the other six—oh, right, there was also the one known as the War King and another called the Divine Fist. However, just knowing their titles was pointless.

Should he just choose one at random? Lu Yin was thinking of the future, because once he made his choice, regardless of whether or not they accepted him, his choice would be known. And if he was in fact rejected, it would be very embarrassing.

There was also a one in ten possibility that he would land on Nightking Zhenwu, which would be a joke.

Mira had once said that she would recommend him as a candidate to join the Outerverse Youth Council, and that Wen Sansi was behind her. If Lu Yin had already been recommended, then did that mean that he would end up being Wen Sansi's subordinate?

Lu Yin could not stop thinking what he should do, as this decision was crucial. He definitely needed the Ten Arbiters' support, or else him joining the Council of Astral Academy would not have much point.

He looked at the Northline Flowzone page again, where most of his authority was displayed.

"Shangwu Academy's end-of-the-year tournament is about to start. May the Ten Arbiters Council member supervise it with fairness, impartiality, and publicity according to their principles.

"Shangwu Academy has changed the trial planet at the last moment. May the Ten Arbiters Council member supervise it with fairness, impartiality, and publicity according to their principles."

...

There were many messages coming from the Northline Flowzone, and most were regarding Shangwu Academy. It was the Northline Flowzone's best institution, and they needed a representative member from the Ten Arbiters Council to oversee their events according to the rules. This concept was similar to what had been initially planned for Earth's trial, though at the last moment, the Great Yu Empire Youth Council had been disbanded, and Mira had appeared to supervise the trial.

However, the Northline Flowzone had no Youth Council, so the Ten Arbiters had to assign someone to supervise. Otherwise, Lu Yin would have to personally go over.

Generally, this sort of supervision was nothing more than a mere formality. Lu Yin could request the council to send a member there, but he did not know who he should send the request to. He had no time to do this himself, either, so he could only act as if he had not seen the messages. His only option was to stall until either the Ten Arbiters contacted him or until he had time.

There were too many minor Flowzones like the Northline Flowzone. If each Flowzone's trial or tournament required a council member to supervise them, then there would not be enough members even if there were ten times as many subsidiary members of the Ten Arbiters Council. Hence, many supervisory requirements would be cancelled, depending on the member's wishes.

"If I had the time, I could go just to satisfy my craving to feel like a member, but I can't be considered a true member yet. In reality, I am not that much different from a regular student," Lu Yin muttered to himself as he browsed through the network.

Over the next two days, Lu Yin remained inside and managed to learn some more things about the Ten Arbiters Council.

Something big had happened in the Great Yu Empire, and the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons' 13th captain, Liuying Zishan, had been severely injured.

In the space above Zenyu Star, Undying Yushan stepped onto a spacecraft and soon saw the heavily injured Liuying Zishan. Her face was deathly pale, and she had many injuries covering her body.

"How is she?" Undying Yushan asked softly.

"Captain Liuying Zishan is not in any mortal danger, but she will need to rest for a while. Her organs have been heavily injured, and she won't be able to use her full strength for at least a year," someone answered.

A cold glint flashed through Undying Yushan's eyes as he asked, "Is there a recording of the battle?"

"Your Highness, the space on one whole side of the battlefield was warped, and all of the records were destroyed. Only Captain Liuying Zishan knows the situation from that time," a man beside the emperor spoke in a trembling voice.

Undying Yushan looked at Liuying Zishan, who was lying within the nutrient bath and thought of the struggle taking place within the Astral Combat Academy. He had found out about the situation within Astral Combat Academy and how Lu Yin had opposed Nightqueen Yanqing. Although Lu Yin had ultimately succeeded in joining the Council of Astral Academy, it had caused a new enemy to rise up against the Great Yu Empire in the form of the Daynight clan.

But Undying Yushan had also heard that the hatred between Lu Yin and Nightqueen Yanqing had been resolved by Astral-1's Starsibyl, so would the Daynight clan itself truly have taken action? Even a fool could see that the Daynight member had appeared beside Jenny Auna due to the clan's interest in Lu Yin.

Undying Yushan was still thinking about the situation when a light beam suddenly appeared before him. His eyes widened drastically as a terrifying star energy exploded from his body and caused the heavens to freeze as a suppressive aura spread out. A single hand thrust through the treatment container, grabbing at Liuying Zishan's hair before snatching a flickering light chip away. Undying Yushan then

tossed it away and tore the void open. Shortly after, the void off in the distance began to distort as a terrifying shockwave swept out, shattering many passing meteoroids.

Everyone in the spacecraft was stunned. If that device had exploded inside of the spacecraft, then they would have all died. That explosion was powerful enough to easily kill Explorers.

Undying Yushan's eyes were ice-cold, as this was the second attempt on his life in recent memory. It seemed that the person who had attacked Liuying Zishan was not satisfied with the current result and that they wanted to kill even more people of the Great Yu Empire.

At that moment, the void distorted, and Huo Qingshan emerged. "Your Highness, that object should have come from the Ross Empire in the Blazing Mist Flowzone."

"Are you certain?" Undying Yushan was taken aback.

Huo Qingshan nodded solemnly. "I once visited the Blaze Realm to train when I was young, and it's not far from the Ross Empire. Their weapons are easily identified."

"Could someone have tried to copy the Ross Empire's weapons to try to shift the blame onto them?"

Huo Qingshan shook his head. "That should not be possible. The Ross Empire's weapons are very difficult to copy, and based on the Innderverse's powers' attitude, they would not bother with such subterfuge."

"Well done, Ross Empire." Undying Yushan was furious. It did not take much to realize that the Daynight clan was the one behind the Ross Empire—why else would they act against the Great Yu Empire right now? The empire's students who had broken past the three powers during Astral-10's entrance exam were not enough for the Ross Empire to act, especially since this much time had already passed; they would have intervened much earlier if they had wanted to.

"Your Highness, to be safe, we should put a hold on any external wars for now. The intervention of the Ross Empire will undoubtedly lead to more incidents like the one Captain Liuying Zishan suffered through," Huo Qingshan advised.

Undying Yushan sighed and nodded. "Let the Duke know about this matter and caution him to be careful as well."

"Very well. Shall we also inform Princess Wendy?"

The emperor's eyes flashed. "There's no need. Since they've acted against us, the opponent must have already factored her into their plans."

Huo Qingshan was right; there was no need for the Innderverse's powers to disguise their methods when acting against the Outerverse powers. The Ross Empire's powerhouses blatantly stepped into the Frostwave Weave and joined the Great Yu Empire's enemies and began a combined assault against the Great Yu Empire.

Even if the Great Yu Empire ceased their war efforts, it was useless as the experts from the Ross Empire would continue with their attacks.

Only then did Lu Yin finally learn of the matter. There was no need to guess who the primary culprit was. It was the Daynight clan. Lu Yin's actions had drawn the Nightking Zhenwu's ire, as no one other than the Ten Arbiters could mobilize the Ross Empire.

Although Starsibyl had resolved the dispute between Lu Yin and Nightqueen Yanqing, she could not intervene between him and Nightking Zhenwu.

Lu Yin had previously guessed that Nightking Zhenwu might act, but he had never thought that his actions would be so harsh and exaggerated; it was as if Lu Yin had been completely disregarded.

To Nightking Zhenwu, there was no difficulty in suppressing the Great Yu Empire, as Lu Yin himself did not have the qualifications to meet any one of the Ten Arbiters as an equal.

Lu Yin knew this himself, and he could not change Nightking Zhenwu's decision. Nightking Yuanjing could protect Lu Yin himself, but he could not protect the Great Yu Empire.

However, did the Great Yu Empire really require protection?

After learning more about the universe, Lu Yin had finally been able to grasp the general power level of the Outerverse. The Great Yu Empire's strength was definitely enough to conquer the Frostwave Weave and become its leading power. The only reason why it had not done so before was because it had been held back by the various Innerverse powers that had been struggling for the Undying Manual. If the Ross Empire underestimated the Great Yu Empire, then they would end up paying a steep price.

Even so, this matter had initially arisen because of Lu Yin, so he had to think of a way to make up for it, or at least to shift the Daynight clan's focus away from the Great Yu Empire. But he was only a student. How could he match up against the great Daynight clan? They could easily dispatch a space-exploring powerhouse to eliminate him.

He could not push for more with Nightking Yuanjing either, as the more information that Lu Yin revealed, the more danger he would end up in later on.

Chapter 259: Outerverse Trial

"What's our valiant leader so stressed out about?" A voice sounded from behind Lu Yin, and when he turned around, he saw a cold foxy face in front of him.

Lu Yin's heart jumped when he saw Silver appear out of nowhere, "The Daynight clan is going to attack the Great Yu Empire. Are you guys not planning to do anything?"

Silver feigned shock. "Attack? Is this because you offended the Nightking clan?"

Lu Yin did not answer, but that alone was tantamount to a tacit acknowledgement.

Silver's lips curled up. "This isn't an easy situation to resolve. That's the Daynight clan that you're talking about, and you even offended their Nightking bloodline. That spells trouble."

"If the Great Yu Empire is wiped out by the Daynight clan, then your people will be in trouble too. Or at the least, your schemes in the Great Yu Empire will end."

Silver leisurely stretched out. "I don't know what you're talking about, but I do have some interesting information that I can sell you, although I'm not sure if you can pay the price or not."

"What information?" Lu Yin's eyes narrowed.

Silver beamed. "Payment first, then the information."

Lu Yin took out a crystal Mavis Bank card. "There are 450,000 star energy crystals in here."

Silver smirked. "That's not what I want. I need information from you."

"Information?" Lu Yin was astonished, but he could vaguely guess at what Silver was hinting towards.

"Since you were able to get in touch with a Nightking elder and even get that old fart Nightking Yuanjing to protect your little girlfriend, I want to know what price you paid to do so." Silver's smile faded as he spoke seriously.

Lu Yin considered the proposition; could he give Silver the information about the Third Nightking? This person was from the Neohuman Alliance and was an enemy of all humans. The Third Nightking was indeed from the Nightking clan, but he was still a human who had bravely charged into the Astral Beast Domain on behalf of the Human Domain. Would telling Silver be akin to betraying the human race?

"Hey, why aren't you telling him?" The Ghost Monkey's voice rang out in Lu Yin's mind.

Lu Yin was at a loss for what to say.

"It looks like this brat isn't some virtuous person either. Only a few people know about the matter with Nightking Yuanjing, and apart from those directly involved, only the upper members of the Nightking clan would know. And yet, this brat actually knows about it as well. Isn't that basically insinuating that he has ears in the Nightking clan? That would be terrifying. Kid, is that what you're worried about?" the Ghost Monkey asked.

Lu Yin gently grunted.

Silver's eyes widened. "So, is this price too high? Or would you rather sacrifice your Great Yu Empire to keep the price that you paid to the Nightking clan secret? Or have you actually cast your lot in with the Nightking clan?" Silver's voice was especially cold when he uttered the last sentence; Lu Yin had never heard him so icy before.

"This brat isn't easy to deal with. Just tell him about the Third Nightking," the Ghost Monkey urged

Lu Yin frowned, but he still refrained from answering.

"Relax, even if the news about the Third Nightking's tracks spreads into the Human Domain or even through the universe, no one will be able to save or harm him. The Astral Beast Domain has not managed to do so after so many years, so do you really think that your Human Domain can somehow do so? No one will be able to save or harm him, and the Third Nightking does not have a good character either. You can ask around—that guy wiped out many clans back in his days. The Nightking clan's ruthlessness was in some part started by him," the monkey explained.

Lu Yin made his choice and looked at Silver, "I gave Nightking Yuanjing a piece of information."

Silver's eyes widened a bit more.

"The Third Nightking is in the Profound Void Realm of the Astral Beast Domain," Lu Yin slowly explained. This sentence caused Silver's smile to completely vanish as a frigid coldness and a deep killing intent started surging forth from him.

"How do you know the location of the Third Nightking?" Silver asked solemnly.

Lu Yin had never seen Silver like this before. "I've given you my side of the deal. You can tell me your information now."

Silver inhaled deeply and slowly calmed himself down. He then seriously answered, "The Nightking clan wants to extend their influence into the Outerverse and has decided to send experts to participate in the Outerverse trial. This trial is how the Outerverse Youth Council selects their members, and many people from both the Outerverse and Innerverses will participate, including dark powers like the pirates from the Astral River and the Chaos Flowzone. Even the Technocracy and the Astral Beast Domain may send their experts to participate."

"What?" Lu Yin was flabbergasted by this information. The Outerverse Youth Council had been established for many years, but this round's selection seemed to be exceptionally important.

Silver shook his head. "I don't know all the details, but many Innerverses want a foothold inside of the Outerverse Youth Council. They don't want one of their people clan members to be just a subsidiary member, but rather an actual Councilor."

"Councilor? What about the original ones?" Lu Yin was puzzled.

Silver's lips quirked up in a disturbing manner. "Half of the original ten are dead."

Lu Yin was badly shocked by this news. The Outerverse Youth Council's Councilors were all experts among the Top 100 Rankings, just like how Wendy Yushan was among the top twenty. There were members both weaker and stronger than her, but every last one of them was an absolute expert. Now, however, half of them were dead.

"Is this shocking news to you? Don't pay it too much attention—this is a very normal matter. The universe is wonderful like that. No matter how strong you are, you can fall at any time, just like how the Third Nightking went missing and stunned the entire universe. Yet not long after that, everyone came to accept it. This is simply how the universe works," Silver said with a grin before leaving.

Lu Yin felt that Silver had specifically approached him to give him the news about the Daynight clan. Why? Was it to provoke Lu Yin into stirring up trouble for them? The Neohuman Alliance already had someone in the Outerverse Youth Council, so why would they want to infiltrate it again?

Lu Yin did not know what Silver's goals were, but he had at least received information that was useful to him. Right now, his plan was indeed to make trouble and divert the Daynight clan's focus away from the Great Yu Empire.

Still, there would be quite a few space-exploring powerhouses vying for the members' positions. This was a troubling matter, and although Lu Yin was not afraid of battling against normal Explorers since he

was a Realmbreaker, he might not necessarily be able to challenge an Explorer realm expert from the Daynight clan.

As he thought over everything he had just learned, Lu Yin contacted Mira. He wanted more accurate news, as he needed to figure out the baseline of the people participating in this upcoming Outerverse trial. If the participants were all going to be Explorers, he would simply forget about it. He was looking to cause trouble, not die.

Mira was a graduate of the Astral Combat Academy, so Lu Yin was able to directly contact her.

“A rare caller. If I recall correctly, this is the first time that you’ve ever called me of your own volition.” Mira’s gorgeous face appeared on the screen, and she smiled at him.

When he saw her, Lu Yin was reminded of the moment when he had teased her on Planet Conan; this woman had a troublesome, mischievous personality. “Senior Mira, do you remember the matter that you promised me?”

Mira raised her face and revealed an innocent expression. “No, did I promise you something before?”

Lu Yin grudgingly said, “You promised to recommend me for the Outerverse Youth Council.”

Mira said, “Oh, sure, but you must think about this carefully. If you join by my recommendation, then you’ll be marked as being in Wen Sansi’s camp.”

If this had happened before the Astral Combat Tournament took place, then Mira definitely would not have told Lu Yin this information because he would not have been qualified to choose and would have had no choice in the matter. Becoming the subordinate of any one of the Ten Arbiters was an unequaled privilege. But it was different now since Lu Yin was a member of the Council of Astral Academy as well as an extremely gifted young expert. He was now qualified to have a choice.

“Is that how it has to be?” Lu Yin felt helpless.

Mira smiled. “Of course. Consider things carefully.”

“What if I join on my own? Such as through the Outerverse trial?” Lu Yin probed as he watched Mira closely.

Mira’s eyes flashed. “The Outerverse trial? Who told you about that?”

Lu Yin did not answer.

Mira’s lips bent upwards. “Was it your fiancée? Princess Wendy?”

Lu Yin shrugged, but he did not admit or deny anything.

“Indeed, there’s been an Outerverse trial that was recently scheduled. If you don’t want to be tagged by one of the Ten Arbiters when you join the Outerverse Youth Council, then this would be the opportunity to do so.”

Lu Yin curiously asked, “Is this a trial to select Councilors?”

Mira shook her head, "There are only five Councilors on the Outerverse Youth Council right now. An election should be held, but it won't be by this trial. That's because no one in the Outerverse currently qualifies to become a Councilor."

"Outerverse? Even the people from the Innerverse don't?" Lu Yin felt that this was strange.

Mira smiled. "Joining the Ten Arbiters Council requires not only prestige, but also warmth and support. And as for support, you'll need to solicit it. Since this is the Outerverse's matter, it should be handled by the Outerverse. Although all ten previous Councilors trained in the Innerverse, they were all originally from the Outerverse, which is why they served as its members. Right now, no one from the Outerverse is qualified to take on the post of a Councilor. Since there are insufficient numbers, we can only rely on our subordinates to make up for the loss in manpower, hence this trial."

Lu Yin fell into thought. Since Innerverse powerhouses could not become Councilors of the Outerverse Youth Council, then what was the Daynight clan competing for? Could they really only be recruiting subordinate members?

"Of course, if the Outerverse is unable to produce qualified Councilors, then we'll have to select them from the Innerverse. However, we're not considering that at this moment."

"What qualifications are required to become a Councilor?"

Her lips curled up as she simply replied, "Get your name into the Top 100 Rankings."

Lu Yin nodded. So it was the Top 100 Rankings after all. This was the base standard of the Ten Arbiters Council, who had two subsidiary groups underneath them. The first was the Outerverse Youth Council and the second was the direct subordinates of the Ten Arbiters. Almost everyone in these two groups were among the Top 100 Rankings, as the Ten Arbiters had gathered practically all of the top talents in the younger generation.

"So in other words, this trial has nothing to do with electing Councilors, and is just to find some subordinate members?"

Mira nodded. "That's right, but you'll still have a chance to join. Although there'll definitely be some Explorers who participate, there won't be too many. The council wants to limit the Innerverse's meddling in the Outerverse as much as possible in order to prevent the Outerverse from boycotting them. Hence, there will be extremely few Innerverse Explorer powerhouses participating. There are also only a few from the younger generation in the Outerverse who have become Explorers, so the trial should end up mainly being a contest between Limiteer cultivators."

Mira's eyes brightened at this point, and she looked at Lu Yin curiously. "I must ask, if you manage to pass this trial and join the Outerverse Youth Council, then whose camp will you choose to join? Your fiancée's?"

Lu Yin had not considered this question yet, and it caused him to frown. "Even with my status as a Council of Astral Academy member, I can still only become a subordinate member?"

Mira tilted her head. "That is indeed a problem. There's never been a member of the Council of Astral Academy who has participated in an Outerverse Youth Council subordinate trial since their position is

already equal to that of a full Councilor. Basically, there's no need to fight to become a subordinate member. You're quite the strange person—others fight to climb upwards while you charge downwards.”

Chapter 260: A Surprising Training Ground

Lu Yin was rendered speechless. He obviously didn't want to do this either, but he needed to create a diversion to distract the Daynight clan. Besides, his family had told him to join the Great Yu Empire's Universe Youth Council, so there must be some reason behind it, and he couldn't ruin their plans. Finally, he also wanted to get revenge against Bazeer. Lu Yin still remembered Bazeer's insults, and he even thought that he could find a way to get revenge despite the fact that Bazeer was an Explorer right now.

“That's none of my business. I won't interfere either—you can do whatever you want. However, I do want to remind you of one thing.” Mira's expression turned serious as she looked straight at Lu Yin. “Don't think that you're invincible among Limiteers just because you defeated Liu Shaoqiu and Nightqueen Yanqing. Although the Astral Combat Tournament managed to attract many geniuses, the universe is vast and there are still more geniuses out there. Liu Shaoqiu is just a Melder, and Nightqueen Yanqing isn't even the strongest Limiteer in the Nightking clan. Your current strength is still not comparable to the Ten Arbiters' when they were Limiteers. The allure of the Outerverse Youth Council is far greater than the Astral Combat Tournament for some people, so take care of yourself.” After saying that, Mira hung up.

Lu Yin smiled. Even without Mira's reminder, he already knew that the Astral Combat Tournament didn't include all of the geniuses in the universe. However, Mira had exaggerated the situation slightly, and he was sure that, within the younger generation, apart from the Explorer realm powerhouses, Liu Shaoqiu would stand at the peak once he became a Limiteer. Lu Yin was certain about this; no one would be more powerful than Liu Shaoqiu after he became a Limiteer, especially since he would have the Fourth Sword at that point.

If Lu Yin was still able to defeat Liu Shaoqiu after he learned to use the Fourth Sword, he would undeniably stand at the peak above his peers and be able to match the power of the Ten Arbiters back when they had been Limiteers.

Still, he would only be comparable to the Ten Arbiters; it was much too difficult to exceed their standards.

The Ten Arbiters were a milestone for the younger generation; they were the ten legends who had been born from the creation of the formcast models.

At this same time, within Astral-3, Nightqueen Yanqing lowered her head with an expression of fear on her face.

“Because of you, our clan has become involved in the Frostwave Weave's war, and now, everyone thinks that the Ross Empire attacked the Great Yu Empire on the Daynight clan's orders. You were too stupid,” a man in a screen coldly rebuked.

Nightqueen Yanqing didn't dare to raise her head. “I'm sorry, brother.”

“It’s fine if you want to humiliate someone, but you shouldn’t have exposed the Daynight clan. This short-term plan of instant gratification has caused the clan to gain a permanent enemy, especially since this enemy cannot be removed as of yet. It might even become an obstacle to us in future, although the probability of that happening is very low.”

“Brother, it’s my fault,” Nightqueen Yanqing replied softly.

“It’s fine. The mistake has already been made, so we can only continue moving forward. Elder Yuanjing is protecting Lu Yin, not the Great Yu Empire, so it doesn’t matter if we destroy it. We can’t offend Starsbyl either, so just tell her that all of this was ordered by me.”

“Yes, brother.”

“Nevertheless, we must find the person who dared to use the Daynight clan. They are very bold to use our clan to vent their frustration,” the man said in an icy voice.

Nightqueen Yanqing shivered again. “Yes, I’ll go to the Ross Empire immediately.”

“Don’t disappoint me this time! Those old farts have released Zhanlong Daynight after our failure during the Astral Combat Tournament, and he will be participating in the upcoming Outerverse trials as well.”

Nightqueen Yanqing lifted her head, her eyes filled with hatred. “Brother, I can’t get rid of this hatred as long as this person is alive.”

“You can’t blame anyone but yourself. He has succeeded in learning the Daynight clan’s most difficult battle technique, so it’s normal that you can’t defeat him. Still, he will never be able to surpass me. As long as I’m alive, the Daynight clan will never be able to hold their heads high. Just settle your own tasks and stop causing trouble for me.” The screen then went blank.

Nightqueen Yanqing stood rooted in place, her eyes blazing with anger. Zhanlong Daynight had once greatly humiliated her. She was an elite of the Nightking clan and the sister of a Ten Arbiter, but she had lost to a Daynight clan member, causing her to be humiliated within her own clan. That person was also the reason why she had joined the Astral Combat Academy. She had initially heard that he had been imprisoned for something that he had done, but now, he had been released due to her own failures. Both Zhanlong Daynight and Lu Yin were enemies whom she must remove.

The Outerverse trial wasn’t just a method for choosing the Outerverse Youth Council’s subordinate members, but it was also a platform to showcase one’s abilities. Regardless of whether they were from the Innaverse or the Outerverse, or whether they wanted to join the Outerverse Youth Council or not, the results of everyone who participated in this trial would be submitted to the Ten Arbiters.

To the younger generation, nothing was more appealing than the Council of the Ten Arbiters. Although the council was just an organization for the younger generation, its power would only continue to increase due to the existence of the Ten Arbiters. This was common knowledge; the Ten Arbiters had all obtained the acknowledgement of the universe, which gave their organization amazing potential. Many people would sacrifice their very lives just to show off their abilities to the Ten Arbiters. This wasn’t merely to gain the Ten Arbiters’ favor, but also to win support from their own native organizations as well. The better their performance here, the more resources they would win to aid their growth.

In the middle of an ancient land stood a towering stone monument. This was the ancestral grounds of the Daynight clan.

In a dim underground dungeon near the stone monument, a pair of imposing eyes snapped open, and the sound of iron chains grating against each other could be heard.

Many members of the Daynight clan stood outside the dungeon. They were quiet but held excited gazes.

A figure soon walked out from the dungeon, his body wrapped with layers of clanking iron chains. He looked haggard, but his eyes were still bright and full of aggression.

“Congratulations to Brother Zhanlong on your release!” dozens of Daynight people shouted out. Their voices attracted the attention of quite a few people, including the elders who were guarding the stone monument within the ancestral grounds.

This young man was Zhanlong Daynight, a scion of the Daynight clan. He was a genius who had no innate gift, but he had managed to reach the level right below Nightking Zhenwu on the stone monument through pure hard work.

The stone monument didn’t just measure one’s ability; it also tested one’s talent for comprehending battle techniques. And this latter part was directly measured by how far one could go in the Daynight clan’s inheritance corridor. Zhanlong Daynight had surpassed Nightqueen Yanqing as well as many other elites from both the Daynight and Nightking clans.

Zhanlong Daynight was a Limiteer who had a better understanding of battle techniques than even Explorers; this was the man who had driven Nightqueen Yanqing to the Astral Combat Academy.

Zhanlong Daynight closed his eyes as if from exhaustion, but he soon opened them again. He roared out and maniacally laughed, “I said that I would be out again, Nightking Clan! I, Zhanlong Daynight, told you that before! Hahahaha.”

The few elders guarding the stone monument were annoyed. “How dare he? He’s just a young boy, and yet he dares to challenge the Nightkings.”

“That’s why he was sent to the dungeons, but it seems that he’s still unrepentant. We shouldn’t have released him.”

“Leave him be. Let him help the Daynight clan recover from our embarrassment. We need him to join the Outerverse trial. Otherwise, our move to force the Astral Combat Academy to send their top four to the trial will have been a waste of resources.”

“Hmph! We should have just used the Sealed Cage Technique on him.”

...

In the depths of the universe, within the Sword Clan in the First Flowzone, a mountain peak collapsed as sword qi tore the skies apart. A handsome man wearing jeans, a short-sleeve shirt, and a felt cap on his head walked out.

An elder in the distant raged, “Long Yun, you brat! You destroyed another mountain!”

The handsome man called Long Yun rolled his eyes. "So it's my fault that the mountains aren't sturdy enough?"

"You brat! Don't you leave just yet. I'm going to teach you a lesson."

Long Yun immediately ran away. "I'm going to the Outerverse! I heard that Shaoqiu was defeated, so let me go out and teach the person who defeated him a lesson."

...

In Astral-1, Starsibyl looked at her gadget with a strange expression. "Let's go and take a look at the Outerverse trial."

...

In Astral-7, Yue Xianzi curiously said, "The Outerverse trial? Is the clan trying to remove the Daynight clan's influence? They're too naive if they think they can do so, but I don't mind heading over to take a look."

...

Although Silver hadn't specifically told Lu Yin about the Outerverse trial, the Astral Combat Academy had notified him anyways since the top four from the Astral Combat Tournament were required to participate for some unknown reason.

Lu Yin was stunned when he received the notification. If he had just waited for a while more, he wouldn't have been teased by Mira. But where should he go for the Outerverse trial? He looked at his gadget. The Outerverse was huge, and there were several training grounds that had been predetermined to be used for the Outerverse trial, so he was checking to see which training ground he should be heading towards.

Lu Yin' became gleeful when a particular name on his gadget popped out to him. The Shenwu Continent?

Lu Yin wasn't a stranger to the Shenwu Continent at all, since he had Possessed Wu Xia, the Shenwu Continent's Crown Prince's personal butler. This had given Lu Yin a basic understanding of Shenwu Continent. He never expected that the Outerverse trial would actually be held on the Shenwu Continent; this was definitely his lucky day!

Although the Shenwu Continent was in the Darkmist Weave, it was in a separate dimension, and normally, no one would be able to see it if they just passed by. It was much like Astral-10 in that one needed to be sent into the Shenwu Continent.

However, it was extremely difficult to enter the Shenwu Continent as it was sealed off by the five planets. Moreover, one couldn't brazenly enter the continent as it wasn't like Earth; the people of this continent had already gone to war with other civilizations of the universe. Even the Darkmist Weave hadn't been able to do anything to this continent, as it held many skilled powerhouses, and one would definitely die if they were revealed to be from the universe.

From Wu Xia's memory, there was even an organization called the Ming Constables. This organization had been specially set up to hunt down and kill trialtakers, and the members had special methods to discover foreigners from outside the continent. Hence, even Explorers wouldn't be safe in the Shenwu Continent, which was why it had been selected as a training ground.

But no matter how dangerous the Shenwu Continent was, it being one of the options was still a godsend to Lu Yin, as he had already completed one of the primary missions of the trial.

There were two primary trial missions in the Shenwu Continent trial. The first was to find the coordinates of the five sealing planets and the second was to discover the burial ground of an elder of the Shenwu Continent. Lu Yin already knew one of the five sealing planets' coordinates through Wu Xia's memories. Thus, he had already completed that mission. As long as he could safely leave the Shenwu Continent, he would definitely get first place.

Lu Yin took a deep breath; this was great luck. He took his die out and thought about how amazing his innate gift was. Pilfer had retrieved some extremely rare things for him, such as the Cosmic Art and the hide of Progenitor Wushang.

Although Blackhole Disassembly wasn't particularly useful, it still might come in handy if he encountered any rare materials in the future.

Enhance was quite scary; it could upgrade formcast models and had even enhanced the effects of a purple star.