

Chapter 281: Daynight Restoration Technique

“Huh?!” The man was so angry that he started laughing. “Do you think that I’m your sparring partner or something? Show your true strength!”

Lu Yin spotted Yue Xianzi standing in the corner and quickly eliminated his annoying opponent. The man only felt a dizziness overtake him before everything turned dark. He had been knocked unconscious.

There was a bang as the floor shook from the impact. A sword qi was sweeping throughout the field, and it had already killed a trialtaker. Li Zimo was unstoppable.

“Die, native!” a Daynight male shouted as he charged out and raised his palm towards Li Zimo. Black and white colors swirled within his palm, causing those around him to feel faint.

Li Zimo’s eyes brightened, and he reversed his sword. He swapped positions with the Daynight clan member, who spat out a mouthful of blood as he fell to the floor; a sword scar had appeared across his chest that was so deep his ribs were revealed.

Whoosh!

An enormous pressure descended from above, causing Li Zimo’s hair to stand on end. He subconsciously avoided the attack, though the explosion covered the entirety of the Tower of Resonating Light’s sixth level. Zhanlong Daynight walked out from the smoke and sneered at Li Zimo. “You’re not half bad.”

Li Zimo shivered; this was a terrifying expert!

The two immediately charged towards each other without exchanging any pleasantries. As soon as they collided, the area around them became desolate—no one dared to approach their brawl.

Li Zimo was the only Limiteer among the Ming Vanguard’s three commanders. The other two were Explorers, and as such, they had gone to the five sealing planets. Their deputies, however, were Limiteers and thus were here, resisting the trialtakers.

The Ming Vanguard was not alone, as the Tower of Resonating Light had its own defensive force, which was not weak in any way. There were a few experts among them who were on the List of Tempering, and even the trialtakers had to expend a serious amount of effort to deal with such experts.

The sixth level was quite spacious, so the battlefield was not crowded in the slightest. All of the trialtakers were rushing to charge into the level below.

Lu Yin darted about the battlefield before suddenly appearing before Yue Xianzi. She was shocked to see that someone had suddenly approached her, and subconsciously activated her inherited battle technique, Poseidon’s Garments, to protect herself. Unfortunately, Lu Yin tore through it with a single palm. This scene stunned her, and she immediately thought of Lu Yin. Although he had changed his appearance, his attack methods were still about the same, and there were also very few people who could tear through her Poseidon’s Garments that easily.

“You’re Lu Yin?!” Yue Xianzi barked as she stepped back while remaining cautious.

Lu Yin had a cold gaze. "You didn't tell me about this part where you all invaded the Tower of Resonating Light."

"I did not know until I arrived at the capital either."

"Is that so," Lu Yin did not bicker, "Since you helped sneak me into the Ming Constables, I can pass any last words that you may have to the Frostmoon Sect."

Yue Xianzi's gaze turned frosty, and she retreated a few more steps back. "You want to kill me?"

"Not me, but Ming Hao. Don't you get it? This news of the Tower of Resonating Light being the control node for the five sealing planets was leaked by Ming Hao. This invasion of the Tower of Resonating Light is part of a mutual understanding between the Darkmist Weave and the Shenwu Continent: you all are just pawns."

She frowned. "No one would dare to use us as pawns. The Darkmist Weave is no exception."

Lu Yin laughed harshly. "The Darkmist Weave contains the darkest powers of the entire universe. Although it cannot compare in strength to the Innaverse's Chaos Flowzone, it's not lacking in temperament at all. If they act like they don't know about this incident, then what can the organizations behind you possibly do? After all, this is a trial, not a game."

"How do you know all this? What else do you know?" Yue Xianzi felt that things were too strange. This person had to rely on her to join the Ming Constables, so how did he know so much about their situation?

Lu Yin looked into the distance and indistinctly saw Han Chong flash through the battlefield. He thoughtfully replied, "Unforeseen events will unfold tonight. Take care of yourself." He then immediately left.

Yue Xianzi was unsure if Lu Yin was telling the truth, or if he was merely trying to hoodwink her. If that was the truth, then one of the trialtakers in the Shenwu Continent had played a sly hand by gambling the lives of everyone who had charged into the Tower of Resonating Light. If they succeeded, then the merit would belong solely to that person. If they did not, then that person would not even show their face. She, and even Han Chong and those from the Daynight clan, had all become pawns of that person.

It was impossible; no one would treat people with backgrounds as large as theirs as pawns. Yue Xianzi thought about it some more and then suddenly found a problem. All of the trialtakers had attacked the Tower of Resonating Light without any prior agreement, so just who was leading the charge? Han Chong? That was impossible since their batch had only recently arrived in the continent. They definitely did not have the time to gather the information about the Tower of Resonating Light let alone form a group and formulate a plan. Things must have been orchestrated over a longer period of time, but who was behind it?

Han Chong entered the seventh level of the Tower of Resonating Light and was immediately welcomed by two blades aimed at his throat. He easily dodged them and waved a hand, using his martial power to create a painting that crushed the two Ming Vanguards in front of him. He continued looking ahead, but could see only blackness. The radiance from the sixth level only barely illuminated the lower level. Where is the node?

Back on the sixth level, Li Zimo and Zhanlong Daynight's battle was growing more and more intense with each passing minute. Or rather, Li Zimo's sword attacks were becoming more frequent. He was already using his full strength, but Zhanlong Daynight still seemed to be taking it easy, as there was not a single sign of injury on his body.

At this point, there was an indescribable shock in Li Zimo's heart. As the second on the List of Tempering, such an opponent in the Martial King realm should not exist, with the possible exception of the mysterious first. He had fought against many foreigners over the years, but not a single one of them who was in the same realm as him had been an opponent for him. This man before him was just too terrifying; Li Zimo could not even wound him, much less defeat him.

Zhanlong Daynight grinned and tore his clothes apart. "Your sword techniques aren't too bad. Come on, hack at me," he taunted as he pointed towards his chest with an arrogant expression.

Li Zimo pulled his sword back and stood straight, staring intently at Zhanlong Daynight. He flipped the hilt of his sword around and replied with a single word. "Arrogant." He then strode forwards with a series of light steps as his blade streaked out. The surroundings fell silent as his blade had practically isolated the space around them. This strike was stronger than any of his previous ones, and its power had even surpassed Liu Shaoqiu's Second Sword of the Thirteen Swords. This was the Silence, Li Zimo's strongest technique.

Zhanlong Daynight had been too careless and assumed that Li Zimo had already used all of his strength. He never expected that Li Zimo would take this opportunity to launch the strongest attack so far. His chest was torn apart by the blade, and his blood was scattered across the floor.

Lu Yin jumped atop a broken stone to look at Zhanlong Daynight. Should I use this opportunity to kill him?

Drip, drip, drip.

The fresh blood splattered onto the floor as Zhanlong Daynight lowered his head. There was intense pain radiating out from the wound in his chest. He slowly turned around, "Impressive strength, kid. You're the first Limiteer who's been able to hurt me."

Li Zimo trembled and stared blankly as the wound on his opponent's chest gradually vanished. Within a few seconds, the skin was unbroken, as if his strike had never landed. Apart from the fresh blood staining the floor, there was no trace of any injury on Zhanlong Daynight. How?

Lu Yin felt numb as well. What kind of trick is this?

"That technique seems so familiar. I must have seen it in some border warfront record before," the Ghost Monkey muttered.

"It's a Daynight technique."

The Ghost Monkey cried out, "Oh! It must be the Daynight Restoration Technique. Someone actually managed to learn that heaven-defying technique?"

"You know about it?" Lu Yin was puzzled.

“I’ve gone through many records of various powerhouses and their unique bodies. One such peak physical tempering technique is the Daynight Restoration Technique. A long time ago, perhaps ten thousand years ago, there was a heaven-defying genius of the Daynight clan who battled against five Cruiser level astral beasts while only at the Explorer realm. That battle lasted for days and ultimately ended with five deaths—four Cruiser level astral beasts as well as that Daynight genius. The surviving astral beast, who was also a powerhouse, went on to describe the Daynight Restoration Technique in detail.”

The monkey paused a moment and then continued explaining, saying, “This technique is not a battle technique per se, but more of a recovery technique. It’s an almost perverted level of regeneration. If a normal person’s regeneration rate was given a score of ten, then those who learned this technique would be rated at a hundred, a thousand, or even ten thousand. They can recover from all kinds of grievous injuries in the blink of an eye! It’s extremely messed up. Those astral beast powerhouses only killed that Daynight genius by deliberately dragging out the battle until he ran out of energy.”

Lu Yin was shocked. “Such a technique exists in the world? Wouldn’t such a thing make this guy invincible?”

“More or less. He can’t be killed by anyone in the same realm as him. Also, the longer the technique is practised for, the more every aspect of the practitioner’s body will be improved—and there’s no upper limit! It’s very, very twisted, and that powerhouse advised us to kill any known user of the Daynight Restoration Technique as soon as possible in order to prevent them from living for too long.”

Regeneration sounds very familiar... Right! The Technique of Life and Death! Lu Yin recalled this strange technique could also greatly upgrade one’s power. It worked by suppressing a person’s natural regenerative abilities and converted that into strength. It was actually the complete opposite of the Daynight Restoration Technique. Lu Yin suddenly thought back to when he had collided with Zhanlong Daynight’s palm. There had been a sort of suppressive effect; could that have been the Technique of Life and Death suppressing the Daynight Restoration Technique?

If this were really the case, then this brat was just too unlucky! Lu Yin had managed to obtain this obscure technique after countless others had failed over the course of countless years. He should be the only one in the universe who could be considered the natural nemesis of a practitioner of the Daynight Restoration Technique.

Li Zimo reluctantly conceded the battle after witnessing Zhanlong Daynight’s recovery. No matter how strong his attacks were, they were all rendered useless against him. Zhanlong Daynight’s battle style had naturally evolved into a mutually destructive style, and it didn’t take long for Li Zimo’s sword to be damaged.

He spat out some blood, his face deathly pale.

The ambushing party within the Tower of Resonating Light was slowly being whittled away at. Lu Yin did not want Li Zimo to be killed, but more importantly, he did not want Li Zimo to die at the hands of a Daynight clan member. If he did nothing, then this achievement might give Zhanlong Daynight an opportunity to join the Outerverse Youth Council.

With that in mind, Lu Yin used Flash to charge towards the battlefield and casually threw a large rock at Zhanlong Daynight.

Zhanlong waved his hand and crushed the rock. He looked coldly at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin tucked his head in and landed roughly on the floor, causing a cloud of dust to fly up into the air.

Zhanlong Daynight disdainfully remarked, "Worthless."

Li Zimo looked at Lu Yin and said in a low voice, "Don't intervene. Leave!"

Lu Yin wanted to respond, but then a noise sounded out. Li Zimo heard it as well. The two exchanged glances and charged back up to the Tower of Resonating Light's fifth level.

At the same time, the defending Ming Vanguard and all the other experts from the Shenwu Continent pulled back one after one another. Zhanlong Daynight and the other trialtakers were all confused by their sudden retreat.

Yue Xianzi's heart leaped, and she had a bad premonition, "Brother Zhanlong, this is a trap! They want to seal us in here!"

Zhanlong Daynight raised his head. "That'll depend on their abilities." He then leaped up, following Lu Yin and the rest of the defenders to the fifth level.

Li Zimo struck downwards with his sword in an attempt to block Zhanlong Daynight. However, this top genius of the Daynight clan had more than one trick up his sleeves; his extreme speed was also astounding and defied all expectations. When Li Zimo and the rest arrived at the fifth level, Zhanlong Daynight followed right behind, along with a few other trialtakers.

"Knock him down!" Li Zimo barked as he attacked Zhanlong Daynight.

Lu Yin attacked together with Li Zimo, and they simultaneously unleashed an attack towards Zhanlong Daynight.

Zhanlong Daynight grunted and struck out with both hands. Black and white colors interchanged; this was the Daynight Punch. With a bang, Li Zimo's sword shattered, and he was blasted back a dozen meters. Then, Lu Yin's palm collided with Zhanlong Daynight, and there was another loud band as shockwaves rippled in all directions. The shockwaves ended up hitting the Daynight clan members rushing upwards, forcing them back down again.

Chapter 282: Sweeping Through

This scene shocked everyone, including Li Zimo. Never in his wildest imaginations would he have dreamed that Lu Yin could block Zhanlong Daynight's punch.

Lu Yin himself was stunned as well. He hadn't put much force into that attack as he was afraid that Zhanlong Daynight would recognize him. However, the moment that their attacks collided, power had uncontrollably come out of his body, as if its sole purpose was to suppress the Daynight Restoration Technique. The result of this was Lu Yin being unable to control his strength and releasing that powerful counterattack.

Zhanlong Daynight stared hard at Lu Yin. "It's you!"

Lu Yin's heart skipped a beat. This is bad! It seemed that he wouldn't be able to hide his identity any longer, so his best course of action was to prevent Zhanlong Daynight from even speaking.

While Lu Yin was in the midst of processing the situation, the void distorted as martial power and all sorts of other energies swept through the area. The energy became tangible and surrounded the fifth level of the Tower of Resonating Light, sealing off the sixth level.

Back down on the sixth level, Yue Xianzi was just about to charge over, but she was stopped by the rampant shockwaves coming from Lu Yin and Zhanlong Daynight's battle. By the time she was able to head over, it was already too late. All she could do was helplessly watch on as the sixth level was sealed off.

Han Chong rushed up from the seventh level while waving his arms in the air. He used his martial power to draw a painting of mountains and seas that surged forth at the materialized energy seal. However, his efforts were in vain, and the seal did not budge in the slightest.

"Where's the target of this operation, Han Chong? The Shenwu Continent's done for the moment our objective is destroyed. If we complete this task, someone will eventually save us," a trialtaker said.

Han Chong had a sullen expression. "The area below is too big, so I haven't found it yet."

Yue Xianzi recalled what Lu Yin had said to her earlier, and her heart sank. However, it wouldn't be a good idea to bring it up right now since the information would likely drop morale. She could only treat what Lu Yin had said as a lie and keep searching.

"Let's all work together and see if we can break the seal!" a girl exclaimed. She seemed to be quite popular, and about a dozen trialtakers immediately attempted to follow her suggestion and rose to attack the seal. However, it still refused to budge.

"You won't be able to do anything unless a Lockbreaker is directing the energy. This is a materialized set of various mixed energies that have combined together to form this unique seal. Only a Lockbreaker has a chance of undoing this sort of thing," Han Chong said sternly as he eyed the fifth level. Amongst all the trialtakers on the continent, it appeared that the only Lockbreaker here was Lu Yin.

"We'd have a better chance of finding the control node," someone shouted out.

"Since they have the gall to seal us here, they clearly aren't worried about us finding it. All of this will be for nothing," someone else retorted.

"Then should we just wait here to die?"

...

"Stop arguing. Let's just try to find the control node for now. It might be our only way out," Han Chong stated firmly before darting back down towards the seventh level once again. The others were left with no other choice but to follow him.

The fifth level was still rife with intense battles. Seven trialtakers had managed to escape from the seal's grasp in time, and they were currently stuck on this level. Aside from Zhanlong Daynight, there were two

other members of the Daynight clan and five additional trialtakers who were currently caught in battle with experts from the Shenwu Continent.

Earlier, during the battles on the sixth level, both sides had suffered considerable damage. However, there were now less than a dozen people left on the trialtakers' side to contest against all of the remaining defending experts from the Shenwu Continent. Furthermore, the defenders had four people who were on the List of Tempering. Their battles had nearly destroyed the fifth level.

Rumble!

A loud explosion blasted out, causing the very air to distort. Lu Yin and Zhanlong Daynight both pulled back at the same time while keeping their eyes on each other.

With a whoosh, Li Zimo swiped his sword at Zhanlong Daynight. He had switched to a new sword after his last one was damaged.

Zhanlong Daynight used his fingers to tap it away. He retreated a few more meters and snickered, "You're such an idiot! You can't even tell who's your friend and who's your enemy."

Li Zimo paused, frowning hard. He glanced back at Lu Yin with a guarded expression. He had a clear idea of Zhanlong Daynight's strength, and even he found it difficult to block his attacks, but this person seemed able to do so with ease. Since when had a powerhouse like him existed on the Shenwu Continent?

"Who are you?" Li Zimo suddenly said as he glared and pointed his sword at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin knew that he wouldn't be able to get out of this. "It doesn't matter who I am, Commander Li. Rather, what's more important is the fact that the person before you is our true enemy. He's definitely a foreigner, and the responsibility of our Ming Vanguard squad is to eliminate them."

Zhanlong Daynight laughed maniacally. "Are you still trying to hide even now, Lu Yin? I can't believe that you had the guts to sneak into the Ming Constables as a foreigner! You've got balls."

Li Zimo had a stern look as he focused hard on Lu Yin.

Lu Yin sighed. "I thought that the Daynight clan was filled with only condescending assholes, but you're pretty blunt."

Zhanlong Daynight disgustedly replied, "Don't lump me in with those morons." He then glanced at Li Zimo. "Things have gotten pretty interesting now, sword guy. So, who are you going to fight?"

Li Zimo narrowed his eyes. "I'll kill both of you!"

"How dare you!"

"How dare you!"

Lu Yin and Zhanlong Daynight both attacked Li Zimo at the same time. Regardless of the circumstances, it was an undeniable fact that they were both foreigners, and as such, could be considered to be on the same side. Li Zimo wasn't weak either, so they wanted to end the battle as soon as possible before other reinforcements had a chance to arrive.

When Li Zimo saw two experts simultaneously attacking him, his gaze went cold as he slashed downwards with his sword before then slashing it across horizontally as well. There was a clang, and the sword was shattered into bits by Lu Yin while Li Zimo himself was hit in the stomach by Zhanlong Daynight. Li Zimo spat out a mouthful of blood as he half-knelt on the ground. He was obviously slightly weaker than either of them, so the final result was nothing surprising.

Lu Yin was about to continue attacking when Li Zimo interrupted and said, "You can kill me, but the two of you will still be enemies."

Zhanlong Daynight became surprised, and even as Lu Yin's attack towards Li Zimo continued, the black-and-white haired young man fired off an attack to his side. Lu Yin suddenly turned around. "I knew that you people from the Daynight clan couldn't be trusted!"

There was a loud crash, and the fifth level nearly collapsed. Lu Yin was also forced back several steps by Zhanlong's attack. With a wave of his right hand, Lu Yin sent shockwaves pulsing through the area as five-lined battle force burst out. Its dark-gold radiance illuminated the entire level and left everyone in awe.

At this moment, there were only about a dozen or so people still engaged in battle. The foreign trialtakers and the native experts of the continent were on rather even grounds. Crown Prince Ming Hao had not arranged for very many experts to lie in ambush at the Tower of Resonating Light so as to avoid alerting the foreigners beforehand. Hence, without the seal, the Shenwu Continent experts would have stood no chance against the trialtakers. Even now, the two groups were only evenly matched at best.

Lu Yin's explosive power shocked everyone on the fifth level, and he drew much attention to himself.

"I'll show you my true strength today," Lu Yin said with a cold glint in his eyes. He then used Flash to approach Zhanlong Daynight before striking down with a palm. When he had advanced to the Limiteer realm, the Rainmaster had helped him upgrade his Nine Stacks technique to the Thirteen Stacks technique. Some time had passed since then, and he was now able to use it.

"Thirteen Stacks, Twentyfold Shockwave Palm."

"Daynight Restoration Technique."

Boom boom boom...

Rampant shockwaves snaked throughout the entire fifth level of the Tower of Resonating Light like a rampaging python. The fifth level soon completely collapsed, causing the ground itself to tremble. The soldiers who had been guarding the tower pulled back and watched as the tower collapsed.

Meanwhile, within the imperial palace, Ming Hao turned around, and something flashed across his eyes as he fought back the urge to act.

Elsewhere, Long Yun was leaning against a hill. If Ming Hao or any other Explorer intervened, then he would do the same.

At the celebrations within the imperial palace, Ming Zhaoshu abruptly stopped moving while in the middle of taking a drink. After a brief pause, he continued.

Starsibyl's expression changed as she sensed an extraordinary aura.

Behind Ming Zhaocai, Grandini Mavis raised her eyes.

The collapse of the tower caught the attention of quite a few experts, but nobody moved to interfere. This was because the numerous battles covered too large of an area, and the sky was periodically tearing. The entire capital was being affected by the battle, and Ming Zhaoshu occasionally had to take action to block the remnant shockwaves.

It felt as if the sky of the continent itself was being torn open. It looked like the apocalypse.

The fifth level of the Tower of Resonating Light had been completely reduced to dust. The damage extended into the fourth layer as well. During this chaos, Lu Yin had managed to critically injure Zhanlong Daynight with one attack, causing the latter to collapse atop the energy seal. Even after receiving Lu Yin's attack, the seal had merely cracked a little, but it repaired itself in an instant.

Li Zimo lowered his sword and gazed at Lu Yin in shock. His last attack had left the Ming Constables commander thoroughly terrified, especially since he knew that there was no way he could ever withstand such an attack himself.

He glanced over at Zhanlong Daynight, who was still lying motionless on the seal. There was a deep palmprint that had nearly penetrated through his chest, and it looked as if the young man was dead.

The rest stared at Lu Yin in shock. Where had a monster like him come from?

When Lu Yin was just a Melder, he was already able to defeat Nightqueen Yanqing with just his Nine Stacks, Seventeenfold Shockwave Palm. Although Zhanlong Daynight was much stronger than Nightqueen Yanqing and even possessed the Daynight Restoration Technique, Lu Yin had advanced to the Limiteer realm and attacked with a Thirteen Stacks, Twentyfold Shockwave Palm. It would be a miracle if Zhanlong Daynight had managed to survive!

Lu Yin was breathing heavily nearby. That move had taken a lot out of him. It wasn't easy for him to use Thirteen Stacks, but he had gone all out purely because he did not want to give Zhanlong Daynight a chance to recover. His right arm was currently aching terribly.

He glanced over at Li Zimo. "I'm sorry for deceiving you, but I have my reasons." He then used Flash to appear next to the latter.

Li Zimo naturally wouldn't sit there and wait to die. He turned his sword horizontally and attacked everything around him, but Lu Yin had activated his Cosmic Art and was able to completely see through the attack. The sword qi that Li Zimo had used had too many gaps, and Lu Yin easily maneuvered past it to smack Li Zimo on the back. The Ming Vanguard commander was sent crashing down and ended up falling on the seal, right next to Zhanlong Daynight.

The onlookers were all stunned.

The two remaining experts from the Daynight family were enraged. "HOW DARE YOU!? LU YIN!"

Lu Yin snickered and used Flash at the highest speed that his body could handle. In just a few seconds, there was nobody else standing on the fifth level besides him. On his own, he had managed to sweep

through the entirety of the fifth level, defeating both Zhanlong Daynight and Li Zimo, who were both regarded highly due to their exceptional power within their own realm.

Was there anyone in the Limiteers realm who was even a match for Lu Yin? He had no idea as to the answer, but Lu Yin was sure that no Limiteer of the Daynight clan could hold their own against him.

“Bro! Seven, I admire you so much! My admiration for you is like water that keeps flowing, like...”

“Shut up.” Lu Yin curtly cut the monkey off. The Ghost Monkey’s voice could be incredibly irritating at times.

“Do you really not realize what it means to defeat the Daynight Restoration Technique, Seven? That’s the Technique of Immunity! And you took him out with one attack!? Damn, those Daynight clan people will probably kill themselves if they find out about this,” the Ghost Monkey exclaimed in an exaggerated manner.

Lu Yin looked down at his own palms. He was certainly more powerful than Zhanlong Daynight, but he didn’t actually have the strength to destroy the Technique of Immunity in a single move. He had only defeated Zhanlong Daynight with a single palm because his Fatal Revival was able to suppress the Daynight Restoration Technique. Otherwise, it would have been impossible for him to seriously injure Zhanlong Daynight in just one move.

Lu Yin did not bother to respond to the monkey, and he merely stood silently above the energy seal. He looked through the seal to the sixth level, waiting for Han Chong and the others to approach him.

There had to be a connection between the Darkmist Weave’s all-out attack and the trialtakers’ attack on the Tower of Resonating Light. Additionally, Lu Yin wasn’t worried about Ming Zhaotian and the others coming over. The two sides had already mutually agreed that this battlefield would decide the results of the ongoing war between the continent and the foreign invaders.

Han Chong and the rest were just too important. Even if the Darkmist Weave wanted to use them as chess pieces, these pieces couldn’t actually be sacrificed. Their deaths would affect many organizations in the Inverseverse, and the cons far outweighed the pros.

Not long after, a figure on the sixth level appeared within Lu Yin’s vision. It was a trialtaker who had failed to find the location of the control node.

The person looked up and gazed at Lu Yin through the energy seal. At that point, Lu Yin had returned to his original appearance, and the trialtaker thought that he looked familiar. After staring for a bit, the trialtaker’s eyes widened into saucers. “Y-You’re Lu Yin?”

Lu Yin looked downwards as he smiled. The materialized energy that made up the seal was transparent, and he could clearly see the look of shock on the trialtaker’s face. “And who are you?”

Chapter 283: Seal

“I’m An Shaohua of the Watermoon Villa, from the Soulseal Flowzone,” the trialtaker breathlessly replied. After speaking, he shifted his attention to the unconscious Zhanlong Daynight who had collapsed atop the energy seal. His pupils shrank, and when he looked back at Lu Yin, the expression on his face now included fear.

“Since you’re not trapped down here, why aren’t you leaving?” An Shaohua asked probingly.

Lu Yin smiled. “We’ll talk in a bit.”

An Shaohua gave Lu Yin an odd look, but he sat right down afterwards. It was pointless to think too much right now, as he had already been captured.

Soon enough, another man appeared, and he was just as shocked as An Shaohua to see Lu Yin above the seal.

“Who are you?” Lu Yin asked.

“I’m Alfonso from Chaos Flowzone’s Starphant Mountain.”

A few moments later, a woman appeared.

“Who are you?”

“I’m Doro from Bard Weave’s Evenground Palace.”

“Who are you?”

“I’m Shi Sandao from the Suna Weave’s Moke Sword Sect.”

“Who are you?”

“I’m Xun Jiong from the Ascension Flowzone’s Xun family.”

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Anyone who dared to take part in the Outerverse trials was definitely not an ordinary person. Even so, Lu Yin did not expect so many people from so many organizations to have gathered here. There were at least ten organizations from both the Outerverse and Innerverse represented here, including both Han Chong’s Han Family and Yue Xianzi’s Frostmoon Sect. The Darkmist Weave would be in major trouble if these people died.

Lu Yin was now growing increasingly certain that there must be some kind of prearranged escape plan for these people, but he was also becoming even more certain that the defense of this place was far above their expectations. After all, this was Ming Taizhong’s tomb.

“Lu Yin, you didn’t leave?” Yue Xianzi exclaimed as she looked through the solid energy seal in surprise. She glanced over at Zhanlong Daynight, and her eyes widened in shock even more as she looked back at Lu Yin. This person became more terrifying every time she saw him.

Han Chong also appeared at this time, and he was just as surprised as Yue Xianzi when he saw the scene. He then smiled, “This is the second time that we’ve met in the Shenwu Continent, Lu Yin.”

Lu Yin nodded. “I never expected us to meet under these circumstances.”

Han Chong also caught a glimpse of Zhanlong Daynight. This person was incredibly strong, even more so than Nightqueen Yanqing. Han Chong wasn’t sure if even he could defeat Zhanlong, but he’d already been defeated by Lu Yin. Han Chong sighed and shook his head. “The Daynight clan did all it could to force the final four of the Astral Combat Tournament to come to the Shenwu Continent, all so that

Zhanlong Daynight could defeat all of us. Unfortunately for them, they lost their bet. Your power was far above their expectations.”

“But I'm still just a Limiteer. In their eyes, I'm nothing more than an ant.” Lu Yin did not become arrogant and merely spoke the truth. There were too many powerhouses in the Daynight clan, such as Nightking Zhenwu. However, he only represented the peak of the younger generation; there were obviously much more powerful experts in the older generation. The clan held an inconceivable amount of power.

“Cut the crap and stop jabbering. Let us out already.” Not too far away, a man spoke up in an annoyed tone. He was from the Blazing Mist Flowzone, which had a good relationship with the Blaze Realm. This person had always found Lu Yin to be an eyesore.

The rest gave this person a strange look. He must be a moron!

Lu Yin's gaze chilled. “Sorry to bother you, but could you please make this young man shut up, Brother Han.”

Han Chong did not answer, and instead merely smacked down with a hand. The person from the Blazing Mist Flowzone's strength was only comparable to an Astral Combat Academy Area Master at the best. He was completely incapable of even attempting to counter Han Chong's attack and was instantly knocked unconscious.

“Is there something that you'd like to tell everyone, Lu Yin?” Han Chong asked in a deceptively kind tone.

Lu Yin said, “First of all, all of you are sealed down there. Therefore, I have a proposal for you. I'll do my best to help you all leave, but all of you have to in turn make a deal with me and help me do something as long as it's something that's possible for you to accomplish. Of course, I also won't ask you to do anything that goes against your principles.”

Han Chong's eyes flashed. “For example?”

Lu Yin shook his head. “I haven't come up with anything yet.”

Han Chong fell quiet. Lu Yin was requesting a promise, and he was wary of rashly agreeing to anything too quickly.

The rest exchanged looks, and then An Shaohua spoke up. “Will you stop us from trying to find a way out of here ourselves?”

Everyone stared at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin chuckled. “You think too little of me. Please, do as you wish.”

Yue Xianzi blinked. Seriously? This didn't seem like something Lu Yin would agree to. From what she knew of him, Lu Yin was no gentleman, and he would definitely take advantage of any situation that he could. He had even robbed quite a few people in the past. Right, he had also harassed Xi Yue. This guy was about as clean as a filthy piece of trash. He wouldn't stop them? What a joke.

“Are you really not going to stop them, Seventh Bro? By the looks of it, they seem pretty confident in their chances of getting out,” the Ghost Monkey mentioned. However, contrary to all expectations, Lu Yin remained silent.

On the sixth level, An Shaohua took a deep breath and solemnly took an item out of his cosmic ring with a serious look in his eyes.

Everyone watched him closely, but when they saw what he took out, an expression of bewilderment overcame them all.

Lu Yin raised his eyebrows. “If I’m not wrong, that’s a trumpet that I see in your hands. right. Shaohua?”

An Shaohua chuckled and then took out something else. It was another trumpet, but a much larger one than the previous one. He connected the two together before taking out yet another trumpet.

After fitting all three trumpets together under everyone’s confused gazes, An Shaohua sighed. “It’s done.”

What lay before them was an ultra-large trumpet made up of dozens of smaller trumpets. It stood tall and had been erected with its bell directed upwards.

Doro from the Bard Weave was shocked. “Are you trying to call for help?”

An Shaohua was struck speechless by his assumption. “Of course not! My hometown, the Watermoon Villa, has a unique battle technique that can amplify sound. My brother is hidden somewhere within the capital, and after I amplify my voice with this instrument, I’ll be able to ask him to help and work together with us from the outside. He’s an Explorer, and he’s definitely powerful enough to break the seal.”

Everyone was surprised. This was quite an interesting battle technique.

Lu Yin was astonished as well. It seemed that all kinds of strange things existed in the universe; after all, even a battle technique like this had been developed.

“As we discussed before, you’ll take care of any Explorer realm powerhouses that appear. Right, Han Chong?” An Shaohua asked Han Chong as he glanced over.

Han Chong appeared quite solemn. “If the seal is destroyed, I’ll deal with any Explorers that come here.”

“Alright then. Here I go.” An Shaohua took a deep breath, and under everyone’s shocked look, blew hard into the trumpet.

A booming sound phased through the seal of materialized energy. It wasn’t some kind of offensive soundwave, but rather just pure sound. In other words, it was extremely loud. Even Lu Yin was startled.

The monkey was furious. “He scared the crap out of me!”

Outside the tower, as those trumpet “toots” rang out, the surrounding troops were just as surprised as the trialtakers, and they began to carefully observe the tower.

Meanwhile, a thousand meters away from the Tower of Resonating Light, a man who was lying atop a tree heard the sound, and his eyes flashed. He quickly opened his mouth and made the same sound in

response. However, unlike what happened when An Shaohua made the sound, this time, an immense martial power swept through the sky and violently slammed into the Tower of Resonating Light.

In the imperial palace within the capital, Ming Hao's expression changed. He then abruptly stood up and violently flung the cup in his hand at the floor. However, instead of smashing into the ground, it instead tore a hole through space and appeared right outside of the Tower of Resonating Light, heading straight for the man atop the tree.

The man paid this teacup no mind as the soundwaves mixed with his martial power before vigorously slamming against the materialized energy seal. There was a huge crash sound as the entire tower shook.

Lu Yin took several steps back as he looked at the point that had been struck in shock. The others did the same and focused on the seal, but the point of impact barely had a mark on it.

An Shaohua's expression changed drastically. "How is this possible?"

"Do it again," Han Chong stated. "We'll attack at the same time, hitting it from both sides this time."

"Okay!" An Shaohua answered.

Toot!

Outside the tower, the man had been struck by the thrown cup, causing him to cough out a mouthful of blood. When he heard another "toot" come from inside the tower, he grit his teeth and responded in kind once again. His martial power swept out for a second time, this time taking the shape of a tornado that could be seen by the naked eye as it struck the Tower of Resonating Light.

Within the palace, Ming Hao snickered. "What an idiot." This time, he flung a chopstick away.

Boom!

The Explorer had coordinated his attack with Han Chong and the rest of the trapped trialtakers, causing two immense forces to strike the exact same point on the energy seal. At this moment, Lu Yin grew slightly worried. Han Chong was definitely not weaker than an Explorer, and right now, he was also being helped by Yue Xianzi and the other trapped trialtakers. That meant that there were at least two attacks at the Explorer level striking coming from within the tower. With the attack from outside added in, there were essentially three Explorers attacking the seal at the same time. It was impossible to tell if the seal would be able to hold on.

Crack!

The seal cracked.

Lu Yin raised his eyebrows. It made sense that such a powerful combination attack would be able to crack the seal, but Ming Hao still hadn't appeared, allowing that Explorer on the outside to attack. That was proof that he still had other cards hidden up his sleeves.

All of a sudden, five odd-looking sculptures rose into the air above the fifth level. Actually, they were right above Lu Yin.

The five sculptures were linked together, and they suddenly connected to the energy seal and repaired it, making it far more durable and powerful.

Lu Yin's pupils shrank. This made him recall the five sealing planets. Could this seal be the same formation as the five planets seal? Those five statues are sourceboxes, which means that... Lu Yin suddenly came up with a terrifying idea. Could those five planets be five terrifying sourceboxes?! But that was impossible. How could a sourcebox of such a monstrous size exist, let alone five of them?

But before Lu Yin could consider this idea any more, the seal was fully mended, crushing Han Chong and the others' hopes of escaping. Meanwhile, the Explorer outside had been impaled by a chopstick through his stomach. He crumpled to the ground and was quickly captured. He was nothing more than an ordinary Explorer and was even weaker than Ming Hao. Even without being physically present, Ming Hao was still able to finish off this man.

However, before the man was taken away, Long Yun appeared and rescued him. Ming Hao didn't stop him, because the Tower of Resonating Light was the most important objective at the moment.

When he saw how everyone's combined force was still unable to break the seal, Lu Yin sighed in relief and glanced down at the trialtakers.

Coincidentally, Yue Xianzi looked up at the same time and caught his gaze. After seeing him smiling, she felt her heart drop. What a bastard! she thought to herself. He's delighted that we're stuck in such a terrible situation.

"We can start discussing terms now, Lu Yin," Han Chong kindly informed him, as if what had just happened was not a big deal.

An Shaohua pursed his lips. "Why him? Do you actually think that he can break the seal?"

Han Chong earnestly answered, "I believe that he can."

Han Chong had spoken very sincerely. It wasn't just the other trialtakers; even Lu Yin himself was surprised by his candor. Before the five statues had repaired the seal, he had been quite sure that he could open the seal himself, but now, he wasn't quite as sure anymore. However, Han Chong seemed to be even more confident than Lu Yin in his own abilities at the present moment.

"I've said this before. I'd like all of you to help me with something in the future. That's my sole condition," Lu Yin told them.

Shi Sandao from the Suna Weave's Moke Sword Sect looked up. "What would this help entail?"

"Rumors in the Astral Combat Academy have it that you don't have a good relationship with the Daynight clan, not to mention the fact that you just beat up Zhanlong Daynight and some other clan members. If you want to influence the organizations that we belong to into attacking the Daynight clan, I can tell you right now with absolute certainty that that's impossible," Alfonso from Chaos Flowzone's Starphant Mountain apathetically stated.

Lu Yin smiled. "I naturally won't ask you to do that. How about this—I will have you all do something for me that is possible for the organizations you represent. Does that work? Of course, I'll need you to swear by it."

Everyone fell silent. While swearing by something was merely a verbal agreement, cultivators typically considered such an action to be completely binding unless they were a pathological liar.

Chapter 284: Domain

The moment a person who considered themselves trustworthy broke a promise, it would have an adverse effect on their mind. Oaths like these might seem like nothing, but they actually had quite a profound effect on those whose ultimate goal was to cultivate to a very high level.

“Alright, I’ll agree to your terms.” Han Chong was the first to agree.

Lu Yin found this situation strange. Why was this guy being so nice?

Yue Xianzi also found it very strange. “Are you trying to stall for time, Han Chong?”

The others all glanced at Han Chong with strange looks in their eyes. Han Chong was being way too nice and friendly to Lu Yin, and it had actually reached the point where it was too much.

Han Chong smiled. “When you meet new people, there will be some who you instantly feel like you could very well be good friends with, and then there are some who you’ll seemingly never be able to communicate with during your entire life. Lu Yin and I seem to be fated.”

“Does this guy like you or something? Gross.” The monkey’s voice rang in Lu Yin’s mind.

Lu Yin was rendered speechless by Han Chong’s explanation, and he surveyed the rest of the trial takers. “What about the rest of you? You need to answer quickly—there’s no telling when Ming Hao and his men will show up, and when they do, not even an Explorer will be able to stop them.”

“I’ll do it,” Yue Xianzi resolutely replied.

The rest exchanged gazes and then, one by one, agreed.

Lu Yin nodded. “Good. Make an oath, though I’ll also need it to be written down.”

“Written down? What kind of people do you think we are? Since we promised, we’ll definitely follow through on our word!” Xun Jiong from the Ascension Flowzone was furious.

Lu Yin merely shrugged in response. “Sorry, but I don’t believe in verbal promises.”

“A bastard like him isn’t worth your friendship. Are you really saying that someone like him is a friend of yours, Han Chong?” Xun Jiong looked very uncomfortable.

Han Chong smiled. Without saying a word, he took out a piece of paper from his cosmic ring as if it was the most natural thing to do. The rest were left with no choice but to follow suit and write down their oath on paper.

Lu Yin was very satisfied when he saw this. The universe was a very practical place, and for the organizations behind these people, profits outweighed everything else. They wouldn’t even hesitate to give up on one of their most elite disciples if necessary. At worst, they could just nurture another. An oath would only bind the person in question and not the organization that they belonged to, and Lu Yin had no desire of being made a fool of. Of course, even if a promise was written down, it still wouldn’t

transform into a binding contract for the organizations involved. However, it was still better than nothing, and he didn't have any other choice.

These things would only truly be usable if he had the strength to back it up. While these papers would not have that much of an effect on the organizations behind the trialtakers, they would still become useful once Lu Yin became powerful enough.

With this in mind, Lu Yin's eyes twinkled. Right, why hadn't he thought of this before? It would be a good idea to collect some more of these written oaths. They could prove to be very useful in the future.

"Please help me collect them, Han Chong," Lu Yin said.

The rest flung their written oaths at Han Chong in annoyance.

It actually somewhat looked like Han Chong was Lu Yin's underling.

The five statues had sealed off the sixth level of the Lightshaking Tower just like how the five planets had sealed off the Shenwu Continent. It was Lu Yin's first time seeing sourceboxes this unique. He wasn't very confident that he'd be able to open the seal, but he could still give it a try.

With the Giant Emperor's third eye in one hand and nine stars revolving around his body, Lu Yin closely observed the materialized energy seal with excited eyes. What he saw was similar to what he usually observed when looking at a sourcebox, which was a vast sea of energy. However, this time, things were different as this sea was actively moving. On the surface, it seemed that this energy seal only had a single layer, but there was actually a circuit of energy snaking between the five statues, forming a unique domain. This was Lu Yin's first time seeing something like this.

"Usually, only high-ranked Boundless sourceboxes would exhibit a domain like that on the surface. Sourceboxes like these are practically alive and very extraordinary. There have even been cases where the high-ranked sourcebox causes unique phenomena to manifest. Seventh bro, that seal isn't something that you can deal with," the monkey grimly commented.

Lu Yin stared intently at the five gigantic statues. "It's a man-made seal, so it should be possible to make a crack in it."

On his arm, the adorable monkey tattoo shimmered. "You can't do it! I'm sorry to say this, but you really don't have the ability to do this."

"I should at least give it a try," Lu Yin firmly replied. He had a lockbreaking tool, his Cosmic Art, and Charon's experience, so he really wanted to give this a shot. He was slowly becoming a true Lockbreaker, and he now had the urge to unlock any difficult sourceboxes that he chanced upon.

Lu Yin pressed both of his hands against the energy seal as martial power surged out in a series of continuous pulses. At that moment, ripples began to appear on the energy seal!

Everyone looked on excitedly. Their strongest attacks had been rendered useless against this formidable seal, but Lu Yin had managed to garner an immediate reaction after playing his hands upon it. That was a real Lockbreaker: someone with extraordinary methods.

Currently, in Lu Yin's vision, the huge sea of energy had suddenly been disturbed by huge waves, and these waves were very rough. This was something that no one else besides Han Chong could see, as he

was the only one who had comprehended a domain. Even ordinary Lockbreakers might not be able to see this scene. This vision was restricted to only those who had cultivated the Cosmic Art.

Cough

Lu Yin coughed up a mouthful of blood. The five statues had retaliated against his interference by aggravating the vast sea of energy that constituted the surface of this sourcebox. The monkey was right; this was not something that he could handle at his current level. He might be a Bright Eyed Junior Lockbreaker, but even an Imperial Intermediate Lockbreaker might not be able to handle a seal of this level.

“Like I said before, you should just give up. You won’t be able to crack it much less break it. It’s a self-contained system of energy that’s essentially become its own lifeform, which is the signature characteristic of a Boundless Advanced sourcebox. Even if this is a man-made seal, it’s not something that a mere Discerning Elementary Lockbreaker can successfully unlock.” the monkey said.

Lu Yin half-knelt on the ground while panting breathlessly. Blood was dripping down from the corner of his mouth. That last energy attack had been terrifying, and it was definitely no weaker than an attack from an Explorer. He had basically just withstood an attack from an Explorer. Lockbreaking was a very dangerous task, and if it weren’t for his strong defenses, then he would have likely died from just that first attack.

He had merely prodded the sea a little and hadn’t even started trying to unlock anything! But just that little nudge had already created such a powerful fluctuation that he had nearly died.

Below him, everyone wore expressions of disappointment. They weren’t idiots and could naturally tell that the layout of these five statues were very similar to the five planets’ No matter how weak they seemed to be, they had already blocked attacks from great powerhouses. Blocking attacks from Explorers or even Cruisers would be no issue for it at all, and Lu Yin was far too weak in comparison.

Han Chong’s gaze remained unchanging, and he kept looking up at Lu Yin.

All of a sudden, Lu Yin felt an intense bloodlust emanate out from behind him. A metal glint flashed as it bounced off of the seal. This meant that there was an ultra-powerhouse hiding here.

Lu Yin’s eyes widened. The moment the blade reflected that tiny glare, it had come within range of his Cosmic Art, and he could see everything within that range. The sword moved quickly, but thanks to his Cosmic Art, it appeared to be moving in slow motion.

Lu Yin twisted aside and narrowly dodged the sword as it slashed past him, though it left behind a thin laceration on Lu Yin’s face. Within the sword’s reflection, Lu Yin managed to catch a glimpse of the attacker’s face. He was a young man with a wooden expression, though his eyes seemed to tell a story.

With a whoosh, the sword once again slashed at Lu Yin, this time with an upwards trajectory. It destroyed the entire fourth level, allowing more light to shine into the tower. This allowed everyone to see the identity of the attacker.

He gaped at Lu Yin. “You dodged that?”

Lu Yin's eyes were cold as he touched his cheek, surprised that this person had managed to wound him. Not even Zhanlong Daynight had managed to do that. "If I'm not wrong, you must be the number one fighter on the List of Tempering."

The young man grasped his sword tightly and stared at Lu Yin. "That's a good guess."

"Remove your disguise," Lu Yin said quietly.

The corner of the young man's mouth curved upwards as his facial muscles twitched. The young man's face then transformed into that of an old man. "After I became a Martial King, I killed 365 people over the past 137 years, and every one of them was strong enough to be on the List of Tempering. There were three who were powerful enough to reach the top five of the list, but even they could not block my attack. That attack that I just used might have killed Li Zimo if targeted at him, but you managed to dodge it."

Lu Yin narrowed his eyes. "Your attack was quick, your blade sharp, and you hid yourself well. However, none of that works on me. If that's the only attack that you have, then you'll die today." After that, he used Flash to reach the old man.

The man widened his eyes and suddenly struck one of the statues, startling Lu Yin. "Stop it!"

The old man laughed maniacally. "Since you managed to defeat Li Zimo and that foreigner, I already know that I'm no match for you. However, I can sense that there's a very strange domain here. Once it's triggered, it'll tear everyone in its vicinity to shreds. Die. Let's die together! At least that will mean that I've paid my dues to His Highness."

Although his one attack didn't damage the statues whatsoever, the previously peaceful energy sea had been thoroughly disturbed. The energy surged and roiled as it lashed out randomly. The old man himself was quickly torn to shreds by one of the energy fluctuations.

Lu Yin himself also had to endure an attack as he coughed up more blood. His five-lined battle force was nearly destroyed.

"That old guy's committing suicide! We need to find a way out!" the monkey exclaimed.

If it were possible, Lu Yin would have fled a long time ago, but that wasn't possible. The energy sea had gone completely rampant, and he could only avoid its attacks until it calmed down. Otherwise, he would die here.

Lu Yin was now personally experiencing what sort of dangers could accompany Lockbreaking. He recalled some of the sourcebox videos that he had watched before. Some Lockbreakers had been torn to shreds just for approaching a sourcebox. His current situation was probably very similar to what had happened in those videos; the lockbreakers had most likely unwittingly disrupted the energy domain on the surface of the sourcebox.

Lu Yin used Flash and moved several meters to the side as an invisible energy attack hurtled past him. He sighed, but there was already another surge of energy heading his way. He kept dodging, and when he was struck by the occasional stray energy surge, he would cough out some blood.

Below him, everyone was rather confused as they watched Lu Yin run around. They could not see the wild energy, so all they saw was Lu Yin dodging left and right for no apparent reason, though he did cough out some blood once in a while. It was like they were watching a performance.

Only Han Chong, Yue Xianzi, and a few others had grim expressions on their faces. They knew that Lu Yin was currently suffering from an unimaginable calamity. This was actually the most common cause of death during lockbreaking attempts.

For an entire half hour, Lu Yin kept evading the energy surges. The five statues had merged with the seal to form a continuous cycle of energy, and the resulting boundless strength of the energy sea nearly drowned Lu Yin. He was out of energy, but the surging energy attacks continued to strike at him.

Drip.

Drip.

Drip.

Lu Yin was hit by yet another attack, and he crumpled to the floor, out of breath. He stared hard at the seal. Nobody else could see what he was seeing, which was a scene of energy dripping and splashing as it hit the floor. At that moment, Lu Yin felt as if he was back at the Rain Observatory in Astral-10. He could see a light drizzle raining outside, but every raindrop felt like its own separate world. As each drop splashed down onto the ground, the world kept expanding. The area that he was focused on kept expanding, and at the same time, so too did what he could hear, feel...

Strange undulations emanated out from Lu Yin's body that caused his aura to suddenly change. There was no longer any need for him to look up. Lu Yin had already "seen" the energy surge coming his way even before he looked in its direction. He felt as if he was seeing the energy surge at a microscopic level, and then, he saw something else. He tilted his head slightly, and the energy passed by him, only sending a few strands of his hair flying. However, he was completely unhurt.

Was this sensation... a domain?

Chapter 285: Secret Sidestep

Lu Yin was ecstatic; he never imagined that he would comprehend a domain under these circumstances. Mastering a domain meant that the wielder had absolute mastery within their domain's boundary. Within a hundred-meter radius of him, Lu Yin could sense every sway that each blade of grass made when the gentle wind caressed them without looking. He could also hear every heartbeat of everyone trapped down below. He even knew what each one of them was looking at.

It was no wonder why the Rainmaster had once said that comprehension took but a moment, though Lu Yin was more willing to believe that his comprehension stemmed from his Cosmic Art. It was just like the Second Sword of the Sword Sect's Thirteen Swords, which was the manifestation of a domain. It could even be said that Liu Shaoqiu had to comprehend a domain before he could display the Second Sword, or that the Second Sword had helped him comprehend a domain.

And Lu Yin's Cosmic Art came from the Cosmic Sect, which surpassed even the Sword Sect according to the Trialmaster. With the word "Cosmic" in the technique's name, it was likely a top technique from that peak sect, so there was nothing mysterious about it assisting him in comprehending a domain.

Eh? Lu Yin looked towards Han Chong. He could now clearly sense Han Chong's strength, which he had not been able to do so before. He could tell that there was an ever-ready reserve of strength. Also, there was an indescribably mighty force present on Han Chong's body. This strength felt strangely familiar to Lu Yin, but he could not recall where he had encountered it before.

The instant Lu Yin comprehended his domain, Han Chong's eyes brightened. He could sense the collision between their domains, and his lips curled upwards. Five-lined battle force and now a domain. This person did not disappoint him in the slightest.

Lu Yin had no time to think about what was going through Han Chong's mind as waves of energy continued to crash over him. Lu Yin stood up and inhaled deeply as his eyes widened. His right leg precisely shifted a few centimeters to the right, allowing him to barely avoid the impact from the energy surge. He then shifted a few centimeters back left to dodge the fluctuations of the next wave. His movements seemed perfectly natural and carefree, a complete change compared to before.

If Lu Yin had previously been a rock trapped under a torrent, then he was now a dancing skiff that could not be capsized no matter how large the seething waves were.

"No, no, impossible! You, Seventh Bro, when did you comprehend the Secret Sidestep?" the Ghost Monkey cried out in disbelief.

Lu Yin glanced around. "What's the Secret Sidestep?"

"It's a Lockbreaker's supreme footwork! Countless Lockbreakers place it upon an unreachable pedestal! It's an infinitely desired footwork that can allow one to avoid fatal danger during lockbreaking—that's the Secret Sidestep! Don't tell me that you comprehended it just now?"

Lu Yin was puzzled as well. "I don't know. In any case, these energy surges are now useless against me. Also, my vision has become more piercing, and I'm much more confident in my chances of unlocking this seal and releasing the people trapped down below."

"I'll be damned, you really comprehended the Secret Sidestep! What the—how is this even possible!? That's the Secret Sidestep, a supreme technique like no other. It can improve one's safety while lockbreaking by a hundred times! This is nothing more than a dream for many Lockbreakers, but you learned it just like that!? Disgusting, how disgusting!" the Ghost Monkey screamed with jealousy.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed mysteriously. Comprehended? That shouldn't be the case... He had relied on a combination of the Giant Emperor's third eye, the Cosmic Art, and his new domain to calculate his movements. This shouldn't be the real Secret Sidestep but rather a forgery. If any one of the three parts were missing, then Lu Yin would not have been able to come up with this version of the Secret Sidestep.

Then, what was the true Secret Sidestep? Lu Yin suddenly thought of one of the sourcebox catalog videos that he had seen during his first viewing sessions. In one of those videos, someone had been unlocking a mountain-like sourcebox, and that person had incessantly patted the sourcebox while their body trembled slightly. Could that have been the Secret Sidestep?

However, he didn't have the time to consider the possibility any further. He easily dodged all of the surging energy fluctuations like a fish swimming through tumultuous rapids. He then used a single hand to press against the materialized energy seal as his eyes sparkled. After gaining a domain in addition to

his lockbreaking tool and Cosmic Art, his perception was now able to penetrate through the sea of energy even more, visually dissecting it layer by layer.

Below him, the trial takers were all watching with gaping mouths. They could see the energy seal visually dissipating and vanishing as specks of light drifted away. Even if this was restricted to a small area, the fact that Lu Yin was successfully able to do this meant that he had the potential to unlock this seal.

Lu Yin's left hand pressed up against the energy seal, and he raised his right hand as the muscles in his arms swelled. "Nine Stacks... Twentyfold... Spacerender Palm." With a deafening roar, his martial power pierced the void and exploded over the collapsed Zhanlong Daynight...

...Who suddenly opened his eyes and tried to dodge. He was still struck by the aftershocks of the attack, and he spat out another mouthful of blood as his body was blasted some distance away.

Lu Yin sneered. The moment he comprehended his domain, he had sensed that Zhanlong Daynight's heartbeat was not that of an unconscious person's; the Daynight clan genius had been feigning unconsciousness this entire time. The Daynight Restoration Technique was truly terrifying and could withstand even the strongest strike, but Lu Yin's palm had still inflicted a grievous injury upon him. And his Spacerender Palm truly knocked him out completely this time.

The crowd had apprehensive looks. That was Zhanlong Daynight who was being tossed around, but who would believe them when they recounted this scene?

Among Limiteers, Lu Yin should truly be matchless now. Everyone was thinking the same thing, and they were quite certain of his superiority.

While Lu Yin was completely focused on lockbreaking, Starsibyl, who had been waiting behind Crown Prince Ming Hao, left the celebrations without anyone's notice. Not even Ming Hao paid her departure any mind, as he greatly trusted Tian Ji's heir.

Similarly, Grandini Mavis, who had been standing behind Ming Zhaochen, also vanished.

The security detail around the imperial palace was very strict, and there was a sentry every few steps, each one an expert. However, the sentries were common cultivators compared to Starsibyl and Grandini. Given the absence of any Explorers, it was child's play for the two of them to enter and leave the palace.

The two women met within a rock garden.

"What are you looking for?" Grandini asked.

Starsibyl smiled. "What are you looking for?"

"I asked you first."

"And I'm not obliged to answer."

"You are truly detestable. You act mysteriously whenever there's nothing going on, but you're always the first to act when something actually happens," Grandini mocked as she rolled her eyes.

Starsibyl remained smiling. "Our goal should be the same. I suspect that the Tower of Resonating Light is not one of the five control nodes."

Grandini frowned. "It should be. This information was only discovered after spending hundreds of years investigating."

"Don't underestimate the Shenwu Continent. They even developed the heavenly globe. It shouldn't be too difficult for them to spend a few hundred years to mislead us."

"We've never trusted the people of the Shenwu Continent. We trust you, or rather, the previous Starsibyls. The Starsibyl back then was certain that there was something amiss with the Tower of Resonating Light, or else, the trialtakers would not have colluded. The others may not know this, but I'm well aware that you Starsibyls are the ones leading this invasion of the Tower of Resonating Light. If the control node for the five sealing planets isn't there, then you will have implicated many important people."

"I won't deny that there's something wrong with the Tower of Resonating Light, but I also don't know what that problem is. I don't intend on letting Han Chong and the rest be sent to their graves. Hence, I've come here to investigate."

Grandini felt disgusted. The extent of the Mavis family's influence was not understood by everyone, but Grandini knew a bit more than the other trialtakers. Starsibyl had coordinated the attack currently taking place on the Tower of Resonating Light to determine whether or not it was one of the control nodes. Starsibyl was certain that something was going on there. If the trialtakers succeeded in this assault, then all of the merit would go to her. Failure, on the other hand, would lead to the others being wiped out. However, no one would be able to connect anything back to her as she had never appeared from start to finish. At most, people would blame the Darkmist Weave.

This woman is indeed vicious, Grandini thought to herself as she looked at Starsibyl with a great deal of caution.

"Don't jump to conclusions," Starsibyl said helplessly as she looked towards the other girl.

Grandini merely snorted coldly in response.

At that point, a loud bang was heard in the distance. They both looked over to see multiple human figures that had been swatted onto the ground. It was unknown if they were still alive.

"They are trialtakers just like us. They must have been trying to sneak into the palace to look for the control nodes, but they clearly underestimated the palace's defenses. How could there be no Explorers standing guard here? And clearly, there was more than just one," Starsibyl explained.

Grandini raised her brows. "What about us?"

Starsibyl smiled and replied, "You take one, and I'll take the other. Let's take care of things quickly."

Grandini scoffed, "Those are Explorers you're talking about. Do you think that they are like Limiteers? And you talk about 'taking care of things quickly'."

“You’re a Mavis. Let’s not try to deceive each other—you understand me, and similarly, I understand you.”

Grandini grimaced; the Mavis family had indeed dominated the universe and was now the financial lifeblood of humanity; it was a terrifying super-power. They could not have reached such heights by only relying on their strange innate brute strength, and many in the universe had tried to probe into their secret. However, it had never been revealed. This mysterious secret did not sit well with Starsibyl, as she similarly did not know their secret. Still, she could guess at it, and this made her very confident in Grandini’s power level.

“Fine, one each.” Grandini then walked out of the rock garden with light steps. Her movements seemed deliberately slow, but the surrounding sentries noticed nothing and only felt a slight wind breeze blow past them.

Starsibyl also made her way towards Ming Zhaotian’s imperial study.

The two walked towards the imperial study unobstructed and were only stopped by a voice when they reached the door. “Foreigners! You dare to barge into the imperial study?! Die!”

Starsibyl did not move and instead looked at Grandini, who rolled her eyes. She then closed them, only to suddenly open them very wide. A verdant green light illuminated the room—it was the color of the Mavis family, the green of life. This green contained a vibrant vitality that relieved people of their worries, as if they had returned to the origin of life. It enveloped the study as well as the Explorer who had attacked them, freezing him mid-motion. He sluggishly looked at Grandini, then moved to one corner of the room, and stood there silently.

This scene made Starsibyl’s pupils shrink. Even if she had a guess as to what the Mavis family’s secret power was, she could have never imagined the true terror of the Mavis family’s innate gift. This was something that was able to even influence an Explorer’s consciousness! This was the power that allowed the Mavis family’s to be peerless and dominating throughout the universe.

Suddenly, another vast pressure descended upon the two trialtakers; there was another Explorer.

Starsibyl raised her head and extended a jade white finger that tapped against the void. The surroundings transformed into a starry sky that extended endlessly into the distance. At this moment, it felt like they were not in the imperial study, but rather the boundless heavens.

Battle technique—Astral Banishment!!

This finger caused Grandini’s blood to run cold. Even with the Mavis family’s powerful innate gift, she was not confident in her chances of beating Starsibyl. This woman was just too mysterious, and she had been completely confident throughout the entirety of the Astral Combat Tournament. Although she had also been secretive at that time, she had still at least been within one’s sight. Now, everything seemed like an illusion, as if Starsibyl was no longer Starsibyl, but rather a completely different woman.

The second Explorer’s pupils dilated and contracted, and it seemed as if he was trying to sense something as he remained there, frozen stiff. He was lost in the Astral Banishment.

The two girls exchanged glances, each feeling that the other was difficult to deal with.

The deferment of the Astral Combat Tournament's final four battles was indeed very beneficial to Lu Yin. Regardless of whether it was Starsibyl or Han Chong, all other three members had more unknown hidden trump cards. Even Grandini had an unrevealed secret of the Mavis family. If the battle amongst the top four had continued as scheduled, Lu Yin would have been defeated first. Even his five-lined battle force would not have been enough to win against a single one of them.

Ming Zhaotian's study had two Explorers guarding it, and it should have been secure. However, these two girls had easily gained access to it.

And here, they saw the greatest secret of the Shenwu Continent. "The Tower of Resonating Light doesn't hold a control node—it's actually Ming Taizhong's tomb! Those people are done for!" Grandini cried out in shock.

Starsibyl's face turned ugly, and she silently memorized some more information about the Tower of Resonating Light before she sped away.

Grandini did not stay long either and hurriedly left soon after.

Within the Tower of Resonating Light, the materialized energy seal cracked open slightly. Lu Yin's eyes brightened as he tipped his head to one side, casually dodging yet another energy surge. His hand produced a soft thump as he said, "Brother Han, you can come out now."

Chapter 286: Arbiter Wen's Strength

The people watching from below revealed expressions of delight. Han Chong did not restrain himself and immediately leaped out of the sixth level to appear beside Lu Yin.

Lu Yin looked at him. He knew what Lu Yin wanted and pulled out the promised contracts from the trialtakers below before handing them over to Lu Yin. "Brother Lu, feel free to check them."

Lu Yin briefly scanned the papers before replying, "There's no need. I trust Brother Han."

Below them, Yue Xianzi was rendered speechless when she saw that Lu Yin was actually shameless enough to say that right after he blatantly looked through all the promissory notes.

Lu Yin was much happier after he received those promissory notes. The crack suddenly grew a bit wider, and the previously trapped trialtakers emerged one after another. Many thanked Lu Yin, and only a few looked at him in a disgruntled manner, though they did not dare to say too much; Lu Yin was powerful enough to crush them with a single finger.

"Right, let me give you all a friendly reminder. Ming Hao has planted many scouts nearby, so don't get recaptured right after you escape," Lu Yin added on with a smile.

The group then left the Tower of Resonating Light one by one.

Yue Xianzi looked at Zhanlong Daynight, and she seemed like she wanted to ask something, but in the end, she decided not to speak up.

Han Chong smiled at Lu Yin. "Brother Lu, I'm looking forward to the battle between the top four."

Lu Yin looked at him seriously. "You're very powerful. I couldn't sense it before, but now, I know that you'll be my greatest opponent among the top four."

Han Chong smiled gently. "Brother Lu, you're looking down upon Starsibyl and Grandini. Grandini may seem like the weakest one out of the four with her four-lined battle force and her strange strength, but in reality, she has not revealed the Mavis family's innate gift yet, and no one has grasped the true depths of Starsibyl's strength. Brother Lu, don't underestimate either one of them." He then took one last glance at Zhanlong Daynight before leaving.

The Daynight clan had deployed Zhanlong Daynight for this mission, which was proof that they were not underestimating the top four, but it was a pity that their top genius had run into Lu Yin.

From Han Chong's perspective, Zhanlong Daynight's defense was astounding, and Han Chong was not sure if he could win against him. Rather, it was highly likely that the two of them would end up being equally matched. Lu Yin was best suited to subdue Zhanlong Daynight since violence curbed violence.

Lu Yin looked at Han Chong's figure and was reminded of how, back on Earth, Lulu had subdued a giant Explorer realm turtle as a Melder. He had forgotten about that incident and only recalled it now. Is that the Mavis family's innate gift? It would be rather terrifying if Grandini had a similar ability.

Now that he thought about it, when was the battle of the top four going to start? Elder Cai had mentioned that the Astral Combat Academy was waiting for some sort of turning point. Lu Yin was looking forward to it.

His gaze swept across the grounds, taking in Li Zimo and the rest of the natives. Lu Yin then grabbed Zhanlong Daynight and the other members of the Daynight clan, as these people could not be safely released. His objectives during this trial was first to join the Outerverse Youth Council and second to distract the Daynight clan and force them to shift their focus.

However, the trialtakers who had left earlier would definitely spread news of him defeating Zhanlong Daynight as soon as they returned home, and that would be inconvenient for him as well. He did not want to be constantly entangled with the Daynight clan, and he needed to join the Outerverse Youth Council before the Daynight clan exacted their revenge. At that point, his position would be different as his words would carry some real weight within the Outerverse.

Back in the Reverent King's palace, Ming Zhaoshu brought Ming Yan towards the central mansion where Tang Si was.

Lu Yin had given Zhanlong Daynight and the rest of the Daynight clan members to the king.

Tang Si retrieved the prisoners with a look of shock, and Zhanlong Daynight's presence quickly grabbed his attention. His gaze changed as he quickly recognized this person—this was the exact same powerhouse who had attacked Ming Yan on that day, and that powerful palm strike had imprinted itself deeply in his memory. It had paralyzed him and blown away an entire street with him. "Who's this?"

"A foreigner. Tie him up, throw him into the prison, and don't let him escape," Lu Yin instructed.

Tang Si stared deeply at Lu Yin. "The Reverent King's palace is not a place for you to settle your personal grudges."

Lu Yin laughed before replying, "You can ask for the Reverent King's instructions to see if he wants these people as prisoners. Even without mentioning their identities outside of this region, just their identities as foreigners should be enough to boost the Reverent King's prestige."

Tang Si took a deep breath and said, "Fine, I'll arrange it."

As he left the Reverent King's palace, Lu Yin reluctantly looked back. It was not that he hated bidding farewell to Ming Yan, but rather that he disliked the emotions that welled up whenever he parted with her. If he saw her even one more time, perhaps he would no longer want to leave this place. However, there was no chance of him ever obtaining that girl if he stayed in the Shenwu Continent. His gaze hardened; he would return to the Shenwu Continent one day, and it would not be too far off in the future either.

Ming Zhaoshu had given him ten years, but Lu Yin had given himself five. In five years, he had to return to the Shenwu Continent and bring her back with him.

Crack!

A black spatial crack extended endlessly from the sky off in the distance. A surging force then swept over Mingdu, causing the entire capital to shudder, and even all of Ming Island trembled.

Ming Hao stood up with an ugly expression as he clenched both of his fists. He could sense Ming Zhaotian's aura growing more and more feeble by the minute. Are the foreign forces becoming stronger?

Ming Zhaoshu's face turned solemn, as he could also sense that Ming Zhaotian was weakening.

Suddenly, a large crack appeared on one of the five sealing planets. This scene shocked all of the residents on the Shenwu Continent, and countless people dropped to their knees as they began praying to the heavens.

Ming Hao did not even notice that the wine in his glass had spilled. He clenched his fists tightly. Persevere, you must persevere.

Ming Zhaoshu grit his teeth at this sight. At this moment, no matter what political position they held or their status, no one on the Shenwu Continent hoped for the five sealing planets to collapse.

Ming Yan's face turned deathly pale, and she stubbornly bit her lips as she stared at the sky. No one was in the mood for celebration as they were all gazing upwards.

The black spatial crack expanded another step further, and peculiar words drifted through before forming what seemed to be a cage, entrapping a figure within them. That figure then let out a miserable howl as blood covered their body.

Ming Hao suddenly stood up. Even his gums had started to bleed. That trapped figure was the Shenwu Empire's Ming Zhaotian, who had been reduced to his current sorry state.

Countless were stunned; in the hearts of the Shenwu Continent's natives, the strongest being under the sun was Ming Taizhong, who had opened up a spatial crack a thousand years ago. The second was Ming Zhaotian, but now, he was being crushed before their very eyes.

“No matter the situation is, think carefully before you act.” A massive, floating, youthful face had appeared in the sky, and it seemed to cover the entire Shenwu Continent.

Lu Yin was charging towards one of the designated departure points that Cangyu had provided to the trialtakers. He looked up in the skies, and his pupils shrank; that was the scholar of the Ten Arbiters— Wen Sansi.

The Darkmist Weave had actually invited Wen Sansi! It was no wonder why the five sealing planets had almost collapsed; they were actually trembling before one of the Ten Arbiters. The seal could withstand attacks from other powerhouses, but this was one of the Ten Arbiters; a super powerhouse who had climbed to the peak of the younger generation.

Wen Sansi’s face was thus engraved into the Shenwu Continent’s memory. This person had crushed Ming Zhaotian, and his feat would be deeply remembered by all.

Suddenly, Wen Sansi’s face vanished as the giant spatial crack began to slowly repair itself. The five sealing planets no longer trembled, and everything seemed to return to normalcy. All that had happened was that a thin spatial crack swept across the Shenwu Continent, taking away Lu Yin and most of the other trialtakers.

This great battle had started abruptly and ended just as abruptly. It almost seemed as if the scene of Ming Zhaotian being crushed had been nothing more than a hallucination.

“That must have been an illusion just now. It’s definitely a part of the foreigners’ plan. After all, how could His Majesty ever be defeated?” someone shouted fanatically.

Many echoed the same sentiments.

Ming Hao’s gaze flashed. “Well said. That was just a fantasy created by a powerhouse.”

Many relaxed when they heard that that was indeed the case. His Majesty Ming Zhaotian was a Martial God who would not be defeated that easily.

However, these words could only deceive the commoners, and even Ming Yan did not believe them. Ming Zhaoshu smiled incredulously, but his expression soon turned serious again. He raised his head. How did things go in the stellar battlefield?

Everyone worriedly looked at the cracks on one of the five sealing planets.

Not long after, a boundless martial power swept across the capital. “The battle has ended. Let the celebrations begin,” a giant voice boomed from above Mingdu. Many cheered, as they could tell that this was Ming Zhaotian’s voice. That previous scene had indeed just been an illusion.

Within the secret chambers inside the imperial palace, Ming Zhaotian walked out from the void in a sorry state. He spat out a mouthful of blood as his entire body crashed to the floor. His eyes contained an unfading shock and incredulity. How could that young person have been so strong? He had been utterly crushed! He had cultivated martial power his entire lifetime and had taken the best resources in the Shenwu Continent to become a Martial God, but despite all that, he had been subdued by a mere

youth! Is he one of the so-called Ten Arbiters? How can someone from the younger generation be that powerful?

Ming Zhaotian had originally not paid much attention to the Ten Arbiters, but his heart was now full of respect for those ten, especially that scholar from the Ten Arbiters who had crushed him—Wen Sansi.

Lu Yin felt as if his entire body was going to be torn apart, but it was different compared to when he had first entered the continent. Previously, he had completely been unable to detect the powerhouses through the void. This time, however, Lu Yin could observe the void, and his perception could even penetrate through it to see those experts. However, he didn't dare to do so as there was a risk of him being discovered. It was just like his five-fold formcast model; when a powerhouse created a formcast model, other experts would be able to glean information about the creator through the model. It was even possible for them to discover their weaknesses. This was why five-fold formcast models were so rare; higher level formcast models were actually a way for others to discover key information about the creator, and no one was willing to place themselves in such jeopardy.

Bang!

Lu Yin heard a loud noise the moment he was thrown out of the void while another trialtaker was viciously flung against a wall. Lu Yin hurriedly used Flash to avoid the same tragedy. There was a large invisible barrier surrounding the area where the trialtakers appeared one after another.

Every time there was a trial on the Shenwu Continent, Cangyu would give different exit points to the participating trialtakers. After some time, a spatial crack would sweep across the continent and bring any surviving trialtakers back, but not as many managed to return this time compared to past trials.

Lu Yin noticed Starsibyl in the group. This woman had a far superior aura than the others. Although she was silent, there was still a mysterious air that seemed to emanate from her entire body, attracting attention to her just like a beacon.

"It's Starsibyl! The humans' Starsibyl! If I kill her, then I'd immediately become famous in the Astral Beast Domain! My status would even rise above the other four Academy Masters', and I would become the top student of the Spiritual Academy!" the Ghost Monkey wistfully sighed.

Lu Yin was caught speechless. "Aren't your eyes supposed to be very powerful? Tell me the mystery behind her."

"I can't tell," the Ghost Monkey replied extremely straightforwardly.

Lu Yin unhappily shot back, "Don't try to pull a fast one on me!"

"Of course not, how would I dare lie to the mighty Seventh Bro? You've even learned the Secret Sidestep, so this universe's size can no longer contain you!"

"Shut up and tell me."

"So do you want me to shut up, or to speak?"

"Tell me about Starsibyl."

"Starsibyl? What about her?"

“Use your eyes to observe her.”

The monkey begrudgingly replied, “Seventh Bro, I already told you. I really can’t see through her. Starsibyl is from the Starsibyl Sect, which is at a similar level as that freak, Skymender. They can divine the future! I simply can’t see through her at all.”

Lu Yin did not continue questioning the monkey anymore. The Ghost Monkey was most likely telling the truth; if it were so easy to see through her, then Starsibyl would no longer be Starsibyl. His gaze shifted as he saw many other familiar faces; those who had given him promissory notes as well as others.

Grandini Mavis sized Lu Yin up and down from a distance. Lu Yin coincidentally met her gaze.

Grandini Mavis raised her fist, and Lu Yin smiled. He knew that she was referencing the time they had exchanged blows at the thatched cottage.

Chapter 287: Top Results In The Trial

Han Chong had not returned yet, and neither had Wu Shang, who had infiltrated the Ming Constables along with Lu Yin. Long Yun, who had threatened Ming Hao and was touring Mingdu, also hadn’t returned .

Cangyu’s figure soon appeared, and he sized the returning trialtakers up and down before nodding. “Quite a few of you returned this time. However, returning does not mean that you’ve passed, just as not returning does not mean that you’ve failed. We’ll go back and retrieve more trialtakers from time to time. You people aren’t the first nor the last batch.”

Cangyu continued, saying, “Everyone, take out your particle-sized cameras. You people are lucky, as the Ten Arbiters scholar will personally decide your results. Lord Wen Sansi will personally watch your performances.”

Many of the trialtakers’ gazes turned fervent when they heard that. The Ten Arbiters held far too majestic of a position in their hearts, and being recognized by one was an honor that countless spent their entire lives wishing to receive.

Even Starsibyl was unable to remain calm when she heard that the Ten Arbiters scholar, Wen Sansi, would be inspecting their results.

“I’m sorry, but my particle-sized camera was ruined,” someone said as they raised their hand.

Many hands followed, all indicating that their cameras had been wrecked.

Cangyu said, “That’s quite normal. Since the Shenwu Continent knows about them, when the Ming Vanguard attacks foreigners, they focus all of their attacks on the physical body. It’s normal that you were unable to protect your particle-sized camera. However, this also means that you’ll be judged to have failed the trial.”

Many became depressed, as they had not had an easy time in the Shenwu Continent, but their efforts had ultimately ended in failure.

Lu Yin had personally destroyed his own camera. He glanced towards the side. Starsibyl and Grandini’s cameras had also been destroyed, so did this mean they also did not qualify?

“I request for the Ten Arbiters to decide the results.”

“I request for the Ten Arbiters to decide the results.”

Starsibyl and Grandini Mavis spoke out at the same time, and they looked at each other in mild surprise. Grandini had a challenging gaze, but Starsibyl’s was tranquil.

Lu Yin’s eyes flashed. What did these two know? Their cameras had been ruined, but they still dared to plead for the Ten Arbiters to judge their results. It was definitely some kind of top secret information. Was it related to the control nodes of the five sealing planets? Or perhaps, the Tower of Resonating Light?

When he thought of the Tower of Resonating Light, Lu Yin remembered the plan that had been hatched in the thatched cottage. Grandini had been there, but she hadn’t shown up to the attack on the Tower of Resonating Light. As for Starsibyl, Lu Yin did not believe that she would not know about the trialtakers’ assault on the Tower of Resonating Light. These two girls had both been missing from that fight, so it seemed like they knew something. The most probable scenario was that they had found out about the Tower of Resonating Light being Ming Taizhong’s tomb and wanted to use this information to obtain some results.

“Sure, I’ll request the Ten Arbiters to judge your results,” Cangyu replied.

Lu Yin suddenly spoke up as well. “I would also like to request for the Ten Arbiters to decide my results.”

Starsibyl and Grandini turned to Lu Yin, and they both seemed to consider something.

Cangyu looked at Lu Yin and nodded again.

The other trialtakers looked at the trio curiously. These two people must have obtained some incredible information for them to dare to request the Ten Arbiters to personally judge their results.

“Brother Lu, what classified information are you going to share?” An Shaohua asked as he moved closer to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin’s lips quirked up as he replied, “I’ve told Yue Xianzi everything.”

Yue Xianzi was nearby, and she revealed a stumped look as she stared at him. “Told me what?”

Lu Yin spread his hands helplessly. “I told you that the Tower of Resonating Light was a trap, but you chose not to believe me.”

She furiously shouted, “Lu Yin, stop spouting nonsense! You only told me that when we were already in the Tower of Resonating Light!”

“You can only blame yourself for concealing the matter about attacking the Tower of Resonating Light from me. Otherwise, I would have told you earlier,” Lu Yin replied matter-of-factly.

Yue Xianzi was enraged. “You bastard!”

Quite a few people looked at Lu Yin, and then at Yue Xianzi. They felt that this disaster could have easily been avoided, but because of this stupid duo, the rest of them had been implicated in serious danger.

This made them feel extremely unhappy, but they were in no position to butt in. In the end, why did they deserve to receive such information?

An Shaohua had perfectly interpreted the situation and was so disgusted that he could not even speak. He walked to one side with an ugly expression.

Yue Xianzi grit her teeth in frustration. "Lu Yin, don't spout such nonsense! My Frostmoon Sect is only a small sect, and it can't withstand the wrath of so many people."

Lu Yin did not bother listening to her, as this woman was nothing more than a shrewd demon.

Soon after, Cangyu came over. "Starsibyl, Grandini Mavis, and Lu Yin. You three come with me."

Lu Yin waved to Yue Xianzi and left. Yue Xianzi's face was flush with anger. She had never met such an outrageous person before! She had met many young elites from a young age, and all of them had danced elegantly in her hand. How could such an infuriating person exist? He seemed to specialize in ruining things for her!

The space station that monitored the Shenwu Continent was very large, and there was a projection displaying what was going on outside the space station. Lu Yin could see the occasional spatial crack spreading out from the strands of strength that had not dissipated yet as well as several corpses floating in the darkness of outer space. They all belonged to space-exploring powerhouses; some were from the Darkmist Weave and others from the Shenwu Continent.

This was a battlefield that Lu Yin currently could not yet step foot on. He sighed.

Wen Sansi stood in the starry sky and gazed down at Shenwu Continent. He had felt the peculiar aura from this continent, and it was the reason why he stopped his attack. However, even if he could not break through the five sealing planets, Ming Zhaotian had to die.

What aura was that just now? Wen Sansi pondered to himself.

The trio of Lu Yin and the two girls walked to the edge of the space station and looked at the nearby Wen Sansi.

Although there were only a hundred meters separating them, the difference between them was like that of heaven and earth; one of them could explore space freely while the others could only stand in the space station and look outside.

Lu Yin longed to enter the heavens and freely explore the universe without restraint. That day should not be too far off for him.

"So you're the guys who want to have your results personally judged?" Wen Sansi turned around and calmly looked at the trio. An intense scholarly aura radiated from him; he did not seem like the Ten Arbiter who had single handedly suppressed the Shenwu Continent as he had no air of superiority about him.

Starsibyl bowed graciously. "May Arbiter Wen judge us."

Wen Sansi smiled and nodded. The next moment, an invisible force spread out and isolated Lu Yin and Grandini Mavis.

Grandini was anxious, as she wanted the same results as Starsibyl and did not want Starsibyl to go first. "Arbiter Wen, please let me go first."

Wen Sansi was flabbergasted by this request.

Starsibyl laughed before explaining, "Our descriptions are going to be the same, but that won't affect the judged outcome. The results will be the same."

"You both discovered the information at the same time?" Wen Sansi was interested.

Grandini nodded. "That's right, we discovered it at the same time. Or to be more accurate, I saw it before her."

Starsibyl smiled.

Wen Sansi then looked at Lu Yin. "And you?"

The two girls also looked at Lu Yin curiously.

Lu Yin gestured before saying, "Ladies first."

Wen Sansi smiled. "Such good manners. It's no wonder why Mira likes you."

Lu Yin felt sluggish and a little speechless as well. He forced out a smile and clarified, "There's nothing going on between Mira and me."

Wen Sansi laughed and said, "There's no need to hide anything—she's mentioned you to me before. I can tell that she appreciates you greatly. I've seen your record, and it's pretty good. Even when I was a Limiteer, I wasn't any stronger than you. You are indeed qualified to be a candidate for the Ten Arbiters."

Lu Yin's face changed, and he stared directly into Wen Sansi's eyes. Wen Sansi did not back down, but there was nothing else in his eyes besides cheer.

Lu Yin did not really understand this person. He felt like a blade of grass that swayed in the wind, but would not be blown away no matter how fierce the storm was. There was a quiet sense of resolution and great presence to him. Lu Yin believed that Wen Sansi's tenacious aura came from his self-confidence in his own strength.

"I say, what are you two men doing, staring at each other? How can the number one beauty in the universe, Starsibyl, put up with this treatment?" Grandini cried out.

Wen Sansi and Lu Yin were unaffected by her words and calmly diverted their gazes.

"Grandini, you go first. I'll judge you first," Wen Sansi said.

Grandini looked at Lu Yin sharply. "You can't listen."

Lu Yin was rendered speechless, and he felt like he could see Lulu's shadow in this girl. Are the Mavis family members all the same? They managed to gain control of the universe's finances with those kinds of personalities?

Wen Sansi isolated Lu Yin and Starsibyl while he listened to Grandini's account. He was shocked by the information she revealed. It didn't take Grandini very long to finish her report, and then Wen Sansi listened to Starsibyl's account.

The two had similar reports and had both discovered that the Tower of Resonating Light was Ming Taizhong's tomb. Their accomplishments could be considered as completing one of the trial's biggest missions, so they would definitely receive good results.

After isolating Starsibyl and Grandini, Wen Sansi finally looked at Lu Yin. "It's your turn. What did you discover?"

Lu Yin glanced at the two curious ladies and replied, "The Tower of Resonating Light is Ming Taizhong's tomb."

Wen Sansi curiously asked, "They infiltrated the palace and manipulated the Explorers in order to seize that information. How did you discover this?"

"This information is not limited to just the palace. Reverent King Ming Zhaoshu also knows this, and I was once a coachman in the Reverent King's household."

Wen Sansi nodded and did not ask for any further details. "If that's the case, then the results of you three will be the same."

"Please wait," Lu Yin spoke and faced Wen Sansi seriously. "I also know the secret of the Tower of Resonating Light as well as its configuration diagram."

Not long after, the results of this most recent batch of trialtakers that had left the Shenwu Continent were announced. Most people had assumed that Starsibyl would be ranked the highest, but the truth stunned them, and even Starsibyl herself was taken aback. The best results belonged to Lu Yin; Wen Sansi had verified that Lu Yin had completed the mission of finding Ming Taizhong's tomb.

This result shocked the entire space station and astounded many others as the news spread throughout the universe. The two permanent missions of the Shenwu Continent had not been completed for a thousand years, but one of them had been completed on this day.

Starsibyl and Grandini both stared at Lu Yin in shock. "How did you complete the mission? We clearly gave our accounts, but you must have found some dirty secrets." Grandini kicked up a fuss.

Starsibyl gazed intently at Lu Yin, as this person was becoming harder and harder for her to read. That had been especially true when he left the Shenwu Continent. There was now a familiar sensation coming off of his body, which was almost definitely the sign of a domain. This person is getting stronger... She was looking forward to the battle between the top four.

The person with the top results from this trial would naturally be able to join the Outerverse Youth Council. Since Wen Sansi was one of the Ten Arbiters, he could not personally make arrangements for Lu Yin, even if he appreciated his rising talent. Instead, Mira was the one who made arrangements for Lu Yin. It turned out that Mira was also at the space station.

When he faced Mira once again, Lu Yin felt uncomfortable. This woman was just too alluring, and it felt as if she was teasing him even though she was just looking at him.

“Congratulations on entering the Outerverse Youth Council. You were even ranked number one in this trial,” Mira marvelled as she beamed at him.

Lu Yin had always felt that something was sinister about her smile, as if she were delighting in his misfortune. “Senior Mira, your smile’s very strange.”

Mira chuckled, and the amusement in her eyes became even more pronounced. She walked towards Lu Yin, causing a fragrance to waft over him. “Junior, this Senior must congratulate you, since you’re about to be reunited with a beauty.”

Chapter 288: Changes In The Great Yu Empire

After hearing Mira’s words, Lu Yin’s heart leapt and his first thought was of Ming Yan. Could someone else have discovered our relationship? Impossible. He suppressed his shock and calmly looked at Mira. “Who is Senior talking about?”

Mira leisurely stretched out, revealing her perfect curves. “Arbiter Wen can make the arrangements for the nearby weaves. Although you have not formally joined him, you are directly subordinate to him, and he has made arrangements for you.” Mira’s then lips raised up as she gave Lu Yin a teasing look. “For you to be a subordinate member under the Outerverse Youth Council Councilor Wendy Yushan.”

Lu Yin was stunned by this news. “I’m to be Wendy Yushan’s subordinate?”

Mira laughed, “That’s right, Wendy Yushan, your little fiancée.”

Lu Yin was rendered speechless. Wen Sansi must be messing with him, as everyone should know of his relationship with Wendy Yushan, and yet, he had still made such an arrangement. Lu Yin thought about it a bit and then looked at Mira. It must have been this woman who had made this arrangement as Wen Sansi did not seem to have a sadistic personality.

Mira resisted her instinct to laugh. “Don’t look at me like that! It’s got nothing to do with me! Arbiter Wen arranged it all.”

Lu Yin grudgingly said, “Arbiter Wen can’t be that bored.”

“There must be a reason behind this arrangement.” Mira’s face turned serious as she said, “Something has happened to the Great Yu Empire, so you must be mentally prepared.”

Lu Yin’s eyes widened as a murderous intent flitted across his eyes. “The Daynight clan?”

Mira shook her head. “During your time in the Shenwu Continent, Undying Yushan died from his heavy injuries and transferred his throne to Dorren Yushan. Wendy Yushan believed that Undying Yushan’s injuries were caused by the Ross Empire, so she travelled there to battle them and was also seriously injured. She’s currently missing, and her Outerverse Youth Council matters have been handed over to her subordinate, Bazeer. However, this person is too arrogant and is not fit to take on such a huge responsibility. Hence, Arbiter Wen has transferred you to work under Wendy Yushan, and you will replace Bazeer as an operating member of the Council of Astral Academy. You’ll represent Wendy Yushan while handling her matters as a member of the Outerverse Youth Council.”

Lu Yin was shocked. “Undying Yushan died?”

Mira nodded. "Dead. Even his corpse vanished. Wendy Yushan assumed that the Ross Empire snatched it, which is one of the reasons why she went there and battled them."

The Ross Empire was one of the greatest powers in the Blazing Mist Flowzone, which was comparable to the entire Blaze Realm. The empire definitely had Hunters within its ranks. Although Wendy Yushan ranked within the top twenty of the Top 100 Rankings, she would still be rendered powerless against a Hunter or someone even stronger. If she was not dead, then perhaps that was because the Ross Empire was afraid of the Ten Arbiters Council.

"Wendy Yushan attacked the Ross Empire, and it has already formally declared war against the Great Yu Empire. Now, the entire Frostwave Weave has been drawn into the fire of war. Crown Prince Dorren Yushan, who succeeded as the emperor of the Great Yu Empire, perished five days ago, and the second prince, Duke Yushan, perished just a day later. All of the descendants of the Yushan Family have been massacred," Mira gloomily informed Lu Yin.

Lu Yin clenched his fists, as a fierce killing intent rose up within him. "Was it the Ross Empire?"

Mira shook her head. "We don't know, and even Undying Yushan's death is a mystery. The Ross Empire has denied the accusations that they killed Undying Yushan, but the whole matter is very fishy. All of the corpses of the Yushan family members have either vanished or been taken away. And as of today, only Wendy Yushan remains of their bloodline."

Lu Yin had never expected so much to transpire during his trial on the Shenwu Continent. The Great Yu Empire could be considered to be practically destroyed. His mind was in utter chaos, and he was at a loss for what to do next.

"Due to the hostilities in the Frostwave Weave, even the Inniverse has been affected. The Ten Arbiters are behind Wendy Yushan, though the Ross Empire also has their support. This has resulted in internal discord among the Ten Arbiters, and even the people from the Ten Thousand Swords Peak, Blaze Realm, and the Daynight clan have gotten involved. The matters of a single Great Yu Empire have rippled out to affect both the Inniverse and Outerverse," Mira explained.

Lu Yin was still in agony as he responded, "It's not the Great Yu Empire, but rather Wendy Yushan. Without her, even if the Great Yu Empire was exterminated, the Inniverse wouldn't interfere."

Mira looked at him and frowned. "Arbiter Wen has said that you can return to the Great Yu Empire first and then go to San Dios after settling the matters there. However, you cannot take too long to settle your affairs."

"Where's Wendy?" Lu Yin straightforwardly asked.

"Missing. She's probably in some secluded area within the Frostwave Weave. She's wiped her tracks clean."

Lu Yin nodded. Even Undying Yushan had been killed, so she was definitely not safe either. She was smart to cover her tracks.

Not much later, Lu Yin formally joined the Outerverse Youth Council and became a direct subordinate of Councilor Wendy Yushan, which gave him the same position as Bazeer. Still, his status was much higher than Bazeer's since he was equivalent to a council member.

A high position did not necessarily mean being able to exercise authority. Bazeer was under Puyu's jurisdiction, but he was also one of Wendy Yushan's subordinates and had been for some time. It would not be easy to take over Wendy's authority from Bazeer, especially since he had Puyu's support.

However, none of this was on Lu Yin's mind. Rather, he was only thinking of how he could return to the Great Yu Empire quicker and see with his own eyes how chaotic things had become.

The starry expanse was very dark, and the road ahead of him was murky. The Great Yu Empire was Lu Yin's home, and if it was destroyed, then he would be a drifter without any roots. Deep in his heart, he was even more worried about Earth, especially since he did not know if the battle within the Frostwave Weave would affect that planet.

He switched his gadget on and tapped it several times. A voice quickly replied, "Oh, you're already out?"

"Silver, are your people at all related to the situation within the Great Yu Empire?" Lu Yin gloomily asked.

"Oh, captain, how could you possibly say this? Do you have any evidence?" Silver replied with a relaxed voice, his unctuous tone reminding Lu Yin of the sly smile that was sure to be on Silver's face.

"I cannot think of a reason why the Ross Empire would want to take away all of the Yushan family's corpses of the Yushan family—only your people would."

Silver sneered as he replied, "Captain, there are too many mysteries in the universe. There's nothing strange about someone wanting to collect corpses, as the bodies of space-exploring powerhouses are worth studying."

"Then what about the other members of the Yushan family? What motives does your Neohuman Alliance have for hiding within the Great Yu Empire?" Lu Yin asked sternly.

Silver acted surprised. "The Neohuman Alliance? Captain, don't say such irresponsible words! That's a serious felony. Do you have any evidence?"

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed, and he disconnected the call without another word.

He had not revealed anything to Mira before, but the moment Mira mentioned that all of the Yushan family's corpses had gone missing, Silver had popped up in Lu Yin's mind. The Neohuman Alliance had spent great efforts to gain influence in the Great Yu Empire, and would the Neohuman Alliance really expend so much energy if the Great Yu Empire was insignificant? Lu Yin's own family had shown the same interest, and he once again began considering what the Great Yu Empire could be hiding. His own family would not be able to adopt such extreme measures, but the Neohuman Alliance could.

What secret could the Yushan corpses possibly carry? Lu Yin had a headache from trying to figure it all out. He really wanted to contact his family, but he could not take the initiative to do so.

The Darkmist Weave was not too far from the Frostwave Weave, and it only took Lu Yin slightly more than ten days to arrive after a few reroutes.

At the other end of the disconnected call, Silver placed down his gadget and rubbed his forehead to ease his own headache. "We actually guessed incorrectly. The Yushan Family isn't one of the seven named families. It's such a pity that we wasted our time. Where did those with the surname Yu go to hide?"

Fortunately, this Lu Yin is rather interesting. He even became a Ten Arbiters candidate. We'll definitely meet again in the future." And with that, Silver left Astral-10 and headed towards the Innerverse.

In a distant part of the universe, great waves shook the Daynight clan; Zhanlong Daynight had been crushed by Lu Yin during the Outerverse trial. Not a single Daynight disciple had returned from the trial, but this news had made it back, and it shocked the entire clan.

Nightqueen Yanqing had also heard the news, and she was completely taken aback.

She clearly knew just how terrifying Zhanlong Daynight's strength was, and while she could believe that Lu Yin was capable of defeating him, she could not believe that Lu Yin was capable of crushing Zhanlong. He had learned the Daynight Restoration Technique! She had believed that Lu Yin would eventually give up if the two battled, but the actual results completely astounded her. What exactly happened during that battle in the Shenwu Continent?

All of the trialtakers who had attacked the Tower of Resonating Light had reported that Zhanlong Daynight had been subdued by Lu Yin and that Lu Yin had crushed him in less than two blows. This was a result that the Daynight clan could not accept. They had always stood at the peak of the universe, regardless of if it was the elder powerhouses or the younger generation. Lu Yin's existence had become a thorn in their side. Nightqueen Yanqing was the first to be defeated by him, and Zhanlong Daynight had soon followed after. Now, aside from Nightking Zhenwu, the clan had no other young powerhouses besides their Explorers.

"This brat is too reckless and obviously doesn't care about our Daynight clan. Allow this junior Explorer to teach him a lesson."

"There's no need. There are different levels within the younger generation as well. Although Zhenwu is also from the younger generation, he's too close to the edge. Since this brat just stepped out not too long ago, it would be a humiliation if our Daynight clan sent junior Explorers out after him."

"Why be afraid? Our Daynight clan should have no qualms about acting."

"That's right. No one under the Explorer realm is that brat's opponent."

"Can you even ensure that one of our younger Explorers will win? Don't forget, be it Yanqing or Zhanlong, they are well-known even amongst the Explorers of the younger generation. They are both Realmbreakers."

"Shut up, this is embarrassing. My Daynight clan has always had Realmbreakers, and allowing someone else to leap realms and challenge one of our clan members would be throwing away our ancestors' face regardless of if they win or lose. We need to first think of a way to bring Zhanlong back, as the Daynight Restoration Technique's potential hasn't yet been excavated yet. Also, no one is allowed to touch that Lu Yin, as he still holds value to us."

...

As Lu Yin traveled from the Darkmist Weave to the Frostwave Weave, he passed by many Ross Empire battleships. There were even powerhouses who occasionally swept out with their star energy, but none of them caused any trouble for him.

The spacecraft that he was using belonged to the Outerverse Youth Council, so no one dared to provoke him.

Lu Yin's expression became increasingly solemn the more he watched the endless fleet of ships flying past him. Could the Great Yu Empire withstand such a force?

The Ross Empire could establish itself in the Innerverse and was as famous as the Blaze Realm. Its power was not trivial in any sense, and the Great Yu Empire was only powerful enough to subdue a single weave in comparison. It could not match up to the Ross Empire at all. Lu Yin had already counted more than five powerhouses who could threaten him.

With his current strength, the average Explorer was not even worth his glance. Only someone whose power level surpassed 30,000 could threaten him. By comparison, Zi Tie, the commander at the border warfront, had a power level that was definitely over 30,000.

"This internal war between humans is much different from the border warfront. There, any random battle could have Cruisers or even Hunters involved," the Ghost Monkey contemptuously disdained the current lineup.

"There will be a few Cruisers in this upcoming battle."

"Is that so? It might be a bit interesting then."

Lu Yin raised his head and gazed out at the skies. The Ross Empire and the Great Yu Empire were about to break out in an all-out war, and who knew if the Great Yu Empire would survive this disaster. Perhaps he should think of a way to help preserve the Great Yu Empire. He pulled out a handful of promissory notes, and his eyes twinkled. Should he use them here?

"Right, are you certain that that guy, Silver, is from the Neohuman Alliance?" the Ghost Monkey asked curiously.

Lu Yin nodded. "Definitely."

Chapter 289: Eye Of Cold Indifference

"What a powerful background!" the Ghost Monkey exclaimed.

Lu Yin was astonished by his reaction. "Do you know a lot about the Neohuman Alliance?"

"Not much, but I've heard of them and seen records mentioning them. They have an incredible reputation, but I doubt that you'd know about it, as it's something that no one from the Outerverse should know about." The Ghost Monkey then paused for a moment before going on to say, "the Humans' Three Dark Hands."

"Three Dark Hands?" Lu Yin was surprised.

“That’s right. Wherever there’s light, there will also be darkness. If the Hall of Honor is considered to represent the brighter side of humans, then the Neohuman Alliance is the dark side. It represents extreme darkness and evil. If our Astral Beast Domain encounters any members of the Neohuman Alliance, we are required to kill them on sight. Not only are they the enemy of humans, but they are also enemies of the entire universe.”

Lu Yin was stunned. “Their strength scares even your Astral Beast Domain?”

“Any one of the humans’ Three Dark Giants wields a strength that can topple all. I’m not sure exactly how strong they are, but I saw that bit of information recorded down in the burial grounds of an almighty powerhouse.”

“What are the other two Dark Hands?”

“I don’t know.”

“You don’t know?”

“This is a human thing, so why are you asking me?”

“Ghost Monkey Zi, don’t lie to me, or else I’ll cut you off again.”

“Don’t call me that. A Ghost Monkey is a Ghost Monkey—why add a ‘Zi’? That just makes it sound crude.”

“Then tell me what the other two Dark Hands are.”

“I really don’t know, Seventh Bro, I’m not lying.”

...

The dark void of the universe was lonely and dull. Lu Yin had already entered the Great Yu Empire, but it would take him another day of travel before he would enter the eleventh filament of the empire. He recalled that this area was under the blind monk’s jurisdiction.

Among the captains of the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons, the blind monk and Huo Qingshan were the only Hunters while the others were all Cruisers. These two captains ranked among the top five strongest fighters in the Great Yu Empire in terms of power level.

While Lu Yin was silently reciting the Stonewall Scriptures, the spacecraft jostled as if it had struck something. A grinding sound that caused his teeth to ache rang out, and then the spacecraft’s internal alarm sounded. Lu Yin felt that something was off and hurriedly checked his surroundings, but found nothing.

Tzz tzzz!

The grinding sound within the spacecraft grew louder, and sparks suddenly showered down from the roof. Lu Yin looked up, but he still could not see anything wrong. However, the feeling that something was amiss grew stronger, so he quickly activated the Cosmic Art and took out the Giant Emperor’s third eye. With the additional support of his domain, he was able to make out a horse formed from an

invisible energy extending into the distance. It seemed to be a channel, and the spacecraft had coincidentally bumped into this invisible passageway.

Lu Yin immediately lowered the altitude of his spacecraft, and the grinding sound disappeared.

What was that? Lu Yin was puzzled by this chance occurrence. He could only see this passageway with the support of three sensory boosting aides. Normal people would not be able to even sense this phenomena; even Explorers or Cruisers might not be able to make it out. Was this a natural phenomenon of the universe?

Suddenly, the sound of a warhorse's neighing rang out across the universe, and the space all around the creature fractured. In the distance, multiple planets exploded in a brilliant flash. Magma erupted from a planet's core and covered the entire surface.

A fair distance down the formless passageway, the originally pitch black darkness of the universe intensified even further, as if it had been burnt by an extremely dark fire. The flames annihilated everything that Lu Yin could see, but he could barely make out the indistinct image of a black warhorse blazing with black flames. It then began dashing towards him. A black shadow was mounted upon the warhorse, and they carried a giant spear in their hand while a war flag flapped domineeringly on Their back. The shadowy figure rode the warhorse through the void as if it were riding from ancient times to now, penetrating the void.

One person and one horse burned the void, leaving a blackened universe behind them as they traveled through the void. This was what Lu Yin saw. This warhorse had blazed a trail through the universe that the average person could not see.

Suddenly, the figure on the warhorse raised their head, causing their cold, serene gaze to sweep over Lu Yin. The two exchanged looks, and Lu Yin felt his entire body turn cold, as if he had been transported to the icy underworld. This was a sensation that was colder than even death itself, and his blood seemed to freeze in his veins while his muscles trembled uncontrollably. Even the nine stars revolving around his body became unstable, and his domain gradually crumbled. This was a gaze of pure, cold indifference.

The effects were not only that, as Lu Yin also felt as if his brain had been directly struck, like when he reached his limits while reciting the Stonewall Scriptures. He immediately started bleeding from all seven orifices.

In the next moment, the mysterious person and warhorse had vanished, and the universe returned to normal. The fractured void gradually recovered, and that invisible passageway vanished. It was as if everything that had just happened had been an illusion, and Lu Yin would have even assumed that that was the case if not for the fresh blood still pouring out from his body.

The spacecraft continued flying steadily along as Lu Yin looked at his palm stained with fresh blood. He felt incredulous. What the hell was that?! One person, one horse, one spear, one war flag, one invisible passage, and one black flame that eradicated everything. And that one eye of cold indifference—was that a person?

"Hey, Seventh Bro, I'm talking to you! Can you hear me?" the Ghost Monkey shouted.

Lu Yin was still stunned, and he slowly wiped his blood away. "What happened?"

The Ghost Monkey felt strange. "I should be the one asking you what just happened! Did the spacecraft crash into something? Why are you bleeding from your seven orifices? Are you sick? You should get it quickly checked out!"

Lu Yin's gaze was deep and profound. "You didn't see anything?"

"What did you see? Did you see a ghost?" The Ghost Monkey could tell that something was strange.

Lu Yin grimaced as he replied, "Perhaps I really did."

In the eleventh filament of the Great Yu Empire, many abandoned spacecraft floated through the darkness of outer space, carrying a number of corpses within them. Some spacecraft even exploded violently, lighting up a portion of the heavens when they did so.

Countless scraps from different machinery floated around the area as well, and it almost looked like a veritable river of machinery when viewed from afar.

"Can anyone tell me how this small empire in a fringe weave has withstood our Ross Empire's invasion even though we have more than one Hunter overseeing operations? Even a power that controls an entire weave would not be this powerful!" the Ross Empire's general, Angelo, shouted within a huge warship as he stared at a screen.

The surrounding officers all lowered their heads.

After they had declared war against the Great Yu Empire, the Ross Empire had assumed that things would be one-sided. However, who among them could have predicted that there would be so many experts within the Great Yu Empire? This was especially true for the captains of their Thirteen Imperial Squadrons, where each one was stronger than the last. Even Hunters had appeared! Damn it, how could a powerhouse of that caliber appear in a small empire that only occupied thirteen filaments?

"Marshal, that powerhouse has come back!" someone cried out.

Angelo's expression became even uglier as a bald, blind man carrying an iron shovel appeared on the screen. The man was only slightly more than a meter tall and looked just like a miner, but this bastard had single-handedly destroyed three of their fleets. Each fleet could rival a Hunter, but they had been destroyed extremely casually. Five Explorers and three Cruisers had also died along with those fleets. This was the greatest loss the Ross Empire had suffered after initiating this war.

Every Cruiser was extremely precious, regardless if one was in the Outerverse or Innerverse. The loss of those three fleets meant that Angelo would have to face a court martial trial when he returned even if he won this war.

The bald, blind man was naturally the blind monk. He towered over the heavens and raised his shovel only to violently smash it down. His brutish movements caused the void to shatter, and the resulting massive spatial crack was like an enormous beast opening its maw wide to swallow the Ross Empire's fleet whole. One person moved out from the fleet and raised his hand, releasing an intense shock wave from his palm that then collided with the spatial crack.

This entire region of space shuddered.

The enormous impact caused the void to collapse like a breaking wave. It rushed out in all directions and destroyed countless abandoned spacecraft. In that instant, even a few of the Ross Empire's warships were disabled.

The blind monk slowly set his shovel down. On the other side, the Ross Empire's Hunter had a pale face. He was no match for the blind monk and felt greatly pressured. This person had a power level of at least 110,000 while his own had only just broken past 100,000.

The shockwave from the collision between the blind monk and the Ross Empire's expert swept out, and Lu Yin's spacecraft swayed violently as a result. He hurriedly steadied it and sped up to enter the eleventh filament.

When he arrived, he found that it had already been sealed off and that those who wanted to enter needed to go through a security checkpoint.

Lu Yin's identity immediately shocked the entire region. The descendants of the Great Yu Empire's Yushan family had been almost completely wiped out. This had caused King Zishan Lu Yin to become much more politically important, as he now qualified to ascend to the throne of the Great Yu Empire.

Coincidentally, at this time, Peach was also in the eleventh filament, and she was assisting the blind monk in fending off the Ross Empire's invasion.

"Lu Yin, you're back!" Peach delightedly cried out as she rushed to Lu Yin's side.

Lu Yin was happy to see Peach alive and well. He was most afraid that, upon returning to the Great Yu Empire, he would find that all of his friends were already dead. That would be the worst case scenario.

Peach was Lu Yin's friend, and she had taught him Flash as well as shown him great kindness.

"Peach, are you alright?" Lu Yin asked with a concerned tone.

Peach shook her head, and her face that had been initially happy sank into despair. "The war's just begun, but many have already sacrificed their lives, including His Imperial Majesty."

A bitterness rose up within Lu Yin's eyes. He had even used his innate gift, the die, to save Undying Yushan's life once. However, the emperor had still ultimately been unable to escape from his fate of death.

"It's alright as long as you're fine," Lu Yin said as he patted Peach's head.

Peach usually did not like it when taller people approached her, and had therefore taken to standing next to the blind monk. However, she did not mind Lu Yin's actions right now. Jue Lang is dead and so is Di Ou."

Lu Yin sighed.

"Also, from the captains who joined the second prince's rebel army, Patterson and Felut are dead. If you include Dorren Yushan, then five of the original Thirteen Imperial Squadron captains are dead," Peach said painfully. Her face had become slightly pale, and it made Lu Yin's heart ache. Although she was not young, she had the appearance of a child, and sometimes even seemed to have the temperament of one.

Lu Yin grew serious. "Rest easy. I'm back now, and I'll end this battle."

Peach raised her head and looked at him expectantly. "Really?"

Lu Yin earnestly promised her.

"The extended relatives on the other side of the emperor's family are trying to usurp authority back on the capital star. You should hurry back or else it'll be too late," the blind monk said in a heavy tone as he stepped out of the void.

Peach was shocked. "Right! Lu Yin, you need to hurry back to the capital star. Those extended family members of the Yushan Family are trying to gather officials in an attempt to take over the throne. It's too much! They can't even be bothered with this war, and our resources are almost gone. They're the ones who have cut off our resources in an attempt to force us to acknowledge their right to the throne."

A chilling coldness seeped into Lu Yin's eyes. "Rest assured. When I return to the capital, not a single one of them will escape."

The blind monk turned around. "You're that confident? All of them have the support of various powerhouses. They're not just from the Great Yu Empire. Some of them have persuaded the conquered forces of the Frostwave Weave. After His Majesty's death, all those people leapt out of the woodwork, and someone from the Fireforge Planet even appeared and tried to use the name of the Outerverse Youth Council to command Yu Academy to split apart the families of the academy's elites."

"How did the Fireforge Planet manage to use the name of the Outerverse Youth Council?" Lu Yin was astonished.

Chapter 290: Chaos on Zenyu Star

Peach snorted before replying, "That's because Yan Feng joined the Outerverse Youth Council, and it's even rumored that he might become a member." After explaining this, she then looked at Lu, her eyes letting a fleeting light of apprehension slip through.

Lu Yin knew what she was thinking, as her mentioning Yan Feng had indirectly brought up Jenny Auna as well. This woman had been engaged to Lu Yin, and yet, she had abandoned the marriage to elope with Yan Feng. To any man, this was an extraordinary shame.

Up until now, Lu Yin had not paid much attention to Jenny Auna. Him gifting her a ring had only been to entice the Auna family. Now, however, it seemed that he would have to confront this problem despite his dismissive attitude. He had to do something regarding this matter with Jenny Auna as a show for others, or else his reputation would be ruined.

Although Nightqueen Yanqing's methods were narrow-minded, they were fatal against men, and Lu Yin had been forcibly pushed into becoming Yan Feng's mortal enemy.

However, now was not the time to think about such matters. Instead, Lu Yin turned to the blind monk. "Can you stop the Ross Empire here?"

"Yes." The blind monk was very confident in his answer. The man was only about 1.5 meters tall, and Lu Yin did not know why, but he was very confident in the monk. He might not be much weaker than Qu Ao from the border warfront.

“Lu Yin, go to the capital star and focus on securing the throne.” Peach clenched her fist and waved it to cheer him on.

Lu Yin laughed, tousled her hair again, and then left. The most urgent matter right now was for him to resolve this current battlefield, and he didn’t have much time to do so either. The Outerverse Youth Council did not care if a war broke out in his hometown and could appoint him at any time. Moreover, people like Yan Feng, Puyu, and Bazeer were all stirring up trouble on their own, so he did not have much time to act. His only choice was to respond with an iron fist. With his current power level, he was not afraid of anything as long as he did not run into a Cruiser, and the Thirteen Imperial Squadron captains who were at the Cruiser realm would not pay any attention to the power struggles of those extended relatives.

The Zenyu Star of the Great Yu Empire had long since been reduced to a battlefield. Undying Yushan had been attacked there, and the Yushan family’s descendents had also all been exterminated there. The multiple battles had marred the landscape of Zenyu Star, and the three rings had nearly collapsed as a result.

With the deaths of the Yushan family’s descendants and Wendy Yushan’s disappearance after her battle against the Ross Empire, the powers that the Great Yu Empire had once subdued were now rearing their heads in rebellion. They disseminated false rumors that the Yushan family had been completely destroyed, which exacerbated the pressure coming from the powers like the Ross Empire and Fireforge Planet. This propaganda had caused the people of the Great Yu Empire to become greatly alarmed.

Under such extenuating circumstances, the extended relatives of the Yushan family had appeared only to scabble for the throne of the Great Yu Empire with the support of these foreign powers. There were three relatives in particular who held the greatest authority. This was because they had the support of Explorers and even Cruisers.

Boom!

A loud explosion rang out above a sea as an enormous shock wave distorted the void, sending a huge tsunami rushing towards the shore as many fled from the scene.

Two figures were facing each other in the sky.

“Back off! The Great Yu Empire’s throne belongs to Lord Clay,” someone spoke with a cold tone as the powerful aura of an Explorer rolled off of their body.

The person opposite the Explorer did not show any weakness, as they were also an Explorer. “Clay’s only an extended relative whose ties were established a thousand years ago! His family has even cut off all connections with the Yushan family. On the other hand, Lord Andong is a grandson-in-law to the Yushan family by a marriage that took place just a hundred years ago! He can legitimately succeed the Great Yu Empire.”

“Bloodline is forever, and time is irrelevant! You are too narrow-minded.”

“It’s you people who are too foolish! This is an empire! To ascend to the throne requires the support from the people of the Great Yu Empire. How could some random extended relative possibly achieve that?”

“If there’s power, then there’s a way. We support Lord Clay.”

“What a joke! The power behind Lord Andong is no weaker than yours.”

The two Explorers then began to fight once again.

In other areas, there were fierce battles taking place everywhere, from atop a great mountain to even within the three rings of the mainland. Many extended family members had rushed out, all of them using whatever methods they could think of to entice court officials and powerhouses in their attempts to vie for the throne.

Not far from the palace, the Huo Family’s gate had almost been broken down.

They were one of the top families in the Great Yu Empire, especially since the head of the Huo family, Huo Qingshan, was a Hunter as well as the fifth captain of a squadron. If one received the Huo family’s support, it would almost guarantee them the throne.

Huo Qingshan calmly sat down in the sitting room and did not bother meeting with the extended family members. They were all clowns leaping at an opportunity and did not qualify to talk to him. Currently, there were only two who could truly ascend to the throne: Wendy Yushan and King Zishan Lu Yin. He would support either of them, though he leaned towards Lu Yin. While Wendy Yushan had a pure lineage, she was a woman and was therefore unsuited to hold the position of king. Also, her ambition did not lie within the Outerverse.

“Father,” Huo Xiaoling called out as she leisurely strolled into the room. She was as beautiful as always with her fiery-red long hair falling to her waist. There was almost no difference between her current self and her appearance during the trial on Earth.

“What’s the matter?” Huo Qingshan asked with a smile as he looked at his daughter.

She pursed her lips. “Father, who do you intend on supporting?”

Huo Qingshan was taken aback. “Why do you ask?”

“The chaos of the Great Yu Empire has caused too many people to suffer. Multiple criticisms are thrown at us on the universal network, even as more deaths occur with every passing day. Six out of the thirteen filaments have already broken away, and five of the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons captains have died. Many claim that the Great Yu Empire is finished, but I hope that that’s not the case.”

Huo Qingshan sighed and lovingly rubbed her head. “Relax, the empire is not yet finished. There’s still the Fifth Princess.”

“Father, are you intending to support Princess Wendy?”

He smiled in response. “She does not need support. When she appears, she’ll be the empress.”

Huo Xiaoling nodded. “Hopefully, she will appear soon.”

Huo Qingshan looked at his daughter’s worried face. “Xiaoling, do you remember your time during Earth’s trial?”

She was puzzled. “Of course, but why are you bringing that up?”

“Nothing much. I’m just moved by the fact that you were just a Melder back then, but now, you’re already a Limiteer. You should be the top fighter in the entire Great Yu Empire’s younger generation just based off of your innate gifts. Even if you can’t compete in power level with those freaks from the Astral Combat Academy, your cultivation realm is no longer weak. It’s a pity that you didn’t qualify for the Astral Combat Academy.”

She was sad. “I’m sorry. I disappointed you.”

He smiled, and his eyes twinkled. He then probingly asked, “Do you remember Lu Yin?”

Huo Xiaoling was caught off guard, but then, she nodded. “Of course, he was a native who defeated everyone and even defeated the heavily injured Qingyu Daynight. Actually, he should be called Nightking Qingyu.”

“His performance did not dim after Earth’s trial. His performance in the Astral Combat Academy is even more splendid, and his name has rocked the very universe,” her father marvelled.

Huo Xiaoling gave her father a strange look. “Why did Father bring him up?”

Huo Qingshan looked outside. “Because His Imperial Majesty Undying Yushan once said that the empire can be shared with King Zishan. This means that there’s one other person who is qualified to inherit the throne of the Great Yu Empire.”

“Lu Yin?!” Huo Xiaoling cried out in shock.

Huo Qingshan nodded and looked at her. “If I betroth you to King Zishan, would you be willing?”

Huo Xiaoling’s eyes changed, and her expression became a little lost and complicated. Willing? Even she herself did not understand her own complex emotions. Lu Yin had once saved her on Earth, but he had also threatened her, and they had had no interactions after that. After the Astral Combat Tournament had been broadcast across the entire universe, everyone knew of his name. Countless people in the universe knew of him, and his fame was no longer restricted to just being within the Great Yu Empire. People had seen his style of battle and heard his stories. The more she heard about him, the further she felt from him.

Strangely enough, it was just like her relationship with the Fifth Princess. She remembered playing with the princess a long time ago when they were both young. But now, she was no longer even qualified to speak to the princess. Lu Yin was the same, and his status did not fall far behind the Fifth Princess. Could she even touch this person anymore?

Huo Qingshan looked at her with a complex look. “Xiaoling, as long as you’re willing, I’ll arrange it.”

“Father, why?”

“Why what?”

“Why do you want to marry me off to Lu Yin?”

“You aren’t willing?”

She fell silent.

He nodded. "It's fine if you aren't willing. My Huo family's influence has spread across the entire Frostwave Weave, so even if the Great Yu Empire becomes extinct, nothing will happen to my Huo family. I've never thought of exchanging you for anything. The main reason why I brought up this idea is because King Zishan is just too outstanding. If you marry him, you won't be any worse off. But if you really aren't willing, then just forget it."

She raised her head. "Let me take some time to consider things."

He smiled and patted her shoulder. "Go on, and don't put too much pressure on yourself. Our Huo family doesn't need to pander to others."

As he watched Huo Xiaoling leave, Huo Qingshan muttered to himself and touched his cosmic ring. He retrieved a strange-looking ring that had an azure planet carved into its head and a pair of wings on both sides. "It's finally time to reappear after being hidden for too long, but I don't know if he's willing to bear such a responsibility."

The Auna family was in a similar position as the Huo Family's. It was another elite family in the Great Yu Empire, so naturally, many extended family members of the Yushan family visited them. However, Xueshan Auna similarly rejected them all at the door.

The sensible ones knew that there was still Wendy Yushan, but the extended family members had no idea what her current status was and had already assumed that she was no longer a threat after being seriously injured by the Ross Empire. In reality, if she had not taken the initiative to challenge the Ross Empire, then it would never have dared to harm her; the powers behind her were just too fearsome. Just the Myriad Swords Peak was enough to force the entire Frostwave Weave to bow its head.

It would be fine if Wendy Yushan had died, but if she had not, then the Great Yu Empire was hers, and no one could take it away. Those extended family members were just clowns jumping at the shadow of an opportunity.