

Chapter 311: The Mysterious Woman

Around the Heavenly Drum, numerous students were stunned to see that Lu Yin was still alive.

Liu Xiaoyun and the rest were also astonished that he had managed to evade the arrow. The swiftness of that arrow was something that they all knew they would never have been able to evade at their current level.

And yet, to Lu Yin, speed was not a factor. That was because the Cosmic Art was the natural nemesis of extreme speed. At the very last moment, he had been left with no choice but to use the Cosmic Art to evade the arrow. If the battle had been a live broadcast of the Tournament of the Strongest, then he would not have been able to use Cosmic Art. In that situation, his only option would have been to take the arrow head on, which would then reveal his monstrous physical capabilities. Though, during the tournament, there would be no need to hide such a thing. However, restraint still needed to be shown at this time, or else he would risk being targeted.

Silus was undoubtedly someone from the Cosmic Sea who was worthy of participating in the Tournament of the Strongest. He was powerful enough to defeat a vast majority of the Astral Combat Academy's student leaders, but unfortunately, he had challenged Lu Yin. Having said that, he was still slightly less powerful than the other top four fighters of the Astral Combat Tournament. It was not known how much more powerful the other person from the Cosmic Sea was, the one who had been accepted as a Ten Arbiters' candidate, but that person was undoubtedly the greater threat between the two.

Silus knelt down on the drum with one knee, panting heavily. The intense pain radiating from his abdomen almost made him spew out bile. Although this was a sensation that he had often encountered in the Cosmic Sea, he had never expected a younger student from the Inniverse to force him to this position. This individual was way stronger than him! Could this be the standard of the top four from the Astral Combat Academy? If the top four were all at this standard, then he and Nate would not stand a chance.

After a long while passed, Silus finally managed to recover his strength. He stared intensely at Lu Yin before leaving the Heavenly Drum without a word. He had completely lost this battle. His finishing arrow had not been able to hit its target, and there was no way he could continue to fight.

Many students looked towards where Lu Yin was standing, and as they did so, they felt that he possessed incomprehensible power and that his speed seemed to have actually increased somehow.

Lu Yin glanced at his surroundings and left the Undying Realm afterwards. The Heavenly Drum would no longer provide him with much help, and since the competition was only seven days away, he felt that it was more important to rest than continue training. There were times where relaxing oneself was very important.

As for the other party, Silus did not immediately leave the Undying realm after stepping off of the Heavenly Drum. He intended to review the details of the battle, and more importantly, he needed to understand how Lu Yin had evaded his arrow. Speed was probably not the only factor, as the void in that

area had shown no changes beyond those caused by the arrow itself. Could it be that Lu Yin had predicted his arrow's trajectory?

The thought of that possibility sent chills running down Silus's spine. If that was truly the case, then Lu Yin's power was no less than that of the demon from the Cosmic Sea, Ye Xingchen. The only difference was that one had evaded his attack while the other had taken his arrow head-on.

"Who is it?" Silus suddenly stood up and cautiously turned around. A woman with her face covered by a thin piece of cloth had suddenly appeared behind him and was silently watching him.

"Who are you?" Silus asked again, raising his brows. The woman had beautiful eyes.

"Your five-lined battle force—use it to try and stop me," the woman said in a gentle but indescribably icy tone. After she said that, the air around them turned much colder, and even the void started to distort as its color changed.

This scene caused Silus's pupils to contract. "This domain... are you another one of the top four from the Astral Combat Academy? Which are you, Mavis or Starsibyl?"

"Try and stop me," the woman quietly ordered a second time. When she took a step forward, a great sense of danger rose up within Silus's heart. Without any hesitation, he activated his five-lined battle force, and at the same time, he drew his bow and shot an arrow at the woman. However, he was still too slow. The woman evaded his attack and disappeared while Silus and his five-lined battle force remained frozen in the same spot.

This event would rock the entire Astral Combat Academy to its core if it were ever revealed. It was all because even Lu Yin had needed to expend a significant amount of effort to defeat Silus, whereas this masked lady had done so seemingly easily. Her abilities were unfathomable, and furthermore, she was also a Limiteer.

"It's getting more and more difficult to control. This innate gift is very powerful, but it's also so hard to control" was all the woman said as the frozen Silus shattered into fragments and disappeared from the Undying Realm.

In the next moment, Silus suddenly opened his eyes on Astral-3's trial zone mountain. His eyes were sparkling as he checked his body's condition, which had become extremely cold. The intensity of this cold was something that he had never experienced before. It was caused by an innate gift, and that woman had a shocking control over coldness. It was an extremely powerful innate gift. Was she also a student of Astral Combat Academy? Which Astral Combat Academy had such a powerful hidden powerhouse?

Nate walked over. "Silus, you lost?"

Silus ignored Nate. His mind was still preoccupied by that unimaginable cold, and he had long since forgotten about Lu Yin.

Nate frowned. "Silus, I am talking to you."

Silus finally raised his head and spoke with a grave expression, "Nate, I feel that we shouldn't take part in the Tournament of the Strongest."

Nate snorted in contempt. "If you act so weak and depressed after suffering just one loss, how will you survive in the Cosmic Sea? I'll contact the commander and have him expel you from the Arcadian Arrow Crew!"

Silus shook his head. "This is not just about Lu Yin. It's—" He did not know how to describe what he was feeling, and at a loss, he merely sighed. "Forget it, Nate. However, let me give you a piece of friendly advice: do not underestimate the Astral Combat Academy. There are actually a lot of powerful individuals hidden there."

Nate remained unconvinced. "You should adjust your attitude. Behaving this way is only going to make that woman, Yanqing, look down on you even more. Even worse, the entire Arcadian Arrow Crew will be looked down on." He walked away after saying that.

Silus forlornly watched Nate's back as he walked away. He was agonized that Nate had no idea what he had just experienced.

Lu Yin spent several days at Astral-10's trial zone entrance. After he left the Undying Realm a few days earlier, he had intended to rest for a while. However, when he remembered what had happened at the Shenwu Continent, he felt that resting would not actually be productive. Thus, he had decided to look for the Trialmaster to see what he could learn in the time he had left before the competition.

Unfortunately, the Trialmaster was not of much help. He categorically stated that he did not know the answers to any of Lu Yin's questions, leaving Lu Yin speechless.

"Do you think that this old fogley is just playing dumb?" the Ghost Monkey asked.

Lu Yin rested on top of a tree while observing the Trialmaster. He had only asked him two questions. The first was whether or not a sourcebox could be bigger than a planet. The second was whether or not a sourcebox could be used as a means of defense. However, the Trialmaster had answered neither of his two questions, and Lu Yin had a feeling that it was because the Trialmaster didn't want to share the information.

"Seventh Bro, since you've got nothing else to do, then why not do a few ported battles? I heard that those are fun," the Ghost Monkey urged.

Lu Yin's eyes lit up. It was true that he had not participated in any ported battles in quite some time. His current record in the ported battles was one hundred wins and seventy three losses. After entering the trial zones, he had not participated in a single ported battle. Maybe one would be a good warm-up for him.

Lu Yin jumped off the tree and walked towards the area of the teleportation stone.

The Trialmaster's eyes widened. "If you start a teleportation stone war and manage to snatch a teleportation stone, I will answer one of your questions. Or, if you prefer, I can also give you an opportunity to lockbreak in front of me."

Lu Yin's eyes lit up. He then bowed to the Trialmaster and said, "Thank you so much, Mentor."

The Trialmaster let out a faint smile. "Don't rush to thank me, kid. Don't forget—the only requirement for the ported battles is that you have to be a member of the younger generation. There is no restriction

concerning one's cultivation realm. If you want to win a teleportation stone, then you first have to win fifteen consecutive battles. During those fifteen battles, if you're unlucky, you could even be matched up against one of the Ten Arbiters. Haha!"

Lu Yin took a deep breath. "My luck shouldn't be that bad. Besides, I also had a streak of winning twelve consecutive battles in a row before."

"Good luck."

Lu Yin then took a confident step into the teleportation stone's area.

Immediately after, the scenery around him changed, and he appeared within a desolate land. A figure slowly appeared in front of him with the words "I am Strongest" etched above his head.

Lu Yin's brows quirked up in surprise. What an arrogant name. Even as that thought passed through his mind, he waved his hand and a surging wave of pressure descended upon the area. The words "I am Strongest" were instantly wiped out. The other man was just a Melder and was absolutely no match for Lu Yin.

What a good feeling. Lu Yin instantly felt the adrenaline rush that that bastard Feng Shang must have felt when he defeated Lu Yin without breaking a sweat. That man participated in the ported battle not only to improve his battle experience, but also for that unbridled rush that came with instantaneously overpowering other individuals. It was such a pleasant feeling.

"Seventh Bro, you're such a bully," the monkey remarked with an odd laugh.

Lu Yin left the ported battles only to immediately enter it once again. This time, he appeared in the ruins of a city. This battle was against a powerful Limiteer. As soon as he appeared, he attacked Lu Yin with a sword. However, another wave of Lu Yin's hand resulted in this man's instant defeat as well.

Once, twice, thrice... Finally, Lu Yin had achieved five straight instant victories. Lu Yin let out a deep breath. It was just too easy. It was only through these ported battles that he could feel just how much he had improved.

He thought back to the past when he had approached the teleportation stone with an immense fear that he would encounter someone powerful. And yet, today, that fear no longer existed even when he considered the possibility of facing off against a powerful Explorer.

Perhaps Lu Yin was too cocky in his thoughts, because his very next opponent was actually an Explorer. This battle took place within a dark forest.

The two words "Grand Daddy" were prominently displayed above the Explorer's head. This was this particular Explorer's alias when he participated in the ported battles.

"Let me out, Seventh Bro! This guy's too cocky, and he's just asking to die! I'm gonna destroy him!" the Ghost Monkey said angrily.

Lu Yin was similarly enraged when he saw this name. This man's alias was so arrogant that he was just begging to be beat up.

On the other side, Kao Ke was feeling particularly good about himself, especially about the two words hanging above his head, "Grand Daddy." He himself had already forgotten where he had come up with this alias, but it was a name that gave him an immense confidence boost. He would draw disgust from his opponents even if he could not defeat them, or at least, that was what Kao Ke believed. He would see who dared to admit defeat or be abused by someone named "Grand Daddy." He burst out laughing; it was such a good feeling!

As he looked at the young Limiteer in front of him with the name "Seventh Bro," he thought to himself that this young man also had an annoying name. He similarly felt that Lu Yin was cocky and was already imagining the pleasure he would get from defeating Lu Yin.

Without hesitation, Lu Yin charged forth, throwing out an attack with his fist.

Kao Ke was not bothered by the attack at all. His opponent was a mere Limiteer, so he did not see him as a threat. He lazily raised his hands and took a defensive stance. There was a loud thud, and Kao Ke's face quickly turned sour. He could feel that all the bones in his right arm had been shattered while his body had been blasted into the forest, creating a huge hole.

Lu Yin looked down at Kao Ke from up on high. The Explorer had truly underestimated him. He had been under the mistaken impression that, since he was an Explorer, he would hold an advantage over Lu Yin. However, Lu Yin's powers were now on par with an Explorer whose power level was over thirty thousand. During Lu Yin's time at the border warfront, he had even pushed back the astral beast Zi Tie, whose power level was far above thirty thousand.

On the ground in the forest, Kao Ke was cursing angrily. Who was this person who had injured him so easily? Kao Ke was a veteran of the ported battles, and he seldom ever came across such a powerful person, but today was one of those days.

Kao Ke decided to not hold back anymore. The star energy within his body rose up as strange veined patterns appeared on his arm. He instantly transformed into a seductive, beautiful woman. In just a moment, the entire dark forest had been lit up.

Lu Yin was shocked. Surprisingly, this man was a skilled individual from the Beast Tamers Flowzone. It was no wonder why his physical body was so weak. Those experts from the Beast Tamers Flowzone mostly focused on taming their beasts. Hence, they typically found limited success in increasing their personal strength. Kuang Wang, who had cultivated battle force, was a rare exception.

Kao Ke stood in the forest, now with the appearance of an enchantingly beautiful woman, releasing strange emanations. The waves shot through the void and approached Lu Yin.

Lu Yin felt faint, and the longer he looked down at the beautiful woman, the more he became enamoured by her beauty.

"Seventh Bro, it's a succubus! Snap out of it!" the Ghost Monkey cried out.

Chapter 312: Ported Battles

Lu Yin shook his head vigorously while Kao Ke appeared before him and swatted at Lu Yin's head. Lu Yin instantly vanished, stunning Kao Ke. He actually woke up! Suddenly, an intense pain erupted on his back

as Lu Yin struck him heavily, forcing him into the ground. Nine Stacks exploded forth, immediately crushing Kao Ke.

Lu Yin felt that it was somewhat absurd that an Explorer had been defeated so easily. This idiot's defensive abilities were just too pathetic.

"Monkey, what's a succubus?" When Lu Yin reappeared beneath the teleportation stone, he immediately asked the Ghost Monkey this question in a curious tone.

"It's an astral beast that can charm human hearts. It's physically weak, but very effective against those with weak willpower. That person must be some kind of prodigy for him to be able to tame that beast. He's got guts," the Ghost Monkey marvelled.

Lu Yin felt that it was actually somewhat expected for that Explorer to be ballsy. After all, he had named himself "Grand Daddy" in the ported battles—was there anything that such a person would not dare to do? Besides his courage, he was also a talented cultivator from the Beast Tamers Flowzone.

Six consecutive victories. Lu Yin did not take a break and touched the teleportation stone once more to start the next ported battle.

The Trialmaster sighed on the outside. Compared to a year ago, this kid's improvement was just too extreme and too fast. In perhaps just a few years' time, he might truly become a Ten Arbiters' candidate. But would any of the Ten Arbiters ever abdicate? Even now, none of them were over forty, but they were quickly approaching that age. Once they became older than forty and ceased to be a part of the younger generation, would they allow others to take up their old titles? This was the concern of many.

No one could stop Lu Yin in the ported battles. He was extremely powerful for a member of the younger generation, and only Explorers or experts within the Top 100 Rankings had a chance of defeating him.

With a single palm strike, another figure vanished before him. Lu Yin had now accumulated fifteen consecutive victories, and his alias in this virtual realm had changed color to a bright red, which signified his fifteen consecutive victories.

The next battle would be the bout for the teleportation stone. Victory would mean obtaining the opponent's teleportation stone while defeat would mean that he would have to start all over again.

In the ported battles, anyone who saw a red name would naturally be troubled, as it indicated that their opponent had racked up fifteen consecutive victories. They would have to pay a price if they lost—their teleportation stone.

The scene changed before Lu Yin's eyes, and the setting for his sixteenth ported battle was revealed. They were above an ocean. The tranquil sea breeze blew by, carrying the salty scent of the sea and fish with it.

This was not Lu Yin's first time battling above the sea.

A figure soon appeared before him.

Ah Fan felt that his luck today was horrible. He had been inexplicably scolded by his mentor, forced to rewatch the entire Astral Combat Tournament, and even been told to memorize the battle styles of each competitor.

He was from the Shangwu Academy in the Northline Flowzone, and felt rather competitive towards Astral Combat Academy students. He did not have a problem with watching the Astral Combat Tournament, but that did not mean that he wanted to watch it everyday. He felt that his mentor was just thinking wishfully when he said that they could obtain victory just by memorizing others' battle styles. Those other students would continue improving.

The one who had stood out the most to Ah Fan was called Lu Yin, and Ah Fan had even heard news that his duties in Council of Astral Academy were based in the Northline Flowzone. Didn't that basically make Lu Yin his superior?

Ah Fan had studied Lu Yin's battle the most, but the more he watched Lu Yin's battles, the more he had felt that this person was a savage beast with a violent battle style. Lu Yin had only overlaid battle force on top of his strikes, and he hadn't used any battle techniques. Ah Fan looked down on this sort of person.

After watching some tournament battles, Ah Fan was looking forward to the Tournament of the Strongest and had decided to enter the ported battles to kill some time and bully some weaklings.

However, as soon as he entered, he felt an urge to curse. What the #\$! It was a person with a red name! This sort of encounter would not occur even if one battled for many years, but he just had to meet one now, leaving Ah Fan nauseous to the point where he nearly vomited.

The red name meant that the opponent was very powerful, which was a given since they had racked up fifteen consecutive victories. If he lost to this person, it meant that Ah Fan would have to pay the price of his teleportation stone.

The Shangwu Academy only had a single teleportation stone, and it had been acquired by a very powerful predecessor who had shamelessly taken it. Ah Fan's standing in the academy would be finished if he lost this one, as they were not the Astral Combat Academy that had multiple backups.

Ah Fan could already imagine his mentor's face if he lost this match and the teleportation stone; he would become a sinner to the entire Shangwu Academy.

Ah Fan encouraged himself. Do not lose.

He was a Limiteer and ranked among the top in his academy. His status was similar to that of the ten student leaders of the Astral Combat Academy, although there were disparities between the student leaders.

The moment Lu Yin's palm landed on Ah Fan's shoulder, the Shangqu Academy student seemed to see his future path darken; he had already been defeated without being able to mount any resistance at all.

Lu Yin was amazed as he watched Ah Fan vanish. This person was not weak and had actually withstood Seven Stacks. He had had to go all the way to Nine Stacks to defeat him. This person was a rare expert within the same realm, and he could have easily entered the top thirty two of the Astral Combat Tournament.

Still, such strength was insufficient from Lu Yin's perspective, and there was a vast difference in strength even among the Astral Combat Academy's students. The students were separated into multiple groups, and it wasn't just the student leaders who rose above the average students. For example, Starsibyl and the other final four fighters were in a different league from everyone else, even the other student leaders.

Before he grasped his domain, Lu Yin had not been able to clearly sense this distinction. He had only been able to get a grasp on Han Chong's power at the Tower of Resonating Light and understand the chasm between the strong and the weak. However, he was on the side of the strong in this gap.

As the red name returned to normal, Lu Yin was finally able to speak. "Astral-10."

He could not speak after uttering those words, and the scenery before him changed once more.

He opened his eyes and looked at the Trialmaster. "Mentor, I've won a teleportation stone."

The mentor nodded. "Go ahead."

Lu Yin thought for a moment and then asked, "Can sourceboxes be arranged in a complementary or even overlapping manner to form a defensive forcefield?"

The Trialmaster's eyes gleamed. "Not bad. After achieving a certain proficiency of lockbreaking, sourceboxes can indeed be arranged complementarily. This is a technique of a Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker. It's pretty good that you found out about this, kid. Did someone else tell you this, or did you figure it out for yourself?"

Lu Yin politely answered, "I encountered five sourceboxes in the Shenwu Continent that were overlaid to produce a sealing forcefield, so I arrived at this guess myself."

The mentor was astounded. "The Shenwu Continent actually has Boundless Advanced Lockbreakers with such techniques? Not bad."

Then, he gave Lu Yin a serious look and said, "Kid, your level is too low right now, so don't consider trying to do such things or else you might walk down the wrong path of lockbreaking, or even die."

Lu Yin acknowledged the warning and took a deep breath. He raised his hand and approached the teleportation stone to join a ported battle once again.

As for the teleportation stone that he had won, the Shangwu Academy would have to send it to Astral-10 as soon as they were able to. This was predetermined according to the rules, and they would not dare to break it.

Although the strong preyed on the weak in the universe, under the authority of the top, there was still a functional set of rules. Everyone operated by those rules, no matter if it was the Astral Combat Academy, the Shangwu Academy, or even the Ten Arbiters Council, Daynight Clan, Sword Sect, and Cosmic Sea. This was the current state of the universe, where everyone obediently followed the rules set by the top powerhouses.

Lu Yin's grind for the first teleportation stone went smoothly, and it only took him about half a day to acquire it. However, Lu Yin's good luck seemed to have been used up. This time, after three consecutive victories, he met an incomparably terrifying powerhouse who was able to alter the weather.

Lu Yin knew that things weren't looking good for his chances the moment he saw the Explorer start walking towards him, as the earth shuddered with every step he took. Every breath that the Explorer exhaled felt heavy and seemed to scorch the very air. Lu Yin dared not be distracted for even a moment, for fear of being wiped out instantly if he were careless.

Bang!

The earth trembled, and the person with the alias "Alliance" formed a long spear from star energy and then smashed it against the ground. He raised his head to stare at Lu Yin, as if awaiting Lu Yin's attack.

Lu Yin did not hesitate, and he tore through the void with Flash before appearing right behind Alliance. Lu Yin then activated the Cosmic Art and sent out a Thirteen Stacks, Twenty-Twofold Shockwave Palm as a probing attack.

Alliance's eyes widened in shock, and visible astonishment flickered across them as he stood up with his back to Lu Yin. He casually shifted his body sideways and dodged Lu Yin's palm strike right when it was about to make contact with him. His spear spun in a circle before stabbing out, though his movements didn't affect the void whatsoever. This spear had reached some profound realm where it did not destroy the void as its power had transcended the level of tearing the void apart.

Within the range of his Cosmic Art, Lu Yin was able to perfectly observe the trajectory of the spear thrust. He knew that he could not dodge it and that it was locked onto him. He had a strange feeling that he would not be able to evade this spear even if he fled to the ends of the world. This spear had dazzled his spirit, and his body was pierced through before he even had a chance to react.

Lu Yin felt bitter about his defeat; this was a top-level Explorer's power. The strength of this person's spear had probably already surpassed a normal Cruiser's level.

Alliance could not restrain the shock in his eyes as he stared at the slowly dissipating body of Seventh Bro. This person was only a Limiteer, but his instincts were so sharp that he had tried to dodge his spear and had even maintained his consciousness after being struck. It was unbelievable! More importantly, his spear technique had the effect of suppressing everything before it, or else he would not have been able to stab that Limiteer. This person's body was extremely terrifying.

And he was just a Limiteer. Alliance's true identity was that of Ke Nan, who was ranked in the top twenty of the Top 100 Rankings. His reputation was enough to shock the universe. There were many space-exploring powerhouses who had died to his hands, but none of them had shocked him as much as this Seventh Bro. This person actually reminded him of the abnormal nature of the top ten; those people had possessed similar levels of strength when they had been Limiteers.

A freakish genius: this was Ke Nan's evaluation of Lu Yin.

Lu Yin released a pent up breath when he saw the familiar scenery. That spear's power had caused him to die on the spot. That person was just too powerful.

“Seventh Bro, that guy’s an Explorer, and he’s definitely in the top of that realm, so don’t take the loss to heart,” the Ghost Monkey consoled Lu Yin, something he rarely did.

Lu Yin laughed wryly. “I know, but this person’s also from the younger generation. He should be on the Top 100 Rankings if he was able to instantly kill me.”

“He probably ranks pretty highly.”

Lu Yin knew that the monkey was trying to encourage him, but he also knew that this was the cold truth of reality. He had used a top tier strengthening fruit to greatly improve his body, and he had been confident that even a Top 100 Rankings expert would not have been able to instantly kill him. However, this person had killed him with a single move. He was definitely ranked highly on the ranking, but it was unknown exactly what his ranking was. Could he be ranked above even Wendy Yushan?

Lu Yin suddenly felt that the distance between him and Wendy Yushan had decreased once again. When he had first arrived at the Astral Combat Academy, he had not even been qualified to look up to the Top 100 Rankings. But with his current power, he could even guess whether an opponent was ranked higher or lower in the rankings. This was progress, and his improvement had taken place in less than two years.

Perhaps in another two years, he would be able to face off against those in the Battle Rankings and crush everyone, meet with the Ten Arbiters, and even quash Wendy Yushan’s arrogance. Perhaps even Mira would no longer dare to tease him. He might even be able to face the Ten Arbiters then!

The surname Lu on a piece of paper... Seventy two lives lost... It was time to avenge his family’s death and discover exactly which one of the Ten Arbiters had ordered the slaughter that had spilled his family’s blood across the starry sky.

“Again!” Lu Yin barked as he reentered the ported battles.

Chapter 313: Lu Yin’s Worth

After fighting in the ported battles for another half day, Lu Yin’s name finally turned red again. Ever since he had had that unfortunate encounter with Alliance, Lu Yin had become more subdued. After all, it was even possible to match up against one of the Ten Arbiters in the ported battles. Lu Yin’s craving to be lucky grew even stronger.

Boom!

The earth rumbled, and a figure vanished from a swamp.

“Astral-10,” Lu Yin said again as he gradually vanished from the swampy scenery of the battlefield. He had succeeded in snatching a second teleportation stone.

Now, his battle statistics were 134 victories to 108 defeats. His longest winning streak was nineteen, and if it were not for his loss against Alliance, he might even have reached thirty straight victories, which would give him the qualifications to challenge anyone on the Top 100 Rankings.

“Mentor, I’ve won a second teleportation stone.”

The Trialmaster opened his eyes and nodded. “Ask away.”

Lu Yin actually wanted to ask if a sourcebox as large as a planet could exist, but it would be pointless to ask this question at the present moment. There would be plenty of opportunities to learn more about this in the future, so it would be better for Lu Yin to either ask about more relevant topics or obtain an opportunity to lockbreak a sourcebox in front of the Trialmaster.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed. "I have no questions at this time and I would like to seek Mentor's permission to lockbreak before you."

The Trialmaster grunted. "Sure, you get one opportunity."

Lu Yin was delighted. "Thank you, Mentor."

He intended to continue taking part in the ported battles, but he was abruptly stopped by the Trialmaster. "There's someone who wants to speak with you." The mentor then pulled out his ancient gadget. Lu Yin immediately knew who wanted to see him—Nightking Yuanjing.

Lu Yin had waited a long while for Nightking Yuanjing to contact him, as many things could only be solved with his help. "Hey monkey, the person who we've been waiting for is finally here."

The Ghost Monkey chuckled. "Hehe, I never thought there would be a day when I would receive guidance from a Nightking elder."

Nightking Yuanjing appeared on a screen and revealed a gentle expression towards Lu Yin. "Kid, we meet again."

Lu Yin saluted respectfully. "Student Lu Yin pays his respects to Elder Yuanjing."

Yuanjing casually waved a hand and smiled. "There's no need for such formalities. You're friends with Zhuo'er, so you're also a friend of my Daynight clan. I'll just call you Little Yin."

Lu Yin's eyes flickered. "Of course."

Nightking Yuanjing nodded. "I've already accepted Zhuo'er as my disciple. So Little Yin, you can rest assured now."

Lu Yin was delighted by this news. "Thank you, Elder."

"Keke, Zhuo'er is intelligent and capable. Actually, I should be thanking you for finding me such a good disciple, haha!"

Lu Yin looked down and did not speak.

Behind him, the Trialmaster spoke up. "You're already so old, but you still act like you're in a position of authority. Your anxiety will end up killing you."

Nightking Yuanjing glared at the Trialmaster, but didn't respond. Instead, he spoke to Lu Yin. "Little Yin, I need to seek your help regarding a specific matter."

Lu Yin was shocked, and he replied, "Please, Elder, let me know how I can be of service to you. Little Yin does not dare to promise that he can provide the help you are seeking."

“Kid, there’s no need to be so courteous. If you can actually help him, you can even get this old fart in front of you to call you Grandpa,” the Trialmaster casually interrupted, causing Nightking Yuanjing’s face to sour as if he had just swallowed a fly.

“Elder Tan, no one will assume that you’re mute even if you stay silent!” he lashed out.

Lu Yin bent his head and acted meek.

Nightking Yuanjing let out a sigh and turned to look at Lu Yin. “Little Yin, when you first heard about the tracks of the ancestor, the Third Nightking, did you hear about anything else? Such as an air current?”

Lu Yin rubbed his head and put on an expression as if he were trying to recall the details. Nightking Yuanjing did not interrupt and just continued to observe the youth.

Lu Yin thought for a few seconds before responding, “It’s definitely possible. When that beast was pleading for its life, it said a great many things, but I don’t quite remember since so much time has passed.”

Nightking Yuanjing’s breathing became even more frantic, and he looked at Lu Yin with a fervent expression. “Don’t rush! Take your time—you must remember if this detail was mentioned.”

The Trialmaster stared at Lu Yin with his murky eyes and a complicated expression.

Lu Yin paused. “Elder, my apologies. Too many things have happened during this period, and many troubles have arisen. Please allow Little Yin some time to go back and seriously think about this matter. I will immediately look for Elder after recalling the details.”

Nightking Yuanjing waved his hand. “Troubles? What troubles? Just tell me—Grandpa Yuanjing will take care of them for you.”

Lu Yin was stunned speechless; this shift in tone was a bit too sudden.

The Trialmaster rolled his eyes.

Lu Yin became embarrassed. “That’s not reasonable. Elder must have many things to handle within the Nightking clan, and Little Yin’s matters are too trifling to inconvenience Elder with.”

The Nightking elder shook his head. “Don’t worry about that. Little Yin, just come to Grandpa Yuanjing if you have any troubles, and Grandpa Yuanjing will take care of them all for you.”

Lu Yin nodded. “If that’s the case, could Grandpa Yuanjing help the Frostwave Weave? Little Yin’s home is being bullied by others. It’s unbearable, but I’m powerless to stop them.”

“Who’s the bully?” Nightking Yuanjing glared as he asked in fury.

Lu Yin considered answering, but he had been put in an awkward situation.

Nightking Yuanjing’s eyes flashed. “Don’t tell me it’s that girl, Yanqing.”

Lu Yin sighed and then bowed. “Senior Yanqing is not doing it on purpose.”

“Hmph, that brat dares to butt into the matters of the Frostwave Weave even after I warned her otherwise. Alright, now that I know about this, you can rest assured that the Daynight clan will not

intervene in the military affairs of the Frostwave Weave.” Yuanjing then said, “Little Yin, is there anything else that you need Grandpa Yuanjing to settle?”

“I wonder if Grandpa Yuanjing has any ways to delay the selection of members of the Outerverse Youth Council?”

The Nightking elder was astonished. “Delay the selection? Why?”

“One of Little Yin’s enemies is about to join the Outerverse Youth Council. If he gets selected, I’ll be in trouble, and it will even end up involving Little Yin’s hometown.”

Nightking Yuanjing nodded. “Alright, I can promise you that I will contact Zhenwu and have him delay the selection.” Then, once again, he looked at Lu Yin. “Anything else?”

Lu Yin knew that he could not go overboard, as he had crushed Zhanlong Daynight and the others in the Shenwu Continent. Nightking Yuanjing must know about this incident, and the Daynight clan must be seething with rage. And yet, they had endured the humiliation of that incident because of the matter regarding the Third Nightking. There was a limit, and Lu Yin could not go past it. Otherwise, just as the Trialmaster had said, even Astral-10 would not be able to protect Lu Yin.

Nightking Yuanjing’s courteous attitude towards him today was mostly due to his status as a student of Astral-10 and also perhaps partially because of his contributions to the Lockbreaker Society. But respect and fear were two different things, and Nightking Yuanjing’s attitude did not mean that the Daynight clan was helpless if they wanted to act against Lu Yin. Two requests were enough.

“Thank you, Grandpa Yuanjing. There’s nothing else bothering me.”

“Right, Little Yin has also recalled the details of that matter now,” Lu Yin said as he looked up and blinked. “There are many currents surrounding the space around the Profound Void Realm. These currents of wind in the void are so strong that even almighty powerhouses cannot handle them. And of these currents, some are the entrance to the Profound Void Realm.”

“Right, so how can we find the correct entrance?” Nightking Yuanjing grew excited.

The Trialmaster similarly looked at Lu Yin, but his eyes were no longer murky.

“I only know of a single way—look for the biggest current, and the smallest current nearest to it is a safe entrance.”

Nightking Yuanjing’s eyes gleamed. “The smallest current nearest to the largest one? Are you sure?”

Lu Yin shook his head. “I’m not a hundred percent certain, but that’s what the beast said when it was pleading for its life. I can’t confirm its veracity, so I can only repeat what it told me.”

Nightking Yuanjing nodded. “Alright, I understand. If this is true, Little Yin, you’ll be an honored guest of the Daynight clan in future.” The image on the screen then vanished without another word.

Lu Yin squinted, as there was a hidden layer of meaning in Nightking Yuanjing’s words. If his information was false, then Lu Yin would be doomed. Nightking Yuanjing had not even bothered mentioning the

matter with Zhanlong Daynight, and neither had he questioned why Lu Yin had not mentioned these details in the beginning. The clan had a profoundly deep background, and if their upper echelon acted, then their moves would be like devastating thunderous strikes. If Lu Yin wanted to preserve his life, then he needed to demonstrate his value right now. Otherwise, once the Third Nightking was released, Lu Yin would not be far from death.

“Kid, Nightking Yuanjing is not one to be pushed around,” the Trialmaster slowly advised. He then closed his eyes and fell silent.

Lu Yin bowed to the Trialmaster and then silently left the trial zone entrance. He was no longer in the mood to participate in any more ported battles, and there were only a few days left before the Strongest Competition. Thus, he wanted to use this time to recharge.

“Monkey, is there really no chance of the Third Nightking escaping?” Lu Yin uneasily asked.

The Ghost Monkey answered, “Nope, definitely not. You’ve asked me this so many times. Both I and the Celestial Ice Phoenix clan can vow that he will never escape.”

Lu Yin raised his brows. “What relationship do you have with that clan?”

“They are this Ghost Monkey’s future harem, so of course there’s a relationship between us. This is my most sacred vow. Have some confidence in that Void Wanderer Elder. After all, he can be considered to be one of the most ancient existences of the Astral Beast Domain. Forget the Daynight clan—even those old fogeys from the Hall of Honor might not be able to rescue the Third Nightking, so just relax.”

Even though the Ghost Monkey was confident beyond a shadow of a doubt, Lu Yin was still worried. The Daynight clan’s inheritance went far too back in time—hundreds of thousands, or maybe even millions of years? One generation had emerged after another, and their line of inheritance had never been broken. Who knew what tricks they had stored up their sleeves.

To Lu Yin, the deepest impression he had of the Daynight clan was of their inheritance stone. Qingyu had stolen it, but the Daynight clan had not even made a serious move to retrieve it. This showed that whoever obtained it would have to hand it over, or else they would meet with certain death. This demonstrated the absolute confidence of the Daynight clan, which was a reflection of their power. This power was so unfathomable that Lu Yin could not even imagine it, as he found it hard to have such a carefree mindset.

He decided to start making preparations for the possibility where the Third Nightking escaped, in order to guard against the worst.

Not long after, in Astral-3, Nightqueen Yanqing received a notice from the clan:

From today onwards, all Daynight clan members will be forbidden from intervening in military matters of the Frostwave Weave. All violations will be investigated.

Nightqueen Yanqing was shocked by this command. Why? Why did this happen? They had warned her not to punish Zhuo Daynight, and then that girl had been taken in as Elder Yuanjing’s disciple. And now, she was even being warned not to intervene in the Frostwave Weave. Lu Yin was the only one who could be behind this! But how could he have persuaded the elder group to speak up for him? They hadn’t even hesitated to offend the sister of one of the Ten Arbiters!

She looked at that notice, fear etched into her face. There was a hidden depth to Lu Yin, and it was deep enough to somehow influence even the Nightking elders.

Not long after Yanqing received the warning, in East San Dios, within the Outerverse, Yan Feng also received a notice:

The Outerverse Youth Council member selection will be delayed for six months. All potential members should make proper preparations.

- Zhenwu of the Ten Arbiters.

Chapter 314: The Predecessors' Strength

Yan Feng was at a loss when he read the notice. Delayed? Half of the Outerverse members were dead, so the Outerverse Youth Council urgently needed replacements. Why was there a delay in the selection of members? This notice was even from Arbiter Zhenwu—just what had happened?

No matter what guesses Yan Feng made, none of them were related to Lu Yin. After Jenny Auna went to Firesmelt Planet, the two had become sworn enemies. Even if Lu Yin never truly cared about Jenny, she was still his fiancée on paper. To Yan Feng, helping Nightqueen Yanqing and dealing with Lu Yin was supposed to be an effortless task, so this was an outcome that he could not afford to let happen.

Lu Yin was not planning to reveal his cards against Yan Feng at the current moment. Rather, when he eventually went to East San Dios, that was when he would finally settle his grievances with Yan Feng as well as deal with Puyu.

Two days quietly passed by, and now, there were only three days left until the Tournament of the Strongest. On this day, Lu Yin suddenly received a message from Little Pao saying that someone was looking for him at the academy's space station.

Lu Yin arrived to see the Nalan family spacecraft, as well as the graceful and alluring Madam Nalan.

"Madam Nalan?" Lu Yin was stunned.

She smiled at Lu Yin. "Never thought that I would come here, did you?"

Lu Yin smiled. "Indeed, why has madam come to visit Astral-10?"

"To see you."

Lu Yin felt that something was strange. "To see me? How can I help the madam?"

She gestured at the spacecraft. "Student Lu, let's enter and talk inside. It's too tiring to continue standing."

Lu Yin nodded and followed the alluring Madam Nalan into her spacecraft.

They entered the same lounge, where there was already a luxurious feast set up, as well as a bottle of extravagant wine. "Truth be told, I came here looking for Student Lu in order to get your help to lockbreak a certain sourcebox." Madam Nalan cut straight to the chase.

Lu Yin was astonished. “Madam is the head of the Nalan family, which shouldn’t be lacking in Lockbreakers. Why did you come all the way here to find me?”

She smiled. “You’re unwilling?”

“Madam has saved my life twice. Don’t even mention lockbreaking—I wouldn’t hesitate to cross mountains of blades or brave seas of fire for you. I was just curious about this matter.”

She smiled and fixed her beautiful eyes on Lu Yin. “I would feel uneasy requesting help from other Lockbreakers.”

Lu Yin became even more perplexed; he was just a two-star Discerning Junior Lockbreaker. Given the financial power of the Nalan family, they could easily invite a Perceptive Intermediate or even a Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker. He did not ask any further questions and instead thought back to the moment when they had first met. Back then, someone had been secretly plotting against her. Huge clans had too much strife within them.

Lu Yin responded after thinking for a moment. “Since madam thinks so highly of me, I won’t decline. Let’s begin.”

Madam Nalan could not help but give Lu Yin a strange look. “Student Lu is certainly fanatical about training. We just sat down.”

Lu Yin smiled awkwardly, but he didn’t remain courteous and picked up a succulent roasted thigh and began to eat. The shank was extremely delicious, as the meat was tender, flavorful, and even held some star energy within it. The fragrant flavors lingered in his mouth even after he swallowed, and he felt a strange sense of satisfaction spread through his body. He swallowed a mouthful of red wine and let out a relaxed breath of contentment. “Madam, this glass of red wine must be an exceptional luxury.”

“If you like it that much, I can gift you some,” she replied with a laugh.

Lu Yin grinned but declined. This woman was too generous towards him, and her actions always caused him to be bewildered. He believed that there was no such thing as a free lunch, and this was already such an expensive meal.

This woman was enchantingly beautiful, a peak magnate of the Outerverse, and her background was even connected to the Sword Sect; she could not be underestimated. He had even considered the possibility that the Sword Sect had specifically sent this alluring Madam Nalan to entice him, but he soon dismissed that thought. He was just a Limiteer, and even if his innate gifts and his talent were more overpowered, he still would not be able to compare to the Ten Arbiters. One of the arbiters was from the Sword Sect, so even if they appreciated Lu Yin’s potential, they would not expend that much effort to rope him in.

Besides, if she truly wanted to entice him, could he even reject her? Lu Yin recalled that this woman had actually saved his life on two occasions.

“Are you considering whether or not I may have set up fancy schemes or you?” A fresh and beautiful mien with a limitless grace and attraction appeared in his sight, and he retreated in surprise.

Madam Nalan’s alluring eyes twinkled with mirth. “Student Lu, am I that scary?”

Lu Yin forced a laugh out. "You're too beautiful, and I can't take it anymore."

Her eyes formed into two thin crescent moons. "You really know how to sweet talk a lady. Oh, we've already met several times, but I still haven't told you my name. I'm Liu Fuxue."

Lu Yin's eyes flickered. Sure enough, this woman carried the surname "Liu," which was one of the primeval surnames, as well as the surname of the leading family of the Sword Sect. "Clouds in the sky drift by like the snow of the four seasons, and the bitterness of this world can be found in a freshly brewed cup of tea. It's extremely liberating."

The alluring Nalan let out a gasp of surprise. "Student Lu's poetry is impressive. In that case, perhaps you could interpret another name—Liu Tianmu."

Lu Yin did not give the name much thought and blurted out, "The stars in the sky fall like leaves from an autumn tree, cleansing one of impurities."

She covered her mouth as she chuckled, but then she gently clapped her hands. "You have quite a nimble imagination and could probably participate in one of the Erudite Flowzone's contest."

"Madam Nalan, who is this Liu Tianmu that you mentioned?" Lu Yin asked curiously. Those with the surname Liu were definitely not simple.

Her lips curled up, and a trace of mischief flashed across her eyes. "You will find out in the future."

She then requested for Lu Yin to unlock three sourceboxes. Two had been verified to be at the three-star Discerning Junior level, and they were shaped like stones. The third had not been judged yet, and its size was roughly the same as the other two, though its form was different. It was a broken palm—no, it appeared to be a broken palm.

This last one heavily piqued Lu Yin's interest, as no two sourceboxes in the universe were identical. Every Lockbreaker would run into all sorts of strange treasures, but this sourcebox that was shaped like a broken hand certainly seemed to be more exotic than normal.

Lu Yin spent two hours to unlock the first sourcebox. It was just graded at the three-star Discerning Junior level, so he did not even take out the Giant Emperor's third eye and only used his domain and Cosmic Art to help him. He was thirteen times faster than during his first lockbreaking attempt, which showed his progress.

However, the item within the sourcebox had already vanished, and thus, his efforts were for nothing.

The second sourcebox took him another two and a half hours, and within it was an ancient-looking plank. There were vague characters written on it. Lu Yin could not understand the characters and quickly handed the plank to the alluring Madam Nalan.

She had some people carefully preserve and then deliver it to an archaeologist for research. Perhaps they would be able to extract some useful information from the item.

Any item that was sealed within the dust of the universe meant that it was related to an almighty-level super powerhouse, as that was the only way it would be worthy of being sealed. Thus, every item recovered through lockbreaking was not simple, and the most classic example was held by the Ross Empire.

The Ross Empire's founder had coincidentally come across a clothing item through lockbreaking. It was a long skirt designed for a woman, and since it seemed to be made from ordinary material and was utterly devoid of star energy, it had almost been tossed. However, the founder had not been willing to do so and had instead handed the skirt to their subordinates to study. Who would have guessed that within this long skirt laid a great deal of ancient scientific knowledge. This data had given birth to the most dominating force in the Blazing Mist Flowzone, the Ross Empire, and it even qualified to go up against the Blaze Realm now.

Of course, the Ross Empire's fortuitous opportunity had only happened by chance. Many powers had obtained valuable items through lockbreaking but could not even comprehend what was written on them. Even when they did decipher it, the information might not be suitable for the current era, or it might be findings that had long since become common knowledge after so many years had passed.

In short, any item that could be obtained from lockbreaking was valuable and would require careful research and consideration.

Lu Yin looked at the broken-palm shaped sourcebox and touched it with his hand. His finger felt as if it had been pricked by something, and he raised his eyebrows in confusion.

"Seventh Bro, something's not right. You shouldn't mess with this thing," the Ghost Monkey suddenly warned in a solemn voice.

Lu Yin revolved the Cosmic Art and activated his domain as well while also taking out the Giant Emperor's third eye. He carefully observed the severed palm sourcebox, and with the support of these three things, he finally noticed something different about it. There was a peculiar forcefield surrounding the broken hand that contained an inauspicious sensation. This forcefield was reminiscent of a scorpion's tail poised to strike, and this was what had pricked Lu Yin's hand.

Lu Yin was stunned, as this was his first time encountering such a sourcebox.

He had seen many sourcebox catalog videos, but even sourceboxes that were dangerous to Lockbreakers would not have this kind of a prepared attack. Of course, it was possible that he simply was not able to see such details through the videos.

Many Lockbreakers had died in bizarre situations, and some of them might have even been due to situations like this scorpion tail-looking forcefield.

Lu Yin considered the situation some more, and then remembered that he had one opportunity to unlock a sourcebox in front of the Trialmaster. He weighed his options, and then spoke to the bright Madam Nalan. "Madam, I want to bring this sourcebox into the academy so that I can unlock it in front of my mentor."

Her eyes flashed with delight, and she nodded. "Alright. Be careful, Student Lu."

Lu Yin nodded and noted that the tempting Madam Nalan already knew that this broken-hand sourcebox was peculiar. This incident had merely been her probing his abilities, and if he truly tried to unlock the broken hand, then she would have stopped him. It seemed that she was truly aiming for him to ask his mentor for help. Did she know about the Trialmaster's existence? It was certainly plausible,

since he was a super powerful Lockbreaker whom even Nightking Yuanjing respected. If Madam Nalan knew of the Trialmaster's existence, then it was logical for her to request for Lu Yin's help in unlocking this sourcebox.

At this moment, Lu Yin finally understood what this woman wanted. Sure enough, he could not even understand the tricks that people at her level were employing and could only figure things out after being taught a lesson.

The severed-palm sourcebox had no offensive nature, or else Madam Nalan would not have been able to hand it to Lu Yin so casually. If a sourcebox had an offensive nature, then one would be attacked if upon making contact with it.

When Lu Yin brought the sourcebox to the Trialmaster, his eyes widened as soon as he caught sight of it. "That's a trick from some old expert. Kid, you can't open this sourcebox."

Lu Yin respectfully said, "Please teach me."

"Some sourceboxes contain a bit of remnant power from their previous owners. It might be some of their innate gifts, battle force, domain, or even battle techniques. These bits of power that can persist through the ages are the biggest threat to Lockbreakers."

"Are you saying that this severed palm contains some of the strength that a certain powerhouse left behind?" Lu Yin was astonished.

The mentor closed his eyes. "Unlocking something like this requires one to at least be at the Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker stage. You're still too green, kid."

Lu Yin thought about it. "Could Mentor help me with this?"

The Trialmaster shook his head. "Facing the strength of a predecessor is too risky. You can consider it like an ancient powerhouse transcending time to challenge those of the present era."

Lu Yin nodded. "I'll take my leave then."

Not long after, Lu Yin returned the broken palm to Madam Nalan and repeated the Trialmaster's words to her.

She sighed and then forced out a smile. "Student Lu, to be honest, I've found a few other Lockbreakers, but I was similarly rejected by all of them."

"My mentor says that only a Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker can successfully unlock this sourcebox."

Chapter 315: True Prodigy

Madam Nalan shook her head. "Boundless Advanced Lockbreakers hold such an esteemed status that our Nalan Family does not qualify to invite one. It's fine. We can discuss this matter at another time."

As Lu Yin watched her store the broken-hand sourcebox away, he could not help himself from blurting out, "Madam has saved me twice. One day, when I reach the Boundless Advanced level, I will help Madam unlock this sourcebox."

She smiled happily at Lu Yin. "Then I'll await the future exalted Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker."

Lu Yin forced a smile onto his face, as the Boundless Advanced level was too distant for him at this time. He had just unlocked two sourceboxes and was not far from becoming a three-star Discerning Junior, but becoming a Boundless Advanced Lockbreaker was still a distant dream for now.

“Here is your reward.” The alluring Madam Nalan passed a Mavis Bank crystal card to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin raised an eyebrow. “Madam, please don’t look down upon me.”

She smiled faintly and casually put the card away again. She then looked at Lu Yin. “If you don’t want that reward, then let me give you some information that may interest you.”

“What? Another Sword Sect genius?” Lu Yin teasingly enquired. She was the first person who had mentioned Liu Shaoqiu to him, and the information had shocked Lu Yin at the time. Now, after defeating Liu Shaoqiu, Lu Yin could not help but be a little cheeky.

She laughed. “Close, but not a Sword Sect genius. This time, it’s about the Cosmic Sea.”

Lu Yin turned serious. “The Cosmic Sea?”

She nodded and sashayed forward temptingly before looking back at Lu Yin. “Do you know about the Cosmic Sea?”

He shook his head. “Not really.”

“How should I explain this? Those who hail from the Cosmic Sea gather in groups called regiments, and all kinds of people who cannot live in the Inniverse or Outerverse have gone to that place. Those who can reach the Cosmic Sea are all experts, and their combined strength is something that even a powerful organization such as the Sword Sect cannot ignore. The four strongest regiments are truly terrifying and are known as the Four Pirate Crews. Any one of them wield a power that can shock the Sword Sect, and there are still many smaller but strong regiments below the top four. In order to survive, every year, the smaller regiments must offer tribute to the Four Pirate Crews similar to a protection fee. Of course, there are some that refuse to offer gifts, such as the Arcadian Arrow Crew or the Unyielding Corps, which I will explain to you in detail today.”

The Arcadian Arrow Crew? Lu Yin recalled his battle with Silus atop the Heavenly Drum. That person seemed to be from the Arcadian Arrow Crew.

“It’s very hard to survive in the Cosmic Sea, and even powerhouses from places such as the Sword Sect or Daynight Clan would meet their deaths there. The regiments that have survived until today are unbelievably fearsome. Of them all, the Unyielding Corps is the most incredible since their regimental commander is only a Limiteer.”

Lu Yin was stunned. “A Limiteer?”

She nodded. “Correct. That person is a Limiteer who is publicly recognized by the entire Cosmic Sea as a Ten Arbiters’ candidate. It’s said that this person possesses enough strength to rival the Ten Arbiters when they were Limiteers. This person is an absolute expert with terrifying talent.”

Lu Yin recalled that his family had also mentioned an expert from the Cosmic Sea; could it be this same person? Uncle Reuben had not given any clear details at that time.

“Madam, what’s this person’s name?” Lu Yin asked.

She turned around, and her eyes flickered as she answered, “Ye Xingchen.”

Lu Yin blinked. A good name.

“Logically, a regiment led by a mere Limiteer should not be able to survive in the Cosmic Sea, but the Unyielding Corps has managed to survive until now, and it has successfully attracted the attention of the larger regiments. It has actually become a target for capture.”

“Will this Ye Xingchen take part in the Tournament of the Strongest?”

“It’s been reported as a possibility, and recently, there have been some changes in the Cosmic Sea. Several regiments have left one after another and seem to be seeking a different path. Ye Xingchen may also leave the Cosmic Sea, and if he intends to do so, then his first order of action would be to demonstrate his value to other organizations. This Tournament of the Strongest is an excellent opportunity for him to do exactly that.”

No wonder Uncle Reuben mentioned that this person might join. Lu Yin now understood. If this was the case, then the Arcadian Arrow Crew was likely participating in the competition for similar reasons. The Cosmic Sea, huh? I’ll head over there sooner or later.

“Thank you, madam, for the information,” Lu Yin gratefully said.

She pursed her lips and smiled. “I hope that you will also defeat Ye Xingchen this time around. Next time, I’ll tell you the names of the Ten Arbiters, and then wait to see if you can defeat them, hehe.”

When he heard her bewitching giggle, Lu Yin’s heart skipped a beat and he hurriedly restrained his wandering thoughts.

Madam Nalan was in no hurry to leave Astral-10, but she was not allowed to enter it either. Lu Yin could not accompany her for an extended period of time, so he left not long after.

The next day, Astral-3 burst into an uproar. Liu Shaoqiu had appeared.

To participate in the Astral Combat Tournament, Liu Shaoqiu had joined Astral-2, so he was also technically a student of the Astral Combat Academy. However, he rarely spent any time at the academy. Despite his usual behavior, he had shown up at Astral-3 with the sole intent of challenging one of the experts from the Cosmic Sea.

It was not surprising for Liu Shaoqiu to appear here, especially after considering the fact that news of the Cosmic Sea experts’ behavior at the Sword Sect had spread.

If not for his previous battle with Lu Yin, Silus would never have taken Liu Shaoqiu seriously. However, after learning that Liu Shaoqiu had lost to Lu Yin by a very narrow margin in an intense fight, Silus became much more cautious. However, this battle was not with him, as Liu Shaoqiu’s target was instead Nate.

Nate did not avoid this battle and was actually very excited. Liu Shaoqiu was one of the two inheritors of the Sword Sect’s Thirteen Swords in this generation, and Nate wanted to personally see how powerful this renowned technique was.

“Be careful, Nate,” Silus softly reminded.

Nate frowned. “I’ve already contacted the commander. You’re no longer qualified to participate in this competition.”

Silus fell silent. He was indeed not qualified. Since he had already lost to Lu Yin, there was no meaning in him participating in the tournament. But what about Nate? Could he win against the Thirteen Swords?

Many students excitedly gathered at an empty region in Astral-3, and even Nightqueen Yanqing showed up. She did not stop this battle, as all else aside, the Sword Sect was one of the Daynight clan’s main competitors. She was looking forward to seeing the Sword Sect becoming enemies with the entire Cosmic Sea.

Nate arrived and stood a hundred meters away from Liu Shaoqiu. “You’re the inheritor of the Thirteen Swords? You have a very common look.”

Liu Shaoqiu calmly observed him. “Are you the one who defeated Senior Yanhua?”

Nate nodded. “That person’s got guts, but unfortunately, he joined the Sword Sect.”

A chilling look flashed across Liu Shaoqiu’s eyes. “Let’s go.”

Nate sneered, but he did not hesitate. Although he despised the Sword Sect disciples, he was no fool, as Liu Shaoqiu’s name and reputation as a Ten Arbiters’ Candidate had spread even to the Cosmic Sea. Despite the fact that, in the hearts of those from the Cosmic Sea, the only true Ten Arbiters’ candidate was Ye Xingchen, Nate did not dare to look down on the Thirteen Swords. Liu Shaoqiu’s strength was also equally renowned, and he was definitely outstanding in his own right.

Nate raised a hand as his star energy materialized into a bow and arrow. Lightning exploded forth, and a terrifying shockwave swept across the entire expanse, causing many students to go numb and unconsciously back off.

Nightqueen Yanqing’s face turned solemn; this was a powerful arrow shot.

Liu Shaoqiu whipped out his rusty sword to face Nate’s arrow. He raised his blade and directly chopped down in front of him. In that instant, Nate’s hair stood on end as he loosed the lightning arrow. It collided with a formless energy just two meters in front of Nate. As arcs of electricity swept out in all directions, the collision resulted in a shockwave that suddenly exploded. Nate was too close to it and was blasted back even as a giant pit opened up in the ground.

Nate looked at Liu Shaoqiu in shock. Was that just now the First Sword of the Thirteen Swords? What strong power! Suddenly, a shiver ran down Nate’s spine. His instinct for danger that had been honed over many years of fighting for survival in the Cosmic Sea caused him to look up in time to witness an inconceivable scene. The entire region was enveloped by a sea of sword qi. This was a domain.

Liu Shaoqiu’s Second Sword soon followed, unleashing a pressure upon everything as countless strands of sword qi pierced through the void and pervaded the area within a thousand meters of him.

The students retreated time and time again, as they could also feel the danger from the Second Sword.

Nate grit his teeth and chose not to defend, but to instead loose another arrow. Oddly enough, he did not aim his bow and seemingly released it at random, but Liu Shaoqiu was shocked to see that the arrow carried the sensation of a domain with it. Nate had also comprehended a domain.

Layer after layer of earth was stripped away as Nate forcibly took on the full might of Liu Shaoqiu's Second Sword. He did not attempt to dodge or redirect it, but he was also unable to completely block this sword. Nate's domain was an archer's dream, as it allowed him to see what others could not. However, his domain did not directly improve his defenses, so he could only aim for mutual destruction.

Liu Shaoqiu's Second Sword eliminated everything in its path and turned all to nothingness. Multiple spatial cracks appeared before merging back into the void. It was a long time before space stabilized once again.

Off in the distance, Silus's eyes went wide. This was the Thirteen Swords, which not even they with reflexes honed in the Cosmic Sea could evade.

Nightqueen Yanqing's eyes narrowed; this sword was enough to defeat Nate, but Liu Shaoqiu's condition was unknown. She considered her options and then waved her hand, causing a gale to sweep through the battlefield. A bloodsoaked Nate was revealed. He had been severely injured. Meanwhile, Liu Shaoqiu's right arm had received some slight damage, but he had no other injuries aside from his arm.

The onlookers were shocked; this was Liu Shaoqiu! He was the Sword Sect's preeminent genius, the inheritor of the Thirteen Swords, the one who had used just the First Sword to defeat Kuang Wang and many others. If not for Lu Yin, he would have definitely been one of the top four in the Astral Combat Tournament.

Nate spat out a mouthful of blood, and with great difficulty, raised his head to look at Liu Shaoqiu. He could not accept this outcome. He had not underestimated the Thirteen Swords, but he had still lost. The moment the Second Sword was displayed, his defeat had been guaranteed. He did not possess the strength to match it.

Silus walked over to Nate and helped him up to his feet.

Nate felt miserable. If our Arcadian Arrow Crew had a battle technique as powerful as the Thirteen Swords, would we still have to hide? We're nothing but stray dogs.

Silus felt helpless. "Nate, we've been defeated, first by Lu Yin, and now by Liu Shaoqiu. This is the strength of the top four."

"There's nothing more to say since we've already lost. Let's go." Nate suppressed his heavy injuries and bade farewell to Nightqueen Yanqing. The two members of the Arcadian Arrow Crew would now leave Astral-3 and return to the Cosmic Sea. There was no longer any need for them to participate in the tournament since they had already lost here.

Nightqueen Yanqing tried to convince the two of them to stay, but they left since they were too ashamed.

Afterwards, she turned to Liu Shaoqiu with a somber expression and said, "You've improved yet again."

His eyes passed over her with clear disdain that could even be seen by the students who were some distance away. This caused Nightqueen Yanqing to feel unbearably furious. "Liu Shaoqiu, what are you implying?"

"In the Daynight Clan, only Zhanlong Daynight might be my match," he softly replied.

She clenched her fists as four-lined battle force surged out from her body. "You're too arrogant!"

Liu Shaoqiu turned around and looked at the rest of Astral-3's students. He then said, "Pass my message on to Lu Yin: I, Liu Shaoqiu, will be waiting for my battle with him with my Fourth Sword."

Many were stunned. The Fourth Sword was unfathomable, as Lu Yin had only forced out Liu Shaoqiu's Second and Third Sword during the Astral Combat Tournament, and the Second Sword had even defeated those stuck up experts from the Cosmic Sea. And now, Liu Shaoqiu was saying that he had actually comprehended the Fourth Sword?

Chapter 316: Changes On Earth

When Nightqueen Yanqing heard Liu Shaoqiu's declaration about the Fourth Sword, a cold shock filled her heart. Without her four-lined battle force, she was not even confident that she could withstand the Third Sword, much less the Fourth Sword. This was Liu Shaoqiu's current level.

After making this declaration, Liu Shaoqiu left Astral-3.

From start to finish, Nightqueen Yanqing had not dared to make a move. Just like what Liu Shaoqiu had said, among the Limiteers of the Daynight clan, only Zhanlong Daynight could be considered to be his match. No one else was worthy.

Zhanlong Daynight: it was this person yet again! He should have died after his defeat in the Shenwu Continent. His name should have never been brought up again. Nightqueen Yanqing hated even hearing his name, but the Daynight Technique of Immunity was something that she understood very well.

News that Liu Shaoqiu had defeated a strong competitor from the Cosmic Sea quickly spread. Following that, more news came out that the two experts from the Cosmic Sea had pulled out of the Tournament of the Strongest.

Lu Yin was astonished by the news on his personal gadget. Those two people were truly unfortunate; one had been eliminated by him and the other by Liu Shaoqiu. Having said that, they only had themselves to blame for purposefully offending the Sword Sect and the powerful Liu Shaoqiu by proxy.

It also had to be said that Liu Shaoqiu had shown tremendous improvement. The fact that he had mentioned the Fourth Sword showed that he had already completely grasped this next step of the Thirteen Swords. In their next battle, Lu Yin would have to face off against a completed Fourth Sword, which caused excitement to bubble up within his heart. He also felt a certain longing for the battle to happen sooner rather than later, as he was curious about the Fourth Sword.

When he saw the news about Liu Shaoqiu, Lu Yin was suddenly reminded of Li Zimo from the Shenwu Continent. That man's talent for the sword was definitely not inferior to Liu Shaoqiu's in the slightest. Li Zimo was a true master of the sword, and if he ever went to the Sword Sect, it would be an interesting development.

There was a ding from Lu Yin's gadget and a notification popped up. Lu Yin opened it and was shocked by what appeared before him.

The competitors of The Tournament of the Strongest have been confirmed. From the Human Domain's Astral Combat Academy: Starsibyl, Han Chong, Grandini Mavis, and Lu Yin. From the Astral Beast Domain: Embermane, Hua Yishou, Feng Jiu, and Tian Hou. From the Technocracy: Cloud, Ben, Duo Mi, and Yar Pater. From the Cosmic Sea: Liu Shaoqiu and Zijun.

Lu Yin looked at the notification and was a bit puzzled. Liu Shaoqiu is representing the Cosmic Sea in the tournament? This came as a bit of surprise. The Sword Sect was truly despicable for coming up with something like this. Also, who was this Zijun character?"

"Lu Yin, where are you hiding?" Lulu cried out in her lovable voice, appearing out of nowhere.

When he saw Lulu, Lu Yin's eyes lit up. He waved his arms, creating a violent gale.

Lulu carefully sidestepped the gust of wind before turning around to look at Lu Yin, the sides of her mouth curling up. "Ah, so you were hiding here? Are you afraid to take part in the tournament?"

After saying that, she hopped up into the tree and landed less than three meters away from Lu Yin. She swung her snow white legs around with a carefree expression on her face.

Lu Yin gave a smile. "Coming back to tease me as soon as you finished your mission?"

Lulu giggled. "I'm not here to joke around. Actually, it's the opposite—I'm here to pass you some important information."

"Information?" Lu Yin asked, caught off guard.

Lulu pointed to herself. "Mavis."

Lu Yin's eyes lit up. "Are you going to tell me some information about Grandini?"

Lulu nodded.

Lu Yin was puzzled. "But both of you are from the Mavis family. Why would you want to betray her?"

Lulu snorted disdainfully. "That woman dared to strut around in front of me after showing her skills off, so I want to teach her a lesson. Anyway, 'betray' is too strong a word. I'm just filling you in on some basic facts about her. Things that many others are already aware of. Only a friendless, person with no background who has had no fortunate encounters such as yourself would be unaware of what I'm about to tell you."

Lu Yin was rendered speechless. It was true that he had no background to speak of, but when did he become friendless? He had many friends... Oh wait, he didn't actually have that many... Regarding his fortunate encounters, there had been several, but none he was willing to share.

"What a plucky girl. The Mavis clan is indeed terrifying," the Ghost Monkey said.

"Alright then, what do you want to tell me, you little traitor?" Lu Yin teased.

Lulu rolled her eyes at him. “Do not underestimate Grandini, and do not just think that she is an easy target just because she only has four-lined battle force. Let me tell you something—you didn’t see any more only because she either never went all out or never used her innate gift. If she does end up using it, none of you will be her match.”

“Innate gift?” Lu Yin asked curiously.

Lulu rolled her eyes again. “If you’re expecting me to tell you about the Mavis clan’s innate gift, you can forget about it. All I can say is that when she actually uses her innate gift to increase her powers, the change will not be gradual. It will be completely unlike how she fought during the Astral Combat Tournament; not even close to that. Having said that, if she does not use her innate gift to increase her powers, everything that I just said will be inconsequential.”

As he stared at Lulu, Lu Yin thought back to the time he had spent on Earth. Back then, this girl had used her innate gift to tame and bring back an Explorer level turtle. Despite the creature being at the Explorer realm, which was far higher than their cultivation realms, it had still been easily tamed. This was something unfathomable to Lu Yin, but he knew that this matter was definitely somehow connected to the Mavis clan’s innate gift. However, he still did not have even the slightest idea as to what the Mavis clan’s innate actually was. All he knew was that it was terrifying.

“I understand. I will face her seriously,” Lu Yin told her.

Lulu lifted her head. She considered something for a bit before speaking. “Actually, it is not that bad of a thing if she increases her strength. If I know those old foxes at the Astral Combat Academy, they probably won’t let competitors from the same domain fight against each other. If you fight her, it will only happen in one of the later stages.

“You seem very confident that I’ll be able to last to the very end,” Lu Yin asked in a probing manner, feeling that something was strange.

Lulu laughed before replying, “I’m not. I just hope to see it happen. After all, you are the student leader of Astral-10, so it will reflect badly on us if you lose.” Once she was done speaking, Lulu hopped down and left.

“Monkey, what’s the Mavis clan’s innate gift?” Lu Yin asked.

“Seventh Bro, how would I know what that clan’s innate gift is?” the Ghost Monkey answered.

“You don’t know?” Lu Yin asked suspiciously; this damn monkey knew everything!

The Ghost Monkey helplessly replied, “My knowledge comes from the records of dead powerhouses. These experts have had no record of the Mavis clan’s innate gift, and as such, I really don’t know what their innate gift is. However, there is one thing that is for certain: the Mavis clan is more terrifying than you can possibly imagine.”

“You’re just stating the obvious. For them to control the financial lifeline of the universe means that they clearly must have ancient powerhouses within their ranks who have power levels of several hundred thousand,” Lu Yin said.

The Ghost Monkey replied in a grave tone, "Several hundred thousand? You are still underestimating the Mavis clan. Even though there are no records of such, they definitely have powerhouses whose power levels are in the millions. And not just one; there should be several in the Mavis clan."

Lu Yin was shocked. A Power level in the millions... What does that even look like? That kind of power was not just equivalent to hundreds of Explorers; it was a fundamental transformation. Such powerhouses could destroy planets with a mere breath; one glance could destroy an entire fleet. Absolutely anything could be destroyed by such a cultivator. That was how powerful they were.

Bit by bit, time passed by until there was only one day left until the Tournament of the Strongest began.

On this day, the Zenyu Star of the Great Yu Empire once again erected many screens, ensuring that everyone would be able to watch the tournament. Lu Yin was currently the empire's Royal Regent, and he wielded the highest authority within the Great Yu Empire. Thus, this competition had become the most important event in the Great Yu Empire. It was to the extent where even the Thirteen Imperial Squadrons put everything aside in order to fully support Lu Yin.

The Tournament of the Strongest was unlike the Astral Academy Tournament where the viewers were unrestricted. During that tournament, everyone in the universe could watch the competition if they wanted to, and everyone in the Great Yu Empire had had the freedom to watch Lu Yin compete. But for the upcoming Tournament of the Strongest, only those with great status could watch it.

Earth was one of the few places that was fortunate enough to be able to watch the tournament. Since Lu Yin's files recorded that Earth was his birthplace, the Auna clan had specifically sent some people over to ensure that screens were erected there in order to please Lu Yin.

The current Earth was completely different from what it had once been, and the technology there was developing at a rapid pace. This was especially so after Lu Yin had become the empire's Royal Regent, since his ascension had greatly elevated Earth's status. Many battle techniques and technology of the Great Yu Empire had been poured into Earth, and the planet had even built a space station. Furthermore, a select group of talented people from Earth had been chosen to join the latest round of the Great Yu Empire's training in order to boost Earth's strength.

Many of the Seven Sages of China's subordinates from back then had been chosen to go to Zenyu Star. These included individuals like one of the snow girls, Zhao Yu, Huan Sha from the Capital, Jinlin's Feng Hong, Luo Yi, Qin Xuan, and many others. It was a pity that Zhou Shan and Wu Sheng had decided to not go because they were reluctant to leave Earth.

Also, among those who had been selected, there were even a few who displayed innate gifts, which had shocked the Great Yu Empire. Innate gifts were rare, but so many people from Earth had displayed them in such a short period of time. Even Ban Jiu, the captain of the Twelfth Imperial Squadron, had started to take an interest in Earth.

Wendy Yushan was on a fractured planet within the Frostwave Weave, her face pale. As she looked at her personal gadget, she saw that the Tournament of the Strongest was about to begin. Her injuries would also soon finish recovering.

At East San Dios, beneath a massive screen, many spectators gathered to watch the tournament. Lu Yin was supposed to be at East San Dios, but he had been recalled to Astral-10 for this event. Lu Yin's replacement was Mira, but to Bazeer and the others, it didn't matter who was present as long as the person legitimately wielded Wendy Yushan's authority.

On Firesmelt Planet, Jenny Auna's face was bright red with emotion. She had just received news that Yan Feng would marry her in the very near future. She had been waiting for this day for far too long and had even broken ties with her clan for this.

In the distance, burning flames covered the ground. This was Firesmelt Planet's natural climate. Even though she felt uncomfortable and out of sorts while on the planet, Jenny Auna felt that it was all bearable as long as she could be together with Yan Feng.

As she saw the giant screen rise up, Jenny Auna grew puzzled. After asking around, she came to realize that the Tournament of the Strongest, which was a follow up to the Astral Combat Tournament, was about to take place. This huge competition would feature not only the top four from the Astral Combat Academy, but also competitors from other astral domains.

As she looked at the screen, Jenny Auna thought about Lu Yin. For some reason, after the nuptial joy of marrying Yan Feng passed, she suddenly felt a strange hesitation seep into her heart. It was as though she was at the edge of a cliff, and no matter what direction she stepped in, she could only fall down. She suddenly thought of something and fumbled about in her cosmic ring. It was only then that she remembered that she had thrown the ring that Lu Yin had given her away.

It did not matter anymore, as it was gone now. However, that was not exactly a bad thing since Big Brother Yan Feng might misunderstand if he saw it. All these complex thoughts filled Jenny Auna's head even as her eyes stayed glued to the screen.

In the Innerverses, inside the huge Sword Sect, many disciples focused on the screen. Liu Shaoqiu had challenged Lu Yin after comprehending the Fourth Sword and also joined the Tournament of the Strongest. At this moment, countless Sword Sect disciples were certain that Liu Shaoqiu would prove himself as the strongest. The Thirteen Swords were unparalleled, so Lu Yin was bound to lose this time around.

In the depths of the universe, past the Innerverses and above the vast Cosmic Sea where the waves were strong enough to tear a spacecraft apart, a huge, ancient warship bobbed up and down among the waves.

Aboard the warship was a melded, mixed aura of many powerful people. The aura of each individual was enough to send shivers down the spine of Explorers and even stronger cultivators. Furthermore, above this indistinct aura, there was another aura that reigned supreme among all others. Although it was faint, it was unspeakably dominant. It felt as if the mere presence of this aura was enough to bring the universe to its knees.

"Captain, the kid won't let you down."

"Yeah, captain. The kid made it all the way there all by himself and without any help. It couldn't have been easy."

“That’s right, captain. Just sit back and watch.”

Dong!

There was a tremendous ringing sound as waves spread out, covering the entire warship before crushing back into the Cosmic Sea. The waves spread over an unknown area before finally being subdued by a powerful force.

“What does he have to do with me? Why should I be concerned or disappointed by him? Shut up, all of you! If you keep talking, I’ll kill the lot of you!” A man’s booming voice reverberated across the vast sea, causing many sea creatures to tremble in fear.

The voice belonging to this man was feared by everyone in the Cosmic Sea.

“Mighty captain, please don’t be angry.”

“We were just joking; don’t mind us, captain.

”

“Captain, would you like some alcohol?”

...

“Shut your mouths, you useless swill.”

Chapter 317: The Monkey’s Goal

That night, all of the students from Astral-10 gathered around the trial zone mountain to cheer Lu Yin on.

Lu Yin burst into laughter at the top of the mountain. When he next opened his eyes, he found himself in the Lifeseek Realm, where the Astral Combat Tournament had been held. Quite some time had passed since then, but there was still a strange familiarity about this place. This would be his first step to becoming renowned throughout the universe.

All of the students from the Astral Combat Academy had gathered together, and they were waiting outside the tournament grounds for the tournament to begin in a day.

Of the participants, Lu Yin was neither the first nor the last to arrive. Not too far away from him, Han Chong smiled at Lu Yin, who responded in kind.

Elsewhere, Liu Shaoqiu had already arrived. Upon seeing Lu Yin, his eyes grew cold. This was the same place where he had once been defeated, but he was going to repay the humiliation that he’d suffered twofold.

Even further away from them, there were a few beings with strange appearances that caught Lu Yin’s attention. One of them had a humanoid appearance, but most of its body seemed to be made of machinery, and he looked quite similar to some of the people from the Ross Empire. There was also a wolf-shaped robot and... a book? Lu Yin was struck speechless. The last person in that group had the appearance of a normal person. She looked like a girl, though her face had some kind of device on it.

Perhaps the girl felt his gaze, but she glanced over for some reason. The disdain and contempt emanating from her made Lu Yin feel extremely uncomfortable. What right did she have to look down on him? No, she wasn't looking down on him—she was looking down on everyone and everything! Lu Yin found this strange. Was she crazy?

“They are the participants from the Technocracy.” Han Chong walked over to Lu Yin's side and introduced the strange-looking participants to him.

Lu Yin was baffled. “Is that book a participant as well?”

Han Chong could not help but laugh. “They're from the Technocracy, and all sorts of things exist there. If they wanted to, they could have even entered a brick as a participant.”

“By the way, I heard that no human is allowed to enter the Technocracy. Is that true?” Lu Yin was rather curious.

Han Chong nodded and earnestly replied, “Even since ancient times, nobody has ever been allowed to enter. The only way to go in is by force.”

“Does that mean that we know nothing about them at all?” Lu Yin asked with a frown.

“You can't really say it like that. Once in a while, a powerhouse from the Human or Astral Beast Domain will force their way there as a test of their strength. Otherwise, there could be a huge disaster if the Technocracy ever manages to create a weapon that's able to destroy the universe,” Han Chong explained.

Lu Yin understood this reasoning. It made sense, as it was not wise to just leave one's enemies completely alone. However, one had to pay a huge price to force their way into the Technocracy. Wendy Yushan had paid an immense price for merely trying to force her way into the Ross Empire. And even now, she was still missing. Although her situation could not be compared to a powerhouse's, and the Technocracy was incomparable to the Ross Empire in every sense, it was also a fact that the humans had lost quite a lot to the Technocracy over the years.

Compared to the Technocracy, the Astral Beast Domain seemed much more normal. At the very least, the humans felt that they had a general gauge of the Astral Beasts' strength.

With this in mind, Lu Yin glanced to the side and blinked. Are they normal? Perhaps. At the very least, they are all living creatures.

There was a rat, a flame sable, a guy dressed in black robes and a beautiful girl.

“Feng Jiu! It's Feng Jiu! I haven't seen you in so long! Let me out, Seventh Bro! I want to talk to her about life!” the monkey shrieked.

Lu Yin was rendered speechless. “Shut up!”

Next to him, Han Chong's expression shifted, and Lu Yin hastily tried to explain. “Sorry, Han Chong. I wasn't talking to you. Please don't pay me any mind.”

Han Chong smiled. “I understand, Lu Yin. This tournament is very important, so let's all be careful.”

Lu Yin nodded and watched Han Chong walked away.

“This is all your fault! I offended someone for no reason!” Lu Yin hissed.

“But that’s Feng Jiu, bro! What would you do if Ming Yan suddenly appeared in front of you? You’re even worse than me. Let me out already! I want to go talk to her!” the Ghost Monkey exclaimed.

Lu Yin angrily replied, “If you’re going to keep screaming like this, I’ll screen you so that you can’t even see your beloved Feng Jiu.”

The monkey felt very wronged. “You can’t bully me like this, Seventh Bro! I’ve helped you out so much. Just let me talk to her!”

“No! Shut up! If you keep talking, then I’m really going to block you,” Lu Yin threatened.

At that moment, the girl called Feng Jiu saw Lu Yin, and with an icy glint in her eyes, she started walking towards him.

“Why’s she coming over here? Did you somehow manage to get into contact with her?” Lu Yin asked coldly as he glared at his right arm. If the Ghost Monkey was truly able to contact her, then he’d immediately kill the monkey once and for all. He could not allow his secrets to be exposed.

“No! I swear it, Seventh Bro! I didn’t! If you don’t let me out, then I can’t contact anyone!” The monkey immediately defended itself.

Lu Yin frowned and watched Feng Jiu approach closer. She had a strange expression on her face. Was she looking to get revenge?

Quite a few students were surprised by this development and watched on in excitement. Were these two going to fight before the tournament even began?

Han Chong and the other participants were also watching curiously. Did Lu Yin know this participant from the Astral Beast Domain?

“Are you Lu Yin?” Feng Jiu asked in a hostile tone.

Lu Yin nodded. “That’s me.”

“Have you been to the border warfront before?” Feng Jiu coldly continued.

Lu Yin frowned. “That’s none of your business.”

“Are you the one who killed the Ghost Monkey?” Feng Jiu accused Lu Yin, her voice taking on a murderous edge.

Lu Yin raised his eyebrows as he glanced at his right arm with a confused expression. What was the meaning of this? Was she really trying to take revenge? Did she actually like that monkey? So the monkey truly didn’t have a one-sided love?!

“I’m here, my lovely Feng Jiu!” the monkey shrieked. Lu Yin’s right arm even became slightly warmer.

Lu Yin was furious, but all he could do was grind his teeth.

“Why aren’t you answering me? Were you the one who killed the Ghost Monkey?” Feng Jiu asked again.

Lu Yin looked up. “No comment.”

Feng Jiu snickered. “You killed him, but you’re too afraid to admit it. That’s exactly how you humans are—hypocritical and cowardly!”

“Exactly! Humans are hypocritical! I’m right here, Feng Jiu!” the monkey shouted once more.

Lu Yin was getting a headache just from the monkey’s screams. There was a person in front of him jabbering on about one thing or another, and there was another one making a fuss in his mind. The entire situation was causing him to grow increasingly annoyed. “If you have the capabilities, then just avenge him. If you step onto the battlefield, then you should be prepared to die.” And with that, Lu Yin turned away. He couldn’t be bothered to reason with this crazy couple.

Feng Jiu moved in front of Lu Yin, blocking him. She grit her teeth and demanded, “Tell me what he said before he died. He’s always been scared of death and would have definitely tried to save himself, but you still killed him. You’re ruthless!”

“Scared to die? How dare you! I’m the epitome of courage, okay?!” the monkey yelled.

Lu Yin was left speechless and immediately left the Lifeseek Realm.

Feng Jiu clenched her fists. “I’ll definitely kill you, Lu Yin.”

Atop Astral-10’s trial zone mountain, Lu Yin heard the Ghost Monkey complaining the moment he recovered. “Let me out, Seventh Bro! I want to see Feng Jiu. Let me out! I want to go see her!”

Lu Yin had a pounding headache by now. “She obviously doesn’t like you, but for some reason, she doesn’t like the fact that you died.”

The monkey was enraged. “She likes me! All of the Celestial Ice Phoenixes are a part of my harem! Progenitor Wushang arranged it!”

Lu Yin frowned. “Stop talking crap! You keep this up, and I’ll block you and make sure that you’ll never see Feng Jiu again.”

The monkey cried mournfully, but he finally stopped talking.

Gaining an enemy even before the tournament even began did not seem like a good start.

“Huh? Why did you come back? Did you get scared off already?” Lulu asked after seeing Lu Yin. She hadn’t even entered Lifeseek Realm yet.

Not too far away, Coco clenched her fists. “Don’t be afraid, Lu Yin! If you get injured, I’ll just give you an injection!”

Lu Yin’s eyelids unconsciously twitched. “It’s alright, Coco. By the way, how are Ceng Die and Kaname doing?”

Coco smiled. “They’re doing well! They’re delighted that you’re fine.”

“That’s great,” Lu Yin smiled. The two of them had been with him back at Pirate’s Port, so they must be pretty strong if they survived the attack from the warship. Of course, they might also have been spared because of their connections like how Zhuo Daynight had survived.

“Why aren’t you going in?” Lulu asked, baffled.

Lu Yin shrugged. “It’s too noisy in there. I want some peace and quiet, so I’ll just head in right before the tournament begins.”

After responding, Lu Yin was rather surprised when he noticed something odd. “Where’s Zora, Coco? Aren’t you two in the same team?”

“She went back to Windrift Hall for training,” Coco said.

Lu Yin was puzzled. “Training? What kind of training?”

“It’s battle training by the Windrift Hall. As you know, people there are assigned in pairs, with one person focused on healing and the other on fighting. The Windrift Hall’s style of battle is unique, but very powerful,” Lulu explained.

Upon recalling the memory of Zora’s Pulse Severing Finger, Lu Yin had to admit that their battle style was indeed unique. This meant that Zora would be very different upon returning. He took a deep breath. It must be amazing to be a part of a huge organization. Everything was already prepared for their successors.

Before long, Lulu and Coco both entered Lifeseek Realm. The others from Astral-10 had also gone in, leaving Lu Yin alone atop the trial zone mountain.

He leaned against the mountain to rest and patiently waited for the Tournament of the Strongest to begin.

The crowd roared as they stood around the battlefield where the Astral Combat Tournament had formerly been held. Students from the Astral Combat Academy could be found everywhere, and every once a while, someone would die to a war spirit.

Four barriers rose from the ground and sealed off an area within the mountains that separated the spectating students from the battlefield.

During the Astral Combat Tournament, some of the battles had been so intense that some spectating students had been killed. Thus, this time, the mentors of the academy had made ample preparations beforehand. Any of the battles in this competition could be considered to be a battle between the strongest.

The participants from the four different areas stood in four different areas. Those from the Astral Combat Academy were in the east, the Astral Beast Domain the south, the Technocracy the west, and the Cosmic Sea the north.

The areas that had been blocked off by the barriers were huge. Lu Yin was currently on the east side, and if he did not use his star energy, he could barely see the participants from the Technocracy.

With a huge bang, fourteen lots began revolving in the sky. They were split into two colors and were very eye-catching. The color of each individual lot was not fixed, and instead constantly changed.

“The participants will now draw their own lots,” a voice boomed, causing the entire battlefield to go dark. This was an ultra powerhouse speaking.

Many students were startled and felt a tremendous pressure suppressing the area around them.

In the east, the participants from the Technocracy frowned, and contempt flashed across their eyes. It seemed as if they thought nothing of the ultra powerhouse’s voice.

After that, all of the participants used their star energy to form illusory arms that stretched into the sky. They did not fight over anything, and instead casually took whatever lot they first came across. Everyone felt confident in themselves.

There were seven colors and fourteen participants. Those with the same color would be matched against each other, and the first battle ended up being between the Astral Combat Academy’s Grandini Mavis and the Technocracy’s Domi.

So Grandini is going to be in the first round. Lu Yin looked very sullen. The Mavis family’s terrifying innate gift ensured that they were all extraordinary. This battle would definitely show off how powerful Grandini had become at present. It was certain that she had improved since the Astral Combat Tournament.

At the base of a mountain, Grandini Mavis and Domi faced off each other. Everyone watched on with bated breath. The Technocracy was a very mysterious place to the humans. Aside from the troops at the border, no one else knew anything about the people from that astral domain.

Chapter 318: Gaze Of Contempt

“How can a robot enter the Lifeseek Realm? Isn’t it considered a foreign item?” Lu Yin asked, confused.

Beside him, Starsibyl replied, “The trial zones acknowledge anything that’s merged with a cultivator, which includes even the tamed beasts from the Beast Tamers Flowzone. All this means is that the Technocracy has already discovered how to merge machines into their own bodies.”

Lu Yin was surprised. Being able to combine robotics and a biological body so perfectly was a terrifying technique. The Ross Empire was the top empire in the Human Domain when it came to technological advancement, but they could not even attempt to do such a thing. Otherwise, such an expert from the Ross Empire would have already come to the trial zones.

Boom!

There was a huge rumble that sounded as if the heavens and the earth had collided and the ground had split asunder. A tremendous force surged into the sky and blew the clouds away. When the two competitors collided, a huge spatial crack spread out, scaring quite a few students to the point where they even turned pale. Thankfully, the barriers held firm.

Smoke filled the sky, and quite a few miniscule spatial cracks flickered in the arena. Grandini Mavis and Domi appeared once more before the audience’s eyes. The two punches had cancelled each other out, and with another huge boom, they simultaneously retreated.

Grandini's right fist shook as blood dripped onto the ground. She had been injured.

Domi, on the other hand, looked the same as ever.

Lu Yin's eyes widened as he stared intensely at Domi's right fist. What a durable metal! The metallic hand looked completely fine.

A moment later, two strange rays of light shot out of Domi's eyes and swept towards Grandini, which she hastily dodged even as the ground was completely pierced through. Those rays did not seem to be very powerful, but Grandini was obviously afraid to make contact with them. Domi then raised both hands and shot out two more rays, using a total of four rays of light to sweep through the battlefield, chasing after Grandini.

Quite a few students from the Astral Combat Academy nervously grit their teeth. Anyone could tell that Grandini was on the losing end of this exchange so far.

The Mavis family was well known for their strong bodies and monstrous strength. However, these two advantages barely mattered against Domi. His durable metal was not something that Grandini Mavis could destroy.

"Those rays don't appear to be very strong, but they can penetrate through most materials without causing any spatial damage. This is an attacking method that many Limiteers from the Technocracy commonly use. Even still, there's no way to contend against it other than running away, unless you have some special method," Han Chong explained with a serious look on his face.

Lu Yin eyed Domi. With his domain, Lu Yin was able to clearly sense just how terrifying those rays were. In contrast to what Han Chong had just said, Domi's rays were much more powerful than what regular Limiteers in the Technocracy used, or else Grandini would not have been forced to the pitiful state that she was currently in.

Perhaps it was because she had been driven into a corner, but Grandini's battle force finally exploded forth. Her four-lined battle force wound around her body and she cocked her right fist back, her feet lightly tapping on the ground. In less than a moment, she had appeared in front of Domi and released a punch. Domi did not dodge, and just like before, received the attack head-on with a punch of his own. He was absolutely at ease in close-quarters combat.

Boom boom boom...

Thirteen explosions sounded out in succession. With Grandini's four-lined battle force and Thirteen Stacks, she managed to pound Domi into the ground. When she had only used three-lined battle force, she had managed to defeat Liu Yin, and after she revealed four-lined battle force, Dao Bo had immediately admitted defeat. This meant that the students from the Astral Combat Academy actually had no idea how terrifying Grandini Mavis's true power was. Now, they could finally bear witness to it.

The earth was shattered as terrifying spatial cracks spread out from the point of impact, causing even more spatial ripples to fill the arena, as if it were a lake's surface during a storm. The two fighters continued to tear the void apart even further with every exchange, and the spatial tears spread out like raindrops, covering a larger and larger area until even the mentors' barriers started shaking. Quite a few students stepped back from the battlefield in shock.

A figure leapt up from amidst the dust and then landed solidly on the ground after performing a flip. It was Grandini. She was panting hard and checking her fist while staring at the dust cloud. She had hit her target, but she had no idea what the results were.

Everyone eyed the area shrouded by dust.

Lu Yin, meanwhile, watched the people from the Technocracy. Their expressions did not change at all, and the woman called Yun still had an overbearing look of contempt in her eyes.

A light thud was heard from underground as a figure slowly walked out. With a wave of his hand, the dust was blown away. Domi appeared once more, causing everyone to suck in a breath of cold air. He looked completely fine. Even after taking Grandini's full force attack that had been reinforced by her four-lined battle force head-on, he was still completely fine. This completely shocked all the Astral Combat Academy students.

That was a punch backed by four-lined battle force! During the Astral Combat Tournament, the most powerful battle force that they had seen was Lu Yin's five-lined battle force during his battle against Nightqueen Yanqing, who had used four-lined battle force. The others had only ever used up to four-lined battle force, and in past interacademy tournaments, four-lined battle force was already considered the highest level one could reach. However, this peak strength turned out to be completely useless against this participant from the Technocracy.

Even the beings from the Astral Beast Domain were stirred by this sight.

"What a strong defense. It's unbelievable!" Hua Yishou was shocked.

Feng Jiu looked glum. "The Technocracy is indeed a huge mystery."

On the north side, Liu Shaoqiu narrowed his eyes as his gaze swept across the beings standing in the west, the individuals from the Technocracy. He had originally paid them no heed, but this sight had completely changed his mind. It was no wonder why the Technocracy had been able to hold the humans back for so many years.

Outside, Lulu looked glum; her Mavis family's reputation was being challenged right now.

Chao Zhi and the others were also carefully observing Domi. If they were the ones on the battlefield, they would also have no chance of winning. This was the Tournament of the Strongest.

Of them all, Grandini was the one who was the most shocked. She stared at Domi, obviously unable to accept what she had just seen. She once again clenched her fists tightly, baffled that her attacks had had no effect on him.

Domi's expression remained as placid as ever. He raised his arms, and four rays shot out once more, scouring the battlefield as they went straight for Grandini, like a cat chasing after a mouse.

Grandini slowly breathed out. As she saw the four rays approach towards her, she raised her arm, causing the four rays to suddenly disappear. Meanwhile, cold, dark lines appeared on her arm. This was the sign of five-lined battle force. At the same time, dark-gold rays surged into the sky. Grandini had finally entered her peak state.

Domi's eyes shone; this was the first time his expression had changed so far in the battle.

The beings from the Technocracy were surprised, as they had not expected this human to be hiding her strength at the start of the battle.

Lu Yin wasn't very surprised at all. He had never assumed that having five-lined battle force would be enough for someone to reign supreme in this tournament. While having five-lined battle force was powerful, it was something that others were capable of attaining as well.

After Lu Yin revealed his five-lined battle force during the Astral Combat Tournament, everyone had called him a Ten Arbiters' candidate. Soon after, however, he had realized that it was merely flattery and not the truth. When the Ten Arbiters were Limiteers and still students of the Astral Combat Academy, they had also only managed to comprehend five-lined battle force, but that didn't mean that a person could become a Ten Arbiter as long as they had five-lined battle force. The Rainmaster's comment had forced Lu Yin to accept the harsh reality. The Ten Arbiter's Divine Fist was a monster who had been able to use Thirty Stacks while still at the Limiteer realm. Five-lined battle force was nothing compared to that achievement. That feat was representative of how awe-inspiring the true might of the Ten Arbiters was back when they were Limiteers.

That amount of strength was something that nobody of the current younger generation had been able to replicate so far. Grandini's five-lined battle force was the bare minimum requirement for her to reach the level of a Ten Arbiters' candidate. But even so, many were still surprised by this reveal.

With a whoosh, Grandini charged towards Domi once more. This time, however, Domi did not stand around and wait for her attack to land. Instead, his eyes flashed red and he easily blocked her attack. He moved like a willow in the wind, allowing Grandini to attack as she liked while avoiding every single attack.

He wasn't quick, and he seemed to barely dodge every one of Grandini's attacks. Others might be surprised, but Lu Yin, Han Chong, and the other top students could see what was truly happening. This level of awareness and precision that Domi was displaying was similar to a domain, as Domi was not only dodging Grandini's fists, but also the force from her punches and even the entire trajectory of her attacks. This was essentially another version of a domain.

"They have sensory systems that can enhance their five senses to a similar level as a domain's," Starsibyl said. Lu Yin was shocked by this information. Domi had given him quite a few surprises today, showing the true ability of the Technocracy.

The border warfront had been broken through, and war had descended upon the Endless Weave, forcing the humans to organize a tournament to boost morale. This was how terrifying the Technocracy was.

It was true that Domi was able to evade Grandini's attacks. However, when Grandini started attacking in a wider area, he was no longer able to dodge every attack. There was a huge crash as Grandini used her five-lined battle force as well as Thirteen Stacks to strike the entire battlefield. The four barriers distorted as the barriers forcibly stopped the tremendous shockwaves, redirecting them into a square-shaped force that shot straight up into the sky. Numerous spatial tears spread out like a beast descending upon the field, causing quite a few students' faces to turn ashen.

Wu Da gulped as he trembled. What a violent woman.

The attack had crushed the ground, and the inhuman strength behind it had distorted the sky. This time, nobody believed that Domi could be fine. If he was, then Grandini had already lost.

Everyone stared at the battlefield. The ground had caved it, leaving a huge pit behind. Domi lay inside of it, with half of his body cracked. He could not move at all; five-lined battle force was not something that he could take on.

“Round one. Victor: Grandini Mavis.”

Many students cheered. Fortunately, she had won. The disgusting defense displayed by the Technocracy participant was unfathomable, but thankfully, in front of five-lined battle force, any defense was trash.

“It seems that those robots’ defensive limit is five-lined battle force. We still have Lu Yin, and he comprehended five-lined battle force even earlier than Grandini. He’ll definitely be able to win his first battle. The humans are sure to win!” The spectating students excitedly predicted victory as the outcome of the tournament. Wu Da’s ears pricked up, and he listened very carefully; this was all important information that he could use.

“Nobody knows for sure. Look, that woman over there is clearly the leader of those monsters from the Technocracy. The moment she showed up, she’s been acting like she’s the boss, and her demeanor hasn’t changed even now. Damn.”

“Hey, did you notice that she’s basically been looking at the sky this whole time? She needs to be taught a lesson!”

“I saw that too. She’s crazy. She’s even more arrogant than Kuang Wang.”

In the distance, Kuang Wang felt awkward when he heard this.

Within the crowd, Lulu let out a light sigh of relief. Thankfully, that stupid woman had not let the family down. That would have been unacceptable.

At this moment, the barriers separating the viewers from the battlefield shifted back and pushed everyone away as the area of the battlefield expanded.

Before long, the battlefield was repaired, and the second round began. On one side was Han Chong, and the other, another participant from the Technocracy. It was the woman who had her nose perpetually stuck in the air: Yun.

Upon seeing Han Chong enter the battlefield, Lu Yin’s gaze turned cold. Back in the Shenwu Continent’s Tower of Resonating Light, he had witnessed for himself how powerful Han Chong was. That unfathomable and incomparable pressure had shocked him to the core back then. Of course, it wasn’t just because Han Chong had been more powerful than Lu Yin; their abilities were different as well. However, Han Chong’s strength could not be underestimated in any situation.

Quite a few students were disappointed when they saw that Han Chong’s opponent was Yun. The participants from the Technocracy all had the same standard fighting style that centered around powerful defenses. To most people, this would be a very boring match. Of course, there were still

people cheering for Han Chong in hopes that he'd teach Yun a lesson. That arrogant expression of hers was simply disgusting; she was basically nakedly mocking everyone!

Chapter 319: An Interesting Battle

"That girl's expression makes me want to kick her ass!" the monkey exclaimed.

Lu Yin burst out in laughter. Everyone was wondering if this woman from the Technocracy had had her eyes altered. The contempt in them was so blatant that it seemed to be asking for a beating.

"How are you doing?" Lu Yin asked Grandini as he glanced at her.

Grandini looked at her fair little fists. "Those modified humans are very tough. They're hard even when you hit them."

Lu Yin was speechless. She said that they were tough, but she had nearly crippled Domi.

At that moment, the second battle began. Han Chong stretched his arm out and started drawing with star energy as the ink. He drew mountains and seas, and the boundless high peaks released a huge pressure.

Yun glanced over at him, the disdain in her eyes still as overbearing as ever. Just as everyone thought that she would take Han Chong's attack head-on with brute force, she reached out. Her arm briefly danced in the air and destroyed Han Chong's technique.

The entire field went quiet. Every one gazed at this scene in astonishment, including Lu Yin.

What in the world?

Lockbreaking! She had used a lockbreaking technique, and not just any technique either.

Lu Yin took several steps forward and purposefully activated the Cosmic Art while observing Yun. That woman's Lockbreaking skill was even higher than his own. It was so quick and proficient that it had easily dissolved Han Chong's drawings as if they were nothing more than simple lines.

Starsibyl's expression changed, and she eyed Yun nervously. Disbelief was evident in her eyes. She could not find anything to use for a divination on this woman. One could say that Yun was beyond such things.

Han Chong gazed at Yun in shock. The star energy drawing above his head gradually melted away and dissipated.

"Is that all you have?" Yun mocked, appearing bored.

"You're a Lockbreaker?" Han Chong was startled.

Yun sneered. "Perhaps. I'll give you one more chance. If you don't have anything more to show, then just scram."

Outside the arena, many students became enraged, and even the creatures from the Astral Beast Domain were agitated. Yun was just too arrogant, and her arrogance was aimed at every person here, not just Han Chong. It wasn't merely arrogance either—there was another strange sensation that she was giving off.

Han Chong frowned. This battle was not playing out the way that he had expected it to. He could not predict what this woman would do, so he stopped hiding his true abilities. He began drawing once more, but at a slower speed than before. However, with each line that he added in, the drawing let out a strange pressure, and it felt as if the very sky was turning dark.

Outside the arena, Lu Yin's expression turned cold. This was the same exact feeling that he had experienced in the Tower of Resonating Light. Han Chong had hidden this immense pressure that he was able to intentionally emanate when he wanted. The painting that he was drawing was enough to make Lu Yin feel a great sense of danger.

Starsibyl looked up and stared intensely at Han Chong's hand.

Outside the arena, Xia Ye's eyes twinkled with curiosity. This was the technique that had crushed him during the Astral Combat Tournament.

Inside the battlefield, Yun just watched on as Han Chong continued drawing. The disdain in her eyes had disappeared, and what replaced it was shock that was soon followed by an overwhelming bloodlust. She instantly appeared before Han Chong, raised an arm and pressed down with it. Han Chong's eyes widened, and he flicked a finger in response. Ever since he had learned this drawing technique, nobody at his level had been able to defeat him. Even Xia Ye's four-lined battle force had been crushed.

Yun's palm kept pressing down against the drawing. Somehow, heaven and earth seemed to shake, and a strange undulation swept across the Lifeseek Realm. It was so subtle that nobody aside from Han Chong and Yun sensed it. Even Lu Yin, with his domain and Cosmic Art active, did not sense it.

The undulation only took place for a brief moment, but the instant afterwards, Yun tore through the painting and pressed her palm against Han Chong's chest. Han Chong was defeated, and he disappeared even as an expression of disbelief was etched on his face.

The battle was very quick, but it had been life-changing for the audience. Yun, who was from the Technocracy, had defeated Han Chong with such ease and even shown off her expertise at Lockbreaking. Nobody had expected this result; it was too astonishing.

Yun pulled back her hand, and the bloodlust in her eyes gradually disappeared only to be replaced by her usual contempt for the universe. "Trash." And with that, she left the battlefield.

"Round Two. Victor: Yun."

All the human students had glum expressions.

Within the crowd, Xia Ye was shocked. He had been certain that Han Chong would not lose and that his drawing was invincible. Despite that, how had he still ended up losing?

Lu Yin was surprised as well. That drawing had given even him a sense of grave danger—there was no denying that. However, the drawing had seemingly met its natural nemesis in the form of Yun's attack and had been torn to shreds. How exactly had Yun done it?

Watching Yun battle was like watching Starsibyl; they were both extremely mysterious.

The battle had not taken very long nor had it caused much damage to the arena. Soon enough, the next battle began, and this time, Hua Yishou appeared inside the battlefield.

Facing Hua Yishou was Liu Shaoqiu.

Upon seeing Liu Shaoqiu, Hua Yishou became slightly annoyed. He really did not want to be matched up against Lu Shaoqiu because the mouse wasn't confident of emerging victorious. The Sword Sect's Thirteen Swords had killed a fair number of astral beasts, and this person was considered to be a genius and had just defeated a powerhouse from the Cosmic Sea a few days ago. Then, he had challenged the human Lu Yin and also announced that he had comprehended the Fourth Sword. This swordsman was sure to be a headache.

On the other side, Liu Shaoqiu didn't mind who his opponent was. However, after seeing the mouse that was the size of a palm, he couldn't help but frown. This mouse wasn't even as large as his sword!

Amongst the spectating students, one person became downcast and glared at Hua Yishou with sorrow and bloodlust. It was Hart Phoenix.

For the Phoenix clan, their number one enemy from the Astral Beast Domain, the species that they most wanted to eradicate, was Hua Yishou's race. Those mice had eaten quite a number of the Phoenix clan disciples, which had led to them becoming mortal enemies.

It was a pity that the astral beasts did not pay the Phoenix clan much attention. It wasn't that they thought nothing of them, but rather that they had so many enemies that they could not be bothered to distinguish between them.

"Is Huayi a match for that human, Tian?" Feng Jiu asked Tian Hou as she glanced at him in his black robes.

Tian Hou answered in a low voice, "He can only block three moves at the best."

Feng Jiu responded, "The humans will grow arrogant if we lose this first round."

"That's because humans are hypocrites. There's no such thing as absolute fairness in tournaments, which is why it wouldn't make sense for two humans to be matched against each other," Tian Hou explained.

Feng Jiu was surprised. "Are you saying that somebody tampered with the lots?"

Tian Hou did not answer, but that was an answer in and of itself.

Feng Jiu grit her teeth as she glared at Lu Yin. That guy was a complete piece of trash.

"Look, Seventh Bro! She misses me! She's looking over here!" the Ghost Monkey shouted in excitement.

Lu Yin was rendered speechless once more. "It's not like she knows you're on my arm. She's not looking at you!"

"Huh? Then who's she looking at?" The monkey grew enraged at Lu Yin's reply, but then came to a sudden realization. He started whining, "You're not going to steal her away from me, are you?"

Lu Yin sighed. He should probably screen the monkey.

Not too far away, Starsibyl glanced at Lu Yin with a strange look in her eyes. "What's wrong? Are you sighing because Han Chong was defeated?"

Lu Yin froze, but then nodded. "Yes, it's strange how he lost."

Starsibyl eyed Yun. "It's not that strange. That woman is more than she appears to be."

"How so?" Lu Yin wondered.

Starsibyl's eyes twinkled. "I know because I can't divine anything about her."

Lu Yin pursed his lips. He had never believed in Starsibyl's so-called divination; it was all an act to him.

At that exact moment, the battle began. Hua Yishou took the initiative to attack, and his palm-sized body vanished in an instant as he travelled through the void to bite at Liu Shaoqiu. The mouse was going all out and had attacked as quickly as he could, as Hua Yishou did not want to even give Liu Shaoqiu a chance to pull out his sword.

Unfortunately, speed was not an issue for the Thirteen Swords. This was because the Second Sword was able to counter speed, and besides, Liu Shaoqiu also had his domain. No matter how quickly Hua Yishou moved, he would not be able to escape from Liu Shaoqiu's senses.

Liu Shaoqiu took several steps backwards and avoided Hua Yishou's attack. He then raised his sword and slashed downwards as the sword released a grating, metallic sound. There was a shriek, and then Hua Yishou was sent flying by an invisible strand of sword qi. His body violently struck a mountain, shot through it, and then collided with the barrier before he started to slowly slide down.

Everyone stared at Hua Yishou's limp body. Was it already over? That technique had been the first of the Thirteen Swords, and it had previously been enough to defeat an Astral Combat Academy student leader like Kuang Wang.

The person who was hoping for Hua Yishou to be defeated the most was actually Kuang Wang. He had been defeated by the First Sword during the Astral Combat Tournament, so if Hua Yishou blocked it, then didn't that mean that he, Kuang Wang, was even weaker than a rat? It was for this reason that he stuck his head out and stared intensely at Hua Yishou, hoping that the mouse was done for.

Unfortunately, things rarely ever go as people wish them to. Hua Yishou twitched slightly and leapt up to disappear into the void once again. Meanwhile, Liu Shaoqiu's gaze grew cold, and he slashed out horizontally with his sword. There was a clanging sound, and then the void distorted as a huge spatial tear opened up, splitting the arena in half. Hua Yishou was forced out of the void and sent tumbling to the ground, his beady green eyes staring at Liu Shaoqiu in fear.

This person was too terrifying. Those two consecutive attacks had been the limit of what he could handle, and this was only the First Sword. If Liu Shaoqiu used the Second or even Third Sword, then Hua Yishou had no idea how he could survive.

Lu Yin sighed in admiration as he gazed at Liu Shaoqiu. Lu Yin had become a Limiteer, and Liu Shaoqiu had naturally become one as well. His First Sword was definitely much more powerful now compared to what it had been during the Astral Combat Tournament. If Liu Shaoqiu had been this powerful back

then, Lu Yin might not have been able to defend against the Second Sword. The First Sword alone would have been enough to force him into using his five-lined battle force.

While Hua Yishou was wondering how he could deal with Liu Shaoqiu, goosebumps suddenly covered his body as he was struck by an immense sense of danger. He looked up, and his pupils shrank as he saw innumerable strands of sword qi pierce through the void and cover the entire battlefield.

Just like how Mavis had dealt with Domi, Liu Shaoqiu was using his Second Sword to launch an area attack. Speed was pointless against the Second Sword.

“Round three. Victor: Liu Shaoqiu.”

The results of this battle were not surprising to anyone. Even the participants from the Astral Beast Domain did not think that Hua Yishou would be able to block Liu Shaoqiu’s attacks. As Tian Hou had said, the battle was concluded in just three attacks.

After leaving the arena, Liu Shaoqiu glanced at Lu Yin. It looked like he wanted to say something, but it was hard to tell due to the distance. However, due to his domain, Lu Yin was able to read Liu Shaoqiu’s lips. “Don’t disappoint me.” These three words expressed the utmost confidence that Liu Shaoqiu had in his own abilities. They also fired up Lu Yin’s competitive spirit. This timing was great, because he was in the next battle. His opponent was Feng Jiu.

This was quite the coincidence. These two had apparently had some issues even before the tournament started, and coincidentally enough, they were now facing off against each other.

Everyone held their breath as they looked at the arena.

Lu Yin stood in the middle and gazed at the ice phoenix while feeling a headache coming on. The monkey kept shouting in Lu Yin’s head, “Be merciful, Seventh Bro! That’s your future sister-in-law...”

In front of Lu Yin, Feng Jiu had an excited expression. She never expected to be able to avenge the Ghost Monkey so soon. In all honesty, she was not interested in the Ghost Monkey at all, but since he had helped her quite a bit previously, she was grateful to him. Thus, it made sense for her to avenge him. Besides, that ape also knew quite a few secrets...

Chapter 320: Lu Yin vs. Feng Jiu

“Please, Seventh Bro, go easy on her...” the monkey continued to yell at Lu Yin inside his head.

“Tell me what the Ghost Monkey said before he died and I can let you lose without too much humiliation, Lu Yin,” Feng Jiu said as she stared hard at Lu Yin.

“Please, bro, let her lose without humiliating her too much!” the monkey shouted.

Lu Yin became enraged. “Shut up! If you keep talking, I’ll kill you!”

At that moment, Lu Yin enjoyed silence once more. However, Feng Jiu was furious since she thought that Lu Yin had said that to her.

“Do you want to die?” As she spoke, her long blue hair danced in the wind that had suddenly sprung up. The sky turned white as an extreme chill permeated the entire battlefield. The cold descended from

above, and it felt like a gigantic block of pure ice had been tossed down from the sky. Everything instantly froze.

All of the students were shocked, and their limbs went stiff. The extreme chill made it so that they couldn't even speak. Even the mentors' barriers glistened with shards of ice.

From a distance, the battlefield looked like a gigantic ice cube. As the wind continued to blow, an unspeakable chill swept through the rest of the Lifeseek Realm.

Lu Yin did not expect Feng Jiu to go all out right from the start and was caught completely off guard. The surface of his body was frozen over by the sheer cold.

In front of him, Feng Jiu's gaze became as cold as the ice surrounding them as she lifted a finger. "This is the beating that you deserve." After saying that, blue rays shot out from the tip of her finger, freezing the void as it shot towards Lu Yin. The blue rays instantly broke through space and disappeared into the void. At this moment, even the remnant void cracks seemed to be glistening from the cold.

Nobody could have expected this battle to start so quickly and so fiercely. This chill was even stronger than Ao's during the Astral Combat Tournament. It was truly horrifying.

What about Lu Yin? Was he already dead?

In the eastern area, Starsibyl had a serious expression. That chill was terrifying, as expected of the Celestial Ice Phoenix clan. The sheer coldness was something that even she had to be careful against.

On the western platform, the Technocracy's Yun expression became slightly impressed for a moment, but it quickly switched back to her typical contemptuous gaze.

Amongst the observing students, Big Pao, Little Pao, Michelle, and all the others from Astral-10 looked glum. That chill was too strong. Kuang Wang, Liu Xiaoyun, and a few other student leaders also had very serious expressions. They knew that they would find it extremely difficult to deal with this cold and that they might not be able to dispel it. This was the power of a powerhouse from the Astral Beast Domain.

To the south, Tian Hou's eyes were hidden under his robes, but they were focused on Lu Yin, who had been sealed within the ice. Tian Hou had a serious expression because he could tell that Lu Yin was fine.

Feng Jiu was second only to him among the participants from Astral Beast Domain. Tian Hou had expected her to easily win this round, but after observing Lu Yin, he had a strange feeling that this person might not be a soft target.

Everyone on Zenyu Star in the Great Yu Empire watched their screens in shock. Had the Royal Regent been defeated just like that?

At this moment, numerous people were staring at the battlefield. The area was completely silent. Everyone had their eyes on Lu Yin, especially Feng Jiu.

"Uh, Seventh Bro, uh... Don't get angry. Don't over do it! Please don't be angry..." the monkey was still babbling on at this moment. Lu Yin's gaze grew icy, and he withdrew the star energy from his right arm and screened the Ghost Monkey off from his senses. He was furious.

Blocking the monkey meant that he had to cut off star energy to his right arm. In other words, his right arm was useless right now.

Crack!

The thick ice cracked, and Feng Jiu's eyes narrowed. He's not dead? Her ice should have frozen everything; even Embermane's flames couldn't stop her ice. She had assumed that, of all the participants here, aside from Tian Hou and Starsibyl, no one else would be able to dispel it without great difficulty.

With another crack, the ice covering Lu Yin's body completely shattered. His body had been encased in several layers of ice, proof that Feng Jiu had managed to score a direct hit. The shards of ice seemed serious, but none of it had actually managed to break through his defenses or even pierce his body. Lu Yin was completely fine.

Lu Yin raised his head to look at Feng Jiu. His body then suddenly vanished. At the same time, there was a blue flash in Feng Jiu's eyes. With her body as the center, she sent out a wave of extreme cold in all directions. This cold was so intense that it even froze the void solid. In theory, no matter how fast Lu Yin was, there was nowhere for him to hide, not even within the void.

All of a sudden, a palm appeared in front of Feng Jiu's eyes and pushed down on her. Lu Yin walked out of the void while his body shone with a dark-gold light that was indicative of five-lined battle force. With one punch, Lu Yin managed to both blast away the chilling wave and appear right in front of Feng Jiu. She never expected this person to be able to tear through her coldness so easily, but she retreated without missing a beat and then let out a chirping noise. Her body transformed, and she morphed into a beautiful blue ice phoenix. With a flap of her wings, an even more terrifying chill descended upon the battlefield.

The chill this time was even worse than before. Just looking at it was enough to cause someone to freeze over. This was the extreme chill that originated from a Celestial Ice Phoenix revealing their true form. Feng Jiu did not need to comprehend a domain, because just her chilling presence alone was enough to freeze everything.

The moment her main form appeared, Embermane and Hua Yishou assumed that the battle was over. There were very few people, even among the participants in this competition, who could endure this freezing cold, and they were certain that Lu Yin was not one such person.

This chill left Lu Yin stunned. It was indeed very difficult for him to handle, and if his power level was what it had been during the Astral Combat Tournament, then he might have found it difficult to defeat Feng Jiu. Now, however, this cold still did not approach the limit of what his body could handle. In fact it was far from it.

His palm that tore through the ice was not frozen, and it solidly connected with Feng Jiu's huge body. With a mournful cry, Feng Jiu was sent flying, and she even spat out some blood while still in mid-air. The blood quickly solidified into a chunk of red ice that fell to the ground.

Lu Yin walked out of the void and casually waved his arm. This action caused all the cold to gather into gusts of wind that swirled up into the sky before falling down once more. But this time, it had become nothing other than normal ice and rain that gradually dissipated.

To the south of the battlefield, Embermane was startled. "That's impossible! Am I to believe that Feng Jiu's chill didn't affect him in the slightest?"

Tian Hou stared hard at Lu Yin. "That human is very powerful."

Many of the onlookers were similarly shocked. Everyone could tell how terrifying Feng Jiu's coldness was, but it hadn't had much of an effect on Lu Yin. The power that he had just displayed had shocked even Yun. Of course, it was only for a moment. He was still nothing more than an ant in her eyes.

There was a rumbling sound when Feng Jiu's body hit the ground, leaving a huge crater in its wake. A layer of ice spread out from her body and covered an area ten thousand meters around her.

Lu Yin did not chase after her and instead calmly stared straight at Feng Jiu.

The Celestial Ice Phoenix's wings were bloodied, and she made for quite a pathetic sight, lying there on the ground. It took her quite a while to work her way to her feet, and once she was upright, she looked at Lu Yin with clear shock in her blue eyes. "Why weren't you frozen, human?"

Lu Yin indifferently replied, "If that's all you have to show, then it looks like this battle is already over."

Feng Jiu had barely managed to stand up with some difficulty. Lu Yin's stacked attack had crushed quite a few of her inner organs, but the battle wasn't over quite yet. Celestial Ice Phoenixes also had other innate gifts.

"Die! Tricolored rays!" Feng Jiu let out a fierce cry, and rays shone out from her antlers that were aimed directly at Lu Yin.

These were the Celestial Ice Phoenixes' powerful tricolored rays. Ice phoenixes were able to emit an extreme chill that could freeze everything as well as shoot out these tricolored rays that could melt anything apart. It was precisely these two innate gifts that allowed the Celestial Ice Phoenixes, despite their very low membercount, to rank number seven on the Heavenly Beast List.

Lu Yin had heard the Ghost Monkey mention these tricolored rays before. As he watched them come towards him, he stepped to the side and let rays brush by his side. To his surprise, they were able to dispel his battle force, but even with his domain, he still couldn't figure out how it worked. He would only be able to do so if he used the Cosmic Art and the Giant Emperor's third eye in conjunction with his domain.

Feng Jiu looked like an insane person as she froze the earth and the sky while aiming the tricolored rays at Lu Yin.

Many people could feel their hearts thumping loudly as they attentively watched on. These tricolored rays were way too powerful, and even though they should have dispelled and melted everything in their path away, they did not melt the ice that Feng had Jiu produced. The two innate gifts complemented each other perfectly.

Lu Yin kept dodging, but even after touching the rays a few times, he still could not understand how they worked. After he realized what he was trying to do, he couldn't help himself from bursting out in laughter. This was someone else's innate gift, but as a mere Limiteer, he was trying to see through it.

This was something way beyond his capabilities. With this thought in mind, he stared straight at Feng Jiu.

It was time to end the match.

Lu Yin hovered in midair for a moment and then charged right at the ice phoenix.

Feng Jiu had a cold look in her eyes as her antlers created more tricolored rays that swept out towards Lu Yin. At the same time, a freezing chill powered by her full power surged into the sky, aimed straight at Lu Yin. She was going to use the tricolored rays to dispel the five-lined battle force from the surface of Lu Yin's body and then freeze him with the intense cold.

Lu Yin snickered as he allowed the rays to strike his body, causing his five-lined battle force to rapidly dissipate away. Feng Jiu grew incredibly excited. This was how she could win! Without his five-lined battle force, she was certain that the freezing chill from her true form would be able to freeze him solid.

It was a pity that there was something that she had forgotten. There would be a short moment of time between the tricolored rays dissipating Lu Yin's battle force and the chill freezing him. It was no more than two seconds, but that was more than enough for Lu Yin. So what if he didn't have his five-lined battle force? From the very beginning of the battle, he hadn't used his battle force to dispel Feng Jiu's freezing chill when she was in human form.

After pushing past the rays, Lu Yin appeared in front of Feng Jiu, and despite seeing Feng Jiu's expression of astonishment, he attacked. "Nine Stacks, Seventeenfold Shockwave Palm."

Boom!

The ground split open, and another deep crater formed where Feng Jiu's body hit the ground. A huge spatial crack spread out from her back and radiated in all directions. A loud explosion was heard from underground, and the ice that had been about to freeze Lu Yin suddenly shattered. However, in the very next moment, Feng Jiu's body vanished. She had not been able to receive Lu Yin's attack.

Everyone stared on in shock. Lu Yin's five-lined battle force had been dispelled, but he had still been able to defeat a Celestial Ice Phoenix with a physical attack. Just how strong was his body?

"Round four. Victor: Lu Yin."

After watching on from a distance, Nightqueen Yanqing tightly clenched her fists. This was the same attack that had sent her reputation spiraling down the drain during the Astral Combat Tournament. Lu Yin had attacked her with that monstrous physical strength while using his five-lined battle force back then, but now, he no longer needed that support. He was now able to activate that attack by relying purely on the strength of his physical body and had managed to use it to defeat Feng Jiu. In other words, he had grown even more powerful.

At that point, someone realized something. "Did you guys notice something? Lu Yin didn't use his right hand at all during this match."

After that was said, everyone felt a chill run down their spine as they glanced at Lu Yin. That person was right; Lu Yin hadn't used his right arm at all and had only attacked twice over the course of the entire battle, both times with his left hand.

Wu Da was shocked. "Damn, bro, you beat her with just one arm."

Liu Xiaoyun and the others had noticed this detail as well and looked at Lu Yin with admiration. How powerful had he become?

Lu Yin walked out of the arena and allowed star energy to flow back into his right arm. He immediately heard a cacophony of shrieks from the monkey. "Feng Jiu! My baby... What did you do to her, man?"

"It's over," Lu Yin definitively said.

The Ghost Monkey immediately started bawling.

Lu Yin frowned. "If you keep this crap up, I'll block you off again!"

"That's your future sister-in-law, Seventh Bro!" The monkey felt very wronged.

Lu Yin was rendered speechless.

Not too far away from him, Starsibyl was eyeing Lu Yin curiously.

Lu Yin found her stare rather uncomfortable. "What is it?"

Starsibyl smiled. "Believe it or not, but I can see two different results from you."

"What does that mean?" Lu Yin furrowed his brows.

Starsibyl merely chuckled and stepped onto the battlefield. She was next.

Lu Yin narrowed his eyes. This girl was such a tease.

When Starsibyl appeared in the battlefield, everybody from the Astral Combat Academy grew incredibly excited. She was basically guaranteed to win this round.

There was no need for any explanation behind this sentiment. Starsybil was invincible in their eyes; this was simply common sense for the Astral Combat Academy's students. She was the student leader of Astral-1 as well as the Realm Master of the Lifeseek Realm. While most students did not know that this person was Starsibyl, the public still held more confidence in her than Lu Yin regardless of who her opponent may be.