

Chapter 361: Snatching Loot, A Great Change

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. In the past, he had relied on his Cosmic art and the dual support of his domain and lockbreaking tool to lockbreak. Meanwhile, a true Lockbreaker instead relied on their perception of star energy, which meant that Lu Yin was much worse off in the current situation.

In the same realm, he held an incomparable advantage, and his speed was very fast as well. However, once his external advantages were mitigated, his lackluster abilities would be exposed.

Casanova used his tyrannical strength, powerful star energy awareness, lockbreaking tool, and his incomparable lockbreaking experience to cancel out Lu Yin's advantages. Compared to Casanova, Lu Yin's base skills were still lacking.

However, Casanova was wrong about one point; Lu Yin actually could succeed in unlocking this sourcebox, but it would take him way too long.

The tree-shaped sourcebox's danger zone spread out a thousand meters around itself, and its energy waves absorbed vitality from any life forms that approached it. If someone could avoid all of these dangers, then they could attempt to unlock this sourcebox, even if they were a Lockbreaker without any contributions. Of course, it was virtually impossible for a normal Lockbreaker to succeed since the sealed energy was just too vast. It was so vast that even Lu Yin was nearly incapable of withstanding the sensory overload.

As Casanova began to unlock the sourcebox, the energy waves in the surrounding area gradually surged outwards, and he was forced to continue weaving and bobbing as he continued his lockbreaking attempt.

Lu Yin watched the attempt with bright eyes. Casanova had his own methods for lockbreaking, and Lu Yin could not really understand his moves.

Casanova then said, "Alright now, stop staring. No two sourceboxes are identical in this universe, so you need to figure out your own lockbreaking technique. For now, help me reduce the danger in the immediate area, and I promise that I'll give you the biggest reward after this sourcebox is unlocked."

Lu Yin's gaze flickered. "I don't want any reward."

Casanova's brows jumped, and he stared intensely at Lu Yin. "I couldn't tell earlier, but your appetite's pretty big. Alright, help me reduce the surrounding danger, and the moment I finish my lockbreaking attempt, you can compete for the contents—if you're capable, that is. But just a word of warning: if you choose this option, there'll be no compensation from me."

"Then let's go with that," Lu Yin barked as he waved his hand, causing the waves to quickly surge towards him.

"Seventh Bro, don't be foolish! That person's an expert who's in the top portion of the Top Hundred Rankings! How do you expect to steal anything from him?" the Ghost Monkey shrieked.

Lu Yin replied quietly, "We won't know if we don't try. This is a Perceptive Intermediate sourcebox, and it's even tree-shaped. The sealed items definitely won't be simple, and it might even provide me with a chance to quickly advance my strength."

"You still want to speed up your growth? Let me tell you something—a sourcebox that looks like a lifeform may have once held something good, but countless years have passed by since it was first sealed. The chances that whatever was in this sourcebox has already disintegrated is extremely high! Even if it hasn't disappeared, its potency still would have dropped, so it'll be useless even if you do get it. If this weren't the case, then do you really think that the Lockbreaker Society would be nice enough to leave something like that for you all? They would have unlocked this thing a long time ago!"

Lu Yin understood the monkey's words, but he was gambling that the objects inside had not completely vanished. As long as there was still something in there, he could use his die's Enhance function to upgrade it until the item regained its luster.

He was looking forward to gaining a treasure from the ancient times that warranted being sealed away.

One hour, two hours... Five hours passed as everyone focused on Casanova. The tangled energy on the sealed surface of the tree-shaped sourcebox was reduced by a single layer, but no one knew how many layers remained.

Casanova had a very serious look, completely different from his usual demeanor. He seemed to have completely changed.

Nearby, Xi Qi and Dao Bo were still evading the energy waves. They had not retreated yet.

Lu Yin was diligently drawing the energy waves away, preventing them from obstructing Casanova's lockbreaking.

Up in the sky, Master Jun marveled at the youths. He was more focused on Lu Yin than Casanova, since Lu Yin knew the Secret Sidestep and was truly gifted. It was a pity that he was also very focused on his cultivation. In his opinion, Lu Yin's future would be much brighter if he focused purely on the path of lockbreaking.

Master Jun was already considering taking Lu Yin as an apprentice.

Another few hours passed, and Casanova's forehead was now covered in beads of sweat. At this point, the tree-shaped sourcebox was obviously much smaller than before, and it was not far from being completely unlocked.

Lu Yin could also sense that the surrounding energy waves were dwindling in power. It had reached the point where Dao Bo and Xi Qi did not even need to distract the energy waves anymore.

"Watch carefully and get ready to snatch what comes out at any moment!" the fish spoke excitedly.

Xi Qi felt helpless. "No, that's something that someone else unlocked."

"Fool! Such a fool! This sort of thing will belong to whoever manages to grab it. Relax, with Lord Fish's help, you'll definitely be able to get it." The fish's fins swung about nonstop, and it seemed very excited.

"I really can't do that."

The fish was furious. "Such a foolish, feminine two-legged beast! You're infuriating! I'm so mad that I'm about to become a dried fish!"

Lu Yin's expression twitched, and he looked at the fish on top of Xi Qi's head again. Dried fish? An intriguing thought suddenly occurred to him; he should bring a cat along with him the next time he met this fish.

"Hey, masculine two-legged beast, what are you looking at? Have you not seen such a brilliant and majestic Lord Fish before?" it hollered as it pointed at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin did not bother responding, as he could not bring himself to trade insults with a fish.

"Seventh Bro, let me out! I'm going to stomp that thing to pieces!" the monkey shouted.

More time passed, and when the skies darkened once again, the tree-shaped sourcebox began to emit a faint, golden radiance. It seemed that Casanova was about to finish unlocking it.

No one noticed it, but as the tree-shaped sourcebox's lockbreaking neared completion, multiple minute cracks spread out on the ground. Dirt and pebbles fell into those cracks, as if there was a vast space underneath the ground.

Behind Nine Peaks Mountain, a fissure endlessly snaked across the ground.

This scene should have been noticed and called out a long time ago, but since all of the Lockbreakers were at Nine Peaks Mountain, the observing cultivators assumed that the cracks were merely a result of the lockbreaking attempt. They duly ignored them, which meant that none of the cultivators near the sourcebox were aware of the current circumstances.

The tree-shaped sourcebox's radiance intensified.

Countless onlookers nervously watched on with bated breath. The radiance meant that there was something inside the sourcebox, but who knew what would appear from within it.

Lu Yin's eyes flickered as he approached the sourcebox.

Casanova's lips rose. "Brother Lu, it's almost done. Are you ready?"

Lu Yin clenched his fists tightly. "Yes."

"Don't say that I didn't give you an opportunity. Count backwards from five. Start now!"

Lu Yin's hand trembled. Five, four, three, two, one. When the countdown finished, the tree-shaped sourcebox's tangled energy completely dissipated as a strange tree appeared before everyone's eyes. There was a single round fruit atop the small tree that gave off a soft, white light. That fruit was the most valuable object in the sourcebox.

The moment the tree-shaped sourcebox was successfully unlocked, Lu Yin's left index finger flicked, and a golden radiance rose from the ground as he forcefully flicked a fruit into the air. The faint golden radiance was blinding in the night sky, and since the fruit had appeared from beneath the sourcebox, it immediately grabbed everyone's attention.

Gold was also naturally more eye-grabbing than white.

Casanova originally intended to go straight for the white fruit, but he instinctively changed his mind the moment he saw the golden glow. Meanwhile, Lu Yin went straight for the white fruit.

That golden fruit was a strengthening fruit that he had upgraded with his die's Enhance function, and he had buried it beneath the ground the moment he had decided to compete with Casanova for the sourcebox's contents. Since he was already gambling on this sourcebox, he decided to go big. By tossing a strengthening fruit out, the golden glow would hopefully divert Casanova's attention long enough for him to snag the sourcebox's contents at a decisive moment.

Lu Yin's plan unfolded as planned, and he indeed managed to touch the white fruit before Casanova. However, Casanova was in the top thirty of the Top Hundred Rankings, and his power was something that Lu Yin could not even imagine. His speed greatly surpassed Lu Yin's, and as soon as he realized that the strengthening fruit was a distraction, he switched targets and touched the white fruit at almost the same time as Lu Yin.

Thump!

Lu Yin and Casanova both grabbed the fruit, and neither was willing to give up. The fruit couldn't withstand the opposing forces and was split in two. The two youths instinctively attacked each other; Lu Yin struck out with Thirty Stacks while Casanova slapped out, using his lockbreaking techniques to dissolve Lu Yin's star energy.

There was a boom, and the ground rumbled. The shockwave created by Lu Yin's palm blasted the ground to pieces, and the small tree disappeared while both Lu Yin and Casanova fell underground.

They each had grabbed half of the white fruit. After separating, Lu Yin raised his head to look in front of himself.

Casanova had already stored both the strengthening fruit and the white fruit within his cosmic ring and was currently charging towards Lu Yin. "Do you really think that you can escape? Hand over the fruit!"

Lu Yin also stored his piece of fruit away, and he planned to use the monkey's innate gift of shadows to escape.

But then, suddenly, an angry roar from deep underground shook the world as a terrifying and majestic aura covered the sky, sending both Lu Yin and Casanova scrambling into the atmosphere. It wasn't just the two of them—Dao Bo, Xi Qi, Yue Xianzi, and the rest of the spectating cultivators were all sent flying into the sky by the indescribable force.

Master Jun's face changed. "Not good! An existence with a power level over 100,000! Everyone, RUN!" He then charged below ground.

Lu Yin stabilized himself in midair and stared at the hole in the ground in disbelief. He remembered that Ming Yan had told him that a savage ape with a power level over 100,000 units existed on this planet, but it should have long since been exterminated by the Vastdearth Sect. This creature lurking beneath the ground definitely exceeded a power level of 100,000, and Lu Yin was left looking at the old position of the tree-shaped sourcebox. Could the sourcebox have been left there on purpose? Or did the tree-shaped sourcebox cause a savage ape to mutate?

No matter what, he had to flee.

“Hand over the fruit!” Casanova charged at Lu Yin and tried to grab him.

Lu Yin immediately dodged aside. “Now’s not the time to fight! Let’s discuss this after escaping from Savage Ape Planet.”

Casanova helplessly glared ruthlessly at Lu Yin. “You really are capable—you actually stole half the fruit. Tell me, what’s the golden fruit?”

“Casanova, I didn’t take half the fruit without paying. That golden fruit is a strengthening fruit that has existed for over 50,000 years. It shouldn’t be worth any less than the white fruit. Moreover, no one knows what function the white fruit may have, but its effect must have been greatly reduced by now.” Even as he spoke, Lu Yin sped away towards Yue Xianzi and Zhao Ran, intent on taking them away.

Casanova was about to pursue Lu Yin, but the roars from underground intensified as a terrifying aura seeped out, frightening him to his core. This creature definitely had a power level over 100,000, and Casanova did not want to lose his life for no reason. “Lu Yin, consider yourself lucky. I’ll definitely make you pay the next time we meet!”

Yue Xianzi brought Zhao Ran into the sky to escape from the terrifying aura emanating from underground. Lu Yin grabbed both of them and flew in the direction that they had originally come from. He had a feeling that the underground aura was abnormal, and its power was a bit too terrifying.

With a boom, Nine Peaks Mountain collapsed, and a giant crack appeared beneath it. Master Jun and a few other powerhouses emerged, but they were all in sorry states with pale faces.

The next moment, two giant white claws emerged from the ground as an enormous savage ape appeared before them all. Shockingly, it had nine heads.

Lu Yin’s eyes narrowed. Nine Peaks and now nine heads? This was impossible—he had specially researched this place to the point where it could not have been investigated any further! Since the savage apes did not even have a semblance of a civilization and this Nine Peaks Mountain had held its moniker for an unknown number of years, this nine-headed savage ape must have lived in this place for a very long time.

Chapter 362: Rabbit

Lu Yin instantly thought of the tree-shaped sourcebox as he looked at the nine-headed savage ape. Could the two things be related?

Bang!

Yue Xianzi’s gadget suddenly exploded, and her expression changed. “A creature with a power level over 200,000! LU YIN, HURRY UP AND RUN!”

Lu Yin didn’t hesitate and dashed into the distance.

The nine-headed ape climbed out from the ground, revealing its full height of several thousand metres. The void shattered like glass, and the entirety of Savage Ape Planet trembled.

The average planet would not be able to withstand an impact from a creature with a power level of 200,000, and if viewed from space, the entire planet would be trembling.

Lu Yin dragged Yue Xianzi and Zhao Ran along with him as he hurriedly fled from the planet, constantly avoiding various spatial cracks. His face was grim, and occasional blasts of the creature's aura swept out from behind him, making him take out the Giant Emperor's third eye and clench it tightly as he used Secret Sidestep to dodge the sweeping aura.

Countless cultivators were awed by the nine-headed ape's aura.

Zhao Ran wept in horror and stared at the ground.

Lu Yin and Yue Xianzi looked down as well to see that numerous cultivators had been smashed into puddles of blood by the ape. There was even an Explorer among the victims.

In front of a being whose power level exceeded 200,000, an Explorer was nothing more than an ant.

The nine-headed ape had no intelligence, so it was only moved by its instinct to slaughter.

Master Jun joined forces with a few Cruisers to try to wrangle the ape under control, but it was the same as a group of normal people facing a wild beast; intelligence could not make up for the incredible disparity in strength.

At this point, Lu Yin still had not left what used to be Nine Peaks Mountain. Since the surrounding void was in a state of constantly shattering, he was unable to leave. Casanova and the rest were caught in the same situation.

"Everyone, attack the eyes!" Master Jun bellowed before attacking himself. The space-exploring powerhouses all acted together, targeting the ape's eyes.

The eighteen eyes on nine heads were attacked simultaneously, and the nine-headed ape let loose a fierce bellow as it pounded at the void with its hand, causing a deafening noise that left countless people feeling numb. It felt as if the sky itself had been broken.

Lu Yin only felt his heart drop, but Yue Xianzi spat out a mouthful of blood onto Lu Yin. And yet, on his other side, Zhao Ran seemed to be completely fine.

Above the planet, the fleet of spacecraft that had sealed the planet suddenly collapsed, reduced to dust.

Lu Yin raised his head, and his expression turned ugly. It turned out that he would not be able to leave until the giant ape was eliminated. Even if he managed to reach his spacecraft, he still wouldn't be able to leave. With the ape's strength, its attacks could even reach distant points in outer space.

There was another loud explosion as a boundless wave of energy swept out, distorting the void and causing everyone to helplessly tremble in the wake of the storm it raised.

Lu Yin kept a tight hold on Yue Xianzi and Zhao Ran as a figure flew towards them from the front. He wanted to avoid this person, but then, another energy wave swept out from behind him, which meant the person in front of him would be shredded by the energy wave if he moved.

With no other choice, Lu Yin told Yue Xianzi, "Hold on tight." He then stretched out a hand to rescue the figure inbound to the three of them before suddenly dropping down in order to evade the energy wave.

He looked at the figure in his grasp. He could tell the person was a woman, but he did not have enough time to carefully look at her features since he had to move fast to dodge the incoming energy wave.

"What a bunch of useless goods! I knew that it would be nothing good, but I still wasn't able to calculate that such a big fellow would be hiding there!" Lu Yin heard a familiar voice and turned around. Behind his group was indeed the unreliable fortune-teller, who was carrying his now-broken wooden pole as he dodged about in a pathetic state.

Zhao Ran immediately shouted at Xuan Jiu, "Gramps, RUN!"

Xuan Jiu rolled his eyes. "It'll take a miracle for us to escape. The entire Savage Ape Planet—no, the space surrounding the planet is within the attack range of this animal. Unless we can break through the void and escape to a surrounding planet, we might as well just wait for our deaths."

"Then what can we do? Those uncles don't seem like they'll be able to beat that monster." Zhao Ran had a bitter expression.

Xuan Jiu incredulously replied, "It'd be strange if they could beat it! That's a creature with a power level of over 200,000. Do you know about the different cultivation realms? That's the equivalent of an Enlighter! What you guys frequently call an almighty powerhouse. Even without any intelligence, that thing can still suppress cultivators whose power level is below 150,000, and that's being conservative. Those people won't even be able to injure the beast."

Lu Yin frowned. "We're doomed unless the almighty powerhouse from the Vastdearth Sect acts."

Xuan Jiu replied. "It's too late, the nine-headed ape has already awakened, so destroying this planet will only take it a few minutes. As soon as it escapes those people's control, we're finished."

At this point, the woman whom Lu Yin had grabbed and rescued woke up and looked around. When she discovered their current situation, she thanked Lu Yin, but no one had the time to bother with her.

From deep underground, a red magma spread out; the entire planet was splitting apart.

Master Jun and the rest were trying their best to withstand the destructive power of the ape, but it was all to no avail. Just as Xuan Jiu had said, the nine-headed ape would take only a few minutes to destroy the entire planet.

For an Enlighter powerhouse, they only needed a single attack if they truly wanted to destroy a planet.

The ape suddenly rose into the sky with a loud cry. Under the night sky, a giant shadow enveloped the entirety of Nine Peaks Mountain as it raised an arm.

Xuan Jiu exclaimed, "Now it wants to destroy this entire planet! This pile of rotten goods."

Master Jun and the rest were overwhelmed while Lu Yin clenched his fists. Was this going to be his last day?

No one would have thought that a social gathering held by the Lockbreaker Society would attract such a terrifying creature. No one, including the society, had noticed the existence of this terrifying beast since they had all been focused on the tree-shaped sourcebox.

And now, once everyone died on this Savage Ape Planet, the effects from the matter would be great. Disregarding a Hunter like Master Jun, the youths such as Casanova, Dao Bo, Xi Qi, and Lu Yin all carried impressive statuses to the point where this disaster would end up being recorded down in history.

Everyone stared at the flying ape with despair in their eyes.

One strike from a creature with a power level of over 200,000 would destroy everything—not just the planet would shatter, but even the surrounding planets might be destroyed as well.

The ape hollered and raised its arm high. It seemed like it was about to strike the ground, but then, the mouths of everyone watching suddenly fell open as they saw what was behind the ape—no, above it. A leg had appeared. No, not a leg, a paw... Was that a rabbit's paw?

Above the ape, the void suddenly split open, although at the same time, it seemed to still be intact. It seemed as if it was real and illusory at the same time.

A giant rabbit, shrouded in flickering lightning, stepped onto the apes head before vanishing back into the void.

The creature's actions seemed like it was merely stomping on something inconsequential before it vanished in the blink of an eye.

Everyone stared into the skies; could that have been an illusion?

But the next thing that they all witnessed confirmed that it had been no fantasy. The nine-headed savage ape fainted.

Lu Yin was in disbelief. What is this?!

Xuan Jiu opened his mouth and gestured with his finger. "An ape with a power level of over 200,000 just fainted from a rabbit's stomp. Where did this rabbit come from? Was that rabbit crazy?"

The ape crashed to the ground with a loud thump, completely unconscious. Flashes of lightning still arced across its body from time to time, and its body was releasing a singed smell.

Everyone was stunned. After all, that ape was a powerful creature with a power level of over 200,000. Master Jun and the rest of the Cruisers had not been able to harm it in the slightest, but it had been stomped unconscious by a random rabbit. Everyone was wondering where that rabbit had come from? What kind of perverted rabbit was that thing?

"Br- Brother Lu, I think I saw a rabbit," Zhao Ran said blankly.

Lu Yin frowned, but was also still in a daze.

"Seventh Bro, I saw a rabbit, too. Such a big and awesome rabbit," the Ghost Monkey said sluggishly.

Everyone landed and stared at the mountainous nine-headed ape.

Master Jun checked the beast and then solemnly said, "It won't wake up for the time being. It's been completely subdued by the electricity."

Countless people relaxed. This ape had nearly wiped all of them out.

"Ha, I don't understand what you two-legged beasts were so worried about. With Lord Fish around, forget a power level of 200,000—not even 2,000,000 would matter. One slap of Lord Fish's tail would smack it dead!" the fish atop Xi Qi's head began to speak once again, still just as abrasive as before. This time, even the giant ape was included in the fish's ridicule.

Many rolled their eyes, as this fish had been scared silly just moments ago.

Xi Qi grew embarrassed and fled the scene.

Lu Yin raised his hand and approached the ape, but his fingertips turned numb before he could even touch it. Through this, he could feel the power of the rabbit's lightning. This wasn't just any normal lightning, as even Lu Yin with his robust physique did not dare to touch this electricity. It was no wonder how this rabbit had been able to electrocute the ape and cause it to faint.

Master Jun used his gadget and seemed to be communicating with someone, presumably the Lockbreaker Society. That rabbit was very abnormal, as it was rare to encounter powerhouses whose power level exceeded 200,000 units. But this bunny had trampled one silly with a single step, so even with a conservative estimate, its power level had to at least be 250,000. This sort of powerhouse was too fearsome, especially when it was just a rabbit.

In the Human Domain, this matter was enough for the Hall of Honor to step forward.

Master Jun said, "Alright, everyone should leave now since the Savage Ape Planet is at risk of collapsing at any moment."

Many hurried to leave.

"Brother Lu, let's go as well," Yue Xianzi said.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed. "I'm a little injured, so give me a moment." He then looked for a more secluded area where he could avoid the crowd.

Yue Xianzi felt strange as she had not seen Lu Yin being injured. Still, she did not press any further and just silently waited for him.

Xuan Jiu moved around the ape while chanting mysteriously. No one knew what he was doing. Zhao Ran followed the old man with interest since she believed that Xuan Jiu was very capable, but her behavior just frustrated the man.

"Useless goods, stop following me!" he barked.

"I am indeed useless. Thank you for always reminding me, mister kind-hearted fortune-teller." Zhao Ran was thoroughly delighted.

Xuan Jiu was left speechless.

Casanova looked around for Lu Yin, but he ended up deciding not to pursue him. Since the white fruit had already been split apart, it was impossible to put it back together. Also, he had obtained the golden fruit, so he wasn't even losing out. Besides, he had also agreed to the contest with Lu Yin, so he really should drop the issue.

In another area, Lu Yin hid in a secluded cranny and set his cosmic ring aside in case he rolled Possession. Then, his die appeared, and he tapped on it. "Hopefully, I'll be able to roll it."

The last time he had rolled the die had been in Astral-10, which was more than a month ago, so his chances should be pretty good now.

The die spun rapidly before finally stopping on one pip: Pilfer. Lu Yin unconsciously looked around out of fear that someone was around in case something like a woman's clothing would appear out of nowhere and create a misunderstanding. Fortunately, a firearm appeared, which he threw aside since it was useless. He recharged the die with a cube of star energy and tapped it again.

The second time was two pips, which was also useless. Lu Yin quickly tapped it a third time.

When the die stopped spinning, Lu Yin looked at the number and became ecstatic. Five pips: Gift Copy. Without any further thought or hesitation, he charged forward and nearly tore through the void as he approached the nine-headed ape, startling Xuan Jiu and causing the old man to jump in fright in the process.

Lu Yin reached out as he approached the nine-headed ape, and even though his fingers went numb, a strand of electricity twisted towards him.

Xuan Jiu's eyes went wide. "Are you looking for death, you useless goods? Do you really think that you can play with that like a toy?"

Lu Yin grinned. "I was just curious."

Xuan Jiu rolled his eyes. "Useless goods."

Chapter 363: Meeting Foes

Lu Yin did not bother responding to Xuan Jiu's condescending words; he was too excited right now at this moment. On the five pips face of his die, which was Gift Copy, there was now an additional lightning symbol. Gift Copy allowed him to borrow others' innate gifts by making physical contact with a cultivator with an innate gift within ten seconds of rolling a five. This allowed Lu Yin to store their innate gift within his die and use it some time in the future. He had just managed to borrow the lightning rabbit's innate gift.

The lightning rabbit had been so strong that it had knocked the nine-headed ape unconscious with a single stomp, which spoke volumes about its power. However, the power of its lightning was even more unimaginable. Even though Lu Yin had only come into contact with a trace of it, he was looking forward to seeing the power of this lightning.

Borrowing an innate gift was, after all, just borrowing. Lu Yin was not able to use it at the lender's power level. Even though Lu Yin had only borrowed the innate gift of lightning from the rabbit, he was still

looking forward to using it. He felt that this lightning was not just any run of the mill lightning. His only concern was if his own body could withstand it.

“Mr. Lu, thank you again for saving me.” The lady who had been saved by Lu Yin spoke up.

Lu Yin smiled. “You’re welcome.”

She gave Lu Yin a row of numbers. “I am Leng Yan, one of the Outerverse managers of Brightstar Corp.”

Lu Yin was stunned. “Brightstar Corp.?” He had heard Yue Xianzi mention this company before they arrived at Nine Peaks Mountain; it was a rather wealthy corporation.

“It looks like Mr. Lu has heard of Brightstar Corp. before,” Leng Yan said with a smile.

Lu Yin nodded. “It’s a major corporation that’s famous throughout the universe, so of course I’ve heard of it. I never expected that Miss Leng Yan would already be a manager at your young age. Very impressive.”

“I can’t compare to Mr. Lu, who’s a champion of the Tournament of the Strongest and a two star Discerning Elementary Lockbreaker. With the successful lockbreaking of this gathering, you’ll certainly earn even more stars. Your future is limitless. I’ll ask Mr. Lu to take care of this girl’s business in the future.” She smiled courteously as she spoke.

They could not stay on the Savage Ape Planet any longer, so Lu Yin brought Yue Xianzi and Zhao Ran away despite Casanova’s strange gaze.

It had taken them several days to reach the location of the tree-shaped sourcebox. But on their return trip, Lu Yin used his extreme speed to pierce the void, and it only took them a few hours to return to their spacecraft’s landing site.

As he looked at the crack on the ground, he saw that his spacecraft had started to fall in, and he involuntarily released a pent-up breath. On the way back, he had been worried that his spacecraft might have been destroyed. After all, the entire Savage Ape Planet was on the verge of collapsing.

Not too long after, two personal spacecraft entered outer space.

Lu Yin looked back and was stunned. The planet’s appearance was drastically different compared to when they had first arrived; it now sported the addition of massive cracks across its surface.

They seemed like giant cracks from the sky, but from the surface of the planet, they were endlessly deep faults. The nine-headed ape had almost shattered the entire planet.

Lu Yin had barely managed to survive after a narrow escape during this gathering on Savage Ape Planet. He had nearly been finished.

He looked at his cosmic ring, wondering what the white fruit’s uses were. He would ask someone when he returned to the academy.

“Seventh Bro, what did that fortune-teller actually mean? He’s certain that you exchanged looks with the deceased, but when did that happen? Actually, how can the dead even look at you face-to-face?” the Ghost Monkey asked.

Before Lu Yin had left the planet, Xuan Jiu had repeated to Lu Yin that the young man had exchanged looks with the dead. Lu Yin had heard the line properly this last time, and it clearly wasn't 'royalty' but rather 'deceased,' which meant dead people.

And Xuan Liu had even added on one more sentence; Lu Yin was an ominous person. The whole exchange was rather depressing, and it had caused Lu Yin to feel uncomfortable, so he was currently in a bad mood. "So even you believe that old fart's nonsense!"

"Of course I know that he's spouting nonsense, but he's still from the Starsibyl Sect. Some of what he says might actually be right."

Lu Yin was not overly bothered since he could not recall when he had exchanged looks with a deceased person. The dead could not even see. Even if their eyes were opened, it was still useless. Having no soul meant that one was unable to look, unless the person could resurrect.

Hold on, Lu Yin suddenly recalled something; could the old man's words be linked to the Arcane Art—Fatal Revival?

But even then, that still wouldn't work. Lu Yin was the one who had comprehended that technique, not someone else. Did it mean that he had looked at himself?

Lu Yin shook his head and put the strange words out of mind as he inputted San Dios into the spacecraft's auto-navigation features. He then closed his eyes and silently recited the Stonewall Scriptures since he had decided to take a break.

More than ten days later, at East San Dios, one personal spacecraft steadily approached and docked at the Prairie Flame Continent's space station. The hatch opened, and a youth exited with a smile as he surveyed the surroundings.

From inside the space station, Puyu stepped forward with flashing eyes. His movements were rather energetic.

The youth stepped down and walked towards Puyu.

"Representative Liu, welcome." Puyu spoke first with a faint smile.

The youth smiled and respectfully replied, "I'm just a newcomer, and will require much of Councilor Puyu's guidance."

Puyu laughed, very pleased with the youth's attitude. The last trace of worry in his heart vanished.

Just as he was going to say something, two more personal spacecrafts docked at the space station from outer space, and Lu Yin exited from one of them.

Lu Yin saw an unforgettable figure the moment he stepped into the space station. "Liu Shaoge?"

The youth who had greeted Puyu was indeed Liu Shaoge, the same person who had received Nightking Zhenwu's orders to come to San Dios. His objective was to thwart Lu Yin's development while serving the Nightking Clan.

Liu Shaoge turned to Lu Yin and raised a hand. "Long time no see, Brother Lu."

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed, and his body suddenly vanished only to reappear right in front of Liu Shaoge. Lu Yin slapped out with a palm, aiming directly at Liu Shaoge's head. He held nothing back in his strike. Since Lu Yin had noticed Puyu, he intended to kill Liu Shaoge before Puyu could even react.

Liu Shaoge's eyes went wide, but then his lips quirked up as a black-and-white gust of air revolved around him. He retreated upon receiving Lu Yin's full strength attack backed by Thirty Stacks, and the black-and-white air shattered and dissipated into the surrounding void. His body was like a leaf dancing in the wind as he easily dodged the entire force behind Lu Yin's attack. He ended up retreating about a hundred meters and landed directly behind Puyu.

The void collapsed at the point where Lu Yin's palm had connected with nothing but air. His hand released thirty streaks of air that compressed the air and released a suppressive force throughout the space station that caused many to have difficulty breathing.

Puyu stepped forward and glared coldly at Lu Yin. "Representative Lu, what is this about?"

Lu Yin stared in amazement at the now empty spot before turning around in disbelief. He looked at Liu Shaoge, unable to understand how this man had dodged his attack. Thirty Stacks would solidify the void even before Lu Yin's palm arrived. Even Limiteers such as Dao Bo and Liu Xiaoyun would not be able to dodge that attack very easily, unless they were at the same level as Lu Yin. However, there were only a few publicly recognized true Ten Arbiters' candidates. Liu Shaoge was definitely not among those elite few, so how had he dodged Lu Yin's attack?

It wasn't just Lu Yin; even Puyu was astonished by what had just taken place. He had received news that Nightking Zhenwu was sending someone here to take the role of acting councilor. He also knew that the substitute was someone who also came from the Great Yu Empire and that he held a grudge with Lu Yin. However, Puyu had never expected the new arrival to be able to actually match Lu Yin's strength. As much as Puyu hated Lu Yin, he was fully aware of the Limiteer's almost matchless power, so he never expected a similarly perverted Limiteer to suddenly appear out of the blue.

"Brother Lu, it's been so long since we've last seen each other, but your attitude towards me hasn't changed one bit." Liu Shaoge smiled at Lu Yin in a relaxed manner.

Lu Yin withdrew his palm and looked at Liu Shaoge. "I haven't seen you in a few years, but you've changed so much."

Liu Shaoge shrugged. "You're the same. How about a drink to celebrate our reunion?"

"So that power is what gives you the confidence to be close to me?" Lu Yin squinted.

Liu Shaoge smiled. "You could say that. I'm actually afraid that you'll kill me with one slap."

Lu Yin glanced at Puyu. "Why's he here?"

Puyu leisurely replied, "Arbiter Zhenwu has ordered for Liu Shaoge to come and stand in as an acting councilor and to exercise the authority of the Outerverse Youth Council as a councilor."

Arbiter Zhenwu... Nightking Zhenwu. Lu Yin's eyes emanated bloodlust. Liu Shaoge had betrayed Earth during the trials and left the planet with Nightking Qingyu. Now, he was somehow connected to

Nightking Zhenwu, and his power had also grown monstrously. He had clearly used a Daynight Clan battle technique just now just used to dodge Lu Yin's palm. It seemed that Liu Shaoge was taking full advantage of his new position.

With Liu Shaoge's temperament, Lu Yin had never doubted that he would win a high position in the future, but he had never expected this man to be so efficient; his backing was actually Arbiter Shenwu!

Yue Xianzi brought Zhao Ran alongside Lu Yin.

"Let's go." Lu Yin took the two girls away.

Still within the space station, Puyu watched Lu Yin's retreating figure. He could not shake off the mental image of the countless pirates attacking his allies, not to mention the strength of the person who had split Darkstar Gorge in two. He no longer dared to go overboard when dealing with Lu Yin, so it was fortunate that Arbiter Zhenwu had sent someone with a deep grudge against this person whom he could use. Thinking of this, Puyu turned to glance at Liu Shaoge. This person was not simple either, and the strength that he had displayed was enough to cause even Puyu to feel a bit apprehensive.

In San Dios, Lu Yin used his status of a Representative to allow Zhao Ran in. The brat could not recall her past, but Lu Yin would not feel right if he simply threw her aside, so he had no choice but to bring her inside with him.

Yue Xianzi had been inconvenienced since the two females had been crammed together within a single-person spacecraft, making the trip back an unpleasant journey.

Zhao Ran was very curious about San Dios, and constantly craned her neck to take in the new sights. She clearly had no concerns about her amnesia.

"Do you fancy her?" Yue Xianzi asked Lu Yin.

"I just sympathize with her circumstances. Just help me find a place for her for now." Lu Yin then walked away, as the current events had left him uneasy.

Initially, when he was still on Earth, his biggest foe had been Liu Shaoge, but that had been when they were still regular humans. Countless Earthlings had been turned into zombies, which caused Liu Shaoge to make the decision to bombard an entire city, which had given Lu Yin unforgettable scars. Although they had since vanished because of his cultivation training, he would never forget the suffering that he had gone through.

One of Lu Yin's greatest regrets was that he had not killed Liu Shaoge back on Earth, and once again, he could not kill him today. This failure caused Lu Yin to be extremely depressed. He had trained so hard all these years in order to reach a higher level, but Liu Shaoge had not fallen behind one bit. His strength was actually at a similar level.

Liu Shaoge's appearance not only brought out a deeply-seated hatred from within Lu Yin, but it also increased his longing to see the others, such as Zhang Dingtian, Bai Xue, Seruzen, and Xu San—the other four who had left Earth with him but had all gone missing. Lu Yin did not know if they had died, but even if they were still alive, where could they be?

Lu Yin stood at the edge of San Dios, staring down at the clouds below. He stood far above so many, but that was just a comparison. When he compared himself to the Ten Arbiters, he was still nothing more than an ant. And the Ten Arbiters themselves were nothing more than ants compared to those old freaks with power levels in the hundreds of thousands. However, were those old freaks really standing at the apex?

On his way to the border warfront, Lu Yin had seen something that he would never forget. It was a group of people who had just stepped foot into the universe but were completely unaware that they were being observed by a higher civilization. The distance separating those people and their observers was nothing more than a step, but that step was so vast that those people would never be able to take it and see the truth. That was the tragedy of a civilization whose technology developed slowly, and they cultivators had their own version of that struggle.

Chapter 364: Lu Yin And Liu Shaoge

Lu Yin raised a hand and swatted at the air. Perhaps, at a distance of no more than a single step away from him, there was another, higher civilization that was observing him like a lab rat. He laughed in spite of himself, since such a thing was not impossible.

The heavens decreed one's fate, but who knew what the heavens really were? If Lu Yin was willing, then he could completely change the fate of a random person on the Prairie Flame Continent below him, and Lu Yin would be the heavens to that person. If that were the case, then who was the heavens looking down upon Lu Yin like an ant?

Was it a powerhouse with a power level of several hundred thousand? Or that finger from his dreams?

"Seventh Bro, who's that person? You seem to hate his guts," the Ghost Monkey asked.

Lu Yin's mood became depressed, and he looked out at the sky, seemingly overwhelmed by his thoughts. "It's none of your business."

The monkey cried out, "Damn it, Seventh Bro, you and me share one body! There's nothing of yours that isn't my business. If he's your enemy, then he's my enemy too. Just let me know, and I'll curse him to death!"

Lu Yin frowned, as the monkey was becoming stranger and stranger every day. Initially, he had had a cold disposition towards him, but as time passed, the monkey seemed to become much more garrulous. Was this the astral beast's natural demeanor, or was it because the monkey had become lonely after being trapped in Lu Yin's for so long? It almost felt like the monkey was venting in this manner.

"Monkey, are you lonely?" Lu Yin suddenly asked.

The monkey was stumped and did not respond for a while. "Sev- Seventh Bro, what are you trying to say?"

"Sometimes, you have a lot to say."

The monkey didn't respond.

Ding!

Lu Yin's gadget sounded out with an alert, but it was an unfamiliar notification for Lu Yin. This time, it was a recorded conversation.

'Representative Liu has only just arrived at San Dios, so you may not be too familiar with how things operate around here. That Lu Yin is very arrogant. He abuses his power often and has even colluded with pirates. I understand Arbiter Zhenwu's intentions in sending you here, but I still need to remind you to be cautious.'

'Thank you, Councilor Puyu, for reminding me. Lu Yin and I are old friends, so I understand him somewhat.'

'That's good. What does Representative Liu plan to start with?'

'Does Councilor Puyu have any suggestions?'

'Not a suggestion, but since Representative Liu comes from the same place as Lu Yin, then perhaps you could start thinking in that direction.'

'Haha, thank you for the reminder, Councilor Puyu.'

'Such a thing doesn't deserve to be called a reminder; it's just a few casual words. Right, there is someone that you can go to concerning many matters: Bazeer. He was the one in charge of the Great Yu Empire Youth Council, but he has been imprisoned due to his feud with Lu Yin. You should be able to understand the present situation more thoroughly through him.'

'Understood...'

...

The recording detailed a conversation between Puyu and Liu Shaoge, but it was actually Liu Shaoge who had forwarded it to Lu Yin.

'Brother Lu, let's talk!' Liu Shaoge soon sent another message to Lu Yin.

Lu Yin narrowed his eyes. "Sure."

They were both from Earth, but the two had taken opposing paths before meeting once again in another location.

To Lu Yin, Liu Shaoge was someone he had to kill, but it was impossible to do at the moment. He was also curious about what Liu Shaoge wanted to talk about.

Lu Yin remained where he was, at the edge of San Dios, and Liu Shaoge slowly walked over with a smiling face, radiating an indescribable charm. He stopped about three meters away from Lu Yin. "Brother Lu, the scenery here must be quite beautiful."

Lu Yin did not turn around to face Liu Shaoge. "I refuse to believe that you can truly block my attack, so it's not impossible if I truly want to kill you."

Liu Shaoge's lips curled up as he walked next to Lu Yin. "Yes, Brother Lu is unparalleled within the Limiteer realm and is also a universally recognized Ten Arbiters' candidate. Out of all those within the Limiteer realm, no more than five can withstand your attack, and I'm definitely not one of them."

“And yet, you still dare to meet me alone.” Lu Yin turned towards Liu Shaoge, revealing his naked bloodlust.

Liu Shaoge lazily stretched out and then raised his right hand with the palm down. “Brother Lu, do you want to guess what I see right now?”

Lu Yin did not answer.

Liu Shaoge’s spirits soared. “Domination.”

He then looked at Lu Yin with a serious expression. “From this position, one can dominate the Prairie Flame Continent in the same manner that Brother Lu used the authority of a councilor to determine the fate of Firesmelt Planet. I watched it all.”

Lu Yin sneered as he replied, “Liu Shaoge, don’t toy with me. I’ve never dominated anyone.”

“Brother Lu, you’re mistaken. Someone such as Puyu holds no interest to me. Although he’s a part of the Outerverse Youth Council and is ranked within the Top Hundred Rankings, he’s not on the same level as Brother Lu. I’m not so short-sighted as to collaborate with him to try to deal with Brother Lu.” Liu Shaoge’s voice was practically dripping with disdain.

Lu Yin smiled. “Dealing with me is not only Puyu’s intentions, but also that of the person behind you. Your confidence stems from Arbiter Zhenwu’s backing, and that’s who you’re relying on to stop me from killing you.”

Liu Shaoge smiled. “That’s one part of it, but the actual reason why I’m not afraid of Brother Lu attacking me is actually not because of Arbiter Zhenwu. I believe that, even if Brother Lu killed me, you would still be confident in avoiding Arbiter Zhenwu’s retaliation, just like when you saved Zhuo Daynight in the past.”

Lu Yin’s gaze sank. Clearly, Liu Shaoge knew more than Lu Yin imagined, which proved that his position in the Daynight Clan was not too low.

“Brother Lu’s the same as me, someone who wants to dominate the world. That is what I rely on,” Liu Shaoge spoke with certainty.

Lu Yin scornfully replied, “I’ve already said that I’ve never wanted to dominate anyone else.”

Liu Shaoge seriously replied, “Wrong. Brother Lu’s actions screams with the desire of domination. Will Brother Lu really leave the Great Yu Empire’s monarchy behind? Even if it’s to Wendy Yushan, can Brother Lu give up the position of councilor? Can Brother Lu accept others in the same realm being ranked above you? All this just proves that Brother Lu’s ambition is boundless.”

Lu Yin raised his hand to stop him from continuing. “Liu Shaoge, there’s no need to guess at my thoughts. Your words are ridiculous! Is this how you curry favor with Arbiter Zhenwu?”

Amusement flashed across Liu Shaoge’s eyes. “Perhaps. Since Brother Lu doesn’t wish to hear such things, then let me change topics.” He paused and then slowly said, “Has Brother Lu ever thought about controlling all of East San Dios?”

Lu Yin’s eyes shone as he stared at Liu Shaoge. “You’re crazy.”

Liu Shaoge smiled. "Brother Lu can consider me crazy. I hope to cooperate with you and eliminate Puyu so that we can seize control of San Dios together."

Lu Yin sneered and instantly rejected the proposition. "I understand clearly why Arbiter Zhenwu sent you here. Firstly, to deal with me, and secondly, to make preparations for the Daynight clan's future moves upon San Dios. Compared to cooperating with me, why don't you consider how you can better cooperate with Puyu." Lu Yin then turned around to leave.

Liu Shaoge watched his retreating figure. "From Earth to the Great Yu Empire, then to Astral-10, and now, even to San Dios. The shadow standing behind so much of what Brother Lu has done is the single moment where Puyu ordered Bazeer to humiliate you in the Great Yu Empire. Brother Lu cannot possibly have forgotten this matter."

Lu Yin did not slow his steps towards San Dios.

Liu Shaoge continued, saying, "Given Brother Lu's current conduct, since you've already decided to act against Bazeer, you will definitely not allow Puyu to slip away. Previously, pirates attacked over a hundred powers, and a powerhouse even slashed Darkstar Gorge in half. These matters should be related to Brother Lu, but none of these are Brother Lu's way of dealing with Puyu. Such things are too heavy handed for your personality."

Lu Yin did not stop, but his eyes were filled with killing intent.

"I believe that Brother Lu has already made sufficient preparations to deal with Puyu and that you have even already taken action. However, it's only that Puyu cannot sense anything yet." Liu Shaoge's tone was heavy.

Lu Yin finally stopped and replied. "You're thinking too much into it."

"Is that so? I, Liu Shaoge, can enter the sights of Arbiter Zhenwu even as an Earthling. I reached the position that I hold today without any overwhelmingly powerful innate gift. However, I'm rather skilled in assessing people, and I trust that Brother Lu Yin is already completely confident that you'll be able to deal with Puyu. If that's the case, then why would I want to collaborate with a failure?" Liu Shaoge was confident.

Lu Yin turned around. "Since you were sent by Arbiter Zhenwu to deal with me, then aren't you afraid of Nightking Zhenwu's retaliation if you collaborate with me?"

Liu Shaoge smiled. "Dealing with you is the objective, but I decide on the methods to do so. Also, only I know your true objective, since Arbiter Zhenwu is not an omniscient being. How about it, Brother Lu? Do you have the confidence to cooperate with me and seize control of San Dios together?"

Lu Yin folded his arms and leaned against the wall, looking at Liu Shaoge with renewed interest. "I'm very curious. Since you're certain that I'll be able to deal with Puyu, how are you so certain that you can cooperate and actually share San Dios with me? If I can dispose of Puyu, then shouldn't I also be able to take care of you?"

Liu Shaoge spread his hands apart. “It’s simple—it’s because I’m under Arbiter Zhenwu. Unless I commit a heinous crime such as betraying the human race, no one will dare to touch me. Brother Lu, do you think that you have the power to charge me with the crime of betraying the human race?”

Lu Yin’s eyes narrowed; betraying the human race? That was the crime that he had charged Puyu with.

“So long as you can’t touch me, we can cooperate. At the very least, I won’t obstruct Brother Lu from taking certain actions, and we can put on a good show for the Ten Arbiters. After all, we are both from Earth, and we will both serve Earth in the future.” Liu Shaoge smiled.

Lu Yin looked at him closely, considering how he should deal with this person. Liu Shaoge was very troublesome, and his supporter, Arbiter Zhenwu, was rather unyielding. This was especially so ever since his prestige had soared after he arrested Grand Marshal Shui Chuanxiao and imprisoned him in Gaia's Swamp. Liu Shaoge was right in that there was no way for Lu Yin to deal with him unless Liu Shaoge betrayed the human race, but that accusation would not be so easily backed up. If it was so easy to discover traces of the Neohuman Alliance, then they would not have been able to remain hidden for countless years.

Impatient, Liu Shaoge looked at Lu Yin. “Brother Lu, it looks like you still hold that hatred from Earth in your heart.”

A coldness flashed across Lu Yin’s eyes. “I will never forget.”

Liu Shaoge had no choice, so he simply activated his gadget and sent Lu Yin a few names.

Puzzled, Lu Yin looked at them. There were four names in total—Amethyst Exchange, Aegis, Nalan family, and Endless Borders.

“Brother Lu should be clear on a certain principle. No matter what you do, money is critical.”

Lu Yin’s eyes brightened, as he unconditionally agreed with Liu Shaoge’s words.

“No matter if it’s for an individual’s lifestyle or for a power struggle, nothing can be done without money. Since ancient times, whether one discusses the changing of an imperial authority or a battle between the Weaves, the most critical factor is not a power’s experts but rather their resources. These four names represent the four wealthiest financial corporations, and they are going to have a conference very soon to discuss some sort of collaboration,” Liu Shaoge said with confidence.

“What does any of that have to do with me?” Lu Yin asked coldly.

Liu Shaoge’s lips rose. “Nothing at the moment, but no one can predict the future. Perhaps one day Brother Lu will require money.”

Lu Yin internally mumbled to himself, It isn’t “one day,” but every day!

Chapter 365: Show Her Who’s Boss

Lu Yin looked at the four names on the list. He was quite familiar with the Nalan family, but their relationship had not reached the point where he could receive their support. He still hadn’t forgotten the loan document that Lulu had shown him, proving that Undying Yushan had taken out a loan from

the Mavis bank. That document was a humiliation to the empire. What Lu Yin wanted was support, not a loan.

Lu Yin had already set something up in the Ross Empire, so there was sure to be a war in the future. What gave him the biggest headache right now was his lack of resources. This matter could not wait any longer.

Lu Yin eyed Liu Shaoge. "Where?"

"Tyrannical Weave. Millions City," Liu Shaoge replied.

"When?"

"That hasn't been decided yet, so I'll tell you once things are confirmed."

Lu Yin nodded. "We have a grudge between us, but it's settled for now." With that, he turned around and left.

Liu Shaoge watched as Lu Yin walked away, a confident smile on his face. His instincts about this person were definitely right. Lu Yin was ambitious and capable, which was the kind of person that Liu Shaoge liked to work with the most. Even if he had to pay a price at the beginning, he'd be able to collect on it in the future. This person might even have a huge impact on the Daynight clan, which was what he valued the most in Lu Yin. There was no way that Liu Shaoge was willing to remain as Nightking Zhenwu's subordinate forever.

The only thing Liu Shaoge wasn't certain of was whether or not Lu Yin had taken any actions against Puyu yet. What he'd said earlier was merely his analysis based on what Lu Yin had done in the past, so he wasn't completely certain.

Whatever his plan may be, Lu Yin was definitely not going to work with Puyu. The Councilor was an idiot who revealed all his cards up front; such a person had no right to work with Liu Shaoge.

Lu Yin returned to Wendy Yushan's courtyard, but then, he suddenly recalled something: Nightking Qingyu. He'd completely forgotten to ask how that person was doing. From what he could recall, Qingyu had said that he would return to Earth in the future to take his revenge.

Qingyu had been able to travel through the universe without a spacecraft even before the trial on Earth, and he must have been quite powerful. That fight had been rather difficult for Lu Yin, even with the Cosmic Art pushing him to the level of a Realmbreaker, he had still been suppressed by Nightking Qingyu. He had no idea if this person would really return to Earth.

Probably not. He wanted to deal with Lu Yin for his revenge, so he would likely search out Lu Yin rather than return to Earth.

The Tyrannical Weave was located quite a distance away from San Dios: twenty whole Weaves away. It was, however, quite close to West San Dios, which was in the center of the Outerverse's western region.

Not much information was available about the Tyrannical Weave on the network, possibly because of the distance. However, there actually was an entry on Millions City. The city was known as the richest city in the Outerverse. Even a beggar could become incredibly rich so long as they had enough to start begging in that place.

There was a saying that went around the network: as long as one managed to enter into Millions City, the city would definitely have a way of helping them become rich.

Discovering that saying made Lu Yin so fired-up that he couldn't wait and wanted to immediately set off towards Millions City. He was in desperate need of more money.

It was no wonder why the four financial powerhouses would gather there. Only a city like that could contain them.

Lu Yin rubbed his chin contemplatively. Should he go? With his current status, there wasn't much he could do in such a place. While he might seem to possess a lot of identities, they merely represented what he could potentially become. Him being a Lockbreaker or a part of the Ten Arbiters' Council was nothing compared to those individuals who actually had the means to receive investments from the four financial powerhouses.

However, nothing was ever certain. Lu Yin's identity was very special: he was the strongest Limiteer as well as a true Ten Arbiters' candidate.

While nobody knew for sure if the Ten Arbiters would abdicate their positions when they passed the age limit of the younger generation, financial powerhouses might still see him as worth investing in. The question was how much they valued his potential.

Of the four powerhouses, Lu Yin was the most familiar with the Nalan family. If he said something, then he was sure that Madam Nalan would invest in him, but for some reason, Lu Yin didn't like the idea of using her money. Perhaps it was because the woman was a widow.

There was one other question; if there really was a financial powerhouse who was willing to sponsor him, would it be for his personal cultivation and potential or for the Great Yu Empire? There was a huge difference between those two motivations.

Liu Shaoge had officially become an acting councilor and gained control over Seven Weaves, which was three more than what Lu Yin had managed to get as someone working on behalf of Wendy Yushan. Arbiter Zhenwu had a lot of support, and after Puyu discovered that he'd offended Arbiter Wen, he had started doing everything he could to win Zhenwu's favor. Thus, he was constantly being incredibly polite to Liu Shaoge.

Liu Shaoge and Lu Yin's relationship seemed completely fine on the surface, and a newcomer would never have been able to tell that they used to have a bad relationship.

The grudge that Lu Yin was talking about was how Liu Shaoge had bombed a city and nearly killed him back on Earth. Lu Yin would also never forget how Liu Shaoge had betrayed Earth, but that wasn't his business. If Zhang Dingtian and Bai Xue were still alive, then they would be the ones to redress that betrayal.

Zhao Ran remained in San Dios as a servant. However, there was a slight problem—she forgot everything that had happened to her every few days, just like now.

"Who are you?" Zhao Ran stared up at Lu Yin with wide eyes filled with confusion.

Lu Yin was at a loss. "Don't ask so many questions. Just stay here."

“Okay. But where is this place?” Zhao Ran asked.

“East San Dios.”

“I’ve never heard of it. Why am I here?”

“I told you to stop asking. Just stay here.”

“I’m sorry. Did I make you angry?”

“No.”

“There’s something wrong with me,” Zhao Ran said sadly as she lowered her head.

Lu Yin was speechless. She could remember that sentence perfectly.

This conversation happened twice over the next few days. Lu Yin had no choice but to record the entire conversation as a video and hand it over to Yue Xianzi with the explanation, “Whenever she loses her memories, show her this video. Don’t ask me anything else.” He left right away after that.

“You were the one who wanted her to stay here,” Yue Xianzi pouted as she looked at Zhao Ran’s big, confused eyes. “Let’s go. I’ll take you around to help you familiarize yourself with your work.”

“I’m sorry to bother you. There’s something wrong with me,” Zhao Ran apologized.

Yue Xianzi didn’t know how to respond. “Don’t say that in the future.”

“Okay.”

On an ordinary day, an un-ordinary matter took place.

A personal spacecraft docked at the Prairie Flame Continent’s space station. A girl who exuded natural beauty, wore a tight, white outfit decorated with gold trim, and carried a two-meter long sword in her hand walked out from the spacecraft. Her long black hair clung to her waist, and she exuded a calm, ancient aura. It was Wendy Yushan. She had finally returned to San Dios.

Lu Yin, Puyu, Liu Shaoge, and the rest were all waiting outside the space station, watching her arrival.

Wendy Yushan was a legend. She was among the top twenty of the Top Hundred Rankings as well as the most powerful successor of the Inverse’s Myriad Swords Peak. Her reputation was not limited to one region; she was famous throughout the entire universe.

What was even more well known about her was her charm. Numerous people went crazy for her, and Puyu was one of her admirers.

After staring at Wendy Yushan, Puyu hurriedly approached her.

Liu Shaoge sighed in praise. “You’re very lucky, Lu Yin.”

Lu Yin chuckled. Lucky? That wasn’t really so since this woman didn’t like him.

“Welcome back, Councilor Wendy.” Puyu walked up and greeted her with great enthusiasm.

Wendy Yushan remained just as indifferent as ever and merely nodded towards Puyu. Her gaze then swept past Liu Shaoge to land on Lu Yin. "I advised Arbiter Lan to instate you as a Councilor of the Outerverse Youth Council, but he said no."

Lu Yin shrugged. "I'm not surprised. It's impossible to become a councilor without first becoming an Explorer."

Wendy Yushan passed Puyu, took another step forward, and then vanished.

Puyu felt very embarrassed, but he had long since gotten used to such treatment, so he left the space station as well.

Meanwhile, Wendy hadn't even acknowledged Liu Shaoge.

This was one of Wendy Yushan's classic behavior traits; she completely ignored people she didn't care about.

As she looked around her courtyard, Wendy Yushan had the same indifferent look in her eyes as she calmly stared at Lu Yin. "How's Bazeer?"

"He's under supervision," Lu Yin replied.

Wendy Yushan had an indifferent reaction even to that news.

Lu Yin found that he actually hated her reactions. It felt like she thought of herself as always above everyone else, just like when she had brushed past him on Zenyu Star. The constant indifference on her face as she looked at him might hold a bit of praise now, but it only felt like an insult to Lu Yin.

"You're a Councilor of the Outerverse Youth Council, and yet, you didn't even know that your subordinate was siding with somebody else, nor that you're only in charge of four Weaves. You've failed at your job," Lu Yin accused without sugarcoating anything.

Upon hearing his words, Barley and the others who had gathered to greet Wendy were startled and hastily retreated, afraid to get close to the two.

Zhao Ran, who was standing not too far away, blinked while carrying some beverages forward. She couldn't tell if it was better for her to enter or leave.

Wendy Yushan looked at Lu Yin in confusion. "Are you trying to micromanage me?"

"I guess?" Lu Yin stared right back, unfazed.

"Damn, Seventh Bro, you're amazing! Make sure she knows who's boss!" the Ghost Monkey cheered.

Wendy Yushan's gaze gradually turned cold, and it soon felt like the void had frozen over, and her bloodlust almost seemed to manifest into a physical force. That force made many feel a chill inside their bones. This was Wendy Yushan's power. "It's none of your business."

As he felt the overpowering pressure radiating from her, Lu Yin could do nothing other than lower his head and respond, "I'm the Royal Regent of the Great Yu Empire and a member of the Astral Combat Academy Council. Also, I'm your fiancé."

Barley and the rest froze for a moment before running away.

The next moment, a powerful force swept through San Dios as Wendy Yushan unsheathed her blade and coldly stared at Lu Yin. "I acknowledge that you're the closest person to me as far as family is concerned, and you're the only person I'll admit to being my family, but you need to take that back. Don't ever call yourself my fiancé again."

Lu Yin stared into her eyes and released his domain. Wendy's bloodlust filled aura was forced back, and a golden radiance appeared around Lu Yin. It was his five-lined battle force. "Your father, Undying Yushan, was the one who arranged the marriage with me, the last member of the Zishan family. It will remain effective for as long as I'm alive."

Wendy Yushan narrowed her eyes and the void surrounding the two of them was shredded like a fragile sheet of paper. She launched no actual attacks, but the void, and even Lu Yin's clothes and cheeks, were flecked with tiny blood splatters.

"You're too arrogant. I am your sister!" Wendy Yushan icily retorted, her face showing her fury.

Lu Yin's eyes widened in response. "I am your husband."

With a clang, a sword was pressed against Lu Yin's neck. Wendy Yushan clutched the hilt of her sword. "You want to marry me? Fine, but only if you manage to take one attack from this sword of mine."

Lu Yin glanced at the sword. Although there wasn't any kind of aura to it, he was certain that Wendy's attack would definitely not be any weaker than Liu Shaoqiu's Thirteen Swords. On the contrary, Wendy Yushan's skills were far beyond Liu Shaoqiu's, and they were not something that Lu Yin could stand up to. Not being able to tell how amazing something was in and of itself proof of how great it was.

"Does that mean that I can marry you if I win?" Lu Yin asked boldly.

Wendy Yushan's eyes narrowed. "Yes."

"Fine!" Lu Yin exclaimed. "Give me a year and I'll challenge you."

Wendy Yushan snorted disdainfully. "I meant right now."

"Are you in that much of a hurry to marry me?" Lu Yin retorted.

Wendy Yushan became absolutely furious, and her sword emanated a killing aura that made everyone in San Dios feel a chill. Even Puyu, Liu Shaoge, and the others were shocked by what they felt.

Chapter 366: Wendy's Promise

The pressure lasted for no more than a brief moment, however. Wendy Yushan eyed the letter that Lu Yin had placed atop her sword blade and realized that she recognized the handwriting; it was Undying Yushan's.

“This is a letter that His Majesty asked me to pass on to you. There’s also this card as well.” Lu Yin took out a data chip and passed it to Wendy Yushan.

This chip contained a treasure of the universe within its databanks: a secret technique. It should be the same one that Lu Yin had received, the Yu Secret Art. It was a secret art, which meant that, if Lu Yin was willing, he could sell it and earn enough to establish more than a hundred Great Yu Empires. If he handed such a thing over to the Hall of Honor, it would be enough to get him at least ten Honor Points, Ten!

What did ten Honor Points mean? It meant that, so long as he did not die of natural causes, everything and everyone that had anything to do with his death would be thoroughly investigated by the Hall of Honor. They would not allow his death to be in vain, which meant that he essentially could not die in the Human Domain.

Shui Chuanxiao had betrayed humanity and caused them to lose half of Endless Weave. But even after committing such a crime, his Honor Points prevented him from being executed out right. That showed just how valuable having ten Honor Points would be.

After passing the chip to Wendy Yushan, Lu Yin could feel his heart bleeding. However, he wouldn’t keep it for himself. This was something that Undying Yushan had left behind for his daughter, and Lu Yin’s conscience would weigh too heavily on him if he secretly kept it for himself.

“Damn, Seventh Bro, you really gave it to her? I can’t believe you! That’s a secret technique! A. Se-cret-tech-nique!! That thing is worth enough for you to live out the rest of your days without any worries! Even if you killed Nightqueen Yanqing, the Daynight clan wouldn’t make any trouble for you so long as you gave them this technique. And yet, you’re handing it to Wendy Yushan just like that?” the Ghost Monkey shrieked.

Lu Yin frowned and decided to just block the monkey altogether since he was being too noisy.

As Wendy Yushan read the letter, something flashed across her eyes, and her fingers trembled slightly.

This was Lu Yin’s first time seeing such an anguished look appear on Wendy Yushan’s face. Perhaps this was the same emotional state she had been in when she had attacked the Ross Empire.

After reading the letter, she immediately destroyed it and tightly clenched the chip. Looking up at Lu Yin, her gaze showed disbelief and various other emotions. “Wh- Why are you willing to give me these things?”

“They’re yours,” he answered simply.

Wendy Yushan looked down at the chip and then back at Lu Yin. “Do you know what this is?”

“Yes,” he replied.

Wendy Yushan looked surprised. “Do you know how valuable this thing is?”

Lu Yin became annoyed at that question. He was already feeling terrible over giving it to her, but she kept hounding the matter. “Enough to get me a hundred more women who are more beautiful than you.”

Wendy Yushan did not get mad at Lu Yin's words; instead, she looked him up and down. At this moment, she had an incredibly gentle demeanor and even seemed to give off a hint of warmth. She appeared to be touched and simply said, "Thank you."

Lu Yin did not mind. "Hurry up and learn it. Don't let anyone take it from you."

Wendy Yushan gazed at Lu Yin earnestly before suddenly grinning beautifully. However, the smile disappeared in the next instant, so Lu Yin completely missed it. "Thank you for everything that you've done for the Great Yu Empire and for the Yushan family. I promise that I'll give you time. As long as you can win against my moves while I am wielding this sword, I'll marry you." After that, she turned around and left.

Lu Yin pursed his lips. In actuality, he had only spoken those words because Wendy Yushan had started to annoy him. He did not actually have any intentions of marrying her since he still had Ming Yan waiting for him back in the Shenwu Continent.

"Barley!" Lu Yin yelled out.

Barley immediately ran in, and upon seeing that Lu Yin was completely fine, asked in confusion, "What do you need, Mr. Lu?"

"I need all the information you have on the Shenwu Continent," Lu Yin said.

Barley grunted in acknowledgement and scanned the courtyard. He didn't see Wendy anywhere, which meant that she had probably gone back into seclusion to train, which was normal for her. This behavior was why many of her representatives were not loyal to her and why Puyu found it so easy to sway them over to his side.

Not too long after, all the information mentioning the Shenwu Continent was delivered to Lu Yin, which meant that he finally knew who had been targeting the continent.

"Mafioso Planet, Battle Street, the Nine Allied Nations..." Lu Yin skimmed through the provided information regarding all of the different organizations involved with the invasion of the Shenwu Continent. There were about a dozen from the Darkmist Weave who were involved in the matter.

Back when the Shenwu Continent had first been revealed, it had created a huge disturbance in the Outerverse. The Darkmist Weave had done everything it could to suppress the continent, but it had all been to no avail. With no other choice, it had asked for help from the Innerverse, which had then forced the Shenwu Continent to protect itself with the five sealing planets. These organizations were the ones that had led the movement against the continent.

"Why is Mafioso Planet listed first?" Lu Yin asked.

Barley answered with a bit of fear in his voice. "Mafioso Planet is where many of the Outerverse's assassins gather. The planet is now home to numerous experts who've even managed to kill ultra powerhouses in the past. Revenge was taken after those incidents, but compared to the rest of the Darkmist Weave, that planet is quite a terrifying power."

Lu Yin understood. "What about Battle Street?"

“It might be called a street, but it’s actually a string of over a hundred planets that have been connected to form something that resembles a continent. Battle Street offers nothing besides a place to fight. Many people in the Darkmist Weave have nothing to do, so they decided to create this place where they could watch bloody battles of all kinds. For this reason, there are a lot of reckless people who appear there, and mixed in among them are various experts and people with unique backgrounds. It has a huge influence on the Darkmist Weave and has even attracted the attention of some important people from the Inniverse,” Barley explained.

Lu Yin frowned. Battle Street sounded rather disgusting to him. It seemed like a place that represented the worst parts of humanity.

“The Nine Allied Nations consist of nine filaments, some of which even have Hunters in charge of them. There’s also...” Barley explained the various groups one by one, seemingly very familiar with everything.

Lu Yin felt a terrible headache developing. These organizations that made up the Darkmist Weave had complex connections that extended into both the border regions and the Inniverse, which meant that it would be impossible to completely destroy them. However, that also meant that the Shenwu Continent would always be contested. A millennium ago, they had invited a powerhouse from the Inniverse to help deal with the continent, just like how they had invited Arbiter Wen Sansi not too long ago. Who knew who would be invited to help out the next time.

Lu Yin was truly worried that the Shenwu Continent wouldn’t be able to hold on for much longer.

“Is there a problem with these organizations, Mr. Lu?” Barley asked curiously.

Lu Yin nonchalantly replied, “It’s nothing. I just completed a trial on that continent and wanted to learn a bit more about it.”

Barley nodded and praised, “You truly are the number one of the Outerverse trials. Arbiter Wen was the one who determined those results, which shocked the Outerverse.”

Lu Yin burst into laughter. It was obvious that he was first, but nobody really cared about the actual results. Long Yun from the Sword Sect, for example, hadn’t appeared at all during the trials. There was also that Wu Shang who might be from the Neohuman Alliance. There were bound to be many other people who had gone into the trials and hidden themselves in the shadows whose goal wasn’t to complete the trial, but rather, to gain control of the continent itself.

Upon thinking of these people, Lu Yin felt extremely frustrated. He wasn’t afraid that they’d destroy the continent’s defense, but he was worried about the Reverent King, Ming Zhaoshu. The man was very talented and could see the big picture, so it was impossible for him to place all of his hopes on Lu Yin. He might have even teamed up with other organizations-

Crap!

Lu Yin struck his forehead. Why hadn’t he thought of this earlier? He had tossed Zhanlong Daynight into the Reverent King’s residence, which would have given Ming Zhaoshu an excellent opportunity!

Lu Yin’s eyes flared as he considered the possibilities. From what he knew of Ming Zhaoshu, not only would the king leave Zhanlong Daynight unharmed, but he would have also found a way to work with the Daynight clan, precisely because the clan wielded a huge amount of power in the wider universe.

Lu Yin felt extremely frustrated. Back in the Shenwu Continent, he had been so preoccupied with the Daynight clan that he had completely neglected this possibility. How was the Shenwu Continent doing now? Was the Daynight clan cooperating with Ming Zhaoshu? What would happen to Ming Yan once they banded together?

At this moment, Lu Yin had the same outlook as a gambler who was about to lose everything. In his eyes, every man was his love rival, including Zhanlong Daynight.

Would Zhanlong Daynight fall in love with Ming Yan? Would someone else from the Daynight clan fall in love with Ming Yan? Would Ming Zhaoshu use Ming Yan to make another deal?

Lu Yin paced back and forth, feeling incredibly agitated. He should have killed all of those Daynight clan members at the start. Then, he wouldn't be dealing with this mess now.

As he gazed at a map of the Darkmist Weave, Lu Yin kept scanning it back and forth, trying to come up with a solution.

Barley didn't dare to speak up and waited quietly.

"Oh? Barley, why's this area circled?" Lu Yin asked as he pointed at a corner of the Darkmist Weave.

Barley answered, "That's the Nine Allied Nations' territory, but it used to belong to the Woori Weave. Organizations from the Woori Weave often show up there to cause trouble in that region, trying to take it back. It's rather chaotic there."

"It's such a small zone, so why aren't they willing to let it go?" Lu Yin asked curiously.

Barley chuckled. "That zone is actually huge, Mr. Lu, and there's also a planet there known as Shuta Planet. It's a unique planet with indigenous metallic lifeforms. A portion of them are made from polarium, so it's an area that's very suited for trials and a great place to get rich. That's why organizations from the Woori Weave and the Nine Allied Nations keep fighting; because of that Shuta Planet."

Lu Yin lit up. "Polarium? Isn't that one of the primary production materials for universal armor?"

"Yes," Barley answered.

Lu Yin's eyes sparkled at that bit of news. Trials, polarium, getting rich... The gears in his brain whirred until, eventually, his gaze landed on a different corner of the Outerverse: Darkstar Gorge.

Since I stole Bushtree Planet from you, Puyu, I'll give you Shuta Planet in exchange, he thought to himself as his eyes lit up.

Wendy Yushan went into seclusion the moment she reached San Dios. Lu Yin knew that she was in a hurry to learn the Yu Secret Art. Everyone else thought that her behavior was normal, and Lu Yin continued to work in her stead.

In a tall tower in San Dios, Puyu, Lu Yin, and Liu Shaoge sat together as they discussed some trivial matters.

Lu Yin had a clearly annoyed expression. Most of the proposals that he'd brought up were rejected by either Puyu or Liu Shaoge, which put him in a rather difficult position.

Puyu smirked. This was exactly the situation that he wanted to see. With Liu Shaoge around, Puyu would be able to put Lu Yin back in his place without needing to do much. Liu Shaoge had Arbiter Zhenwu's backing, so Puyu was certain that the organizations backing Lu Yin wouldn't dare to attempt anything. However, it would be best if those organizations did make a move, as then, the Daynight clan would have an excuse to retaliate and take Lu Yin out.

Bang!

Lu Yin slammed the table and glared at Liu Shaoge, furious. "You're dead-set on going against me, aren't you? You're saying no to everything I bring up!"

Liu Shaoge smiled lazily. "I just want us to find a better solution. For instance, you mentioned that the various large organizations can establish their own internal youth councils and nurture their members until they're able to enter the Outerverse Youth Council. It's a good idea, but it won't work for now, which is precisely why I said that it won't work."

Lu Yin's eyes seemed to spark with flames as he snorted, though he remained silent.

Puyu smiled and raised his hand to stop the two. "That's enough. We're all working for the Ten Arbiters, so let's calm down and end things here."

Liu Shaoge grinned at Lu Yin and then turned to leave.

Just as Puyu was about to leave, Lu Yin suddenly stopped him. "Please wait, Councilor Puyu."

Puyu looked at him in confusion. "What is it, Representative Lu?"

Lu Yin spoke in a low voice. "I don't expect all the things that I brought up to be implemented immediately. I merely wanted them to be brought up to the Ten Arbiters. Please agree to it." Only proposals that were approved by more than half of the acting councilors could be sent on to the Ten Arbiters.

Chapter 367: Setting Up

Puyu shrugged. "I'm sorry Representative Lu, but your suggestion is unrealistic and can't be carried out. We won't waste resources on an impossible plan."

Lu Yin took a deep breath and looked at Puyu gravely.

Puyu smirked. He wasn't scared of Lu Yin, and besides, the Outerverse Youth Council couldn't be swayed by a single person's power level. There were supposed to be five councilors in East San Dios, and a plan would only be approved if three councilors agreed to it. There were only three people here at present, so even if Lu Yin joined forces with Liu Shaoge, he wouldn't be able to do anything here. It wouldn't matter even if Wendy Yushan showed up, as the two of them shared the status of a single councilor.

"Representative Lu, if there's nothing else, then I'll take my leave." Puyu smiled.

Lu Yin answered, "Please wait a moment, Councilor Puyu." He then spread out his map of the

Outerverse and gave Puyu a sincere look. “I was too inconsiderate when handling the matter of Bushtree Planet, and I hope that Councilor Puyu won’t blame me for it.”

Puyu smiled. “Oh, Representative Lu, are you going to return Bushtree Planet to Darkstar Gorge as a training ground?”

Lu Yin shook his head. “Councilor Puyu, I have already given my order, so I can’t take it back.”

Puyu’s gaze turned cold. “If that’s the case, then there’s no point in discussing this any further.”

Lu Yin anxiously continued. “However, I can give Councilor Puyu another training ground that’s even better than Bushtree Planet.”

Puyu turned around and looked at Lu Yin curiously. “I’m interested to hear more about your proposal.”

Lu Yin pointed to a corner of the map. “Shuta Planet in the Woori Weave”

Puyu’s eyes gleamed; he had heard about Shuta Planet before. The planet produced strange metal creatures and was even a source of polarium. It truly was a great training ground as one could not only increase their power during a trial, but also gain some riches. “Representative Lu, Shuta Planet belongs to the Nine Allied Nations of the Darkmist Weave, correct?”

Lu Yin answered, “Of course not. This territory originally belongs to the Woori Weave—it’s just that this planet has been taken over by the Nine Allied Nations. However, it still belongs to the Woori Weave.”

Puyu frowned. He was very attracted to this plan, but he was also worried since he wasn’t in charge of the Darkmist Weave.

“Councilor Puyu, the Council of the Ten Arbiters wasn’t established to fight for territory. We are only here to oversee the younger generation in name, so that’s the only thing we need. Shuta Planet still officially belongs to the Woori Weave, and since I’m the person overseeing the Woori Weave, I have the right to assign it to Darkstar Gorge as a training ground,” Lu Yin spoke confidently.

Puyu looked at Lu Yin and then the map. He really couldn’t resist the temptation of Shuta Planet. Polarium was extremely valuable, and more importantly, the loss of Bushtree Planet had caused his reputation in Darkstar Gorge to drop. Furthermore, people were even more unhappy with him after the surprise attack on Darkstar Gorge. If he could use Shuta Planet to salvage his reputation, then he was willing to temporarily make peace with Lu Yin. It would also help assuage the powerhouse who had attacked Darkstar Gorge.

As for Lu Yin, he could just pass this problem to Liu Shaoge.

“Alright, I’ll accept Representative Lu’s offer,” Puyu graciously replied.

Lu Yin heaved a sigh of relief. “Thank you, Councilor Puyu. What about my suggestion during the meeting?”

Puyu beamed. “That’s no problem at all! I’ll just report it to the Ten Arbiters. However, the details will still be decided upon by the Ten Arbiters, and it’s even impossible for it to be carried out now, so Representative Lu will have to be prepared for such a possibility.”

Lu Yin didn't actually care about that suggestion. His main goal all along had been for Puyu to accept Shuta Planet and for Darkstar Gorge to start fighting against the Nine Allied Nations' forces. This would allow Lu Yin to remove some of the burden that was plaguing the Shenwu Continent, and although such a change wouldn't make a huge difference, it was still better than nothing.

"By the way, Representative Lu, do you remember that a person attacked Darkstar Gorge?" Puyu suddenly asked, staring at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin looked surprised. "The attack on Darkstar Gorge? Councilor Puyu isn't suspicious of me, are you?"

Puyu chuckled. "Of course not. It's just that Representative Lu is very worldly, and I just wanted to ask."

Lu Yin sighed. "Councilor Puyu, I'm merely a student. How could I know someone so powerful? Haha."

"Haha, then forget about it. Goodbye."

"Goodbye."

Lu Yin's smile faded away as he watched Puyu leave the tower. He hoped that Darkstar Gorge would attack the Nine Allied Nations. Since the Nine Allied Nations definitely wouldn't be able to hold out against Darkstar Gorge, he was hoping that Mafioso Planet and Battle Street would be embroiled in the brewing war.

Outside the tower, Liu Shaoge had a strange gaze as he watched Puyu happily walk away. He had purposefully opposed Lu Yin after receiving Lu Yin's instructions to do so, all in order to help Lu Yin handle Puyu, but what was he looking to achieve through all these maneuvers? Lin Shaoge couldn't understand what Lu Yin was thinking. He turned around to look at the tower and coincidentally met Lu Yin's gaze. The two youths glanced at each other for a moment, and then, both turned to look at Puyu; he wouldn't stay happy for long.

Shuta Planet was extremely important to Puyu since it could help salvage his reputation with Darkstar Gorge. That same night, Darkstar Gorge immediately contacted the Nine Allied Nations, informing them that Shuta Planet had become Darkstar Gorge's designated training ground.

This announcement caused the Nine Allied Nations to erupt with fury.

"We have fought with the Woori Weave over Shuta Planet for so many years, and now, Darkstar Gorge is trying to rely on the Outerverse Youth Council to force us to give up Shuta Planet? Impossible!"

"The Outerverse Youth Council only has the authority to oversee the younger generation. They can't interfere in territorial disputes. How dare they ask us to give up Shuta Planet!"

"We won't agree. Darkstar Gorge is clearly trying to steal Shuta Planet away from us."

...

The Nine Allied Nations's reaction was something that Darkstar Gorge expected. Puyu knew that a mere order from the Outerverse Youth Council wasn't enough for him to gain control of Shuta Planet; however, the Nine Allied Nations were right as well. The Outerverse Youth Council didn't have the authority to determine the training grounds of each major force, and in the past, he had only gotten Bushtree Planet by relying on Darkstar Gorge's military power.

He knew that this was the only way to gain Shuta Planet, but then, Puyu suddenly thought of something. Was Lu Yin deliberately trying to make him fight for Shuta Planet so that he could report him to the Ten Arbiters?

The possibility frightened Puyu, so he immediately changed his command and used Lu Yin's name to issue the order that declared Shuta Planet as a training ground for Darkstar Gorge.

Lu Yin was the person in charge of the Woori Weave, and Shuta Planet was a part of the Woori Weave, so nothing could go wrong if he issued the order in Lu Yin's name.

Puyu smirked as he looked at the objection video that had been sent by the Nine Allied Nations. Keep objecting, whatever you do will only affect Lu Yin and not cause any problems for me.

On the other hand, Barley was very anxious and immediately went to look for Lu Yin to report the incident. "Representative Lu, we have to stop this issue from blowing up! We don't have the right to involve ourselves in territorial disputes! This will become a huge problem if word of it gets out!"

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. Puyu wasn't stupid and had pushed all of the blame onto Lu Yin. "Barley, publicize my suggestion that Shuta Planet should be made into a public training ground. This is being done in hopes that other parties will similarly provide other training grounds for the younger generation to enhance the power of the Human Domain's youths and contribute to developing the strength of our future generations."

Barley blinked in confusion. "Suggestion? Encourage? Developing the Human Domain?"

Lu Yin nodded. "That's right, this is just my suggestion. I never specified that Shuta Planet must be the training ground for Darkstar Gorge. However, I won't reject them if Darkstar Gorge wishes to train there. It's as simple as that."

Barley thought about Lu Yin's response for a moment and then promptly understood Lu Yin's intentions. As long as Lu Yin didn't confirm anything, no one would be able to blame Lu Yin for this matter. At most, people would complain about him, but the Council wouldn't be able to punish him. After all, he was just giving a suggestion for the greater good of humanity.

After Barley left, Lu Yin immediately contacted Huo Qingshan and ordered him to open up some of the more renowned training grounds in the Great Yu Empire to all members of the younger generation in Frostwave Weave.

He had to lead by example so that no one would question his reasons for issuing such an order. This way, people would at most think that Lu Yin was being inconsiderate.

Puyu was placed in a different situation altogether. Darkstar Gorge had already started threatening the Nine Allied Nations, so they couldn't back down anymore. If they did, they would be humiliated. However, Lu Yin had never planned to use this incident to deal with Puyu; he only wanted someone else to share the Shenwu Continent's burden.

Puyu soon learned of Lu Yin's orders, and he didn't get angry about the matter. His only goal had been to verify that Lu Yin wasn't trying to trick him. Besides, Lu Yin was the one being cursed by everyone, so

the only thing left for Puyu to do was take over Shuta Planet and make it the new training grounds of Darkstar Gorge, replacing Bushtree Planet.

Lu Yin's orders were soon publicized. Although the Outerverse Youth Council wasn't a threat to the stronger Weaves, the Council of the Ten Arbiters that was supporting them was too powerful. This caused any order given by a representative or councilor of the Outerverse Youth Council to always create a huge commotion. However, this time, Lu Yin's orders didn't just create a stir—they created mass outrage. This was especially true of the Nine Allied Nations. At the moment, they hated Lu Yin to the core.

“How could that bastard take Shuta Planet away from us? Encourage? Encourage his head! Why didn't he make Saint Dios a training ground instead?”

“This is too much! Let's lodge a complaint to the Ten Arbiters Council in the Innerverse.”

“There's no point. He's only suggesting and encouraging. There's no use trying to lodge a complaint against him.”

“The Great Yu Empire has already given up a few planets to be used as public training grounds. Lu Yin is such a bastard. Who the hell would go to train in the Great Yu Empire? That bastard!”

...

The Nine Allied Nations was filled with people throwing insults at Lu Yin. However, none of their insults meant anything to Lu Yin. He didn't care about the Nine Allied Nations, or even the rest of the Darkmist Weave. The Weave was the enemy of the Shenwu Continent, and since he was planning to take control of the Shenwu Continent in the future, he would eventually become enemies with them anyways, It didn't matter if they hated him now.

Furthermore, his new identity as a part of Leon's Armada gave Lu Yin a huge boost in morale. Although the Pirate King, Highsage Leon, was erratic, and his behavior caused him to have even more enemies, it was undeniable that he was an extremely strong backer. This gave Lu Yin the confidence to oppose even Nightking Zhenwu without worrying about the Daynight clan. This was the power that Highsage Leon's name held.

Just like what Highsage Leon had said, “Do what you want. I've got your back.”

Nevertheless, the Nine Allied Nations were soon too busy to continue insulting Lu Yin as Darkstar Gorge had already sent their troops to Shuta Planet as preparatory scouts. This move caused the Nine Allied Nations to become outraged, and they definitely couldn't allow such actions to occur. Still, they were quite clear about Darkstar Gorge's power. They were a major force with powerhouses whose power levels exceeded 200,000, which was something that the Nine Allied Nations didn't have.

In the end, they could only contact the other forces that they were allied with, such as Mafioso Planet and Battle Street, and attempt to oppose Darkstar Gorge together. Of course, they would have to pay a heavy price for such an alliance.

Chapter 368: Disparity

It could only be said that the value of polarium was too great. The Nine Allied Nations was supported by a considerable amount of polarium production, and Shuta Planet happened to produce the most polarium in the Darkmist Weave. Without Shuta Planet, the Nine Allied Nations' economy would collapse, which would lead to unimaginable outcomes.

Lu Yin released a breath as he watched the news on his screen. Darkstar Gorge was now entangled with all the powers connected to the Nine Allied Nations, which would temporarily lessen the danger that the Shenwu Continent was facing, which would buy him some time.

Opposite Lu Yin, Barley looked at the instigator of the current fiasco. Although nobody else knew this, Barley was fully aware that Lu Yin was the mastermind behind everything. However, he could not think of a single reason why Lu Yin would want to start a war between Darkstar Gorge and the Darkmist Weave. Had everything been done just to deal with Puyu? That was impossible, as the two sides would not go all out for just a single Shuta Planet. They would merely go through the motions, and that wouldn't be enough to deal with Puyu. Barley just could not fathom Lu Yin's motives.

Whether one considered Darkstar Gorge or the powers of the Darkmist Weave, a war could not be easily triggered. In other words, both sides were just wasting time at the present.

In the eyes of the powers related to the Nine Allied Nations, Lu Yin was an obnoxious brat who had set Darkstar Gorge up to confront them, only to then turn around and make a stand for righteousness on humanity's behalf. This last bit left them unable to vent their bitter suffering, which in turn caused them to be sullen.

"You want to know my strength?" Wendy Yushan looked at Lu Yin in astonishment.

Lu Yin solemnly replied, "I really want to know the disparity between me and the top twenty in the Top Hundred Rankings."

Wendy Yushan's eyes flashed. "Top twenty? I'll be higher than that soon."

Lu Yin was stunned. "You've already learned it?"

She shook her head. "It's not that easy, but I'm confident that it won't take me much more time."

"Impossible! A secret technique can't be learned that easily! Otherwise, those terrifying powers with secret techniques would have been mass-producing experts since a long time ago!" The Ghost Monkey quickly refuted Wendy's claim.

Lu Yin also felt that it should be impossible. After all, he had never heard of anyone who had possessed the secret technique even now. If such a thing was so easily learned, then such techniques would have spread out a long time ago. However, this was Wendy Yushan. She had originally just been an insignificant being from a fringe weave in the Outerverse, but by relying on her innate gift, she had managed to force her way into the top twenty of the Top Hundred Rankings. More importantly, she was Undying Yushan's daughter and a descendant of the Court of Seven Names' Yu family, so it might actually be possible for her to learn the Yu Secret Art relatively quickly.

Lu Yin studied Wendy Yushan. "Some advice if I may. Even after you learn it, you shouldn't overly flaunt it. You won't be able to withstand the backlash. Despite the Great Yu Empire's obvious power, it only

managed to rule over thirteen filaments. Remember His Majesty's fate in the Starfall Sea all those years ago."

Wendy Yushan replied, "I know."

She then raised her hand while holding her sheathed longsword. "You can feel it with just one sword."

Lu Yin grew serious, took a deep breath, and adjusted his condition. His muscles swelled, and his right hand pulsed like a heart. The air rippled as it settled into multiple layers, and even the void started to warp.

Wendy Yushan's eyes narrowed at this sight as she silently marveled to herself. It was no wonder how he had overcome the combined attack of Bazeer and Yan Feng; this power could even rival the tail-end of the Top Hundred Rankings! Even she had not been this powerful when she was at Lu Yin's age. This was the power of a true Ten Arbiters' candidate.

"You can attack first," Wendy Yushan told him.

Lu Yin did not hesitate and used Flash to appear beside her. A dark-gold radiance flickered around his body as he released his five-lined battle force without any hesitation. He raised a palm and then unleashed a Thirty Stacks Fortyfold Shockwave Palm. Wendy Yushan did not move as Lu Yin's palm approached her, but he nonetheless kept a close eye on her as nine stars revolved around his body and his domain was completely released. He wanted to experience the disparity between Wendy Yushan and himself in his peak state.

The palm continued to approach Wendy, growing closer and closer with each passing moment. Right when Lu Yin was about to hesitate and consider stopping his attack, he heard a whooshing noise. An endless amount of sword qi appeared before him that rushed through the void and turned into a white sword light that sliced through his domain, causing his dark-gold, five-lined battle force to collapse. One sword had split apart his Overlaying Stacks, and the tip was suddenly at Lu Yin's neck, exactly the same as a couple of days before.

Lu Yin was still in his attacking posture, but his attack had been forcibly stopped due to an instinctive response to the crisis. He had a feeling that, as soon as he acted, his hand would be gone. That was how extreme the danger that was currently emanating from Wendy Yushan felt.

The two exchanged glances, and the shock in Lu Yin's eyes slowly dissipated. He grimaced. "Just one sword. I can't even take one sword from you."

Wendy Yushan put her blade away and gracefully stood before Lu Yin. "The Myriad Swords Peak's sword technique is very simple: all the swords combine into one. What I just displayed was Ten Thousand Swords as One, which simplifies a complex path to return to a natural state."

Lu Yin did not understand her explanation.

Wendy Yushan spoke again. "Our Myriad Swords Peak does not have as many sword techniques as the Sword Sect since we only seek one path: a single sword. To face any opponent, only one sword is required. If that one sword is defeated, then we're defeated as well. If that one sword wins, then we win. It's that simple."

“Was that one sword your strongest attack?”

Wendy Yushan looked at him, and a crafty glint passed through her eyes. “What do you think?”

He had always assumed that Wendy Yushan was an ice princess, and he had yet to see any sign of emotion in her eyes besides disdain. He was momentarily stunned, since he seemed to see a fairy-like charm and beauty in her eyes at this moment.

Wendy Yushan adjusted her expression and calmed down again.

Lu Yin pursed his lips, and thought of the sword that he had just seen. Could that attack really have been her strongest?

Impossible. She ranked within the top twenty of the Top Hundred Rankings. Even a fool would not believe that someone could possibly reach such a level without comprehending either a domain or battle force. And yet, that sword truly had neither. Right, there was still the matter of an innate gift. Lu Yin didn't even know if this woman had one. That sword only represented Myriad Swords Peak, not Wendy Yushan at full force.

The Top Hundred Rankings became more terrifying the further one climbed. At this point in time, Lu Yin could consider himself as having experienced the strength of someone at the top of the list, but he had been defeated by a single sword. The crux of the matter was that he still did not know the disparity between himself and Wendy. His thinking had been too naive, believing that he could perceive the difference between them if he simply dueled her.

Wendy Yushan looked at Lu Yin seriously. “Ever since the Top Hundred Rankings were created, there have been very few tail-end powerhouses who were able to rise to the top fifty purely through training longer. This is because every single person in the higher ranks is horrifyingly strong, so it's not something that time can compensate for unless one awakens an innate gift or obtains a tyrannical technique. However, those sorts of opportunities are not easily encountered.”

Lu Yin probingly asked, “How high do you think I'll be able to climb in the Top Hundred Rankings after I become an Explorer?”

“Top fifty to start, and perhaps top thirty after a year or so. You'll eventually end up within the top ten,” Wendy Yushan answered without any hesitation.

Lu Yin was astonished. “You're that confident in me?”

“You are a true Ten Arbiters' candidate. The Ten Arbiters stand far above the Top Hundred Rankings, so what I've said is already a conservative estimate. The changes that everyone experiences after breaking through to the Explorer realm is different. If you maintain your current talent for cultivating, then one day, you'll surpass the Top Hundred Rankings.”

Surpassing the Top Hundred Rankings... Just that thought was alluring in and of itself.

“Seventh Bro, congratulations! Your fiancée has finally acknowledged you!” the Ghost Monkey shrieked.

However, he then quickly changed topics. "But if even your fiancée, who's such a powerful woman, thinks that you have the potential to surpass the Top Hundred Rankings, then others such as the Astral Beast Domain will definitely have similar thoughts. Maybe our previous estimation of your position on the Celestial Vanquisher's List is a little too low. It's possible that you're ranked higher than what we initially thought."

These words caused Lu Yin's good mood to be dashed to bits. He instantly screened the monkey off before asking Wendy, "Is the Ross Empire very powerful?"

Wendy Yushan silently nodded before turning to look outside. "After all, it is one of the three great powers of the Blazing Mist Flowzone, and they definitely have a powerhouse with a power level of over 200,000. You're right, I was too impulsive."

Lu Yin was stunned. "You're actually admitting that?"

Wendy Yushan frowned. Yes, she had admitted it, but why? There was no way she would have admitted such a thing just a few days ago, and no one was qualified to demand an answer from her. So why had she just admitted such a thing to this man? What was so special about him?

The two did not get bogged down in this question, and Wendy soon returned to her seclusion to practice the secret technique. Lu Yin, meanwhile, focused on the dispute between Darkstar Gorge and the Darkmist Weave, prepared to exacerbate the situation at any opportune moment.

In another part of the Outerverse, at the Great Yu Empire's Zenyu Star's space station, Schutz had finally returned to the empire.

He stared at Zenyu Star and the three mainlands above him as he took a deep breath. He had finally returned, which caused him to feel vaguely homesick. Although he had not been gone for that long, the vast distance made it feel like time had dragged on endlessly, giving him the misconception that he had been gone for a long time.

Schutz wondered how Yu Academy was doing at the moment. When the second prince, Duke Yushan, had betrayed the empire, he had taken a portion of Yu Academy's elites away with him. Were his friends and rivals from the past still around?

As he walked out of the space station and prepared to visit home, a sharp gale swept out across the area. Someone was about to launch a sneak attack on him, and his eyes twitched as he dodged to the side. Schutz then turned around to look behind him, only to see another lightning arrow being shot at him.

He knew who it was as soon as he saw the lightning arrow, and a slight smile appeared on his face. He raised a hand and lightly tapped forward, shattering the arrow into multiple pieces as it fell to the ground.

"Gerbach, get out here!" Schutz yelled out loudly.

"Hahaha, I knew that you would not forget your opponent!" Gerbach stepped out from a corner as Logan, Huo Zhong, and Tianming all appeared behind him. The former five Hall Masters of Yu Academy had all gathered here.

Schutz smiled while looking at them. “Judging from your looks, it seems like you guys want a fight?”

“We can’t wait!” Huo Zhong barked even as he raised a hand, immediately releasing a Skybeast Claw. On the other side, Logan and Tianming did not act politely, since even when he was at Yu Academy, Schutz had been the strongest among them. Now, he was someone who had even studied at the Astral Combat Academy, so none of them believed that they would be able to deal with him on their own, even if they had all become Limiteers.

Schutz smiled, as he missed this sort of feeling. During his time in the Great Yu Empire, he had been extremely inexperienced and had not even encountered a domain or battle force. His control of star energy had only been at the most primitive level, which he was reminded of as he watched Gerbach retrieve a flickering lightning fruit. As expected, these old friends of his still weren’t able to imitate natural phenomena with their star energy. They were just too weak, and if he had not walked out back then, then he would have been just like them today.

It was right for the Fifth Princess to look down on them. Schutz had only truly understood her disdain for the younger generation of the Great Yu Empire after he entered the Astral Combat Academy.

“Too weak.” Schutz raised a hand and easily crushed the Skybeast Claw. Next, he caught Huo Zhong and tossed him aside while simultaneously using a single palm to counter Tianming. Although Lu Yin had already helped Tianming upgrade his Overlaying Stacks to Five Stacks, it was still instantly disintegrated by Schutz’s attack. Next, Logan was sent flying in a similar manner by Schutz’s kick, and the freshly returned Yu Academy student dodged a lightning arrow as he whirled around to face Gerbach.

Schutz raised his hand as a flash of lightning twinkled past his fingers and took on the form of a bow. He then used star energy to manifest a lightning arrow before loosing it. It grazed past Gerbach’s cheek and left behind a thin trail of blood.

In an instant, the four Hall Masters of Yu Academy, who had been able to duel evenly with Schutz in the past, had all been defeated beyond a sliver of doubt.

Chapter 369: Battle At Northgate Platform

Gerbach and the others were awestruck. While they had already expected to lose, they were shocked that they had been so thoroughly and effortlessly crushed by Schutz.

They were the best of the Great Yu Empire’s younger generation. Losing to Lu Yin was an entirely different scenario since they had never really treated Lu Yin as one of their own, but being defeated by Schutz this easily made all of them feel disappointed.

Even further away, there were other elites of Yu Academy watching on, including Gerlaine, Jeraldine, as well as the recent arrivals from Earth: Zhao Yu, Huan Sha, Fu Xiaoshu, Zhen Tong, Song Shi, and many others. They had personally just witnessed Schutz crushing the Hall Masters and were just as startled as the other students. This was the power of someone who had once been hailed as the strongest of the Great Yu Empire’s younger generation.

“This is the power of a student from the Astral Combat Academy. The difference is too extreme.”

Tianming was apparently more casual about their loss and was the first to speak up, although his tone still betrayed his bitterness at their defeat.

Schutz replied, "There's a huge difference between the Innerverse and Outerverse in terms of star energy control, battle experience, battle techniques, and even the power that various individuals have. I'm only considered average within the Astral Combat Academy."

Gerbach and the others' eyes went wide. "You're only average there?!"

Schutz nodded as he looked over all the gathered students. After seeing Gerlaine and Jeraldine, he spoke a bit louder. "The reason why I'm back is because I promised Lu Yin to handle matters in Yu Academy and to increase the strength of the empire's younger generation. I'll also choose some of the best students from here to go to Astral-10 to be mentored."

Everyone was delighted. The Astral Combat Academy was a dream for numerous people in the Outerverse. After seeing what Schutz was capable of, many people became even more excited at the possibility of joining the academy.

"How strong is the most powerful person in the Astral Combat Academy?" somebody asked.

Right after the question was asked, quite a few people looked at the speaker like he was a moron. That person had a confused expression as they asked, "Did I say something wrong?"

Song Shi snickered. "The most powerful person is naturally the Empire's Royal Regent, Lu Yin. What, did you not watch the Tournament of the Strongest?"

The person was astounded. "The Tournament of the Strongest? No, I only watched the Astral Combat Tournament."

Huo Zhong spoke up, saying, "Not everyone had the opportunity to watch the Tournament of the Strongest. The Astral Combat Tournament was publicly broadcast to the entire universe to watch while the other tournament was only broadcast in selected regions. Earth was special since it's the Royal Regent's birthplace, which is why you were able to watch it."

Song Shi and the rest looked incredibly proud. Exactly! The Royal Regent had been born on Earth, so they had managed to see the power of the strongest student in the Astral Combat Academy even though they actually couldn't understand his strength.

Schutz had a cold look in his eyes as he said, "Seeing it one thing but understanding it is an entirely different matter. Even Explorers and above can't comprehend how powerful the Royal Regent is, much less someone like you. What you need to do right now is increase your strength as much as possible so that you can enter Astral-10. When the time comes, you can even ask the Royal Regent to take you into the Innerverse."

"The Innerverse? Isn't Astral-10 in the Frostwave Weave?" Gerbach asked.

Schutz shook his head. "The Royal Regent was the champion of the tournament, which means that Astral-10 is now ranked above the other academies. It will officially reenter the Innerverse."

Everyone went quiet. Just the influence of the Royal Regent, Lu Yin, alone was enough to allow Astral-10 to reenter the Innerverse. He truly was an existence beyond their comprehension.

A few days later, Darkstar Gorge and the Nine Allied Nations officially made contact. It was no surprise to Lu Yin that, while the two forces tried to restrain themselves, they both still deployed a substantial

amount of their forces. The Nine Allied Nations were fearful of that powerful being whose power level was over 200,000 from Darkstar Gorge while Darkstar Gorge also feared the powerhouse from the Darkmist Weave.

However, Darkstar Gorge had grown accustomed to being the strongest, so they felt like they had the right to act as they wished. In their minds, their opponents wouldn't be able to hold on for long, and they would definitely gain control of Shuta Planet in the end. Puyu would also make a move as well, since this matter affected his reputation.

Lu Yin observed the situation for a few days until he confirmed that the war was irreversible. The only way for the conflict to be resolved at this point was for one of the two sides to give up on Shuta Planet. Otherwise, the conflict would continue on for a long time. He wondered if he should add some more fuel to the fire, but after thinking things through, he decided not to. He could not take actions that were too conspicuous, or else someone might discover that he was the one responsible for the entire situation.

What he needed to focus on at this point was the Northline Flowzone.

A few days ago, the Ten Arbiters Council had ordered him to arbitrate a contest at Northline Gate.

Northline Gate was a landmark in the Northline Flowzone. The Northline Flowzone held seventeen families, which had banded together due to a rule that had been passed down for generations: whichever family won the contest at Northline Gate would rule the flowzone. and the other families would not be allowed to voice any objections. Their solid unity had helped them develop to where even the Eight Great Flowzones did not dare to underestimate the Northline Flowzone.

Back when the Northline Flowzone had first been assigned to Lu Yin, Feng Shang had reacted very strangely. This was because Northline Flowzone was very united against outsiders, so it would be difficult for Lu Yin to intervene.

While looking over information pertaining to the Northline Flowzone, Lu Yin pondered over this matter.

There wasn't much to his orders. All he had to do was supervise a battle. Then what? The Ten Arbiters were all trying to gain more territory. Since the Northline Flowzone had been assigned to Lu Yin, he would lose respect and opportunities to advance if he wasn't able to intervene in matters even within his assigned territory.

In addition, the Northline Flowzone was situated between the Blazing Mist and Beast Tamers Flowzone. Representatives from the powerful organizations of these two flowzones would definitely spectate the competition as well. Since Lu Yin did not have a good relationship with any of the organizations from the Blazing Mist Flowzone, he could not afford to have anything go wrong during the event. At the very least, he could not bring shame to the Ten Arbiters' name.

Lu Yin stared at the ceiling with a troubled expression. The region's unity against outsiders was the biggest issue on his mind.

At that moment, he received a video call from Old Cai from Astral-10.

Lu Yin was rather surprised. He had not been doing much for Astral-10 recently, and the academy hadn't assigned him any missions either, so why was the mentor suddenly contacting him?

“How’ve you been doing, kid? I heard that you’ve done some pretty incredible things recently.” Old Cai looked the same, and his smile stretched from ear to ear, decorated by his pointy moustache as he looked at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin respectfully answered, “Thank you for looking after me. May I know what it is you need from me?”

Old Cai laughed. “It’s nothing. Do you still remember what the Astral Combat Tournament was for?”

The gears in Lu Yin’s mind turned, and his expression brightened. He knew what was going on now.

Old Cai frowned. “That look in your eyes doesn’t seem quite right.”

Lu Yin enthusiastically looked up at Old Cai. “The Astral Combat Tournament’s purpose is to decide the rankings of the various academies. Since I placed first, does that mean that Astral-10 is now Astral-1?”

Old Cai burst into laughter. “Yeah, that’s technically the case. However, Astral-10 has been weak for such a long time that our faculty members, students, and resources can’t compare to Astral-1’s. It’s pointless for us to become Astral-1, so we decided against it. However, Astral-10 can at least return to the Inniverse now, and it’s all thanks to you, kid.”

Lu Yin’s eyes brightened. “It’s great that we can return to the Inniverse. By the way, Old Cai, there’s something that I’d like to ask of you.”

Old Cai narrowed his eyes as he looked Lu Yin up and down. “Kid, I’m only telling you this because you have the right to know. It doesn’t mean that you have the right to decide what happens to Astral-10. Think carefully about the next words you’re going to say.”

Lu Yin hesitated and then bowed respectfully. “I’m aware of that. What I would like to request isn’t anything too difficult. I’m just hoping that Astral-10 can stay in the Northline Flowzone for a period of time after entering the Inniverse and that it can wait until the event at Northline Gate finishes before continuing on.”

Old Cai was surprised. “Is that starting already?”

Lu Yin nodded.

Old Cai stroked his moustache and grinned. “Got it. You’re trying to use your connections to intimidate them, eh? What, are you afraid that the organizations of the Blazing Region and the Ross Empire will make things difficult for you?”

Lu Yin chuckled. “Not really. I represent the Ten Arbiters Council, so they won’t dare to go overboard. Besides, I’m also a part of the Lockbreaker Society.”

“Is that so? In that case, you can just go by yourself. Later.” Old Cai was obviously annoyed at Lu Yin’s reply.

Lu Yin quickly spoke up, “Of course, my most important identity is being a student of Astral-10 and being your disciple. Nobody would dare disregard the reputation of Astral-10, much less offend you, sir.”

Old Cai obviously relaxed greatly after hearing Lu Yin's flattery. He thought it over and then said, "Alright, we'll do it. We'll go to the Northline Flowzone first, and after the battle is over, we'll leave."

"Thank you very much, sir!" Lu Yin was delighted. With Astral-10 nearby, he would feel much more reassured. None of the mentors were someone to be trifled with. Lu Yin had seen for himself how powerful Hunters were, so he was certain that Astral-10's mentors weren't mere Hunters but rather Enlighters!

He had never forgotten the rumor that Astral-10 was a prison. He had already guessed that the person being imprisoned was the crazy director, which meant that the mentors had to be incredibly powerful. Those people from the Blazing Region definitely wouldn't dare to cause trouble for Lu Yin with Astral-10 right nearby.

Sometimes, a person's only purpose in life was to maintain a good reputation, and Lu Yin was afraid that some of the older experts from those organizations would do their best to embarrass him. If that happened, then the Ten Arbiters would be annoyed with him as well and would start to doubt his abilities. Hence, he did not want anything to go wrong in any way for this event.

"You achieved something incredible for Astral-10. We discussed amongst ourselves and were planning to give you a reward, but forget it. Astral-10 going to the Northlane Flowzone should be enough of a reward in and of itself for you."

Lu Yin was completely speechless. He's so petty. "The Rainmaster already helped me simulate Thirty Stacks, so that's already enough for me. Thank you so much for your help."

"Haha, you're a smooth talker, kid. You've got things wrong, though. As long as you manage to get to Northland Flowzone safely, those people will ensure your safety, and nobody will lay their hand on you. Not even the Blazing Region will do anything. Know why?" Old Cai snickered as he looked at Lu Yin, as if he had succeeded in some huge scheme.

Lu Yin was confused.

Old Cai continued on in a leisurely manner, saying, "Within the Outerverse, it's very rare to come across an Enlighter. However, there are still Enlighters in the bigger flowzones within the Innerverse, and it's no different for the Northlane Flowzone. It has seventeen families, and among them, there are three Enlighters with power levels of over 200,000. They are Elder Northgate from the Northgate family, Granny Chan from the Lily family, and Tie Sa from the Barthe Jacques family. Since you represent the Ten Arbiters Council, those people will definitely not just watch on as you get bullied. Nobody will try anything under the watchful eye of those three Enlighters, so your worries are uncalled for."

Lu Yin smiled. "Even then, just having the academy be in the Northline Flowzone will boost my confidence, so I don't regret making this request."

Old Cai chuckled, nodded, and then hung up.

With Astral-10 close by, Lu Yin would have nothing to worry about. If anything huge did crop up, he also had Leon's Armada backing him even if Astral-10 couldn't handle things. Highsage Leon led a great power, and he even had the guts to go up against the Daynight clan.

With such things in mind, Lu Yin realized that his connections were actually pretty solid.

The battle at Northgate Platform was an internal matter for the Northgate Flowzone, so it did not have a huge effect on the surrounding flowzones.

Chapter 370: Huge Ruckus

Within the Beast Tamers Flowzone's First Grade Hall, a middle-aged man opened his eyes, and a crushing force that caused the void to collapse appeared. "The competition in the Northgate Platform is about to begin. This time, I will again be the one representing the Beast Tamers as a witness. I wonder if I'll be able to challenge those three with my current abilities."

Within the Blazing Mist Flowzone, the space was filled with flames. The heat there had clearly reached extreme levels, but it had no effect whatsoever on the void. This was the Blazing Region.

"Poison Flame, you'll be the one to spectate the competition at Northgate Platform as a representative of the Blazing Region." An aged voice called out. It was impossible to tell how close or far away the person speaking was, and it was also impossible to tell if the voice even came from a real person at all. It almost felt like a transmission that had crossed over from ancient times.

In a corner of the Blazing Region, the void distorted, and a man walked out, surrounded by turquoise flames. "Yes, sir."

As the flames disappeared, Poison Flame's true appearance was slowly revealed. He was a middle-aged man with a malicious face. As he gazed deep into space, he asked, "Is the competition at Northgate Platform about to start again?"

After speaking, he took a step and left Blazing Region to next appear atop a stone platform that was floating in space. There was a whole row of people kneeling there, and in front of the group was Jared.

"I was unable to achieve good results in the Astral Combat Tournament. I've let you down, master," Jared said mournfully while he quivered.

Poison Flame glanced at him coldly. "Where's the Karmic Flame?"

Jared gritted his teeth, and a venomous glint appeared in his eyes as he answered, "Arikar returned, so the sect gave him the Karmic Flame. If not for that, I wouldn't have been defeated so easily."

Poison Flame's gaze went cold. "It seems that I've been gone for too long. Some people have clearly forgotten how terrifying I can be."

Jared did not dare speak and only ducked his head, revealing fear in his eyes.

"When I return from the Northline Flowzone, you'll tell me who it was that gave the Karmic Flame away," Poison Flame casually ordered.

Jared's eyes lit up. "Are you going to the Northline Flowzone? Is it for the competition at Northgate Platform?"

Poison Flame looked at Jared curiously.

Jared sucked in a breath and hastily explained, "I have an enemy from the Astral Combat Academy called Lu Yin. He participated in the Astral Combat Tournament. Since then, he's joined the Council of

Astral Academy and was put in charge of Northline Flowzone. He'll probably attend the competition, and I-" But before he could finish speaking, Jared started coughing up blood due to the pressure that Poison Flame was giving off.

The terrifying pressure forced Jared's entire body to the ground as he coughed out more blood.

"You want your master to interfere in your matter with someone of your generation?" Poison Flame icily questioned Jared. As the older man spoke, the flames in the area miraculously froze and took on a green shade.

Jared's fear became more apparent as he trembled while staring at Poison Flame.

A long while later, Poison Flame let his pressure abate, releasing Jared before moving away.

In another part of the Blazing Mist Flowzone, in the region controlled by the Ross Empire, a gigantic hawk flew through the vastness of space, passing by planets and numerous bits of technology as it headed deeper into the universe.

"It's Duke Blackhawk! Duke Blackhawk seems to be heading towards the Northline Flowzone."

"There are rumors that the next round of the Northline Flowzone's competition at Northgate Platform is about to begin. Duke Blackhawk must be attending as the Ross Empire's representative this time."

"So they managed to get him to go? He's a powerhouse whose power level has reached nearly 200,000 units, and his innate gift, Glorious Hawk, shocked the universe when he first revealed it. He's one of the top figures within the Ross Empire, and this is just a tiny competition at Northgate Platform. Did they really need to send him?"

"Who knows."

...

The Northgate Platform, located within the Northgate Flowzone, wasn't just some tiny stone platform. On the contrary, it covered a huge area, and even though it was just a stone platform, it could hold numerous people. Shangwu Academy had also been built at this site.

Shangwu Academy had been built by the seventeen families as a place for them to nurture the younger generation of their flowzone. This competition at Northgate Platform was primarily a means for the families to display their contributions to the flowzone over the past few years, as well as to announce the direction that the Northline Flowzone would take in the future. The gathering was also used to allow the young generation to compete against each other, as well as show off the most powerful people from each of the families.

Only by rising above the others and fulfilling all four parts of the competition would a family be able to gain control of Northgate Platform.

While the gathering was formally known as a competition between the seventeen families, merely three families were actually qualified to compete for control, since only three families had powerhouses with power levels that exceeded 200,000 units. They were the Northgate family, Lily family, and Barthe Jacques family.

In the past instances of the Northgate Platform competition, the victor had almost always been from one of the three families.

Shangwu Academy had been built on the Northgate Platform, and next to it were wide, commercial streets.

Northgate Platform was a stone platform with a strong foundation. Even those who were able to move in the universe without a spacecraft would have difficulty damaging this platform. There was no flowing water, mountains, or any seas on this platform, so it wasn't suitable for people to live on it. All of these resources needed to constantly be transported in from the outside world, and these items were all available for purchase on the commercial streets located on either side of Shangwu Academy.

Currently, within one of the restaurants along a commercial street, there were about a dozen young students engaged in heated discussion. The restaurant served authentic, traditional food, but it had a modern screen, and the decor was a fusion of some sort between modern and ancient styles.

"My mentor said that the Northgate Family will definitely win this time. Their family heir, Northgate Lie, is an Explorer who has a power level of over 30,000 and is ranked ninety third on the Top Hundred Rankings. Nobody from the younger generation is a match for him!"

"The competition for the younger generation is just one part of the competition. You also have to look at the family's contributions to the Northline Flowzone. No family can match the Barthe Jacques family in this area. They're a financial powerhouse even outside of the Northline Flowzone, and they have extensive dealings with the Outerverse. Even the four financial powerhouses of the Outerverse can't claim to be superior to them. A huge portion of the Northline Flowzone's economy is supported entirely by the Barthe Jacques family."

"But the Barthe Jacques family is a commercial family that doesn't have much strength on their own. If they hadn't hired the Scarlet Mercenaries, then they wouldn't even have an Enlighter within their ranks."

"So what? Scarlet Mercenary's leader, Tie Sa, has been working for the Barthe Jacques family for so many years that the mercenaries are practically a part of the family."

"I still think that the Northgate family has the highest chance of winning. Many years ago, the Northgate clan was an existence that even the Daynight clan feared."

"Stop talking about the past. You need to pay attention to the present."

"The Lily family isn't doing too badly either."

"The Lily family? They have a woman in charge, so there's a tiny possibility that they'll actually be able to win. Though, Granny Chan is pretty incredible as well. She's one of the three guardians of the Northline Flowzone."

...

In one corner of the restaurant, a man was drinking with an extremely depressed demeanor. As the alcohol hit his system, he overheard the discussion from the nearby table. Irritated, he slammed his own

table and yelled, "Shut up! The gathering at Northgate Platform isn't something that people like you can talk about like that!"

The young people glanced at the man, froze, and then retorted in a mocking manner. "I was wondering who would speak so arrogantly. So it's just Ah Fan? What's wrong? Are you still waiting for your mentor to expel you? I don't see any reason why you should still be in Shangwu Academy, huh?"

"Ah Fan? One of the top students at Shangwu? That Ah Fan?"

"Top student? Pfft, he's just a piece of trash who lost the only teleportation stone we had," somebody commented in a condescending tone.

"Oh, I remember now. I heard that he lost it to Astral-10."

"Yup. Our academy spent so much effort getting a teleportation stone, but that piece of trash lost it so easily. And yet, he still has the gall to stay at the academy. How shameless!"

"Pfft. How shameless indeed."

...

Ah Fan took a sudden swig of the beer in his hands, stood up, and then flung the mug at the students. As it flew towards them, the cup shattered right before making contact. The students did not expect him to attack so abruptly, and the surprise combined with the vast difference in their strength meant that the students were injured by the cup shards before they could even react. They instantly crumpled to the floor in pain.

The boss of the restaurant did not dare to say a word, and he merely watched on while hiding in a corner.

"I lost, I admit it. There's nothing to complain about. Against that person, even the one you call the strongest, Northgate Lie, wouldn't be able to walk away unscathed. I was just very unlucky," Ah Fan said coldly.

The students on the floor gritted their teeth, but not one of them dared to refute Ah Fan's words. He was one of the most powerful students in Shangwu Academy, and even though the academy no longer treated him well, his strength had not diminished at all. In short, they were no match for him.

"How arrogant." A few young men and women were walking to the upper floor from the restaurant's entrance, and the person at the very front of the group was holding a fan in his hand while looking incredibly relaxed.

Everyone glanced over and were shocked to realize that the newcomers were from the Northgate and Lily families. Two of the three most powerful families in the Northline Flowzone had made an appearance.

"I'm really curious to learn just who could be capable of preventing Northgate Lie from leaving a battle unscathed, Ah Fan." The man with a fan in his hand looked at Ah Fan with an arrogant expression.

Beside him, a beautiful young lady put on an intrigued expression after hearing the question.

This young man's name was Northgate Gang, and he was one of the Northgate family's successors, as well as Northgate Lie's younger brother by blood. He was also studying in Shangwu Academy and was one of the most powerful Limiteers in the academy. He was nearly as powerful as Ah Fan.

Ah Fan was silent.

At this moment, the students who had been attacked all stood up, and they were now glaring at Ah Fan venomously, eager for a fight.

More and more students gathered on the upper level of the restaurant to watch the show.

Northgate Gang snickered and politely told the surrounding students, "Let me introduce someone to you all." As he spoke, he stepped aside and revealed the beautiful young girl standing behind him. "This is Lily Shu'er from the Lily family. She's the cousin of the family's heir, Lily Anne, and she just joined Shangwu Academy, so please take care of her."

The crowd cheered as their attention was captivated by the girl. She was quite young and had an adorable, teasing light in her eyes, giving her a lively demeanor. She looked around the room before looking straight at Ah Fan. "You still haven't told us who's so powerful that even Northgate Lie would be hard-pressed to fight him and leave unscathed. He's a powerhouse who's on the Top Hundred Rankings, you know."

Everyone's attention instantly swiveled back to Ah Fan.

Northgate Gang looked over. "What's wrong? You can't tell us who it is? We use aliases in the ported battles, so it's impossible to know who you're facing for sure. It's also impossible to talk during the battles. If you lost, then just accept it and keep training. And yet, here you are, slandering my brother in order to ameliorate your own humiliation. You're a fellow student of the academy, but even I think that you're an embarrassment."

Many of the people around looked at Ah Fan with contempt clearly written across their faces. He'd lost, so that should be the end of the matter. However, he was still claiming that the person who he'd lost to was someone that even Northgate Lie would struggle against. Ah Fan's behavior was nothing short of despicable, and now, someone from the Northgate family had overheard him. He was a huge disgrace to the academy.

Ah Fan clenched his fists tightly and looked up at Northgate Wang. "I'm not talking nonsense. The person who defeated me was Astral-10's Lu Yin."

The entire restaurant fell silent, and everyone stared at Ah Fan. "Lu Yin." They all had heard of that name before.

Thus far, Ah Fan had only mentioned this matter to his mentor, which was actually the reason why he hadn't been punished too harshly and been allowed to remain in the academy. Yet at this moment, to preserve his dignity, he had no choice but to reveal the truth.