

### **Chapter 371: The Astral Ark**

Everyone knew who Lu Yin was—the champion of the Tournament of the Strongest. His final battle with Tian Hou had stunned all Shangwu Academy’s students.

If Ah Fan had actually been defeated by Lu Yin, then no one could blame him. There were only probably two or three Limiteers who could withstand a single attack from Lu Yin.

Northgate Gang smirked. “Why should we believe your words? Fine, even if the person who managed to win the teleportation stone was really Lu Yin, my eldest brother is still an Explorer with a power level of 30,000. He’s also ranked ninety third on the Top Hundred Rankings. He’d definitely easily defeat Lu Yin! Don’t overestimate him just because of your own failure! Such a claim is nothing but an embarrassment to the Northline Flowzone.”

The people in the restaurant all agreed, as the Top Hundred Rankings was the best indicator of one’s power. Although Lu Yin was powerful, in their eyes, he was still just a Limiteer who could barely challenge an Explorer. However, those in the Top Hundred Rankings were different. Even the person ranked hundredth on the list was someone comparable to a Cruiser.

These people were unaware of Lu Yin’s recent feat in the Outerverse’s San Dios. He had matched a record set by one of the Ten Arbiters by using Thirty Stacks, and that was enough for him to defeat two elite Explorers at the same time. If they had known about this event, then they wouldn’t have been so confident. Nonetheless, Ah Fan was also exaggerating; he couldn’t tell who was stronger between Northgate Lie and Lu Yin.

Lily Shu'er’s eyes glinted with a special light when she heard Lu Yin’s name. She seemed very curious about that person.

Ah Fan didn’t argue with Northgate Gang any further and left the restaurant. There was no point in saying anything further.

Northgate Gang didn’t stop him, but when he was about to ask Lily Shu'er to take a seat, he realized that she had disappeared.

Outside the restaurant, Ah Fan was sullenly walking away when Lily Shu'er caught up to him. “Hey! How did it feel when you were fighting Lu Yin?”

Ah Fan ignored her.

Lily Shu'er’s brows creased together, and she jumped forward to block Ah Fan’s path. “Hey, I’m talking to you.”

Ah Fan reeked of alcohol, and he answered in a clearly irritated tone. “I don’t know.”

“Wasn’t the academy’s teleportation stone won by Lu Yin? How could you not know? Were you lying about facing him?” Lily Shu'er shouted.

Ah Fan stood there, rooted to the spot, his head hung low, and his eyes filled with memories.

Lily Shu'er walked over and crouched down. She then looked up to make eye contact with him as she curiously asked, "What? Was it indescribable?"

Ah Fan sighed. "One palm, multiple stacks."

Lily Shu'er's eyes widened. "One palm? You lost to one strike?"

Ah Fan nodded and then continued on his way.

Lily Shu'er anxiously ran after him. "You're one of the strongest students in Shangwu Academy. My cousin even mentioned you by name when she sent me to the academy, but you're saying that you couldn't even withstand one of his palms?"

Ah Fan bitterly replied, "You're right. I couldn't even take a single hit. I'm useless." He then continued walking towards Shangwu Academy.

Lily Shu'er stood there, blinking in shock. "Is he really that powerful? I need to tell my cousin and let her know about this Ten Arbiters candidate." She then ran away with a playful smile.

Outer space was always dark. By now, Lu Yin had left San Dios and was currently heading towards the Northline Flowzone in the Innaverse.

The conflict between Darkstar Gorge and the Darkmist Weave wouldn't end anytime soon, so Lu Yin had temporarily placed Zhao Ran under Barley's care. Yue Xianzi was staying behind in San Dios this time.

Compared to Yue Xianzi, Lu Yin wanted to have more interactions with An Shaohua. Watermoon Villa was comparable to the Frostmoon Sect, but more importantly, Lu Yin had a better feeling about Watermoon Villa than the Frostmoon Sect. However, since An Shaohua had finally managed to leave the Innaverse, he didn't want to return just yet. Otherwise, Lu Yin would have brought him along.

"Seventh Bro, how could you not bring along a pretty girl?" the Ghost Monkey asked cheekily.

Lu Yin frowned. "Do you want to be blocked off again?"

The monkey instantly fell silent. He knew that Lu Yin wasn't joking around and that he would really block off his senses. It was actually already quite kind for Lu Yin to warn the Ghost Monkey. Most of the time, he would just screen off the monkey's senses without any warning. The Ghost Monkey had sadly enough already gotten used to such treatment.

Lu Yin was using an Aurora spacecraft that belonged to San Dios, and this one wasn't radiant grade, but a blackhole grade one.

The blackhole grade Aurora was the dedicated transport vehicle for representatives of the Outerverse Youth Council. The spacecraft was strong enough to take attacks from even a Hunter and was a hundred times faster than a normal spacecraft.

This was an unbelievable speed that Lu Yin couldn't have even imagined before this, but now, he was actually experiencing it for himself.

One normally needed at least seven to eight months to travel from San Dios to the Northline Flowzone if they were using a standard spacecraft, and this estimate didn't even include any delays due to route changes. But Lu Yin, with this blackhole spacecraft, needed less than three days to arrive.

This was what it was like, using a blackhole grade Aurora!

Of course, these three days didn't include the time spent crossing the Astral River.

Lu Yin estimated that he would arrive at the Northline Flowzone in less than five days.

With enough money, the only thing restricting someone was their imagination; with enough money, anything was possible. With this blackhole grade spacecraft, Lu Yin wouldn't need to waste so much time while travelling in future.

Lu Yin sighed as he relished in the extreme speed of the spacecraft. Perhaps money couldn't get everything. At least for this spacecraft, not everyone could use it since some people wouldn't be able to withstand the extreme speed.

Normal Limiteers definitely wouldn't be able to withstand this speed, and only Explorers and above would normally be capable of handling it.

One day later, the spacecraft suddenly stopped in the middle of space. Lu Yin looked into the distance, his eyes filled with memories. The place he was looking at was the direction where the pirate port had once sat. It was also the place where he had experienced a transformation after dying.

That incident had been a watershed point for his mindset. He had realized that one couldn't remain an ant forever and allow others to determine their fate.

If he hadn't gone through what he had after the pirate port, Lu Yin would, at best, be comparable to an Area Master of the Astral Combat Academy right now. He would never have reached the standard of an academy student leader, let alone become the champion of the Tournament of the Strongest.

Destiny was something that was truly unpredictable. Three years ago, he had just been a common student, but now, three years later, he was famed throughout the universe.

He wondered how much progress his family had made towards investigating that incident from many years ago. Since his family had now returned to Leon's Armada, the masterminds behind that incident were probably trembling in their boots at this moment.

Lu Yin was almost at the Astral River, and he arrived soon after.

When he was last at the river, he had been traveling on one of the warfront's warships, and they had used the military's express lane. This time, he didn't bother revealing himself since he wanted to enter the Inniverse normally.

The Astral River Ark was enormous, and there was a constant stream of spacecraft entering the ark through the checkpoints. They then entered the Inniverse and Outerverse via the ark.

The Ark Envoy was Elder Gu De, and he would continue to hold this position for many more years.

Secret dealings existed everywhere, and apart from using the standard channels to enter the Innerverse, many people had to pay attention to the attitudes of certain people on the ark in order to enter the Innerverse.

Back when Lu Yin had been in the Astral Combat Academy's training zones, Gu Er had told him that even Explorers would have to kneel to him if they wanted a chance to enter the Innerverse. Right now, Lu Yin would have a chance to witness that scene for himself.

Under the gazes of countless people, an Explorer took out his cosmic ring while begging for the opportunity to enter the Innerverse.

The Innerverse held an irresistible attraction to people from the Outerverse. Many people held the opinion that they could only become a true powerhouse after entering the Innerverse, and this mindset had caused many Explorers to swallow their pride.

They believed that they would be able to get revenge after becoming a powerhouse in the Innerverse. However, the people on the Astral River Ark weren't worried about such a possibility. After all, there were only a handful of people who would successfully become a powerhouse after entering the Innerverse. And besides, the people running the ark were quite powerful in their own right.

Before long, it was Lu Yin's turn. He was idly looking around in boredom when he suddenly spotted a familiar silhouette: Gu Er.

Although they had only met once before, Lu Yin had a strong impression of Gu Er. When they first met, Explorers had still been completely out of Lu Yin's league, but he had heard stories about Explorers kneeling before Gu Er. That story had left a very strong impression on Lu Yin.

Furthermore, Gu Er was Elder Gu De's son.

Every spacecraft had to undergo an inspection since, apart from paying a certain fee, one had to have a valid reason to enter the Innerverse. The role of the Astral River Envoy was both to care for the ark and prevent too many people from entering the Innerverse. This was an unspoken rule of the Innerverse.

Lu Yin watched people on the spacecraft in front of him dejectedly leave the line one after another. When he saw Gu Er's satisfied expression in the distance, Lu Yin smiled; it was finally his turn.

"Where are you from?" a voice asked from his spacecraft's communication panel.

Lu Yin answered, "The Frostwave Weave."

"You're not allowed to enter. Leave."

Lu Yin paused. "Why?"

"No one from the Frostwave Weave can enter today. Come back tomorrow," the voice replied in an irritated tone.

Lu Yin was speechless. "What's the reason?"

"No means no."

At that moment, a voice rang out from the spacecraft behind him. "Brother, this is one of the Astral River Ark's rules. Every day, they draw lots, and whichever weaver is drawn is barred from entering for the day. They then draw lots again the next day. You won't be able to enter right now, so just leave and try your luck another day."

Lu Yin was stunned. How is this allowed?

"Fine, you seem to know quite a lot, and since you know so much, you don't have to enter either," the inspector standing next to the track sarcastically informed the person behind Lu Yin.

"What? Sir, I just wanted to help you, sir, since I saw that you didn't feel like talking. That's why I gave him an explanation. Please don't blame me, sir. Please let me in!" the person on the spacecraft behind Lu Yin cried out anxiously.

The inspector smirked. "I really don't feel like talking today, and since you're so helpful, you can stay here and explain things to everyone for me. You can head on in after my shift's over."

The person was helpless.

Lu Yin watched this scene unfold with a frosty expression. The people on the ark had horrible attitudes, and they were constantly thinking of new ways to prevent people from the Outerverse from entering the Innaverse.

"Hey, why are you still here? It's fine if you don't leave. Just stay there if you want. If you can stay here for a while, then I won't need to deal with so many idiots," the inspector said haughtily.

Lu Yin narrowed his eyes and was about to speak when Gu Er walked over to the inspector. "What's going on?"

The inspector's attitude instantly became respectful when he turned to Gu Er. "Oh, Young Master is here. Please have a seat, Young Master."

Gu Er lazily sat down and waited for the inspector to serve him some refreshments, acting as if he owned the entire place.

### **Chapter 372: Lu Yin's Privileges**

Lu Yin's lips curled up when he saw Gu Er. "Hey, inspector! Come here."

When the inspector heard Lu Yin's voice, he turned towards him angrily. "Shut up and get lost already."

Lu Yin grinned. "If you don't come, then get the person next to you to come over."

The inspector became furious and ran over to his monitor in just a few steps to stare at Lu Yin. He spoke quietly in a threatening manner. "Kid, don't cause a commotion! That's the Young Master, the son of an official. If you offend him, then you can forget about getting into the Innaverse for the rest of your life!"

Lu Yin shrugged. "Sorry, you're too late. I already offended him a long time ago. Go and ask him if you don't believe me."

The inspector was astonished and turned around to look back at Gu Er.

At the same time, Gu Er looked over at the same time and noticed Lu Yin. When he finally realized who he was looking at, a brilliantly stupendous expression appeared on his face.

The inspector ran back over to Gu Er with a new smile plastered on his face. "Young Master, that kid says that he offended you in the past. Would you like me to seal his qualifications to enter the Innerverse?"

The tea that Gu Er was just sipping was spat back out when he heard the inspector's question. He walked to Lu Yin and smiled rather reluctantly. "Se- Senior Lu, what are you doing here?"

Lu Yin casually replied, "Nothing much. I wish to enter the Innerverse, but that person says that I can't."

Gu Er turned back around to glare at the inspector. "Can't enter? Senior Lu can't enter the Innerverse? According to you? What gives you the guts to stop Senior Lu from entering the Innerverse?"

The inspector was stumped and immediately apologized. He knew that he had offended someone, and from how the situation was looking, this person's status couldn't be minor.

Lu Yin chuckled inwardly as he watched Gu Er. This fellow could be considered to be smart, and he knew that he could not offend someone like Lu Yin. Even though Gu Er was the son of Elder Gu De, he was still a student of Astral Combat Academy. He was scared that, if he offended Lu Yin, Lu Yin would then smother him within Astral Combat Academy, just like how he had dealt with the Daynight clan before.

Lu Yin's guess was on point, as Gu Er was indeed afraid of Lu Yin.

Other matters could be ignored, but Lu Yin had recently killed members of the Daynight clan since it had offended him, and he had acted in a very open manner. Once he offended Lu Yin, Gu Er would find it hard to make any progress in Astral Combat Academy, and he did not believe for one moment that his father's position was more influential than the Daynight clan. Also, this person was rumored to have recently become a true Ten Arbiters' candidate, and that was a status that frightened Gu Er so thoroughly that he didn't even dare to speak a single malicious word behind Lu Yin's back.

The Ten Arbiters Council supervised the younger generation, and even someone like Gu Er, who was the son of someone with great power, did not dare to casually infringe upon such a matter.

"It's fine, don't blame him. I do have to ask, though... Gu Er, why do you keep calling me 'senior?' If I recall correctly, you should have entered Astral Combat Academy before me."

Gu Er hurriedly smiled as he responded, "Senior Lu is the champion of the Tournament of the Strongest, and the most powerful person in the academy. Anyone who encounters Senior is beneath him, which is as it should be."

At this point, those waiting in line to enter the Innerverse were all stunned. It was very normal for an inspector to scold and humiliate them however they wished, and no one had ever seen someone who could scare an inspector, let alone Gu Er. Someone with this level of status should not have waited in this line and should have entered the ark a long time ago.

"Gu Er, I heard that others rely on luck to enter the Innerverse. Is that true?" Lu Yin asked.

Gu Er's face changed; was Lu Yin indicating that he was about to intervene in this matter of the Astral River Ark? This person was overestimating himself! After all, he was still just a student. But then, Gu Er

suddenly thought of Lu Yin's other positions, such as a member of the Council of Astral Academy and an acting Councilor of the Outerverse Youth Council. If Lu Yin made a fuss and levied the influence of those two positions, not even Gu Er's father would be able to ignore him.

Lu Yin knew what Gu Er was thinking when he noticed that Gu Er did not immediately reply. "Relax, I'm not being that difficult. It's none of my business how you manage things, but since things are based on luck, could you give me some face and allow all those in the same line as me to enter the Innerverse?"

Gu Er relaxed. "Of course, whatever Senior wants."

Lu Yin nodded with a smile and replied with a casual, "Thanks." He then continued along the track to enter the Astral River Ark.

Lu Yin just wanted to taste how much authority he could wield through a mere suggestion. It was a wonderful feeling, and he found it to be quite to his liking. If he could one day control an enormous vessel such as this one day, then all the better.

The Astral River Ark was exceptionally important to both the Innerverse and the Outerverse, so, generally speaking, no one was allowed to move about as they wished once they were onboard. In fact, people were not even allowed to exit their spacecraft. Lu Yin was an exception, as his status meant that nowhere was restricted to him, especially since he had two Honor Points. One privilege that his points allowed him was to freely roam about the ark.

However, he did not leave his vehicle since he was afraid of running into Elder Gu De. Lu Yin did not want the envoy to see the hatred in his eyes.

It was still too soon for him to meet Elder Gu De. That encounter had to wait until he had at least gained the power to take his revenge.

However, he felt strange about one point—why hadn't his family's Big Sis and the rest acted against Elder Gu De? Were they afraid of the Innerverse?

As for the other party, as soon as Lu Yin left, Gu Er contacted Elder Gu De and reported Lu Yin's presence on the ark.

"You did well, it's best not to provoke Lu Yin. Some newly-obtained information suggests that he might be linked to various Outerverse pirates, and he also has two Honor Points. Even my authority might not be able to deal with him," Elder Gu De said.

Gu Er was unsatisfied. "Father, doesn't that mean that he can rampage across the universe to his heart's content?"

"With his Honor Points, he could. He also holds more than one title, which is why I want you to train diligently and graduate before heading to the border warfront. You must make your own contributions to the Human Domain and earn your own Honor Points."

Gu Er rolled his eyes, as only fools would willingly go to the border warfront. Even Xue Liuyun, a student leader from Astral Combat Academy, had died there. Not even ten lives would be enough for Gu Er to survive in such a place. "Father, the war at the border has already stopped."

“Not for long. The three Domains haven’t stopped their war in countless years, and even if the border war has truly stopped, there are still missions to explore the Astral Wilderness. Work hard. There’ll always be opportunities to earn Honor Points.” And with that, Elder Gu De disconnected.

Gu Er pursed his lips, as he did not want to do any such missions. Not many in the entire Outerverse had been awarded Honor Points, and Gu Er felt that Astral Combat Academy’s domineering hegemony over the masses was more comfortable. But when he thought of Astral Combat Academy, he was reminded of Lu Yin. Since he wanted to remain in that comfortable place, he could not afford to offend Lu Yin. Damn it, I should have flattered him more.

Hold on, it’s not too late to do that! Gu Er’s eyes gleamed, and he waved the inspector over. “Go and check if there’s anything that Senior Lu needs. If he makes any requests, then be sure to satisfy them as far as possible. His every need must be attended to, and he must have a pleasurable and enjoyable time here.”

“Yes, Young Master.” The inspector immediately acknowledged his orders and left his post. Since everyone in this line would be allowed entrance, there wasn’t anything for him to do here anyways.

The person who had explained things to Lu Yin when the inspector first started making things difficult now closely followed Lu Yin onto the ark, marvelling at his own good karma.

The way the people running the ark determined how long they remained on either side of the Astral River was similar to how they determined who was allowed to board the ark. In other words, the timing was random, and travelers often had to rely on luck. The ark might stay on one side of the Astral River for a single day or ten, and this was also how Elder Gu De had deliberately stalled for time back then.

Lu Yin did not know how long the ark would remain in the Outerverse this time, and he considered contacting Gu Er. Right at this moment, the inspector from before contacted him. “Lord Lu, your journey’s been tough, so please let me know if you require anything at all.”

Since Lu Yin had received an offer for whatever he wished, he opened the hatch of his spacecraft to see that he had been arranged to stay in a private area that was reserved for VIPs. This area even featured a lounge and a kitchen, and everything was private to help him remain anonymous.

“When will the ark leave?” Lu Yin asked.

The inspector courteously replied, “I’ll have to check on this matter. Is Lord Lu in a hurry?”

Lu Yin nodded.

The inspector activated his gadget and contacted someone. Not a moment passed before he deferentially said, “If Lord Lu wishes, we can leave immediately.”

Lu Yin was astonished. Elder Gu De was treating him too well, which shouldn’t be the case. Even though Lu Yin held many titles and had Honor Points, his status had not yet reached the point where he could cause problems for the Astral River Envoy himself. Even when Lu Yin’s position under the Ten Arbiters Council was taken into consideration, he should at most be able to cause Elder Gu De to hesitate, but he



should not be able to cause him any trouble. After all, the Astral River Ark represented the Innerverses, so it was not something that the Ten Arbiters Council could easily meddle with.

But despite all that, Elder Gu De was actually giving Lu Yin so much face right now, which was very strange.

However, Lu Yin did not know how much shock he had caused when he had dealt with the Daynight clan within Astral Combat Academy. The Daynight clan had too resounding of a reputation, but Lu Yin had actually managed to face off against them and remain safe and sound afterwards. Many guesses were being exchanged in the shadows about Lu Yin's identity, and those guesses were precisely what Elder Gu De was afraid of. The recent developments at San Dios had also caused Elder Gu De to believe that some great power was backing Lu Yin.

Regardless, Elder Gu De was the one who decided whether or not the ark moved, so he might as well show Lu Yin some face. Such a favor could only benefit him if they met in the future, and his son was also still a student at Astral Combat Academy.

The inspector continued speaking respectfully. "Lord Lu, do you have any other instructions? Young Master has said that it will be some time before the ark arrives at the Innerverses bank of the Astral River, so any instructions from Lord Lu during this time will be carried out to the best of our abilities."

Lu Yin shook his head. "There's nothing else, so you can go and take a break."

"Very well," the inspector acknowledged.

But before he had walked more than a few steps away, Lu Yin spoke up. "I've heard that some people fish while on this ark. Bring me a fishing rod."

The inspector seemed distracted as he replied, "Lord Lu, the Astral River is fraught with too many hidden dangers. Typically, only space-exploring powerhouses fish on the ark. And even they often suffer from accidents, so I beg Lord Lu not to take such an unnecessary risk."

"It's fine, so go on," Lu Yin casually responded. He then walked over to a nearby transparent metal window and looked at the flowing Astral River outside of the ark. He had a curious gaze, as the sight reminded him of the Cosmic Sea, where Ye Xingchen had made a name for himself. Lu Yin was confident that would be able to survive in the Astral River since the Cosmic Sea was much more dangerous than the Astral River.

The inspector did not dare to retort, so he hurriedly left.

After about an hour, a special set of fishing gear was delivered to Lu Yin.

"Lord Lu, the ark is about to depart, so please make your preparations," the inspector said before respectfully withdrawing.

Lu Yin picked up the fishing gear, which looked quite different from the common form of the gear. After all, he was about to go fishing in the Astral River, so it made sense that the gear looked more like defensive equipment rather than normal fishing gear, though, the set also included a fishing rod.

He picked up the fishing rod and tested his strength. The rod barely moved, its sturdiness astonishing him. He paused before trying again with more force, and he even used a bit of his Overlaying Stacks to force the fishing rod to bend slowly, but no more than a tiny bit.

When Lu Yin increased his force to Twenty Stacks, the fishing rod finally bent into an arc.

He exhaled heavily. No wonder this fishing rod was meant to be used in the Astral River, as the amount of force he had exerted was something that the average Explorer could not withstand. This was no simple fishing rod! Even its toughness surpassed that of an average Explorer, so it was definitely a valuable piece of equipment.

### **Chapter 373: Fishing In Outer Space**

There were a few areas on the Astral River Ark that were reserved as fishing spots. A supervisor escorted Lu Yin to a section called the Yuelong Terrace that was reserved for fishing.

The Astral River Ark's stop on the Outerverse bank had been relatively quick this time, so there were only a few people on the massive vessel. This meant that there wasn't a single other person on the Yuelong Terrace.

It wasn't easy to receive the opportunity to fish on the Astral River Ark since one needed to have both a high status and sufficient strength to do so. There were countless incidents of unfortunate powerhouses being dragged into the Astral River every year.

After donning the fishing equipment, Lu Yin cast a line into the river. Bait wasn't required when fishing in the Astral River, since one's star energy was the best bait as the creatures in this river actually ate cultivators.

As soon as the fishing line entered the river, the fishing rod nearly slipped out of Lu Yin's grasp. The Astral River's currents were extremely strong, and it was also filled with an indescribable amount of energy. Its energies could cause fatal injuries or even death to anyone holding onto a fishing rod.

Lu Yin's physical strength was greater than Lulu's and even Grandini's, but even so, he nearly lost his grip on the fishing rod. This showed how powerful the Astral River's current was, especially when one considered the fact that Lu Yin was merely fishing and hadn't even made direct contact with the river.

In a luxurious room within the ark, Elder Gu De and his son Gu Er watched the Yuelong Terrace while accompanied by a few other experts.

"He actually held on to it! He truly is the top student of Astral Combat Academy as well as a true Ten Arbiters' candidate," someone exclaimed.

"Even a Explorer wouldn't normally be able to keep the fishing rod stable! Now, let's see how long he can keep this up."

"I don't think that he'll be able to hold out for too long. I'm a Cruiser, and even I can only endure for ten hours at most. It wouldn't be bad if Lu Yin held out for an hour."

"That's a good estimate, but if he really catches something, then he'll definitely be dragged into the river."

“Sir, should we send someone in to protect him?”

Elder Gu De stared at Lu Yin for another moment before he turned towards Gu Er. “How’s your relationship with that person?”

Gu Er was about to answer that they were on friendly terms, but then he remembered when Lu Yin had killed him within the trial zones. He also remembered what Lu Yin had said to him at that time, and Gu Er’s expression changed. He had almost forgotten that Lu Yin had threatened to attack Elder Gu De and the Astral River Ark. Upon recalling the incident, Gu Er quickly recounted the incident to his father.

Elder Gu De frowned. “Why didn’t you tell me about this before?”

Gu Er honestly answered, “I forgot.”

Elder Gu De snorted and looked back at the screen displaying the Yuelong Terrace with a frosty expression. Did they already have some enmity with Lu Yin? It was certainly possible. Gu De had offended too many people to keep track of during his tenure as the Astral River Flowzone Envoy, so Lu Yin might actually be an enemy. “Don’t bother protecting him, but keep an eye on him.”

The people around him immediately acknowledged his orders.

Lu Yin had actually forgotten his words to Gu Er within the trial zones; otherwise he definitely would not have taken on the risk of fishing in the Astral River. Still, he wasn’t planning on actually fishing—he just wanted to try it out.

Ten minutes later, Lu Yin suddenly took the fishing equipment off and handed it over to the inspector under the man’s surprised gaze.

The inspector was speechless. Lu Yin only planned on fishing for ten minutes?!

Lu Yin was smart. The moment his fishing line entered the river, he knew that he wouldn’t be able to catch anything from the river with his current power level. Trying to do so would be way too risky, so he had merely wanted to try out the experience.

Gu Er was furious when he was informed that Lu Yin had already stopped fishing. After remembering that Lu Yin was his family’s enemy, his attitude had taken a complete 180. He wanted Lu Yin to die on the ark, but Lu Yin held a very special status, which meant that they couldn’t attack him. Gu Er had initially thought that Lu Yin might get injured while fishing, but he had never expected him to quit after no more than ten minutes.

“Seventh Bro, you’re very smart. The Astral River isn’t something that you can consider fishing in for now,” the Ghost Monkey said.

Lu Yin returned to his personal spacecraft since it was the only place where he felt safe and secure here, especially since Elder Gu De was nearby. He was even a Hunter. Lu Yin was slightly concerned that Elder Gu De might try to attack him, but fortunately, his spacecraft could withstand a Hunter’s attack, which gave Lu Yin a tremendous sense of relief.

“Monkey, when do you think I’ll be able to risk fishing in the Astral River?” Lu Yin asked out of boredom.

The monkey thought about it before answering, "You'll need to be at least at the Explorer realm, I think. With your crazy strength, you'll be able to defeat ordinary Cruisers as soon as you become an Explorer. At that moment, you should be able to hold your own against the Astral River."

"Ye Xingchen is already adventuring in the Cosmic Sea. I'm still a ways behind him," Lu Yin said.

The monkey disdainfully retorted, "That's impossible! How could a mere Limiteer explore the Cosmic Sea? Even the Ten Arbiters weren't able to do that, so there must be some special reason why he's able to survive in the Cosmic Sea. It's just that we don't know what it is yet."

Lu Yin realized that the monkey was right; Lu Yin was on the same level as Ye Xingchen, but he couldn't even protect himself from the Astral River. Thus, for a Limiteer to survive in the Cosmic Sea, there must be some unique circumstance behind it.

It was a shame that Lu Yin couldn't contact his family. Otherwise, he would ask them about it. He also wondered how Big Sis and the others were doing in Leon's Armada.

In a distant corner of the universe, the Cosmic Sea was violently surging as normal, claiming countless lives.

This dangerous place should have been completely silent, but laughter could be heard in a dark corner of a certain strait.

"Big Sis, congratulations on extinguishing the Skywolf Battlegroup!"

"Congratulations, Big Sis!"

"Congratulations, Big Sis!"

...

There was a bang, and an energy wave calmed the surging straits, causing the Cosmic Sea to enter a rare state of calm. "Bring me some alcohol."

"Captain, stop drinking. You always end up beating people when you drink too much."

"That's right, captain, you shouldn't drink anymore."

...

"Shut up! Keep drinking!" A tremendous roar tore the sky apart and split the strait in two.

In a certain corner of the deck, Reuben stared out at the sea with a complicated expression in his eyes.

"Thinking of Little Yin?" a melodious voice asked from behind.

Reuben turned around, and his eyes narrowed. "Big, Big Sis, your looks have changed again."

An exquisite beauty was standing in front of Reuben. She was very alluring, but she had an extremely thick waist, which sharply contrasted with her beauty.

"Let it change. It changes several times a day. Such a pain!"

Reuben miled bitterly. "There's nothing that you can do about it now. It's all because you didn't learn that skill properly, so now, your appearance constantly changes. It would actually be strange if it stopped changing one day."

"Are you thinking of Little Yin?" Big Sis asked once again after taking a sip of alcohol.

Reuben nodded. "Little Yin has never received any help from our family, and he's reached his current position through his own power, but he also has countless enemies." Reuben then looked at Big Sis. "Let's bring Little Yin back! Or let's at least announce that Little Yin belongs to Leon's Armada."

Big Sis swallowed a large mouthful of alcohol. "No."

"Why?" Reuben asked. "At first, we sent Little Yin to Earth because we were unable to protect ourselves. Although it was also to set up for him to investigate the Great Yu Empire, it was mainly to ensure his safety. Now that we've returned to Leon's Armada and the captain has acknowledged Little Yin, why can't we announce it to everyone?"

Big Sis grinned. "Little Yin can't be connected to Highsage Leon. That man's too unreliable. I'm different, but I still won't allow Little Yin to be connected to pirates."

Reuben was annoyed. "Big Sis, please stop saying that! That's the reason why you had a falling out with the captain in the first place."

Big Sis spat out the alcohol in her mouth. "These pirates only look at short term gains, but they don't have a long term future in store. That old fart is short sighted. I won't allow Little Yin to go down this path." She then turned around and left.

The surface of the sea started raging once again, and Reuben grew worried. He knew that Highsage Leon had heard Big Sis' words. Fortunately, they didn't fight over the matter. Otherwise, Big Sis and the others might have been chased out of the armada once again.

It seems like Big Sis is still angry that Highsage Leon sent pirates over to help Little Yin since that clearly revealed Little Yin's connection to the pirates. Reuben had also participated in that incident as well, and this was Big Sis' way of also warning him.

The Astral River Ark needed one and a half days to cross the Astral River, but after Lu Yin finished his fishing adventure, no one from the ark bothered him again, but Lu Yin also didn't pay much attention to this slight.

Once the ark touched down on the Innerverse, Lu Yin programmed his route into his ship and directly headed towards the Northline Flowzone.

Elder Gu De wanted to eliminate Lu Yin here and now, but it was too risky due to Lu Yin's very special status. Hence, the Astral River Flowzone Envoy could only watch on as the youth left, not doing anything.

Upon entering the Innerverse, Lu Yin emerged in the Blazing Mist Flowzone, which was near the Northline Flowzone.

He hadn't noticed it during his previous trip through the Innerverse aboard the warfront warship, but this time, Lu Yin noticed that the Blazing Mist Flowzone's temperature was much higher than the Outerverse's. He wondered if it was because of the difference between the Innerverse and the Outerverse or if the temperature was a unique phenomenon of the Blazing Region.

There had been a few spacecraft around Lu Yin when he first moved away from the Astral River, but he soon left them all behind since his spacecraft was extremely fast. It was so incredible that its speed left many people surprised.

Lu Yin's spacecraft soon disappeared into the stars,

According to the coordinates that he had received, he would soon reach the Astral River tributary where the Blazing Mist and Northline Flowzones intersected. At that point, he would have to board another ark in order to cross the tributary. That vessel would be considerably smaller than the Astral River Ark but still much larger than any personal spacecraft.

Although there were only a few arks along the tributary, Lu Yin could use the network to determine the current location of each ark in order to better plan his route.

According to his route, he had more than five hours to go before he reached the edge of the tributary, and an ark would arrive two hours after that. Only then would he be able to board the ark and cross into the Northline Flowzone.

The scheduling was pretty similar to his initial estimation.

If not for his current status, he would still be stuck exploring the Outerverse and wouldn't have even had a chance to enter the Innerverse.

In the direction that Lu Yin was heading along, there was an old man on a star who suddenly lifted his head. The man was completely unaffected by the burning star. "You've finally arrived. Undying Yushan paralyzed my limbs, so I'll take the life of his heir as revenge."

Lu Yin was busy reciting the Stonewall Scriptures in his personal spacecraft while considering all the things that he would have to do upon arriving at the Northline Flowzone. Actually, there wasn't too much that he needed to do; he simply needed to witness the Northgate Platform competition, which didn't even mean anything to him.

As far as Lu Yin was concerned, there was still San Dios, the Great Yu Empire, and many other responsibilities that needed his attention. The more he thought about all the things on his plate, the more Lu Yin felt like he had too many priorities and that he shouldn't be wasting his time in the Northline Flowzone.

His heart beat suddenly started racing as he felt the portent of an imminent threat.

Beep, beep, beep

An alarm rang out within the spacecraft as a flash of light appeared before Lu Yin's eyes. A star shattered, and an enormous hand stretched towards his spacecraft.

**Chapter 374: The Power Of Lightning**

Lu Yin's scalp went numb. The feeling from this attack meant that this person was a Cruiser—no, a Hunter! A Hunter was attacking him.

With a clang, the spacecraft released a deafening sound as Lu Yin felt his head ring. He looked up, and instantly saw an old man standing high above him in space.

The old man had a furious, venomous look in his eyes as he stared at Lu Yin. "Undying Yushan stole all of my limbs, so you'll pay the price in his stead!"

Lu Yin's pupils shrank as the spacecraft immediately suffered another round of attacks, releasing a sharp, keening sound.

Thankfully, an Aurora spacecraft was able to withstand attacks from a Hunter once it reached the blackhole grade. Lu Yin wasn't the least bit worried that the spacecraft would be damaged.

The old man snickered. "It's just a blackhole grade spacecraft. Do you seriously think that it can withstand attacks from someone truly powerful? It looks like I'll have to remind you that battle techniques exist in this universe!" After saying that, the old man used his star energy to form not just one, but multiple palms that started continuously bombarding the spacecraft.

A blackhole grade Aurora spacecraft's ability to withstand a Hunter's attack was something that only applied to the average Hunter. When a true elite took action, such a spacecraft wouldn't be able to block their attacks. As the old man had said, there were still battle techniques that he could use.

The image of myriad palms filled Lu Yin's vision as they smacked against the spacecraft. While the spacecraft could withstand the abuse, Lu Yin was not as sturdy. He coughed a mouthful of blood up onto the screen and loudly shouted, "I'm a member of the Lockbreaker Society and a part of the Ten Arbiters Council, old man! Are you sure that you want to kill me?"

The old man chuckled maniacally. "I don't have any limbs, and I can't regenerate them either. I'm just a dead man walking. If it weren't for the fact that Wendy Yushan's too powerful and that I'm not completely confident in my chances of killing her, I would have taken her down with me a long time ago. But it's not too bad if I take you down with me instead!"

The blood drained from Lu Yin's face. There was nothing that he could do against a Hunter. Even if this old man was the weakest Hunter, he would still be able to kill Lu Yin without a problem.

"How did you know that I'd be here?" Lu Yin shouted.

The old man snickered. "You're still trying to weasel information out of me even when you know that you're about to die? I'm going to make sure that you die with a ton of questions that you wish you knew the answers to!" After that, berserk star energy filled the area and ruthlessly attacked the spacecraft. After being attacked so many times, the spacecraft was finally unable to resist any longer and cracked. Lu Yin looked stricken—was he really going to die here? He hated this feeling. An old man wanted to die with him? This was bullshit!

"Think of something, Seventh Bro! I don't want to die yet!" the Ghost Monkey screeched.

Lu Yin coughed up another mouthful of blood. His physical body was on the verge of giving out, and he could already feel the vacuum of outer space trying to pull him outside.

“Hurry up and use Ancestor Wushang’s Skin! A Hunter can’t handle its pressure!” the monkey yelled.

However, Lu Yin could no longer hear anything. He’d lost control of his senses, and blood was pouring out of all of his body’s orifices. His body and the spacecraft were akin to toys that could only wait for the old man to deliver the final blow.

The old man arrogantly exclaimed, “Your death will allow my descendants to prosper for a long time. Die!” After that, star energy shot through the void, letting out a crackling, thunderous rumble as it moved in to destroy Lu Yin.

Lu Yin watched the spatial tears shred the area outside the spacecraft, but when he saw the lightning, he remembered something. He lifted his hand, causing his die to appear. He then activated the innate gift of lightning that he had borrowed from the rabbit and used it to sweep across the space in front of him, aiming deep into the dark depths of outer space.

Everything fell completely silent, and the old man’s eyes narrowed as he gazed at Lu Yin in disbelief. How was such a thing possible? How had he been killed by a streak of lightning? This lightning bolt’s power level was definitely over 200,000. But how could this kid have such a powerful thing? The old man would never know the answer, because he died as soon as the lightning struck him. His body flew away into the nether, nobody knowing where it might land.

That streak of lightning that Lu Yin had just used came from the terrifying rabbit that he had encountered on Savage Ape Planet. It had rendered a nine-headed Savage Ape unconscious with a single stomp on the head, and that ape had had a power level of over 200,000. That meant that the rabbit’s power level must be unimaginable in comparison. Even though Lu Yin had only borrowed a tiny bit of that lightning, it was still enough to instantly kill a Hunter.

Lu Yin heaved a heavy sigh of relief and felt a sudden wave of dizziness overcome him. There was a rattle as his spacecraft shattered, finally unable to hold on after suffering the Hunter’s barrage of attacks. Lu Yin was now directly exposed to the vacuum of space.

This was not Lu Yin’s first time being directly thrown into outer space after escaping from a threat that could end his life. Last time, he had luckily been saved by Madam Nalan, but this time, there weren’t any nearby spacecraft that could help him.

He closed his eyes in despair, knowing that things were over for him. He’d thought that his safety had been assured due to his status and various titles, but when someone who didn’t fear death came for him, all of that became worthless. Power was the ultimate basis of everything.

At that moment, Lu Yin regretted not earning more money to increase his power.

However, it was now too late for regret now. Lu Yin took in his last surroundings. So this is what space feels like... As the last scrap of air from the spacecraft dissipated, he found it hard to breathe. Then, he felt a building pressure within his body, which seemed like it was liable to erupt at any moment. This would be the last scene he saw in his life.

A Limiteer would definitely die if they were exposed to outer space like this. Of this, there was no doubt.

After waiting for a while, Lu Yin found it strange as he seemed to be... okay?



He raised his hand and looked at the lines on his palm. He could still see them very clearly. While there was a huge pressure differential between his body and outer space, he hadn't exploded, and although he wasn't breathing, he was still alive. Was he actually able to survive in outer space?

He was astonished. Why? Was it because his body was incredibly strong? That was the only explanation that he could come up with.

The monkey had no response to any of this. Lu Yin looked around and found that there was no end to the dark space around him. There were only distant cosmic bodies, emanating soft rays of light.

Although he wasn't dead, his movements were rather slow, and his ability to use star energy was heavily restricted. If he could use 100% of his abilities when he was on a planet, then in space, he couldn't even use 10% of his strength.

I wonder how long I can stay alive for, Lu Yin bitterly thought to himself.

There were disadvantages to a spacecraft being too advanced. His spacecraft had moved far too quickly, and the rest of the vessels were far behind him. He hadn't even had an opportunity to call for help.

If he'd known that this would happen to him, he would have kept a set of universal armor in his cosmic ring. That would be much better than leaving his body completely exposed like it currently was.

There were all kinds of strange phenomena throughout the universe. Who knew if his body would be able to withstand those things.

Perhaps it was due to the fact that Lu Yin was pretty lucky, but he soon saw a spacecraft speeding over in the distance. Lu Yin was thrilled and immediately used his star energy to create the universal distress symbol. However, the spacecraft completely ignored him and simply sailed on past him.

Lu Yin was at a loss. The spacecraft was traveling incredibly quickly while he was moving incredibly slowly. It was impossible for him to catch up.

Right after that, some more spacecraft flew past, but not one of them moved to help him.

Many knew that, when traveling through space, it was better not to seek trouble. Few people would take the initiative to help others. The concept of showing gratitude was nonexistent in the universe, and many pirates used similar methods to lure in unsuspecting travelers. This caused most people to be on guard during interstellar travel.

Lu Yin stood no chance if things continued the way they were. After pondering things over for a long time, he decided on his next move.

Star energy swirled around the tips of his fingers and formed tiny, string-like structures that extended into the distance until he was no longer able to control them. He then did his best to weave the strings together into a star energy web, of which he sat in the center, like a spider. As long as a spacecraft flew past and touched a string, he would be towed along.

Lu Yin was gambling everything on his luck now. Would he die of hunger first, or would he run into a spacecraft?

Compared to the vastness of space, the area that Lu Yin's star energy web covered was minuscule. Lu Yin's entire fate hinged on pure luck, but it was the only thing that he could do in this situation.

Two more spacecraft flew past. They were too far away, and his star energy couldn't reach where they passed. Lu Yin waited there nervously, hoping that he'd be lucky.

Meanwhile, a spacecraft was traveling through outer space at high speeds. It seemed normal, but if one looked carefully, they would notice a splatter of blood on the inside of one of the transparent pieces of metal that acted as a window on the spacecraft.

Within the spacecraft, an emotionless young man with a cold look in his eyes wandered about, carrying an ordinary looking blade in his hand. Blood ominously dripped off of it.

Bang Bang!

A gun formed from star energy was fired, and both metal bullets and beams of light mercilessly blasted at the man. However, neither form of attack had any effect on the man beyond tearing some of his clothing apart.

The man slashed about with his blade and another round of heads fell down. Headless bodies tumbled to the floor as the blood pooled into a scarlet stream. The man calmly stepped in the blood and continued forward, leaving bloody footprints behind.

The stench of blood eventually spread throughout the entire vessel.

Within the pilot's room, about ten people were gathered together, watching the man's inexorable progress on a screen while trembling in fear. "Who is he? Why is he killing us?"

"Is he from the Blaze Realm? But that's impossible. They don't even know that we exist!"

"Whatever happens, Paige cannot die!" a middle-aged woman shouted in a determined voice as she glanced at a young man trembling in the corner.

Everyone else glanced over at him with complex emotions in their eyes.

"Paige is the representative of the Gasfire Alliance. As long as he's alive, we'll definitely be able to go against the Blaze Realm. But the moment he dies, the Gasfire Alliance will fall apart," she stated resolutely.

"That's enough. We'll protect him even if it means our death," someone else said.

Soon enough, the young man was forced to put on a set of universal armor. A middle-aged man crouched in front of the youth and bitterly said, "Live on, Paige! You are the foundation of the Gasfire Alliance. As long as you are alive, we'll be able to hold out against the Blaze Realm."

The young man called Paige looked absolutely terrified. "W-Will I ever be able to live a normal life?"

Everyone around him fell silent.

The middle-aged woman appeared sorrowful. "I'm sorry, but you carry the hopes of the older generation. You are the true successor of the Blaze Realm, and your very existence is the entire reason why the Gasfire Alliance has the motivation to keep resisting them. Remember this: everyone will do everything in their power to protect you because you are the most important one out of all of us. Always remember this!"

With a bang, the sturdy metallic door to the pilot's room was kicked from its frame, and the young man who was like an Asura walked in. He looked about the room, his emotionless gaze flitting past everyone until his eyes finally landed on Paige.

The middle-aged woman's heart skipped a beat. So he really is here for Paige. But who in the world is he? If this man was from the Blaze Realm, then it didn't make sense for him to be here. Instead, they would have sent some ultra-powerhouse after them.

"Who are you? Why are you killing us?" someone shouted.

The young man's reply was to lift his sword and sweep out with it. The middle-aged woman gritted her teeth and waved her hand, causing flames to spring up that tore through the void. She was an Explorer, but her efforts were futile. The young man cut through her flames with a single stroke, and the blade even continued on to sink into the person closest to him, cleaving the other man in two.

The aura of fear in the room became even more palpable.

Paige went pale and hid in fear.

The middle-aged woman had a bitter expression. She was an Explorer, but she couldn't even fight back at all. Where had such a monster come from?

The blade continuously flashed as it slashed about the room. Even though the middle-aged woman stood in his way, the young man continued attacking everyone else. Blood, decapitated bodies, and dismembered limbs filled the room, creating a scene straight from hell.

The thick stench of blood was enough to cause one to puke.

The young man slowly stepped closer to the middle-aged woman and Paige, who was behind her. They were the only two left alive.

Blood continued flowing across the floor.

### **Chapter 375: Corpse King Transformation**

"Who the hell are you?!" the middle-aged woman shouted. Blood kept flowing from her abdomen—she'd been injured.

The young man remained silent as he continued advancing. He casually stepped through the puddles of blood, emanating a horrifying aura.

Paige was on the verge of fainting.

The young man stopped three meters away from Paige and the middle-aged woman before raising the blade in his hand and slicing through the void.

A crazed look appeared in the middle-aged woman's eyes as she grabbed Paige and tossed him towards the transparent metal window. "RUN!"

As an Explorer, the middle-aged woman was actually fully capable of tearing the spacecraft apart with her attacks, so it was easy for her to toss Paige out of the vessel. Although the young man attacking them was also an Explorer and would be able to chase Paige into outer space, she wouldn't let any chance for Paige to escape pass by. Paige could not die! That could not be allowed to happen.

Paige felt a sharp pain in his back as the transparent metal cracked and he was flung an unknown distance away from the spacecraft and into outer space. What did space feel like? He didn't really know because he wasn't even a Limiteer—he was just a mere Melder. He was deathly afraid of the unknown aspects of outer space, but before he could even think about his fear, the scenery around him retreated and suddenly seemed to draw far away from him. Paige had been thrown back into the spacecraft by some outside force and bashed against the wall.

The middle-aged woman was stunned. What was going on?

The young man holding the sword had not even swung it yet, and he was looking to the side.

Lu Yin was incredibly excited to finally encounter a spacecraft that had come near enough to land his star energy net. The strings that he had made were incredibly sturdy, especially since he had comprehended a domain. Due to how quickly the spacecraft was moving, it was impossible for it to avoid Lu Yin's web. When the spacecraft ran into the strings, the huge force had caused Lu Yin to swing around in a huge circle before landing in the spacecraft itself.

It was a bit like being on a swing.

Lu Yin had been delighted and eager to enter the spacecraft, but then, a human-shaped figure had suddenly appeared in front of him, heading straight for him. He had become extremely irritated. What was this about? Was this person trying to kick him away? That wouldn't do! Without a second thought, Lu Yin kicked the figure hard and sent them flying right back inside the vessel. He then paused for a moment, not wanting to rush into the spacecraft right away. Thankfully, he was in front of the vehicle now, so there would only be a moment or two before it caught up to him.

Lu Yin pathetically fell into the cockpit, entering through the broken transparent metal window that had been cracked open.

Cough cough!

It had been a while since he'd last taken a breath, so Lu Yin huffed and puffed when he encountered air again. Finally. Finally! This was so difficult.

The atmosphere in the room became rather strange. Paige was stuck inside a wall, and it was unknown if he was dead or alive. The middle-aged woman and the young man were both staring at Lu Yin. At that moment, nobody moved.

Lu Yin took a few deep breaths and then frowned. The stench of blood was incredibly strong, causing him to look up. All of a sudden, he felt his scalp go numb, and he dodged to the side as fast as he could. A blade swiped past his ear, nicking him and causing a thin line of blood to run down his cheek.

Lu Yin became furious; that attack had been meant to kill him! He looked up, and the first person to enter his vision was a young man holding a sword.

The youth seemed surprised that Lu Yin had managed to dodge his attack, and without any hesitation, he launched another attack that was even more malicious than the first. As the second attack tore through the void, Lu Yin could tell that, although it was very direct and didn't have much variation to it, it still gave off a sense of danger due to its sheer power. The attack carried an aura about it that was vaguely reminiscent of Liu Shaoqiu's First Sword: vast, precise, and embodying the full physical power of the attacker. This person was undoubtedly an expert.

Nine stars revolved around Lu Yin as he stared intensely at the sword's trajectory before dodging the attack. At the same time, he swept out with a foot. A heavy thud resulted from the collision as he kicked the young man out of the room.

The middle-aged woman's pupils constricted as she stared at Lu Yin in shock. This person was incredibly strong. Wait a second, why does he look so familiar?

Lu Yin retracted his left foot and frowned hard. He had felt a strange reaction when his foot had connected with the young man's body. That person had an incredibly tough body, and it almost felt like he had kicked a piece of solid steel.

He turned to look at the middle-aged woman again as he checked his surroundings. Lu Yin seemed to have landed himself in more trouble.

But before he could say anything, a blade flashed out as the attacker from before swung his sword. Lu Yin quickly evaded this attack as well, but the transparent metal window of the spacecraft was torn apart even further, and the air within the vessel began leaving at an even faster rate.

That young man passed through the void and struck out with his sword even more viciously than before. Lu Yin was given no time to think, but with the aid of his Cosmic Art, he managed to stop the sword before it connected by grabbing the attacker's left arm while counterattacking with his own right hand. Lu Yin struck the youth's chest with a Twenty Stacks Thirtyfold Shockwave Palm.

There was a huge boom as the massive force destroyed the room. The entire vessel went dark, and the young man was sent flying through the walls of the vessel and into outer space.

Lu Yin grimaced. He'd used too much strength just now, and the spacecraft was done for after that last attack. This wouldn't do! He'd just escaped from certain death! He turned towards the woman. "Are there personal spacecraft on board?"

The middle-aged woman had already guessed who Lu Yin was by this point, and she nodded in response. "Yes."

Lu Yin sighed in relief. He didn't care how many were present, just so long as there was one that he could use. After all, he'd just saved this woman's life.

"Are you Lu Yin?" she asked.

Lu Yin just grunted in acknowledgement. "This spacecraft is about to be destroyed. You should leave."

The middle-aged woman opened her mouth and was about to say something, but her expression suddenly changed to fear as she looked above Lu Yin's head.

Lu Yin felt his heart thump hard, and he looked up as well. His eyes widened when he once again saw the young man from before. The youth should have been injured or even killed by Lu Yin's earlier strike, but there he was, standing atop the spacecraft looking perfectly fine as he calmly stared at Lu Yin. Those eyes... Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. Those eyes could only be from the Neohuman Alliance! He'd only ever seen something similar in the eyes of the Neohuman Alliance's members.

Those entirely emotionless eyes that looked like they belonged to a zombie.

Could this person be from the Neohuman Alliance? Lu Yin wasn't entirely sure. There were all sorts of battle techniques in the universe, and there were even a few that could cause the cultivator to lose their emotion. One could not generalize and say that having a cold gaze meant that someone was from the Neohuman Alliance.

However, what happened next allowed Lu Yin to confirm that this person was from the Neohuman Alliance. That was because the youth's eyes transformed, taking on a scarlet color with vertical pupils.

The slitted scarlet eyes were a distinct feature that only belonged to those of the Neohuman Alliance.

Lu Yin wasn't alone in this realization; the woman beside him also recognized these features and went pale. "The Neohuman Alliance?"

"You. Must. All. Die." The young man stared at Lu Yin with his scarlet eyes. The sword in his hands vanished as he charged straight at Lu Yin. The spacecraft jostled, and the young man threw out a strong punch. The terrifying force of the fist caused the entire spacecraft to start speeding out of control at a startling rate. The punch was enough to kill an ordinary Explorer.

Lu Yin was careful to not underestimate a Corpse King from the Neohuman Alliance. These people were enemies of the entire human race.

Boom!

Lu Yin matched the attack with a punch of his own.

Ferocious shockwaves spread out in all directions and caused cracks to appear all over the entire spacecraft. The area under Lu Yin's feet shattered, and the attack nearly tossed him back into outer space. He really didn't want to fall out of the spacecraft, so dark-gold light surrounded him as his battle force activated. Lu Yin then suddenly seized the young man by the wrist and exerted his full force. The young man was a Corpse King, and technically speaking, he should not have the lower hand in terms of physical strength against anyone of his realm. However, he was confronting Lu Yin, so there was little he could do.

Crack!

The Corpse King's wrist fractured, and he quietly howled in pain. His scarlet eyes stared at Lu Yin, leaving the Limiteer with a minor feeling of fear. But Lu Yin gritted his teeth and instead exerted even more strength. The extra force completely broke the Corpse King's wrist, and he howled in agony. The scarlet

eyes vanished, or rather, they transformed, turning into grey eyes. They went completely grey, the kind of color that devoured everything in its path. Even the Corpse King's hair turned grey.

At that same moment, the broken wrist became as good as new as an indescribably powerful aura descended, filling the area. Lu Yin felt his heart start to race. "Seventh Bro, you need to attack! This is a Corpse King Transformation! This guy won't be an easy opponent, so you need to stop him before he finishes transforming!"

Lu Yin did not hesitate and planted his palm on the young man's chest, exactly where he had landed his previous attack. "Thirty Stacks, Fortyfold Shockwave Palm."

Everything seemed to go quiet for an instant. After that instant passed, the Corpse King was blasted away by Lu Yin's attack. Thirty Stacks was a terrifying attack, and it was truly unbeatable within the Limiteer realm. It was also Lu Yin's strongest attack and capable of sending the young man flying.

"RUN BRO! You won't be able to kill a Transformed Corpse King as long as you're still a Limiteer!" the Ghost Monkey shouted in a panicked voice.

Lu Yin had no time to ask any questions and only glanced at the middle-aged woman before racing toward the spacecraft's hold.

The woman also knew that things had gotten serious, and she gritted her teeth as she pulled Paige out of the wall and carried him to the hold as well.

Soon enough, two spacecraft soon flew away from the ruined vessel and headed in two different directions.

After the two spacecraft had left, the young man returned. His appearance was completely different from before. His entire body was now grey, and his strength was enough to warp the void. When he casually waved his hand, the ruined spacecraft was reduced to dust. After looking about, he quickly started pursuing one of the spacecraft.

"How'd you get involved with the Neohuman Alliance again, Seventh Bro?" the monkey shrieked, sounding like he was on the verge of tears.

Lu Yin was speechless. "I didn't get involved! This was a complete coincidence."

"That's even worse! That means that trouble turns up wherever you go! A Hunter just tried to kill you! Wake up, man! Can't we just stay somewhere safe in the future? Don't leave home!" the monkey howled miserably.

Lu Yin frowned. "I've got a question for you. What's a Corpse King Transformation?"

"It's the ultimate battle technique of the Neohuman Alliance, and it was specifically created for the Neohumans. With each transformation, their power levels spike," the Ghost Monkey explained listlessly, feeling like his future was bleak. The incident where Lu Yin had been attacked by a Hunter had traumatized him.

"How much stronger do they get?" Lu Yin asked curiously. The monkey knew how strong Lu Yin was, but despite all that, he had still immediately urged Lu Yin to escape. That had to mean that the increase in strength wasn't a small amount.

“Do you know why the entire universe fears the Neohuman Alliance?” the monkey asked.

Lu Yin didn't answer.

“I'll tell you why. First of all, it's because of their philosophy, which is to turn all humans into Corpse Kings in order to obtain immortality. The second part is their strength. You already know how powerful that Corpse King just now was. Before transforming, his physical body was already incredibly strong. And after that transformation... his strength increased to somewhere around ten times as strong than before,” the monkey stated grimly.

Lu Yin's expression changed. “Ten times?”

“Yes. Ten,” the monkey answered seriously.

Lu Yin was shocked. What kind of technique was so terrifying that it could strengthen a person's body tenfold?

“Even a regular Corpse King's body has been enhanced through various means. With your abilities, you're definitely invincible amongst Limiteers. Even the other true Ten Arbiters' candidates are no match for you. You're at the top. However, that Corpse King isn't much weaker than you. Even a Limiteer Corpse King wouldn't be much weaker than you. That is the standard of the average Corpse King from the Neohuman Alliance,” the monkey stated definitively.

### **Chapter 376: Chance Encounter**

“Their normal standard doesn't lack much even when compared to you, so you can imagine what that's like when that's multiplied tenfold! This should also explain to you why the entire universe views the Neohuman Alliance as a great enemy. Their power cannot be judged by normal conventions, and all of their members are automatically disregarded whenever the universe judges the strongest of the younger generation.”

“If the Neohuman Alliance is one of the Three Dark Hands, then the other two Hands must possess about the same power, right?”

The Ghost Monkey sighed. “I don't know about that since the Court of Seven Names has declined, but even then, its power cannot be fathomed by normal people. As for the last Hand, no one knows.”

“Then, are members of the other two Hands also eliminated when the universe evaluates the younger generation?”

“Maybe, but they probably aren't at the standard of the Ten Arbiters. Those ten are the result of the universe's great change.”

“How do you know so much? You even know the characteristics of a Mutant Corpse King.” Lu Yin was baffled.

The monkey was pleased by Lu Yin's question. “Everything I know was written in those ancestors' records. They roamed the universe for many years, and they naturally ended up knowing a lot.”

“Then tell me what's above the grey eyes.” Lu Yin was curious.



The monkey paused. "Green eyes."

"And above that?"

"Seventh Bro, do you really think that I'm an idiot? Only a ghost would know what's above green eyes. Anyone who's seen above that has died! They wouldn't even have a chance to record it down!

"Right, Seventh Bro, how did you survive? Last I remember, we should have been killed by a Hunter."

Lu Yin's eyes flashed. "You didn't see?"

"See what?"

Lu Yin did not know if the monkey was faking ignorance since he hadn't had enough time to screen off the beast's senses before using the die. "A powerhouse happened to pass by and saved us on their way."

"A mighty powerhouse? They saved us? In that case, why didn't they send us someplace safe? We even ran into a Corpse King!" the Ghost Monkey continued to nitpick at the details.

Lu Yin grew impatient. "Where are all these questions coming from? Any more and I'll block you off again."

The monkey was rendered speechless and could only mutter silently to himself.

Lu Yin finally managed to get his hands on a spacecraft, but it was a very ordinary vessel and much slower than what Lu Yin had been travelling on before. Also, the spacecraft presented a new problem for him.

While he was escaping, the personal spacecraft had been struck by something and damaged, so it would not be able to go all the way to the Northline Flowzone. Lu Yin had no choice but to look for the nearest transfer planet and hitch a ride on a merchant's ship to the Northline Flowzone.

The closest transfer planet wasn't too far from him, and it would have taken his previous spacecraft less than ten minutes to travel there. However, his current spacecraft flew at a more leisurely pace, and the journey ended up taking an entire two hours.

Lu Yin did not plan on keeping this spacecraft since it was too slow. It also wasn't an Aurora, so it couldn't be upgraded.

When he walked out of the space station, he looked up and took a deep breath. A cacophony of melodies and noises instantly assaulted his senses. The environment on this planet was acceptable, and the development of its technology was pretty good. Overall, it had a rather lively atmosphere.

He used the perks that came with his Honor Points to quickly seek out the person with the highest authority at the space station. Once they recognized him, they quickly expedited his processing through the checkpoints and gave him a new change of clothes. After only about ten minutes, Lu Yin was aboard a passenger flight headed towards the Northline Flowzone, and in a luxury cabin to boot.

Lu Yin sat in a sleek, cozy recliner within the cabin, ready to check the news regarding the Northline Flowzone. But as soon as he opened his gadget, a message appeared with a bunch of words that caused black lines to crease Lu Yin's forehead. "Return the money, return the money..."

Lu Yin was speechless. That brat Lulu was pushing him. She had probably gone to visit the Great Yu Empire, not discovered any clues related to the Seven Courts, and then directed all her frustrations onto him.

Lu Yin replied, "Hang tight."

Not long after, Lulu sent him another message. "You're so cruel to not pay me back."

Lu Yin's face distorted. He had never even said that he wouldn't pay her back!

He was about to retort when he noticed a fragrance waft towards him, and he looked up to see a beauty sitting in the sleek chair next to him. She nodded amicably towards Lu Yin.

Lu Yin's eyes lit up. She was such a beautiful lady, and she only seemed to be about twenty or so. Her style was fashionable, but not too revealing, and her high-heels were very noticeable. Lu Yin had not seen any of the ladies around him wearing high-heels before since they were not suited for battle.

This woman was elegant and different from the combative females that Lu Yin was usually around. She had a gentle aura around her. It was not a pure gentleness like Ming Yan, but more like a concealed sharpness, where a tough interior was covered with a soft veneer.

"Nice curves, Seventh Bro. She's checking you out! Time to make a move!" the monkey shrieked within Lu Yin's head.

Since he had been in a hurry, Lu Yin had ended up boarding the lowest grade passenger vessel. Even though he was in a luxury cabin, it wasn't actually a single room and housed two people. He had been wondering who would be his companion for this trip, but he had never imagined that he would end up paired with a beauty.

Lu Yin nodded amicably towards the girl and then looked back to his gadget, ready to write an angry reply to Lulu.

At that moment, the girl stretched out a slender, pure-white hand to Lu Yin. "Student Lu, it's nice to meet you. I'm Lily Anne."

Lu Yin was astonished, but briefly grasped the girl's hand before quickly releasing it. "Lily Anne? What an unusual surname."

Lily Anne stroked her lustrous hair with a smile. "Student Lu is correct. I'm from the Northline Flowzone's Lily family."

Lu Yin was immediately taken aback. "So you're the heir of the Lily family. What a coincidence it is to meet you here."

She smiled. "I thought so as well. I never expected to meet the strongest and most famous champion from the academy."

“Miss Lily Anne is also from the Astral Combat Academy?” Lu Yin was puzzled.

“I graduated. Now, I have nothing to do, so I roam about every day.”

“Oh,” Lu Yin acknowledged.

At that point, the spacecraft started moving towards the Northline Flowzone.

This kind of passenger spacecraft had an agreement with the Astral River Tributary Ark so that it could cross at predetermined times. If one could afford to buy a ticket, then they would definitely reach the Northline Flowzone on schedule.

Lu Yin had not paid any money, but he had still been able to casually board the spacecraft. Although it was a bit embarrassing, he would save money whenever he could, as even this small amount might allow him to Possess with someone more suitable whenever he rolled six pips: Possession again.

Lily Anne was Lu Yin’s senior by nearly ten years, and she was much more experienced than him as well as an Astral Combat Academy graduate. Lu Yin increased his knowledge by discussing a variety of topics with her within the luxurious cabin. Well, he at least discovered that not everyone within the Human Domain had the same features. There was a common phenomenon, similar to the natives of Firesmelt Planet, where people’s appearances would change to better suit the environment of the planet.

Lily Anne introduced several monstrous-looking humans to Lu Yin; some had four hands, grew to be a hundred meters tall, were born with three eyes, or could only speak in song. Lu Yin could only stare at her blankly as he tried to wrap his mind around each introduction.

This Lily Anne was clearly an Explorer since she had graduated from the Astral Combat Academy, but Lu Yin found it very difficult to sense any ripple of star energy from her. She either had a similar technique to Lu Yin’s Invisible Aura Technique, or she had developed a habit of concealing her aura. Of course, another possibility was that she had comprehended a domain and had merged into her surroundings.

“Previously, we caught wind that Student Lu would be managing our Northline Flowzone, and we are rather excited. Student Lu is not as arrogant as those from the Daynight clan and is more easy to get along with,” she said happily.

Lu Yin smiled. “Miss Lily Anne is exaggerating. I’m only ‘overseeing’ the younger generation and not ‘managing’ them. The Ten Arbiters Council has no authority to meddle in the various administrations, so we’ll only intervene if there are any youths who overstep their boundaries.”

She smiled. “That’s already quite impressive. The brilliance of the Ten Arbiters has illuminated the universe, and I trust that Student Lu will reach similar heights in future.”

Lu Yin could tell that this woman was trying to flatter him.

“When will Student Lu break through to the Explorer realm? I heard that, during the Astral Combat Tournament, Student Lu made an agreement with the Sword Sect’s Liu Shaoqiu to challenge the Top Hundred Rankings together. I believe that Student Lu should already be powerful enough to challenge those on the rankings.”

Lu Yin humbly replied, “No, not yet. The Top 100 Rankings are the younger generation’s best elites, and I’m still just a Limiteer. I wouldn’t dare to be delusional. However, Miss Lily Anne should be amongst the Top Hundred, correct?”

Lily Anne shook her head. “No. Of those from the Northline Flowzone, only Northgate Lie has stepped into the Top Hundred Rankings, and he’s only ranked ninety third at that. The rest of us are unable to qualify, so we wish for Student Lu to fight and bring glory to the Northline Flowzone since you are now a part of us.”

Lu Yin immediately refuted her words with modest remarks.

The conversation between the two had moved from something normal to something abnormal. Lu Yin didn’t even notice when they had started flattering each other, but their talk became weirder and weirder until they soon stopped talking.

“Seventh Bro, what does this woman want? To lick your boots?” The monkey could not understand the girl’s behavior.

Lu Yin’s eyes flashed. Lick my boots? It was certainly possible since he felt like this woman wanted to put him at a disadvantage through her flattery. However, it was also possible that his current status was high enough to attract sycophants who wanted to butter up to him. He turned to look at the woman next to him.

Lily Anne was holding a book and reading it in an elegant manner. Under the soft illumination of the cabin lights, she looked like a goddess.

Lu Yin turned away. It did not seem all that likely that this woman was trying to cozy up to him. However, he had also never offended her, and he wasn’t losing out on anything either. Could it be that she wanted to ask him for some favor?

He activated his gadget and began to research the Lily family. He quickly found some information about Lily Anne, and his eyes widened in surprise. This woman was actually the successor of the Lily family, but she spent her time roaming about as she pleased? Were these families actually this carefree?

He turned to look at Lily Anne once again. Now that he knew about her identity as her family’s successor, the woman’s goddess-like aura became even more intense. To many, marrying such a woman would mean an abrupt rise in power as she represented the Lily family, one of the Northline Flowzone’s three great families. They even had an almighty powerhouse watching over them whose power level was over 200,000.

“Student Lu, what’s the matter?” Lu Yin had been staring at Lily Anne this entire time, and his actions didn’t go unnoticed.

Lu Yin felt awkward. “This- Miss Lily Anne, I would like to ask you something about the Northgate Platform Competition.”

She set her book down and smiled gently. “Student Lu, you should have already learned about the general situation from the network, and with your authority, you should be able to find out some of the more confidential information as well. What does Student Lu wish to know more about? Feel free to ask me.”

Lu Yin muttered to himself for a few seconds before looking at her. “The seventeen families stand united just because of this Northgate Platform Competition? The three great families always control Northgate Platform, which seems to imply that the other fourteen families are just their vassals. Am I understanding the situation correctly?”

Lily Anne’s eyes flashed, and she started stroking her hair again. “Student Lu’s perspective is not quite the same as others’. Generally, people watch the battles at Northgate Platform to see which youths from the seventeen families are good-looking, or which powers they are friendly towards. However, Student Lu seems to be more concerned about the matter of the families being united, is that correct?”

### **Chapter 377: Circling Wolves**

Lu Yin nodded, as he was truly curious about the matter. The Northgate Platform Competition was really between the three great families, not all seventeen. The other fourteen families were essentially playing supporting roles.

Lily Anne considered the question for a moment before then looking at Lu Yin. “When wolves circle, the lambs will still look to the hounds for the protection, even if they will be slaughtered by the hunters later.”

This one sentence clearly explained the state of the Northline Flowzone.

Lu Yin shivered, as the woman had not mentioned the seventeen families a single time, but her simple analogy was so apt that he had instantly understood everything. The other fourteen families would rather seek protection from the three great families than be divided and conquered by the other Flowzones. It was the tragedy of the weak. The universe was filled with such motivations and behavior.

Lu Yin looked away. He now had a much deeper understanding of the situation in the Northline Flowzone, as well as of the purpose of the Northgate Platform Competition—the primary intention was undoubtedly to intimidate neighboring enemies.

“Brother Lu, many experts have been invited to attend the Northgate Platform Competition as witnesses. Allow me to briefly introduce them all to you.”

Lu Yin nodded, as he was somewhat curious to discover who the Blazing Mist Flowzone had sent.

“First, there are the top-class experts. The Beast Tamers Flowzone is the closest to the Northline Flowzone, and they’ve sent a First Grade Hall Expert named Fayde. His power level is 170,000, and he’s not far from becoming an almighty powerhouse.”

“The Blazing Mist Flowzone’s Blaze Realm has sent Poison Flame, whose power level was 160,000 over ten years ago, but his current power level is unknown.”

“The Blazing Mist Flowzone’s Ross Empire is sending Duke Blackhawk over. Like Poison Flame, his last known power level was 160,000, and so, a conservative estimate of his current power level would be around 180,000.”

“The Tempest Flowzone isn’t too far from the Northline Flowzone, and they are sending...”

...

Many experts had been invited to attend the Northgate Platform Competition, and two of the eight Great Flowzones had also sent people over. In total, there would be more than ten experts in attendance when the smaller flowzones, such as the Tempest Flowzone, were taken into account.

These experts were attending as witnesses, and they were not that powerful, as not all of them were even Hunters. The truly notable ones were the Beast Tamers Flowzone's Fayde and the Blazing Mist Flowzone's Poison Flame and Duke Blackhawk.

The enemies of the Northline Flowzone were cautious precisely because of these two Flowzones.

Although the other Flowzones were not lacking in Hunters, they were not able to casually dispatch them either. However, the eight Great Flowzones were different; they could even send out almighty powerhouses at a moment's notice, which were generally treated as ultimate guardians and protectors for the smaller Flowzones, which so they would not easily move about.

The passenger spacecraft was not very fast. It took the vessel five whole days to travel from the transfer planet to the Astral River Tributary Ark, where it finally entered the Northline Flowzone. These five days were the same amount of time that Lu Yin had estimated his trip from San Dios to the Northline Flowzone would take.

To cultivators, time was life. This huge delay caused him to consider procuring a blackhole grade Aurora of his own when he returned.

Lu Yin had not noticed it when he first stepped foot in the Blazing Mist Flowzone, but the deeper in he went into the Inniverse, the firmer the space felt.

He had travelled through the Inniverse before, when Big Sis had taken the whole family on a tour of the Inniverse. He had still been a regular human at that time and hadn't become a cultivator yet, so he had not felt anything abnormal. His second trip through the Inniverse had been when he had traveled to the border warfront in the Erudite Flowzone. Along the way, the warship had passed through the Blazing Mist Flowzone, but Lu Yin had only crossed through the outer boundary of the Inniverse the entire time, so the difference in how the space felt had not been that apparent. But on this trip to the Northline Flowzone, he could clearly sense the change in the void. The space felt much denser, but it was not a huge difference from what he was accustomed to.

Upon arriving at the Northline Flowzone, Lily Anne started acting as a host for Lu Yin. A luxurious spacecraft belonging to the Lily family was already prepared for them even before they exited the passenger spacecraft. Lu Yin and Lily Anne were immediately taken into the luxurious spacecraft, which then headed towards the Northgate Platform Competition.

"There's still about ten days until the Northgate Platform Competition starts. I can first take Brother Lu to the Northgate Platform so that you can familiarize yourself with the Northline Flowzone's customs."

Lu Yin immediately turned her down. This woman had been flattering him from the first moment they met, and he found it difficult to endure the obsequious schmoozing. He was certain that Lily Anne had some favor that she wanted to ask of him, so he tried his best to limit his interactions with her.

"Brother Lu, why are you so wary of me?" Lily Anne tried to probe into his thoughts.

Lu Yin smiled. "Of course I'm not wary of Miss Lily Anne. It's just that Astral-10 has arrived in the Northline Flowzone, and I would like to return there first."

She smiled back in response. "I understand. I must just be too apprehensive. Still, Brother Lu has referred to me by my full name this entire journey, and it feels a bit cold. Aren't we friends?"

Lu Yin forced another smile onto his face. "Then I'll call you Miss An'er."

Lily Anne smiled in tacit approval.

"That's right! Brother Lu, there's something that I forgot to tell you." She then activated her gadget and turned the display on. "When Astral-10 first arrived at the Northline Flowzone, a wave of students from Shangwu Academy went to challenge them, and the challenges haven't stopped yet, though most of them were defeated."

Lu Yin looked at the screen, and it was showing Zora's battle against a stranger, who should be a student from Shangwu Academy. The student wasn't weak, probably a Limiteer, and he seemed very familiar with the battle techniques that he was using. However, despite all that, he was still defeated by Zora.

Lu Yin felt that there was something different about her. The Windrift Hall had its own style of battle, and it was rather unique. If their disciples touched an opponent with even just a finger, then they would be able to seal off their opponent's star energy. It was something that Lu Yin would look into if he had the time.

In addition to Zora, Zhao Yilong, Meng Yue, Coco, and the others also battled. Shangwu Academy lived up to its reputation, and many challengers emerged, despite almost all of them losing. There were the occasional victors as well, such as the person who fought against Meng Yue and easily won.

"That's Northgate Gang, the younger brother of the Northgate family's young master, Northgate Lie. He's one of the strongest students in Shangwu Academy." Lily Anne introduced the standout student to Lu Yin.

He nodded. Although Shangwu Academy could not be compared to the Astral Combat Academy, it was actually very normal for such an institute to have a few powerhouses. Meng Yue, Zhao Yilong, Schutz were all among the weaker students of Astral-10, followed by Hui Daynight, Michelle, and the others. Although Northgate Gang had beaten Meng Yue, he was not even close to being Michelle's match and was about the same strength as Hui Daynight.

To be able to rival a Daynight clan expert was pretty decent.

The most hilarious battle was Coco's. She ran about frantically with her giant syringe, as if she was going to jab whomever she caught. The giant syringe indeed looked terrifying, and Lu Yin, even now, did not dare to suffer its jab. It looked very painful.

However, she had still been defeated since her weakness was very obvious. She was vulnerable to ranged attacks and had not been able to hold out despite her syringe's impressive defense, since it could not last for too long.

After Coco's defeat, Xia Luo was up next. Lu Yin knew this could not be considered a battle to Xia Luo. After all, the man was nearly invincible within Astral-10: second to only Lu Yin and about on par with

Silver. If the two of them battled, the outcome would not be easily determined, but either of them were able to crush almost everyone else. The Astral Combat Tournament's results had answered many people's questions about the two's strength. They were strong enough to battle against other student leaders.

Lu Yin had never been able to get a clear read of Xia Luo's power, but his progress was unbelievable, just like Silver's.

"He should be one of the top students of Astral-10, right? Once he acts, even the strongest fighters in Shangwu Academy will be defeated without any suspense." Lily Anne's eyes lit up as she watched Xia Luo's battle.

Lu Yin nodded. "He's second only to me."

Lily Anne was shocked. "Of course. It's no wonder why even Northgate Gang wasn't able to force him to reveal his true strength with his current power."

Lu Yin rolled his eyes. Even he could not see through Xia Luo's true potential, so forget someone like Northgate Gang. Xia Luo had never seriously fought against Lu Yin before, and Lu Yin finally realized that their previous battles which he had considered serious had all been nothing more than jokes to Xia Luo.

The wave of challenges that Astral-10 faced from Shangwu Academy was just a small distraction. Arrangements had already been made for Lu Yin to stay in the grandest hotel near the Northgate Platform. Lily Anne tried to invite Lu Yin to stay at her house, but she was tactfully declined.

When he saw the Northgate Platform, Lu Yin was shocked. The square stone platform was incomparably large and floating freely in the air. The vast universe indeed held many mysteries.

Lily Anne did not bother Lu Yin much longer, and she soon left after making some arrangements.

Lu Yin stood inside his hotel room, looking outside where there were many students exuding a youthful energy. For them, the Northgate Platform Competition was a lively event, but that was mostly because they did not know that the gathering was actually a tragedy for the Northline Flowzone. A tragedy to intimidate external enemies, and a tragedy where they had to reveal their strength.

Lu Yin contacted Old Cai, but he did not hurry back to Astral-10. Since he was already at Northgate Platform, he naturally wanted to better understand the people of this academy. After all, it was under his direct supervision since the Ten Arbiters Council had appointed him as overseer for the Northline Flowzone when he had become a member of the Council of Astral Academy.

Lu Yin rested for a day.

His accommodation had its own courtyard, and outside of that was the hotel lobby.

Lu Yin casually ordered a few dishes while he sat in the lobby, observing the area. Since it was mealtime, more students started appearing.

"Why do you think the Astral Combat Academy students are so strong? Our Shangwu Academy has gathered all the top geniuses of the Northline Flowzone, but we've racked up more losses than wins."



Not far away from Lu Yin, there were a few students stuck in a bad mood who were loudly discussing the recent fights. Lu Yin ignored them and kept to himself as he ate.

“Alright, stop getting a big head. What ‘more losses than wins?’ Almost no one from our academy won besides the top students like Northgate Gang.”

“Not necessarily. That girl can be beaten.”

“Aren’t you ashamed that you’re even considering fighting a girl?” a female student berated.

“Alright, don’t blame him. It’s really not good to provoke the Astral Combat Academy students. Don’t you remember how the eldest daughter of the Lily family, Lily Anne, even rebelled against her family and insisted on attending the Astral Combat Academy? And Northgate Lie tried his best to enter the Astral Combat Academy, but ended up staying here after the Shangwu Academy Headmaster promised to groom him with more generous resources.”

“The difference between the academies is too great. The lowest mentors in that academy are Hunters while those at our Shangwu Academy are mostly Cruisers. Hell, some aren’t even Cruisers!”

“You can’t say that either. A good deal of the Top Hundred Rankings didn’t attend the Astral Combat Academy. One’s strength still largely depends on their personal aptitude.”

...

Shangwu Academy’s wave of challenges had triggered these students’ competitive spirit, but a sobering wave of reality had crashed down upon them soon after.

Lu Yin smiled when he heard that Astral-10 was no pushover. Although the crazy headmaster had caused Astral-10 to decline, the current batch of students were different. Old Cai and the other mentors had made up their minds to individually instruct the students personally, which allowed Meng Yue and the others to undergo vast improvements. By now, they were able to match up to the average students from the other branches of Astral Combat Academy. Darkvoid, Michelle, and many others had even surpassed the average students and were closing in on the level of an Area Master. Also, there was Lu Yin himself.

“Seventh Bro, isn’t hearing the helplessness of others behind their backs very satisfying?” the Ghost Monkey asked with a laugh.

Lu Yin drank a mouthful of his wine. “It’s pretty good.”

### **Chapter 378: Decent Flavor**

It wasn’t just those few students sitting near Lu Yin who were discussing Astral-10; practically all of Shangwu Academy’s students were doing so.

Lu Yin initially wanted to visit Shangwu Academy and look around a bit, but then, he suddenly received an invitation from Lily Anne to attend a small gathering at Northgate Mansion.

Northgate Mansion was Northgate Platform’s most luxurious convention center, and it featured the Northline Flowzone’s most delectable extravagances. This was where Northgate Platform hosted their most important guests, and it was also used as a gathering area on a regular basis.

Of course, an average person could not use the location since it was exclusively reserved for the seventeen families' use.

Lily Anne had invited Lu Yin to attend a gathering of the younger generation from the seventeen families so that he could meet some peers. This gathering was a tradition that was often used to resolve grudges that arose before the Northgate Platform Competition began.

After hesitating for a bit, Lu Yin agreed. After all, he could not reject the various invitations forever, and he truly did need to have some interactions with the cultivators in his own generation. He was supposed to oversee the local youths and represent the Ten Arbiters, but he was actually quite new to this position.

Northgate Mansion was not too far from Lu Yin's accommodations since his hotel was second only to Northgate Mansion in terms of opulence.

At this moment, quite a few youths had gathered at the mansion, and it seemed like the influential students were starting to arrive. There were a number of beauties standing outside the building, gazing at the entering students with expectant faces, hoping to be taken inside. If they could enter Northgate Mansion, then their status would skyrocket since this event was being watched by everyone on the Northgate Platform. Hence, every time there was a gathering at the Northgate Mansion, countless beauties would gather outside in an attempt to make their way in. No matter the social circle, they all had their own internal struggles. Even if outsiders could not see the internal battles, they still existed.

Right when Lu Yin arrived outside of Northgate Mansion, a beautiful woman emerged by his side and glued herself to him, intent on accompanying him as shown by her seductive movements and passionate eyes.

To be honest, Lu Yin had never encountered such a situation before. He was just slightly over twenty, young, and healthy. Thus, he was stunned when a beautiful girl wrapped herself around him.

Fortunately, someone quickly arrived to rescue him: Lily Anne. "Brother Lu, it hasn't even been a full day, but you're already paired up with a pretty lady. It looks like An'er will need to step up her game." Lily Anne put on a brilliant smile as she walked towards Lu Yin.

Lu Yin didn't reply, but the face of the pretty girl next to him abruptly changed as she hurriedly untangled herself from Lu Yin's arm while frantically apologizing before fleeing the scene.

Lu Yin was stumped. "What just happened?"

Lily Anne smiled at him. "They're just trying to worm closer to people of influence. Brother Lu, don't bother with them."

Lu Yin immediately understood after thinking about it some more. As he looked around, there were many beautiful women briefly appearing near him and directing expectant faces his way. Lu Yin didn't hate these women; everyone took a different path in life, and both their methods and struggles would naturally be different. No one was qualified to look down on such people. However, playing with someone's feelings was another matter altogether.

"Let's go, Brother Lu. Everyone's waiting for you." Lily Anne gestured towards the inside of Northgate Mansion, and Lu Yin followed her inside.

He already had some expectation for what he would see upon arriving, but Lu Yin was still shocked at the extravagance before his eyes when he actually walked into Northgate Mansion. It was completely different from the external world! It seemed as if everything pleasurable had been brought into this place: gourmet food, fine liquor, beautiful people, and even glowing fruits. There was everything that one could imagine.

Lily Anne looked at Lu Yin and saw his shock, as well as his slow recovery. Involuntarily, her brow furrowed; wasn't Lu Yin's identity so complicated that even the Daynight clan had to be cautious of him? Why would he be astonished at Northgate Mansion's display? Such luxuries and decorations might be beyond the imagination of a common citizen, but this should be nothing to an heir of a great power.

Still, Lily Anne did not put too much thought into Lu Yin's reaction. Every family would nurture their young in their own way, so it was possible that Lu Yin had been raised in poverty!

Lu Yin casually picked up a gleaming fruit and took a bite. It was sweet and juicy with an exquisite taste. Its texture felt wonderful as he swallowed and he admired the fruit as he picked up another.

Lily Anne just smiled at him.

There were more than a hundred youths from the seventeen families gathered in Northgate Mansion, and there were also some other youths from various powers that were on friendly terms with the Northline Flowzone. Most of them were in the lobby, although a select few were gathered in a private room on the top floor. This was a place that was typically reserved for those from the three great families.

At this moment, the ones in the private area were laughing as they watched a screen. "This Lu Yin must not have much of a background. Look at his poverty-stricken face! It's as if he hasn't ever eaten anything good in his life!" someone ridiculed.

Northgate Gang's lips curled up. "Don't say it like that. Maybe he's hungry."

"Haha," the crowd laughed along.

A pretty girl's eyes gleamed as she asked, "Right, Brother Northgate, when is Senior Lie arriving?"

Northgate Gang slowly answered, "I'm not sure. He might come, and he also might not come."

"What a pity. There are rumors that this Lu Yin can match up to the tailend of the Top 100 Rankings, so I was hoping that Senior Lie would come and teach him a lesson. It's a joke that someone like him is actually overseeing us!"

"That's right! Historically, the Ten Arbiters Council haven't ever intervened in our Northline Flowzone's matters, but now, they've actually sent a student over to stand above us!"

When this was mentioned, Northgate Gang lost his previous jovial mood. The Northgate family had spent a great deal of effort to nurture Northgate Lie in hopes that he would one day be able to make his way into the ranks of the Ten Arbiters Council and eventually supervise the Northline Flowzone and perhaps even the other surrounding Flowzones. This would greatly help reduce the pressure that the Northline Flowzone's neighbors placed upon it, but all of these plans had been destroyed by Lu Yin's appearance. This was the primary reason why Lu Yin was despised by the entire Northgate family.

Thump!

The door burst open as a youth excitedly rushed in. "I heard that Lu Yin's here. Where is he? Where is he?"

Many people felt their heads ache when they saw this youth, Lily Shu'er. She specialized in creating trouble, but she was also the second in line to the Lily family, right after Lily Anne. She held a rather high position in their family and was doted upon by Granny Chan, so she was able to act with impunity within the Northline Flowzone.

Northgate Gang felt even worse than the others in the room; he had been ordered by his family to pursue Lily Shu'er, but the more he interacted with her, the more impossible he knew this task was. This brat had a fiery personality, and she could even cause problems over the course of a simple meal. He did not know what more he could do.

"Yes, your sister is playing hostess for him." Northgate Gang pointed at the screen.

She looked up and saw Lu Yin swallow an egg-shaped object, which was actually a delicious cake.

Lily Shu'er blinked. "That's Lu Yin? Is he that hungry?"

The crowd burst into laughter.

Suddenly, Lu Yin looked up at them, and they felt their hearts tighten, as if something had thrust through their chests. They instinctively avoided Lu Yin's gaze after being faced with it.

Fortunately, Lu Yin only glanced up briefly before lowering his head back down and continuing to sample the offered food.

Northgate Gang narrowed his eyes and clenched his fists. He had been frightened by just a look! This Lu Yin had to be taught a lesson.

"Not a bad expression. I like it! Northgate Gang, get Senior Lie to fight with him. I don't believe that this guy's as strong as they portrayed him to be in the Tournament of the Strongest. Those battles were definitely staged!" Lily Shu'er cried out.

Northgate Gang had the same intentions as her, but he could only wait for his elder brother to show up. Hopefully, his elder brother would end up coming!

Lu Yin had been eating for a while since the food here was just too delicious. Even though the dishes were not made with ingredients that were as rare as what Madam Nalan had shared with him, it was all still very tasty. "Not bad, your Northline Flowzone has excellent delicacies. I have a friend who calls himself a gourmet, but I doubt that he'll be here."

Lily Anne smiled. "If Brother Lu's friend visits us, then the Lily family will absolutely offer them a warm welcome."

Lu Yin laughed; he had been referring to Silver. If Silver really came, then how would the Lily family welcome him? Did the Neohuman Alliance require a warm welcome? The welcome would consist not of a banquet, but rather of a death sentence.

“Brother Lu, have you eaten your fill?” Lily Anne asked.

Lu Yin nodded. “Yes, let’s go. Hopefully, the people that we’ve been waiting for have arrived by now.”

Her eyes flashed. “Who is Brother Lu referring to?”

Lu Yin shrugged. “I’m not sure, but doesn’t the guest of honor usually show up last to these sort of gatherings?”

Lily Anne smiled. “Is Brother Lu referring to himself?”

“Miss An’er, don’t be mistaken. I’ll wager that there’s still someone who has yet to arrive.” Lu Yin was now interested, as he was gradually coming to better understand these aristocrats’ habits. The more important the gathering was, the later the self-important people would arrive. It was all done to showcase their value.

Lily Anne politely declined the wager since she was well aware that Northgate Lie was still missing. Could Lu Yin be referring to him?

Of the seventeen families, only the most important children of the three great families could gather at the top floor. Anybody who could step foot within the top level would attract attention, so Lu Yin was feeling the gaze of the entire Northgate Mansion lobby crowd on him, and especially so from some young ladies who desperately wanted to accompany him.

Entering Northgate Mansion indicated one kind of status, but entering the top floor was another.

When they saw Lu Yin’s face, quite a few people cried out. The Astral Combat Tournament and the Tournament of the Strongest had caused Lu Yin’s fame to skyrocket, and he was now an existence that most people were aware of. Even though not that many people had seen the Tournament of the Strongest, the entire Human Domain had seen the Astral Combat Tournament. Lu Yin was no longer able to go unnoticed unless he purposefully altered his appearance.

“It’s Lu Yin! Lu Yin’s arrived. The Ten Arbiters Council sent him here to oversee the younger generation of our Northline Flowzone.”

“It’s really Lu Yin. I really want to have a match with him and taste the power of the strongest student from Astral Combat Academy.”

“Brother, forget about it. If we can’t even defeat those regular students of Astral-10, then you should forget about Lu Yin.”

...

Lu Yin did not even know the degree of influence that he currently wielded among the younger generation. Because of him, the number of youths who wanted to enter the Astral Combat Academy had dramatically spiked. Many youngsters were eager to become famous, and nothing could create

fame faster than being declared the best in the entire universe at something. Lu Yin's achievements had built a standard, just like the Ten Arbiters had.

Lily Anne soon escorted Lu Yin to the private room on the top floor of the mansion. The people inside had been watching Lu Yin the moment he stepped inside the mansion, so no one was surprised at his arrival.

Lu Yin had just noticed the numerous monitoring devices in the lobby, so he had already known that he was being watched. He could even tell that quite a few of the people present did not want him here.

"Everyone, allow me to introduce Lu Yin, a member of the Council of Astral Academy. He's responsible for the Northline Flowzone's younger generation's education, supervision, punishment, and other such administrative issues."

After her introduction, quite a few stepped forward to exchange some greetings with Lu Yin, though others, such as Northgate Gang, did not bother.

One girl was especially lively and rushed over to stare at Lu Yin with large, curious eyes.

Lu Yin looked back at the kid, feeling rather perplexed.

"Shu'er, stop playing around and get over here," Lily Anne berated softly as she pulled the girl behind her. She then apologized to Lu Yin. "I'm sorry, Brother Lu. This is my little sister, Lily Shu'er. She's a bit mischievous, so please don't be offended by her actions."

"Sis, I'm already old enough, so don't treat me like a kid!" Lily Shu'er was not happy with her sister's introduction.

Lily Anne returned her sister's look with a glare of her own.

### **Chapter 379: An Arrogant Lu Yin**

Lu Yin laughed. "It's said that the Lily family is famous for its beautiful women, and it certainly seems to hold up. Miss An'er and Miss Shu'er are both very beautiful."

"Now then, tell me. Who's prettier, my sister or me?" Lily Shu'er instantly asked while staring intently at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was stunned. He had just said that to be polite, but it felt like he had trapped himself with his own words. Lily Shu'er seemed to be genuinely interested in hearing the answer to her question.

Lu Yin was speechless, but he sheepishly answered, "Both of you are equally beautiful."

"Brother Lu, please sit down. Don't just stand around." Northgate Gang said as he pointed to an empty chair.

Lu Yin looked over and saw that the seat he had been offered was not the top seat, or even the second seat. According to the rules, the seats were ordered in terms of hierarchy. This meant that, at least as far as Northgate Gang was concerned, there were three people with higher standings than Lu Yin.

Lily Anne's expression changed and she looked sternly at Northgate Gang. "Young Master Northgate, it seems like you've pointed to the wrong seat. Brother Lu should sit there." She then pointed to the top seat.

Northgate Gang sneered as he replied, "Miss Anne, the top seat naturally belongs to my elder brother. However, my elder brother has gone to greet the witness from the Fire Scorpion Sect of the Tempest Flowzone, and I believe that their witness happens to be the chief disciple of the Fire Scorpion Sect. So tell me, Miss Anne, do you really believe that the chief disciple of the Fire Scorpion Sect is not fit to sit in the second position?"

Amused expressions appeared on everyone's faces as they looked at Lily Anne and Lu Yin.

Since Northgate Lie was ranked on the Top 100 Rankings, many of the Northline Flowzone's youths believed that he deserved the top seat. The question was really a matter of who qualified to sit in the second seat, since that would indicate that they were second only to Northgate Lie.

Lu Yin's status as a member of the Ten Arbiters Council was in no way inferior to anyone from the Fire Scorpion Sect's. However, Northgate Gang simply did not like the sight of this representative of the Ten Arbiters. Furthermore, Lu Yin had no background and had even offended the Daynight clan. Who knew how much longer he would survive for? In the eyes of many here, offending someone who could quite possibly be killed off at any time while risking the chance of offending the Fire Scorpion sect was a foolish thing to do. The Fire Scorpion Sect was a power second only to the Feng family within the Tempest Flowzone, and they were known for their cruel way of dealing with others. They were also a force that the Northline Flowzone could not ignore.

Lily Anne's voice turned much colder. "Brother Lu represents the Ten Arbiters Council. Young Master Northgate, do you really believe that the Ten Arbiters Council is inferior to the Fire Scorpion Sect?"

Northgate Gang immediately retorted, "This gathering right now is only for those in the younger generation, so there's no need to mention people's status. Even if we ignore the fact that my elder brother is a ranked individual on the Top 100 Rankings, Miss Anne, you are a powerful Explorer as well. Even you should be seated more prominently than Brother Lu. Brother Lu, are my words wrong?"

Before Lily Anne could reply, Lu Yin raised his hand to stop her. He looked at Northgate Gang and then casually asked, "Brother Northgate, correct me if I am wrong, but you're basically saying that the seating is done according to our individual abilities, right?"

Northgate Gang loftily replied, "That goes without saying."

Lu Yin nodded his head. "If that is the case, you are right. I should not be seated in the third seat. I should be seated..." Lu Yin let his words trail off for a moment as he pointed at the top chair before continuing. "There."

After he spoke, everyone's expression changed.

Northgate Gang slammed his fist into the table and stood up, glaring at Lu Yin. Everyone's face became worried.

What arrogance! This man was claiming the head of the table as his own even after being told that it was reserved for the most powerful individual! Did this not imply that Lu Yin believed that he was stronger than Northgate Lie, someone who was on the Top 100 Rankings?

Lily Anne was stunned. During the few days that she had spent getting to know Lu Yin, she had come to believe that he was a humble and approachable man, and he had even downplayed her many compliments every time they came. So why was he being so arrogant at this moment? Northgate Lie was a man in the Top 100 Rankings! He was someone who had received countless resources and who had spent his entire time being trained by the Northgate family and Shangwu Academy. Who was Lu Yin to claim to be stronger?

Meanwhile, Lily Shu'er's eyes were captivated by Lu Yin's image. What a suave man! Even though he didn't have much to boast about in the looks department, he had an exceptional heroic spirit. How smooth!

Lu Yin's eyes turned cold. He had initially intended to keep a low profile during this mission, but since he was representing the Ten Arbiters, he had to act with a certain amount of assertiveness. According to the Sandmaster, the Ten Arbiters represented boldness and vast power. Since Lu Yin was currently representing them, then he could not back down at this moment. If he did, it would affect not just his seat at this table, but also how he was seen by the Ten Arbiters.

The Ten Arbiters Council was not known for appearing weak or acting humbly. Since the Ten Arbiters claimed to be undefeatable, then Lu Yin had to behave in the same manner while acting on their behalf. How else would they subdue the younger generation of the Northline Flowzone? Acting in a modest manner would only make the council more vulnerable to outside attacks.

Before arriving at the Northline Flowzone, Lu Yin had already made up his mind that he would not play nice during this visit. He had come here to demonstrate the power of the Ten Arbiters to the Northline Flowzone's younger generation. He was certain that, instead of playing tricks in the dark and biding their time, the Ten Arbiters' style was one of complete and utter dominance.

Just the idea that any one of the Ten Arbiters had ascended to their current positions through petty acts of trickery and deceit was blasphemous. Each one of the Ten Arbiters represented unsurpassed power and an enigmatic person.

For Lu Yin to truly step into his current role, he needed to treat these youths the same way he treated those of the Great Yu Empire. Back then, he had stood far above everyone else. He had to act in the same manner here, especially when around those of his generation.

Northgate Gang stared fiercely at Lu Yin, at a complete loss for words.

Just then, the room door suddenly swung open, and a young man with a dignified presence entered. His eyes darted past everyone before fixing straight on Lu Yin, staring at him hard.

"Elder brother!" Northgate Gang cried out with joy.

Everyone else in the room also looked at the young man with happy faces.



The young man who had just entered was none other than Northgate Lie. He was ranked ninety third in the Top 100 Rankings. He was also the strongest member of the Northline Flowzone's younger generation.

Lu Yin raised his head and locked eyes with Northgate Lie. This was not the first time he had come across a powerful figure from the Top 100 Rankings. Puyu, Wendy Yushan, and even Mira were much stronger than this Northgate Lie. However, this was also the man who made Lu Yin the most excited. This was purely because Lu Yin was confident that he was able to defeat Northgate Lie.

When Lily Anne saw Northgate Lie arrive, she hurried forward. "Big brother Lie! It has been a long time since I last saw you."

Northgate Lie did not shift his gaze away from Lu Yin to look at Lily Anne. Behind him, another young man walked into the room. This second person had a scorpion prominently tattooed on his face, and his eyes were dark red, giving him a rather sinister look.

"Are you Lu Yin?" Northgate Lie asked, his voice resounding through the room like the toll of a large bell. One could tell from his tone that he was a firm, ruthless man.

"And you are Northgate Lie, someone in the Top 100 Rankings," Lu Yin replied.

The corner of Northgate Lie's mouth twitched. "I have long heard about the champion of the Tournament of the Strongest, Lu Yin. I heard that you can easily defeat powerful Explorers and even Cruisers. Now that I see you, I can see that your reputation is indeed well-deserved. In fact, you are even more arrogant than I expected."

Lily Anne's face changed. "Big brother Lie--"

But before she could continue speaking, she was stopped by Northgate Lie. "Anne, the Northline Flowzone cannot be looked down upon."

After those words, Lily Anne could no longer speak up. She only shot Lu Yin a complicated look.

With a smile on his face, Lu Yin said, "Brother Northgate, I have never looked down upon anyone. It's merely that, on some occasions, some people tend to underestimate me. Sometimes, respect needs to be earned on our own."

Northgate Lie cried out, "Well said! I was under the impression that you were coasting along on the Ten Arbiters' prestige."

Lu Yin stopped smiling, and his face turned grave. "While I may represent the Ten Arbiters here, I am still my own person. Brother Northgate, you should be well aware that I should have arrived at the Northline Flowzone a long time ago. If I relied just on the official seal from the Ten Arbiters to command the respect of all of you here, it would be very difficult. Besides, I do not enjoy letting others fight my battles."

Northgate Lie lifted his head. "Well said, Lu Yin. You are more bold than I imagined. The Council of Astral Academy rarely asks about the younger generation of Inniverse. They act more like clerks for the Ten Arbiters who do paperwork. They often rely on the Ten Arbiters Council to accomplish their tasks, which makes all of us look down upon them. Since you have the courage to come here on your own and make

such a brave proclamation, then I'm willing to be your friend no matter what. However, I do hope that you aren't just spouting off empty words."

Northgate Gang immediately spoke up, "Lu Yin, since you talked a good game, have a battle with my elder brother."

"Yes, Lu Yin. Fight him if you think you are so good!"

"Fight! Fight!"

Everyone around immediately started to chant for a fight.

The sinister man behind Northgate Lie sized up Lu Yin, his eyes full of amazement.

Lu Yin released a slight smile. "Sure, but first, let me state the conditions before we have a match."

Northgate Lie raised a hand. "If you win, the younger generation of Northline Flowzone will do everything you ask. We'll also willingly cede control of Shangwu Academy over to you."

Lu Yin nodded his head. "Alright then. If you win, then I, Lu Yin, will never ever ask about any matters concerning the Northline Flowzone. I will also get the Ten Arbiters Council to stay out of your affairs."

"Alright, we have a deal," Northgate Lie crisply replied.

On the side, Northgate Gang was becoming increasingly excited. He did not believe that there was any chance that Lu Yin could beat his brother. No, it was impossible! Getting into the Top 100 Rankings was no mean feat. Among the Northline Flowzone's entire younger generation, only Northgate Lie had managed to get on the list. As far as Northgate Gang was concerned, his brother was unbeatable within his own realm. There were only those hundred other cultivators within the entire universe that could compare to him! That was how rare it was to get onto the rankings. It was something that most people would never be able to achieve in the course of their entire life, so it was obvious that Lu Yin couldn't defeat Northgate Lie!

Northgate Gang was still struggling to come up with a way to get rid of Lu Yin, but he had never expected it to happen this easily. To think that he had struggled so long to come up with a plan, only for Lu Yin to walk straight into this fight. Clearly, Lu Yin was not a cool-headed man.

After settling the details of the battle, Lu Yin bid goodbye to Lily Anne and left. No one at the gathering liked him, so there was no need to stay any longer and take their looks of disdain.

Just as he walked out of the Northgate Mansion, Lily Anne caught up to him and apologetically said, "I am sorry, Brother Lu. I didn't think that things would turn out this way."

Lu Yin smiled. "You have nothing to apologize for. I already expected something like this to happen."

Lily Anne sighed before saying, "The Ten Arbiters Council is working to take control of the universe's younger generation. There will be no exceptions anywhere, and the Northline Flowzone is naturally included in their goals. That's why Northgate Gang and the rest are trying to get rid of you. However,

they don't realize that, even if you leave, someone else will just replace you. The Ten Arbiters will not let go of any region."

There was a glint in Lu Yin's eye. It was obvious that Lily Anny had carefully thought things out before speaking. She had sensed something coming.

"If you leave, your replacement might be an individual who is ranked even higher on the Top 100 Rankings. So if and when that happens, even Northgate Lie will be rendered helpless. The Ten Arbiters Council will not let Northgate Lie gain control of the Northline Flowzone," Lily Anne mused.

"Is Northgate Lie also a part of the Ten Arbiters Council?" Lu Yin asked, taken aback. He did not know about this.

Lily Anne nodded. "He joined them after he joined the Top 100 Rankings."

"Which Arbiter is he under?" Lu Yin asked curiously.

Lily Anne shook her head. "I don't know. It's forbidden to speak the names of the Ten Arbiters, and Northgate Lie wouldn't dare to break that rule."

Lu Yin was disappointed. At the present, he only knew the actual names of three of the Ten Arbiters. The Arbiters that he was aware of were Nightking Zhenwu, Wen Sansi, and the Divine Fist, Lan Si. He had heard about some of the other Ten Arbiters, but he had not learned their names. All he knew was that one was from the Sword Sect, one the Phoenix clan, and someone nicknamed the War King. Lu Yin knew nothing at all about the last four Arbiters. Did their true names really need to be shrouded in such mystery?

Lu Yin was starting to wonder why the Ten Arbiters felt such a need to hide their names; what were they afraid of?

"Miss An'er, please go back. With this gathering of the seventeen families, your presence as an esteemed member of the Lily family is important," Lu Yin said with a smile.

Lily Anne apologized once more, but she left soon after that.

Lu Yin raised his head. Some things really had to be done with his own power. The Ten Arbiters were extremely powerful, and any one of the Ten Arbiters had the power to destroy a powerful force on their own. But in the end, that was the Ten Arbiters' strength and not Lu Yin's own strength. If he relied on their prestige to get things done, then he would live in their shadow for the rest of his life.

In fact, there were even members of the Ten Arbiters whom he saw as enemies.

The massacre of those with the surname "Lu" was something that he would never forget.

### **Chapter 380: A Gap**

After walking a short distance away from Northgate Mansion, Lu Yin stopped and called out, "Come out."

A skinny person walked out from behind him. It was nighttime, and the man's silhouette could only vaguely be seen. However, Lu Yin had comprehended a domain, which dramatically heightened his

senses. Despite that, even though he could clearly see the person in front of him, Lu Yin had no idea who the man was. "Who are you?"

The person had started tailing him the moment he exited Northgate Mansion, but Lu Yin had never felt any bad intentions from the man.

The silhouette approached Lu Yin, stopping about ten meters away from Lu Yin. "I'm Ah Fan. You might not know me, but I've fought you before. You should have some recollection of that."

Lu Yin was confused. "We've fought? When?"

Ah Fan seriously answered, "We fought in a ported battle. At the time, you had a red name."

Lu Yin was shocked. "You're the one who I won the teleportation stone from?"

Ah Fan reluctantly nodded.

Lu Yin didn't know how to respond. He had never thought that he would run into this person here. A ported battle could be between any two people who were in the younger generation and had access to a teleportation stone. This person had been extremely unlucky to have met Lu Yin when he had a red name. Moreover, Ah Fan was from the Northline Flowzone, giving Lu Yin the extremely awkward opportunity to meet this person in real life.

They looked at each other without speaking.

Although Lu Yin felt awkward, he wasn't too affected by it, as teleportation stones were meant to be fought over. When the crazy headmaster had ruined Astral-10, many of the academy's teleportation stones had been robbed, and this was a normal occurrence.

"What? Are you planning to get revenge?" Lu Yin asked.

Ah Fan stared at Lu Yin and seriously stated, "I want to fight with you again."

Lu Yin frowned. "You should already know that you won't be able to defeat me."

A trace of bitterness appeared within Ah Fan's eyes. "I know that, but I'm still a top student from Shangwu Academy. I really can't accept that I was defeated in a single move. At the very least, I hope to be able to withstand a second move."

Lu Yin raised his brows. "Withstand a second move? That's ambitious."

Ah Fan was stunned; it was withstanding two moves from Lu Yin. Was that really that ambitious?

Ah Fan didn't know that Lu Yin now used Thirty Stacks as a standard attack. There were only a few Limiteers in the entire universe who could withstand Thirty Stacks, and even some Explorers would be instantly killed by such an attack. This was why Lu Yin had said that Ah Fan was ambitious in his goal; even a grey-eyed Corpse King from the Neohuman Alliance had been defeated by that move.

Hang on, Shangwu Academy, Ah Fan? Lu Yin felt like he had heard this name before.

"Lu Yin, I, Ah Fan, personally challenge you to a duel," Ah Fan declared loudly.

Lu Yin finally recalled where he heard this name before. Ah Fan was one of the nominees from San Dios, and the records had shown that he was from Shangwu Academy.

“Did you participate in the Outerverse trials?” Lu Yin asked.

Ah Fan nodded. “Yes.”

Lu Yin nodded in understanding. Since this person had been nominated by San Dios and he had also exited from Northgate Mansion, he definitely had some background. This was the exact kind of person Lu Yin wanted to recruit. “You want to challenge me?”

“Yes,” Ah Fan replied seriously.

Lu Yin paused for a moment. “I can accept your challenge, but I have a condition.”

Ah Fan clenched a fist. “It’s just a battle, so why do you need a condition?”

Lu Yin smirked. “I only battle for personal gain or for self defense, so why should I battle with you? There are risks associated with battle, and I need to protect myself.”

“Fine, what’s your condition?” Ah Fan exasperatedly asked.

Lu Yin’s eyes gleamed. “I’ll give you two options. The first one is to join San Dios and become a subordinate member under me if you’re defeated.” Lu Yin paused at this moment since he didn’t know how to set a price. Back in Astral-10, when Craynor had challenged Lu Yin over Xi Yue, he had set a price of twenty thousand star crystals.

Twenty thousand had been a considerable amount to him back then, but now, he already owed fifty star essence just to Lulu, which was equivalent to five million star crystals.

Once he remembered that he still owed such a large amount to Lulu, Lu Yin steeled his gaze. “The second option is one star essence. You can choose either one.”

Ah Fan was stunned. “What- what did you just say? A star essence?”

Lu Yin nodded, but he had a bad feeling after seeing how stunned Ah Fan appeared. “You... don’t have that much?”

Ah Fan shook his head. “Star essence is way too precious. Normally, only the direct heirs of the larger families have access to such a thing. I don’t have any.”

“Star crystals are fine too. You can just convert it,” Lu Yin continued.

Ah Fan thought about the two options for a moment. “I’ll choose the first option.”

Lu Yin arched a brow. “Why? Don’t you have ten thousand star crystals?”

Ah Fan shook his head and bitterly answered. “It’s not that easy to save up so much money. My family gives me a normal amount of resources, and star crystals are allocated based on our cultivation rate. Between absorbing star crystals to cultivate and using them to train battle techniques, there’s not much left over. I simply don’t have that kind of money.”

Lu Yin could hear the bitterness in Ah Fan's answer. It turned out that life wasn't as good as he had thought it was for children from large families. Meanwhile, he was borrowing star essence from people. Wasn't that discrepancy a bit too big?

However, Lu Yin wouldn't have reached his current strength without money.

If he gave those same families an opportunity to spend hundreds of star essence in order to grant their heirs the power to become the champion of the Tournament of the Strongest, they would probably be overjoyed. Money served a different function for everyone. Although Lu Yin was always in need of money, Ah Fan just needed enough to continue training.

A penniless pauper—that was Lu Yin's new impression of Ah Fan.

"Fine, since you have no money, it's natural that you would accept the first condition and join San Dios if you lose," Lu Yin said.

Ah Fan didn't reject the condition. He wouldn't have that great a future if he stayed in Shangwu Academy anyways. He was still considering what to do in the future, and going to San Dios wasn't a bad option. Besides, he would be able to interact with Lu Yin more often and also be able to challenge him anytime.

Their current location wasn't in plain sight, but it wasn't very secluded, either.

"Do you want to go to another place?" Ah Fan asked.

Lu Yin slowly lifted his right palm. "It's just one move. It'll be faster here."

Ah Fan widened his eyes; Lu Yin was just too arrogant! "Fine! I'll attack now!" An oddly shaped weapon formed from star energy appeared in Ah Fan's palm, and he slashed out at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin disappeared only to instantly reappear in front of Ah Fan with his palm stopping mere inches above Ah Fan's head.

Ah Fan's face turned pale. His attack had been completely dissolved! On the other hand, even though Lu Yin hadn't used his full power, Ah Fan could still feel the overwhelming strength behind Lu Yin's attack.

Ah Fan had been defeated by Lu Yin in the ported battle after Lu Yin had used multiple stacks. But in this exchange, Ah Fan had seen the difference between the two of them even more clearly.

Lu Yin said, "You're too focused on your own attack. The gap between us is too large, so your attack is something that I can ignore. You should have been thinking more about how you could dodge my attack instead."

Ah Fan smiled bitterly. "So what if I can dodge one of your attacks? If this had been a fight to the death, then I wouldn't have been able to avoid your second attack anyways. The gap between us is just too vast."

Lu Yin didn't know how to console the youth. After all, Lu Yin's speed, strength, battle techniques, experience, and every other battle-related aspect far exceeded what Ah Fan possessed.

“Actually you’re not too bad. There aren’t that many people in this generation who can stay alive after taking a Seven Stacks attack from me, but you’re one of them.” Lu Yin was referring to their ported battle, when Ah Fan had only died after Lu Yin used all Nine Stacks. Although he hadn’t been using battle force at the time, it had still been an attack that was strong enough to kill an Area Master from the Astral Combat Academy. This showed that Ah Fan was at least comparable to an Area Master of Astral Combat Academy.

Ah Fan was stunned. Is he trying to comfort me? Ah Fan was well aware that he wasn’t that bad. He was one of the top students in Shangwu Academy. However, he was still resentful; Lu Yin and he were at about the same age, so why was there such a huge gap between them? He had always been considered a prodigy, and even though he had been defeated in previous ported battles besides facing against Lu Yin, he had always consoled himself with the fact that his opponent was someone much older than him. However, his defeat to Lu Yin had been a harsh wake up call, and his perspective was no longer limited to the Northline Flowzone; instead, it now included the entire universe.

Ah Fan was still full of resentment.

“Seventh Bro, you’re too cruel! You could have cut him some slack,” the Ghost Monkey complained.

Lu Yin nonchalantly replied, “What’s the point? It’s not like he doesn’t realize that there’s a gap between us.”

“He’ll be your subordinate in the future.”

“It doesn’t matter. I just want him for his background. He can’t even compare to Yue Xianzi, and he’s probably worse than An Shaohua.”

“You’re so ruthless! Even I feel bad for that guy! By the way, Seventh Bro, are you confident that you’ll be able to beat Northgate Lie?” the monkey asked.

Lu Yin thought about it before replying. “I think so. The Divine Fist from the Ten Arbiters told me that he was able to defeat people on the tail end of the Top 100 Rankings after he achieved Thirty Stacks, so I should be able to do the same.”

“The universe is huge, and there are countless people who are included within the younger generation. You can imagine how powerful some of those people must be to be ranked within the top hundred. These people have to have amazing battle techniques and experiences, so you can’t compare them to those two idiots whom you defeated in San Dios.”

Lu Yin was obviously aware of this. After all, he had sparred with Wendy Yushan before and had been instantly defeated.

His planned battle with Northgate Lie was arranged to be held a few days after the Northline Platform Competition, and there were only a few days left before the large gathering.

The news of Lu Yin’s upcoming battle with Northgate Lie was soon heard by everyone. The rumors had definitely been circulated by Northgate Gang since he wanted the entirety of the Northline Flowzone—no, the entire universe, to know about Lu Yin’s defeat.

“Lu Yin is one of the Ten Arbiters’ subordinates! Do you really believe that you can challenge someone like him whenever you want? Besides, he’s from Astral-10 as well!” the clan leader of the Northgate clan, Northgate Kong, shouted.

Northgate Lie and Northgate Gang both stood in front of him in a submissive manner.

“But Father, Lu Yin was way too arrogant! How dare he try to sit at the head of the table! He was clearly looking down on my brother!” Northgate Gang whined.

Northgate Kong roared, “Then let him have the seat! You’ve offended the Ten Arbiters with this move! This is different from a student challenging Astral-10. Lu Yin is currently representing the Ten Arbiters. It wouldn’t matter if he’s defeated and there’s no connection with us, but how will the Ten Arbiters feel about this mess? Do you realize what everyone else is saying about this? They’re saying that the Northline Flowzone is trying to kick the Council of the Ten Arbiters out!”

Northgate Lie frowned. “Father, it can’t be that serious, right?”