

### **Chapter 401: Fourth on the Battle Rankings**

Lu Yin attempted to probe his opponent with a flick of his finger. Even if he shot out some energy with just his physical strength, a normal Explorer would not be able to ignore it.

Contrary to expectations, his attack struck the Second War King straight on, but he only casually patted the place he was hit and waved at Lu Yin again.

Lu Yin took a deep breath. He was now certain that this person was truly powerful.

Lu Yin seldom met anyone who could ignore his attacks, which was something only those on the Top 100 Rankings could do amongst the younger generation. He just didn't know where this person stood in the rankings.

He did not hesitate, and five-lined battle force covered his entire body, illuminating even the skies. He completely unleashed his domain as star energy filled his eyes. He could see traces of lines in the void, which were actually runes.

When those lines appeared, Lu Yin's pupils shrank, and he stared at the Second War King in shock. At that moment, the runes representing the Second War King in Lu Yin's eyes went far beyond what he had imagined, and they were even repelling the void.

Mere star energy could not accurately represent the Second War King's strength, and even power levels might not be able to do so. But the number of rune lines was a clear representation of his power, and it was extraordinarily formidable.

It was simple—the more runes it took to represent a person, the more powerful they were. And the amount of runes that represented the Second War King greatly surpassed those that represented Lu Yin.

The Second War King looked at Lu Yin with interest, and then he waved again.

Lu Yin knew that this battle did not bode well for him. Hiding his star energy and power level might be enough to deceive others, but Lu Yin could not be fooled since he could see the rune lines. This person was way stronger than him, but there was no way he could retreat since this was a ported battle.

Lu Yin inhaled deeply. His body then vanished only to reappear right in front of the Second War King. He knew that this person would not hide, but still, he had to use his strongest attack here.

The Second War King's eyes abruptly went wide, and an intense excitement appeared in the depths of his eyes. What a ferocious attack! Not bad, not bad at all.

Boom!

Shockwaves spread out in all directions as the rocks were shattered and the sky was sundered. Thirty Stacks Fortyfold Shockwave Palm.

This was currently Lu Yin's strongest attack, and he held nothing back as he slammed his hand against the Second War King's body.

The relaxed Second War King was sent crashing into the rock that he had been sitting cross-legged upon moments earlier. His clothes were shredded, and his sturdy muscles underneath were exposed. Lu Yin's strongest strike had firmly connected with the Second War King's body, and it had left a deep imprint.

The Thirty Stacks had completely suppressed the void, and they all erupted within the Second War King's body one after another.

Lu Yin leaped up and pulled back a hundred meters before taking a serious look at the Second War King in the rock. Although it had been a strong attack, there was no way it would be enough to defeat this person, especially since the runes representing him had not been reduced by much.

Lu Yin guessed that the rune lines represented not only a person's power, but also their vitality. If the runes disappeared, then it meant that that person no longer existed. If Lu Yin's guess was correct, then the Second War King had only been slightly injured.

Within the rock, the Second War King opened his eyes as his upper body slowly rose up. He looked down on the palm print on his body, then at Lu Yin. He slowly clapped.

A coldness flashed across Lu Yin's eyes; he was being looked down upon.

The Second War King slowly stood up and patted the dust off of his body. He looked at Lu Yin, then his lips suddenly curled as his body leaned backwards. He took a deep breath, to the extent where it seemed like he was trying to suck in all of the air in a given area.

Lu Yin frowned and closely stared at the Second War King; was this a battle technique?

As he inhaled, the Second War King's body visibly swelled up, and the palm print from before disappeared. No trace of Lu Yin's attack could be seen any longer.

Lu Yin watched in astonishment. The area surrounding him started to distort, and he felt a strong sense of crisis.

Suddenly, the Second War King looked at Lu Yin and ferociously opened his mouth, releasing a loud howl. Lu Yin only felt the void around him shatter before seeing a vast expanse of pure white. The Second War King seemed to have reincarnated as a devil as the void shattered. Everything that Lu Yin could see or hear vanished into nothingness, and by the time he blinked again, he had already reappeared at the trial zone entrance.

Defeated, Lu Yin looked down at his own hands. He had been easily annihilated; the Second War King was just way too powerful. Not only had he perfectly withstood Lu Yin's strongest attack, but he had even instantly eliminated him. Facing off against the Second War King felt like facing Wendy Yushan; he had once again been rendered completely powerless.

That person was definitely an expert within the top twenty of the Top 100 Rankings, and Lu Yin even had a vague feeling that he surpassed Wendy Yushan.

"Lu Yin: 164 victories, 109 defeats," the Trialmaster suddenly announced, his aged voice reverberating through the area.

Near the teleportation stone, Michelle was stunned at the announcement, and she looked at Lu Yin.

"You were defeated?"

Lu Yin had not expected Michelle to be here, but he nodded. "That's right."

Michelle was incredulous, as there were extremely few people in the younger generation who could defeat Lu Yin. "Did you meet a Top 100 Rankings expert?"

Lu Yin shrugged. "Not sure, but probably."

"What was their name?" Michelle asked.

"It was a ported battle. I only know their nickname, not their real name."

"Then what was their nickname? I might know who it is." Michelle was very curious, as Lu Yin had definitely been matched against one of the top experts of the younger generation if he had been defeated.

"The Second War King."

Michelle squinted, then shook her head. "No wonder you lost. It should have been a complete loss."

"Do you know who it was?" Lu Yin was curious.

Michelle nodded and looked at him before faintly answering, "I pity you, because you met the fourth on the Top 100 Rankings, Avery."

Lu Yin was blown away. He knew that the Second War King must be ranked very highly on the list, but he had never expected it to be to such a degree. Someone who was ranked fourth was firmly positioned to become one of the next Ten Arbiters. As long as the top ten experts on the rankings were still considered a part of the younger generation when the Ten Arbiters withdrew from their positions, the position of the Ten Arbiters would be as good as theirs.

Being fourth also meant that no more than twenty people in the entire universe's younger generation could defeat him, even including the Ten Arbiters.

"Losing to Avery is nothing too strange. He should have allowed you to attack him, right? Were you able to injure him?" Michelle asked curiously.

Lu Yin thought about it before answering, "I don't think so."

It was not an unexpected answer, and Michelle directly stepped into the range of the teleportation stone while Lu Yin was still immersed in his surprise. His luck had just been too bad. No, it would be better to say that it had been too good. He had already experienced the strength of the top five. Avery, huh? We'll definitely have another match in the future.

Lu Yin's hopes of winning another teleportation stone had been dashed after being defeated by Avery. Of course, he could continue fighting in the ported battles, as the probability of running into a perverted powerhouse like Avery was not that high. He should be able to seize a few more teleportation stones, but he had no motivation to continue doing so.

He walked to the Trialmaster. "Mentor, I've won a teleportation stone."

The Trialmaster grunted. "Ask."

Lu Yin retrieved the halved strange white fruit from his cosmic ring. "I wish to ask what the use of this fruit is."

The Trialmaster looked at the white fruit in Lu Yin's hand, and his eyes seemed to become more tranquil. After a while, he replied, "It's brimming with vitality, and it's a treasure that was used to treat serious injuries in an older age when we were not so technologically advanced. But now, with our advancements in science, we are able to treat illnesses and injuries much more effectively. At its current potency, this fruit isn't too valuable, and it can at most be used as an ingredient to manufacture medicines."

Lu Yin asked, "What does mentor mean by 'not too valuable?' Is it because there's only half of it left?"

"First of all, it hasn't grown for long enough. Second of all, there's only half. Thus, it's not too valuable."

Lu Yin asked again, "If a fruit like this that brims with vitality was grown for a long time, then would that be valuable?"

"I'm unable to determine that. There are some vitality fruits that can even resurrect people, but it's a pity that it takes much too long for a fruit to reach that level. Currently, only superpowers might have such objects, as a regular person will never see one."

Lu Yin's eyes flashed as he put the white fruit away. "I understand. Thank you, mentor, for educating me."

To others, this half of a fruit was indeed useless, but it was very valuable for Lu Yin. As long as he had enough money, he could upgrade the fruit to the point where resurrection was no longer a dream. This plaything was equivalent to a second life! Trading one of his strengthening fruits for this had been a great deal.

Lu Yin felt like he should continue searching for more natural treasures when he could.

But when he thought about it, there was no point to that since he had no money right now. He did not even have enough resources to cultivate right now, so his first priority was to find a way to make some money.

The Great Yu Empire had expanded in all directions within Frostwave Weave, and while they had gained a great deal of resources, the war efforts had also consumed a great deal of them. They had just barely recovered from the budget deficit of the earlier battle with the Ross Empire, so it was temporarily impossible to get any money from the Great Yu Empire.

Lu Yin returned to the trial zone mountain, as he was now planning on crossing the Ocean of Death and discovering what lay on the other side.

"Cross the Dao of Heaven's Ocean of Death and ascend the Dao of Purgatory's Sky Platform." This saying did not come from nowhere. Since Lu Yin had returned to Astral-10, he naturally had to make an attempt at both. Otherwise, as soon as he broke through to the Explorer realm, he would not even be allowed to set foot in the trial zones.

“Brother Lu, are you heading to the Dao of Heaven?” Coco walked over from close by with Zora accompanying her.

Lu Yin nodded. “I want to take a look at the Ocean of Death.”

Coco was moved. “That’s great! let’s go together.”

Lu Yin was stunned. “You want to go too?”

Coco nodded. “The Ocean of Death isn’t the Sky Platform, and you can get help there. Both Sister Zora and I want to go.”

Lu Yin did not refuse their request. He was reminded of the Cosmic Sea; perhaps the Ocean of Death could help him adjust to the conditions of the other. One person alone might not be able to achieve much.

“Since you’re all going to the Ocean of Death, why don’t I come along as well?” Xia Luo walked over with a smile.

There were only these four present at the trial zone mountain, and Lu Yin nodded. “Alright, I’ll see you all at the shore of the Ocean of Death.”

“Alright, let’s go!” Coco became excited.

Xia Luo looked at Lu Yin’s back and smiled. He sat down cross-legged and entered the Dao of Heaven.

Ever since Lu Yin had ascended the Sky Platform, many students had assumed that he would next head to the Ocean of Death. Given his strength, it was possible for him to break through and become an Explorer at any time. Then, he would require the academy’s approval if he wanted to attempt to challenge the Ocean of Death. It was a rather inconvenient process, so there was a strong possibility that he would soon head over.

Because of this guess, many students were preemptively waiting at the shore of the Ocean of Death.

Their patience was rewarded, as they finally saw Lu Yin appear today.

The Ocean of Death’s water was murky, and everything that landed in it sank into its depths, and even flying birds found it difficult to cross over it. It was rumored that, on the other end of the ocean, there was an island with the buried skeletal remains of ancient powerhouses and even inheritances. No one could prove the rumors, however, as even the Arbiter who had crossed the Ocean of Death had remained silent about what was on the other side.

Kuang Wang felt that it was a tragedy, as out of the nine trial zones, the Ocean of Death was the most useless. Even the Sky Platform had a better chance of giving Dao Bo an inheritance. At the Ocean of Death, Kuang Wang could only enjoy the view, as there was nothing else to be done here.

The entire time, Kuang Wang had held a grudge against the Ocean of Death. He had tried to cross it multiple times, but he had failed every attempt.

This time, he planned to try together with Lu Yin.

## **Chapter 402: Crossing the Dao of Heaven’s Ocean of Death**

Many students grew excited when Lu Yin appeared. People could form teams to cross the Ocean of Death, and many wanted to stay close to Lu Yin in order to reach the fabled island.

As Lu Yin stood on the shore of the Ocean of Death, he stared into the distance. The water and sky were the same color, a vast, dark yellow. It was eerily reminiscent of the Yellow Springs that buried the living; it was a chilling scene.

Was there really an inheritance on the other side of the Ocean of Death?

Was the Arbiter who had ascended the Sky Platform and the Arbiter who had crossed the Ocean of Death the same person? Or had more than one of them succeeded? Lu Yin was very curious about all these things.

“Brother Lu, it’s been a while.” Kuang Wang walked over as he casually waved away the various students who were trying to chat with Lu Yin, behaving in an overbearing fashion.

Lu Yin looked at Kuang Wang and smiled. “It has been a while. Senior is more refined every time we meet.”

Kuang Wang smiled. “Everyone wants to cross the Ocean of Death with you, but they aren’t qualified.”

Lu Yin didn’t deny Kuang Wang’s words. He wasn’t a bad person, but he was not the kind of person who would try to please everyone either. Bringing along one more person could very well increase the danger for the rest of the party, and there was no need to risk it for no reason. Aside from Coco and the others from Astral-10, anyone else who wanted to team up with Lu Yin needed to have the necessary power, such as the person currently in front of them, Kuang Wang. His appearance at this time clearly indicated that he wanted to cross the Ocean of Death with them.

“Brother Lu, I’ll cut to the chase. I wish to cross the Ocean of Death with you. You can state any conditions you may have.” Kuang Wang was extremely direct.

Lu Yin was moved, and he looked closely at Kuang Wang, who should be rich. He thought about it and then answered, “I heard that senior is from the Beast Tamers Flowzone’s Divine Grade Hall.”

“That’s right.” Kuang Wang was proud of his background.

Lu Yin continued looking at him. “Is the Divine Grade Hall very wealthy?”

Kuang Wang was stunned, and he looked at Lu Yin with a dumbfounded expression. He had never dreamed that Lu Yin would ask him such a question.

He saw Lu Yin’s genuine interest in his answer, so Kuang Wang hoarsely replied, “It should be rather wealthy. I’m not sure.”

“Ok,” Lu Yin acknowledged. After that, his right fingers snapped against the void while three of his fingers rubbed together. With every snap, he would rub them together, just like Elder Cai’s action from before. It was a very elegant, noble, but mysterious method of asking for money.

Kuang Wang stared at Lu Yin, waiting for his reply. However, he found that Lu Yin was no longer speaking. He heard a strange rapping from the quivering void, and then he looked down at Lu Yin’s moving hand. His lips grew stiff. “Brother Lu, how much would you like?”

Lu Yin's lips rose. Sure enough, this method was both obvious while appearing to be elegant, stylish, and noble. "That depends on how much senior thinks it's worth."

Kuang Wang nodded and stared blankly at Lu Yin. "Alright, I'll transfer the money to you after we get out."

Lu Yin was excited as he gave Kuang Wang his Mavis Bank account number, as he once again had money. Of course, it was not much, but it was still better than nothing.

As for Kuang Wang, his emotions were rather complicated. He hadn't expected the strongest student in the Astral Combat Academy to be like this. Wasn't it too tacky to ask for money? Shouldn't an expert have the bearing of an expert? When he saw Lu Yin's excited expression, Kuang Wang had to turn around. He might have misunderstood what truly powerful experts were like.

Before much time passed, Xia Luo arrived, followed by Coco and Zora soon after.

"Senior, how did you guys attempt to cross the ocean before?" Lu Yin asked.

Kuang Wang replied, "The Ocean of Death has a special property that gradually dissolves star energy and living beings, but at an even faster rate. Hence, you can only use star energy to form a boat, and the main challenge is seeing whether or not your star energy can last all the way until the end. Also, illusions will appear."

"Illusions?" Lu Yin and the rest were caught off guard by this, even Xia Luo. None of them had ever attempted to cross the Ocean of Death before.

Kuang Wang explained, "The illusions are the most troublesome. You're actually fully aware that they're illusions, but you'll still believe that they are real despite that. More importantly, the illusions can destroy a person's spiritual force."

Lu Yin and Xia Luo exchanged glances, as they could not guarantee anything when spiritual force was involved. With their current strength, they were not yet able to learn any techniques that could defend them against spiritual force attacks. When Lu Yin recited the Stonewall Scriptures, he would gain an imperceptible defense against spiritual force attacks, and Liu Shaoqiu had acquired a spiritual force attack through learning the Thirteen Swords. Many of the Daynight clan's battle techniques carried a spiritual force attack, but all of these were passive in nature.

Actually, with their true strength, they did not yet qualify to contact such battle styles.

Lu Yin did not know if his current defense against spiritual force attacks could withstand the illusions, and his only hope was that the illusions' strength did not surpass the phantom pike's in the centipede's body.

Lu Yin felt that anything related to spiritual force was not something that should be easily provoked.

At this point, another figure flew over. It was actually Feng Shang.

"Hello everybody, can I join you in crossing the Ocean of Death?" Feng Shang had come of his own accord.

They all looked at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin looked at Kuang Wang.

Coco and Zora were lost; what did this look mean? Did Kuang Wang hold the power to decide?

The corners of Kuang Wang's lips stretched, as he knew what Lu Yin meant. He hurriedly pulled Feng Shang aside and muttered to him in hushed tones.

After Feng Shang heard what Kuang Wang had to say, he looked at Lu Yin in shock.

Lu Yin acted in a cavalier manner. A gentleman who loved money must procure it in moral ways. If he put in the effort, then he should get his just rewards. After all, he would not take them across for nothing, as he was not their caretaker.

Soon after, Kuang Wang and Feng Shang returned, and Feng Shang nodded towards Lu Yin with a face still showing surprise. "Shall we?"

Lu Yin nodded. "We'll use star energy to form the boat and then take turns maintaining it. Zora, you can go first."

Zora acknowledged his words, and her star energy surged out before forming a small boat that floated atop the Ocean of Death.

"Senior Kuang Wang, why can't we fly across?" Coco asked.

Kuang Wang replied, "Because the further in you fly, the greater the restrictive force you feel. Given that, we can only sail across."

Coco grunted and then looked at Zora with some concern. "Sister Zora, will you be able to endure this?" The others also looked at Zora.

Everyone's strength was different, and the strength of their star energy varied as well. Thus, the Ocean of Death's star energy dissolution rate was also naturally different for each person.

Zora seriously studied her star energy and then her expression turned ugly. "At the most, three days."

"Alright, we'll switch to someone else after three days," Lu Yin said. They then boarded the small boat and headed into the depths of the Ocean of Death.

Many students watched the group from the shore, and quite a few of them soon decided to team up and follow behind Lu Yin.

Wu Da was among them. After he had reported on the Astral Combat Tournament and the Tournament of the Strongest, his newspaper had become very successful. Although he still ended up being chased around on certain occasions, the external funds were pouring in now. Also, quite a few students had joined the newspaper as his subordinates. There were now more than ten of them who had decided to team up and attempt to cross the Ocean of Death.

Aside from Wu Da's group, there were also a few others that joined hands, as they perhaps felt that there was a greater possibility of them reaching the other side of the Ocean of Death if they followed behind Lu Yin's group.

Lu Yin's small group remained silent as they sat on their star energy boat.



Star energy appeared at Lu Yin's fingertip as he touched the water. He frowned, as what he had been told was not right. This water did not dissolve his star energy. Rather, it would be more accurate to compare it to the Sky Platform, which rejected the star energy from the area.

Star energy converged in Lu Yin's eyes as he looked far across the water. The entire Ocean of Death was filled with rune lines while the runes that represented Zora's star energy was just the small boat, like a skiff in an angry ocean that could break down at any moment. The further in they went, the more rune lines Lu Yin saw. He could not even assess how many there were, as the number greatly surpassed the runes that had represented Avery.

This was the Ocean of Death's true colors. He looked around again; right now, the entire trial zone consisted of rune lines, and he was now able to see that it was not naturally created. The quantities that he was observing were enough to cause him to feel dizzy.

The rune lines formed by a natural environment could never be so numerous.

The Ghost Monkey had said that when the Rune Technology civilization was flourishing, their battle style had been very obscure, as they would directly wipe out their opponent's rune lines. This was a fundamental erasure of something. If Lu Yin wanted to wipe out the Ocean of Death, then he just had to directly erase the rune lines.

However, Lu Yin did not know how to erase other peoples' rune lines since he did not understand how to utilize this strength.

He removed the star energy from his eyes, causing everything to return to normal.

The small boat steadily sailed towards the depths of the Ocean of Death with over ten small boats following behind them.

After a day of travel, while they were resting, Coco suddenly cried out, "Ah, if we die in the Ocean of Death, then won't we reappear here when we return to the Dao of Heaven?"

Kuang Wang was startled by Coco's exclamation, and he rolled his eyes. "No, the Ocean of Death is unique. If you die here, then when you reenter the Dao of Heaven, you'll simply reappear at the coast."

"That's good." Coco patted her chest in reassurance.

Lu Yin looked at Zora and saw that she had an ugly expression on her pale face. He filled his eyes with star energy and looked at her again. Zora's star energy would at most last for another half day.

A day and a half? That was less than half of what she had predicted, which meant that the strength of the Ocean of Death's star energy rejection had doubled in this location compared to the coast.

Lu Yin looked back and saw that none of the boats were lagging behind and that they were all still following him.

"Be careful!" Feng Shang barked as he released his green domain. He raised a hand and slapped to the left. Everyone looked over and saw a war spirit stabbing at them with a spear.

Feng Shang's palm struck the war spirit's spear, and the boat shook. The war spirit's spear broke, and Feng Shang's eyes flashed as a ripple of air revolved around his palm. "Cyclone Strike."

There was a cry as the void shattered along with the war spirit. It was instantly killed by the Cyclone Strike.

Zora relaxed, but Coco cried out in alarm, "There're war spirits here?"

Kuang Wang nodded and solemnly replied, "That's right."

"Why didn't you say something earlier?" Zora had an ugly expression.

Kuang Wang grudgingly answered, "Forgot."

They were left speechless.

"A war spirit appearing means that the person who birthed it once sailed across the Ocean of Death. Be careful; if our luck is bad, we could even meet the war spirits of the Ten Arbiters," Feng Shang said as he licked his lips.

Coco grew afraid. "Senior, don't try to scare us."

Feng Shang forced a smile onto his face. "I'm not. It's just that no one knows how war spirits are formed. You might form a war spirit in the next second as well. Remember the Astral Combat Tournament? In the middle of Brother Lu and Liu Shaoqiu's battle, their war spirits suddenly materialized and escaped."

Lu Yin recalled that scene, as war spirits had indeed formed during his battle with Liu Shaoqiu.

"Hehe, I heard that quite a few students have already died to the Thirteen Swords, which should be Liu Shaoqiu's war spirit. I wonder who'll have the bad luck of meeting up with Brother Lu's war spirit."

Kuang Wang rejoiced at the thought of others' misfortune.

Feng Shang glanced at him. "No matter who it ends up being, they'll be completely out of luck, even if it turns out to be you."

Kuang Wang pursed his lips. Feng Shang was right. With the strength that Lu Yin had displayed during the Astral Combat Tournament, his war spirit could easily crush them.

"If we meet the Ten Arbiters' war spirits, then this trip still won't have been in vain," Xia Luo spoke with a bit of excitement.

Lu Yin's lips curled up, and he looked out at the Ocean of Death. He was hoping to run into the Ten Arbiters' war spirits so that he could get a sense of their strength from when they were Limiteers. He did not believe that the disparity between him and their past selves was that great.

### **Chapter 403: Coco's Deterrence**

Suddenly, another cry sounded out. They all turned around to see a small boat shatter. A few students had been completely suppressed by a war spirit, and they were practically unable to retaliate in any way.

Kuang Wang's expression changed. "It's as strong as a Realm Master! This war spirit was birthed from some previous Realm Master."

Lu Yin raised his hand towards the war spirit and then blasted out with an attack. "Spacerender Palm."

His Spacerender Palm formed a bullet of compressed air that sped across the Ocean of Death's surface before directly impacting against the war spirit. The spirit turned around at the last second and extended both hands to clash against the pressurized air bullet from the Spacerender Palm. However, at that same moment, its body collapsed, and it vanished from the Ocean of Death.

Lu Yin's single Spacerender Palm had been enough to easily wipe out a Realm Master level student, which caused both Feng Shang and Kuang Wang to feel slightly fearful. How had this fellow become so strong?

Lu Yin pulled his hand back. He didn't really want to help anyone outside of his group, but once a war spirit appeared, it would continue attacking everyone nearby until either it was defeated or everyone else had been eliminated. Since Lu Yin would eventually need to act, he might as well act sooner rather than later.

"Thank you, Chief Lu, for your help."

"Thank you..."

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Many students in the distance were grateful to Lu Yin.

Feng Shang looked at Lu Yin in amazement. "Brother Lu, your power has long since exceeded what the Astral Combat Academy's students can endure. Thirty Stacks is rumored to match the record of one of the Ten Arbiters. It's amazingly strong."

"Pervert," Kuang Wang mumbled.

Lu Yin smiled as he shook his head. "The records left behind by the Ten Arbiters are just mere legends, and no one knows the truth of the matter. So, Brother Feng, there's no need to pay too much attention to this."

Feng Shang sighed and looked into the depths of the Ocean of Death. "The Ten Arbiters are the benchmark for the younger generation as well as the standard for the universe. Everyone's goal is to surpass the Ten Arbiters, but not one person has managed to do it. Thirty Stacks is the record left behind by one of the Ten Arbiters from back then." At that moment, Feng Shang directed a serious face towards Lu Yin. "If Brother Lu can surpass that, then your accomplishments will definitely be recorded down in history."

"That might not be a good thing," Lu Yin commented unenthusiastically.

Feng Shang continued to look at him seriously, but he didn't speak any further.

On the other side, Xia Luo looked at Lu Yin, but he did not speak either. However, a strange smile seemed to linger on his lips.

Half a day passed, and Zora's face had become deathly white. It was clear that she could not endure any further. Lu Yin said, "Coco, take over for Zora."

"Ok," Coco acknowledged. Then, she hurriedly used her star energy to form a boat.

Zora apologized. "I'm sorry. I never thought that I wouldn't be able to last for even two days."

Lu Yin shook his head. "The deeper in we go, the faster the Ocean of Death will wear away at our star energy. There's no need to blame yourself. Anyone else would have been the same."

Feng Shang nodded. "That's right, those small boats behind us have already switched their pilots a few times. You're pretty decent to have lasted for this long."

"About average," Kuang Wang said carelessly.

Coco frowned and stared at Kuang Wang. "Sister Zora is not just 'average!' She ranks among the top within the Astral Combat Academy."

Kuang Wang sneered. He had not been teasing Zora, as it was just his natural reaction. Unfortunately, his contemptuous attitude bothered Coco, who rarely lost her temper. She would become serious as long as it involved Zora, and in her eyes, Kuang Wang had looked down on Zora just now. This infuriated Coco, and her syringe appeared as she stared straight at Kuang Wang.

Kuang Wang and Feng Shang were stunned. "What's this thing?"

Coco stared at Kuang Wang. "I want to give you a jab."

"What a joke. I'm not even sick!" Kuang Wang shrieked. Even for him, it was terrifying to see such a huge syringe, even if Coco was far weaker than him. There was a strange chill hanging in the air.

Coco snorted. "You have bad breath."

Kuang Wang was speechless.

Zora forced a smile onto her face. "Alright, Coco. Senior had no bad intentions, so put your innate gift away."

Coco suppressed the words that she wanted to say and stared at Kuang Wang again. The syringe vanished.

Kuang Wang grudgingly said, "Brother Lu, your academy is rather special. It has people with all sorts of innate gifts."

Feng Shang was similarly stunned. "Such a large syringe is more intimidating than any weapon."

Every time Lu Yin saw the syringe, he felt the same fear. "That's Coco's innate gift. She was born in Windrift Hall, and she's rather skilled in first aid. Do either of you wish to try it?"

"No thanks."

"No thanks."

The two of them answered instantly and simultaneously.

Coco was not as talented in battle as Zora, but her star energy was not that much inferior to Zora's. Even so, she was only able to last for one day. Things became more difficult the further in they went. After Coco, it was Xia Luo's turn.

Feng Shang and Kuang Wang estimated that Xia Luo would only last for a day at best, which was a rather generous evaluation. In their current location, Coco wouldn't even be able to last for half a day. Lu Yin held more confidence in Xia Luo, as he had specially observed Xia Luo and noticed that his rune lines numbered no less than that of Kuang Wang and Feng Shang. This meant that, in terms of power, Xia Luo had the strength of an academy leader. He had been continuously improving all this time, and his rate of progress was impressive. He had possessed the strength of an Area Master during the Astral Combat Tournament, and he currently held the strength of a Realm Master. This was not a simple improvement.

Of course, measuring one's strength by the number of rune lines was not completely accurate. For example, at the Sky Platform, when Lu Yin activated his domain and battle force, his rune lines had increased. The amount of runes that composed a person was not fixed, and this went for Xia Luo, Feng Shang, and Kuang Wang.

It could only be said that, without considering any battle techniques or innate gifts, the three had around the same level of strength. Once external strength was included in the equation, it was no longer clear who was weaker or stronger.

Xia Luo steered the boat. Now, there were only three boats that were still following them. One was the group from Wu Da's tabloid, and Lu Yin did not recognize the other two.

"They're not bad if they're able to keep up with us to this point." Lu Yin glanced behind.

Feng Shang looked back as well. "One's from the tabloid, and another's from Shamrock Enterprises. The last is unknown."

Kuang Wang glanced back. "It's the spirit hunters."

These words caught Lu Yin's attention, as the spirit hunter teams had always existed in the trial zones. These groups were mostly formed from members of the great powers, but they did not bother with the training grounds. Instead, they focused on hunting down war spirits.

"What's their goal?" Coco asked.

Kuang Wang replied, "To hunt down war spirits, but no one knows why. Before I came to the Astral Combat Academy, the Divine Grade Hall ancestor told me that if I couldn't fight for the position of the academy leader, then I should form a spirit hunter team."

"He didn't tell you why you should hunt the war spirits?" Lu Yin asked.

Kuang Wang shook his head. "I've heard that it's related to the trial zone's inheritance, but despite so many years passing, I've never heard of anyone obtaining any inheritance from hunting war spirits. At most, the hunters will get to experience the battle techniques of former powerhouses. There are many inheritances in the trial zones, and one can encounter them just by roaming around. So logically, there should be no need to specially hunt the war spirits."

“It should be related to the actual phenomenon. The formation of the war spirits involves the trial zone’s greatest inheritance. Everyone wants to obtain it, so investing effort towards it isn’t a waste,” Feng Shang said.

Lu Yin looked at the spirit hunter team. They did not know the reason behind their actions, but he did. They were definitely hunting the war spirits to better sense the Rune Technology that the trial zones were created with. They were trying to use this method to obtain the Rune Technology’s inheritance. However, their method was not very productive. Instead, it would be better to directly ascend the Sky Platform. Of course, even the student leaders weren’t capable of doing that, so there was no need to consider the spirit hunters. It was a rigid method, but it was also the only method.

Those ancestors from great powers had instructed their members to form spirit hunter teams, so did that mean that they also knew about the Rune Technology Civilization?

A day passed, but the shore of the Ocean of Death still could not be seen. Despite that, Xia Luo still looked fine, seemingly not at all affected by the ocean’s dissolving effects.

Feng Shang and Kuang Wang exchanged shocked looks, as they had been discussing who would replace Xia Luo next. But now, they had discovered that Xia Luo did not need anyone to replace him, which was quite strange. This person’s power definitely surpassed the other students’.

They had not paid much attention to Xia Luo, as it was very normal for a few students in the Astral Combat Tournament to be able to rival Area Masters. However, they now had to reevaluate their view of Xia Luo, as a normal Area Master was not capable of this.

At this point, there were only two boats still following behind Lu Yin’s group. One was Shamrock Enterprises’, and the other was the spirit hunters’. Wu Da’s group was nowhere to be seen.

“It’s beginning,” Kuang Wang warned sternly.

They all looked at him.

“The illusions are about to start,” Kuang Wang warned.

Coco was afraid, and she leaned up against Zora.

Lu Yin’s eyes flashed, and he started silently reciting the Stonewall Scriptures. He had long since developed a habit of reciting the Stonewall Scriptures whenever he encountered an unpredictable situation, as this strange scripture often had mysterious effects.

A wave passed through the void, causing Lu Yin and the rest to look behind them. The boat belonging to the spirit hunters gradually disappeared; a war spirit had appeared beside them.

Their team was definitely not weak, as one of them was at least as strong as an Area Master. However, they still found it hard to defend against the war spirit since it had the strength of a Realm Master.

In this region of the Ocean of Death, it was quite common to encounter a powerful war spirit.

The boat carrying the team from Shamrock Enterprises was the closest to the war spirit, and Lu Yin and the others helplessly watched on as the war spirit attacked them. Tu Bo attacked the spirit first, but his attack passed right through the war spirit before fading into nothingness.

“It’s an illusion!” Kuang Wang shouted in a deep voice.

They were all shocked and looked back again. The spirit hunters’ boat was unscathed, but the other students were looking at Lu Yin’s group with strange expressions. On the other side, Shamrock Enterprise’s boat showed no abnormalities either.

Lu Yin frowned. If that was an illusion, did that mean that the Stonewall Scriptures were useless as well?

“In that illusion just now, if Tu Bo had not attacked, what would have happened?” Xia Luo asked.

Kuang Wang’s eyes went sharp. “One of us would have died.”

Coco’s face turned deathly white.

Lu Yin’s brows rose. “A transferred attack?”

Kuang Wang replied, “I don’t know. I’ve been to the Ocean of Death multiple times, and I’ve encountered such a situation before. The illusion seemed to attack Tu Bo, but it was actually attacking one of us. If a person is struck by the illusion, then the spiritual force of that person will be completely eradicated, and they will die.”

Zora hugged Coco, as girls were more inclined to be uncomfortable in such strange scenarios. Zora then unconsciously looked far across the Ocean of Death, as she wanted to see if the end was in sight. The moment she turned her head, a pair of bloodshot eyes appeared right next to her and intently stared back at her.

Fresh blood flowed down from the eyes and onto Zora’s hand. The blood was cold, and Zora’s entire body was frozen. Her pupils shrank to pinpricks, and she shrieked in terror.

Lu Yin and the rest looked over, but they saw nothing.

Coco also jumped in fright, and she reflexively hugged Zora. “Sister Zora, what happened?”

Everyone else also looked at Zora.

Zora was still in a panic, and her pupils flickered as she panted raggedly. Her pale face was completely drained of blood. “I- I saw a pair of bloody eyes.”

Kuang Wang replied. “It was an illusion. Remember, you must defend yourself against any illusion’s attack. If you freeze, you’ll only find death awaiting you.”

Lu Yin frowned tightly. This was troublesome. Was there no way to sense the illusions before they appeared?

He suddenly thought of something. Star energy surged into both of his eyes as he looked at the Ocean of Death. Now, the ocean transformed into countless rune lines, and many were gradually converging behind Coco.

## Chapter 404: Crisis In The Ocean of Death

Lu Yin suddenly moved and aimed an attack behind Coco. His strike pierced the void and scattered upon impact with the Ocean of Death, leaving no waves whatsoever.

Kuang Wang looked at him, shocked. "Did you see an illusion?"

Lu Yin did not know how to explain it, as he had not seen an illusion exactly. Rather, he had sensed the gathering power right before an illusion manifested, and that was also what he had just destroyed. "I can sense the appearance of the illusions."

"Impossible. No one has ever been able to sense the illusions before they appear." Kuang Wang immediately denied Lu Yin's claim. "Perhaps you saw what the illusion wanted you to."

The others agreed with Kuang Wang's thoughts.

Lu Yin could not explain himself. The Ocean of Death had a similar origin to the Sky Platform, and his eyes had changed after he climbed it. He had long since seen the rune lines that made up the Ocean of Death, and they were definitely not an illusion. However, he had no way of explaining all this to Kuang Wang.

"You don't have to bother about it. In any case, don't be worried. I can take care of the illusions in advance, so just focus on sailing across the Ocean of Death." Lu Yin was adamant in this statement.

Kuang Wang seemed to want to rebut, but he was interrupted by Xia Luo. "It doesn't matter if Lu Yin is right or not. We can't change anything. Let's listen to him, and we'll just act whenever we see an illusion."

Kuang Wang nodded, as Xia Luo had laid out a sound plan. "Alright. Everyone, remember: attack as soon as you see an illusion."

Zora was still panicking even while Coco was trying to comfort her. Kuang Wang and Feng Shang both had uneasy expressions as well.

Only Xia Luo remained calm, as he seemed to believe Lu Yin.

"Seventh Bro, this place is haunted," the monkey said. He hadn't spoken for a while and could no longer endure the silence.

Lu Yin looked around and unleashed another attack, dispersing some more converging rune lines. This time, they had appeared beside Kuang Wang. For a second, he even believed that Lu Yin was attacking him and nearly retaliated.

Their side was alright for now, but Shamrock Enterprises and the spirit hunters' boats had just entered the region with the illusions.

Lu Yin turned around and squinted. The spirit hunters' boat was currently enveloped by the rune lines, to the extent where he could not even see the people inside, which indicated that a disaster had struck them.

Sure enough, the spirit hunters's boat quickly capsized.



Now, only the Shamrock Enterprises team remained behind Lu Yin's team.

Not much later, the Shamrock Enterprises' students also vanished from the Ocean of Death.

Finally, only one boat remained.

Their boat sailed deeper into the Ocean of Death, and soon, two more days passed. Xia Luo eventually became unable to endure it any longer, and Kuang Wang replaced him. Compared to Feng Shang, Kuang Wang could not display as much of his strength in the Ocean of Death.

At present, they had been sailing for around five days in total, and the speed of the star energy boat was neither slow nor fast. They had traversed quite an impressive distance during these five days, but the end was still not in sight.

The water grew more turbid, and looking into the ocean gave one a feeling of being engulfed.

Lu Yin maintained the star energy in his eyes as he vigilantly observed the surroundings, taking action from time to time.

Kuang Wang and Feng Shang were now certain that Lu Yin truly could sense the illusions as they formed. This puzzled Kuang Wang to no end, as not even Starsibyl could do this; Lu Yin's success had toppled his understanding of the world. He nearly asked about it several times, but he managed to control himself.

"Brother Xia, you're very tired. Do you want Coco to give you a jab?" Coco looked at Xia Luo with concern.

Xia Luo shook his head with a smile. "There's no need, Coco."

Even Xia Luo, who was always calm, did not dare to allow Coco to stab him with her syringe. Coco, who still had not managed to test out her method of treatment on anyone in the Astral Combat Academy, felt rather sullen.

Zora couldn't stand it anymore. "Coco is from the Windrift Hall. Even though her syringe is rather large, it won't pierce your body. It uses the meridians to treat injuries, which then allows the body to recover faster. It's an innate gift that's famous for its treatment in Windrift Hall."

Coco immediately nodded and then expectantly looked back at Xia Luo.

Feng Shang could not endure it either. "Actually, your explanation makes things even more horrifying."

Zora had already made her best case for Coco.

The cute little girl fell silent, as she had not been able to treat anyone in a long, long time.

"Careful, there's something abnormal up ahead," Lu Yin suddenly spoke as he stared into the distance. It was the first time such an expression had appeared on his face since the group had started their venture across the Ocean of Death.

Feng Shang and the others looked in the direction that Lu Yin was staring in. They shockingly saw a figure walking atop the Ocean of Death, heading straight for them.

Coco screamed in fear as she stared at the distant figure in terror, while Zora's face was also deathly white, as if she had seen a ghost. This was the Ocean of Death, but someone was actually walking on it.

Lu Yin stood up. "That should be a war spirit, but it's not an ordinary one."

"It might be an illusion," Kuang Wang commented.

Lu Yin could not determine which one it was, because the figure had appeared in the distance and not materialized within his range of vision. It already had a solid figure when he first saw it, and since its rune lines had already appeared before he had noticed it, he could not tell its origins.

"How do you guys think the illusions are formed? The same way as a war spirit? Are they birthed from former students who came here before?" Xia Luo asked as he stared at the approaching figure.

"Maybe," Kuang Wang replied uncertainly.

"If so, then doesn't that mean that the illusion has the battle strength of someone who once visited the trial zones, along with a spiritual force attack?" Xia Luo continued.

His words caused the others to shudder, as they were currently already rather deep into the Ocean of Death. Those who could reach this point had practically all been academy leaders, which meant that their strength was at least that of a Realm Master. A Realm Master powerhouse with a spiritual force attack; they looked involuntarily at Lu Yin. That was basically describing Liu Shaoqiu's Third Sword.

Lu Yin had also thought of that possibility. "Everyone, be careful. From now on, no matter what we meet, whether it's a war spirit or an illusion, treat it as if you were confronting the strength of Liu Shaoqiu's Third Sword."

"How can we even confront that? We might as well just die!" Kuang Wang was rendered speechless. Aside from Lu Yin, no one else could stand up to Liu Shaoqiu's Third Sword.

The figure slowly approached them, and they finally made out that it was a war spirit.

It suddenly attacked and targeted the entire group. Its finger shook, and the void suddenly split open to form a sharp edge that sliced forward.

Feng Shang felt numb. "An innate gift of space—be careful!"

Lu Yin waved a hand and tore the void apart, horizontally separating the space in front of him and clashing against the spatial crack of the war spirit's attack. A cross-shaped spatial crack appeared above the boat formed from star energy as an enormous pressure descended upon the occupants.

Lu Yin shouted, "Take care of yourselves!" He leaped up using Flash to get close to the war spirit with startling speed. He then raised a hand and slammed it out.

This war spirit actually had the rare innate gift of space. Although its exact nature was still unknown, any innate gift that involved space was bound to be annoying, like Darkvoid's spatial explosions that had even defeated Michelle's innate gift of the red lotus. Lu Yin had to hurry and destroy this war spirit.

The war spirit had no thoughts, nor did it know what retreat was. As it watched Lu Yin attack, its hands waved again, and the many layers of the void in front of it ruptured to form a mountain range-like forcefield. Lu Yin twisted his body to evade it before appearing behind the war spirit with Flash. He then pressed down with an open palm.

Suddenly, Lu Yin felt a sense of crisis overcome him, and he quickly used the Secret Sidestep to change his body's trajectory. A long spear pierced through the void, striking at where he had just been. Another war spirit appeared close behind him.

Lu Yin had unleashed his domain and Cosmic Art together. Now that he could enhance his vision, he no longer needed to use the Giant Emperor's third eye to use the Secret Sidestep, which was extremely fortunate. Otherwise, he would have been struck by that spear.

There are actually two war spirits- No. Lu Yin's gaze slid past the two war spirits, and he looked back at Feng Shang and the rest. War spirits had appeared inside the boat as well. Coco and Zora had already died, though there were no superficial injuries on their bodies. They had died similarly to those people back in the centipede's body. It was a death resulting from the extinguishing of one's spiritual force. These figures were war spirits, but also illusions.

Lu Yin clenched his fists and used the Secret Sidestep to approach the two war spirits closest to him. The void before him peeled back again, layer by layer. The innate gift of space was difficult to deal with. However, it was not enough to stop Lu Yin when he used the Secret Sidestep. The spear tip stabbed out at him once again, but this time, Lu Yin did not dodge the attack. As long as he wasn't caught off guard, these two war spirits were not enough to threaten him.

Lu Yin quickly took care of the two war spirits. After all, they were just Limiteers, and Limiteers could no longer be Lu Yin's opponents.

Feng Shang and Xia Luo each faced a war spirit, and Feng Shang was performing well. Although Xia Luo was evidently not as strong as the rest of them, he could still barely hold out. Meanwhile, Kuang Wang was trying his best to maintain control of the boat.

After Lu Yin dealt with the two war spirits in front of him, the battle on the boat no longer held any suspense. The other war spirits were similarly eliminated in short order by Lu Yin.

Kuang Wang relaxed. "Four appeared in an instant, and they each had the strength of Realm Masters. That's just too ruthless."

On the boat, Zora and Coco's bodies had already vanished. They would appear at the coast whenever they reentered the Dao of Heaven.

"It's a pity. We shouldn't be too far from the other side," Xia Luo sighed regretfully.

"The closer we get, the greater the danger. I believe that that won't be the greatest crisis and that there will be more up ahead," Kuang Wang replied.

Lu Yin agreed. If the difficulty in crossing the ocean was just this degree, then it would not have been enough to prevent the various monsters of the Astral Combat Academy from crossing over the years. For the Ocean of Death to have become a legend, the danger could not be limited to just these current war spirits, there had to be stronger ones up ahead.

On the other side of the ocean, Wu Da hurriedly recorded what had transpired on the Ocean of Death—not only his own experience, but Lu Yin’s and the others as well.

Before the advent of the Wu Da’s tabloid, anything that involved crossing the Ocean of Death had always been very mysterious, and news of it had only ever been shared through word of mouth between friends. But now, his tabloid would remove the veil covering the Ocean of Death’s secrets.

“Not enough, it’s still not enough! We know nothing about what’s in the deeper regions. This info won’t be enough to attract the notice of the stronger students.” Wu Da was distressed.

While he was standing on the coast of the Ocean of Death, he suddenly noticed Coco and Zora. His eyes lit up, and he immediately ran over to them. “Hello, fellow students. I’m Wu Da.”

The two girls had endured the headaches caused by their deaths and forcibly reentered the Dao of Heaven. They had appeared at the coastline, just like Kuang Wang had said.

Coco looked at Wu Da curiously.

Zora blocked him from approaching Coco. “You’re the founder of the tabloid, Wu Da. We’ve heard of you before. What do you want?”

Wu Da kneaded his hands in embarrassment. “That... How far did you two make it across the Ocean of Death before you died?” After he spoke, he saw Zora’s face sour, and Coco revealed an uneasy expression. He instantly knew that he had misspoken. He immediately changed his tune. “No, I wanted to ask the two of you how far you reached and what you saw. Please rest assured, I won’t take your information for free. If you need anything in the future, you can always come look for me.”

Zora calmly replied, “I’m sorry, but we were taken along by our academy’s student leader. Unless he agrees, we cannot divulge anything that happened there.”

Wu Da licked his lips. “You’re talking about Lu Yin, right? I’m very familiar with him. Rest assured, he definitely won’t have any objections towards you talking to me.”

Zora did not believe him.

Wu Da continued, saying, “Lu Yin’s the strongest student in the Astral Combat Academy, and he can ruin my life if I lie to you. Tell me, and in future, the two of you will be Wu Da’s younger sisters—No, elder sisters!”

Zora frowned; this person was really thick-skinned.

### **Chapter 405: Avery’s Test**

Coco softly said, “Sister Zora, it doesn’t sound like he’s lying. Should we tell him about the illusions?”

“Illusions? What illusions?” Wu Da’s ears perked up, and his eyes gleamed. His sense of hearing was extremely sensitive.

Coco jumped in fright and immediately stopped speaking.

Zora looked at Wu Da in an unkind manner. “Don’t think that I don’t know about you. You’ve already become accustomed to being chased every day. You’re probably not afraid of anyone in the Astral

Combat Academy, which just makes you a pain in the neck. We have no comments, so you can ask Lu Yin himself if you wish to know more.”

Wu Da’s face soured. “Come on, sister. I can guarantee that whatever you tell me won’t lead back to you.”

Zora no longer bothered with him after that.

Wu Da’s pleas fell on deaf ears, and his wedding went on for too long because a dozen students suddenly appeared, all intent on killing him. In the end, he could only run away faster than a rabbit.

Wu Da was by no means alone. Everyone else was also curious about what Lu Yin and the rest had encountered. However, Zora and Coco only stood at the shore, silently staring into the ocean without speaking.

It didn’t take long for Michelle, Darkvoid, Meng Yue, and the other students from Astral-10 to arrive at the shore as well. They were all awaiting the results of Lu Yin’s attempt to cross the Ocean of Death.

Astral-10’s current reputation was completely different from when the students had first entered the Astral Combat Academy. Now, there was no one who dared to act against them. Even if Lu Yin graduated in the near future, Xia Luo and the rest still were not people who should be trifled with.

Far across the Ocean of Death, Kuang Wang used his star energy to form a boat that wobbled on the surface. The water was even more murky here, and a dark yellow color covered the ocean surface.

“The Ocean of Death’s rate of dissolving star energy is increasing,” Kuang Wang spoke solemnly.

Feng Shang frowned. “How long can you last?”

“At this rate, two days tops. If it gets any worse, then maybe not even one.”

“That means that, not counting Lu Yin, we have another three days or so left. Brother Lu, how long can you last?” Xia Luo asked as he turned towards Lu Yin.

Lu Yin muttered, “I”m not sure. The rate of dissolving might still increase. Conservatively, maybe a day.”

“Four days? Our group has spent around ten days sailing across this Ocean of Death so far, and it would be frustrating if we don’t reach the other side even after all this,” Feng Shang complained in frustration.

A thought flashed through Lu Yin’s mind, but it quickly passed before he could fully grasp it. He was rather annoyed—he was sure that that thought was useful, but for some reason, he could not recall it.

Suddenly, the Ocean of Death quivered, which left them at a loss.

Lu Yin scanned his surroundings, and then finally looked towards the bottom of the ocean. His face drastically changed. “Careful, something’s coming up from the bottom!”

“Impossible! Things can live at the bottom?” Kuang Wang was startled, as he had never heard of such a thing before.

No one could answer him, as not even Lu Yin could tell what would emerge from the bottom of the ocean.

The trembling intensified, and a moment later, a jet of water shot into the sky, forming a pillar beside the small boat. It grazed past Kuang Wang's shoulder, which burst open, and then fell back into the ocean again.

They were all stunned; there had been nothing there whatsoever!

Xia Luo glimpsed a smear of red in the water, and as he turned to look at Kuang Wang, his face changed. "You're injured."

Kuang Wang was shocked as well. He touched his face and was overwhelmed by what he had just witnessed. The pillar of water had only lightly touched his face, but just that had been enough to injure him. That seemingly non-threatening pillar of water had actually been that powerful.

Lu Yin's face changed, and he looked towards the bottom of the ocean again. He used his star energy to adjust the boat's position as another soaring water pillar rose into the sky, only to also splash apart, oddly reminiscent of a fountain.

"Senior Kuang Wang, speed up and let's leave!" Lu Yin ordered sternly.

Kuang Wang did not hesitate in the slightest. He immediately increased the boat's speed as the soaring pillars of water emerged from behind and chased after them.

After travelling for half a day, the strange water pillars finally vanished.

Kuang Wang panted heavily, and shook his hands. "No more. Feng Shang, take over!"

Feng Shang had no choice but to form a boat with his star energy and take over for Kuang Wang. Their rapid flight from the pillars of water had taken a heavy toll on Kuang Wang.

Lu Yin had an ugly expression, as it had turned out that the Ocean of Death could actually attack autonomously, which was just too devious. He involuntarily turned around, which let him view something inconceivable and even horrifying; he saw a pair of eyes in the Ocean of Death, which were undoubtedly human eyes. There were people in the Ocean of Death.

Lu Yin immediately raised his hand and unleashed a Spacerender Palm at the Ocean of Death, which caused a giant whirlpool to appear on the surface.

The pair of eyes sank downwards and vanished from sight.

Lu Yin's heart raced as a chill ran down his spine. He had just seen a human, but that was impossible, as no human could possibly survive inside the Ocean of Death. It should actually be a war spirit, just one that was incomparably powerful and even had a sixth sense for danger. That ability must be an innate gift, or else the war spirit would not have been able to avoid his attack.

"Brother Lu, what happened?" Xia Luo and the others were bewildered as they turned to look at him, and then back at where he had struck the Ocean of Death.

Lu Yin spoke in a low tone. "Those water pillars were not an attack from the Ocean of Death, but rather from a war spirit."

“A war spirit?” Kuang Wang was alarmed. “That’s impossible! A war spirit wouldn’t let us go after meeting us, and it wouldn’t run from an attack either.”

Xia Luo replied, “Not necessarily. If the war spirit was birthed from someone with a strange innate gift, then it could actually use that to hide.”

“No wonder I keep feeling chilly; so it’s actually the attacks from the war spirit. If it’s in this location, the person who birthed it must have been terribly strong. Could it have been one of the Ten Arbiters?” Feng Shang guessed.

Lu Yin shook his head. “That’s impossible. If it was a war spirit from the Ten Arbiters, then it would have never remained hidden. Instead, it would have immediately moved to take us all out.”

“Brother Feng, please stop scaring us. The Ten Arbiters may have crossed the Ocean of Death, but that doesn’t necessarily mean that they formed war spirits. What can we do if we really run into one of them?” Kuang Wang was irritated.

Those eyes had hidden themselves too deeply, and Lu Yin would never have seen them if not for his eyes being changed after he ascended the Sky Platform. Even so, because the eyes were located too deep in the water, he had not been able to clearly see how many rune lines there were. Even though he couldn’t determine the figure’s strength, it was definitely not a war spirit of the Ten Arbiters.

Lu Yin suddenly thought of Astral-10’s Rain Observatory’s Rain List. With his abilities at that time, he had barely been able to leave his name on the list. The Astral Combat Academy had once been extremely glorious, or rather, Astral-10 had once been incomparably splendid. However, leaving one’s name on the Rain List only represented their degree of star energy control and not their actual power level. However, one’s control of star energy was in and of itself a portion of one’s strength. Lu Yin estimated that the person at the top of the Rain List might not have been inferior even to the younger Ten Arbiters.

He still recalled that person’s name—Shao Chen.

If just Astral-10’s Rain List contained so many powerhouses, then what about the ten great academies combined? There must have been many powerhouses who had attended those places, and some extremely powerful beings must have been among that elite group, and any war spirits formed from those people would be absolutely dominant.

Although the Ten Arbiters were rumored to be products of the great changes in the universe, the recent universe still had not birthed a member of the younger generation who could rival the Ten Arbiters. Rumors were rumors, and who knew if there had been similarly freakish geniuses in previous eras. Some people were extremely strong as Limiteers, but the power gap between them and their peers would drop after they became Explorers.

Throughout the countless years of the Astral Combat Academy’s history, it wasn’t necessarily the case that none of their students had been able to rival the Ten Arbiters’ strength in the Limiteer realm.

That pair of eyes had caused a shadow to hang over everyone’s hearts, and since Kuang Wang’s star energy had been exhausted, it meant that they had one less day that they could travel.

However, what lay ahead of them was still the unknown vastness of the Ocean of Death.

Lu Yin was glad that he had brought these people along. Else, even if his star energy was able to hold out, he would end up becoming depressed.

Another day passed, but their journey was peaceful this time. The Ocean of Death's star energy dissolving rate increased yet again, and Feng Shang was only able to last for half a day.

"This sort of aimless, endless journey is the worst," Kuang Wang commented with frustration as he lay in the small boat.

"Be happy; there've been many students who wish to even make it this far. It's possible that we'll see the island on the other side at any moment," Feng Shang replied.

Lu Yin suddenly spoke up. "Senior Feng, your surname is Feng, so what relationship do you have with the Tempest Flowzone?"

Feng Shang replied, "I'm the third son of the Feng family."

Lu Yin nodded. "The last name Feng is rather uncommon. I met someone at the border warfront named Feng Tao."

Feng Shang smiled. "He's my younger brother, and he actually told me that you two met. He didn't know how high the skies were back then and even wanted to challenge you and Silver, haha!"

Lu Yin laughed. Although he had not spent much time at the border warfront, he had formed a rather deep impression of the place. The strange creatures, the iron blooded soldiers, and the emotionless battlefield were all unforgettable. It was a place where men should be.

"Right, Brother Lu, you seem to be especially short on money, right?" Kuang Wang asked. He had interacted with Lu Yin quite a bit over the last few days, and they had become more familiar with each other. Thus, he no longer had any qualms about asking this.

Lu Yin shrugged. "I'm used to it. Cultivation is related to one's personal talent as well as obtaining various resources. We can't achieve anything without money."

Kuang Wang's eyes gleamed. "Actually, you could head to the Beast Tamers Flowzone and capture some astral beasts there. There's always someone willing to buy whatever you catch."

"Ignore him. A lot of people capture astral beasts every year in the Beast Tamers Flowzone, and they can't even earn that much. Powers like the Divine Grade Hall, First Grade Hall, and Second Grade Hall all have their specialized hunting teams, so there won't be much room for outsiders to join in." Feng Shang mercilessly exposed Kuang Wang's intentions.

Kuang Wang became rather unhappy. "Is Brother Lu average? With his abilities, he would be able to catch a rare astral beast every few minutes, and selling any one of those would fetch him a fortune."

Feng Shang smiled grimly. "You yourself just stated that such beasts are rare. It's not just a matter of whether one can capture such beasts, but also whether one can even find them."



“You shouldn’t curse others just because your life is unlucky. Is there any meaning in competing in the ported battles all day and bullying those sprouts?”

“Don’t spout nonsense! I’m there to increase my battle experience. I’ve died multiple times, and I’ve even met an expert from the Top 100 Rankings before.”

“That’s your own efforts.”

...

“Right, Brother Lu, have you ever run into anyone from the Top 100 Rankings in the ported battles?” Feng Shang suddenly asked Lu Yin. Kuang Wang and Xia Luo were very curious as well.

Lu Yin nodded. “Avery.”

“Avery?” Kuang Wang and Feng Shang cried out as they shot sympathetic looks at Lu Yin. “You must have suffered a tragic defeat and been completely suppressed.”

Xia Luo softly said, “Avery, fourth in the Top 100 Rankings. He has an extremely sturdy defense, and he calls himself the Second War King. He’s from the Soulseal Flowzone’s Dire Barbarian Clan and has an innate gift of sound.” At that moment, he looked at Lu Yin with interest. “I’m curious, did he attack you with a sound technique?”

Feng Shang and Kuang Wang stared at Lu Yin too, as they were also very curious about his answer.

Lu Yin thought about it. “Yes.”

The trio stared at Lu Yin in amazement.

“Brother Lu, your power must have reached a certain level if you were recognized by Avery!” Feng Shang exclaimed.

“Why do you say that?” Lu Yin was lost.

Feng Shang explained, “Avery has a unique way of confronting his opponents. He first allows them to attack him, and he’ll only respond with his sound attack if he recognizes your strength. If the opponent’s power is not to his satisfaction, then he’ll use his physical strength to crush them. Many in the universe call it Avery’s Test.”

#### **Chapter 406: Finger**

“In general, Avery doesn’t reject challengers, and many wish to be recognized by him. However, it’s difficult to achieve even that. Generally speaking, only other experts who are already on the Top 100 Rankings can meet Avery’s requirements. Brother Lu, it seems that your power has already reached that level,” Xia Luo said in a congratulatory tone.

Lu Yin was stunned. “Avery’s really arrogant.”

“He has the qualifications to be,” Feng Shang commented.

Kuang Wang rolled his eyes, as it was irritating just to hear his name.

“Seventh Bro, you must teach this Avery a lesson some time. There’s even this Avery’s Test! He clearly thinks that he’s something else. You have to beat him, and after we trash him, let’s create our own criteria. We’ll call it the Harem Test!” the monkey shrieked.

Lu Yin suddenly thought of a problem. “Isn’t Souseal Flowzone where the Souldream Tribe is? They use musical battle techniques, which sounds rather similar to the Dire Barbarian Clan.”

“The Dire Barbarian Clan and the Souldream Tribe have a feud that’s lasted for generations. Their hatred for each other is deeper than anyone else’s,” Xia Luo said.

This was Lu Yin’s first time hearing about this, and he was rather curious to learn more.

“Rumor has it that the Dire Barbarian Clan has a tradition of kidnapping beauties from the Souldream Tribe and then marrying them, and whoever succeeds in doing this is considered to be a true warrior. The Souldream Tribe has their own tradition as well, which is to show no mercy to anyone they meet who’s from the Dire Barbarian Clan. Killing them is considered as making a contribution to the tribe, which has about the same significant as the Dire Barbarian Clan members becoming warriors. The famous massacres between the two clans have lasted for countless years,” Feng Shang explained.

“Interesting.” Lu Yin laughed.

“The Dire Barbarian Clan is arrogant, and that Avery’s basically their poster boy,” Feng Shang continued.

Kuang Wang rolled his eyes when he kept hearing his name being mentioned. “Focus on controlling the boat, and don’t let it wobble so much.”

“Don’t bother.” Lu Yin stood up and loosened his arms. “Get ready for a tough battle.”

Feng Shang and the rest felt like his words were strange since they hadn’t sensed anything.

Lu Yin squinted and looked ahead. In his eyes, the entire Ocean of Death was surging wildly, and countless lines of runes were converging right in front of them. The runes gradually coalesced into humanoid figures. These were war spirits with the ability to attack one’s spiritual force.

At that moment, Feng Shang and the rest also saw them, and their faces turned ugly.

“One, two, three... seven, nine,” Kuang Wang sluggishly counted them. “Nine war spirits, and each one should be at least as strong as a Realm Master. This is gonna be tough.”

Feng Shang smiled bitterly. “This is probably as far as we go.”

Xia Luo was even more serious than the two of them, as his face had also changed color.

Lu Yin took a few steps to move in front of the others. “I’ll try my best to draw some away, but you guys are going to have to take care of yourselves.” He then used Flash and disappeared. Five-lined battle force appeared around his body and he started using his domain and Cosmic Art. He slammed a palm out towards the nine war spirits in front of him. The force of the attack was earth-shattering, and he tried to get all nine of the spirits within the scope of his attack.

Given his power level, even if nine Realm Masters joined forces against him, he should still be able to handle their joint efforts all by himself.

Just as Lu Yin intended, the nine war spirits all focused on him, ignoring Feng Shang and the other. However, other war spirits were already appearing around the boat.

Kuang Wang said, "Impossible! How can there be so many war spirits so far out in the Ocean of Death? Some of these have to be illusions."

Feng Shang shouted, "Real or illusion, who cares? Just start fighting!"

In an instant, a heated battle broke out in the middle of the Ocean of Death.

During the Astral Combat Tournament, Lu Yin had already been able to crush a Realm Master, and his power had only reached even more terrifying heights since. One war spirit was immediately dispersed by his palm, but each war spirit was birthed from someone who had been able to enter these regions of the Ocean of Death, which meant that each one of them had their own unique abilities. They unleashed all sorts of innate gifts and battle techniques, as these war spirits represented the successive generations of freakish geniuses. Although their absolute power level could not match those on the Top 100 Rankings, their methods did not lack in variety, and even Lu Yin needed some time to eliminate them all.

There were even Lockbreakers among the nine war spirits, and two at that. They used lockbreaking methods to dissolve Lu Yin's Overlaying Stacks, and one Lockbreaker war spirit even gave Lu Yin a sense of familiarity. Surprisingly, its battle style felt exactly like Dao Bo's. Surely it can't be from Dao Bo...

The war spirit unleashed a domain that clashed with Lu Yin's. His battle force also collided with another one's, and the Ocean of Death was blasted apart.

Behind Lu Yin, Feng Shang's trio was experiencing an uphill battle; they had been surrounded by seven war spirits. The first to fall was Kuang Wang. He had released his azure dragon, but it was quickly dispatched by a war spirit with four-lined battle force. His emperor butterfly topgrass had then been torn apart by another war spirit, leading to the group's first death.

Feng Shang did not fare much better. His Cyclone Strike quickly eliminated one war spirit, but in turn, he was heavily injured by another.

In comparison, Xia Luo seemed to be taking care of himself the best. His lockbreaking methods were able to neutralize the war spirits' attacks, but he wouldn't be able to last for long either.

Lu Yin defeated three war spirits consecutively, but from behind him, a ferocious attack surged to come down upon him. On one side, there was a war spirit wielding a sword that tore through the void, and on the other, there was a strange chilly breeze atop the Ocean of Death, which was trying to freeze him in place.

Although there were many attacks, not a single one of them was able to overcome Lu Yin's defenses. The war spirits were taken out one by one, and as he vanquished the final one, Xia Luo took a war spirit down with him.

Sixteen war spirits had attacked them, and while eight had been fake, the other eight had been real.

No one aside from Lu Yin could survive a joint attack from eight Realm Master-level powerhouses.

As Lu Yin floated a meter above the Ocean of Death, he looked up; he could not remain hovering there any further. A boat of star energy formed beneath him, and he descended to stand on it.

In the end, only he was left. The Ocean of Death really wasn't easy to cross.

Lu Yin wasn't sure if that would be the most difficult hurdle of the journey, but he had a feeling that it wouldn't. From the many generations of students that had attended the Astral Combat Academy, there must have been a time when the ten Realm Masters had teamed up to cross the Ocean of Death, but even they had been defeated. This line of reasoning proved that the Ocean of Death was dangerous enough to extinguish the combined strength of ten Realm Masters.

The combined strength of ten Realm Masters from the Astral Combat Academy might even be enough to compete against that of an expert on the Top 100 Rankings. However, the danger of that previous encounter had not yet reached that level.

Lu Yin thought for a bit, and a war spirit slowly appeared before him.

Lu Yin trembled, and he suddenly grew very wary as he stared at it. This war spirit was extremely powerful.

The spirit approached Lu Yin step by step while carrying an umbrella formed from star energy in its hand. It leisurely walked atop the Ocean of Death in this manner, stepping out from the dark yellow fog. It then lowered the umbrella when it was about a hundred meters away from Lu Yin and pointed the tip at Lu Yin. One after another, strange bugs shot out from the umbrella towards Lu Yin.

The bugs looked like centipedes that were enlarged by more than a hundredfold. They were frightening and malevolent, and even the void that they traveled through was ripped apart.

Lu Yin's scalp turned numb, and he instinctively waved his hand, unleashing a powerful wind that pushed the approaching bugs aside. He then raised his head as a giant umbrella suddenly appeared above him, enveloping the entire area. On the other side of the umbrella, there was a submerged bug over a kilometer long, and there was actually five-lined battle force emanating from it.

Whoosh!

The giant worm charged at Lu Yin as the layers of its body rotated grotesquely. It was trying to draw Lu Yin and the surrounding void into its maw.

Lu Yin suddenly felt light-headed. Poison! He did not remain careless and avoided the attack with Flash before slamming a single palm against the worm's body that contained a Thirty Stacks Fortyfold Shockwave Palm. His attack split the worm into two; not even the five-lined battle force surrounding its body could withstand this strike.

The war spirit with the umbrella ferociously charged at Lu Yin and struck out with both hands. The star energy covering its palms changed in a strange manner, as if it had been compressed.

Lu Yin raised an elbow to forcefully block it, and the void transformed into waves that swept out from the collision point. Lu Yin only felt his arm hurt. What a powerful palm strength! And that was especially so for the suppressive force that had reduced his star energy to the Twenty Stacks level. The person who

had birthed this war spirit must have been one of the strongest Realm Masters in the history of the Astral Combat Academy. Of the current batch, perhaps only Starsibyl could compare to this spirit.

This ferocious attack had also targeted Lu Yin's spiritual force, but it was a pity that such attacks were useless against him.

A submerged bug approached Lu Yin once again, covering both the war spirit and Lu Yin with a strong poisonous gas that caused Lu Yin to feel dizzy.

He did not hesitate and stretched both of his hands out: one for the war spirit and the other for the bug.

The two palms caused both the worm and the war spirit to completely collapse, and they turned into lines of runes that then dissipated into the Ocean of Death.

It was truly difficult to find someone in the Astral Combat Academy who could match Lu Yin, even if one sifted through the long gone previous generations.

It was a pity that Feng Shang and the others had died, or they might have actually been able to identify who had birthed that war spirit. It had some very distinct characteristics such as its umbrella, worms, and five-lined battle force.

Just as Lu Yin was considering taking a rest, the entire Ocean of Death surged. This time, it wasn't just one region that started boiling, but rather the entire ocean.

Lu Yin's face turned deathly white, and he immediately leaped up into the sky. He endured the pressure and gazed into the distance, both in front and behind him. The entire Ocean of Death was flaring up, and endless lines of runes flew up into the sky before converging.

Lu Yin landed back in the star energy boat. He gritted his teeth as he looked at this foreboding scene. How had this happened? Almost the entirety of the Ocean of Death's rune lines were attempting to force him out. Given the intensity of this strength, how had anyone ever made it through to the end? How had that one Arbiter done it?

Just like back at the Sky Platform, Lu Yin once again sensed that the Ten Arbiters' strength lay beyond their published records; their true strength still exceeded his scope of understanding.

"Seventh Bro, why do I feel like you're afraid? Is something terrifying about to leap out?" The monkey started to panic.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed. The whole Ocean of Death was churning, and even the students back on the coast stared at the Ocean of Death in fear as it had actually started surging.

But the bystanders could not see the even more terrifying scene that Lu Yin was witnessing. From the bottom of the ocean, endless rune lines poured out, filling up the entire area. All of these rune lines represented power, and Lu Yin was being rejected by the entirety of the Ocean of Death at this moment.

It's unstoppable, definitely unstoppable, Lu Yin continuously repeated in his heart. It was impossible to stop the strength of this Ocean of Death, or rather, the strength of the Dao of Heaven.

"Seventh Bro, what's going on? I feel like I can't breathe!" On Lu Yin's right arm, the monkey's tattoo shouted with alarm.

Lu Yin gritted his teeth, closed his eyes, and then opened them wide once again as he sat down cross-legged. Since he could not block this strength, then he would gamble! “To be good at communicating, the Dao of Heaven refuses. To jump and lie in the heavens, the Dao of Heaven accepts. To jump and lie in the horizon, to condense gas, to swallow rivers...”

“Why the hell are you chanting right now? Let’s escape!” the monkey shouted desperately, but Lu Yin simply ignored him. From the start, he had never been able to completely recite the Stonewall Scriptures all the way through, and even now, he could only recite them bit by bit. The amount that he could recite at once had gradually increased, but there was always a limit. Once he passed that limit, he would faint.

Since he was facing the Ocean of Death’s full strength right now, he decided to use the limits of the Stonewall Scriptures to withstand it. The Ocean of Death possessed a destructive, corrosive power towards spiritual force, while the Stonewall Scriptures coincidentally negated such forces. All that he could do now was see if the Stonewall Scriptures’ limit could overcome the Ocean of Death’s strength.

All around the boat, the water of the Ocean of Death started rising up, filling the entire space, drop by drop.

Gradually, the runes lines in the sky formed an attack. This attack was actually a single finger. This finger engraved itself into Lu Yin’s memory the moment it appeared. It was something that he would never forget and would never be able to break away from, but was also strangely unable to remember—a singular finger.

#### **Chapter 407: The Island At The End**

Every time Lu Yin fainted, this finger would appear in his mind to crush the heavens. It wanted to completely pulverize him, and he had seen it many times before. Not once had he been able to suppress his boundless anger at this finger.

Now, the illusion of the Ocean of Death had penetrated Lu Yin’s inner being, dredging up this finger, and for the first time ever, manifesting it outside of the realms of his mind.

When the jade-green finger appeared above the skies of the Ocean of Death, the Dao of Heaven trembled, and all nine trial zones started vibrating as one. It was as if something incomparably terrifying was approaching.

All the headmasters of the Astral Combat Academy branches opened their eyes simultaneously as a strange feeling sprouted in their hearts. Heaven itself was collapsing.

At this moment, Lu Yin had almost reached his limits in terms of reciting the Stonewall Scriptures and was about to faint. But before he did, he opened his eyes, and they narrowed. This jade finger felt too familiar. He stared at it, watching it press down. The heavens rumbled, and Lu Yin saw a scene even deeper than the void. In fact, it was a scene even deeper than a blackhole. What was that? Also, he could sense something different in the nature of the finger that was pressing down towards him.

He could not suppress his anger as he stared at that finger, but he continued to recite the Stonewall Scriptures. For some reason, he should have already reached his limit, but he somehow continued reciting. Even more strangely, Lu Yin did not feel like he was close to fainting. Reciting the Stonewall

Scriptures allowed him to clearly visualize the many changes and details going on, and through this, he was able to observe the variations, nature, and power of this finger that was crushing the heavens; it was a battle technique.

This singular finger had transcended the heavens and crushed the distant ages.

The Ocean of Death was barely able to manifest this finger even with its boundless rune lines, but even this incomplete form couldn't be withstood by the Dao of Heaven. All of the students were ejected from the Dao. Actually, it wasn't only the Dao of Heaven. All of the students in every single one of the Nine Trialzones died and were pushed out. It was as if no living thing could survive beneath this finger.

It was a finger that reached the heavens and contained an unimaginable strength. Its only target was Lu Yin, and he was able to clearly observe it because of the Stonewall Scriptures. At this moment, he felt like he could even learn this battle technique.

The finger in the sky above the Ocean of Death crushed down. A moment passed, but it felt like a long time had passed even as the Dao of Heaven continued trembling. The instance before the finger crashed into Lu Yin, it dissipated as the Ocean of Death was unable to support it any longer. Even if it had only been a phantom image, the entirety of the Dao of Heaven's runes could not support the image. It was a supreme level of strength.

The moment right the finger vanished, Lu Yin completely fainted. But right before he lost consciousness, he released the Ghost Monkey.

The abnormal changes in the Nine Trialzones had captured the attention of the entire Astral Combat Academy. The nine headmasters moved out together to get a grasp of the situation, as the trial zones were vital resources of the Astral Combat Academy. Still, they were destined to be unable to make sense of the matter.

In an unknown place, at an unknown time, possibly in the future or in the past, or even possibly deeper in the long river of history, a pair of elegant eyes opened. "So it's from that area of the universe."

No one knew the reason behind the changes in the Dao of Heaven, but some had guessed it was related to Lu Yin. However, everyone from Astral-10 sang the same tune: Lu Yin had also been pushed out from the Dao of Heaven, and his fate was unknown.

Just like before, a dark yellow fog covered the Ocean of Death's surface. Lu Yin was lying in his boat, still unconscious. The monkey blankly sat there, doing his best to keep the boat together.

His strength, at best, could match up to a Realm Master, which meant that he was at Kuang Wang's level, who could not hold out for long in this location. Fortunately, the current boat was formed from Lu Yin's star energy, or else it would have broken down a long time ago. Even so, the monkey estimated that he would not be able to endure for more than a few days.

"What kind of broken place is this? There's not a single shadow here. Monkeys aren't meant to row boats."

"There's no way that any war spirits will show up, or else I'm dead."

“That thing just now was a finger, right? That was too terrifying. How did Seventh Bro—no, this bastard, withstand it? What kind of curse was he reciting?”

“It looks like this bastard has a bunch of secrets, and that’s why he’s always screening me off. I’ve told him this so many times, that we are one body and that we can’t be separated, but he still insists on screening me. What kind of secret could he possibly have? Can it actually be bigger than Progenitor Wushang’s hide?”

“Eh, it looks like there’s a ghost here!”

...

The monkey just continued chattering nonstop as he guided the boat across the water. For the entire time that Lu Yin was unconscious, he continued to incessantly blabber on in the same fashion, and he even constantly repeated himself. Just like that, he turned the lifeless Ocean of Death into a tea party of his own.

The boat was visibly thinning, and the monkey desperately wailed, “Seventh Bro, why haven’t you woken up yet? I can’t hold on for much longer!”

“No! Men can’t say that they can’t endure things! Speaking of which, I wonder how little sister Feng Jiu’s doing. She must be very lonely—bah, she can’t be lonelier than me.”

“What’s this Ocean of Death actually made of? Is it drinkable? I’m actually getting quite thirsty.”

...

After some time, Lu Yin felt like his brain was about to explode. He awakened, but he felt very dizzy. As soon as he opened his eyes, he saw the Ghost Monkey in front of him.

Lu Yin frowned and used a firm hand to smack the monkey.

The monkey crashed against the boat with a bang and scolded Lu Yin, “Bastard, are you crazy? Why’d you hit me?”

Lu Yin rubbed his forehead. “Ever since I let you out, you haven’t stopped spouting crap, and now, you’ve given me a headache.”

The monkey felt wronged. “How can you blame me? Look at where we are! This place is lifeless, and we still can’t see the end. It’s so terrifying, and it even feels haunted. A war spirit even appeared earlier to scare me.”

Lu Yin rolled his eyes. “A tomb raider like yourself is afraid of ghosts? Speaking of, aren’t you a ghost yourself?”

“I’m a mighty monkey, not a ghost! Also, I’m not a tomb raider, but an archaeologist and a researcher. A researcher!” the monkey shouted.

Lu Yin had no comeback for that. “Alright, alright, I got it. A researcher.” He then checked the small boat and found that only a thin layer remained. In a few hours, the boat would have disappeared, and the monkey would have been in a difficult situation.



Lu Yin acted and quickly restored the boat to make it sturdier. He then withdrew the monkey and looked into the distance. "I wonder how far we are until we reach the end of this."

With that, he started guiding the boat further into the ocean.

The boat forged across the Ocean of Death as Lu Yin's mind replayed the image of that phantom finger and the multitude of changes that he had observed. If not for the Stonewall Scriptures, he definitely would not have been able to see those changes. Also, if not for that finger, the Stonewall Scriptures would have made him forcibly pass out much earlier. Unexpectedly, the two forces had mutually countered each other.

Lu Yin had always felt that the Stonewall Scriptures were unfathomable and that there was a great history behind it. That finger had further confirmed his suspicions, as that finger had transcended the void.

Although he could not distinguish how strong an old freak with a power level in the hundreds of thousands truly was, he had a feeling that not even they had set foot in the realm that that finger came from.

Whether it was in his dreams or at the Stargazing Deck, although he had seen that finger approaching him with the intent of crushing him, he had never seen it clearly. This time, however, he had clearly seen it, and he could tell that the finger definitely belonged to a woman and that it was a terrifying battle technique.

Since it was a battle technique, that meant that he could learn it. Just that thought made Lu Yin light up. He had observed the various changes of that finger and knew that it could transcend the heavens. Such a battle technique easily surpassed any of the combat methods he currently possessed. At present, his Cosmic Palm could not keep up with his strength, the Skybeast Claw's power was too insufficient, and the Daynight Punch was not suited for him. His attack style had become overly simple, as he was currently only relying on the Overlaying Stacks. Once he faced a strong opponent who could defend themselves against that attack, he would be at a severe disadvantage.

There were still Limiteers who could rival him, and they might even be able to withstand Thirty Stacks, which meant that he still lacked a trump card.

That finger had given Lu Yin some hope. He was certain that it was stronger than any other battle technique. This strange, irrefutable belief stemmed from his intuition.

He had to learn it!

However, it was useless, as just looking at that finger had caused him to faint, and a dream was not something that he could manipulate. There was no way that he would be able to learn the variations of that finger in his dream.

He thought about it deeply, but in the end, he could only come up with one solution: the Stargazing Deck.

The first time he had seen this finger had been when he ascended the Stargazing Deck. More importantly, the Stargazing Deck was dependent on his willpower, and he could even use lockbreaking tools there. Not only could the Stargazing Deck show him that finger again, but it could also show him the complete form of the Skybeast Claw as well, which would be killing two birds with one stone.

Lu Yin decided to make a request to ascend the Stargazing Deck once again after leaving the Ocean of Death, and he hoped that the Starmaster would allow him to do so.

“Seventh Bro, look ahead!” the monkey suddenly shrieked.

Lu Yin looked up, where something different finally appeared in the distant scenery. It was the silhouette of an island.

Lu Yin stood up as his emotions surged; he had finally arrived.

Ever since the Astral Combat Academy had taken over the trial zones, few people had managed to reach the end of the Ocean of Death. But right now, he had joined their ranks.

As the boat slowly drew closer, Lu Yin could see the island more clearly. It was a very normal-looking island.

As they got closer, Lu Yin became more cautious, as he was wary of whatever he might encounter here.

When the boat reached the shore, Lu Yin felt that it was a bit surreal. Was he able to just get off of the boat that easily?

“Seventh Bro, hurry up! I want to see what the supposed end of the Ocean of Death contains!” The monkey was excited.

Lu Yin stepped foot onto the island, and the beach very much felt like real soil, though it was a little sticky. He squatted and touched it to examine it further, and his face instantly changed. It was blood; the soil was soaked in blood.

His face turned solemn as he unleashed his domain, covering a radius of a hundred meters, then a thousand meters. Every single grain of soil was soaked with blood, and he could not find a single patch that had been overlooked. How many people had died here?

“Seventh Bro, look. There’s footprints over there,” the monkey pointed out.

Lu Yin turned around and saw that, not far away from where they had landed, there was a set of footprints leading towards the center of the island. “Those should have been left behind by that Arbiter from before.”

“If there’s only one set, then does that mean that only one of the Ten Arbiters made it this far?” the monkey guessed.

Lu Yin wasn’t sure. He walked over beside the footprints and studied them. “It’s a small footprint. Either this person wasn’t too old, or they were a girl.”

“Probably a girl. Didn’t one of the Arbiters make it here before?” the monkey said.

Lu Yin agreed with him and then turned to look into the depths of the island. A gloomy canyon stretched across it. Perhaps he would truly enter the island after crossing it.

Lu Yin did not hesitate and moved towards the canyon.

When he just entered it, a chilly breeze swept across that caused Lu Yin's hair to stand on end. He was just about to speak, but then, suddenly, a rumbling loud voice was heard. "This can't be, this can't be! What are you maggots relying on to kill me, what exactly..."

"Five changed the sky. Five was replaced with six. Since then, a fake veil has been draped across the heavens. We won't allow it!"

"The sky has changed. It has changed. We will revolt! We will massacre the heavens and turn it into a river of blood!"

...

Lu Yin covered his head and panted as he stared ahead. This voice should be the will of some ancient remnant being transmitted along with that chilly wind. It was filled with deep resentment and unwillingness. It sounded as if it was in disbelief.

#### **Chapter 408: From Five To Six**

The monkey cried out, "Seventh Bro, did you hear that?"

Lu Yin didn't even have a chance to reply as he quickly left the canyon. His eyes were immediately met by the sight of corpses littered everywhere, reduced to nothing more than white bones. The area was also decorated with the tattered remains of fluttering banners.

Lu Yin's arrival came with a small squeak, but that tiny noise was enough to turn everything within a ten kilometer radius of him to dust. It was just like what had happened inside of the centipede's body, where nothing was able to resist the ravages of time over countless eons, except for the pikes that had been left stuck in the ground.

Lu Yin stared in shock at everything before him—the entire island was filled with corpses. How many people had died here? It could not be any less than 100,000.

Explosions rang out in the skies as countless voices rumbled, 'I can't wait. The future generations are hopeless, so how could I be willing to wait?'

"I am six, all fives must be killed."

"The sky has changed, the sky has changed. This sky will be six from now."

...

Lu Yin crouched down and forcibly endured the explosion of the successive voices howling out. Blood leaked out from his eyes, ears, and nose, dripping onto the island.

The Ghost Monkey had stopped speaking by now, probably because he had fainted.

Lu Yin panted heavily and opened his mouth in an attempt to reduce the intensity of the voices, but his efforts were for naught. He didn't even hesitate to rupture his own eardrums, but the voices seemed to be directly transmitted into his brain, which left him at a loss for how to handle the situation. Although the sounds were not attacks, the power that the voices innately contained was enough to harm Lu Yin's spiritual force despite them coming from ancient times. He could not even imagine the strength that these ancient powerhouses must have wielded.

Lu Yin could not endure the voices any longer, and his body started trembling. He was truly at his limit. No! His gaze turned firm, and he charged ahead. Even if he died, he wanted to see what secrets the depths of the island held.

As he ran forward, the ancient items that he passed by turned to dust. This was a trial zone, but life in here mirrored reality.

Lu Yin quickly reached deep into the island since it was not that large. When he arrived at the deepest point of the island, his pupils constricted when he saw five pikes pinning a dried corpse to the ground, the exact same scene as what he had seen in the centipede's body.

What is this? Some sort of sacrifice ritual?

Lu Yin could not make sense of what he saw, but before he could get a better look, a ferocious voice entered his brain. The countless noises caused him to spit out even more blood, and then his body vanished from the island.

Not far from where Lu Yin vanished from the trial zone, another set of footprints could be clearly seen. The tracks looked exactly the same as the footprints on the beach, and though they had reached the same location, the outcome was unknown.

Atop Astral-10's trial zone mountain, Lu Yin suddenly opened his eyes. A splitting headache immediately hit him as he instinctively clutched his head, almost falling over.

Coco, Xia Luo, and the others were nearby, and they all rushed over when they saw Lu Yin open his eyes.

"Brother Lu, are you alright?" Coco asked.

The few gathered students all looked at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin took several deep breaths and stared at the ground. He gradually recovered and shook his hands. "I'm alright. Just let me rest for a bit."

"Ok," Coco acknowledged. Then, the few students there left the trial zone mountain and waited for Lu Yin outside. They were very curious to learn about what lay in the furthest reaches of the Ocean of Death. They were also certain that the recent abnormal changes within the Dao of Heaven were related to Lu Yin, precisely because only Lu Yin had not been kicked out at that time.

Lu Yin spent an entire day resting at the trial zone mountain before leaving. He was in very low spirits. The Trialmaster glanced at him. "Little brat, did you reach the end of the Ocean of Death?"

Lu Yin nodded, and then he looked at the old man. "Mentor, do you know something?"

The Trialmaster shook his head. "Nope."

Lu Yin did not believe him, but he didn't ask any further questions since Coco and the others had just shown up.

"Brother Lu, did you really reach the end of the Ocean of Death?" Coco hurriedly asked. Xia Luo, Zora, and Michelle were there. Even Darkvoid, Meng Yue, and the others had shown up, and they were all staring at him.

Lu Yin took a deep breath. "Yes."

They were shocked; even if they had guessed at the truth, they still hadn't dared to believe it without confirmation. Even with Lu Yin verifying it now, they could still hardly believe it.

"What's at the end? Is it as the legends say? Is there an island filled with corpses of powerhouses and an ancient inheritance?" Meng Yue asked anxiously.

Lu Yin forced a smile onto his face. "If there was an ancient inheritance there, I wouldn't be like this right now." He surveyed the crowd and then explained a bit more. "There's indeed an island at the end of the Ocean of Death. And the island is indeed littered with corpses of powerhouses, but aside from that, there's nothing else there."

The group obviously didn't believe him.

"Liar. There's an inheritance at the end of the Ocean of Death! That was verified a long time ago!" Coco was completely straightforward.

Lu Yin shook his head. "I'm not lying, and I don't even have a reason to lie to you. Perhaps others received some kind of inheritance, but I didn't."

The crowd sighed. However, regardless of whether they believed him or not, they could not get any more information from Lu Yin.

Xia Luo enquired, "Were there any signs of someone else besides you reaching the island?"

Lu Yin nodded. "Yes. Their tracks were quite obvious, and didn't seem to be from that long ago."

"That should be the rumored Arbiter," Xia Luo said. He then left, seemingly holding no interest in the inheritance.

The others left as well, allowing Lu Yin to rest.

Lu Yin did not know whether or not they believed him, but there had indeed been no inheritance on the island. Anyway, when he combined what he saw with what he had seen inside the centipede's body, the only logical conclusion was that those pikes were from some power. And then there were those loud voices—Five? Six? Changing the sky? Rebel? Fake? Massacre?

These words reverberated through Lu Yin's mind for a long time, but he did not know what they meant.

The Trialmaster might, but the old man did not plan to tell Lu Yin.

During the more-or-less ten days that he had spent sailing across the Ocean of Death, Lu Yin's greatest reward had to have been that opportunity to observe the finger and its details. Right, the Stargazing Deck.

After resting at the trial zone mountain for another day, Lu Yin felt ready to head over to the Stargazing Deck, so he impatiently made his way there.

The Astral Combat Academy was split into ten branches, but one common feature that they all had was that they had their own Stargazing Decks. Many said that this was the most important feature of the ten combat academies, not the trial zones.

Lu Yin had not understood why people would say this before, but now, he was gradually coming to understand. It was because one could witness the past at the Stargazing Deck.

He could even use his lockbreaking tool to perceive the details more clearly, which made the viewing experience even more immersive. The Stargazing Deck's abilities far surpassed the trial zones'.

"Student Lu Yin requests to ascend the Stargazing Deck," Lu Yin spoke in a clear voice from beneath the Stargazing Deck.

The Starmaster opened his eyes. "In principle, each person has only one opportunity to ascend the Stargazing Deck. I've already allowed you two visits, so no more."

Lu Yin loudly replied, "Mentor has said that the scene at the top of the Stargazing Deck will not change and that it will be the same image for each person, which is why students are not allowed to return. However, this student is confident that, even if it's the same scene, something more can be seen. Will mentor please give this student another chance."

The Starmaster calmly answered. "Kid, do you think that the academy should make an exception for you?"

Lu Yin was stumped. "I wouldn't dare."

The Starmaster looked at Lu Yin. "Since ancient times, there have been no lack of powerhouses with unique innate gifts. There have been many people in Astral-10 who were as accomplished as you are today. Even the Ten Arbiters, during their time in the academy, have had their requests to reascend the Stargazing Deck rejected by me. You may leave."

Lu Yin could only comply, as even the Ten Arbiters had not succeeded. "Mentor, could you give this student a chance? The Ten Arbiters are the Ten Arbiters and were not students of Astral-10. This student has dedicated his time and effort to the academy, and has also shed blood for it."

The Starmaster merely replied, "Leave."

Lu Yin sighed. This elder was exceptionally stubborn.

"If this student wishes to ascend the Stargazing Decks of the other academies, will mentor stop me?" Lu Yin suddenly thought of something and had to ask.

The Starmaster replied, "I have nothing to do with the other academies' Stargazing Decks, but I must remind you that no academy will allow their students to ascend a second time."

“That means that students can ascend other decks, but not the same one, just like Astral-10,” Lu Yin clarified expectantly.

The Starmaster did not reply.

Lu Yin now understood. There were ten academies, which meant that there were nine more Stargazing Decks. This meant that he could ascend nine more times to comprehend that finger, but also that he only had nine chances.

Lu Yin respectfully bowed to the Starmaster and then left the Stargazing Deck.

He could not wait to view that finger in the other academies’ Stargazing Decks, as he was truly lacking powerful battle techniques that could be used as hidden trump cards.

Before he could leave Astral-10, Lu Yin was summoned by Old Cai. He learned that Astral-10 was planning on recruiting students in the Inverse and that it would happen soon. Old Cai wished to find out when Lu Yin was going to return. After all, Lu Yin was the poster child of Astral-10.

Lu Yin calculated the time, but then he shook his head. “I don’t have any specific plans to return in the near future. The Daynight Feast is about to start, and I’ve received an invitation.”

Old Cai was astonished. “The Daynight Feast?”

Lu Yin nodded.

Old Cai had a strange look on his face, and his expression soon became even stranger. He muttered to himself, “Since you’ve accepted their invitation, then declining it wouldn’t be good. Alright, we won’t need you at Astral-10’s recruitment.”

“Thank you, Old Cai,” Lu Yin said before turning to leave.

Old Cai suddenly called out, “Right, the Daynight Feast is very grand, so keep a low profile, kid.”

Lu Yin felt awkward, but he still decided to acknowledge the advice. “Sure thing. I’ve always kept a low profile.”

Old Cai’s mouth twitched, as he had never seen this brat act low-profile. “If someone mentions Astral-10, just say that you aren’t familiar with it.”

Lu Yin blinked. “But I’m from Astral-10.”

“Just say that you aren’t familiar with it. It’s for your own good.”

Lu Yin squinted. This old bat must have some issues, as Lu Yin had felt the atmosphere turn strange the moment he mentioned the Daynight Feast. Could this guy have possibly stolen something from the Daynight clan!?

Old Cai felt uneasy under Lu Yin’s gaze. “Alright, it’s time to hurry up and go where you need to go. I still need to make more Money Bombs and have no more time to waste on you. Right, under no circumstances should you use the Money Bomb while you’re in the Daynight clan’s territory. Remember that—under no circumstances!”

Lu Yin was now certain that this old fart had offended someone in the Daynight clan. This was damning evidence, and Lu Yin simply hoped that he would not be implicated in the matter!

He had no hope of prying any more information out from Old Cai, so he immediately sought out the Sandmaster to obtain some more information. However, the Sandmaster refused to answer, and his words were even similar to Old Cai's. "Keep a low profile in the Daynight clan. Remember, a low profile is the way to go."

"But, mentor, you've mentioned that we must conduct ourselves with boldness, as boldness is the fundamental key to upgrading our battle force," Lu Yin answered seriously.

The Sandmaster rolled his eyes. "That also depends on your timing. Anyway, this is for your good. Follow whatever that old fart told you. He won't harm you."

"Then please tell me what happened."

"You don't need to know about what happened to us of the elder generation. Remember, never, ever use the Money Bomb!"

"I-"

"Alright, enough talk. Get moving now."

Lu Yin was chased away by the Sandmaster, but he refused to give up, mainly because Old Cai's attitude was just too sneaky. Lu Yin would not be dragged into someone else's mess without rhyme or reason, and this even involved the Daynight clan. Even if he had the backing of Pirate King Highsage Leon, that man would only take revenge if Lu Yin died—Lu Yin could not be resurrected.

### **Chapter 409: Tempest Flowzone**

Typically, Lu Yin would not expose himself to unpredictable dangers, but this was not a matter of cultivation. Instead, he was just attending a banquet, so there was no need to risk his life.

However, the Rainmaster, Starmaster, and Trialmaster all refused to speak a single word about the issue.

While Lu Yin was considering whether or not he should reveal his connection with Highsage Leon, at that moment, his gadget sounded; Lily Anna was contacting him.

Lu Yin was momentarily stunned; how could she contact him while he was inside the academy? He quickly remembered that Lily Anna was also an alumni of the Astral Combat Academy, so she was naturally able to contact him here.

"Miss Anna, how are you doing?" Lu Yin greeted.

"Brother Lu, I took the liberty of contacting you, so I hope that it's no trouble," Lily Anna replied.

"It's no trouble. Miss Anna, do you have anything on your mind?" Lu Yin asked.

"Nothing much, but I recently recalled that I haven't visited Frostwave Weave yet. Since Brother Lu is an uncrowned king of Frostwave Weave, please take care of me when I visit there one day."



“Miss Anna is being too excessive. I’m no uncrowned king. Still, I look forward to hosting Miss Anna whenever you visit Frostwave Weave.”

“Hosting? Aren’t we friends? Or is Brother Lu looking down on a girl like myself, who’s from a small clan from a small Flowzone?” Lily Anna sounded rather hurt.

Lu Yin quickly replied, “Of course not, I’ve spoken badly. When Miss Anna arrives at Frostwave Weave, I’ll do my best to show you around as a friend.”

“Hehe, I’m just joking. Alright then, it’s a promise. Let’s meet in Frostwave Weave.”

“Let’s meet in Frostwave Weave.”

Lu Yin disconnected from the call and fell deep into thought. Lily Anna was the heir of the Northline Flowzone’s Lily family, and she was an Explorer as well. There was no need for her to give him prior notice if she wanted to tour the Outerverse. He recalled her attitude the first time they had met; she had praised him to no end, even though he didn’t know if it was intentional or otherwise. Could it have something to do with Frostwave Weave? Why else would she suddenly contact me for such menial things? Is there still something of interest in Frostwave Weave? Lu Yin was very puzzled.

Or perhaps he was over-thinking. Lu Yin laughed in spite of himself and brushed it out of mind. Ever since he had become the Royal Regent of the Great Yu Empire, he had started over-complicating many matters whenever he thought about them. Perhaps the Lily family just wanted to cement their relationship with him, and the call had been just a casual chat.

Lu Yin did not dwell on this matter any longer, and spent another two days resting at Astral-10. He then set off for Astral-7, which was the closest Astral Combat Academy branch to Astral-10.

During these two days, Feng Shang and Kuang Wang both contacted Lu Yin, inquiring about what had happened in the Ocean of Death. Lu Yin sang the same tune as everyone else from Astral-10, claiming that he had been forced out of the trial zone along with everyone else.

Neither of the two doubted him, as they did not believe that something that had affected all Nine Trialzones could be related to Lu Yin. The cause of the matter was something that even the headmasters had been unable to discover.

Although they hadn’t gained any results from their attempt to cross the Ocean of Death, they still transferred the money to Lu Yin. His Mavis Bank account swelled with yet another 1,500,000 star crystals.

It was neither too much nor too little, as the two of them were still students after all.

Astral-7 was in the Erudite Flowzone. Lu Yin made some calculations and quickly realized that it would take him a long time to arrive there if he used a normal spacecraft. He did not have much time to spare, but he had no choice. Before leaving Astral-10, he headed to the treasury to buy an Aurora spacecraft. Supposedly, it had been in Astral-10’s inventory for a long time, and it had even been upgraded to the radiant-grade.

An average personal Aurora spacecraft could fetch a price of over ten thousand star crystals, but the price of a radiant-grade one increased by a hundredfold: a million star crystals.

The production cost of a radiant-grade spacecraft wasn't that high, but the market was balanced by supply and demand. No matter where a radiant-grade spacecraft was sold, it would always be urgently needed. The Aurora Company limited the production of their Aurora spacecraft each year, and the price for each one was inflated due to the urgent demand from many.

Fortunately, Lu Yin could afford it. A million star crystals was as painful as cutting his own flesh, but he had just obtained over a hundred star essence, so it was not excessively painful.

However, Old Cai's complacent attitude completely irritated Lu Yin.

With the radiant-grade spacecraft, it would now take him just a tenth of the originally estimated time to reach Astral-7, which was less than ten days. He could afford to spend ten days traveling.

This time, Lu Yin did not wait with the civilians. Instead, he immediately used his Honor Points to board the Northline Flowzone's Tributary Ark and head out to Tempest Flowzone.

Tempest Flowzone was unique, and it was rumored to have strange storms that could engulf even the void. These storms automatically avoided planets, but they would not move away from spacecraft or space-exploring powerhouses. Furthermore, these storms would often appear without much warning.

This meant that it was very dangerous to fly through Tempest Flowzone. Once one was sucked into a storm, there were few who could live to tell the tale.

Over the passage of countless years, even the powers of Tempest Flowzone had not been able to discover the cause of the storms. Once, they had even specially invited an old freak with a power level in the hundreds of thousands to investigate, but to no avail.

Ever since, many people had emigrated from Tempest Flowzone, and only a small number of powers had stayed behind. This caused the flowzone's overall strength to decline over time.

Even then, the Tempest Flowzone's Feng family and Fire Scorpion Sect were both very powerful, or else they would not be able to cause Northline Flowzone to feel apprehensive.

The fastest way to Astral-7 was through Tempest Flowzone since circumventing the flowzone would add another ten days to Lu Yin's travel time.

Lu Yin's current objective was to wander through the ten academies, which was the same as roaming through the entire Inniverse. A rough estimate of the time needed was between half a year to a year, so he had no time to waste. After all, he still needed to return to the Great Yu Empire at some point.

He did not know if spending a year visiting the Stargazing Decks was worth it, but at least the year would not be wasted. Between each academy branch, he would be reciting more of the Stonewall Scriptures, and traveling would also give him some worldly experience.

Also, the Daynight clan's Daynight Feast was conveniently located along his journey.

Lu Yin felt a little flustered when he thought of the Daynight Feast, as Old Cai's attitude had been just too strange.

Tempest Flowzone's heavens were not like the starry skies of the other flowzones. It was dark, and only the celestial bodies emitted light within this darkness.

Sometimes, Lu Yin considered spending his entire life traveling to the edge of the universe. What was at the end of the universe? Was there an obstructing wall? A field of chaos? A body of water? What existed at the end in the other direction?

Even the Progenitor that the monkey always praised wouldn't know!

"Seventh Bro, have we left Astral-10?" The monkey had awakened now. He had been knocked unconscious by the voices on the island that was at the end of the Ocean of Death and had only awakened now.

Lu Yin replied, "Yes. How are you feeling?"

"Headache." The monkey sounded like he could not take the pain any longer. "Seventh Bro, do you still remember those words? Did you ask your mentors what they meant?"

Lu Yin shook his head. "Right, have you translated those words from inside the centipede's body?"

"No, when would I have found the time to do so? Also, my head is still spinning from those voices. Where are we now?"

"Tempest Flowzone," Lu Yin casually answered.

"Where?!" the monkey cried out.

Lu Yin frowned, "Tempest Flowzone. Why? Is there a problem?"

"Of course there's a problem! Why did you come here? Don't you know where Tempest Flowzone got its name from? Don't you know that it's dangerous and that you'll definitely die if you're swept up by those storms?"

Lu Yin responded, "It's not that serious, or else no one would live in this flowzone. The appearance of the storms is very rare, and someone once calculated that the probability of meeting one is one in a million."

"Seventh Bro, do you know that in the scope of an entire flowzone, a probability of one in a million is still very high? This basically means that, if you stand up high and look at the entire Tempest Flowzone, there are storms damned near everywhere!" The monkey was speechless at Lu Yin's answer.

"Relax, the Feng family, Fire Scorpion Sect, and other powers have been able to stay here for a reason."

"That's because they know the patterns of how the storms appear, and they must have mapped out some safety routes as well. But you dared to barge in here without knowing anything at all, and even thought that a one in a million chance was low!"

"How do you know that I don't know the patterns?"

"Does that even need to be said? Do you know?"

"No."

The Ghost Monkey painfully said, "Seventh Bro, let's do things more cautiously next time. Given the size of the universe, anything can happen."

Lu Yin was unsatisfied. "Did you really think that I entered without doing any research? Our current route has been mapped out by the network to be the safest."

"Bull shit! The network is accumulated from the experience of normal people. Those who can grasp the true safe routes are the few powerful organizations living here, and why would they publicize that information? Do you not wonder why nobody has invaded Tempest Flowzone for countless years? That's because of this exact detail: no one wants to see their own fleet gobbled up by a storm while traveling through this flowzone. These storms not only threaten the safety of Tempest Flowzone, but they also act as a barricade to defend them from external threats. Hence, no one would ever release information on the real safe routes, just like the Cosmic Sea."

Lu Yin thought about it, and then agreed, "Let's just forget it. Since we've already entered, we'll just let nature take its course."

The monkey had no other choice. "I've always had a sense that you'll one day be the death of us."

"Why are you so afraid of the Tempest Flowzone's storms?" Lu Yin was curious.

The monkey muttered, "An ancestor from my family was once swallowed by a storm, and there weren't even any remains left over. That ancestor was an Enlightener."

Lu Yin felt numb and a little regretful as well. If he had known about such an incident earlier, then he would not have taken the risk and would have headed towards one of the other academy branches first. Right, he might not know the safe routes, but he could ask someone who was more familiar with this region. Lu Yin thought about it and quickly contacted Feng Shang.

"Brother Lu, what's the matter?" Feng Shang appeared on the display.

Lu Yin said, "Brother Feng, sorry to bother you. I want to travel across Tempest Flowzone. Are there any safe routes?"

Feng Shang felt like something was strange. "Why are you headed for Tempest Flowzone?"

"I want to go to Astral-7, and traveling through Tempest Flowzone is the fastest route."

Feng Shang's feeling intensified. "What are you going to Astral-7 for?"

Lu Yin casually replied, "For an exchange trip."

This left Feng Shang unable to come up with a response. "So what route are you currently using?"

Lu Yin showed Feng Shang his planned route, and the Tempest Flowzone native said, "Yes, there shouldn't be any problem as long as you don't deviate from the route. This route might not be the safest, but the probability of storms appearing there is far less than the other routes. It won't be easy even if you look for them."

"There's no safer route?" Lu Yin tried his luck.

Feng Shang's face grew serious. "Knowing Tempest Flowzone's safe routes is the same as having a secret passageway straight to Tempest Flowzone's heart. Do you think that I can give such a thing to you?"

Lu Yin nodded. "I got it. Alright, later."

"Hold on." Feng Shang looked at Lu Yin. "Do you plan on heading to the other academies after Astral-7?"

"How did you know?" Lu Yin was puzzled.

Feng Shang shrugged. "I guessed. Let me know in advance when you're planning on coming to Astral-8."

"You want to welcome me?" Lu Yin asked with a laugh.

Feng Shang had a rather serious expression as he replied, "I want to escape earlier."

Lu Yin was left speechless as he directly ended the call.

#### **Chapter 410: Human Nature**

"Seventh Bro, this Feng Shang isn't bad. He's got the demeanor of a mediator."

Lu Yin watched as his own spacecraft outran another spacecraft, very satisfied with its speed. But then he was reminded of the blackhole-grade spacecraft that he had once used, and his mood sunk. He still owed the Outerverse Youth Council one blackhole-grade spacecraft. No, I owe Wendy Yushan. That spacecraft was reserved for Wendy Yushan's exclusive use, but it had been destroyed by him.

Forget it, Wendy Yushan's a space-exploring powerhouse. She shouldn't care about it that much, Lu Yin thought as he comforted himself.

He recited the Stonewall Scriptures for a while before falling asleep.

After some time, the monkey suddenly shrieked.

Lu Yin was roused by the screams. "What's the matter?"

"Look! The other spacecraft are all turning around and heading back!" the monkey shouted.

Lu Yin looked ahead of him and saw that every spacecraft was streaking past him and dashing in the opposite direction.

Lu Yin felt that something wasn't right, especially when he saw a collision that subsequently caused two personal spacecraft in front of him to explode. He decisively changed their route and returned in the direction that they had come from.

It should be known that spacecraft automatically recalculated their routes, so if two spacecraft approached the other too closely, both would reroute, making it normally impossible for vessels to collide. The only ways for such incidents to occur were if the spacecraft's system was uncalibrated or if the pilot was so panicked that they had set the spacecraft into manual mode.

"What's that?" the monkey shouted anxiously.

Lu Yin looked up and narrowed his eyes when he saw a grey flood engulfing everything in front of them. It moved rapidly, swallowing up one spacecraft after another. Every time it devoured one, the grey flood would pause briefly, but it would quickly rush forward once again.

Lu Yin finally understood why the spacecraft had attempted to flee in such a panicked manner. This was a storm! That bastard Feng Shang had even said that it would be difficult for him to run into one on this route, but he had met one as soon as he arrived.

“RUN, SEVENTH BRO!”

Lu Yin looked at his ship’s system but then saw that the navigation system had been destroyed by the storm, leaving the spacecraft unable to calculate a new route. Lu Yin was left with no choice, so he selected a random direction and dashed forwards.

Numerous spacecraft were swallowed one after another, all of them vanishing in the blink of an eye. The radiant-grade spacecraft was not that slow, and it flew about as fast as the storm advanced. Lu Yin relaxed, as the storm should not last for too long, and at this rate, he should be able to easily escape.

“Be careful!” the monkey shouted.

Lu Yin gritted his teeth, as his spacecraft had slightly tilted to the left and almost crashed into a nearby spacecraft. He was finished if he collided with another ship, since he would definitely be swallowed by the storm.

At that moment, a small spacecraft similar to Lu Yin’s turned around and flew in the opposite direction of the approaching storm. It was also a radiant-grade spacecraft and was much more valuable than Lu Yin’s single-person vessel, though its speed was comparable.

At this moment, only radiant-grade spacecraft were fast enough to escape the fate of being swallowed by the storm.

Star energy filled Lu Yin’s eyes, and he focused on the scene before him, afraid that he might collide with a spacecraft that randomly appeared in his way. Suddenly, he sensed rune lines on his right. He saw that many lines had abnormally started converging. When he turned around, he saw that there was a person standing atop a small spacecraft, staring at him with cold eyes. Within the man’s palm was an attack, charging with energy.

Lu Yin’s eyes narrowed upon seeing this bad situation. This person wanted to use him to slow the storm’s advance so that he would have a greater chance of escaping. From the amount of converging rune lines, this person was a Cruiser, and not just a normal one either. Otherwise, he would not have been able to afford a radiant-grade spacecraft.

“Seventh Bro, be careful!” the monkey shouted again.

Lu Yin released the Ghost Monkey. “You control the spacecraft!” He then retrieved an object from his cosmic ring, which was the Money Bomb that he had just bought from Old Cai. Since the opponent wanted to kill him, he would not just sit around and wait for his death. Old Cai, I hope that you weren’t messing around and that this toy actually works.

To his right, there were more than ten people in the small spacecraft. "Captain, attack! Who knows how much longer the storm will last for, and we might not actually be able to escape."

That Cruiser atop the spacecraft had cold eyes as he stared at Lu Yin. "I'm sorry, but you can only blame your poor luck. Help us escape this calamity." And with that, he loosed a ferocious attack from his palm, and an imprint traveled across space, heading straight towards Lu Yin's personal spacecraft.

Lu Yin's eyes went wide upon seeing this powerful attack, which carried a power level that should be over 80,000. He did not even think and immediately pointed the Money Bomb's unsealed end towards the Cruiser. The star energy within it surged forth, and the next moment, a ray of light shot out. It directly pierced through the Cruiser's enormous palm imprint before continuing on to directly strike the person himself.

That Cruiser never expected that this Limiteer would be able to unleash such a deadly attack even in his wildest dreams, and he had not even attempted to avoid it. When he looked down, he saw that his abdomen had been pierced through and knew that he would certainly perish.

How had it ended up like this? He was an existence who dared to cross realms to challenge Hunters, and his true strength allowed him to challenge those whose power levels were over 100,000. And yet, he had ended up dying to a Limiteer.

Those in the small spacecraft were similarly stunned. The captain died just like that?!

Lu Yin had never imagined that the Money Bomb would be so ruthless and that just one ray of light would instantly kill a Cruiser. The man hadn't been able to resist at all.

No wonder Old Cai had said that these boxes could even instantly wipe out a Hunter. This destructive force could indeed eliminate the average Hunter, so fifty star essence was actually a reasonable price for one of these boxes.

A Money Bomb could only be used once, and the metal ball inside would break after that one usage. The seals made of dark green bamboo would also have their color fade away.

Lu Yin stored the used Money Bomb away and looked at the small spacecraft.

Those in that small spacecraft were still staring at him in shock, their dead captain already having been engulfed by the storm long ago.

They were not too far apart, and Lu Yin could clearly see their faces were filled with hatred and loathing.

However, they soon had no time to bother with Lu Yin. The Money Bomb's attack had not only dispatched the Cruiser, but also damaged the roof of the small spacecraft, which was now continuously trembling. It didn't take long for the roof to start breaking down and the spacecraft to slow down.

Lu Yin felt no sympathy for them. If that Cruiser had not attacked him, then he would not have acted against them. These people were the kind to sacrifice others to ensure their own safety. Even if there had been no animosity between them before, their captain's death could not pardon them.

The small spacecraft gradually fell behind, and Lu Yin turned around to take back control of the spacecraft as the monkey merged back into his arm.

Suddenly, the spacecraft quivered, and Lu Yin looked up. There was another person atop his spacecraft. Unexpectedly, there had been more than one Cruiser.

This person tightly held onto Lu Yin's spacecraft, as a Cruiser's speed was much slower than a radiant-grade spacecraft. This man intended to escape by tagging along with Lu Yin's spacecraft.

"Seventh Bro, look! The storm is slowing down!" the monkey yelled.

Lu Yin turned around and saw that the storm was indeed diminishing. The small spacecraft behind him was right about to be engulfed by the storm. Even though it had not been swallowed yet, it still would not be able to escape before the storm completely dissipated.

There was a rumble as the Cruiser atop Lu Yin's Aurora slammed his palm against the roof, causing the spacecraft to slow down.

Lu Yin was furious, as this person even wanted to use his spacecraft as a sacrifice in order to buy more time for their own small spacecraft to escape.

"Seventh Bro, slaughter him!" The monkey was also enraged.

Lu Yin placed his palm against the spacecraft's roof, and a dark-gold radiance emerged from his palm. With the addition of his battle force, Thirty Stacks loudly burst forth. The radiant-grade spacecraft was sturdy enough to withstand the Cruiser's attack, but Lu Yin's Thirty Stacks passed through the metal, the powerful vibration squarely striking the Cruiser.

The Cruiser only felt the approach of an enormous strength, and he was almost unable to withstand it. His internal organs were painfully jostled about as he stared at the spacecraft in shock. A Limiteer actually possessed the strength to injure a Cruiser; there were not many such people in the entire universe. Since he had already ended up provoking such a person, he had to follow through and make sure that the person in this spacecraft did not survive.

Through the roof of the Aurora, Lu Yin and that Cruiser traded blows. Eventually, the roof was unable to withstand the force of these Cruiser-level attacks, and a crack appeared.

"Seventh Bro, stop fighting! The spacecraft can't take anymore," the monkey warned.

Lu Yin felt helpless, as this opponent was not easily dealt with. After all, this person was a Cruiser with a power level of over 50,000.

The exchange of blows between the two caused the spacecraft to slow down considerably, and it was soon equal in position to the small spacecraft, before slowly falling behind.

Those in the small spacecraft relaxed. As long as Lu Yin's spacecraft was swallowed, it would buy some more time for them, which would hopefully be enough for them to escape.

That Cruiser panted heavily, and with one leap, he appeared on the roof of the small spacecraft. He looked at Lu Yin with an intense expression filled with fear and stress.



A Limiteer who can take on a Cruiser. He could only think of a few names who was capable of this in the entire universe, and even if this person was not one of them, he would still become somebody of great influence in the future, not just some nameless nobody. Since he had provoked such a person, this Limiteer had to be killed. Otherwise, there would be no end to his troubles in the future.

Everything had happened too quickly, to the point where Lu Yin had not even found the opportunity to threaten his opponent with his many titles and high status. However, under such circumstances, such threats would hold no weight since it was a matter of exclusive survival. Even if the Ten Arbiters themselves took revenge for him, that would be a future matter. So in the case, Lu Yin's status could not save him.

The crack atop Lu Yin's spacecraft spread even more, and his spacecraft slowed down another notch.

"We're screwed! We're going to be swallowed! Doomed! My Celestial Ice Phoenix Clan, my harem!" the monkey shouted in a grieving voice.

Lu Yin clenched both of his fists and stared at the oncoming storm. He then gritted his teeth and turned to stare at the small spacecraft. He shattered his spacecraft's roof with a single punch, and with the help of his spacecraft, used Flash to close in on the small spacecraft with his extreme speed. He then struck out with a palm.

The people within the small spacecraft were not bothered, as there was a Cruiser with them.

The Cruiser watched Lu Yin's palm attack and did not dare to be careless. He struck out with all his strength.

Normally, it would not be easy for Lu Yin to deal with such a person due to the tremendous difference in their power levels. However, at this moment, something appeared in Lu Yin's palm: Progenitor Wushang's hide.

When the Cruiser saw it, his mind was ferociously scrambled, and he directly fainted without the slightest sign of resistance. This was the power of Progenitor Wushang.

Lu Yin's palm had never been intended to cause mutual destruction. Rather, he wanted to use this small spacecraft to escape. He casually kicked the Cruiser into the storm and watched as the storm devoured both his spacecraft and the Cruiser. He panted heavily, as the storm grew slightly smaller. He felt like he could actually escape.

However, not everything always goes according to plan. His attack with the Money Bomb had damaged the small spacecraft too severely, and the roof was completely shattered, causing both the small spacecraft and Lu Yin to be swallowed by the storm next. The instant after, the universe turned silent once more, and the storm vanished without a trace.

Days later, in Astral-8, Feng Shang blankly watched the news from Tempest Flowzone and saw that a storm had emerged on that route. He immediately tried to call Lu Yin, as the emergence of the storm had occurred not long after Lu Yin had called.

However, he was unable to get in contact with Lu Yin.