

Chapter 411: A Strange Space

Feng Shang set his gadget down. He looked up and sighed at the sky. "Could he really have been unlucky enough to run into it? Brother Lu, your luck is just too unfortunate."

Since ancient times, few people had ever managed to return alive after being swallowed by a storm of Tempest Flowzone. Of course, some survived, but everyone experienced different things. Some said that they fell into a bottomless abyss while others had ended up in a sealed space. Some had landed in a forest, and even more had dropped into a golden ocean. But when they were asked how they returned, everyone was the same: no one could answer, as if their memories had been erased.

However, with the passage of time, people had come to discover one commonality shared by everyone who had survived falling into a storm; they were all good people.

It was not possible to definitively quantify what made a person "good," but everyone who had survived and escaped from a storm had kind hearts, and almost none of them had ever killed before. Not all good people would come out alive, but all those who did were good people.

Lu Yin would not call himself a good person, so he had tried everything in his power to escape the storm. But in the end, he had still ended up being swallowed by the storm.

When he came to his senses, Lu Yin saw a forest all around him. The trees in this forest were not very tall, only about two meters in height. Lu Yin had never seen such a forest before, and he rubbed his temples. He had grown too careless after becoming famous throughout the universe, and he no longer had the prudence and caution that he once possessed. With his previous caution, he would have never used that route even if the chances of encountering a storm were one in a billion.

Still, at least he was alive.

He looked around, noticing that it was completely silent. He then looked up to see a light shining in the distance. He did not know if he was looking at the sky or outer space, because the light was simply too bright, and it was even a golden color as well.

The golden radiance shining in the distance extended to cover the entire forest.

Lu Yin stood up and tried to talk to the monkey, but he received no response. The stupid monkey was silent once again; its defenses must have been too pathetic.

Lu Yin tried to fly into the sky, but he immediately realized that he was unable to. There was a suppressive force directed downwards, preventing him from rising more than half a meter up from the ground. He was unable to fly in this place.

And since the trees in the forest were between two and three meters tall, that meant that he could not rise above them.

Then, was the forest forced to grow like this because of this peculiar pressure?

Suddenly, there was a loud sound in the distance, and Lu Yin turned around to look. He thought about it for a moment, and then he decided to slowly approach the source of the sound. No matter what, he had

to find someone first. He remembered that he had been swallowed by the storm before this. By all rights, he should be dead, but he had no idea where he currently was.

He didn't walk for long before the trees ahead started to sway. A wide section of the trees were pushed to either side as a panicked man appeared in front of Lu Yin, and the two stared at each other.

The man looked at Lu Yin with delight and frantically pointed behind him. "The- there's a ghost!"

Lu Yin felt nervous. "A ghost? Are you sure?"

The man nodded and looked behind him again. He hurried around Lu Yin and continued desperately running away.

Lu Yin turned around, and his expression changed. Could it be a war spirit? War spirit, war spirit... Yes, it's definitely a war spirit. If war spirits exist here, then could this be a part of the Astral Combat Academy's trial zones? No, that's impossible. That man was clearly middle-aged and wouldn't be allowed in the trial zones. Not to mention that he's just a Seeker. That man hasn't even set foot on the path of cultivation, so there's no way he could enter the Astral Combat Academy.

If this place was not a part of the trial zones, then where was he? Why were there war spirits present?

The war spirit only had the strength of a Sentinel, so Lu Yin simply waved his hand and caused it to vanish into lines of runes.

The nearby man looked on at the scene and was stumped. He then stared in disbelief at Lu Yin. "You killed the ghost?"

Lu Yin simply replied, "It's not a ghost. Alright, tell me. Where are we?"

The man was afraid. "Inside the storm."

Lu Yin frowned. "Inside the storm? And there's a forest?"

With a pale face, the man shook his head. "I don't know! In any case, I was swallowed by the storm, and I woke up in this damned place. I haven't seen anything else besides that ghost."

The man looked at Lu Yin's cosmic ring and hopefully asked, "Do you have anything for me to eat? There's really nothing here, and I've been starving for a few days."

Lu Yin nodded, but just as he was about to take something out for the man, an earth-shattering pressure swept across then that caused Lu Yin's expression to change. He instinctively used the Invisible Aura Technique to conceal his strength and then used his domain to merge into the surroundings. However, the man in front of him was directly smashed into a puddle of blood by the pressure.

Lu Yin forced himself to remain silent and motionless.

Not too far away, a war spirit streaked by without pausing.

Lu Yin didn't dare to even look at it, as its pressure far surpassed a Hunter's. A Hunter realm war spirit; this place was definitely not the trial zones. So, this place was actually inside of the storm? A formation of runes made up a war spirit, so was this place related to the Rune Technology Civilization?

Lu Yin sighed as he looked at the blood on the ground. If there were Hunter realm war spirits here, then it was possible that even more powerful war spirits would appear. He was in danger, and he had to be extremely careful.

As he pondered his situation, he started heading in the direction of the dazzling gold radiance.

He did not know how far this forest went on for, but it was beyond the limits of his sight, and he could not see its end.

Lu Yin walked through the forest for two days, encountering some war spirits every now and then. Fortunately, not many of them could threaten him, and those that could threaten him, he hid from.

However, he did not meet a single living person.

Given the storm's speed, a Hunter might be able to outrun it, but a Cruiser would find it challenging to do so. Hence, there should be very few cultivators at the Hunter realm and above who had been swallowed by a storm, or it might have been an accident.

Lu Yin also saw a few spacecraft of all different sizes within the forest. One large spacecraft was covered in signs of recent kills, as fresh blood stained the ground, seeping into the forest.

The biggest difference between this place and the trial zones was that if someone died here, they would truly die, unlike the trial zones, where you would simply vanish.

Lu Yin casually eliminated a war spirit and looked at the corpse on the ground. This person was only a Melder, and he had not died that long ago. A corpse normally would not be enough to attract Lu Yin's attention, but this person was from the small spacecraft that he had fought with right before being sucked into the storm.

Lu Yin could still remember some unique characteristics of these people's clothes, which meant that it must have been specially made for their organization. If this person had appeared here, then it meant that the others from their vessel could not be too far away.

Bloodlust filled Lu Yin's eyes. If not for those two Cruisers, he would not have been stranded here. He had to take revenge for this.

Anyone who fell into this forest would start heading towards the golden light, so Lu Yin believed that these people were no exception.

As he continued on towards the light, he met more war spirits, but unfortunately, he still did not meet any living people.

Along the way, Lu Yin eliminated more than twenty war spirits. This was only possible for him because of his fighting strength that rivaled a Cruiser, but death was a common fate for the majority of people who could not do the same.

Before too long, Lu Yin saw smoke in the distance before it was quickly dispersed. His eyes gleamed, as this meant that there was someone else there. He charged ahead.

In the distance, a small gathering of trees had been chopped down to make an open space where more than ten people had gathered.

“What are you doing? There are so many ghosts here, so what are we gonna do if they all get drawn over here?” someone admonished in a low and gloomy tone.

The others around him all angrily glared at a youth.

The youth fearfully answered, “So-sorry.”

“Alright, less bullshit. Let’s get moving just in case,” someone suggested.

A bystander was unhappy. “It was difficult enough to clear out this space, and now we have to leave already?”

“Then just stay behind and say hello to the ghosts.”

“Two of us should head back to the spacecraft and bring over the supplies. Who knows how much longer we’ll be stuck in this damned place for.”

“It’s rumored that only a few people can leave this storm alive, and those who did were all good people.”

“Bullshit! There’s still good people in the universe? Don’t be so naive.”

...

The group quickly fled the clearing.

After they left, multiple war spirits appeared. They were smart to leave, but they had no luck and ended up running into another war spirit just a kilometer away, and this one was at the Cruiser realm.

The group was overcome with shock, and they all scattered, trying to escape in separate directions.

But against this Cruiser-level war spirit, these people could only dream of escaping. Just when the war spirit was about to eliminate them all, two figures appeared from different directions and attacked it.

Boom!

Bang!

There were just two loud sounds, and then the war spirit ceased to exist.

The two figures retreated several meters and looked at each other.

Lu Yin looked at the other person who had attacked the Cruiser war spirit, and his face changed. “It’s you.”

That person in front of him also looked at Lu Yin, and his face similarly changed. He was the Cruiser who Lu Yin had stunned with Progenitor Wushang’s hide before then being thrown into the storm. “It’s you!”

The Cruiser was excited to see Lu Yin, and a fierce bloodlust lit up within his eyes. “Alright! I never thought that I would be able to run into you here. The heavens themselves must be allowing me to get revenge for my brother.”

Lu Yin squinted, and he trembled with bloodlust as well. "You people tried to sacrifice others to pave the way for your escape. No matter if it's your brother or you, death cannot atone for your crimes."

"It's your turn to die!" the Cruiser bellowed, and his body changed as it became an incomparably firm stone.

Lu Yin was stunned, as this change was actually an innate gift. This Cruiser had actually been concealing his strength.

Against a Cruiser with an innate gift, Lu Yin had no plans of fighting him head-on, and Progenitor Wushang's hide once again appeared in his hand. This thing was a great killing tool.

Abruptly, an earth-shattering pressure swept across both of them, causing Lu Yin and the Cruiser to exchange shocked glances. It was that Hunter level war spirit again, and the two cultivators charged straight at the golden light without hesitation. Any personal grudges were immediately thrown to the back of their minds.

Lu Yin wanted to conceal himself with the Invisible Aura Technique, but he knew that the Cruiser would not allow him to hide himself that easily. Thus, he could only escape into the distance with the older man.

The pressure grew even greater, and a chill ran down Lu Yin's spine. He could sense the war spirit's aura, and the number of rune lines congregating behind him was increasing as well. The war spirit was about to act, but Lu Yin gritted his teeth as he gripped Progenitor Wushang's hide. He was in a dilemma, but he was hesitating about whether or not he should throw this thing out.

He didn't have much time to think, but then, the Hunter realm war spirit suddenly changed directions and headed for the Cruiser.

Lu Yin was stunned; why had it not attacked him? What could be the reason? Could it possibly be Progenitor Wushang's hide?

Based on what the monkey had said, Progenitor Wushang and the Rune Progenitor had both reached the Progenitor realm. Perhaps at that level, cultivators had an innate reaction towards the strength that they had left behind, and that might have been what had helped Lu Yin to avoid this crisis.

No matter the reason, Lu Yin could relax as long as he was not targeted.

When the Cruiser saw the war spirit turn to pursue him, his soul left his body. He was not a Realmbreaker like his elder brother, so he could not challenge a Hunter. He desperately tried to increase his speed in order to escape again.

Lu Yin's eyes gleamed, and he did not leave the area. Instead, he maintained some distance from them and followed behind the Cruiser and the war spirit.

Within the forest, a terrifying aura swept across and caused many trees to fall down. In front of the pressure, the Cruiser desperately fled for his life as a war spirit relentlessly chased after him. Even further behind them was Lu Yin.

The space in this location was strangely firm, and not a single one of the three could move by tearing through the void, which caused the speed of all three people to be about the same.

High above them, the golden radiance became even more dazzling.

Chapter 412: Calculations

Lu Yin's gaze was fixed in front of him as he stared on in shock. With his altered eyes, he could see indescribable numbers of rune lines gathering in the distance. The amount that had congregated here was almost enough to pierce through the horizons, and it greatly surpassed what he had seen when that finger had formed in the Ocean of Death. Whatever this thing was, it had caused an extreme amount of rune lines to converge, and it was undoubtedly incomparable to the Hunter war spirit.

A sudden spike of pain stabbed into Lu Yin's eyes, and two streaks of blood flowed down his cheeks. He looked down and rubbed his eyes, unable to continue looking at the runes in front of him any more. He then expelled the star energy from both eyes.

When he looked up again, this time, he saw a mountain towering in the distance, blocking most of the golden radiance. The mountain's dark outline sharply contrasted against the golden light and cast a shadow over the forest, dividing it in two.

Currently, the trio was within the shadows, chasing after one another.

Lu Yin could not imagine what lay in the distance, and he did not even dare to look. It must be a terrifying being of strength, and its power level was definitely more than a few hundred thousand.

After some time, the war spirit gradually caught up with the Cruiser, who tried to probe the Hunter realm war spirit by exchanging some blows, but the Cruiser ended up being beaten to the point of spitting blood.

The Cruiser also noticed that Lu Yin was following behind them, and he growled in indignation.

Lu Yin immediately stopped. With the Hunter realm war spirit's presence, he should not be concerned about this person's anger.

The man had no choice but to continue moving forward to escape. Since the war spirit had latched onto him, the man's hopes of escaping were quickly dwindling.

He pushed the trees of the forest aside and leaped forward. When he next looked up, he saw that the scenery around him had changed drastically. He was no longer a forest, but instead, a golden ocean.

The Cruiser was shocked at the sight of this golden ocean.

A terrifying strength approached him from behind, and the man's body turned to stone as he crossed both arms to block the blow. With a bang, the war spirit sent him flying before he crashed heavily into the white beach. The Cruiser spat out a mouthful of blood and looked up in terror, only to realize that the war spirit had not pursued him any further, remaining on the fringe of the forest.

The man was ecstatic. It seemed that the war spirit was afraid of the golden ocean, not daring to approach it.

Lu Yin had also discovered the ocean, and he flitted over to the white beach by going around the war spirit. There, he was able to fully view the distant, boundless golden ocean and the massive mountain towering up from within the ocean. This mountain was what had caused his eyes to bleed before, and it

was definitely no ordinary mountain since its rune lines represented a power level that was more than several hundred thousand.

Cough cough

Lu Yin turned around.

The Cruiser stood up with some difficulty and wiped the blood from his lips. He stared coldly at Lu Yin. "Why didn't that thing attack you? Do you know how to get out of here?"

Lu Yin's lips quirked up, and he slowly walked towards the man. "If I were you, I wouldn't be thinking of how to get out. Rather, I'd be thinking of how to save myself."

The Cruiser laughed as he retrieved something from his cosmic ring and quickly swallowed it. "You actually think that I can't beat you if I'm injured! You're underestimating a Cruiser."

Lu Yin frowned, as this person was troublesome; his strength was not that of a normal Cruiser's. Based on power level, this person could probably rival an expert at the bottom end of the Top Hundred Rankings, and he wasn't inferior to Northgate Lie by much. Although Lu Yin could use Progenitor Wushang's hide to catch this person off guard and kill him, he had already used this tactic once in outer space while both of them were trying to escape from the storm. So, this person would almost have precautionary measures against Lu Yin using it for a second time.

The Cruiser stared at Lu Yin, as he was aware that his own injuries were severe enough that they would not be easily treated even with Shamrock Enterprises' special drugs. Moreover, this Limiteer in front of him was not weak, and was actually one of those top freaks in the Limiteer realm. More importantly, the Cruiser still remembered being inexplicably dazzled when they had fought in outer space. This person had some kind of strange weapon.

He looked through his memories and then closed his eyes.

Lu Yin's heart jumped, and he smiled bitterly. Sure enough, this person was being vigilant about being stunned again.

Neither of the two acted immediately.

From Lu Yin's point of view, it was not prudent to fight in this unsafe environment, which would be equally detrimental to both of them.

"Seventh Bro, where are we?" the monkey suddenly spoke up, startling Lu Yin since he was in the middle of a fight.

On the white beach, neither Lu Yin nor the Cruiser spoke. The monkey rejoiced that he had not died and immediately started spouting nonsense about how he could be killed so easily. Lu Yin could not cut off the star energy to his right hand, as he had to keep his guard up against the Cruiser.

"It wasn't right how we treated you in space, but you killed my brother, so let's cancel our grudges for now. How about it?" The Cruiser spoke first before continuing, saying, "Don't think that I'm afraid of you. Under these circumstances, neither of us will benefit from being injured. I've traveled through the universe for many years, and I'm much more experienced than you. You should listen to me."

Lu Yin muttered to himself for a moment before answering, "Sure."

The Cruiser opened his eyes, but he didn't dare to look directly at Lu Yin out of fear of being stunned by Progenitor Wushang's hide. "We're already inside the storm. It probably transported us to a secret dimension, so it'll be nearly impossible for us to get out."

"What? Inside the storm? Secret dimension? Seventh Bro, you didn't escape?" the monkey lamented.

Lu Yin was vexed, and he directly cut off the star energy to his right arm. "It's rumored that people have walked out of here alive before."

"They all lost their memories," the Cruiser dryly replied.

Lu Yin looked at the golden ocean and noted that it seemed as if all remnants of the Rune Technology Civilization had oceans, such as the Ocean of Death and this golden ocean.

The Cruiser glanced at Lu Yin, wanting to hear from this person himself why he had not been attacked by that war spirit from before. However, he knew that he would receive no answer even if he asked. He would recuperate first and then dispose of this kid.

Lu Yin pointed at the tall mountain in the middle of the golden ocean. "What do you think? Do you think that climbing that is the way out?"

The Cruiser nodded. "Possibly."

The two did not speak any further. The Cruiser only wanted to treat his injuries without delay. Meanwhile, Lu Yin walked over to the forest and snapped off a branch. He then approached the ocean and used the branch to probe the water.

The Cruiser watched on carefully.

The branch touched the water without event.

Lu Yin hesitated and then shot star energy through his fingertip into the water. It created a ripple, but there were no other changes.

"It should just be normal ocean water," the Cruiser spoke, hoping that Lu Yin would directly touch the water.

Lu Yin was not fooled. "Right, it's only normal water. However, there's a golden light, so there might be treasures under this ocean."

The Cruiser's eyes gleamed, as that option was indeed possible. He looked up at the sky and then at the gold color. As far as he could see, the entire ocean was tinted gold. At this point, it would be more unbelievable to him if there were no treasures here.

He did not wait for Lu Yin to act and personally moved to test the water. As his finger probed the water, his hand felt cold, but his body itself was not harmed. He immediately became delighted, as it was indeed just normal water, which meant that there had to be treasure hiding on the seafloor or in the depths of the ocean.

He emotionally looked into the distance; could this be an opportunity for him to profit from a disaster?

But then, his face quickly sank, as he was not alone. He thought about it and then glanced at Lu Yin, who was seemingly enthralled by the tall mountain. The Cruiser was puzzled. "Why do you keep staring at that mountain?"

Lu Yin answered, "The treasure could also be hidden at the top."

"The golden light is obviously coming from the other side of the mountain."

"That's true," Lu Yin replied with a nod after thinking about it. He then turned around to look in the other direction and showed his back to the Cruiser.

The Cruiser's eyes quivered, and his fingers bent as he considered ambushing the youth, but he ultimately decided against it. He would wait a little longer for his condition to improve before acting. He definitely would not allow Lu Yin to survive, as this person had killed his brother.

Lu Yin's back was to the man, but his eyes were twinkling. Then, he turned around and sat down cross-legged on the ground. "Let's rest for a while."

There was no nighttime in this area, as everything was permanently illuminated by the golden light.

Lu Yin looked at his gadget. It must be under the influence of the space he was in, as it had stopped working. He silently estimated the time and concluded that five days should have passed since he had first arrived. He waited on the beach for another day, and the Cruiser also refrained from acting.

Lu Yin gradually relaxed his vigilance as he was fascinated by the golden ocean more and more.

"Have you eaten?" the Cruiser suddenly asked Lu Yin.

Lu Yin shook his head.

"I'm going into the forest to look for any spacecraft wreckages. What about you?"

Lu Yin replied, "We don't trust each other, so being together might not be the best idea."

"This area is rather tricky. We should cooperate."

Lu Yin was puzzled. "How do you want to cooperate?"

The Cruiser squinted. "We'll take turns looking for food and exploring the ocean."

Lu Yin thought to himself for a moment and then nodded. "Okay."

"To show my sincerity, I'll go and look for food first. Rest assured, I won't hide any if I find some. I hope that we'll be able to find some treasures together and then get out of this damned place," the Cruiser said before walking into the forest.

Lu Yin continued to stare calmly at the mountain as he fell deep into thought.

Quite some time passed, but the Cruiser still did not return. Lu Yin relaxed and closed his eyes to quietly rest.

In the forest, a kilometer away from Lu Yin, the Cruiser's eyes widened as he stared ferociously at Lu Yin's back. He had never left from the very beginning and had instead been patiently waiting for the moment Lu Yin mentally relaxed so that he could launch an ambush. Rather than cooperating, the Cruiser felt that he might as well capture Lu Yin and use him as an extra life to search for a safe route.

The man did not use any star energy as he was afraid that Lu Yin would notice his approach. He gripped a branch, and a ruthless glint appeared in his eyes. He ferociously dashed out of the forest with the stick pointed straight at Lu Yin's back. With his strength as a Cruiser, even without star energy, his all-out physical strike should be enough to instantly kill a normal Explorer. Even if this person was a freak, the Cruiser did not believe that Lu Yin's defense could surpass an Explorer's.

As the branch in his hand rushed towards Lu Yin, the branch struck Lu Yin's back almost before he could even react. However, the expected spurt of blood did not appear, and the man only felt the branch snap as if it had run into a boulder, and he even nearly injured his own hand. He stared in disbelief at Lu Yin's back; how could this kid's body be so sturdy? It was no weaker than a Cruiser's body.

But before the man could gather his thoughts, the clothes on Lu Yin's back tore apart to reveal a piece of Progenitor Wushang's hide.

The man looked directly at the hide, and his brain was heavily jolted. No longer able to control himself, he spat out a mouthful of blood and fell to the ground with a deathly pale face.

Lu Yin slowly stood up and looked down at the man. "I waited a long time for you."

That was the last sentence the man heard before losing consciousness.

Lu Yin definitely would not lower his guard when an enemy was nearby. He had instructed the monkey to use his innate gift of shadows to hide Progenitor Wushang's hide on his back and then waited for the Cruiser to launch an ambush. The Cruiser was wary of the hide and would never open his eyes in a direct confrontation. Thus, the only path to success was for Lu Yin to bait the Cruiser into sneak attacking his exposed back.

Just as expected, the Cruiser had attacked Lu Yin's back, only to be stunned by Progenitor Wushang's hide.

Chapter 413: Fish Bait

"Seventh Bro, you're too awesome! Your predictions were too accurate!" the monkey shouted in worship.

Lu Yin put Progenitor Wushang's hide away and coughed. He had not fully blocked that branch and had actually been injured by it. He grabbed the man's cosmic ring and cut his finger before letting the man's blood drip onto the ring, unlocking it. From the ring poured out a large pile of items.

The cosmic ring was not as large as the one that Northgate Lie had given Lu Yin, but it was not small either. There were many things inside: about ten vials of special drugs from Shamrock Enterprises as well as other unknown medicines, weapons, star crystals, and even star essence.

Lu Yin was shocked, as this person possessed a considerable amount of wealth. His brother's power had not been simple, and this Cruiser was the same. They were elites among Cruisers and should possess some influence. Still, none of that mattered anymore since everything of his now belonged to Lu Yin.

He looked through the pile, but it was still the star crystals and star essence that attracted Lu Yin's attention the most. There were 220,000 star crystals, which wasn't much, and ten star essence, which was the same as 100,000 star crystals. Not bad, not bad. This is good enough for now.

He drank a vial of the Shamrock Enterprises' special medicine and suddenly felt much better.

The pile also held three Mavis Bank cards, one memory chip, and a large pile of objects that Lu Yin could not identify.

For people who roamed the universe, nothing could surpass the importance that resources and medicines held, except for battle techniques and cultivation methods. This group had been led by this Cruiser's brother, so unfortunately for Lu Yin, the most valuable items had all been on that brother's body.

Still, this was already a pretty good profit.

The wealth of a single Cruiser could allow Lu Yin to temporarily break free from his frustration of being destitute. Although the Cruiser's ring didn't hold much wealth, it was at least enough to buy another radiant-grade spacecraft.

He felt rather depressed, as his vessels never had happy endings.

"Seventh Bro, what should we do with this bastard?" the monkey asked, fuming with rage. If not for this person, they would never have ended up in their current situation, with this unknown fate of if they would ever be able to escape from this place.

Lu Yin crouched down, placed a hand on the man's abdomen, and mercilessly unleashed Thirty Stacks. There was a soft boom, and the white beach shook as the man was crushed beneath the sand. The Cruiser woke up and opened his eyes as he spat out a mouthful of blood.

After opening his eyes, the man felt an intense pain in his abdomen, and it felt as if his organs had been crushed. He was now in a much worse condition than before.

Lu Yin stood on the beach and looked down on the Cruiser from above with cold eyes.

The man fearfully looked at Lu Yin. "I- I didn't do it on purpose. I was trying to test your vigilance. After all, if we are going to cooperate, I can't work with someone who's not alert."

Lu Yin felt nothing but disdain. "So you tested me?"

The man panted heavily and released a breath. "Yes, tested. I'd be happy to work together with you."

Lu Yin laughed. "Of course. Or at least, I'll be very happy." Then, in full view of the man's panicked gaze, Lu Yin's star energy took the shape of a thread extending from his fingertip. Lu Yin then tied the man up before tossing him into the golden ocean as if he were fishing.

The man was terrified. "No! Please, let me go! I'm begging you! I'll give you resources, battle techniques, weapons, anything! Please, let me go!"

There was a plop, and the man's words were drowned out under the water.

"Seventh Bro, this person's shameless," the monkey ridiculed.

Lu Yin's fingertip quivered while the man shivered in fear beneath the surface of the ocean. Although the water was normal, it was unknown if there was anything else in the water. Humans feared the unknown, and this man had just been tossed around by Lu Yin like bait.

After quite a while, Lu Yin pulled him ashore.

Splash~~

The man spat out another mouthful of blood. His entire body was drenched, and he just lay there on the shore, shivering.

When Lu Yin saw the man's unharmed state, he muttered, "It looks like it's safe near the beach. But who knows if it's safe further out or if there are some terrifying organisms lurking in the depths."

The man's face paled, and he grew even more terrified. His extreme fear coupled with his serious injuries caused his eyes rolled back as he fainted.

"Seventh Bro, you're using him as bait to explore the ocean?" the monkey asked.

Lu Yin grunted. "This place is too weird. I won't risk exposing myself to unknown dangers."

"You're too cruel," the monkey mumbled.

Lu Yin was unhappy. "It's either him or you. Your choice."

"Seventh Bro, I actually think that you're incredibly brilliant. How did I not think of using this guy as bait? I should learn well from Seventh Bro and try to improve myself every day." The monkey immediately started flattering Lu Yin.

Lu Yin casually fed the Cruiser a special medicine since he did not want the man to die. After all, it would be difficult to find another Cruiser to use as bait in this place.

This person held a grudge against Lu Yin, so he acted without any reservations. If this Cruiser had been just another bystander, then he might not have been able to bring himself to do this, though Lu Yin himself readily acknowledged that he was not a good person.

After some rest, Lu Yin awakened the man once more and threw him into the ocean to continue his noble fishing trip.

This was not Lu Yin's first time fishing, as he had also fished while on the Astral River Ark before. Back then, he had been nervous every time he cast his line from the ark as he feared something freakish biting, and this current endeavor was no different.

The vast ocean and the tall mountain held an indescribable terror to Lu Yin. The number of rune lines that a person or item possessed represented the amount of influence that they had on the universe, but

both the ocean and the mountain had an absurd amount of runes converging around them. The amount was so high that his scalp turned numb at the thought, and he didn't dare to approach them personally.

As he moved along the white beach, Lu Yin rotated between using the Cruiser as bait and looking into the distance to see if there was an exit.

After two days, Lu Yin casually tossed the Cruiser into the ocean once again. After his initial period of fear, the Cruiser now felt only numb. He longed for death at this point, since he would no longer have to suffer if he died.

"It looks like either the coastal waters are safe, or the entire ocean is safe. You're very lucky," Lu Yin commented. The Cruiser, still injured from Lu Yin's earlier punch, stood nearby.

The man coughed up some blood and glared at Lu Yin. "Kill me. If you have the ability, then just kill me already."

Lu Yin's lips curled upwards. "There's no need to try to agitate me. You don't really want to die. If you do wish to die, then just kill yourself. I won't stop you."

The Cruiser clenched both fists as his entire body quivered, either out of anger or fear it was unknown.

"Alright, let's continue fishing," Lu Yin shouted as he tossed the Cruiser back into the ocean again.

A day later, Lu Yin looked behind him to check the path that they had taken, and he saw that his path had deviated, as expected.

After he had started testing the ocean with his bait, he had walked along the beach in a straight line for three days. However, his path had deviated from a straight line, even though he had never moved further away from the forest or the ocean. This meant that the beach was curved in an arc. This further confirmed his guess that the entire sealed space was circular in shape, which included both the golden ocean and the forested area.

Of course, this was just a conjecture of his. It could also be that just the ocean was curved. However, Lu Yin trusted his own intuition. When he calculated the arc and angle from his three days of travel, it was highly probable that this place was circular.

Lu Yin made the calculations again. If this space was actually circular, then it would take him at least half a year to walk around this ocean once with his current speed, which was too long.

He turned around and looked at the mountain in the ocean, as that place was the only variable he could see.

He did not wish to be trapped in this sealed space forever. Thus, even if approaching the mountain was dangerous, it was still better than being trapped in this place for the rest of his life.

"Monkey, have you translated those words yet?" Lu Yin suddenly thought of this matter from before.

The monkey was agonized. "This monkey has reviewed all the journals and written records and used them for comparison. I've only translated one character so far—'hate.'"

“Hate? Hate whom?” Lu Yin was curious.

“I just said that I’ve only translated one word. There’s thirteen characters in total, and this ‘hate’ word is actually four of them.”

“To pierce someone with five pikes is indeed an act of hate,” Lu Yin murmured, “Alright, you keep translating.”

He then cast a malicious look at the bound Cruiser.

At this moment, the man was still numb. His entire body was soaked in water, and the resentment in his eyes had only grown more intense.

He sensed Lu Yin’s gaze on him, and his heart sank. He actually felt some desire to jump into the ocean of his own accord.

Lu Yin gently tugged on the star energy rope. “Don’t be so anxious to jump into the ocean. We’ve worked hard to explore the coastal waters these past few days, so now, we need to set higher goals.”

The man felt his scalp turn numb, and the resentment in his eyes was replaced with dread. “Wha- what is it you want?”

Lu Yin grinned and casually tossed the man into the ocean. This time, the star energy rope kept extending. The man was thrown far out into the depths of the ocean by an enormous force, and his face went pale. The depths were an entirely new territory and were filled with the terror of the unknown. He recalled the fear that he had felt the first time he had been tossed into the ocean, and he could not stop himself from pleading for his life, but it was useless. Lu Yin had already made up his mind to start making his way towards the mountain.

He felt that scaling the mountain might be the only way out.

Plop!

The man had been tossed dozens of kilometers into the ocean, which was a distance that could not be seen by any regular human. Only cultivators could see such a distance, though Lu Yin could see even further.

Given the Cruiser’s current condition, if Lu Yin wanted to maintain control of him, then he could not lessen the intensity of his star energy any more. This distance was Lu Yin’s limit. Any further and the man would be able to break free from the star energy restraints and escape.

Lu Yin stood on the beach and waited anxiously. An hour later, he suddenly pulled on the string and hauled the man back, who slammed onto the beach while panting heavily.

“It looks like there’s really nothing in the ocean,” Lu Yin muttered.

The man glared fiercely at Lu Yin and then at the mountain, his thoughts unknown.

After multiple days of probing the ocean with the man as bait, Lu Yin finally decided to enter it himself since he felt that things were safe.

“Seventh Bro, be careful. This place is very weird. Let’s keep exploring a while longer.” The monkey tried to dissuade him from entering the ocean.

Lu Yin shook his head. “The furthest range I can still control this person at is only about ten kilometers. He can escape if I cast him out any farther. If we wish to keep exploring, then we can only do that by entering the ocean.”

The monkey knew that Lu Yin was right, and he didn’t want to stay trapped in this place forever either.

Lu Yin did not plan to delay things, so he directly headed out across the golden ocean, moving straight towards the mountain.

By his calculations, the mountain should not be that far from the beach. However, after traveling for a bit, Lu Yin tossed the Cruiser out to act as bait and test the water in front of him for half a day. Then, he would continue on only after determining that the path forward was safe.

By repeating this routine, Lu Yin covered hundreds of kilometers and gradually approached the high mountain. It would only take him a few more rounds of fishing.

Plop!

The captive Cruiser was tossed out in the ocean again. He had already lost count of how many times he had been tossed out. He was now certain that there was nothing in the ocean and that it was very safe. His terror had gradually disappeared, and his thoughts had cleared themselves. Through the crystal clear water, he could see Lu Yin in the distance, cautiously scanning his surroundings.

The Cruiser suddenly activated his innate gift and exerted his maximum strength to forcefully break free of the star energy restraints. Then, he quickly dashed in another direction.

Chapter 414: Vanish

Lu Yin could feel his star energy being thrown off, and he hurriedly tried to interfere, but it was already too late. He had underestimated the Cruiser’s recovery speed. Despite periodically injuring his captive, the man had still managed to recover enough energy to the point where he could break free of Lu Yin’s star energy restraints. The Cruiser had only been enduring his captivity from the beginning, and he had escaped as soon as he was confident. By now, it was only a short distance to the mountain.

Lu Yin helplessly watched on as the man slipped away like a fish and sighed. Forget it, I just lost some fish bait. He then raised his head and looked up at the mountain, the place where he intended to go next.

The path of cultivation was fraught with dangers, but that danger was unavoidable.

Lu Yin glanced at his right arm. Actually, he still had another piece of bait.

“Seventh Bro, I suddenly noticed that you are very handsome.” The monkey suddenly flattered Lu Yin, who grinned. This damned monkey was too shrewd.

Lu Yin could not head back at this point and started moving towards the mountain.

The Cruiser male hid within the ocean off in the distance, watching as Lu Yin headed towards the mountain. Only then did he finally relax. His gamble had paid off, and this person wouldn't pursue him in this vast ocean.

It was possible that the only exit from this space was atop that mountain, so the Cruiser needed to follow Lu Yin. The situation had reversed, and it was now Lu Yin's turn to act as bait.

As he approached the mountain, Lu Yin was able to more acutely sense the gathering aura. Lu Yin did not know how exactly to describe the sensation. Tyrannical, sharp, unparalleled; he could think of many adjectives that were close to fitting, all of which involuntarily popped into his mind since he had never come in contact with such an aura before.

The mountain was cylindrical, and it almost looked like it had been directly tossed into the seabed.

When Lu Yin reached the side and looked up, he could not see the peak. He then raised his hand, struck the mountain wall, and found that it was very sturdy. He used a bit more force but was still unable to damage the wall.

The durability of the mountain could be easily imagined if he could not affect the wall even with his current strength.

Endless rune lines had converged upon a mountain, so what exactly was this thing? Lu Yin's eyes grew heated, and he started manually climbing up since he could not fly in this space.

"Seventh Bro, do you think that this mountain is safe?" the monkey asked nervously.

Lu Yin shook his head. "I don't know, but it doesn't matter if it's safe or not. We have to climb it since this is the only path."

As Lu Yin started climbing, the Cruiser on the seafloor started gradually coming up, all the while maintaining what he felt was a safe distance from Lu Yin.

"Seventh Bro, that bastard's coming over to the mountain."

Lu Yin grunted. "When he starts climbing, go ahead and make a move. You can capture him, and we'll use him as fish bait again."

"Alright!" The monkey was excited but also a little afraid since he had nearly been used as fish bait himself. This Cruiser bastard had to be caught, as that person was the only one who deserved to be bait.

The man's eyes trembled as he watched Lu Yin climb higher and higher up the mountain. He soon grabbed a hold of the wall with both hands and started to climb himself.

Suddenly, the man's pupils shrank, and an intense fear filled his eyes. His entire body started vanishing.

"Se- Se- Seventh Bro, look down!" the monkey shouted anxiously.

Lu Yin lowered his head and his expression changed. "What's going on? What did he do?"

"Nothing! He only touched the mountain!" the monkey shouted, completely terrified.

Lu Yin's scalp grew numb as he stared at the disappearing man.

At the bottom-most part of the mountain, the Cruiser completely vanished from sight, bit by bit, until it was as if he had never existed. It was an extremely horrifying scene, as anyone would despair if they had to watch themselves vanish from existence.

The Cruiser never could have even dreamed that he would die in such a manner. Even though it was a painless ordeal, the desperation and terror that he felt in his final moments surpassed everything else.

It wasn't just the Cruiser who was terrified, but also Lu Yin. When his hand made contact with the mountain wall, he had felt like he was in front of the underworld. He realized that the Cruiser's existence in this space had been thoroughly rejected. This was what happened when someone fought against the cultivation path of the Runemasters; their very existence was directly erased from the universe in an act of complete destruction.

It was a rather strange and terrifying battle style.

A healthy, living person, and a Cruiser at that, had soundlessly vanished in an instant. He had only touched the wall, just the side of a mountain! No one could have expected that a mountain would possess such an attack. It was so odd that it toppled everyone's common sense.

"Seventh Bro, I feel like we should go now." The monkey was starting to panic; he had almost used his innate gift of shadows to touch the wall. He was now terrified since he felt like he had nearly doomed himself to oblivion.

Lu Yin nodded, as the cold cliff now felt like a freezing slab of ice, and he could not wait to stop touching it. It felt like he was holding a grenade that could go off at any moment, or that he was walking along the edge of a precarious cliff. He was certain that he would never forget this feeling for the rest of his life.

Lu Yin released his grip on the mountain with both hands and was just about to jump into the ocean, but at that same instance, his face went deathly pale. His clothes started disappearing.

He instinctively grabbed the wall with both hands again and saw that the vanishing process had stopped.

"Seventh Bro, what's going on?" The monkey was still in terror.

Lu Yin was also at a loss. "I can't let go! If I do, I might vanish!"

"That can't be—it's the reverse?! That bastard vanished when he touched the wall, but you can't let go of it. What kind of trick is this? Try again! We can't die here!" the monkey shrieked.

Lu Yin frowned and released one hand from the mountain wall. He was fine. But when he slowly pulled his other hand away from the mountain, his clothes immediately began to disappear. He hurriedly grasped the wall with both hands again and grimaced. "I can't remove both hands at once. Monkey, it looks like our only choice is to climb up if we don't want to die."

The monkey fell into despair. "During the many years I've roamed the Astral Beast Domain, I've gone to many strange places and read many famous journals. I once even visited an Envoy's grave, and I managed to live through all that. I've never heard of a mountain that can cause people to vanish, and I never dreamed that I would appear in such a place. My dear Feng Jiu, my Celestial Ice Phoenix harem! Seventh Bro, this is all your fault!"

“Alright, enough with the melodrama. Why don’t you come up with a way to help me climb up? The exit might actually be at the top.”

“Let’s hope so. Seventh Bro, our destiny will determine whether or not we survive.” The monkey was extremely depressed.

Lu Yin took a deep breath, and his expression firmed. Since he had to climb, he would go all-out. He refused to believe that he would actually die here.

Lu Yin didn’t know exactly how tall the mountain was; he only knew that he could not see the peak and that he had no other fate besides climbing up.

Eventually, he even lost sight of the ocean’s surface. He could only make himself look upwards.

One hour, two hours... One day, two days...

Lu Yin climbed for five days, only occasionally taking a break whenever he became tired and exchanging some words with the monkey before continuing on with the climb. The scenery along the way remained completely monotonous. The higher he climbed, the further he could see. He could see the forest, the white beach, and once in a while, he could even see a black dot that represented either a person or a war spirit.

The people in the forest definitely could not see Lu Yin, and none of them would have ever thought that there was someone climbing up the sheer face of that tall mountain.

As Lu Yin continued to climb the mountain, the Great Yu Empire’s war to recapture Frostwave Weave was coming to a conclusion.

The captains of the Great Yu Empire’s Thirteen Imperial Squadrons were all at least at the Cruiser realm, and there were few in the entire Frostwave Weave who could rival them. When Undying Yushan had been in power, he had worked hard to formulate a strategy to unite the entire Frostwave Weave under the Great Yu Empire’s rule. Just as when the empire eliminated Firesmelt Planet, everything had already been planned out.

As long as no other powers entered the fray, it would be nearly effortless for the Great Yu Empire to unite Frostwave Weave.

Unification relied on military force while governance relied on stability and economy. The Great Yu Empire was experiencing an economic depression, and even though it received the financial support from Innerverse powers like the Watermoon Mountain, its military power was too great, causing the surrounding weaves to coordinate and embargo its economy. This led to Frostwave Weave’s economy remaining handicapped, to the point where even if they managed to unite the entire weave, the empire would still crumble and decline because of the failing economy.

Huo Qingshan and the others had tried to contact Lu Yin for several days to ask Lu Yin to make an executive decision, but they were unable to reach him.

As for Wendy Yushan, she had gone into seclusion to practice the Yu Secret Art.

Under these helpless circumstances, the Great Yu Empire's only choice was to slow down on their plans to unify the weave and begin to take advantage of the many captured planets in order to maintain the economy.

The Chaos Flowzone was one of the Inniverse's eight great Flowzones, and it was also the place where the Inniverse's dark side gathered. Within the Chaos Flowzone, order was disorder. and the cultivators there only respected the strong.

There was a planet in the Chaos Flowzone called Deep Crimson Planet that was governed by the Deep Crimson Hall, and it was also the hall's headquarters. Deep Crimson Hall was one of the powers living in the Chaos Flowzone, but it only governed one territory. It was nothing compared to Chaosgod Mountain, and it could be destroyed at any time. But even still, it had its own methods of survival.

Within a giant city on Deep Crimson Planet, there was an unending flow of flying machinery. The traffic was especially intense at night when the routes around the city were sealed in order to be used as race tracks.

Everyone knew that this city's owner, Wu Pa, enjoyed exciting aircraft competitions and raced every night. The races featured modified aircraft, and this night was no different than any other.

Dozens of vehicles shuttled back and forth, causing the air to distort before vanishing further down on the race track.

Wu Pa's face revealed an excited expression as his aircraft zoomed about, overtaking three of his competitors, one after another. He laughed maniacally, as none of the other machines gave way to each other, but no one would compete with Wu Pa.

Wu Pa's flying style was extremely brutal; he had a penchant for crashing into others, which caused the other racers to take extra care not to fly too close to him.

Gradually, Wu Pa took the lead.

Just as Wu Pa assumed that tonight's race was concluded, one aircraft suddenly shot past the rest to violently slam against him.

Wu Pa was stunned that someone on Deep Crimson Planet would actually dare to ram him. His position in Deep Crimson Hall was not low, and he governed an entire city. On top of that, he was an Explorer whose power level was almost at 50,000. Thus, he was only a single step away from breaking through to become a Cruiser. He was among the top ten combatants even within the entire Deep Crimson Hall, and no one had ever dared to ram into him during one of these racing competitions. Despite that, something new had just happened.

Wu Pa licked his lips and ruthlessly flew his aircraft over. "Interesting."

Boom!

Bang!

The two aircraft violently crashed against one another on the track, and sparks shot out.

The racers following behind them were stunned. Someone actually dared to openly ram into Wu Pa? Are they looking to die?

There was a mountain path ahead, and the two aircraft collided once again, and brilliant sparks sprayed out from the collision as the two vehicles streaked along the mountain path.

The moment the two aircraft went around a curve, Big Pao looked up from within the aircraft that had rammed into Wu Pa's, and his eyes flickered with cold killing intent. His demeanor was completely different from back at the academy, and it seemed as if he had changed. He raised a hand, and star energy surged as he shouted, "Firesoul Gun!"

Big Pao shot out a star energy bullet that was boosted by two-lined battle force, and it squarely struck Wu Pa.

Wu Pa did not think that anyone would try to assassinate him here, and he reflexively raised a hand to block it. The bullet easily pierced through Wu Pa's palm and continued traveling through his arm. It tore through the void and split the mountain route behind him in two.

Behind the two aircraft, many other racers hurriedly stopped their vehicles and sluggishly watched on as the entire mountain crumbled.

Chapter 415: Envoy

Little Pao was in the same aircraft as Big Pao, and he raised a hand right after Big Pao attacked. Black veins that looked like flames spread across his hand as two-lined battle force appeared. Then, Little Pao's attack transformed into a giant black fiery palm. "Black Blazes Palm."

The Black Blazes Palm smashed Wu Pa beneath the ground, causing him to spit out a mouthful of blood.

Although Wu Pa's power level had nearly reached 50,000, he was actually just an ordinary Explorer and could not compare to elite Explorers. Big Pao and Little Pao were also Explorers, but they were elites who had graduated from the Astral Combat Academy and received direct guidance from Astral-10's mentors. Thus, their strength was not represented fully by their power levels. When the two brothers joined forces, they easily overwhelmed Wu Pa.

A gunshot echoed as a bullet from the Firesoul Gun pierced Wu Pa's forehead and caused a giant fissure to emerge along the ground, moving towards the city.

"Run!" Little Pao growled, and the two of them immediately fled the scene.

Not long after the two left, the entire city was sealed, and an expert from Deep Crimson Hall was dispatched to search for the assassins. News of Wu Pa's murder was immediately reported to the Deep Crimson Hall Master—Bo Senior.

Deep Crimson Hall had two Hall Masters, who were nicknamed the Bo Duo. They were both from the Bo clan and were called Bo Senior and Bo Junior. They were both Hunters, and they had established Deep Crimson Hall along with almost ten Cruisers in the fringe territory of Chaos Flowzone. When Bo Senior learned about Wu Pa's death, he was furious, and he immediately ordered Deep Crimson Planet to be put on lock down until the enemy was found.

Big Pao and Little Pao had not left the region after their assassination. Instead, they had hidden themselves inside the city.

Although Deep Crimson Planet was large, it was a simple task for a Hunter to scour the entire planet. There were not many people who were strong enough to kill Wu Pa, and since the brothers were afraid of being found, they had chosen to hide inside of the city.

“Wu Pa’s the first. Aside from the Bo Duo, we should be able to deal with everyone else,” Big Pao said gravely.

Little Pao looked at the list of the experts in Deep Crimson Hall and shook his head. “They have some Cruisers whose power levels are over 70,000. It’s still dangerous for us to try and deal with them with our current strength.”

Big Pao inhaled deeply. “Old Cai only gave us two Money Bombs, and those are meant for the Bo Duo. We’ll have to come up with some other way to take out the others on our own.”

“There’ll be a way. We need to hurry up and take revenge for back then,” Little Pao coldly replied.

Meanwhile, the golden ocean remained peaceful as ever, seemingly entirely devoid of any living creature.

Lu Yin was still climbing the mountain, and he looked down. It had been quite a while since he had lost sight of the ocean, and now, even the distant forest seemed small enough to fit in one hand. When he thought about how long he had spent in this place, Lu Yin quickly realized that he had been climbing for more than ten days and that he had been trapped in this strange place for nearly a month.

From his position and altitude, he felt like he could leap into the forest with but a single bound.

He looked up again, but the summit was still out of sight.

“Seventh Bro, why do I feel like you’ve recently been spending your time either crossing oceans or climbing mountains. Did you offend the Rune Progenitor somehow?” The monkey was miserable.

Lu Yin was speechless, as the monkey was right. Lu Yin had ascended the Sky Platform, crossed the Ocean of Death, and he was now climbing this mountain, and all of these things were related to the Rune Technology Civilization.

“Monkey, tell me what you know about the Rune Progenitor.”

“I don’t know anything more than what I’ve already told you. Progenitors are secret existences in and of themselves, so only a few people even know about them. I’m not some archaeologist, so I can’t get access to information about all of them.”

“How many years did the Rune Technology Civilization exist for?”

“I’ve said that I don’t know, but based on some records by a powerhouse, it was short. Very short.”

“A flash in the pan?”

“Somewhat. Anyway, that powerhouse’s journal described the Rune Technology Civilization in one sentence—one sky covering another sky.”

One sky covering another sky? What does that mean? Lu Yin could not understand the words' meaning, but he was suddenly reminded of the island on the other side of the Ocean of Death where the ancient voice had mentioned the sky had changed from five to six. Could it be related to that?

"Rune Progenitor? How much do you know about him?" Lu Yin asked again.

The monkey grudgingly responded, "I don't know. The Rune Progenitor lived in a bygone age long ago, and their civilization's even extinct. It's already pretty good that we have any records of them at all. You'll probably have to find a Neoverse power, such as the Three Dark Hands or the Hall of Honor to get more information than that."

"How long can a Progenitor live for?" Lu Yin did not give up, and he continued on the same line of questioning.

The monkey didn't immediately answer and muttered to himself for a while. "I don't know. Logically, even the Third Nightking has lived for a long time and still won't die anytime soon. A Progenitor should probably live forever."

"But in this part of the universe, there's no mention of any Progenitor's existence," Lu Yin interrupted.

The monkey did not reply.

"Could it be that all the Progenitors have already died?" Lu Yin guessed.

"I don't know. Seventh Bro, don't dwell on this so much. Even after a thousand years, you still won't be able to reach the level of a Progenitor. No, it should be ten thousand—no, a hundred thousand years. Anyway, it's not realistic to dream about reaching the level of a Progenitor in your lifetime. Let's just aim to reach the level of an Envoy."

"Envoy?" Lu Yin was stumped, as he had only ever heard of this term. Right, the monkey had mentioned visiting an Envoy's grave.

"An Envoy is the term given to a powerhouse whose power level has surpassed 500,000 units. It stems from the idea that they are an envoy of the heavens. Such a person is basically unkillable, and even that Northgate Taisui that we saw before probably only had a power level of around 400,000 at best. He'll never break through to become an envoy, or else he would never have gone into cryostasis and hidden himself within the Northgate family. To put it another way, there's no Envoy in the Outerverse, though the Innerverse might have a few."

Lu Yin longed to know what it would be like to have a power level surpassing 500,000. With just the passing of one's gaze, the stars would collapse; that was an Envoy.

"Actually, the goal of becoming an Envoy might be too high for Seventh Bro too. After all, you're from the Outerverse. What do you say? Why don't we lower the standard to match Northgate Taisui?" The monkey probed Lu Yin.

Lu Yin snorted. "Cut the crap, and let's keep climbing."

The monkey lips curled up. "Who knows how much longer we'll have to climb up this broken mountain for? It's just a waste of my time. If Sister Feng Jiu was here, my Feng Jiu..."

With Lu Yin's current strength, scaling a mountain was not a difficult task. However, once he reached a certain altitude, he realized that his star energy was being inhibited. His expression quickly changed as this task had just become a lot harder.

Without star energy, he could only use his physical strength to continue climbing upwards towards the endless peak. Lu Yin started to grow more desperate.

Also, no star energy meant that the Ghost Monkey was permanently screened off, so Lu Yin was by himself as he silently climbed the mountain.

It was unknown whether anyone had climbed up this mountain in the past.

As there were no traces of previous climbers, it led Lu Yin to think about the Cruiser who had vanished. It was possible that the average person would vanish once they touched this mountain and that Lu Yin was an exception. The reason for his exception would be either the Sky Platform or the Ocean of Death's influence.

Another ten days passed, and the ordeal was very arduous for Lu Yin. Given his physical strength, climbing was not difficult, but he had maintained the same position for twenty days, no matter if he was eating or taking a break. And yet, despite all his effort, he still could not see the top of the mountain.

This repetitive life was incredibly boring.

Below, the forest seemed to be just beneath him, and all he could see was a golden color spreading out in all directions, nothing else at all. He didn't even know if he was still within the same sealed space.

More importantly, his spiritual force was now being suppressed, and he didn't know when that had started.

A formless pressure gradually suppressed him more and more. Much like a frog being boiled in warm water, the pressure did not begin with much strength, but it became more intense the higher he climbed. At his current altitude, he was feeling a little tired despite his resistance against spiritual force pressure. It was impossible for a normal Limiteer to reach this point, and even normal Explorers would have a tough time doing so.

The spiritual force suppression that he felt in this location was equivalent to what he had endured during the Astral Combat Tournament when he had received Liu Shaoqiu's Third Sword.

Lu Yin shook his head vigorously. No matter what, he had to continue on as he had no other choice. He could either climb up or die.

Another five days passed by, and Lu Yin grew a bit dizzy since he was now resisting a rather significant amount of spiritual force pressure at this height. He was almost unable to take it any longer, but the peak seemed to be right in front of him; he had nearly reached it.

Lu Yin was delighted, and he endured the giddy feeling and climbed up a thousand meters in a single breath. He pulled himself up, and his entire body crashed onto the peak. He panted heavily and lay down flat on the ground. He had reached the peak!

He looked around and then behind himself, only to feel an even deeper sense of despair than before. This wasn't actually the end. There was still another peak beyond this point—no, there were three more peaks that shot into the sky.

This one mountain had three peaks, but he shouldn't be too far from the highest point of this mountain.

Lu Yin did not concern himself with the mountain any further and fell into a deep sleep that lasted for two days. For the entire time he was sleeping, his two hands never risked leaving the ground out of fear that he would vanish.

At this time, the Daynight Flowzone was growing even more lively, as the Daynight Feast was about to begin. The Daynight clan welcomed many youths from all over, and Nightqueen Yanqing, Chilian Daynight, Tiangkong Daynight, Rou Daynight, Zhuo Daynight, and the other young elites of the clan had all rushed back.

The Daynight Feast was a tradition of the Daynight clan, and every time, they would send out invitations to some other members of the younger generation for this social event. It was a tactic to allow those of the Daynight clan to interact with others. Thus, most youth yearned to be invited to the Daynight Feast, which was its own little social circle.

Of course, an invitation was just an invitation, and not everyone would attend. After all, the universe was too vast. Some people were too far away, and it was not practical for them to attend.

The experts on the Top 100 Rankings would all be invited, but at most, only four or five would attend. The rest would all politely decline.

The Daynight Feast was held on the Daynight clan's main planet, the Nightking Planet. It was an incomparably huge planet, and it was one of the largest in the entire Inniverse. It floated in the heavens like a monster, and it was rumored that the first Nightking had been birthed here. This planet was sacred to the Nightking clan.

The Nightking Planet was rarely opened to the public, but there were countless planets nearby for outsiders to visit. Only on special occasions such as the Daynight Feast would visitors be allowed to actually visit the Nightking Planet, though only those with invitations could enter.

At this moment, above Nightking Planet, a dozen spacecraft hovered in outer space as they watched two figures confronting each other.

Genius powerhouses were always invited to the Daynight Feast, and it was common for conflict to break out or for bitter enemies to meet. The Daynight Feast's rules said that all grudges had to be settled in outer space, above the planet, and not to be brought down onto the planet itself. Hence, during each Daynight Feast, it would be very lively right above the Nightking Planet, as all sorts of battles would take place there, and nobody on Nightking Planet would not stop them either.

In space, one man and one woman faced each other before savagely attacking each other.

The two were not that old, only around thirty years of age, but both were Explorers. They were both from great powers, and although they could not compare to the people in the Top 100 Rankings, they were still in the top of the younger generation, which was a necessary qualification for them to attend the Daynight Feast.

Their battle grew more intense, and it attracted even more attention as more people gathered to watch the commotion.

Chapter 416: Mister Mu

Just before the outcome between the two was about to end, a small blade tore through the void, miraculously appearing and flying a single circle around the two before vanishing again. The two contenders froze in place, and a trace of blood appeared on their necks. They had almost been killed just then.

Everyone stared foolishly at the scene, and then they looked in another direction. A unique spacecraft flew up, and the small blade had shot out from within that vessel.

“That’s the Lingling clan’s spacecraft.”

“The Lingling clan? That terrifying clan? That means... Was that blade the legendary Que’s Mighty Slash?”

“That’s right. That blade isn’t something that would come from an Explorer, which means it’s user is in the Limiteer realm. However, it was able to defeat two elite Explorers in an instant. Aside from that person, who else could accomplish such a thing?”

In the heavens, the man and the woman looked at each other in agony. They had given their all in this battle, but both of them had been defeated by someone else in an instant. What’s more, they hadn’t even been able to see the other person’s face.

On Nightking Planet, Nightqueen Yanqing looked at her screen and incessantly replayed that exact scene, visibly moved by what she had seen. “He actually came. That’s right, that’s Ling Que. He’s here!”

A member of the Daynight clan who was behind her was puzzled. “Que’s Mighty Slash? Sounds familiar.”

Nightqueen Yanqing’s lips perked up. “In the current universe, there are only three people in the younger generation who can be truly considered to be unequalled Limiteers: the Cosmic Sea’s Ye Xingchen, the Ten Arbiters Council’s Mu Rong, and the Lingling clan’s Ling Que. Que’s Mighty Slash is Ling Que’s battle technique.”

That Daynight clan member was shocked. “I remember now! This blade once beheaded five Explorers, and one of them was even strong enough to challenge the Top Hundred Rankings. So this is Ling Que?”

Nightqueen Yanqing nodded with an excited look on her face; she had invited Ling Que herself. Her objective was very simple—to suppress Lu Yin. To her, Lu Yin was an unremovable stain on her brilliant life, as well as that Zhanlong Daynight. Unfortunately, Zhanlong had gone missing in the Shenwu Continent, or else she would have invited Ling Que to teach both of them a lesson.

Fortunately, Lu Yin would definitely appear at this gathering since he had been invited. Everyone praised Lu Yin as an unequalled Limiteer, but she had learned from her brother, Arbiter Zhenwu, that Thirty Stacks was merely the publicized record left behind by the Divine Fist. Those who were truly unequalled would not stop at just Thirty Stacks, and Ye Xingchen, Mu Rong, and Ling Que had all received the Ten Arbiters’ recognition of truly being unequalled Limiteers.

In other words, Lu Yin was still a shade inferior to them, and she was planning on using this slight difference to magnify Lu Yin's shortcomings during this Daynight Feast and shatter the perception of his invincibility.

"Ling Que, Ling Que, I love you! Ling Que, Ling Que, you're the best!"

"Ling Que, Ling Que, I love you! Ling Que, Ling Que, you're the best!"

...

Cheers sounded out from one spacecraft in particular. The vessel carried a group of pretty girls who were gorgeously dressed, and they were all dancing about and shouting excitedly.

This scene caused the crowd to be taken aback; were these groupies?

Ling Que's appearance at Nightking Planet caused quite an uproar. The Lingling clan was based within the Soulseal Flowzone, and they rarely interacted with outsiders. Their race had an incomparable innate gift which caused them all to be arrogant, but it also meant that they were so powerful that not even the Daynight clan would lightly provoke them.

Ling Que was one of the strongest Limiteers in the younger generation, but he had always maintained a low profile. No one thought that he would appear at Nightking Planet for this gathering.

Some guessed that his appearance was related to Lu Yin since there were only four unequaled Limiteers throughout the entire universe's present younger generation. Lu Yin was one of them, so it was normal for Ling Que to take an interest in him.

Due to Ling Que's appearance, more invited youths started heading towards Nightking Planet, and many uninvited people gathered in the Daynight Flowzone, hoping to witness the potential battle between Ling Que and Lu Yin.

In Astral-8, Xi Yue looked for Feng Shang, as she wanted to invite him to head over to the Daynight Flowzone's Nightking Planet with her.

However, she was turned down by Feng Shang, and he refused to budge on this issue.

Xi Yue was speechless, but she nonetheless headed off for the Daynight Flowzone on her own.

Feng Shang watched Xi Yue's departing figure and sighed. Everyone was looking forward to Lu Yin's battle with Ling Que, but only he knew that Lu Yin wouldn't show up since he had been swallowed by a storm. His odds of surviving that encounter were just too low.

Meanwhile, Lu Yin slept for two days straight, and his brain became a little less fuzzy when he woke up. Afterwards, he started climbing towards the three peaks in the distance.

He thought about it for a brief moment before gritting his teeth and resolving himself to continue climbing. He chose the middle peak since, in general, it was more likely for the most important feature to be at the center.

He pressed both hands against the slope of the middle peak, and the oppressive pressure swept over him as the pressure on his spiritual force increased once again. At this moment, even Lu Yin found it

difficult to resist the pressure, and his forehead beaded up with sweat. He gritted his teeth; he had to climb up to the top of this peak no matter what.

One day later, Lu Yin's eyes had gone slack; the pressure was too much for him. He had no choice, so he began to recite the Stonewall Scriptures to resist the pressure as he climbed.

One day, two, three... five days. At this moment, Lu Yin had been unconscious for an entire day, and he was moving on pure instinct. After nearly a month of climbing, his body had developed an instinctual habit to climb, even though his consciousness had faded.

At that moment, if Lu Yin suddenly became clear-headed and looked around, he would not see the mountain in front of him anymore. He had reached the peak.

With a thump, Lu Yin finally arrived at the peak. His eyes were only open by a slit, but he seemed to see a figure in front of him. However, he could not remain conscious, and he slumped down to the ground, completely unconscious.

After he lost consciousness, the nearby figure gradually approached him. A scholarly and gentle-looking middle-aged man appeared with both hands clasped behind his back. He calmly looked at Lu Yin and then slowly bent down and waved, causing the clothes on Lu Yin to be shredded apart.

He looked at Lu Yin's back in amazement. "What a seal! Something that belongs to neither five nor six. Could it be?"

He suddenly stopped speaking, stood up, walked to the edge of the peak, and looked at the gold radiance in the distance, but he still remained silent.

After some time, Lu Yin awoke, overwhelmed by a splitting headache. He forced his eyes open and looked up to see the back of that scholarly figure.

He was shocked. There's someone else here? He hurriedly tried to stand up, but the combination of his physical fatigue and the spiritual force pressure rendered such a feat beyond him. He only managed to rise into a half-squat as he looked around.

The figure slowly turned around and calmly gazed at Lu Yin. "Ever since this space first came into existence, you're the first one to ascend here, aside from myself."

Lu Yin was shocked, though the figure in front of him still appeared indistinct since he was still suffering from the immense spiritual force pressure.

The scholarly man casually waved his hand, and a cool breeze blew past him. Lu Yin suddenly felt clear-headed, and all of the pressure that he had been under seemed to melt away. This person had easily dispelled the mountain's pressure on Lu Yin's spiritual force. This person was unimaginably powerful.

Lu Yin hurriedly stood up and slowly bowed. "Lu Yin pays his respects to senior."

The scholarly man sized Lu Yin up and down. "You don't belong to five or six. Where are you from?"

Lu Yin's heart skipped a beat, as this person had mentioned "five" and "six" again. He was at a loss. "Five? Six? This junior doesn't understand."

The scholarly looking man stared at Lu Yin. Although there was nothing special about his eyes, they brightened a little. Lu Yin and the man looked at each other face-to-face, and though Lu Yin wanted to shift his gaze, he found that he couldn't. His eyes felt like they were glued to the man's eyes, and his vision was entirely focused on the man's gaze.

The next moment, Lu Yin's heart jumped, and he stepped back with a deathly white look. He looked at the man in astonishment, finally able to shift his eyes.

"May I know this esteemed senior's name?" Lu Yin asked very respectfully.

The scholarly man shifted his gaze away. "You may call me Mister Mu."

Lu Yin bowed again. "Mister Mu, this junior took the liberty of climbing this mountain and has disturbed Mister Mu's peace. Please, forgive me."

Mister Mu looked calm and refined. "It's no matter. It's your own ability that allowed you to ascend to this height. Your cultivation is not bad for your age."

"Thank you, Mister Mu, for the compliment," Lu Yin said deferentially. He then glanced at his right arm, but there was no sign of the monkey waking up. He looked back at Mister Mu, but hesitated at whether he should speak his mind.

"You wish to leave?" Mister Mu asked calmly.

Lu Yin nodded. "Might Mister Mu help me?"

Mister Mu looked at Lu Yin. "Since ancient times, you're the second to have scaled this mountain. You can leave anytime you wish."

Lu Yin was delighted.

"However, there's an alternate choice."

Lu Yin's brows jumped. "Please enlighten me."

Mister Mu clasped both hands behind his back and looked calmly at the distant golden light. "Accept the challenge and discover a way to become my disciple."

Lu Yin's eyes lit up, and he answered without hesitation, "This junior wishes to accept senior as his master. Might senior help me accomplish this?" Lu Yin was no fool, and he could see at once that this person seemed to be some kind of powerful recluse. He definitely would not offer inferior teachings, and even if they were, Lu Yin still wouldn't lose out. At the very least, this Mister Mu was obviously much stronger than Lu Yin.

Mister Mu continued speaking, saying, "It's not that easy to become my disciple, but you've already passed the most difficult hurdle, which is to arrive at this peak. Only you have succeeded since ancient times."

Lu Yin's eyes sparkled. This mountain was able to cause that Cruiser from before to vanish just from touching it, which meant that there must be some special condition for people to even attempt to climb

it. His guess was that this place had something to do with the Rune Progenitor. His eyes had been altered by the Sky Platform, and he had also crossed the Ocean of Death. Perhaps this moment was Lu Yin's opportunity, something that only he could grasp with his previous encounters.

This person in front of him should not be lying either; Lu Yin had to be "baptized" by remnants of the Rune Technology Civilization and then accidentally swallowed by the storm before he could appear at this place. It was very difficult for so many unrelated coincidences to occur, so it was possible that he was the only one to have fulfilled them all even after so many years.

With this reasoning, this Mister Mu might actually be related to the Rune Technology Civilization. Could he actually be an ancient Runemaster powerhouse?!

"The second hurdle can be difficult or simple. You just need to show me your destiny."

Lu Yin was shocked. "Show you my destiny? How?"

"Display everything that you possess and attempt to shock me. Destiny is written by heaven and is something that cannot be controlled, but it's also a strength of sorts. I cannot accept a disciple who is stupid, unlucky, or has a poor personality. You may begin."

Lu Yin nodded as he now understood. Mister Mu wanted to see what Lu Yin knew, and this was a selection method that Lu Yin had not encountered before.

"This junior will show his incompetence now," Lu Yin said. He then stepped forward with his right leg as five-lined battle force emerged from him, the purple veins covering his entire body while dark-gold lines sparkled around him, making for a dazzling scene against the golden radiance of the mountain's backdrop. Lu Yin was confident that not many had comprehended five-lined battle force at his age, as nobody had surpassed such a level in the history of the Astral Combat Academy; he had reached the extreme.

With this five-lined battle force around him, Lu Yin looked expectantly at Mister Mu.

Chapter 417: Destiny

Mister Mu watched Lu Yin's five-lined battle force cover his entire body and then nonchalantly commented, "That's normal. To cultivate to such a degree at your age is not bad, but it's not top-class either. You lack boldness, so your progress upon this path is limited. To be invincible, you must have both a boundless courage and a spirit that soars above the heavens, but you cannot do this. Besides, this style of cultivation is not something unusual either. Thus, it does not show your destiny."

Lu Yin withdrew his battle force, and his heart dropped. There were few Limiteers in the entire universe who could reach five-lined battle force, especially at his age. If five-lined battle force was not enough, then this person's selection criteria for his disciples must be extremely stringent.

Still, he did not give up, and next, he released his domain and let it envelop the surroundings.

Mister Mu frowned. "Crude. This domain holds no concept of being unequalled, and neither does it carry a determination to emerge victorious. It has merely been accumulated from countless battles. No matter how you use it, it'll just be another pair of eyes. Absolute control within the domain's is the essence of this method. When cultivated to the peak, users can even include the universe within the

bounds of their domain and change the sky. Although you have comprehended a domain, that cannot be considered a fortunate encounter. There are too many in the universe who have comprehended a domain.”

Lu Yin’s heart sank once again, as this was also useless. However, he had noticed a particular phrase that Mister Mu had used—change the sky. The echoing voices on the island at the end of the Ocean of Death had also mentioned something about “changing the sky,” and the monkey had mentioned it as well, saying that some powerhouse’s journal had recorded the Rune Technology as one sky covering another. Was this saying actually related to domains?

He did not dwell on such thoughts at this time, and he glanced at Mister Mu. This person’s perverted selection criteria went far beyond Lu Yin’s imagination, as even a powerful clan such as the Daynight clan only had a few geniuses who had comprehended both battle force and a domain, not to mention five-lined battle force at that.

He thought about it for a moment, and then raised his hand and struck out at the void with a Thirty Stacks, Fortyfold Shockwave Palm, causing an intense gale to sweep across the mountain peak. This was his most powerful attack.

“With physical strength as its foundation, such an attack can barely count as the embodiment of your physical destiny, but such a destiny is not that rare either. There are some strange clans in the universe who are blessed with incomparably durable bodies from birth and can easily display One Hundred Stacks once they mature. As a normal person, you’re not bad, but this still cannot meet my standards.” Mister Mu was ruthless in his appraisal.

Lu Yin’s heart sank again. Even his most powerful strike was useless. Did he have to display his secrets that should not be revealed?

Mister Mu did not push him, and he only silently looked into the distance, seemingly not concerned with Lu Yin in the slightest.

Lu Yin gritted his teeth. His destiny had been determined by the heavens: he had been swallowed by the storm and climbed up this mountain with great difficulty, and now, the person before him seemed to be an unimaginable super powerhouse. He tentatively placed Mister Mu on the same level as Northgate Taisui. He had to seize this opportunity to gain such a powerhouse as his master.

After thinking things over, Lu Yin decided to display his Cosmic Art. Although it was not as strong as his Overlaying Stacks Path, it was still a manifestation of his destiny because no one else in the Outerverse could learn such a technique. According to the Trialmaster, the Cosmic Sect greatly surpassed the Daynight clan in power, and no outsider could learn their Cosmic Art.

His only worry was if this person revealed him to the Cosmic Sect, which would be the worst outcome. If such a thing really happened, then he would have to reveal that he had Highsage Leon supporting him, as the Cosmic Sea was independent from both the Outerverse and the Neoverse. The monkey had once mentioned that even the great powers of the Neoverse feared the Cosmic Sea’s Four Pirate Crews. Highsage Leon should be enough to protect Lu Yin, so he would take this gamble.

As nine stars revolved around Lu Yin’s body, Mister Mu’s eyes finally flashed with a glimmer of amazement. “The Cosmic Art, the Cosmic Sect’s most guarded technique. It is not something to be

divulged externally, and yet, you still learnt it. Not a bad manifestation of your destiny, but unfortunately, it's just one portion and the ninth star obviously does not belong to the true Cosmic Art. This version of the technique can be considered as your destiny, and if you had learned the entire version, then I would have immediately accepted you as my disciple. Unfortunately, if you don't join the Cosmic Sect, you will never be able to learn it."

Lu Yin released his Cosmic Art and relaxed. From Mister Mu's tone of voice, it sounded like he was not involved with the Cosmic Sect, so he would keep Lu Yin's secret. He thought about it, and then said, "Disciple truly wishes to learn the Cosmic Art."

"There's no use in talking to me. Continue," Mister Mu responded calmly.

Lu Yin was at a loss. Continue? With what? There were some things that he definitely could not reveal, such as his innate gift of the die, the Stonewall Scriptures, the Yu Secret Art, or Progenitor Wushang's hide. Hold on, Progenitor Wushang's hide?

Lu Yin's eyes flickered, as he had been holding onto that hide the moment he had been swept into the storm, and he had only placed it in his cosmic ring after he awakened. Also, he had used Progenitor Wushang's hide on that Cruiser down on the beach. Had Mister Mu not seen it?

One's domain could allow one to clearly perceive their surroundings, and Lu Yin refused to believe that Mister Mu had not comprehended a domain. If this man was at the same level as Northgate Taisui, then he would definitely be able to perceive everything that happened within this space. Hence, there was no need to continue hiding Progenitor Wushang's hide.

Lu Yin raised a hand. "Mister Mu, can this be counted as destiny?"

Lu Yin was holding onto the piece of Progenitor Wushang's hide that he had obtained from the monkey, which was much smaller than his own. He would not reveal the larger piece, as it would be less of a loss to lose the one that belonged to the monkey.

Mister Mu's eyes seemed to stir, and he nodded. "Progenitor Wushang's item can be considered as a sort of destiny. Remember, try your best to not expose it when you are in the heavens, as the astral beasts can sense it."

Lu Yin was disappointed, as he had not seen much surprise from Mister Mu's face. Even Progenitor Wushang's hide was not enough to move this man, and it seemed as if he would not take Lu Yin as his disciple. It appeared that he did not have enough destiny.

Lu Yin thought about his options. What else can I reveal?

Mister Mu looked up. "A reminder: if I don't accept you as my disciple, then everything that happened here will be erased from your memory."

Lu Yin shivered as he clenched his fists. He could not accept his memory being altered, as there were already gaps in his memory to begin with. He could accept being severely injured or even dying, but there was no way he would submit to having his memory wiped.

Lu Yin's gaze firmed and he resolved to display everything that he had and try his luck.

He raised his hand and struck out, causing day and night to intertwine. This was the Daynight Punch that he had learned from the Daynight stone of inheritance. Although this move was nearly useless to him, it still showed his destiny since no one outside of the clan was allowed to learn the Daynight clan's battle techniques.

But Mister Mu remained indifferent. "There's a powerful clan in the Innerverse known as the Daynight clan, and this battle technique should be from them since it displayed day and night intertwined and can harm someone's spiritual force. Not bad. Learning it is a form of destiny, but it's not moving enough, and it is far inferior to the Cosmic Art."

"Junior understands. The Daynight Punch is lacking in power."

"No, not lacking in power. Rather, you don't know how to use it. Any battle technique can have a stark difference depending on the user. When this technique is extremely refined, it can cause the heavens to change colors."

Lu Yin was shocked. Apparently, he had always underestimated the Daynight Punch.

"Mister Mu, with this junior's destiny, might I become your disciple?" Lu Yin probed.

Mister Mu shook his head. "It's not enough."

Lu Yin's brows lifted, and he suddenly remembered what he had seen at the Stargazing Deck—the ancient ships and the appearance of a claw imprint from the heavens. If the Skybeast Claw had appeared in such a scene, then it definitely was not as simple as Undying Yushan had made it out to be. After all, Undying Yushan was a descendant of the Seven Courts' "Yu" ancient surname. Thus, Lu Yin decided to try the battle technique that Undying Yushan had imparted to him.

He faced the sky and raised a hand as his palm turned into a claw, and the 108 forms of the Skybeast Claw shook the void as a howl reverberated out. It seemed to be coming from the distant past, and it pierced through the void.

Mister Mu's eyes finally seemed to stir again. "A lost battle technique that vanished into the long river of history, but you have learnt it. This can be considered a sort of destiny, but it's still not enough to become my disciple."

Lu Yin gritted his teeth. Did he really have to reveal the Stonewall Scriptures? Right, there was still more.

"Mister Mu, my eyes can see what normally cannot be seen," Lu Yin said. This was definitely related to the ancient Rune Technology Civilization, and it also meant that his eyes held great combat potential. He only did not know if this person had already taken his mutated eyes into consideration. Since he had been able to climb this mountain, it proved that he had previously come into contact with the remnants of the Rune Technology Civilization, so Mister Mu might have already considered it! But no matter what, he still had to give it a try.

Mister Mu looked at Lu Yin's eyes. "I know. You can see rune lines."

Lu Yin's heart sank as he forced a smile onto his face. Of course, Mister Mu had already known it, and Lu Yin being able to ascend this mountain was quite possibly related to his eyes.

Next was his innate gift of the die, the Stonewall Scriptures, or the Yu Secret Art. Lu Yin was in a dilemma. Which should he choose?

“With your age, it’s difficult to receive such destinies. I will not make things difficult for you and will take you on as a nominal disciple for now. We’ll reconsider your status once you decide to reveal greater destinies, but for now, your memory can be preserved.”

Lu Yin was ecstatic. “Thank you, Mister Mu. No, thank you, Master.”

Mister Mu nodded and casually waved his hand, causing a very strange lump of what looked like quicksand to appear before Lu Yin. It gave off a hazy radiance as it floated in the void.

“This is a sand that plays with life: Fatesand. This is your Master’s gift to you. This sand is absorbed into the body very much like a formcast model, and it will awaken different abilities in different people. It can make you much stronger or much weaker. It places a very heavy toll on one’s vigor and star energy, but you can choose to use it if you wish.”

Lu Yin looked at that lump of quicksand in amazement. Fatesand? He had never even heard of such a thing before, but he would definitely save it!

In truth, Lu Yin did not understand how rare Fatesand was. It could be said to be an peak precious treasure not only in the Innerverse and Outerverse, but also in the Cosmic Sea and the Neoverse.

Mister Mu watched as Lu Yin casually stored the Fatesand away, not minding the youth’s actions at all. “Everything that you displayed just now did not include speed.”

Lu Yin promptly replied, “Disciple’s speed technique is called the Flash Step. I’ll show it now.”

Then he used Flash Step and vanished the next moment.

Mister Mu said, “It’s merely alright. You can try to combine that technique with the one you use to conceal your aura. That would achieve the effect of concealing yourself within the void.”

Lu Yin’s mind seemed to flash, and he looked up in surprise. “Thank you for the advice, Master. Disciple understands.”

He then used the Invisible Aura Technique together with the Flash Step. His speed did not change at all, but his presence became even more concealed.

It was a simple technique, but it was also very practical. He had not considered using his techniques in such a manner before since Flash used star energy as its foundation whereas the Invisible Aura Technique was used to restrain one’s star energy. These two techniques had opposing effects, but it was not impossible to combine them. Since his star energy control had reached a certain level, he could use some of his star energy to shift a certain distance with Flash Step and then hide the rest of his energy with the Invisible Aura Technique.

It was simple in theory, but he had never thought of such a possibility before.

Mister Mu shook his head. “It’s too burdensome, but it’s enough for you at the moment.”

Chapter 418: Eyes Closed, Eyes Open

Lu Yin looked up at Mister Mu in anticipation. Since he had managed to become Mister Mu's nominal disciple, he'd probably receive a battle technique or a skill in the future, right?

Unfortunately, Lu Yin was destined to be disappointed. Mister Mu merely took out a piece of jade and passed it to Lu Yin. "If you find yourself in an emergency, all you need to do is break this, and you'll be able to contact me. However, you will only receive such an opportunity one time. As you are only a nominal disciple, I will only help you out once. Do what you will with this information."

Lu Yin had a feeling that Mister Mu was about to send him out, and he hastily spoke up after putting the piece of jade away. "What might I do to become your official disciple, sir? Is destiny the only method?"

Mister Mu gazed out at the forest beneath the high mountains. "Not necessarily. There's a war spirit here that is from a Limiteer. If you defeat that spirit, I'll make you my official disciple."

Lu Yin's eyes lit up, and he looked ready for a fight. There was no one that he feared among Limiteers. "Please arrange it for me, master."

Mister Mu waved his hand. The scenery around Lu Yin shifted, and he next found himself back within the forest.

Climbing from the golden ocean to the peak of the mountain had taken Lu Yin a whole month, but he had been teleported back to the forest in less than an instant.

Not too far away, a war spirit stood with its back to Lu Yin. After noticing the human, the war spirit slowly turned around.

Since Mister Mu had given him this test, Lu Yin knew that this Limiteer war spirit definitely would not be easy to handle. He filled his eyes with star energy and focused on the war spirit. However, his pupils quickly constricted. Where were the runes? Why were there so few?

What appeared before Lu Yin's eyes was just a small number of runes, similar to what a regular person would possess. The runes were scattered all over the place and couldn't even compare to a Scout's—no, not even a Seeker's. However, it was a fact that this war spirit was a Limiteer. How was this possible?

The war spirit turned to face Lu Yin. The spirit's eyes were completely closed, and instead of mindlessly rushing forward to attack like most war spirits, this one quietly stood in place, almost as if it was waiting for something.

Lu Yin frowned, feeling a bit uneasy. This war spirit was acting very strangely. In addition, there was a sensation like he was being seen through. It was similar to when he was in someone else's domain... Yes! This was a domain.

With a whoosh, Lu Yin's clothes fluttered about even though there was no wind. He released his domain and attempted to cancel out the war spirit's domain, but his efforts were in vain. He then used the Cosmic Art and filled his eyes with star energy. After his eyes had mutated, he was now able to use the Secret Sidestep without any lockbreaking tools. He was confident of avoiding any attack in this state.

However, before he even had the time to react, his domain collapsed. It had been completely dismantled.

He had been crushed by a Limiteer?! While it was merely his domain that had been crushed apart, the crushing force was something that Lu Yin could not even contest. It felt as if the very ground had collapsed from out under him.

Compared to the war spirit's domain, Lu Yin's own domain seemed to be as fragile as an eggshell. Right before his eyes, the war spirit disappeared without any warning. Lu Yin reflexively used Flash to move away, but while he was midair, his stomach was struck. Lu Yin was shocked and quickly used his battle force to counterattack against the war spirit. However, his attack was easily dodged while Lu Yin himself was smashed into the ground with a huge crash.

From the time he had first started cultivating, Lu Yin had rarely ever met such a situation. They were both Limiteers, and there didn't seem to be much of a gap between their strengths. However, Lu Yin was completely helpless in front of this war spirit. More importantly, he had used both the Cosmic Art as well as his mutated eyes, but he still hadn't been able to dodge the war spirit's attack. He didn't have a clue as to what had just happened.

Lu Yin believed that it had to be a lucky attack. He carefully eyed the war spirit before using Flash to vanish. He struck out with a Skybeast Claw while closely observing the war spirit.

The war spirit easily dodged the attack without any excessive movements. Even though Lu Yin had abruptly changed the direction of his attack midway, it had still avoided his attack. After that, the war spirit aimed both of its palms at Lu Yin, who kept a close eye on them. When the war spirit's two palms entered the range of Lu Yin's Cosmic Art, their speed slowed down considerably. Lu Yin was able to see through all of the possible changes of the attacks, and he immediately retreated, confident that he would be able to evade this attack.

In the end, however, he was still struck. It wasn't because the war spirit was quick, but rather because the war spirit had attacked along the path that Lu Yin had retreated in. It was almost as if it could see the future.

This sort of attack reminded Lu Yin of Starsibyl. Could this war spirit have been birthed from one of the Starsibyls?

Thankfully, the war spirit's attacks weren't very strong, so it did not pose much of a threat to Lu Yin. Although being suppressed was quite annoying, Lu Yin was confident that he would not be defeated. Of course, he wouldn't be able to win, either.

Ever since Lu Yin had reached his current strength, this was the first time a Limiteer had caused him to feel so helpless. He was certain that, even if he bumped into those who were just as famous as him, such as Ye Xingchen or Mu Rong, he would still hold an absolute advantage over them. However, this war spirit was single-handedly crushing him because he could neither land an attack nor dodge its attacks.

Lu Yin took out the Giant Emperor's third eye and held it with his left hand, wanting to use the Secret Sidestep to avoid the war spirit's attacks. However, nothing changed. The war spirit's attacks were always directed exactly at where he was retreating to, and he would always be attacked before he could move out of the way. It didn't matter how quick he was unless he could move faster than time itself. Otherwise, it would be impossible for him to dodge these attacks.

The feeling of being crushed was something that Lu Yin found unbearable.

Lu Yin could do nothing more than dodge to the best of his abilities and try to discover the war spirit's attack pattern in a desperate attempt at finding a way out of his current predicament.

Lu Yin had extensive battle experience, so even though his every movement was being seen through, he could still manage to instinctively dodge some attacks without using the Cosmic Art or his mutated vision. He was also holding the Giant Emperor's third eye in his hand. Every time the war spirit attacked, Lu Yin would pick a random direction to dodge in, and it didn't matter if the direction actually made sense. That had actually helped him evade a few attacks.

However, he was still unwilling to accept such a result. What Mister Mu wanted was for Lu Yin to win, not to not lose.

In the end, he chose to repeat what he had done against Tian Hou during the Tournament of the Strongest: mutual destruction. He stopped any attempts at dodging the war spirit's attacks so that, the moment Lu Yin was struck, he grabbed a hold of the war spirits' hands while using his Overlaying Stacks force.

The first time Lu Yin tried this, the war spirit was injured, which gave Lu Yin a glimpse of hope.

Upon seeing that the war spirit was about to attack once more, Lu Yin moved forward to forcefully take the attacks from both of its palms. After seizing them, he planned on attacking with Thirty Stacks again, but right at that moment... the war spirit opened its eyes.

He'd nearly forgotten that the war spirit had kept its eyes closed this entire time. Lu Yin had assumed that the war spirit was blind, but it was at this moment that Lu Yin realized that he had been wrong. The moment the war spirit opened its eyes, Lu Yin felt like the earth and the sky had changed. Everything before him grew fuzzy, and he could suddenly hear some kind of low, dull sound ringing in his ears. Blood started flowing out of his seven orifices, and the arms of the war spirit that he had rightly latched onto suddenly used some strange force to drive him away before starting to move forward once more.

This attack left Lu Yin instinctively quivering in fear; it had nearly cost him his life. He'd vastly underestimated this war spirit. Its attacks after it opened its eyes were completely different from its attacks from before.

The war spirit's hands pushed through the void and destroyed a part of the forest. Right in front of the attack, Lu Yin vanished.

The war spirit's attack did not manage to connect with Lu Yin, and it no longer felt the presence of any nearby living creatures. It closed its eyes, slowly turned away, and continued wandering.

Back atop of a high mountain, Lu Yin panted heavily, his face pale. He looked out at the forest below in shock. Had he nearly died just then? He touched his ears and nostrils and found that there was blood everywhere. It was unthinkable to him that there existed a Limiteer whose attack was so powerful that it would give him the sensation of death. What's more, it had only been for a short instant. Who in the world had birthed this war spirit? They must be truly terrifying.

With Lu Yin's current defenses, even Cruisers would have a difficult time killing him. However, that war spirit had nearly killed him. It was impossible to suppress one's instincts, and Lu Yun knew that he had been at death's door earlier.

He turned to Mister Mu and bowed respectfully. "I was defeated, Master."

Mister Mu asked, "How did that feel?"

"I cannot quite explain it. It felt like the war spirit could predict the future," Lu Yin guessed in a tentative tone. He considered Starsibyl, but she shouldn't be as powerful as that war spirit.

Mister Mu clasped his hands behind his back. "There is no limit in cultivation. Some people train in various battle methods while others focus on just one. Nobody can say for sure which is stronger or weaker. However, it's a fact that there are some people with unique innate gifts that allow them to attain feats that most people cannot even imagine. The war spirit that you just exchanged blows with is from someone who went far, far down the path of a domain."

Lu Yin narrowed his eyes. "A domain?"

"A domain can merge into the surroundings and strengthen one's senses, power level, the area encompassed by the domain, and possibly even the universe. If you enter someone else's domain, then everything about you becomes clear to them. Those who are extremely proficient can even be considered to have the ability to... predict the future," Mister Mu explained.

Lu Yin felt a chill crawl down his spine. Memories of the earlier battle appeared in his mind. Everything about him had been calculated, which was why the fight had been difficult. Could people proficient in domains perform divinations?

"This isn't divination. Through your breathing, the rhythm of your movements, battle habits, or even your thought processes, your next move can be predicted. That is the ultimate power of the domain." Mister Mu seemed to guess at what Lu Yin was thinking and continued with his explanation.

Lu Yin could not comprehend how powerful a domain could actually become. "I could not understand that last attack, Master."

Mister Mu spoke with praise, "To become strong, you must pay a price. This person was extremely skilled with their domain, but the price that he had to pay was to keep his eyes closed. However, the moment he opens his eyes, the light from the sun and moon will fade to nothingness, and everything will be laid bare before him. That power, coupled with his domain, is intensified by a thousandfold when his eyes open, and normal people will not be able to stop him."

Lu Yin's face twitched. A thousandfold? That was a terrifying concept. How extreme did a person have to be to blind themselves just to increase their domain's abilities? He was very curious about this person.

"May I know who this war spirit was birthed from, Master?" Lu Yin asked.

Mister Mu answered. "He was a young person. When he came here, he was about your age."

Lu Yin was shocked. He'd assumed that the person this war spirit had come from was a Limiteer who had cultivated for a very long time but been unable to become an Explorer. There were numerous similar cases of people who, despite the passage of time, would never reach the Explorer realm.

However, they would become absolute monsters among Limiteers. The fact that the person who had created that battle spirit was about the same age as Lu Yin meant that the man was a true freak of a Limiteer, even more so than Lu Yin.

“When was this war spirit formed?” Lu Yin enquired.

“About a decade ago, I believe.” Mister Mu answered.

Lu Yin muttered to himself. A decade ago? That meant that it was possible that this person was still a part of the younger generation. If that person had possessed such astonishing power while still at the Limiteer realm, then what would happen once he became an Explorer or a Cruiser? If nothing went wrong, then that man was probably one of the top experts on the Top Hundred Rankings, or he might even be one of the Ten Arbiters.

“Would you happen to know his name?” Lu Yin asked.

Mister Mu eyed Lu Yin. “Are you curious about it?”

Chapter 419: Extreme Improvement

Lu Yin nodded, “In the Inniverse and Outerverse, the number of Limiteers who can rival this disciple can be counted on one hand. There should not be any who can currently defeat this disciple, so I wish to learn who birthed this war spirit and how powerful they have become now.”

Mister Mu laughed. “You are too narrow-minded! Just taking the Inniverse and Outerverse into consideration is a very limited scope. If your view is forever restricted to such a place, then you will never get anywhere.”

Lu Yin fell silent.

“In the past, that youth was willingly swallowed by the storm,” Mister Mu said, shocking Lu Yin. “His arrival was interesting, and he was unique. He did not climb the mountain, but I met him once and released him. Currently, he should be very strong. At least in your younger generation, including even the Cosmic Sea and the Neoverse, there should not be anyone who can easily defeat him.

“Before forty years of age, one’s cultivation progress tends to be very fast whereas after forty, the speed will drop. This is the dividing line, and the further one progresses, the longer one will take to raise their power level. Some have trained for thousands of years and increased their power level to several hundreds of thousands. Over a similar amount of time, the person who was previously here will have increased his power level many times over that. The further one progresses, the more powerful they will become.

“That’s the power of those who are extremely proficient in the art of the domain.” At this moment, Mister Mu looked at Lu Yin. “Master has given you a formal gift and has accepted you as my disciple, but I have not taught you anything yet. At this time, you can make one request for me to upgrade some aspect of your abilities. However, I must warn you that once this guidance ends, I will not teach you anything else until you qualify to become my official disciple.”

Lu Yin silently stood there as he pondered this matter.

Mister Mu’s figure distorted, and he slowly appeared further away while looking into the distance.

After a while, Lu Yin firmed his resolve. He reviewed every skill that he had and also recalled the suppression that he had suffered in his last battle. He looked up after making up his mind. "Master, this disciple wishes to upgrade my physical body to the extreme."

Mister Mu turned around without a hint of surprise on his face. "I already said that, on the path of cultivation, one must pay a price if a single aspect is too strong. The person that that war spirit originated from has a domain that is too powerful, so he must close both eyes and suffer from permanent blindness. This is because once he opens his eyes, he can no longer control his overly powerful domain. If your physical body becomes too strong, then you will similarly not be able to control your strength. You will not only be capable of harming others, but also yourself."

"What price must this disciple pay to suppress an extreme physical strength?" Lu Yin asked.

Mister Mu simply replied, "Fatesand."

"Fatesand?" Lu Yin was astonished.

"Fatesand will consume one's star energy and vigor. The common person can absorb only one while absorbing two places too much stress on one's body and is something that few can accomplish. With this, you will be able to suppress the excessive strength from a peak physical body."

Lu Yin's eyes flickered as he processed this new knowledge. He found that he had completely played into Mister Mu's plans, as the man had given Lu Yin Fatesand to begin with and then allowed him to experience the war spirit's extreme accomplishments in the path of the domain. This had created a higher probability of Lu Yin choosing to upgrade his physical strength, and he had indeed fallen for the bait.

Mister Mu should have long since seen what was the best choice for Lu Yin given his current level, which was to further upgrade his physical strength. However, the man had not directly said anything. He had guided Lu Yin step by step, and he had not grown tired during the process either.

"I ask for Master to guide this disciple in upgrading my physical strength," Lu Yin requested respectfully.

Mister Mu remained calm. "It will take a considerable amount of time to upgrade your body to the limits of your current realm, so you must be prepared for that."

Lu Yin was caught in a dilemma, as the Daynight Feast would start soon. He considered his options carefully, but such an opportunity was hard to come by, so it would be a pity if he abandoned such a thing just for a mere Daynight Feast. "This disciple understands."

Mister Mu nodded, and a small, wilted twig appeared in his hand. It was only about the length of a finger and was completely desiccated. But for some reason, when he looked at it, Lu Yin felt like his body was completely refreshed, and he even felt more clear-headed than before.

"From now on, exhaust your entire physical strength without keeping anything in reserve. When you reach the point where you cannot continue, this will restore your vitality," Mister Mu explained as the twig floated from his palm over to Lu Yin's head.

When Lu Yin made contact with the twig, his mind became even more alert, and he felt as if he had been enlightened. He instantly recognized this object as a precious treasure, as nothing common could

restore one's vitality. Unfortunately, he had no money. Otherwise, he would definitely use his die to upgrade the twig.

Mister Mu's figure vanished, as if he had never even been there in the first place.

Lu Yin inhaled deeply. Then, his eyes went wide as he completely burst forth with his full physical strength. His powerful force caused the surrounding void to shudder, and visible ripples of energy spread out.

No matter who it was, one could only burst forth with their full strength for a few moments, and nobody could do that for very long. Lu Yin was no different, and when he exerted his physical strength to his absolute limit, he could last for a minute at most. After a minute, even if he was unwilling to do so, his strength would start to wane. However, he obeyed Mister Mu's words and persisted despite the painful effects. After some time, his body felt like it no longer belonged to him, and even Lu Yin himself didn't know how much of his strength he had used up.

Suddenly, from above him, a refreshing flow descended upon him that rejuvenated Lu Yin's body. He immediately felt that his physical strength had been restored, and he now noticed just how much of his strength had waned without him being aware of it.

Lu Yin gritted his teeth and burst forth with his full strength once again, causing his veins to swell. He exerted his full strength without holding anything back, not caring even if his body lost all sensation.

It was a very painful process, similar to when a regular human sprinted at full speed and then continued to run despite reaching their limits. Lu Yin continued repeating this process over and over without any end in sight.

The wilted twig not only restored his vitality, but it also gave him a unique energy. Lu Yin could not sense it, and he was also unclear about what it did exactly, but he was currently receiving an unimaginable fortune.

In the distance, Mister Mu opened his eyes wide as he looked at Lu Yin with a complicated expression. "Belonging to neither five nor six, an outsider hoping to change the game is too small a hope."

A month passed by like this as Lu Yin continued to burst forth with his most powerful strength, just like at the very beginning. Every time his strength faltered, it would be restored. It reached the point where his body went numb from the process.

At the start, he could not feel it, but the more he repeated this process, the more he could feel his strength changing. This kind of training was intrinsically different from using a strengthening fruit. A strengthening fruit could indeed increase his physical strength, but it was only a superficial change as a fruit would never be able to completely integrate with his body. Every natural treasure had its own pros and cons, and the strengthening fruit was no exception.

Using a strengthening fruit to increase one's physical strength was like covering a thin piece of paper with a sheet of metal. Although it seemed incomparably durable, once the layer of metal was pierced through, the paper would be easily destroyed. The training that Lu Yin was currently undergoing was fundamentally different. This process would be like turning the paper itself into metal and improving the paper from within.

Lu Yin recalled that when he had broken through to the Melder realm, his physical body had been greatly strengthened. In his countless battles, what injured him and brought him the closest to death was the destruction of his internal organs, and his musculoskeletal system rarely ever suffered true damage. At this moment, he was confident that his organs were much more resilient than they were in the past. Even if they were not as strong as his muscles and bones, they would not be destroyed as easily as they had in the past.

After some time, Lu Yin could no longer differentiate between when he was actively exerting his full physical force and when he was not; it had simply become a habit. His consciousness seemed to be shrouded, and he could only instinctively chase after that trace of refreshment that rained down from above his head.

“Alright, that’s enough. You’ve reached the limit,” Mister Mu’s voice sounded out.

Lu Yin slowly opened his eyes, and he felt as if he had just woken up from a dream. He heard a rumbling sound from his pumping blood, and his body emitted a strange, faint radiance. Such a thing would only appear after one’s body reached a certain degree of toughness.

When he looked up, he saw that Mister Mu was holding the wilted twig, and although his body thirsted to receive that refreshment once again, he knew that it was impossible.

He set a hand upon the ground. Crack! The ground split open, causing Lu Yin to look down at his right hand in shock. He had not tried to exert any strength, but the ground could not withstand his casual power.

“You can’t control the extent of your own strength with your current level of cultivation. This is the price that you must pay for such power. You could even injure your own body if you touch yourself,” Mister Mu explained.

Lu Yin frowned, but he no longer dared to touch himself now since he did not want to accidentally injure himself.

Was the strength of his current physical body really something that was beyond a Limiteer’s ability to control? His physical body had already rivalled an average Cruiser’s before he came to this space, so was his body now comparable to a Hunter’s?

If a Limiteer could grasp even a portion of a Hunter’s strength, then it would be no surprise if they accidentally caused harm to others or even to themselves.

“Master, should this disciple now fuse with the Fatesand?” Lu Yin asked.

Mister Mu looked at him. “You can choose. No matter if one fuses with one or two grains, the awakened ability will not change as one can only awaken a single ability. All that will change is merely its size. Some may gain unimaginable boons, though it’s also possible to weaken from the Fatesand. The ‘fate’ in its name indicates that your gains will depend entirely on your luck and destiny.”

Lu Yin pulled out a grain of Fatesand. “Where should this disciple assimilate this sand?”

Mister Mu calmly answered, “The heart.”

Lu Yin did not hesitate. He immediately cut open the skin over his heart and pressed the grain of Fatesand into the wound. In an instant, an intense pain seared through his nerves, and he gritted his teeth as he forcefully endured it. The Fatesand burrowed into his body like a living organism, vanishing in the blink of an eye.

But Lu Yin had no time to think. His heart loudly thumped once, and star energy flooded out like a tide even as his vigor was rapidly depleted at the same time. Lu Yin felt his body grow feeble, as if he had turned back to a regular person. His overwhelmingly powerful physical body gradually quieted down, like a hibernating dragon.

The flowing radiance around his body soon faded, and the churning sound from his flowing blood gradually disappeared as well.

Lu Yin raised his hand and clenched a fist. He then punched out at the void. A visible air wave flew out and distorted the void. Lu Yin was shocked at the power of his own punch, as it greatly surpassed what he had been capable of before this most recent increase in his strength. This punch had reached a level that was equal to Twenty Stacks.

Mister Mu raised his hand and more Fatesand appeared. "You can choose to continue and use this Fatesand to suppress your excessively powerful body. Actually, this is not a form of suppression, but is rather another method to improve your strength. This is similar to how, since that youth kept his eyes closed to strengthen his domain, opening his eyes allowed his strength to increase by a thousandfold."

Lu Yin's heart raced, and he looked fervently at Mister Mu. "Is Master saying that this disciple's physical strength will improve vastly after experiencing the Fatesand's suppression?"

Mister Mu nodded. "The reason why Fatesand is so precious is not only because it can awaken a special ability, but also, and more importantly, because the user's physical strength will be unconsciously improved. The greater and longer the suppression lasts, the more powerful the released force will become."

Chapter 420: Fatesand

Lu Yin was unaware of Fatesand's value, but just from these two points, he was certain that its value surpassed his imagination. He did not hesitate to slice open the skin on his left arm and fuse a second grain of Fatesand into his body.

The intense pain from before still had not vanished yet, but Lu Yin was already starting a second round. The renewed suffering was so intense that it could cause one to lose their mind, but fortunately, it was not Lu Yin's first time experiencing such agony. The backlash from consuming the improved strengthening fruits had been nearly as severe as assimilating the Fatesand grains. Actually, those fruits might have even been more painful. There was also how the formcast model helped one break through realms, which was an extremely agonizing process.

Some said that cultivators cycled between progress and pain, which was a view that Lu Yin shared.

The second grain of Fatesand successfully suppressed his physical body's strength by another level. When Lu Yin tested his strength again, he was rendered speechless yet again. His current physical

strength still surpassed what he had before this, and a random punch was about as strong as one of his old Five Stacks attacks.

Mister Mu's eyes flashed, and shock appeared in their depths. At his level, there was not much that could surprise him, but Lu Yin's talent in his physical body was still enough to astound him; it seemed limitless. Such a physical body was like an innate gift in and of itself, and he had never seen a youth's body reach these levels before. This kid's future accomplishments might end up being even greater than he had originally thought.

A third grain of Fatesand appeared. "Fusing with the third grain could reduce your physical strength to below your original condition, and it will also consume an enormous amount of your vigor and star energy. You can decide yourself whether or not you wish to merge with it."

Lu Yin did not hesitate; since he had started, he might as well go all the way. In any case, he could definitely handle the third grain's suppression.

Even as he thought about it, he directly sliced open the skin on his right leg and placed the third grain of Fatesand within the wound. As the grain fused with his body, another round of intense pain wracked him once more.

There were very few even within the entire universe who could withstand three grains of Fatesand, which Lu Yin realized when he saw amazement in Mister Mu's eyes.

If not for the extreme improvement that his physical body had just undergone, he would have only been able to withstand one grain of Fatesand at most.

Mister Mu was right; the three grains of Fatesand had caused Lu Yin to become incomparably weak, and his physical strength was now less than before all this. His star energy had also diminished, and even with the Cosmic Art's ninefold increased absorption rate of star energy, it barely allowed him to withstand the consumption of the Fatesand.

He was completely unable to battle in such a state.

"Master, how long will it be before the Fatesand is awakened?" the pale-faced Lu Yin asked.

Mister Mu replied, "It varies. There are many objects in the universe with no fixed patterns, just as there are no two perfectly identical leaves. Perhaps it will be one day, perhaps a year, or perhaps never. This is the aspect of the sand that is up to 'fate.' You will never be able to use it if it does not awaken, and the consumption of your vigor and star energy will be extremely overbearing as long as it does not. After it awakens, you'll be able to use the Fatesand to battle, and when you do, your physical strength will also explode while its consumption of your strength and star energy will decrease."

Lu Yin forced a smile. "There must be some people who were dragged down to death by Fatesand."

Mister Mu's eyes flickered. "That's correct. Some have never been able to awaken it and were forced to bear with the Fatesand's effects their entire lives. Those people were never able to even compare to a regular person, and even a genius can suffer from such a fate. There's not just one such example of that either."

Lu Yin was speechless. "Your disciple understands. Thank you, Master, for clearing up my confusion."

“It took you three months to increase your physical strength and one month to climb the mountain. With the amount of time that you spent here before that, you’ve been in this space for nearly five months. It’s time for you to leave.” Mister Mu cast a gentle look at Lu Yin.

Lu Yin was surprised, as he had not realized that he had remained in this space for so long. He was a little anxious now, as the Great Yu Empire, San Dios, and Astral-10 all would have been unable to contact him this entire time. Would they assume that he was dead? And the Daynight feast as well... Lu Yin suddenly felt powerless. That gathering must have already finished by now.

“This disciple must trouble Master to send me off,” Lu Yin spoke deferentially.

Mister Mu looked at Lu Yin with a complicated expression. “Roaming the universe will force you to choose between life and death many times. Master hopes you will stay true to your heart, as only in that way will destiny come knocking. Perhaps in the future, we’ll meet again as true master and disciple.” He then tapped out, tearing the void apart. Lu Yin watched the strange scene, as the way that Mister Mu tore the void was different from the spatial tears that occurred during battle.

It only lasted for a moment, but Lu Yin quickly felt the scene change before his eyes as he suddenly saw a blue sky with white clouds. And nearby him was something that was very familiar: a grenade.

Boom

An enormous explosion erupted in the high altitude, and the pressure tore through the layer of clouds and swept downwards towards the ocean’s surface. From a distance, the entire sky became distorted, and the center of the explosion reached a temperature that was high enough to melt metal.

“Experiment number one: the super grenade has been perfectly detonated. The power reading has been completed and completely matches the predicted theoretical outcome. Experiment is a success.” A group from the military stared at the ocean’s surface from a distant island, their faces filled with excitement. Cold clacking mechanical sounds rose up from the underground base at the center of the island. They had finally manufactured a super grenade that could threaten the entire planet, and with it, they could now defeat any country. They had just become the most powerful nation on the planet.

Lu Yin felt miserable in a distant part of the sky. He had been tossed next to this super grenade by Mister Mu. But fortunately for Lu Yin, while this toy packed a decent punch, it was limited to being used in planetary warfare by primitive civilizations. At best, it could rival a Melder’s full-force strike, so such a thing was of no threat to him. However, it was nevertheless unpleasant to be unexpectedly blasted in the face.

Lu Yin dispersed the heat wave and casually moved towards the sea, though his action created a tsunami that engulfed the distant island.

It was a small scale rogue wave and not enough to drown the island, but it was still large enough that it would drench everyone there, which was a small revenge.

As he flew into the sky, he reduced his aura and looked at his gadget. He finally had reception to the universal network, and his body vanished as he started looking for a place where he could browse through his messages.

This planet's civilization was only at the initial stages of development, and they had only just touched upon aviation research. There were more than a hundred countries of various sizes, and the situation was rather similar to Earth's back when Lu Yin first arrived there. Even the degree of technology was comparable.

The ocean was large, but with Lu Yin's speed that allowed him to tear through the void, he quickly reached the shore, where he entered a cafe-like building. He ordered a beverage that the locals considered very refined. He took a taste and found that it was decent.

Unexpectedly, during the five months that he had been stuck in that isolated space, he had received many messages—from the Great Yu Empire, San Dios, the other Astral-10 students, the Ten Arbiters Council, and even from Nightking Yuanjing.

The Ten Arbiters Council had not sent him any missions and had only commended his previous report concerning the events in the Northline Flowzone, as he had not humiliated the Ten Arbiters Council. Most of his kudos came from him fighting Northgate Lie to a standstill within the centipede's body. This action had been witnessed by many people who had then spread the news that Lu Yin was powerful enough to challenge the Top Hundred Rankings.

Aside from those messages, the Divine Fist and Scholar Wen Sansi had also tried to contact him, but unfortunately, Lu Yin had not been able to pick up.

The Great Yu Empire's Huo Qingshan, Gavin, Garope, and quite a few others had tried to contact him as well, and they had also transmitted various reports about the Great Yu Empire's conquest to him. Lu Yin casually browsed through the reports and frowned when he saw that the Frostwave Weave had been embargoed by the surrounding weaves. Fortunately, Watermoon Villa was helping to boost a bit of their economy, or else there would have been no way for them to continue fighting.

Finance was not Lu Yin's strong suit, or else he would not be constantly lacking money himself. Fortunately, even if the weave's trade was sealed off, the Frostwave Weave was self-sufficient. It was just that the war could not be continued.

War was too complicated, and it consumed too many resources. Some of these resources were not available within the Frostwave Weave and had to be imported in. This was what the economic embargo had affected the most, as the war could not be maintained purely through the efforts of space-exploring powerhouses. Also, there were not enough of them readily available either since the Frostwave Weave covered a rather considerable area.

There was nothing much from San Dios. After Wendy Yushan had returned, Lu Yin's position there had become much more awkward. Thus, there was very little difference if he was present there or not.

There was the Daynight Feast as well, and Lu Yin quickly discovered that it had already ended, just as he had anticipated. Lu Yin saw this news on the network, and along with the information regarding the Daynight Feast, there was another message that caused Lu Yin to feel helpless. The network had frantically publicized news of his death, and they had even shown a simulation of how his route through Tempest Flowzone had overlapped with the storm's route, along with a small animated scene of him being swallowed by the storm.

Few had believed it at first, but as Lu Yin continued to remain out of contact, more people had started to believe that he had been consumed by a storm. For an entire five months, no one had been able to get in touch with him, which had led many to believe that Lu Yin had indeed perished.

It was very normal for a youth to die while traveling the universe, and it was not something that would typically create much of a sensation. However, Lu Yin's titles and status were too large, so his death had caused some waves, though they were quickly settled.

In the countless years of the universe's development, it had seen too many geniuses. Some had even been focused upon from the time they were born, and there were many who had been even more dazzling than Lu Yin himself. Thus, it was natural that not all of the universe's attention would be focused on just him.

It had been almost a year since the Astral Combat Tournament had ended, and that topic had already long faded from the public's mind. Some people might still recognize Lu Yin if they saw him, or perhaps they would only feel that he looked familiar. However, no one would be as shocked as they would right after the Astral Combat Tournament had ended.

Moreover, the Astral Combat Tournament had been hosted rather abruptly. Even though the entire Human Domain's network had been connected so that, in theory, everyone could view it, in reality, only specific regions in the Innerverses and Outerverses had been able to view it. The network's connection was intermittent in other areas, so the people in those regions had not been able to properly watch the tournament.

There was nothing too important from the Astral-10 students who had tried to contact Lu Yin, aside from them being concerned about him. However, Lu Yin noticed that in the last month, Xia Luo had frequently tried to contact him.

Given Xia Luo's personality, he would not have relentlessly tried to contact Lu Yin like this unless there was something urgent. Lu Yin opened Xia Luo's most recent message, and his expression drastically changed. It turned out that Big Pao and Little Pao had landed themselves deep in trouble in the Chaos Flowzone.

Big Pao and Little Pao had initially been orphans from the Chaos Flowzone who were adopted by Astral-10, but their true identities should be heirs of some vanished power. They had returned to the Chaos Flowzone, presumably for revenge, but they had gone missing a month ago and were still unreachable. Xia Luo suspected that the two had either been captured or killed by an organization called the Deep Crimson Hall. Thus, all of Astral-10's students were currently rushing to the Chaos Flowzone.

Lu Yin immediately tried to contact Xia Luo, but he could not reach him. He tried Michelle next, who had gone with Xia Luo, but he could not connect to her either.

Finally, he managed to contact Old Cai. "Old Cai, what happened to Senior Big Pao and the others?"

Old Cai studied Lu Yin in amazement. "Pretty good, little brat. You're not dead."

Lu Yin was anxious. "This student was very lucky."

"Old Cai, what happened to the Seniors and the others?"

“They’re fine for now. Deep Crimson Planet is sealed, so they can’t leave.”

“What about Big Pao and Little Pao? Xia Luo said he hasn’t been able to contact them.”

Old Cai shook his head. “I’m not sure.”

Lu Yin frowned. “Does the academy not care?”