

Chapter 441: Peak Limiteer

Lu Yin touched the universal armor that had been upgraded four times, and then slapped it with full force, but he couldn't even leave a trace of a mark. He put the armor on, and fortunately, nothing abnormal happened. He paused, but then, he threw out another hundred star essence, though that amount was only enough to upgrade the armor one more time, and that one upgrade used up nearly all of the entire hundred star essence.

Lu Yin did some quick calculations in his head, and it would probably cost him at least a hundred, likely closer to two hundred, star essence to upgrade it an additional time.

No, he had no money left since he only had 320 star essence remaining. It would be difficult for him to reach the peak of the Limiteer realm if he upgraded the armor one more time.

He hesitated, but then decided against any further upgrades at this moment. He would upgrade the armor again in the future, but he just didn't have enough money right now. His eyes held a fervent light as he looked at his die; he really held great expectations for Enhance. He reckoned that, if he had the support of the Mavis family's wealth, he could upgrade the universal armor to the point where even the Sea King would be helpless.

As he watched the two light screens vanish, Lu Yin sighed as he crushed another star crystal cube, and watched the die restore itself. He tapped out again, and this time he rolled one pip: Pilfer. There was a solid thump, and a stone fell out.

Lu Yin smashed it apart with a fist. Who was stupid enough to store a stone in their cosmic ring?

He tapped again, and this time, it was two pips: Blackhole Disassembly. Lu Yin currently didn't have much use for this roll, but he had no guarantee that it would stay the same in the future since it had a reasonable function.

He had one more chance. If he didn't roll four pips here, then he would have to wait ten more days.

Logically, four pips should be a relatively common roll, so Lu Yin took a deep breath and then tapped the die. It slowly stopped spinning, and it indeed landed on four pips. He relaxed, quickly grabbed his cosmic ring, and entered the Time Stop Space.

A familiar scene met his eyes, and he looked into the distance to see the numbers trickling down. Lu Yin instantly crushed a hundred star essence, and directed the released energy towards the numbers, increasing his time in the space to ninety days.

Given his current cultivation, it now took Lu Yin much longer to improve compared to in the past. Before, it might only have taken him a few days or weeks to greatly improve his strength, but now, even several months might not be enough for him to manifest any visible improvement.

The further he went down the path of cultivation, the more time was required to progress. When he tried to break through to the Hunter realm, he might have to calculate the time needed to improve in terms of years.

He had crushed a hundred star essence, and dense star energy quickly filled the space. Lu Yin took a deep breath as nine stars revolved around his body, and he quickly began to absorb the energy filling the area.

Star essence contained purer energy than what star crystals contained. That, combined with Lu Yin's nine-fold star energy absorption speed, caused the star energy in this Time Stop Space to move like a whirlpool as it surged ceaselessly towards Lu Yin's body, and his star energy absorption rate substantially increased.

When he had broken through to become a Limiteer, he had used up a million star crystals. At this moment, with his insane absorption of star energy, he had long since surpassed that amount, and it felt like his body's thirst for star energy had no limit.

He had previously estimated that it would take him ten million star crystals to reach the peak of the Limiteer realm, but while he was absorbing the energy, Lu Yin gradually got the feeling that this initial amount would not be enough.

His strength began increasing along with his rapid absorption of star energy. He was not a simple Realmbreaker anymore, as he was now someone who could challenge two realms above his own. His power level did not reflect a Cruiser's standard, but his true strength had already surpassed an average Cruiser's.

The energy from the hundred star essence was rapidly consumed. So, Lu Yin opened his eyes, crushed another fifty star essence, and then continued to absorb the star energy.

But even when those fifty star essence were consumed, he still could not sense the peak of the Limiteer realm. Continue.

Cultivation depended on one's resources as only arts and techniques depended upon one's comprehension. For Lu Yin, the most difficult thing at this moment was to break through to the next cultivation realm.

To go from the initial Limiteer realm to the peak Limiteer realm, one merely required resources. Currently, the most difficult hurdle in Lu Yin's path was actually breaking through to the Explorer realm, as he himself did not know how to go about it. It was something that was even more difficult than he had initially imagined, because even the crazy headmaster had found it difficult to break his seal when he had broken through to become a Melder.

He crushed another fifty star essence and then looked at the remaining time he had in the Time Stop Space. Surprisingly, a month had already passed. He had not even been aware that he had been absorbing star energy for this long.

Even with his nine-fold absorption speed, it had taken him this long to absorb this much energy, so he could only imagine how slowly others would have taken. From just this experience, it could be seen how difficult it was for the younger generation to reach the Explorer realm, and how unattainable the Ten Arbiters' levels actually were.

Perhaps the Ten Arbiters' absorption rate of star energy surpasses even mine.

He only had the elementary level of the Cosmic Art, so what was the advanced level like? The more stars that could be simulated, the greater one's absorption rate would be. He could not even imagine how quickly the Cosmic Sect's heir would absorb star energy. Could one of them be a member of the Ten Arbiters?

He thought no further about such matters and instead focused more on absorbing star energy. When he only had twenty days remaining in the Time Stop Space, his rate of star energy slowed. He was approaching the peak of the Limiteer realm.

Another two days passed, and the star energy in his body gradually filled up. Lu Yin widened his eyes, as he had finally reached the peak of the Limiteer realm. To proceed, he would have to repeat this procedure when he tried to break into the Explorer realm; use a one-time massive amount of energy. However, no one could actually cram star energy, and such thinking was merely an illusion.

He raised a hand and clenched his fist, releasing a terrifying strength. When he punched out, Thirty Stacks exploded forth, tearing through the void.

Lu Yin relaxed, as he had recovered his former strength.

The three grains of Fatesand had sealed his physical strength away, which had made it difficult for him to display Thirty Stacks. Now that he had reached the peak of the Limiteer realm, he had finally regained his previous power. However, if he used the Fatesand now, his physical strength would be unsealed, and he might even be able to withstand unleashing Thirty Five Stacks. After all three were awakened and used simultaneously, his body would be completely unrestrained. He wondered how many stacks he would be able to unleash in such a state. One thing was for certain—he would certainly surpass the Divine Fist's record.

The Divine Fist's true record might have been hidden away, but it was definitely not something outrageous enough to surpass his current strength. After all, the Ten Arbiters were still human, not gods.

The awakening of the other two grains of Fatesand proceeded relatively slower, and Lu Yin did not specially recite the Stonewall Scriptures to help them along. He was in no hurry, but by his estimations, it would take just a few days for it to complete. He was afraid that, if he continuously used the Stonewall Scriptures to quicken the awakening of the Fatesand, then there might be some unintended repercussion.

He still had more than twenty days left within the Time Stop Space, and after Lu Yin thought about it, he raised his hand as a clump of dark soil appeared. It was the awakened grain of Fatesand that came from his heart.

The moment it appeared, his heart rumbled and a powerful strength turned into flowing light that engulfed his entire body. The void shuddered as he clenched his fist and punched out again. The might of his fist that displayed Thirty Stacks was even greater than before, while the Shockwave Palm was upgraded to fiftyfold.

The Overlaying Stacks required a powerhouse to help deduce further stacks, but the Shockwave Palm didn't.

Thirty Stacks Fiftyfold Shockwave Palm. At this moment, Lu Yin had truly surpassed his previous peak state. With the additional defense provided by the dirt, Lu Yin felt confident in defeating experts in the last twenty positions of the Top 100 Rankings.

If it was a matter of pure defense, then Lu Yin was confident that he could withstand the attacks of even the very top experts on the rankings. After all, he had even managed to withstand an attack from Feng Mo. Even though that attack had been casually thrown out, it should have been about as powerful as the attacks those at the top of the Top 100 Rankings were capable of.

“Basically, even if I can’t defeat the top few people on the list, they can’t beat me either, which is pretty disgusting,” Lu Yin mumbled to himself with a laugh.

Unfortunately, he could not use the Fatesand too often, as it was a precious treasure throughout the universe. If he used it, then others would move to investigate Lu Yin’s background more thoroughly, and he was afraid of his connection with Leon's Armada being discovered, or even worse, his past. If the Ten Arbiters discovered the paper listing the Lu family and the debt of seventy two lives, they might step out themselves.

Lu Yin planned to stabilize his current strength over the course of the remaining days, and also to familiarize himself with how he could use the black soil in combat.

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Twenty days passed in the blink of an eye, and the numbers disappeared as the scenery in front of Lu Yin changed back into the courtyard.

Three months of cultivation made him feel like the courtyard was foreign, as not even a second had passed in reality.

Although he had reached the peak of the Limiteer realm, he estimated that it would take him a long time before he could break through to the Explorer realm. The next step before him was to earn more money, as he could achieve many things if he had money.

He only had 120 star essence left now, while not long ago, a million star crystals would have been enough to make him ecstatic. Now, as his strength improved, he even felt like ten million star crystals would be too few.

He suddenly thought of Feng Mo; even if Lu Yin was handed over to the Blackbeard Pirates, he had no money to return to them, unless he sold everything that he had bought with the Sea King’s token, which amounted to a huge sum.

He had to think of a way to unload the stuff he had bought, as he could not use all of those items himself. Speaking of which, spending a total of 5,000 star essence on the items that he had picked up shouldn’t amount to too much for the Sea King, but how much had Lulu bought? Lu Yin was rather curious.

According to the stipulated timing, Lu Yin still had two more days until the selection process started, which meant that he still had one more day for his shopping spree. Lu Yin considered spending another

5,000 star essence in the Sea King's Dome. If he kept the total amount he spent to no more than 10,000 star essence, then he probably wouldn't attract the Sea King's attention.

For the moment, he planned to rest, as he was too fatigued.

The climate in the Sea King's Dome was comfortable, and it had a very refreshing aura. At this time, the sun in the heavens vanished as night descended upon the mountain, and the temperature grew cool.

In another area around the middle of the mountain, Big Pao and Little Pao did not rest. It had not been easy for them to reach this place, so they planned to thoroughly enjoy themselves, despite having limited funds.

Michelle was rich, but the items in this place were too extravagant even for her, so she had only bought a few random items.

Coco and Zora walked along with Michelle. Although the latter had a cold personality, the three girls had become familiar with each other during this escape, and Coco and Zora had come to realize that despite Michelle's cold front, her heart was warm. Although Big Pao could not realize it, his ignorance did not stop the girls from growing closer.

"Sister Michelle, look! The clothes here in the Sea King's Dome are beautiful!" Coco happily ran into a clothing store. A robot welcomed them at the entrance, where the shop was filled with special blue clothes from the mountain that were the same color as the sea. The intensity of the color would even change under the sunlight, and it was very beautiful. The patterns on the clothes even appeared to be alive.

Michelle's eyes lit up, as the clothes were indeed beautiful.

The store owner immediately walked out to greet them enthusiastically, while Zora also stepped forward to haggle. There was no choice, as the goods in this place were too expensive. If they didn't haggle, they might even have a problem finding a place to eat at later.

Michelle was happily looking at a piece of clothing, as no woman would not be able to resist the allure of such beautiful clothes. Suddenly, she glimpsed a familiar figure out of the corner of her eyes. She squinted and then quickly rushed out of the shop as she had seen a man with a wooden flute slowly walk past.

Chapter 442: Mu Rong

"Sister Michelle, what happened?" Coco and Zora walked out of the store behind Michelle, looking at her with puzzled expressions.

Michelle was still stunned. "Why did he come to the Starfall Sea?"

"Who?" Zora asked.

Michelle softly answered, "Mu Rong."

"Mu Rong?" Coco and Zora were both stunned. Most people in the younger generation would have at least heard Mu Rong's name since the four unequalled Limiteers in the younger generation were Ye Xingchen, Ling Que, Lu Yin, and finally, Mu Rong.

Previously, their names had not been very well-known, as everyone had been focused on the Top 100 Rankings and the Ten Arbiters. But after the Astral Combat Tournament and the Tournament of the Strongest had taken place, the universe network had gradually connected, and these four names had become more famous.

Of these four, Ye Xingchen stayed in the Cosmic Sea while Lu Yin was generally known throughout the universe. Ling Que had also appeared a while ago at the Daynight Feast, which made Mu Rong the most mysterious of the four. He had joined the Ten Arbiters Council long ago, and even when compared to Ye Xingchen, most people held greater expectations for Mu Rong. This was both because he had joined the council at a very young age and because the Arbiters had asserted his status as an unparalleled Limiteer in the universe.

They had not even limited their evaluation of him as being unparalleled among the Limiteers of the younger generation; rather, they classified him as unparalleled amongst all Limiteers, even those of the senior generations.

As such, the confidence that the Arbiters placed on Mu Rong was extremely huge. Even though Lu Yin had matched the Divine Fist's public record, Lu Yin was only praised as an unequalled Limiteer within the younger generation. There were also many absolute experts in the senior generations, and it was not popular belief that Lu Yin was more powerful than these people. However, for Mu Rong, the Ten Arbiters' words were the gold standard, and everyone had to accept that he was the unparalleled Limiteer even if they didn't want to.

"Why is Mu Rong here in the Sea King's Dome? Is he also participating in this selection?" Zora asked.

Michelle's eyes flickered, as she was not sure of the answer either. It was rumored that Mu Rong had received an unforgettable scar in his romantic life and had vowed never to wed after that. So why had he appeared at this critical juncture for the selection? If he was here, then that meant that Lu Yin was in trouble. Even if Lu Yin never considered marrying the Sea King's daughter, these two Limiteers had been termed as equals by countless people in the universe, and they would definitely be compared. That's right, there was also Ling Que present. Lu Yin was in trouble.

"Coco, tell Lu Yin that Mu Rong is here," Zora said gravely.

Coco acknowledged the suggestion and hurriedly activated her gadget.

Lu Yin was resting within the courtyard of the villa when he was woken up by a notification from his gadget. He glanced at it, and his expression instantly changed. He found it interesting that Mu Rong had shown up, as this meant that the only unequalled Limiteer not here was Ye Xingchen.

Lu Yin wondered if Mu Rong was truly unbeatable, and a trace of competitiveness rose up within him.

Most of the Sea King's subordinates' residences were located above the middle of the mountain, and most people were not allowed access to the area.

Beside one of the Skyfall Cascades, a tall youth stood there, silently watching the water roar past. He reached out, and the water splashed onto his hand, giving him a refreshing sensation.

Behind the man, a veiled lady appeared. Though her face was hidden from view, it could not shroud her gorgeous mien. She slowly stepped out of the void, taking a single step to arrive next to the youth.

“I never thought that this selection would even attract the renowned Starsibyl,” the youth said, his voice not containing even the slightest trace of surprise.

The veiled lady was Starsibyl, just not the Astral-1’s student leader. This Starsibyl was the space-exploring powerhouse. She was the one who had previously sent out the invitations, and she was also someone whom even the Ten Arbiters could not ignore. There was a question that she had asked all of the top geniuses throughout the universe, but she had never heard the perfect answer. Her looks were enough to astound the heavens.

Many would say that the most famous youths in the universe were the Ten Arbiters. Then, below them would not be the experts on the Top 100 Rankings, but rather Starsibyl. Some rumors even claimed that whoever won Starsibyl’s heart would obtain the future, because she herself represented the future.

The transformation of the universe had birthed ten freaks, and Starsibyl was from the same generation as those ten, and she could similarly be considered a freak.

“Hai Dashao, you still haven’t answered my previous question,” Starsibyl softly responded. Her voice was graceful and gentle, and it even caused the roaring Skyfall Cascade to quiet down significantly.

The youth was the Sea King’s son, Hai Dashao. He was an absolute genius and was 7th on the Top 100 Rankings.

“I don’t want to answer your question,” he casually replied.

Starsibyl’s eyes were indifferent, and she looked up at the screens in the sky. “Who knows who’ll be fortunate enough to wed Qiqi. Hai Dashao, what do you think?”

Hai Dashao put on a disdainful expression. “None of them are qualified.”

Starsibyl smiled. “Is that so? However, I’ve seen a different future, and there might be an unexpected outcome.”

Hai Dashao’s eyes suddenly went wide, and he stared hard at Starsibyl. “Stop trying to deceive people. Your so-called predictions are all mere deductions. At best, you can see details that others cannot and use them to deduce an outcome. Don’t believe that you actually represent the future. I’m not Tai Yuanjun, and I won’t believe your nonsense.”

Starsibyl did not mind his words. “Just wait and see.”

He snorted. “I know who you’re referring to in your so-called ‘different future.’ Cheng Wu, ranked sixty ninth in the Top 100 Rankings. He thought that he hid himself well, but no one can hide themselves once they step onto the Sea King’s Dome. Indeed, he’s the strongest one out of them all, but so what? He’s still not suited to marry my sister.”

Starsibyl did not retort, but her lips curled up as her eyes sparkled like stars.

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The sunlight shone upon the Sea King’s Dome again as Lu Yin stepped out of the villa while carrying the Sea King’s token. He headed in a direction that he had already decided upon the night before, and he made a beeline towards his intended destination.

There were quite a few auction houses around the mountain's half-way point, and Lu Yin walked into one, only to come out after three hours. He felt rejuvenated, as he had bought quite a few items once again. They would likely be useless to him personally, but he could earn a significant sum if he sold them, so he had soldiered on.

During the last day before the selection started, Lu Yin spent all of his time participating in auctions, and he ended up buying so many items that the bill totaled more than 8,000 star essence at the end. In truth, he felt a little guilty, but that was because he was afraid that the Sea King might notice him.

He felt that things would be alright so long as he did not surpass 10,000 star essence, so he definitely could not go over that.

Beep beep!

Lulu's voice sounded from Lu Yin's gadget. "Lu Yin, did you buy a bunch of good stuff?"

Lu Yin replied, "How about you?"

"Me? Hehe, I spent more than 10,000 star essence." Lulu was proud.

Lu Yin was taken aback. Although he had already expected it, he still jumped in shock when he learned that Lulu had actually been so aggressive as to spend more than 10,000. "I've spent about that amount as well."

"Really? I assumed that you'd be afraid to spend since you're poor. I figured that would cause you to have some misgivings about buying things." Lulu ruthlessly mocked him before abruptly ending the call.

Lu Yin was speechless. What had she meant with those words? Was she trying to deliberately insult him?

He looked over to the side; this auction house would be his last harvest of the day, so he stepped inside.

As soon as he stepped in, the boisterous atmosphere caused Lu Yin to involuntarily arch an eyebrow.

He had already finished shopping in the large auction houses. This last one was just a smaller auction house, and it did not seem as high-end as the ones that he had already visited. However, he was not picky, so he entered the private room and casually looked down.

"The next auctioned item..."

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Bored, Lu Yin yawned as he listlessly drank his beverage as there was nothing in this auction that interested him.

"Ladies and gentlemen, the next item is a bit special. It has a unique origin, as it comes from the Astral Wilderness!" the auctioneer shouted, attracting a great deal of attention, even from Lu Yin.

The Astral Wilderness was the domain that humans had not yet explored.

No one knew how vast the universe actually was. The Human Domain, the Technocracy, and the Astral Beast Domain had been established by intelligent civilizations. Outside of these three domains, there was the Astral Wilderness.

Many individuals spent their lives exploring the Astral Wilderness, and there were often rumors that intelligent civilizations could be found in that place, as well as extremely dangerous celestial bodies. In summary, the humans' understanding of it could be summarized in the name—the place was an unexplored wilderness.

Humans were afraid of the unknown; hence in everyday society, they tried their best to forget about that region. Lu Yin never would not have thought that he would see something from the Astral Wilderness in this small auction house.

The auctioneer's introduction had caught the crowd's interest, and he pulled out a transparent metal amidst the crowd's shouting. Within the metal, there was a strange-looking gun.

"Are you tired of living? Trying to use a broken gun to fool us!"

"It's just an antique! I think you don't want to stay in the Sea King's Dome anymore."

"Isn't that just a broken gun? What Astral Wilderness? I can easily buy countless guns like this."

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Countless curses echoed in the auction house, but the auctioneer paid no heed and raised his hand to quell the furious voices. "Everyone, no matter how brave this auction house may be, we wouldn't dare to lie to everyone. This gun is indeed from the Astral Wilderness, and..." At that moment, he paused, and his lips rose before he continued. "The attack of this gun has a power level of over 80,000!"

This sentence shocked everyone.

Lu Yin's body went taut as he stared down in amazement. Was such a thing even possible? It was just a gun, and the strongest gun in the universe only had a destructive force of about a power level of 20,000. A gun was generally small, and they could only be made with a limited amount of materials. They were unlike warships, which could unleash destructive attacks with power levels of over 100,000.

"I know it's hard to believe, but our auction has already conducted a demonstration for everyone." The auctioneer then clapped his hands, and a screen rose up to display the scene of someone aiming the gun. Then, a physical bullet flew out from the gun, which was an ancient style of attack. When the bullet made contact with the target, it instantly exploded and released an enormous destructive force that caused the void to distort.

To the side of the target, the power level reading rose incessantly before finally stopping at 80,000.

Everyone went silent, as this little thing truly possessed a destructive strength of 80,000.

Suddenly, the crowd grew frenzied. The small size of the gun was not enough to attract attention, and no self-respecting powerhouse would bother paying attention to a gun. However, it was different if it truly had an attack power of 80,000. Such a weapon would give them the confidence to confront even peak Cruisers.

There were not many Hunters in the universe, and such cultivators were not easily run into, but Explorers and Cruisers were different, and it was relatively commonplace to bump into either. This gun was the same as having the personal protection of a peak Cruiser.

“Are you selling the gun or the technique to manufacture it?” someone in the private room above asked.

Everyone looked at the auctioneer.

He replied, “The gun. We don’t possess the technique, as the powerhouse who provided this gun obtained it in the Astral Wilderness by happenstance. Thus, he does not possess the technique, either.”

“How many bullets can it fire?” someone else asked.

“There are dots of light on the handle, and each dot represents one bullet. There are twenty three remaining,” the auctioneer explained.

Everyone took a cold breath. Twenty three bullets meant Twenty three attacks, each with a power level of 80,000. That was plenty for most people.

“Less bullshit, start selling!” someone eagerly yelled out.

Chapter 443: Turning Enemies

The auctioneer laughed. “Alright, we’ll begin the auction for this gun. Before that, I must warn everyone to not attempt disassembling it. It was manufactured very strangely, and rashly disassembling it will simply destroy this gun, and it might even cause the bullets inside to explode. Aside from a Hunter, no one else can possibly survive the power of twenty three attacks, each with a power level of 80,000.”

Many faces paled, as some people had evidently been considering disassembling the gun, but they had been quickly dissuaded by the auctioneer’s frightening words.

In fact, most were not that foolish. If it were possible to obtain the technique through disassembling the gun, then the auction house would not sell it. If they dared to sell this gun, then it could only mean that they had not been able to obtain the manufacturing technique.

“The bidding will begin at five hundred star essence,” the auctioneer shouted, causing the bidding war to start.

Five hundred star essence was rather expensive, but it was less than the value of one’s life, and many were willing to spend such a sum for such insurance.

Before long, the price rose to about 1,000 star essence.

Everyone present was very wealthy, as those who dared to play in the auctions on the Sea King’s Dome were not the normal sort of wealthy. Lu Yin marvelled at their ability to spend money.

At this moment, he felt that the Treasuremaster’s price for the Money Bomb had been too kind. Those weapons had a power level of over 10,000, and he had sold three for a hundred star essence each, which was a very generous price. He felt that he had been mistaken about the Treasuremaster, as the old man was not as greedy as Lu Yin had assumed.

After the price rose above 1,000 star essence, the bidding started to slow down, as it was an enormous sum. Even the tribute that the Blackbeard Pirates received from each pirate group rarely went above 1,000 star essence.

“1,200.”

“1,300.”

“1,500.”

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The number of bidders dwindled, until it was only those in the private rooms still competing, leaving the people below as mere spectators. It was not that they could not afford it, but rather that the price had already surpassed the value of the gun since the manufacturing technique could not even be obtained.

Finally, no one dared to compete against the booth to the left of Lu Yin, who had raised the price to 2,000 star essence.

Lu Yin acted and pressed the button, adding another fifty star essence.

The crowd did not think that anyone would continue competing, and neither had the person in the booth to the left. He directly added another two hundred star essence, as he seemed determined to obtain the gun.

Lu Yin pressed the button again.

The other party then added yet another hundred star essence.

In this repeated fashion, the price actually slowly rose to 3,000 star essence.

Many people were stunned, as this price was actually enough to directly hire a Cruiser as a bodyguard for a substantial amount of time, and the number of times that they could defend their employer was not restricted. This price greatly surpassed the value of the gun, but the price was still continuing to increase.

“4,000 star essence!” The person in the booth to the left of Lu Yin finally grew impatient and drastically raised the price in one go.

Lu Yin did not mind it at all, and he pressed the button to add another fifty. Bring it on, you’re competing against the Sea King. Not only does this gun belong to me, but the entire Sea King’s Dome!

“Seventh Bro, this gun isn’t even that useful for you. Why do you want it so badly?” The Ghost Monkey was puzzled. Lu Yin had taken off the screen on his right arm after becoming a peak Limiteer, which meant that the monkey had been screened off for three months. He had refused to speak a single word out of anger so far, but at this moment, he could not hold himself back.

“For Ming Yan to protect herself.”

The monkey rolled his eyes, as he had not thought of this option. “Think about this carefully: you’ve already spent more than 10,000 star essence. Aren’t you afraid that the Sea King will take notice?”

“Afraid of what? Lulu already passed this amount yesterday, and after today, she might even hit 20,000.”

The monkey thought about it and had to agree with Lu Yin’s assessment.

The left booth did not think that Lu Yin would continue competing, and they directly raised the price by another 500 star essence. Lu Yin continued to press the button in a relaxed manner. This was the way of the wealthy, as they did not care about the price. Rather, they just directly bought whatever they wanted.

The crowd below was puzzled, as the price had climbed too high. Such a price had rarely appeared since this auction house’s establishment, and even the auctioneer had paused.

Thud thud thud!

“Come in,” Lu Yin looked down and said.

A person entered the booth from the auction house and respectfully asked Lu Yin to show proof of his assets. Lu Yin directly displayed the token, and the other party immediately left for the other booth.

The price soon rose to 5,000 star essence, and Lu Yin squinted. This was not right; how could this gun be worth so much? He had the Sea King’s reimbursement, so did this mean that the other party did as well? That would be troublesome, as they would be locked in an eternal bidding war if they continued like this.

If it wasn’t the Sea King reimbursing the other bidder, then there were only a few other plausible explanations. The other party either knew what the gun’s origins were, or they were confident in their ability to disassemble and research it, which could bring them much greater wealth.

However, what puzzled Lu Yin more was why the gun’s owner had not attempted to sell the gun at a larger auction house, where there would definitely be more people who would want to buy it for research. If he had done so, the price definitely would have reached even more absurd heights.

Thud thud thud!

Another series of knocks sounded out from the door to Lu Yin’s booth, and a youth entered. He was stunned upon seeing Lu Yin, evidently recognizing him.

Lu Yin was rather famous throughout the universe, especially among the younger generation.

“So it’s Representative Lu,” the youth greeted.

Lu Yin’s eyes flashed; if he was calling him Representative Lu, then did that mean that this person was from the Ten Arbiters Council?

“You are?”

“I am from Ascension Flowzone’s Xun family, Xun Tao,” the young man introduced.

Lu Yin quickly understood. “I was wondering who could be so wealthy. So it’s the Xun family competing against me for that gun.” After speaking, he pressed the button again to continue bidding on the gun.

Xun Tao felt awkward. "We didn't know it was Representative Lu, either. If we did, we would have come over earlier for a visit."

The purpose of this visit was self-evident, as they were hoping that Lu Yin would give up on the gun. Lu Yin had interacted with Xun Jiong before, and they knew that the gun was not overly important to Lu Yin, so they were hoping that he could give up on it. However, Xun Jiong's attitude towards Lu Yin on the ship had left a bad taste in his mouth. Although he did not particularly mind it, that incident meant that the two parties were not on friendly terms, so there was no need to remain amicable. They could each pursue their own interests, and a weapon that could fire attacks with a power level of 80,000 was also very useful for Lu Yin. "Brother Xun, you're too kind. The Xun family helped the Great Yu Empire condemn the Ross Empire before, and we can be said to be the same sort of people."

Xun Tao's eyes lit up, but just as he was about to speak, Lu Yin continued. "Right, Brother Xun, could you do me a favor? Give up that gun, as it's very important to me. Since we're already on friendly terms, I trust that Brother Xun will not refuse."

Xun Tao was stumped, as Lu Yin had said the words that he wanted to. He thought about it for a second and then said, "Representative Lu should know that the Xun family specializes in the Gear Construction Technique. That gun is extremely useful to my Xun family, so could Representative Lu please go easy on us? If there's anything that you may need in the future, Representative Lu can contact our Xun family."

Lu Yin smiled inwardly. Xun Jiong's attitude towards him had clearly revealed everything, and this Xun Tao's status was obviously not as high as Xun Jiong's, so Lu Yin's words were just a ploy to deceive Xun Jiong. "This is difficult, as this gun is also very important for me."

Even as he spoke, Lu Yin continued to press the button. The price had already surged to 6,000 star essence, which was an exorbitant sum.

Xun Tao's face grew ugly. "Representative Lu, could you give some face to my Xun family? After all, we did indeed help the Great Yu Empire."

"Has Brother Xun forgotten the matter at Shenwu Continent? I saved your Xun family's heir, Xun Jiong. Could Brother Xun go easy on me as thanks for saving Xun Jiong?" Lu Yin smiled.

Xun Tao took a deep breath and his face fell. "Since that's how things are, then we can only compete in terms of wealth."

Lu Yin nodded and then pulled out the Sea King's token. "Yes, we can only compete in wealth."

Xun Tao was stunned upon seeing the token. How could they compete? Even the entire Xun family together could not beat the Sea King!

Xun Tao had accompanied Xun Jiong, so he was well aware about the matter of the token reimbursing all expenditures during the stay at the Sea King's Dome. Xun Jiong had one as well, but he had come to earnestly participate in this selection, so he would not abuse the token. And now, it was too late even if they wanted to use it since Xun Jiong was not nearby.

“Representative Lu, the Sea King’s son-in-law selection starts tomorrow, but you’re here squandering money with the Sea King’s token? Don’t you fear his wrath?” Xun Tao could not help but threaten Lu Yin.

Lu Yin waved a hand. “You’re thinking too much. The Sea King won’t bother over just tens of thousands of star essence. It looks like the Xun family isn’t too well-off since poverty has restricted your imagination.”

Xun Tao was furious and shocked at the same time. After hearing Lu Yin’s words, he was ready to throw away tens of thousands of star essence even though their family had not brought that much money here. “Alright, since Representative Lu is not willing to give my Xun family any face, Xun Tao will report things as they are. Representative Lu, take care.” After speaking, he turned to leave.

Lu Yin sneered, as his personality had always been like that. Xun Jiong’s attitude towards Lu Yin had been poor, so Lu Yin had no intentions of remaining friendly with such a person. If Watermoon Villa had requested that he give up on bidding for this gun, he would have done so without a second thought. Xun Jiong could only blame himself for having such a vile personality. Although Lu Yin had initially forced the trialtakers to write those promissory notes and had some intention of taking advantage of their misfortune, in the end, he had still saved them all, so it had been a fair exchange.

“Seventh Bro, good job! I disapprove of that Xun Jiong, though you have offended an entire family,” the monkey commented.

Lu Yin smiled. “There are many families in the universe, and if we’re afraid of offending people, then we won’t be able to roam the universe anymore. I’ve already offended the Daynight clan, so we can forget about this Xun family.”

“That’s also true.”

In the end, that gun was sold for 6,700 star essence. Compared to the item itself, it was a sky-high price. Even if Lu Yin did not need to pay for it himself, he still felt reluctant to part with such a large sum of money.

With this gun, Lu Yin had spent a total of 15,000 star essence during his three days in the Sea King’s Dome. Fortunately, that should be less than what Lulu had spent, since she had certainly spent more than 20,000 star essence.

When he left the auction house and looked at the color of the sky, it was already dark. In just another ten hours or so, the Sea King’s son-in-law selection would begin. These three days had been truly enriching.

Still inside the auction house, Xun Tao’s face was gloomy as he stared at Lu Yin’s retreating figure. Behind him, a middle-aged man grunted, “Our head tasked us with bringing that item back. Now that it’s in that person’s hands, it will be difficult to retrieve.”

Xun Tao coldly replied, “It’s no matter. He definitely won’t become the Sea King’s son-in-law, so we’ll have a chance when we leave the Sea King’s Dome.” He then suddenly thought of something that made his lips curl.

Lu Yin wanted to return to the villa that he had used the day before to rest, but a giant screen rose into the sky and covered the entire area. Everyone looked up and saw the five Skyfall Cascades displayed on

the screen. There were several names below each waterfall, and Lu Yin found his own name listed beneath the southeastern Skyfall Cascade.

At the top of the Skyfall Cascade, there was a sluice gate, and behind that, a long spear was stuck in the ground.

“Make your way up the Skyfall Cascades and pull out the Sea King's Trident to gain the qualification to become the Sea King's son-in-law.” A giant voice rumbled throughout the Sea King's Dome, causing the Starfall Sea to surge.

Everyone grew excited. Was the competition to become the Sea King's son-in-law starting early?

Chapter 444: Beautiful Cheerleaders

Once Lu Yin determined the direction he needed to go, he started moving towards the bottom of the southeastern Skyfall Cascade. The entirety of the Sea King's Dome had jumped to life, and everyone stared excitedly at the screens in the sky, wondering what sort of powerhouses would appear in this selection. Some even vaguely recall that there had previously been a Sea King's son-in-law selection event that had been held a long, long time ago.

There was more than just one giant screen in the sky, as many other screens were floating up there, revealing every single section of the Skyfall Cascades. The event had become a grand festival that only the Sea King's Dome could host.

At the same time, at the peak of the Sea King's Dome, a tall, slender woman appeared, dressed in cotton blue clothes, and looked down. She was the Sea King's daughter, Hai Qiqi, and there were four maids following behind her.

“Sister Qi, it's about to begin,” one maid said rather excitedly.

Another maid softly asked, “Sister Qi, do you want to meet those handsome lads first?”

The other maids were looking forward to that event.

Hai Qiqi had a calm demeanor. “We'll see. This time, one has to be selected. If not, I truly won't be able to leave.”

“Right, Sister Qi, since you must choose one, pick an extremely good-looking one who's easy on the eyes! Don't bother with those strong, courageous ones since no one would dare to harm Sister Qi anyway.”

“Yes, if you truly want someone powerful, why look any further than the first thirty of the Top 100 Rankings? Those people are much stronger.”

...

Hai Qiqi's eyes lit up as she looked down.

In one section of the Skyfall Cascades, Hai Dashao and Starsibyl were still in the same place.

Above the middle section of the mountain, there was a beautiful lake where everyone who had qualified through their good looks had gathered. Xia Luo, Xun Jiong, and Hart Phoenix were all there, watching the screens.

About half-way up the mountain, Lulu, Big Pao, Little Pao, and the rest of the group gathered near a steep cliff along with a huge pile of snacks, ready to enjoy themselves.

Everyone believed that the selection process for the Sea King's son-in-law had simply started earlier than planned.

However, when Lu Yin arrived beneath the Skyfall Cascade, he found that the area was sealed off and that he could not enter. This meant that the selection had not yet actually begun.

Someone else had arrived before Lu Yin. He was a gentle-looking man who had arrived at the Sea King's Dome a month before Lu Yin's group. The ships had made several roundtrips, and Lu Yin's group was among the last to arrive.

There were a total of five names for each Skyfall Cascade. From this, one could guess that there were about twenty five people spread throughout all five Skyfall Cascades.

To be able to qualify through strength, one's power had to rival a Cruiser's. There were extremely few such people in the universe who met that criterion power while still being under twenty five years of age.

According to the rankings of the participants' strengths, those who were on the Top 100 Rankings were the best. Those who were on the list and younger than twenty five years old were extremely rare, and the only known person to meet those requirements was Qin Chen. Someone had said that Northgate Lie had also appeared for this selection, but he was older than twenty five, so he was not eligible to participate.

Ling Que closely followed behind those in the Top 100 Rankings; although he was just a Limiteer, he was an absolute freak, and his true battle strength surpassed that of a normal Cruiser. He could even rival an expert on the Top 100 Rankings, which meant that Ling Que had also reached that level. However, only an actual battle would be able to reveal the difference between Ling Que and Qin Chen.

Below them were the genius Explorers who were under twenty five and who barely could match the strength of a Cruiser.

There were not that many Realmbreaker Explorers who were younger than twenty five in the entire universe, but the person in front of Lu Yin seemed to be one of them.

The man's eyes revealed a hint of hostility when he saw Lu Yin. He was an Explorer, but people did not see him as this Limiteer's equal. No one would accept such treatment, and this man longed to fight against Lu Yin and prove himself.

Lu Yin stood in the water, and his gaze trembled when his domain sensed a powerful strength approach from a thousand meters behind him. A short man slowly walked over; he was another Realmbreaker Explorer.

This man was not even one meter tall in height, which astounded the onlookers. Lu Yin had seen someone like this before, as there had been a student named Parlie during Earth's trial with a similar stature. Lu Yin recalled that Parlie had come from Planet Third Gravitass. Also, the blind monk of the Great Yu Empire's Thirteen Imperial Squadrons was also from Planet Gravitass and was similarly very short.

Lu Yin paid great attention to the newcomer's physical strength, which seemed to be rather abnormal. Unfortunately, Lu Yin did not dare to fill his eyes with star energy while in the Sea King's Dome, or else they would be overwhelmed. Even if he could not see this person's rune lines right now, he could still sense his extraordinary strength. With Lu Yin's domain, he could tell that this person's heartbeat was special.

For a person to approach a Cruiser's strength at his age was no simple no matter what realm they had reached. To the other two, Lu Yin was the most unusual, as he was just a Limiteer. This meant that Lu Yin's strength had crossed two great realms, which even included the space-exploring realm.

Beneath the northeastern Skyfall Cascade, quite a few people had appeared. They kept some distance from one another, and they actually seemed mutually afraid.

Suddenly, a hubbub was heard. "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!"

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

...

The voices had started cheering rather abruptly, which shocked many, including the nearby Northgate Lie. He watched on with an ugly expression as a group of gorgeously dressed girls appeared. They seemed to be the ones who had suddenly started cheering.

Ling Que appeared, elegantly stepping out from the void. He casually waved a hand, and his Que's Mighty Slash revolved around his body and raised a gentle breeze. The wind split the seawater apart, and it looked as if it were heralding his arrival.

The Lingling clan's innate gift was enough to cause even the Daynight clan to fear them, and Ling Que perfectly represented the embodiment of heaven and earth in one body. Not only were his looks exquisite, but he was also incomparably powerful, making him the dream of countless girls.

After the Daynight Feast, his reputation had grown extravagantly, and his group of beautiful female cheerleaders had also been expanded.

Ling Que himself was not disgusted by their presence; on the contrary, he seemed to rather enjoy the girls' cheering.

Beneath the originally solemn Skyfall Cascade, a scene of cheering groupies appeared right where a battle was about to break out, completely destroying the previously heavy atmosphere. Ling Que placed his hand up to his lips and blew them a kiss. The cheerleading group screamed in ecstasy, and they fainted one after another.

Countless people felt their heads hurt.

At the peak of the Sea King's Dome, Hai Qiqi looked on blankly. This works too?

Hai Dashao had an ugly face. "What does this person think this selection is? The Lingling clan is too preposterous."

Starsibyl smiled faintly. "They are a top clan, after all, so some unique characters are to be expected."

"Hmph."

...

Watching from atop the cliff, Big Pao felt jealous. "This scoundrel must have spent money to hire his own personal cheerleading squad. Hmm, shall we hire a group for Brother Lu too?"

Coco got excited. "Yes, we should! Let's go hire a group, that sounds like fun."

Lulu waved the Sea King's token. "I'll pay."

"You can't get reimbursed for this," Michelle said indifferently.

"Why not?" Lulu was stumped.

Michelle begrudgingly answered, "As soon as the selection starts, that token becomes useless."

Lulu snorted. "It's fine. Then just go and hire them. I don't lack money, so go and get some pretty ones."

"Aren't there some readily available? Let's go get that group," Big Pao pointed at the cheering groupies behind Ling Que.

Lulu waved generously. "Go."

Michelle felt her head hurt. She had a feeling these people were about to stir up trouble, and she only hoped that Ling Que would not be offended.

At the northwestern Skyfall Cascade, Qin Chen had appeared. As an absolute genius under the age of twenty five, and one who was in the Top 100 Rankings as well, he was like a firefly in the dark; he would shine no matter where he went. This was especially true since his ranking was not at the tail end, so he had many admirers. Although he did not have as many as Ling Que, he still had quite a few supporters. Hai Dashao also had quite a decent impression of Qin Chen since this person acted with principle and was honorable.

Qin Chen's appearance also made the other competitors at the northwestern Skyfall Cascade raise their guards, and they glanced at each other, mutually coming to a decision.

At the southwestern Skyfall Cascade, Mu Rong slowly arrived with his wooden flute. He seemed to be very calm, and there was no hint of a powerhouse's aura on him at all. Even when he appeared beneath the Skyfall Cascade, he did not attract much attention. On the other hand, Lan Yu attracted a great deal of attention. Although his status was not as great as Qin Chen's, and nor was he someone on the Top 100 Rankings, he received more attention than others just because he was the Divine Fist Arbiter's younger brother.

Lan Dao, who was standing behind Lan Yu, did not draw much attention.

However, when the two of them arrived beneath the Skyfall Cascade, Mu Rong's eyes swept past Lan Yu and instead looked straight at Lan Dao, a trace of astonishment appearing in the depths of his eyes as he did so.

The northern Skyfall Cascade was the most peaceful, as there were no famous powerhouses there. The location also had the fewest number of people present. Only four were waiting there, and only one of those four could attract any attention from the spectators. This man wore a mask. It was impossible to determine his age without seeing his face, but in order to qualify for this selection, he had to be younger than twenty five and possess a strength that rivalled a Cruiser's.

All of the participants who had qualified for the selection through their strength appeared beneath the five Skyfall Cascades. Although some were not as well-known as Lu Yin, Qin Chen, and some of the others, they were definitely influential in the area of the universe that they had come from.

Countless people in the Sea King's Dome were watching this selection's battle, and each of the participants had their own supporters.

Feng Mo stared coldly at Lu Yin's image on the screen. Bo Senior had rushed over to the Sea King's Dome some time ago and was standing beside him. The two did not speak, but both had made their own preparations. As soon as Lu Yin left the Sea King's Dome, it would be time for them to take action. Big Pao and Little Pao would not be able to run either, as Bo Junior was focusing his attention on them.

In another part of the Sea King's Dome, Northgate Lie had not expected to run into Lu Yin here. He had followed Northgate Taisui and trained under his wing for several months. He believed that his power had improved by leaps and bounds to the point where he was confident in being able to defeat Qin Chen. Unfortunately, Northgate Lie was too old, so he could not participate in the selection. However, as soon as it ended, he could still challenge Qin Chen.

There were a total of five people beneath the southeastern Skyfall Cascade. Aside from Lu Yin, the others were all Explorers.

Lu Yin did not recognize any of the others, but they all immediately recognized him. When he had arrived at the Sea King's Dome three days earlier, all of his information had already been distributed.

This was the disadvantage of being too famous, as such people would often be targeted since defeating such a person would bring the challenger enormous prestige.

There were still more than ten hours before the next day arrived, and Lu Yin silently stood beside the surface of the sea and waited for the moment dawn broke. The rest did the same, and no one interacted with anyone else during this time.

No one could sleep well in the Sea King's Dome that night, as they all accompanied Lu Yin and the other participants as they waited for the next day.

At the northeastern Skyfall Cascade, at the shore a thousand meters away from Ling Que, the female cheerleaders spared no effort in their praise, filling the area with a raucous noise. Of course, some liked to watch these young girls dance, as it gave the scene a youthful feeling.

Then, Big Pao, Lulu, and Coco suddenly appeared.

“Senior Big Pao, is this really possible? If they truly support Ling Que, we can’t buy them over with money.” Coco was worried.

Big Pao slapped his chest. “Relax, Junior, this Senior is experienced! What you’re saying is impossible. How could there be so many girls that would willingly wander around the universe just to follow a man? He’s no sweetheart of the masses—he’s just a pretty boy.”

Lulu nodded. “I feel the same way. Senior, go on and slap them with money.”

Chapter 445: Innocent Mu Rong

Big Pao’s eyes gleamed, as he liked the sound of those words. This was the reason why he wanted to be friends with Lulu, as she could be absolutely tyrannical.

“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!”

...

The cheerleaders’ loud clamor had cleared out a wide area around them. This made Big Pao’s trio quite noticeable.

“What are you guys doing?” A young woman who looked like the leader glared at Big Pao. The other females looked over as well, but only a few of them did so. The majority continued chanting their rally. They were rather professional with their behavior.

Big Pao coughed and then seriously asked, “Everyone, how much would it cost to hire you girls?”

Coco cast a worried glance towards Ling Que, as he was indeed rather handsome. It was actually possible that these girls genuinely liked him. Her senior was too straightforward and should have probed into this topic more gently.

“One star essence per person, per day,” the young lady answered in a firm manner, stunning both Coco and Lulu. That had just been too fast—couldn’t they restrain themselves a little?

Big Pao was taken aback. “That’s too expensive!”

The lady contemptuously replied, “We follow someone as they wander the universe. Is that really too expensive?”

Big Pao felt that there was some truth to her words, as these girls did indeed have to follow Ling Que around as he wandered across the universe. A bit more than 300 star essences per year was not too much of a sum, as it truly did require great effort to shout and cheer, and the girls needed to risk their lives as well. However, there were just too many of these young women. There were at least a hundred of them here. Big Pao turned to look at Lulu.

Lulu generously waved a hand. “Hand the money over and hire them for a day.”

The young lady held up a hand. “Hold on, we will betray Young Master Ling Que if we accept your employment offer. You need to pay the penalty as well. A hundred star essences.”

Big Pao’s lips stretched; there was a penalty to break their contract as well? Ling Que was too shameless.

Lulu sneered as money appeared in her hands. It almost seemed as if she was truly made of money.

Beneath the Skyfall Cascade, Ling Que was feeling quite content as he had fortunately showed up at the Starfall Sea at a good time. Otherwise, he would be suffering from boredom back at the Lingling clan. His times there could not compare to the delights of braving the universe’s dangers. He looked up and saw Qin Chen on the screen, and then looked across to see Lu Yin. He would have to defeat each one of them, and he was especially looking forward to fighting against Qin Chen, an expert on the Top 100 Rankings. Once Qin Chen was defeated, Ling Que himself would step onto the Top 100 Rankings, which would be a perfect chain of events.

As for whether or not he actually wanted to wed the Sea King’s daughter, that depended on her appearance. He would never do it if she was unattractive. However, there was one aspect that made things a bit difficult—if he ended up retrieving the Sea King’s Trident and then declining to wed the Sea King’s daughter, Ling Que would undoubtedly offend the Sea King. Although the Lingling clan did not fear anyone, it was still better to avoid offending the Sea King as he was famous for being extremely terrifying.

As Ling Que thought about his situation, he noticed that the area had suddenly become very quiet.

Hold on, where are the passionate cheers? Ling Que suddenly felt that something was amiss. When he turned to look at the shore, he saw that his cheerleaders were... gone!

“Lu Yin, Lu Yin, I love you! Lu Yin, Lu Yin, you’re the best!”

“Lu Yin, Lu Yin, I love you! Lu Yin, Lu Yin, you’re the best!”

...

Beneath the southeastern Skyfall Cascade, an impressive group of cheerleaders had arrived. Their fervent shouts chased everyone away, causing them to have a neat vacated area to do their formations.

This didn’t happen only at the shore, but also at the area underneath the Skyfall Cascade. Lu Yin and the other participants were frightened silly.

Lu Yin looked sluggishly at the shore. What was going on?

Suddenly, everyone within the Sea King’s Dome stared dumbfoundedly at the screens that were showing what was happening at the southeastern Skyfall Cascade before looking back around to Ling Que. What did this mean? Had the cheerleaders had a change of heart?

No matter who it was, everyone was attracted by this commotion, including Hai Qiqi, Hai Dashao, and even Starsibyl. Everyone was bewildered.

Michelle slapped her forehead as expression turned to one of helplessness, while Hui Daynight, Zhao Yilong, and the rest all looked stupefied. They had assumed that Big Pao and Lulu had been joking, but they had actually followed through on their words.

Lu Yin wanted to open his mouth to speak up, but he did not even understand what was going on. His face was a perfect mix of bewilderment and blankness.

“Seventh Bro, I’ve always felt that humans are the most shameless creatures. What did you do when you screened me? Also, why do I feel like I was screened for a long time, but only a day seems to have passed? Tell me, were you spending money to gather these women? That’s too narcissistic,” the Ghost Monkey commented.

Lu Yin suddenly felt his head begin to ache when he saw Big Pao at the shore, who gave him a thumbs up. In that instant, Lu Yin realized what had happened and charged straight for Big Pao.

“What are you doing?” Lu Yin asked indignantly. He felt like he had become the laughingstock of the entire Sea King's Dome, and he was truly angry about it.

Big Pao puffed his chest out. “Relax! With Senior around, no one can beat your momentum.”

“I don’t want them! Get rid of them!”

“No can do. We’ve already paid. I mean, they really think you are the best and truly love you.”

“Cut the bullshit and have them ruin someone else’s things! Don’t forget—we’re here to avoid being killed, not to actually participate in this selection.”

“Junior, whatever we do, we must give it our all.” Big Pao looked seriously at Lu Yin.

Beside the two young men, Coco encouraged Lu Yin while Lulu held herself proudly. “I’ve already paid them, so don’t waste it.”

Lu Yin was flabbergasted, but he suddenly felt like something was off about the whole situation. Even if Big Pao and Lulu were bored, they would not have done such a thing, especially since they were currently being chased by killers. The only logical conclusion was that they truly wanted him to become the Sea King’s son-in-law, and they had drawn the attention of the entire Sea King's Dome onto him as a part of their plan.

“Are you guys forcing me?” Lu Yin’s tone turned very cold.

Big Pao’s face changed, and he awkwardly asked, “Junior, what are you saying?”

Lu Yin’s tone grew even colder. “You guys are trying to make me the center of attention so that all of the Sea King's Dome, including the Sea King, focuses on me. Your objective is to force me to go all out in this selection, right?”

“Junior, don’t spout nonsense. No one’s forcing you to do anything. Even if you intentionally fail, no one could say anything since you control everything,” Big Pao replied seriously.

Lu Yin’s eyes narrowed. “The focus right now is on that group of girls. They are Ling Que’s, but

you intentionally snatched them away. With his personality, he will definitely find some way to create trouble for me. If I don't go all out, then I'll be defeated without question, and the entire universe will then rank him as stronger than me. I can't accept that, which must have occurred to you guys."

Big Pao appeared embarrassed, and he glanced at Lulu, who rolled her eyes, though she did not reply.

Only Coco looked at Big Pao in shock. "Senior, weren't we just playing around?"

"Hmph, they were indeed playing around, but playing with me." Lu Yin's attitude had soured now, as he disliked it when others tried to force him to do something. Big Pao and Lulu were right, as he definitely could not accept being ranked below Ling Que, and it was for no other reason than because Ling Que had previously been praised by the Daynight clan during the Daynight Feast. He was the person who Nightqueen Yanqing had used to strike at Lu Yin's reputation.

Big Pao spread his hands apart helplessly. "Junior, you think too much. With Qin Chen around, you might not succeed even if you go all out."

"Exactly, don't think too highly of yourself," Lulu added on.

Lu Yin glared at the duo. "No matter what, get these girls away from me, or else I'll break off all relations with you two."

"Is it that serious?" Big Pao felt like the situation was ridiculous.

Lu Yin turned to leave, as he truly could not stand the cheerleaders. Although each one was young and beautiful, the overall situation was just too embarrassing.

However, there was actually someone else who was even more indignant than Lu Yin: Ling Que. He knew that he had just become a joke in the eyes of countless people, because they now knew that he had bought those cheerleaders. This reveal was just too embarrassing. "Lu Yin, you idiot, watch out."

"Senior, what should we do now?" Coco was lost.

Big Pao had a headache, as he did not know what to do either.

"We've already paid for the service, so we can't waste it," Lulu said. She then looked at the screen in the air. She seemed to suddenly think of something as she looked at Coco. "I remember you saying that Mu Rong is here too, right?"

Coco nodded and looked at the screen showing Mu Rong sympathetically.

Shortly thereafter, at the bottom of the southwestern Skyfall Cascade: "Mu Rong, Mu Rong, I love you! Mu Rong, Mu Rong, you're the best!"

"Mu Rong, Mu Rong, I love you! Mu Rong, Mu Rong, you're the best!"

...

Everyone was rendered speechless.

Lu Yin and Ling Que were both stunned.

Mu Rong had been calmly standing in the water up till now, and he had not looked up even once during the commotion that had occurred before. But at this moment, he was also stumped as he looked at the nearby group of girls shouting his name. He did not know what to do, and appeared to be momentarily at a loss.

Michelle stared ahead of herself blankly, and then at Mu Rong's dazed expression. She didn't even know what he was thinking, as Mu Rong had always had a detached mien. His cold aura had only intensified after his emotional episode, and he had sealed off his feelings. Who would have thought that this emotionally numb person would suddenly have a squad of cheerleaders? Michelle could not handle the intense contrast in image.

"Who would have thought that the final winner would be Mu Rong. One really can't judge a book by its cover," someone sighed.

The event was clearly the selection for the Sea King's son-in-law, but the entire atmosphere had been turned into a clown fest that involved snatching cheerleaders.

Everyone discussed the cheerleaders, and they all forgot about the Sea King's daughter.

Hai Dashao was beyond furious, and he glared at the group of cheerleaders.

Hai Qiqi was also angered because she had been forgotten. She was the leading lady of this event, after all.

Ling Que glared at Mu Rong. So it was you, you scoundrel. Don't even think of running.

Just like Michelle thought, Mu Rong was indeed emotionally detached. Although he was embarrassed by the cheerleaders, he managed to regain his composure and appeared to completely disregard them.

The cheerleaders now had someone to support, and it was Mu Rong.

At the bottom of the southwestern Skyfall Cascade, the shouts of "Mu Rong, Mu Rong, I love you! Mu Rong, Mu Rong, you're the best!" persisted to the end of the selection.

Lu Yin glanced at the screen showing Mu Rong in admiration. So this is Mu Rong? He appears to be unflustered and looks quite impressive. As Lu Yin pondered the situation, he glanced at Ling Que on another screen and saw that the man's rage could not be concealed. Lu Yin felt slightly sympathetic towards him, as it would be rather pathetic if this brat lost his marbles just because his cheerleaders had been stolen.

This farce caused the night of the Sea King's Dome to lose its peace as the minutes slowly trickled away.

When the first ray of sunlight peeked out from the heavens, the strength that blocked the Skyfall Cascades finally vanished. Everyone eagerly looked at the screens, as the selection process had officially begun.

Beneath the five Skyfall Cascades, all of the participants looked up towards the summit of the Skyfall Cascades in unison.

Water rushed down the mountain, but it was nothing to these powerhouses. Each of them was normally extremely fast. However, right now, they were only slightly faster than regular cultivators since the space around the waterfalls had been stabilized to the point where no one could tear through the void.

The entire void had been toughened through an unknown method so that it was sturdier than the outside world's. The participants could forget about tearing through the void here, and the space here was actually so sturdy that they couldn't even retrieve any of their items from their cosmic rings.

This discovery stunned the crowd, as it was the first time they had seen such a situation.

Cosmic rings were formed when super powerhouses compressed space into a certain size. In theory, it was not much different from a secondary dimension like the Shenwu Continent. In order to retrieve something from within the ring, one had to break open the dimension. The space around the Skyfall Cascades had been suppressed through absolute strength, which meant that even cosmic rings were unusable.

The effects weren't limited to just that; since the space in the area had been greatly stabilized, everyone's speed, strength, and destructive power had been reduced by just as much. For example, an Explorer may normally be able to destroy a planet with their strength, but if they were next to the Skyfall Cascades, there was no way they would be able to do that.

Chapter 446: Lu Yin's Strength

Not only did the spatial suppression in the Sea King's Dome's Skyfall Cascade function as a form of protection, but it also made sure that this selection would be fair, as it prevented anyone from bringing out a weapon that could unleash attacks of power levels of over 100,000. For example, Lu Yin himself had no shortage of such weapons.

Lu Yin did not rush up the waterfall. Instead, he took his time to study the situation before dashing up the Skyfall Cascade.

The moment he started moving up the Skyfall Cascade, his entire body sank. Even Flash Step only allowed him to charge forward a thousand meters. Compared to that, how high was the Sea King's Dome? The top of the Skyfall Cascade could not even be seen, but his speed had been severely restricted.

Even with Lu Yin's abnormal physical strength, he could only achieve such results while using Flash, so the others were even worse off. Their speed was much slower than Lu Yin's, and even though they initially had a headstart on Lu Yin, he had gradually caught up to them.

One of the participants saw Lu Yin approach and then pass him from behind, prompting him to raise his blade, slash out, and unleash an attack that distorted the void, though it could not pierce it. Lu Yin easily dodged the attack and retaliated with a kick. There was a solid thump when his kick collided with the person's body. The resulting pressure also released a shockwave that swept across the waterfall, blasting the water apart as it did so, and even ripping a layer of mud off along the shoreline.

Lu Yin was shocked, as he had actually been countered by attack with battle force. Although it was only four-lined battle force, his opponent had supplemented his battle force covered sword with an unknown innate gift, which was what allowed him to block Lu Yin's leg.

Lu Yin's physical strength was rather high, and he already surpassed a normal Cruiser. The strength of his kick could not be blocked by any random Explorer, but the person in front of him had actually easily defended against his kick.

Whoosh! The sword covered in battle force swept out once again, this time aiming at the entire space around Lu Yin.

Those who could qualify for the selection through their personal strength were indeed not simple. This person's sword might not have reached the same standard as Liu Shaoqiu's Fourth Sword, but when just power was taken into consideration, it had certainly surpassed the Second Sword, which had an impressive penetrating force.

Lu Yin enveloped his fingertip with five-lined battle force and lightly tapped out. There was another bang as his finger swept the sword aside, deflecting the sword qi towards the nearby shore. Those watching from the shore were awed by the scene even as they hurriedly retreated.

The water within the Skyfall Cascade roared, and the others also began to engage in their own battles.

A chaotic melee broke out involving experts who were nearly strong enough to step onto the Top 100 Rankings. The younger generation's elites had all converged at this mountain at this moment. A chaotic brawl had erupted on each one of the Skyfall Cascades in every direction.

Qin Chen had already defeated one person and was headed towards the top of the Skyfall Cascade.

Ling Que was indignantly facing two opponents by himself, seemingly venting his rage at having his paid groupies exposed.

Mu Rong and Lan Yu were battling each other, as Lan Yu had specifically singled Mu Rong out as his opponent.

Lan Dao was battling another person.

The atmosphere of the entire Sea King's Dome was quickly shaken up, and everyone looked at the screens in the sky to watch the intense battles.

There was another bang as the sword was deflected once more. Lu Yin took two steps back, his gaze trembling. The person before him twisted his blade, casually stabbing out yet again. The speed of this attack was so fast that it surpassed the limits of Lu Yin's eyes; he had to use the Secret Sidestep to dodge it. Otherwise, he would have to directly receive the blade, but it was also an extremely strong attack.

The nine stars revolved around Lu Yin's body, and when the sword entered the Cosmic Art's range, Lu Yin was able to clearly see its trajectory. He brushed the blade aside, dodging the sword and placing his palm against the swordsman's abdomen as he unleashed a Thirty Stacks, Fortyfold Shockwave Palm. Another rumbling sound erupted as the water exploded forth. This time, the swordsman was sent flying by Lu Yin's palm. Fresh blood scattered all across the Skyfall Cascade before merging back into the flowing water.

Many were excited, as Lu Yin had just crossed realms to defeat an Explorer as a Limiteer, and he hadn't defeated some random Explorer at that. All of the Explorers participating in this selection were

Realmbreaker powerhouses themselves and monsters in their own region of the universe. Lu Yin's victory meant that he had surpassed the level of a monster.

Suddenly, the atmosphere became incomparably heavy, as someone had activated their innate gift of gravity. The water running down the Skyfall Cascade was pushed aside in every direction as Lu Yin turned around to see the short man staring at him from the distance. The man pressed both of his hands against the Skyfall Cascade, and Lu Yin's body became even heavier. The current gravitational force he was experiencing was no less than 200 times that of normal gravity, and the stream beneath Lu Yin's feet had already been swept dry.

200 times regular gravity was enough to surpass the upper limits of the strength of an Explorer, but it did not have much of an effect on Lu Yin. His physical body was just too powerful. But right when he was about to break free, he felt a chill brush past his ankles. The stream seemed to gain a life of its own as it formed a chain that was linked together in an odd fashion, and it extended all the way back to the bank of the Skyfall Cascade.

Someone had restrained Lu Yin from within the stream.

Lu Yin expanded his domain, but he felt no one near him aside from the short man. He looked towards the man, who seemed pleased with himself. He then flicked his fingers and shot out a miniscule piece of metal that struck Lu Yin's leg. As soon as it made contact with his leg, it immediately began to morph into shackles that chained themselves to him.

Lu Yin's eyes trembled, and battle force erupted around his entire body. Bang! The chains broke off, but each one of the snapped off chain pieces twisted around in midair, almost as if they were alive.

"There's no need to struggle. You can't escape from the combination of the Xun family's Gear Construction Technique and the gravity imprisonment," the short man barked as he leaped at Lu Yin with a raised palm. The black air within the man's palm distorted, as he had converged a tremendous amount of gravitational force within his palm. The power of this gravity palm was enough to cause the void to warp as he slammed his palm towards Lu Yin's forehead.

If this strike landed, Lu Yin would be severely injured, even with his absurd defense.

Many people throughout the Sea King's Dome cried out in alarm as they watched this scene unfold.

Even Big Pao and the rest grew nervous. Although they were confident in Lu Yin's strength, everyone who was participating in this selection was not simple. Each one was a gifted genius who had surpassed countless peers of the same generation. Even when considering students from the Astral Combat Academy, only ex-Realm Masters who had graduated and become Explorers could compete against these people.

As the attack approached him, Lu Yin had many methods at hand to neutralize the attack. He could even use his Fatesand to block it, but he didn't. The short man's words had angered him; the Xun family was actually backing him, and they were trying to use this person to deal with Lu Yin.

Lu Yin shifted the grain of Fatesand around his heart, and his true physical strength momentarily erupted, combining with his battle force. All of the chains were broken in an instant, and even the tremendous gravitational force could not withstand his strength. The water was swept back by Lu Yin's

pure strength, causing visible ripples in the distance. Lu Yin raised a hand and grabbed the short man's palm, casually squeezing the gravity within it into nothingness.

The short man's pupils shrunk in fright, and his face turned deathly white. "How is that possible? How can you break through the Xun family's Gear Construction Technique?"

Lu Yin replied coldly, "You think too highly of the Xun family." He then exerted the full strength of his hand, and a sharp crack rang out in the air as the short man's wrist was snapped. The man howled in grief even as he tried to release his gravity field so that he could make a desperate escape. However, Lu Yin was holding onto him tightly, and he could not escape at all.

"So, who are you in the Xun family? Why are you trying to deal with me?" Lu Yin's voice was filled with a killing intent.

The short man gritted his teeth. "I'm not related to the Xun family, but they looked for me just a few hours ago and asked me to deal with you. The Xun family's Gear Construction Technique is famous throughout the universe, and I really wanted to learn it."

Lu Yin stared at this man and could tell that he was not lying. He kicked out with a foot and sent the short man flying. After smashing many trees apart, he finally crashed onto the Skyfall Cascade's shore. The man was left embedded deep into the ground with fresh blood flowing down from his lips and his arm bent at an impossible angle.

This person was badly injured from Lu Yin's attack, and he had only survived because he had been shown mercy.

Many people had heard the short man's words and were shocked to realize that the Xun family had acted against Lu Yin. The Gear Construction Technique was unique, so no one would believe that it wasn't the Xun family. Lu Yin had somehow offended even the Xun family.

Lu Yin looked up, and a deep-seated hatred appeared in the depths of his eyes. He would remember the enmity of this Xun family. If memory served him correctly, they were friendly with the Daynight clan, so it was impossible for him to be friends with them in the first place.

"Seventh Bro, this Xun family is too spiteful! When we meet them in the future, we'll need to teach them a lesson." The monkey was indignant, and Lu Yin grunted in agreement.

Since the Skyfall Cascade's flow was no longer being restricted by gravity, the current quickly resumed.

As he watched the water flow by, Lu Yin felt his hatred for the Xun family grow, but he was also astounded at their Gear Construction Technique at the same time. If he had not released a portion of his true physical strength, then he would not have been able to break free even with his battle force. Their technique lived up to its well-known reputation. He would need to be careful of them in future, as they had complex methods.

Xun Tao had an ugly expression as he watched this scene from the middle of the mountain. Trash, he actually lost like that.

Above the middle part of the mountain, around the lake, Xun Jiong had a similarly unhappy look—not because of the short man’s loss, but because Xun Tao. That idiot had directly intervened, affecting the Xun family’s reputation and exposing the entire family. Lu Yin did not even fear the Daynight clan, which meant that he had some backing. This matter might invite future troubles for the now exposed Xun family.

“Your Xun family’s the exact same as before, plotting against others behind their backs. How despicable!” Hart Phoenix ridiculed Xun Jiong.

Xun Jiong had an ugly look on his face as his gaze swept across the room. The people gathered in this place were all those who had qualified through their looks. While most of them had some background, most of them could not compare to the Xun family. After all, their family enjoyed the backing of the Daynight clan. Aside from Hart Phoenix, there were few others who dared to ridicule Xun Jiong.

“I heard that you lost to Lu Yin in the Astral Combat Academy before. And now you’re standing in opposition to him again. Is this a tradition of your Phoenix family?” Xun Jiong coldly replied.

Hart Phoenix sneered. “My Phoenix family can accept victory or defeat, but we won’t stab others in the back, unlike your Xun family. You actually like to get others to do your dirty work, but you still failed! Haha.”

Xun Jiong had no comeback to that.

In another part of the gathering, Xia Luo smiled at Xun Jiong. He did not know how Lu Yin had offended another great family once again. Although this family did not participate in disputes between great powers that much, they were very troublesome. Their Gear Construction Technique had many applications and held great potential. And just like what Hart Phoenix had said, they were well practiced in plotting in the dark, and they had to be guarded against if they were one’s enemies.

At the bank of a Skyfall Cascade, Hai Dashao looked at Lu Yin on the screen, appearing to be deep in thought.

“What do you think of that person?” Starsibyl suddenly asked.

Hai Dashao indifferently replied, “A show-off.”

“You don’t like him?” Starsibyl looked at Hai Dashao, her eyes gleaming.

Hai Dashao clasped his hands behind his back. “He has nothing to do with me, and I can’t say whether or not I like him. However, all of these people are merely youths, and being a show-off is better than remaining too deeply hidden.” He then paused for a moment before saying, “I recall that he defeated the Cosmic Hou. Those creatures can’t be defeated through just strength. This person’s techniques are strange.”

Starsibyl smiled. “Reserve your judgement for now. He might just end up bringing you a surprise.”

Hai Dashao did not think so. Lu Yin was undoubtedly powerful, as shown by the fact that his physical strength could even tear through the Gear Construction Technique, but so what? At best it would allow him to rival those at the bottom of the Top 100 Rankings. Hai Dashao looked towards the northeastern Skyfall Cascade, where Ling Que and another person were competing. That other person was Cheng Wu,

ranked sixty ninth in the Top 100 Rankings. He was the strongest participant out of them all and also the one most likely to pull the Sea King's Trident out.

There was just too great a disparity between Lu Yin and Cheng Wu.

However, Ling Que was the most pitiful. He would not be able to even reach the top of the Skyfall Cascade. Even until now, he was not even aware of Cheng Wu's existence.

As he thought of this, Hai Dashao looked at Ling Que with interest. Compared to Lu Yin, Hai Dashao was much more interested in Ling Que, as the Lingling clan's innate gift was too strong. If not for their sparse numbers, their clan definitely would have surpassed the Daynight clan. It was a terrifyingly powerful clan.

Only a few knew that, among the Ten Arbiters, there was also one from the Lingling clan.

Chapter 447: Blade

Ling Que was in a very bad mood, as without his cheerleading squad, he felt out of sorts. And now, just when he started moving up the waterfall, two people had joined together to attack him. He had already seen Lu Yin defeat two experts on his own through the screen, but he, Ling Que, hadn't done so yet. Didn't this insinuate that he was inferior to Lu Yin? He was in a bad mood as soon as this thought occurred to him.

He sent out a Que's Mighty Slash, directly slicing off one expert's arm and causing fresh blood to scatter across the Skyfall Cascade.

The Lingling clan's innate gift was indeed terrifying. Que's Mighty Slash had been formed from the combination of ten different innate gifts. Even here on the Skyfall Cascades, where space was sealed and suppressed, Que's Mighty Slash was able to shuttle through the void with Ling Que's innate gift, which was the reason why he had been able to defeat his opponent in an instant.

The other attacker felt his hair stand on end, and the countless legends about the Lingling clan flitted through his mind as he subconsciously distanced himself from Ling Que.

Ling Que sneered and looked up, only to see the cheerleaders now rooting for Mu Rong. His mood plummeted yet again as his Que's Mighty Slash flickered and vanished. His opponent's back instantly went cold, and he fled from the waterfall, but he was still too slow by half a step. A giant wound appeared across his waist, and he was nearly split in half. He made up his mind and immediately charged towards the shore, forfeiting from the selections.

Ling Que's ruthlessness had defeated two experts in an instant, causing many to be stunned.

In comparison, Lu Yin had defeated his opponents one at a time while Ling Que had turned the tables, despite being outnumbered. In the eyes of many, he was much stronger than Lu Yin.

Mu Rong's battle with Lan Yu also attracted some attention, but their fight was not very intense. Mu Rong seemed to be on the defensive side, and he did not seem very intent on defeating Lan Yu.

Lan Yu did not hold back with his attacks, but he just could not beat Mu Rong. He was an Explorer and the brother of an Arbiter; however, he could not take down a Limiteer! The current situation made him feel like a failure.

“If you don’t want to hit back, then why did you participate in this competition to become the Sea King’s son-in-law? Wouldn’t it be better to withdraw?” Lan Yu shouted at Mu Rong.

Mu Rong calmly spun the wooden flute in his hand around. “If you can defeat me, then bring it on.”

Lan Yu’s eyes widened. He took a deep breath and bent both of his legs as he released a ferocious howl. Four-lined battle force appeared and wrapped around him in multiple layers as it reinforced the toughness of his physical body. He then raised both hands. “Thirty Stacks Shockwave Palm.”

Under the Sea King’s Dome’s audience’s shocked gazes, Lan Yu displayed the same attack as Lu Yin: Thirty Stacks. He then slammed his palm towards Mu Rong.

Back when the Divine Fist was still in the Astral Combat Academy, his record amount of stacks had been Thirty Stacks. Additionally, Lu Yin had only been termed an unequaled Limiteer because he had matched that record. Lan Yu had to boost his physical attributes with his battle force and even become an Explorer before he could use this attack, but he had nonetheless still managed to do it. The strength of Thirty Stacks was not something that could be easily withstood by an average person, as Lu Yin had relied on one Thirty Stacks powered attack to defeat Yan Feng and Bazeer’s united strength.

Though Mu Rong’s expression remained serene, his eyes revealed a hint of shock when he was confronted with Thirty Stacks. Even he would find it difficult to win if he was directly struck by this attack.

The wooden flute shot out and spun around, causing a gentle wind to twist above Lan Yu’s palm. Lan Yu’s attack was blocked by Mu Rong’s wooden flute and was even dragged away, causing the Thirty Stacks to directly land on the shore, where it blasted out a large crater. Lan Yu lost his balance and was almost thrown off the Skyfall Cascade when Mu Rong redirected the attack.

Countless onlookers fell silent, as Lan Yu had been completely suppressed.

The Starfall Sea’s Grayweed Continent’s younger generation top expert, Lan Yu, had been suppressed just like that. Sure enough, Mu Rong was just as the Ten Arbiters Council had declared: an unrivalled Limiteer.

Even Thirty Stacks could not deal with him, and Lan Yu’s failure hinted at a similar outcome for Lu Yin, as Lu Yin’s strength was also at about Thirty Stacks.

The crowd subconsciously substituted Lan Yu for Lu Yin, and after doing so, they did not hold much hope for the battle between Lu Yin and Mu Rong. Most people felt that Lu Yin would suffer a similar fate.

“Mu Rong, Mu Rong, I love you! Mu Rong, Mu Rong, you’re the best!”

“Mu Rong, Mu Rong, I love you! Mu Rong, Mu Rong, you’re the best!”

...

A burst of noise broke through the silence, startling the crowd on the shore. They stared, dumbfounded, at the squad of cheerleaders that had caught up to the participants.

Mu Rong calmly turned around, acting as if he had not seen anything.

From behind the cheerleaders, Big Pao also encouragingly shouted, "Shout! Shout and emotionally overwhelm him! Boost his ego!"

Lulu rolled her eyes. "That's useless. This Mu Rong is different from Ling Que, and he won't be flattered no matter how much you cheer for him."

"Brother Lu is in danger. This person is very powerful." Coco was worried.

Big Pao felt helpless. "Junior, don't blame Senior! I've already done my best."

The scene of Mu Rong defeating Lan Yu had been seen by both Ling Que and Lu Yin. They both had solemn faces, as Mu Rong had not revealed his true strength during his battle with Lan Yu. He was rather unfathomable.

Lan Yu had been suppressed, but he had not been thrown off of the Skyfall Cascade yet. He panted heavily as he stood up. Then, he stared on as Mu Rong calmly walked towards the peak. He felt helpless, and he turned to the side. "Lan Dao, join me."

In the distance, Lan Dao was fighting against an Explorer. When he heard Lan Yu speak to him, his long blade flipped around and calmly sliced through the air, causing the void to distort to the extreme. The light reflected off the blade and streaked past the Explorer's head to directly slash at Mu Rong.

The light from the blade shot past the Skyfall Cascade and went on to flatten an area of the void. The aftershock tore across the shore and swept towards Mu Rong beneath many shocked gazes.

Mu Rong paused and turned around. This time, his expression was serious, and it was even more solemn than when he had faced Lan Yu's attack. His wooden flute spun around his fingertips, and he ferociously waved it the moment the light started approaching him. It was redirected through unknown means, forced to slam into the Skyfall Cascade, and slice it apart. Under many stunned looks, for an unknown distance along the waterfall, an entire stretch of water had been sliced in half by this slash.

This scene caused many to fall into a daze, including Hai Dashao and Starsibyl. They had not expected the person following Lan Yu to be this strong, to the extent where he even surpassed Lan Yu.

At that moment, Lu Yin felt a deep shock from the depths of his heart. This was his first time seeing Lan Dao, and him actually seeing Lan Dao's face for the first time was the source of his shock. His eyes sparkled as he thought, Who's Lan Dao? That's clearly Zhang Dingtian!

The elegance of the blade was breathtaking, and it had also attracted Lu Yin's attention. It was only then that he had discovered that the person behind Lan Yu was none other than Zhang Dingtian.

Back then, Zhang Dingtian, Bai Xue, Xu San, and Seruzen had all gone missing at the same time. Lu Yin had sent people to look for them, but they had all seemingly disappeared without a trace. However, Lu Yin just happened to encounter one of the missing people here in the Starfall Sea.

Why was Zhang Dingtian at the Starfall Sea? He was also following Lan Yu, and his current strength was rather terrifying. Even Mu Rong had to take that blade seriously, and he was someone who could be considered to have surpassed countless others in his generation; he stood at the very peak. Zhang Dingtian was just a Limiteer, but based just on his blade, he could match up against Ling Que, Mu Rong, and Ye Xingchen.

This was simply unimaginable to Lu Yin, and he wondered what exactly Zhang Dingtian had experienced after he went missing.

On Earth, in the initial period after the apocalypse, Zhang Dingtian had been the strongest person on Earth, and he had possessed the strength of a Realmbreaker. He had guarded the capital of China by himself, and only a few of the elite trialtakers from the Great Yu Empire had been able to rival him. He had been nothing more than a native—a true native—and Lu Yin knew that Zhang Dingtian was particularly gifted in the way of the blade. His future strength would not be weak, but Lu Yin had never thought that Zhang Dingtian would become this powerful already.

Lan Yu was someone from the Grayweed Continent, and he was also the younger brother of the Divine Fist, Lan Si. Had Zhang Dingtian gone to the Grayweed Continent? How had he gotten there?

Zhang Dingtian's eruption of strength caused many eyes in the audience to focus on the southwestern Skyfall Cascade. The person who was the most embarrassed was the participant who had been battling with Zhang Dingtian, and he felt his heart crumble. He knew that there was no way he could withstand that blade, and it seemed that this brat had not been paying any attention to him this entire time. Should he withdraw, or not? If he did forfeit, it would be humiliating, even if he didn't, there was no way he could win. The question was which to choose.

However, Zhang Dingtian did not let his opponent suffer from his momentary dilemma for too long. Zhang Dingtian raised his blade again, and from his stance, it appeared that he was planning to unleash another slash just like the one from before.

His opponent moved straight towards the bank of the cascade, as he was not sure if this blade was aimed at him.

The water of the Skyfall Cascade roared down from the top of the mountain, and as Mu Rong faced Lan Yu and Zhang Dingtian alone, his eyes gleamed with eagerness for the first time.

There were six experts on this Skyfall Cascade, and one had already been frightened away by Zhang Dingtian. The other two had already passed the three who were battling and only had the goal of charging straight towards the top—they had not even attacked each other. Despite this, Mu Rong and the rest were not anxious since there was a sluice gate at the top. If their assumptions were correct, then it would not be easy to open that gate.

“Mu Rong, Mu Rong, I love you! Mu Rong, Mu Rong, you're the best!”

“Mu Rong, Mu Rong, I love you! Mu Rong, Mu Rong, you're the best!”

...

The hubbub of cheers continued, and the trio moved at the same time. Lan Yu used Thirty Stacks and slammed both of his palms towards Mu Rong while Zhang Dingtian slashed down with his blade. The edge of the sword flickered with a cold glint that seemed unstoppable. Mu Rong merely touched it slightly and immediately backed away. He could not deflect the combined attacks with his strength.

Lan Yu was excited, and he continued to slam out with his Overlaying Stacks, but Zhang Dingtian frowned and suddenly retracted his blade.

The abrupt change stumped Lan Yu. "What are you doing?"

Zhang Dingtian had a firm expression. "Two against one is unfair."

Lan Yu grew anxious. "This is the selection for the Sea King's son-in-law! It's not a fair contest!"

Zhang Dingtian did not bother responding, and he lifted his blade and looked towards the top of the cascade. "I'll take care of the others for you." After speaking, he leaped up and charged towards the top of the waterfall.

Lan Yu almost cursed. If he did not already have some understanding of this person, then he would have assumed that Zhang Dingtian wanted to fight to become the Sea King's son-in-law. Also, if they couldn't even beat Mu Rong, then there would be no need to concern themselves with the others.

Mu Rong did not stop Zhang Dingtian. Although they had only interacted briefly, he already had a feel for Zhang Dingtian's unyielding battle nature. This sort of person would not resort to cheap tricks.

Lu Yin's lips curved upwards; Zhang Dingtian was still Zhang Dingtian, and that kind of spirit went along with his blade's will. Perhaps this was the fundamental reason the denizens of Earth had grown so strong. Humans had spirit, and the Sandmaster had once said to him that the root of battle force was in one's spirit. Zhang Dingtian's spirit towards the path of the blade was incomparable, and it had led him as his power grew. His power came from his perseverance, and while some might think it was foolish, those people simply couldn't understand him.

"Seventh Bro, hurry up and leave or it'll be taken!" the monkey screamed.

Lu Yin withdrew his gaze from the screen. Zhang Dingtian had also come to the Sea King's Dome, and Lu Yin wondered if they would end up fighting on these cascades. All of a sudden, he was excited about this selection.

Whether it was Mu Rong, Lu Yin, Qin Chen, or Ling Que, each one of them attracted great attention. There was only one Skyfall Cascade that had practically no spectators, which was the northern Skyfall Cascade.

However, there was only one person left on that particular Skyfall Cascade.

"Eh? That's strange, why is there only one person left on the northern Skyfall Cascade?"

Many people reacted once this peculiarity was mentioned, and many looked over at that screen simultaneously. Sure enough, only one person was still moving up on that Skyfall Cascade, and he was moving at a leisurely pace since all of the other competitors were gone.

Chapter 448: Pathetic

"Look! Someone's made it!" Someone with sharp eyes on the shore of one of the Skyfall Cascades noticed that a man had appeared at the top. The man was pale, and there was a terrible gash across his chest. He had difficulty propping himself up from the ground, and there was an unshakeable terror and post-traumatic stress that could be seen in his eyes.

“Brother, how were you guys defeated? Why is there only one of you left?” someone shouted.

The injured man spat out a mouthful of blood as he pathetically sat down on the ground. He forced out a smile. “Try facing Faceless yourself.”

“Faceless?” Someone listening was lost.

Beside them, another person shrieked, “Faceless? The person ranked seventy second on the Top 100 Rankings? That Faceless?”

The injured man nodded and then looked at the screen.

Coincidentally, the single person left on the cascade looked up at the camera at that time. A frighteningly ugly face was revealed, scaring many.

The man’s facial features were flat, and he was extremely hideous. There was a two meter long black sword in his hand that drooped into the water, but it could not be seen even if one was not paying attention to it.

“Yes, that’s him, the one ranked seventy second, Faceless. He’s the person wearing that mask,” someone called out when they recognized the ugly man.

Suddenly, countless people looked over, as the strongest powerhouse had changed once again. Qin Chen was only ranked 88th, which was more than ten positions below Faceless’s. No one had expected such a strong powerhouse to appear.

At the peak of the Sea King's Dome, Hai Qiqi covered her mouth in shock. “How can such a person exist!? He’s too scary.”

Behind her, the four maids all had pale faces. “Sister Qi, this person cannot be allowed to pull out the Sea King's Trident! Otherwise, your entire life will be ruined!”

“That’s right, Sister Qi, think of a way! He’s the only one left in the northern Skyfall Cascade, so he’ll definitely be able to pass through! We’re doomed!”

Hai Qiqi shouted in outrage, “No kidding! Of course we have to think of a way. I, Hai Qiqi, am so exquisite-looking—how could I marry some flatbread that came alive? This person must have angered the heavens somehow, and there has to be something wrong with his character.”

The other maids were speechless, as being ugly should not imply that there was an issue with his character!

Faceless’ appearance did not surprise Hai Dashao, as he had known that this person had arrived since a while ago. No one could keep him in the dark about anything that happened here. However, he was not worried; even if Faceless managed to pull out the Sea King's Trident, Qiqi could still just choose to not accept him. This was the Sea King's Dome, and pulling out the Sea King's Trident was just one step to qualifying; it did not mean that the person who pulled it out would definitely become the Sea King’s son-in-law.

Starsibyl stared at Faceless, and a trace of doubt and conjecture appeared in the depths of her eyes.

The hidden experts in the Sea King's son-in-law selection were gradually revealing themselves. Not only did Faceless appear, but Qin Chen also appeared at the northwestern Skyfall Cascade as the most eye-grabbing participant. Right before Faceless was exposed, Qin Chen had also encountered an unanticipated opponent.

There was a section of the Skyfall Cascade that had been frozen into flame-like shapes. As the white fog lifted, a portion of the water violently surged, only for another portion to freeze, which caused the layers of ice to increase in number.

Beneath these layers of ice stood a cold-looking young man holding onto a silver-white spear. On the spear, there was an engraved design of a wreath of five interlocking plum blossoms. If Lu Yin saw this mark, he would have definitely remembered it since he already had an impression of it. When the Great Yu Empire had waged war against Firesmelt Planet, one Explorer named Yan Yan had sealed himself within ice when Firesmelt Planet was destroyed. Xueshan Auna had recognized that man as someone from the Royal Frost Continent, the symbol of which was a wreath of five interlocking plum blossoms.

The Royal Frost Continent was a hidden power within Blazing Mist Flowzone, and it was hidden in a secondary dimension much like Shenwu Continent. But it differed in that Royal Frost Continent was strong enough to rival the Blaze Realm, which meant that it had not been surrounded and targeted for invasion.

Above the layers of ice stood Qin Chen. He was ranked eighty eighth in the Top 100 Rankings, but his face showed an unprecedented seriousness.

Qin Chen had not expected to meet such a strong foe on his way up the Skyfall Cascade, but this person was very powerful.

The cold-looking man suddenly stabbed out with his spear, which penetrated through the ice layer as it moved towards Qin Chen. It froze everything along its path, even the void. Qin Chen's eyes suddenly widened, and he raised his hands and caused his star energy to morph into an inescapable net that covered the entire area.

The cold man's spear stabbed into the net, causing it to freeze slightly, but the spear was unable to move forward any further. Qin Chen was just about to act when he suddenly felt that something was amiss. He immediately retreated with extreme speed, only to see a sturdy ball of ice shaped like flames expand from where he had just been standing.

The spearman spun his weapon around, and the tip slowly turned pure white due to the extreme frost. It formed the symbol of a wreath of five interlocking plum blossoms and then ripped a small crack open in the net. The man leaped forward and stabbed at Qin Chen with his spear once again.

Qin Chen had avoided danger after danger so far, and he watched as the water around him froze into ice. He trembled, and then suddenly, the sturdy ice within the range of his domain cracked. Qin Chen's star energy erupted and formed another trap that engulfed everything from the bottom up. However, the cold man resolutely thrust his spear into the layer of ice. There was an explosion and then all of the sturdy ice completely shattered.

An intense aftershock swept out across the battlefield, carrying with it an extreme cold that froze everything up to the shore. The blast caused many of the nearby bystanders to tremble in fear and hurriedly leave the area.

“Qin Chen, someone’s nearly reached the top of the Skyfall Cascade!” someone shouted, evidently a supporter of Qin Chen’s.

Qin Chen looked up, and sure enough, he saw that the other two men from his waterway had charged forward at full speed while he had been battling the spearman. Thus, the two had nearly reached the top.

The cold man also looked up, and then he dashed up with a great leap.

Qin Chen gritted his teeth and rushed after the man. It was not the right time for them to hold each other back. They needed to eliminate the other two first, or they might be left behind regardless of the outcome of their battle.

At the southeastern Skyfall Cascade, Lu Yin had defeated two participants by himself while another two were battling somewhere further ahead. One of them was eventually beaten, and the other charged towards the top of the cascade while enjoying a tremendous lead on Lu Yin. Unexpectedly, that person actually arrived at the sluice gate before Lu Yin. However, Lu Yin was not anxious, as it was highly unlikely that the gate would be easily opened.

As Lu Yin dashed towards the top, he glanced at the screens in the sky. He saw Faceless’ appearance as well Qin Chen’s encounter with a strong foe. A bunch of freaks had indeed appeared in the Sea King’s son-in-law selection, and each one could be a top-tier talent no matter where they went.

The Sea King’s Dome was very tall, and each of the Skyfall Cascades was very long. However, with Lu Yin and the others’ speed, it didn’t take them long to reach the top even if they couldn’t pierce through the void to travel more quickly here.

The sluice gate was almost within Lu Yin’s reach, but the person ahead of Lu Yin had already arrived beside it. The other participant excitedly tried to open the gate, but it did not budge.

Lu Yin was in no hurry, and he slowly walked over as he watched the person desperately heave at it.

Faceless had also arrived at the top, and he pressed a hand against the gate while he put on a pondering expression.

At the northeastern Skyfall Cascade, Ling Que was also charging towards the top since he had been significantly delayed by his battle. When he passed by the middle section of the Sea King’s Dome, he glanced to the side and saw two people near the cascade: one male and one female. Although he did not recognize the man, Ling Que recognized Starsibyl since he had met her before.

Ling Que paused and looked at the bank of the waterway. “I never thought that I would see the famous Starsibyl in the Sea King’s Dome. It’s been a long time.”

Starsibyl smiled. “It has indeed.”

“Does Starsibyl have any opinion about this selection? Who do you think will become the Sea King’s son-in-law?” Ling Que was curious, as he knew a little more about Starsibyl than most, as this woman had visited the Lingling clan more than once. Obviously, it had not been because of him, but rather because of another person. It was precisely because he was a bit more familiar with her than most others that Ling Que wanted to discover Starsibyl’s thoughts.

Starsibyl did not reply, but Hai Dashao coldly said, “Scram back into the river.”

Starsibyl smiled faintly.

Ling Que’s face sank as he stared at Hai Dashao. “Who the hell are you? How dare you speak to me like that!”

Hai Dashao’s eyes narrowed. “I’ll say it again. Scram back into the river, or else I’ll personally throw you off of this dome.”

Ling Que’s brows rose, as his behavior was remarkable. This man was either a fool or someone of great influence. However, how could someone standing next to Starsibyl be a fool? It was impossible for a normal person to stand in such a position. That meant that this bastard had to be someone with a measurable amount of influence.

Ling Que snorted, as this was the Sea King's Dome, and it was not a smart idea to provoke someone with an unknown background. “This master’s condition isn’t too good today, so I won’t bicker with you. Starsibyl, let’s chat again next time we meet.”

Ling Que then dashed towards the top, almost as if he was fleeing in defeat.

Starsibyl could not stop herself from laughing, and she looked at Hai Dashao with crescent-shaped eyes. “Why did you have to scare him away? Although his personality is a bit odd, he behaves in an upright manner and is also from the Lingling clan. He’s a good match for Qiqi.”

Hai Dashao ignored Starsibyl and looked back at the screen to watch Zhang Dingtian. He was rather interested in this person, and he greatly admired him as well. He liked this person’s determination in his blade, or rather, the persistence of his heart.

Ling Que was very unhappy. He had been inexplicably scolded, but he didn’t even dare to retort. As the strongest member of the Lingling clan’s younger generation, when had he ever endured such humiliation? He could only blame those cheerleaders that were no longer behind him; it had truly put him out of sorts.

As he thought about this, he glared furiously at the screen displaying Mu Rong. That scoundrel had definitely played some trick behind Ling Que’s back. It had to be because Mu Rong knew that he couldn’t defeat Ling Que in a head on confrontation. Thus, he had to ambush him in such a manner.

As Ling Que charged upwards, someone else was casually walking along ahead of him.

Ling Que frowned. “Scram! Good dogs don’t block the path!”

He immediately moved to flit past the person walking along the cascade, dashing upwards with even greater speed.

Suddenly, a radiance flashed before his eyes, and there was a bang. Ling Que seemed to have crashed into something. He rubbed his forehead; what was this thing? Why was there a wall in the middle of the stream?

Ling Que's eyes went wide, and he looked in front of him, only to see something that felt like a joke: a clock? Who had thrown a clock in the middle of one of the Skyfall Cascades? Hold on! When he looked behind him, he discovered that he had been trapped by the clock.

"Thun-der-Punch!" A low voice sounded out near Ling Que's ears, causing his eyes to narrow as he responded with his Que's Mighty Slash. The blade did not strike the clock, and it instead rotated around his body at an extreme speed, nearly tearing through the void. In the next moment, there was a resounding explosion. The sound was like a thunderclap that swept out in all directions. A portion of the Skyfall Cascade was even swept aside by a giant wave that destroyed the shore.

Countless spectators were stunned by the giant explosion, and they looked over at the corresponding screen in shock.

Within the clock, Ling Que was bleeding from his seven orifices, and he opened his mouth wide to withstand the noise. His Que's Mighty Slash continued to revolve around his body, as this was his best defense. As soon as he heard those words, he knew that he was in trouble. This time, he had come to the Starfall Sea with the primary objective of challenging a specific person: Cheng Wu, ranked sixty ninth on the Top 100 Rankings.

Someone had seen Cheng Wu in the Starfall Sea, which had led to Ling Que coming as well. Cheng Wu's most famous skill was his Thunder Punch.

Ling Que had thought that he would only be able to battle against this person after the selection ended, but surprisingly, he had been struck by his signature skill after falling for Cheng Wu's innate gift, which was the large clock that had trapped Ling Que. The clock was a sealed space, and it multiplied the intensity of the sound within it multiple times. Ling Que had been caught unprepared, and suffering from the entirety of Cheng Wu's strongest attack.

Within the clock, the sound waves reverberated ceaselessly, and Ling Que's brain almost exploded. He spat out blood as his eyes turned scarlet. He roared again, and his Que's Mighty Slash sliced through the void before colliding with the large clock. However, the blade just could not break it. Behind him, Cheng Wu raised a hand once again. "Thun-der-Punch."

"It doesn't stop there, huh?" Ling Que spoke furiously, but he did not hesitate at all to attack the ground beneath the water, escaping downwards.

Chapter 449: A Fierce Battle

Cheng Wu aimed his fist at the bottom of the river. The impact caused sound waves to radiate outwards, distorting the void and almost tearing right through it.

The sound waves were so intense that they could be seen by the naked eye. It once again caused the nearby section of the Skyfall Cascade to break apart into multiple streams. The water in the cascade even started to flow backwards, in the direction that it had been split.

Ling Que was forced out from the ground, and he spat out another mouthful of blood as he did so. He gritted his teeth angrily as he stared at Cheng Wu. Right in front of his face, his Que's Mighty Slash constantly flickered about, appearing and disappearing from time to time.

Many people were watching on, dumbfounded. It was easy to recognize Cheng Wu since he was the only one in the Top 100 Rankings whose innate gift was a clock. Since this clock had been able to trap Ling Que, many people had instantly thought of Cheng Wu.

Nobody expected that the person ranked sixty ninth in the Top 100 Rankings would suddenly appear in this event, let alone for him to give Ling Que this harsh of a beating. This unforeseen event was something that drew the attention of even Mu Rong and Lu Yin.

Hai Dashao had a calm look on his face. He had expected Cheng Wu to be the most powerful person who was ascending the Skyfall Cascade.

Ling Que panted heavily, his head suffering from a rumbling pain. This asshole had attacked him without any warning! How despicable.

Cheng Wu raised a fist for the third time as he stared at Ling Que.

Ling Que's heart rate spiked. "Wait! You attacked me by surprise. Give me some time to prepare if you're a real man!"

Cheng Wu completely ignored Ling Que and struck down with his fully powered fists.

Ling Que felt helpless; the previous two attacks had left him injured, and he was forced to recognize the disparity between him and Cheng Wu. While Ling Que possessed powerful innate gifts, the only move that Cheng Wu had used so far was his Thunder Punch, but just that alone was enough to restrain Ling Que. That, combined with Cheng Wu's clock, which possessed great defensive capabilities, and his power level of around 40,000, meant that Ling Que stood no chance against him, even if he utilized the Soulsplitting Technique that the Lingling clan was renowned for.

"Hello? Who is this? What did you say? Repeat yourself—did someone dare to come and provoke the Lingling clan? Alright then, wait for me to return to take care of it!" Ling Que suddenly yelled into his personal gadget. He then hopped onto the shore and stared at Cheng Wu as he shouted, "I have something urgent I have to attend to now. Wait for my return, and I'll pay you back for those two surprise attacks." After he was done speaking, he fled.

The entire Sea King's Dome fell silent; this was the best that the Lingling clan had to offer? The unbeatable Ling Que who had unparalleled innate gifts? He had been defeated so easily.

Cheng Wu was stunned as well. He had never, ever achieved such an easy victory before.

Hai Dashao became a bit angry. That little hoodlum had dragged down the standards of this event. First, it had been his paid groupies, and now, it was his shameless escape. He would not let this issue end like this.

Starsibyl had a vague smile on her face. "What an interesting personality he has. I wonder what Ling Gong will do after seeing this."

"Die of anger," Hai Dashao said unceremoniously.

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“Sister Qi, that Cheng Wu fellow really is something,” a maid praised in admiration.

Hai Qiqi rolled her eyes. “Walking around with a clock is basically hastening the death of a loved one. How inauspicious.”

The maid fell silent.

Ling Que’s hasty escape seemed to register something in Lan Yu’s mind. He immediately tried to escape from Mu Rong and head for the top. However, he was stopped by Mu Rong yet again.

Soon after that, Lu Yin approached the top of Skyfall Cascade. At this time, Lan Yu had already been defeated and swept off of the Skyfall Cascade.

People started gathering from all directions in front of the sluice gate at the top of the Skyfall Cascades.

In the waterfall to the north, there was no one to compete with Faceless Man. Or rather, it might be more accurate to say that they had all been eliminated by him.

In the northwest, Qin Chen and the man with the innate gift of frost had arrived at the top of their cascade first. They had run into some formidable foes, but the duo had quickly defeated them all. Now, they were the only ones left on that Skyfall Cascade.

In the southwest, Zhang Dingtian, otherwise known as Lan Dao, was first to arrive at the sluice gate. The powerful competitors who had rushed ahead of him had already all been defeated. Closely following behind him was Mu Rong.

On the northeastern waterfall, there was a powerful Explorer as well as Cheng Wu there, and they both were gradually making their way to the top.

At the southeastern cascade, there was only Lu Yin and a man with a pitch-black tattoo on his face remaining. However, at this point of time, the tattooed individual looked at Lu Yin with a hint of fear on his face. “Something is strange about this sluice gate. Let’s team up to open it.”

Lu Yin looked at the sluice gate and moved straight ahead. The tattooed man felt his heart start to race. “What are you going to do?”

“I’m going over to take a look. Why? Are you going to stop me?” Lu Yin asked in a rather uncourteous tone.

There was an uncertain look in the tattooed man’s eyes. He had seen how Lu Yin battled, and even though he knew that he was more powerful than some of the other participants, he was aware that it wasn’t by much. Furthermore, he was injured, and he knew that he was no match for Lu Yin right now. He started racking his brains for ideas. His first thought had been to get a head start, and after arriving at the sluice gate, team up some of the other skilled challengers to fight against Lu Yin. However, that plan had failed since he had not been able to open the damn gate.

As he watched Lu Yin get closer to the gate, a ruthless glint entered the tattooed man’s eyes. He decided to attack immediately, betting on a wild hope that Lu Yin might also have been injured.

A minute later, Lu Yin was the lone figure standing in front of the sluice gate. The tattooed man from earlier was currently floating downstream along the Skyfall Cascade. He had merely passed out and not died.

Lu Yin placed both hands against the sluice gate and pushed hard, but it did not budge. After some careful observation, he came to the conclusion that the only way to open this gate was by pushing it, but the strength that he had just used was clearly not enough. With that in mind, he immediately used the force of Twenty Stacks, but there was still no reaction.

He raised his head to look at the screens. He saw that Faceless had also been standing in front of a gate for quite some time now, but he was also unable to open it.

“Seventh Bro, the location of the Sea King’s Trident most likely has some kind of prerequisite condition that has to be met before it can be accessed. I’m betting that this gate will only open after those conditions are met. Only then will this gate allow us to pass onto the next stage,” the monkey guessed.

“What condition?” Lu Yin asked.

The monkey made an educated guess, “I’m guessing that only one person will be allowed to pass through from each of the Skyfall Cascades. If the numbers don’t match up, then it will be impossible to open any of the gates.”

Lu Yin agreed with the monkey’s guess, and he turned his gaze towards the southwestern Skyfall Cascade. That was where Mu Rong was closing in on Zhang Dingtian.

If there could only be one victor for each stream, Lu Yin hoped that it would be Zhang Dingtian. However, he knew that such an outcome was not likely. Mu Rong had been viewed favorably by the Ten Arbiters Council for a long time. Lu Yin had also witnessed Mu Rong’s power earlier, and he could only describe it as being unfathomable. It was virtually impossible for Zhang Dingtian to win against someone who was hailed as an unequalled Limiteer.

As the two individuals drew closer to each other, Zhang Dingtian, who enjoyed the high ground, raised his blade in an upright position. His eyes showed his eagerness to do battle, and his hands kept a tight grip on his blade.

Mu Rong twirled his wooden flute around his hands as he moved closer. Mu Rong was much more cautious of Zhang Dingtian than he had been of Lan Yu. People with such firm conviction and fervent spirits were often the most difficult to fight. No one knew when such individuals would display alarming feats of power.

Although both men were Limiteers, they were also both exceptional experts in the eyes of others. This battle had garnered even more anticipation than many battles between Explorers or Cruisers.

When the two of them were a thousand meters from each other, they both started charging at each other simultaneously. The glint of a sword flashed as Zhang Dingtian sliced out horizontally with his blade. It slashed through the void and left a visible distortion in space where it traveled. Mo Rong spun the wooden flute in his hand around and redirected the sword towards the bank of the cascade.

The shore of the stream was split into two again, and the huge gap caused the water to splash out before slowly spreading further.

The next moment, both men facing each other along a narrow path. Zhang Dingtian struck out with his sword once more, and though it no longer contained its previous sheen, it felt even more perilous to Mu Rong. While attacking, Zhang Dingtian was actively restraining the power of his sword and only fully unleashed it when it made contact. The edge of his sword carried the converged full power of the weapon, and right now, the void distorted whenever the edge of the sword passed through it.

This attack, despite not covering the area of a domain, still enveloped a significant region. It was an attack that even Cruisers would struggle to evade.

However, Mu Rong had no intention of dodging. In fact, this sword attack caused him to become even more excited about this battle.

The sword edge clashed against the wooden flute atop the Skyfall Cascade. In that instance, everyone witnessed a white glow contorting within the void before spreading out. Ripples appeared within the void, and a portion of the Skyfall Cascade vanished. The ripples from the battle spread further out until it reached the river bank, causing this area of the Skyfall Cascade to be greatly enlarged.

Many people present could not determine if it was a strong gale or waves of sword qi that had crashed into the cascade banks and pierced the ground. It was fortunate that they had all landed on the midpoint of the mountain and that there was no one in close by. Otherwise, the aftershock definitely would have killed a bunch of people.

Boom!

With a thunderous sound, both the men plunged to the bottom of the waterway. The water in this section of the cascade was completely blasted away, and the two men clashed even as the murky sediment at the bottom obstructed them. After a moment, another white ripple spread out. Since the clash had taken place underwater this time, the Skyfall Cascade was split in two.

With his wooden flute in his hand, Mu Rong pushed Zhang Dingtian towards the top of the Skyfall Cascade. Everyone watched on with bated breath; was this really a battle between two Limiteers? Since the space around the Skyfall Cascades had been reinforced, the various battles so far had not contained many visual effects to wow the spectators. Despite that, everyone could sense the terrifying power level that the two men possessed.

Lu Yin looked at the screen; it was clear to him that Zhang Dingtian was suffering from the disadvantage in this exchange. Mu Rong was just too strong, and if Lu Yin was not wrong, Mu Rong had used a battle technique to evade both Zhang Dingtian and Lan Yu's attacks earlier. It seemed to be a formidable battle technique that helped him evade attacks from those whose strength was near what Mu Rong possessed. Furthermore, since Mu Rong had been able to match Zhang Dingtian's attacks with his own, it showed that even when there were not any battle techniques in play, Mu Rong still possessed impressive personal skill. Although Mu Rong looked deceptively weak, he possessed an unimaginable destructive strength.

However, what scared Lu Yin the most was that wooden flute. A wooden flute should be used to play music, not to clash against a sword. Mu Rong still had not displayed his full strength yet.

Atop this Skyfall Cascade, Zhang Dingtian was very close to Mu Rong. The long sword in his hand was no match for Mu Rong's strength, but Zhang Dingtian had an excited look in his eyes; this was a top-tier competitor—a Limiteer just like himself. Ever since Zhang Dingtian had made a name for himself in the Grayweed Continent, he had yet to meet such a challenging opponent within the same realm as him. He raised his eyes, and his gaze darted across the screens before finally stopping at the screen that showed the northeastern Skyfall Cascade, where Lu Yin was standing before the sluice gate.

Lu Yin was not mistaken; this man was indeed Zhang Dingtian, though he was now using the name of Lan Dao. Zhang Dingtian knew that Lu Yin was here as soon as he had arrived at the Sea King's Dome, but he had not reached out to Lu Yin since he wanted to meet him during battle. Zhang Dingtian would never forget the moment back in the Great Yu Empire when Lu Yin had entered the Astral Combat Academy. Zhang Dingtian had only been able to watch on as a bystander while Lu Yin slowly scaled the ranks, from the Astral Combat Tournament to the Tournament of the Strongest. All of Lu Yin's accomplishments had been witnessed by Zhang Dingtian.

No one could understand how unresigned he had been to the fate of watching Lu Yin climb to the apex. They had left Earth at the same time, but they were still worlds apart in terms of accomplishments. This was something that Zhang Dingtian just could not accept; and yet, he felt no jealousy nor resentment towards Lu Yin. Instead, he steadfastly chose to focus on improving his own abilities. He had realized his dream at this moment by finally earning the chance and the right to be on the same platform as Lu Yin. This was not a chance he was willing to give up on.

Crunch!

Cracks suddenly started to appear on his sword, and Zhang Dingtian's pupils shrank as he looked at Mu Rong. With a calm look in his eyes, Mu Rong exerted even more force through the wooden flute, causing the cracks in Zhang Dingtian's sword to spread.

Zhang Dingtian's loss would be sealed if his sword broke.

With a cold look in his eyes, a dark gold glimmer started to appear, and it sheathed the sword, reinforcing it.

"Five-lined battle force! It's five-lined battle force!" someone exclaimed.

The Sea King's Dome was suddenly sent into a frenzy. It was extremely rare for someone at such a tender age to comprehend five-lined battle force, and this matter shocked even Hai Dashao. To date, the only individual known to have achieved five-lined battle force at such an age was Lu Yin. Even Lan Yu had only managed to comprehend four-lined battle force so far. But now, there was a second person who had achieved such a feat.

"Is he the exception you were referring to?" Hai Daoshao asked Starsibyl, his eyes full of longing.

When she saw Hai Dashao's gaze, Starsibyl smiled in reply. "Are you hoping for me to tell you that he is the one?"

Hai Dashao's gaze flared for a moment before returning back to normal.

"It looks like you rather admire him," Starsibyl casually .

Hai Dashao remained silent.

Chapter 450: Unequalled Status

Starsibyl did not say anything else. Although Zhang Dingtian's performance was extraordinary, his opponent was Mu Rong, who was unequalled within the Limiteer realm. That designation had not been made by just one Arbiter, and even she had to acknowledge his power. Mu Rong's power fundamentally exceeded the Limiteer realm.

Now that Zhang Dingtian's long blade was supported by his battle force, he was able to withstand Mu Rong's blow. The tip of the blade spun and sliced out in an instant, but Mu Rong leaped up to avoid the blade while his wooden flute tapped towards Zhang Dingtian's skull. The swordsman raised a hand to grab the wooden flute, and with the support of his five-lined battle force, his strength surpassed the limits of what Mu Rong could bear. The blade in Zhang Dingtian's right hand rose up as he firmly slashed out. He knew that Mu Rong had not used his full power yet, but that didn't stop Zhang Dingtian from putting his all into this attack.

Now that Zhang Dingtian had grabbed the wooden flute, Mu Rong only had two options available. He could either abandon his flute and dodge the approaching sword, or he could attempt to forcibly withstand the attack.

In the end, he decided to take the second option. Mu Rong made no attempts to evade the sword.

Zhang Dingtian had survived countless battlefields. He had started off as a soldier on Earth, and he was not afraid of death or massacres. His blade ruthlessly struck out, causing many to feel numb since it gave off an impression of being unblockable. Would Mu Rong die here at the Sea King's Dome?

Whoosh!

Shockwaves rippled out in all directions, and the water beneath Mu Rong and Zhang Dingtian's feet was repulsed by the sheer force. Zhang Dingtian's blade stopped less than a centimeter from Mu Rong's head, at which point it could not move any further. Additionally, the void in that area had gone deathly silent. A bizarre phenomenon had emerged; right beneath the two combatants' feet, within one of the Skyfall Cascades, green grass appeared as the vague image of a farmer boy herding cattle appeared in the void.

Everyone stared dumbfoundedly at this scene. What was this?

Lu Yin's eyes narrowed. This was a forcefield, which could only be displayed after one comprehended their domain to a certain degree, and they were able to alter the natural environment. During the Tournament of the Strongest, a woman named Zi Jun, who was from the Cosmic Sea's Longevity Brigade, had revealed a forcefield, one which allowed her to change the environment around her into a jade color. Liu Shaoqiu's Fourth Sword was capable of a similar feat, but there were too few people who could reach such a stage. Lu Yin himself had made zero headway in this matter, but now, Mu Rong was displaying such an impressive ability.

Though both of them had comprehended forcefields, Mu Rong's forcefield was clearly much stronger than Zi Jun's. His forcefield even had a faint image of a farmer boy and cattle within a picturesque green

landscape, and the image almost seemed alive. This was a level of a domain that Lu Yin could not understand.

It wasn't only Lu Yin who was lost; Zhang Dingtian similarly could not understand this forcefield. His blade had just been blocked by an imperceptible strength.

Suddenly, the wooden flute shook, causing Zhang Dingtian to lose his grip and retreat several steps back. A crack sounded out from his long blade, and Mu Rong's wooden flute was pressed up against his chest before he could react. "You're very strong to be able to reach such a step."

Zhang Dingtian still wanted to retaliate with his broken blade, but he discovered to his shock that he was completely suppressed within this space.

"What's your name?" Mu Rong looked at Zhang Dingtian seriously.

"Zhang Dingtian."

Mu Rong had a solemn expression. "I'll remember it."

He then exerted some strength through the wooden flute and sent Zhang Dingtian rapidly flying away. He was flung towards the bank of the waterway, crash landing in a mountain before finally falling into a field.

Everyone in the Sea King's Dome watched the scene unfold. They had assumed that Mu Rong was in a crisis, but the final outcome was very different from their expectations. Zhang Dingtian was exceptionally powerful, and he clearly surpassed Lan Yu, but he had still been powerless before Mu Rong. The more strength that Zhang Dingtian revealed, the stronger Mu Rong seemed to become.

Lu Yin's face turned grave; Mu Rong would be a formidable opponent, the likes of whom he had not encountered before. Just like Tian Hou, Mu Rong was on another extreme level compared to his peers.

"Seventh Bro, I never thought that there could be another Limiteer who could still threaten you. This person is scary!" the monkey commented.

Lu Yin shifted his gaze and looked at Zhang Dingtian. Fortunately, even though his old comrade had suffered severe injuries, he was still conscious. He was looking at his broken blade and seemed to be considering his options.

In a hidden area of the Sea King's Dome, Ling Que had a similarly grave face. A flare of competitiveness appeared in his eyes; he was not convinced of Mu Rong's strength and truly wished to fight against him. Unfortunately, Ling Que had left the selection earlier than he had expected.

All eyes were currently focused on Mu Rong, as he was the most dazzling participant up to this point. Even when Faceless, Qin Chen, Cheng Wu, or even Xun Jiong's group were taken into consideration, everyone was overshadowed by the strength that Mu Rong had just revealed.

Even Hai Qiqi was stunned. "What a powerful farmer."

The maid behind hesitated, "Sister Qi, he's Mu Rong, not a farmer."

Hai Qiqi rolled her eyes. "He carries a flute and herds livestock. What is he if not a farmer?"

The maid had no comeback.

“Mu Rong, Mu Rong, I love you! Mu Rong, Mu Rong, you’re the best!”

“Mu Rong, Mu Rong, I love you! Mu Rong, Mu Rong, you’re the best!”

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At the middle section of the mountain, the cheerleaders became even more energetic. Although they could not climb up and get any closer to Mu Rong, they were even more dazzling right now. Things had developed to the point where some of the screens were even providing closeup shots of the cheerleaders.

The Skyfall Cascade returned to normal, and the water roared as it continued flowing down. Mu Rong stood above the water and looked at the screen, specifically at Qin Chen and Faceless. Then, he calmly turned around and headed towards the top of the mountain.

From start to end, he had never even spared a glance for Lu Yin. It appeared that he could not be bothered to acknowledge either Lu Yin or Ling Que.

Hai Dashao looked appreciatively at Mu Rong; once this person became an Explorer, he would immediately enter the very top of the Top 100 Rankings. Hai Dashao could not even guess what the limits of this person were, and he deserved his title of an unequaled Limiteer.

If this person pulled out the Sea King's Trident, then Hai Dashao would not oppose it. Could Starsibyl's exception be this person?

Hai Dashao himself was not aware that even though he had repeatedly stated that he did not care about Starsibyl's divinations, deep down, he truly cared about the so-called “unexpected outcome” would be, which was a sign of his increasing belief in Starsibyl's abilities.

Mu Rong had beaten Zhang Dingtian. As a result, he was the only person left on the southwestern Skyfall Cascade.

At this point, on the five cascades, only the northwestern Skyfall Cascade still had two participants remaining: Qin Chen and the man with the innate gift of frost. Everyone turned their attention towards the screens showing those two.

No one here was a fool. Since even Faceless was unable to open the sluice gate, the only possible explanation was that the conditions to open the gates had not been met yet. Those conditions should be for there to only be one person from each of the cascades at the top of the waterways.

“Who are you?” Qin Chen asked the cold-looking man in front of him. Even when he racked his brain about all the experts on the Top 100 Rankings, he couldn't remember anyone who matched this person's characteristics. This person was no weaker than Qin Chen himself, so if he was not a part of the Top 100 Rankings, it meant that he was a hidden powerhouse who had never made an appearance before.

The cold man replied, “Che Han.”

Qin Chen was flabbergasted as he had indeed never heard this name before; this person was a genuine hidden expert. The universe was too large, and the Top 100 Rankings did not include all the experts, so it was not too surprising that a hidden expert that could rival the Top 100 existed.

“Between you and me, only one of us can remain,” Qin Chen said in a low tone.

Che Han hefted his long spear. “I won’t lose.”

Qin Chen’s eyes narrowed. “I won’t, either.”

Then, his star energy morphed into an inescapable net that moved to envelop Che Han.

Che Han had assumed that his spear would be able to pierce through the net yet again, but Qin Chen had already come up with a response: a series of continuous nets. However, Che Han raised his spear upright and placed it beside him, causing a cold pulse of ice to suddenly burst forth from his body in the shape of flames. The ice engulfed everything around him and was much stronger than any power he had previously displayed.

Such a powerful frost energy stunned Qin Chen, and his net was frozen in an instant. The frost continued moving along the lines of star energy that connected the trap to Qin Chen’s body, forcing Qin Chen to immediately sever the star energy and retreat as fast as he could. Beneath him, the Skyfall Cascade’s water rapidly froze, while at the same time, Qin Chen’s face turned pale; the blood in his body had nearly froze over as well.

Che Han grabbed the spear and stabbed out once more as the five ringed pattern appeared at the speartip again. Qin Chen continued backing away, as he had carelessly assumed that Che Han’s innate gift would not be this powerful. His mistake had landed him in his current disadvantageous position. It would take him at least a minute to dispel the frost that had invaded his body, so he could only endure Che Han’s attacks for a minute.

Che Han had a deeper understanding of how frost affected bodies than most. When he saw Qin Chen’s expression, he knew that his opponent had been afflicted with severe frostbite, and that the frost was spreading at a much quicker rate than before. After making this judgement, Che Han’s spear lit up with a cold aura that took on the shape of flames. This visual struck fear in the audience’s hearts, and even Qin Chen knew that he would find it hard to go on.

Based on absolute power level, Qin Chen was actually weaker than Che Han, who was a peak Explorer who would break through to the Cruiser realm with just one more step. This was why Che Han was currently holding the advantage. Qin Chen’s net had also been countered by Che Han’s innate gift, and everyone felt that Qin Chen’s defeat was just a matter of time.

No one could have imagined that Qin Chen, who had been given the highest odds of success in the overall selection, would not even be able to pass the sluice gate.

No one in the Sea King’s Dome had thought that this would happen. Many people immediately tried to search for more information on Che Han’s background, but they all found nothing.

Northgate Lie stared at Che Han; he had originally wanted to defeat Qin Chen, but his target had suddenly changed. He now wanted to experience this person’s innate gift.

“Sister was right. There are many people who are not listed within the Top 100 Rankings yet are no weaker than those who are,” Michelle muttered to herself as she looked at Che Han on the screen.

Little Pao nodded. “Mentor has said that the universe is too big. Even in just the Outerverse, there are hidden experts.”

He then looked over at Bo Junior in the distance, and hatred appeared in his eyes. That person was like a viper. He had locked onto the brothers the moment he had arrived at the Sea King’s Dome. However, there was a low probability that Bo Junior could actually capture them, as the Pao brothers had removed the tracker from their bodies a few days ago.

At the northwestern Skyfall Cascade, Qin Chen’s defense eventually fell apart under the onslaught of Che Han’s attack. The coldness with the appearance of flames filled the air, and the net froze the moment the strange cold aura appeared. The frost continued to invade Qin Chen’s body by traveling back through his star energy, which forced him to not use his Inescapable Net anymore. His most powerful battle technique had been sealed away, and Che Han was using his spear to beat Qin Chen silly. He was sent flying backwards by a single strike, and he spat out a mouthful of blood when he raised his head in shock.

Che Han lashed out with his spear once again, and the frost rose sharply as the rest of the Skyfall Cascade started to freeze. Qin Chen stared closely at the speartip, and his eyes suddenly went wide when the tip was only about a meter away from him. He clapped both of his hands together, causing an enormous net that covered both banks of the waterway and enveloped the entire area to appear. This was the true Inescapable Net.

The frost rose like smoke, but it was obstructed by the Inescapable Net this time. Although the net still started freezing over, it did not happen as quickly as before. Qin Chen had been hiding his strength all along.

This was the second time he was clashing against Che Han, and he was fully aware that he was at a disadvantage. He had laid out his Inescapable Net step by step, and as long as it completely contracted, it could entrap Che Han within it and display its most powerful strength.

However, there was one thing that Qin Chen had not considered—had Che Han used his full strength? This was answered when his Inescapable Net was broken by the frostflame, which even had a ceramic luster to it at this point. This was Fireglass Frost, which was Che Han’s innate gift and also the manifestation of his power as the strongest member of the Royal Frost Continent’s younger generation.

The Fireglass Frost directly smashed into Qin Chen’s Inescapable Net while the ice with the strange luster moved towards Qin Chen’s direction, whose eyes shrank as he leaped towards the shore, panting heavily.

Moving to the bank of the waterways was akin to admitting defeat. The Fireglass Frost stopped and gradually dissipated before the Skyfall Cascade bubbled and started flowing once again.

There was only one person remaining on the northwestern Skyfall Cascade now: Che Han.